

CHAPTER 1 THE ARRIVAL

The novel starts as four strangers check in at the Seamount hotel in Banjul the same evening. They are given different rooms on different wings, the first to check in is Karanja Kimani, a professor at the Institute of Development studies at Nairobi University, Kenya. He checks in the hotel and settle on the 4th floor of the East Wing. He is a man aged about sixty years.

The second to sign in is Ngobile Melusi a Zimbabwean Citizen, Seventy years of age, and does not reveal his occupation. He is allocated the Fifth floor of the South Wing.

The third to check in is Pastor Chineke Chiamaka, a fifty year old man who hails from Nigeria and has a church in Lagos by the name Church Inside Africa, "CIA". He takes a room on the sixth floor of the West Wing.

The last stranger is yet another man, forty plus years old, Seif Tahir, An Engineer, formally employed by the Ministry of Defense in Tripoli Libya. He checks in on the third floor on the North Wing.

Professor Kimani receives an anonymous call and a suitcase with instructions on how to open it. He has to acquaint himself with the materials in the briefcase. Similar calls are also made to Melusi, Pastor Chiamaka and later Engineer Tahir as the last. To all the three the caller gave the key: one, one, two and four. We also come to learn that other invited guests are at the hotel. We are introduced to Fiona McKenzie, who is a journalist for Gambian News and Dr. Afolabi who teaches at the University of Ibadan Nigeria and the two are guests at Seamount hotel. She interviews Dr. Afolabi about his document *Way Omega* which is to be debated by heads of states at Pinnacle hotel.

Afolabi informs her that way Omega would change African politics dramatically and prevent military coups, rigging of elections and foul play. We later come to know that Afolabi was invited by Presidents to the Summit.

The author reveals the Joy of the 49 heads of state who are at Banjul to attend the summit, given that they have escaped trouble from their home countries. On the other hand, for the Gambians it is not fun to host the dignitaries since bull dozers demolish the slums and kiosks which whole

families depend on, for their livelihood. Check points sprout everywhere, and thus give way for guards to extort bribes from passers-by and water points go dry.

Security at Pinnacle hotel is tight and the hotel remains an impenetrable fortress. The ministry of foreign Affairs and the Ministry of International Cooperation have been mandated the duties of ensuring that the heads of state enjoy their stay between their arrival day and their departure.

The Author tells us on the considerations made on the accommodation of the heads of states and they decide to use the United Nations way that is, the alphabetical order of the country's official names, from Algeria, Angola to the last one Zimbabwe, in terms of rooms each delegation whether big or small is to be treated equally by being given four rooms per delegation.

THEMES

1. POVERTY

Gambians are tied down to poverty because majority of the citizens live in slums, and their livelihoods depend on kiosks.

2. HYPOCRISY

Water is not readily available at the water points, it gets worse when the dignitaries arrive. Rather, it is pumped to the fountains to mesmerize the visitors. (Pg 11)

Kiosks are demolished so as to pave way for dignitaries to have sidewalks and roads.

3. IMPERIALISM

The document titled *Way Omega* had been discovered by twenty Nobel Laureates who discovered a way to develop Africa and they published the discovery in a document. Pg7

4. ANIMOSITY/RIVALRY

Eritrea and Ethiopia are depicted as enemies and the two presidents rarely see eye to eye so during the summit they should not be seated next to each other. (Page 13)

5. OPTIMISM

Dr. Afolabi is optimistic that if the heads of states opt to adopt the document *Way Omega*, it will bring change in Africa's politics and there will be no more rigged elections, military coups and foul play. (Pg 7)

6. CORRUPTION

Checkpoints sprout everywhere making the guards extort bribes from motorists and passers-by. Pg11

7. BAD GOVERNANCE

The government demolishes kiosks which whole families depend on for their daily livelihoods, proves that the government does not care for its citizens. Pg11

The government shuts down all the water points and channels it to the dignitaries to be amazed by the water fountain, shows that the government is inconsiderate to its citizens.

8. GREED FOR POWER

Some leaders have risen to power through rigged elections, military coups and foul play pg7.

9. EDUCATION

We meet people like Prof Kimani, Dr. Afolabi, Eng. Tahir and Mckenzie have gone through formal education. Pg5.6

10. ROLE OF THE MEDIA

The media critiques, enlightens the public and provides checks and balances to the government by questioning the two documents Dr. Afolabi has: *Way Omega*. Pg8.9

STYLISTIC DEVICES

1. SUSPENSE

- The author does not disclose on the onset of the story the intentions of the four strangers who meet at Seamount hotel in Banjul. (pg1)
- "None of them knew of the other three or about being one of the four".

2. VIVID DESCRIPTION

- Professor Kimani is vividly described as a man about sixty years. His hair line was all the way back to his crown, he had a strange habit of smacking lips...(Pg 1)
- Ngobile Melusi is described to have had a bushy moustache which wriggled over his mouth when he talked.(Pg 1).
- Pastor Chineke Chiamaka is also described as having Big and flabby body, and looked like a failed Sumo wrestler (pg 1)
- Engineer Seif Tahir nature of working seemed to be in motion powered by rebellion (pg 2)
- Fiona McKenzie was wearing a scarlet blouse, a black skirt and red high heels (pg4)

1. SIMILE

- African night falls fast like a heavy rain of ink (Pg2)
- Cute as a button and sharp as a needle (Pg 5)
- He looked like a failed Sumo wrestler (Pg 1)
- Fiona's eyes were wide and white like a pair of moons (pg 5)
- He had a bushy moustache which wriggled over his mouth like a moth fighting.... (Pg 1)

2. ALLUSION

- Historical Allusion, Gambia Is referred to as "the land of Kunta Kinteh" who is a famous slave who had been taken to USA and after several attempts of escape he was chopped of his foot (Pg10)

3. SATIRE

- The forty nine heads of state could give a hosting country good publicity, but heads of state become a huge inconvenience to the citizens (pg 11)
- Water is not readily available at the water points, it gets worse when the dignitaries arrive. Rather, it is pumped to the fountains to mesmerize the visitors. (Pg 11)
- Kiosks are demolished so as to pave way for dignitaries to have sidewalks and roads.
- Some leaders, such as Ethiopian and Eritrean share close borders, but cannot talk to each other due to unspecified reasons.
- African summits are the world's largest gathering of heads of states as moreover each head of state is accompanied by a delegation of unknowable number, which becomes a headache to the hosting country.

4. IRONY

- It is ironical that Dr Afolabi is here to advice the heads of state about *Way Omega* yet his own book 'failure of states' rebukes the leadership of African leaders (Pg8)
- It is ironical that the heads of states enjoy their stay in Gambia yet the Gambians experience pain of their dwellings being demolished i.e. slums, kiosks.(Pg10, Pg11)
- It is ironical that Gambians cannot enjoy enough security yet the heads of states who are in Pinnacle hotel receive a thousand soldiers and hundred commandos to guard them (Pg12)
- "None of them knew of the other three or about being one of the four".

5. HYPERBOLE

- The cocky educated Nigerian (Pg4)
- I expected to see an academic scarecrow dressed in jeans (Pg6).

6. FLASH BACK

- Ms Mackenzie was adopted by Ian and Elspeth Mackenzie, Scottish missionaries, who are back in Edinburgh. Her natural parents were Gambian, but they are dead. (Pg5)
- Dr Afolabi had written a book "failure of states" pg6

- *Way Omega* document had been discovered by twenty Nobel Laureates who had discovered on ways to develop Africa. Pg7

7. RHETORICAL QUESTIONS

- The caller asks professor Kimani "How much time will you need to acquaint yourself with material in your briefcase? (Pg4)
- Dr. Afolabi asks McKenzie "you are not listening to me anymore are you?(Pg8)
- All looked happy and why not? Pg10
- Had they not escaped trouble makers in their countries? Pg10

8. METAPHOR

Dr. Afolabi say "now he saw a lionesses" (Pg9)

9. DIALOGUE

- There is a dialogue between Dr. Afolabi and McKenzie (Pg4 - 10). They are discussing the role of Afolabi in the summit. McKenzie interviews Afolabi about his book and above all they get acquainted to each other.
- Dialogue between caller and the four strangers on how they were to open briefcases (Pg2, Pg4)

10. HUMOUR

"One minute, five minutes, - where is the difference? He joked "(Pg 5)

- Ngobile Melusi is described to have had a bushy moustache which wriggled over his mouth when he talked.(Pg 1).
- Pastor Chineke Chiamaka is also described as having Big and flabby body, and looked like a failed Sumo wrestler (pg 1)
- When he is being allocated a room in his blank card he does not write his occupation but defiantly writes "Not applicable" (Pg1)
- I expected to see an academic scarecrow dressed in jeans... pg6

11. IDIOMATIC EXPRESSION

- Fight tooth and nail. Pg8

12. SOLILOQUAY

- Cocky educated Nigerian, Professor Kimani said to himself. Pg4

13. PERSONIFICATION

- He heard the line die. Pg4
- What would be the heart of the debate? Pg7

14. ONOMATOPOEIA

- Snapped the Nigerian. Pg3
- Rumbling on now. Pg8

15. IDEOPHONE

- Huh. Pg8
- Uh-huh. Pg14

CHARACTER AND CHARACTERIZATION

1. COMRADE NGOBILE MELUSI

Defiant

When he is being allocated a room in his blank card he does not write his occupation but defiantly writes "Not applicable" (Pg1)

2. ENGINEER SAIF TAHIR

Rebellious

His nature of walking is described as an act of rebellion and each of his steps is a gesture of protest against someone or something. Pg2

3. PROFESSOR KARANJA KIMANI

Cautious

- He did not pick the call immediately he had entered his room (Pg2)
- When he picks up the call he does not respond (Pg2)

Rude

- He does not use polite language educated Nigerian (Pg3) cocky educated Nigerian (Pg4)

- When he picks up the call he does not respond (Pg2)

Tactful

- He makes a guess about the caller being temperamental and therefore plays cool and maintains his composure in order not offend the caller.

4. THE CALLER

1. Hot tempered

- Professor Kimani guessed the caller as "Nigerian" since he had the tendency to inject anger into every stressed syllable (Pg 3)

2. Commanding/Dictatorial

- He authoritatively gave the instructions about the materials in the briefcase and the numbers to open the briefcase i.e. one, one, two, four. (Pg 3)

3. Rude

- He did not introduce himself to professor Kimani (Pg2)

4. Irritable

- His voice snapped irritably (Pg2)

5. Secretive, elusive, sly

- Does not want to reveal who he is and where he is calling from.

5. FIONA McKENZIE

– Courteous

She uses polite language when requesting to speak to Dr Afolabi "May I please have a word with you?." (Pg 4)

– Naive

She talks so much about herself to a stranger she had just met through a flashback.(Pg 5)

– Humorous

- She tells Dr Afolabi that he expected to see an academic scarecrow dressed in jeans (Pg 6)
- She tells Afolabi to go and take a picture now because he won't always look that gorgeous (Pg 6)

– ***Open Minded***

- She asks Dr Afolabi why he had to change his ideas of leadership yet his book on "Failure of States" rebukes African leadership hence pessimistic while way Omega is turning to be optimistic about African leadership.(Pg 8, Pg 9)

– ***Tactful***

She is talkative and creates a conducive environment for Dr. Afolabi to reveal to her information which is crucial to her interview.

– ***Knowledgeable***

Fiona has done a good background check on Dr. Afolabi and his literary works.

– **DR. ABIOLA AFOLABI**

1. Knowledgeable

- He studied at Harvard University in the USA and now teaches at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria (Pg 6)
- Has written a book "Failure of States"(Pg 6)

2. Wise and Intelligent

- He has been invited as an advisor to the heads of states who have come for a summit for development in Banjul with heads of state in attendance.

3. Judgmental

He concludes that Ms. McKenzie is bad mannered just like other journalists.

4. Defensive

The author indicates that, when proving to have come to the summit to Ms. McKenzie, he was becoming too defensive.

5. Proud and sarcastic

When Fiona asks him why he came to the summit he says, he did not come, he was invited, that means the presidents wanted him there.

6. Arrogant

He says that he cannot defend his book before anyone, least of all a third rate reporter for the *Zambian* news.

7. Optimistic

He is optimistic that *Way Omega* will bring change to Africa.

CHAPTER 2 ANONIMOUS COMMANDS

Synopsis

The chapter begins with a telephone conversation between the caller and Pastor Chiamaka. The Caller talks about the briefcase and its content. In the briefcase we have a letter from Agency for Governance and Development in Africa (AGDA), a copy of *Way Omega*, a copy of *Path Alpha* and a mobile phone. The Caller instructs Pastor Chiamaka to familiarize himself with both *Way Omega* and *Path Alpha*.

Pastor Chiamaka is instructed to always keep the mobile phone close to him. The caller informs him that he will be the one to keep in touch.

THEMES

Fear

Pastor Chiamaka is intimidated by the caller. The AGDA mission states that quote ,you are not to have any less faith in him just because he identifies himself to you only by alias of ‘ your guide”. When Pastor Chiamaka keeps on asking about the name of the caller, he is told, he is getting into the nerves of the caller. P19

He is made aware that he was spotted in a bar by the caller. Pastor Chiamaka feels intimidated and unsure of anything. P20

The caller threatens Pastor Chiamaka to obey him rather not argue with him and should not talk back to him again. Consequently, Pastor Chiamaka stammers. Pg18

STYLES

Ellipsis

The caller says ‘I was there an hour ago...’ he leaves the statement incomplete so as to allow Pastor Chiamaka to fill in the missing information. P 19

Dialogue

Dialogue is brought out through the caller and Pastor Chiamaka. The dialogue brings out the following aspects;

A letter from AGDA that entails its mission for Africa. P 16

Through the dialogue, Way Omega and Path Alpha are brought out. The guide also instructs Pastor Chiamaka to ensure that he is always close to the mobile phone.

Pastor Chiamaka is instructed to familiarize himself with the content of both Way Omega and Path Alpha.

The dialogue also make the reader aware that the caller has been spying on Pastor Chiamaka. He says ‘what business had you being in a bar?’

pg20

Biblical allusion

Pastor Chiamaka felt a lump of anger rise in his throat, only after he had remembered the injunction to turn the other cheek, did he swallow his anger and apologize. Pg20

Rhetorical question

- Was that all you were going to ask? Pg19
- That is why you should trust me, okay? Pg19

Idiomatic expressions

You are beginning to get on my nerve. Pg19

Onomatopoeia

Snapped the caller. Pg17

Direct translation

You were where an hour ago? Pg19

CHARACTERISATION

1. PASTOR CHIAMAKA

Inquisitive

He keeps on probing the caller for his real name. He says ‘Then why won’t you tell me your real name?’ pg17. 18

He asks the caller he should trust him while he does not know his real name.

Temperamental

When the caller insists that Chiamaka went to the bar, Chiamaka says, Mr. whoever you are, you are getting on my nerve.

Before apologizing to the caller, he feels a lump of anger rise in his throat. Pg20

Arrogant and defensive

When the caller points out that Chiamaka was in a bar, he defends himself that he was only drinking Pepsi and also accuses the caller for spying on him. Pg19

2. THE CALLER

Arrogant and temperamental

He orders Pastor Chiamaka to shut up. P 17

Authoritative/Commanding/Domineering

The caller orders Pastor Chiamaka, he tells him ‘I want you to obey me, not to argue with me. You will not talk back to me like this again, ever. Do you understand?’ P 18

Cautious

He only wants to be contacted through the phone he has provided.

Mysterious

Pastor Chiamaka thinks that that the caller might be an invisible executioner, unknowable and unidentifiable. Pg19

CHAPTER 3 MISERY AND CHANGE

SYNOPSIS

The chapter examines Kimani as having become a senior lecturer in the University of Nairobi so fast a time when Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda have dismantled their University of East Africa. Having received a PhD at Oxford University; he arrives in this university and demands for relevance as well as agency of change as the way to go for this institution. Unclear on how it should be attained many people are discontent and believe he is on his way to self-destruction, but when he earns a name and the love of a campus beauty Queen, Asiya Omondi, who later he marries, he cares less of what others believe.

The chapter also reveals the effect of global recession that ate into African economy causing inflation, plummeting earning, and eating up jobs, incomes, and savings. Donors demand for change in Africa. Intellectuals become less significant unless they join politics in their endeavors that offer wealth and prominence from lucrative scandals and bribery. Professors desert academics for politics in which they can earn a lot of untaxed money. These politicians also make laws that favour them economically. A dialogue between Kimani and Tuni, a child conceived in Tunisia, reveals that Africa has an economic crisis. Kimani resolves that African politics is felony and suitable for greedy criminals.

The author reflects on Africa as being the least safe because of fear among women who could be raped or attacked any time. The transport section is a private affair with individuals hiring guards and installing anti-theft gadgetry. Kimani insists that the government should offer security and talks against Africans who now hire private security people to safeguard themselves. Tuni reveals the need for that, since the state is unable to offer the required security. She shares some notes from a seminar she has attended and tells her mother to be aware of where she is all the time, being strong, and walking in safe places. A specific reference to how women behave when they park and get back to their cars amazes and worries Asiya as Tuni proposes that if one becomes a predator they need to smash it, surprise the criminal and run away. Tuni borrows the father's car and as he gives excuses, she notices that her father no longer goes for tours as they used to when she was young.

The next day she dies in a road accident where a truck sits on a minibus, she is trapped and even when a 999 is called it does not come at all. Asiya is inconsolable and later leaves Kimani to marry Newborn Walomu, who has a lot of money.

Kimani visits Walomu and confronts him about wanting to marry Asiya who is older than him when he has three beautiful young girls. Walomu says old is gold and insists that he got to die with green grass in his mouth. When Kimani fights the MP, he is arrested and charged for assault, jailed for six months and demoted from being a full professor to a senior lecturer. Later he meets Tad Longway, Director of Special Projects at agency for Governance and Development in Africa. Who is based in Cape Town and though with a Brit accent, he assures Kimani that he is an African from South Africa. Tad wants to see an end to diseases, corruption, poverty, impunity and ignorance. He reveals that after reading Kimani's books, he feels this man can help him bring change to Africa by coaching or coaxing people, pointing towards a better future and moving towards it. He hates violations that results from fury that arises when the six problems engineered by politicians emerge. He adds that AGDA aims to interrogate the status quo of Africa and Path Alpha should be the way to go. *Path Alpha* emphasizes on mobilizing people to will for change. Considering the loss of a daughter, desertion by the wife and abuse from the state, Kimani opts to join this mission so that he can be involved elsewhere.

Themes

1. Greed and Selfishness/ Egocentrism

- Walomu has three young wives yet he goes for Asiya who is old. (35-38).
- The opponents testify on his behalf that he is a man who has many pigeons in his hands and has killed many and is yet to eat the fourth.
- Walomu himself says that, he is going to marry Asiya, because a real bull dies with green grass in its mouth. Pg37
- The parliamentarians stage a coup so that they get a salary increment, up to a 100 times their previous salary, thereby proving their greed.

- The MPs pass laws that prevent their income from being taxable, therefore, they are greedy.
- Because of selfishness, losers such as Walomu, swam in money... even so failed states have a few mansions. Since losers like to reward fellow losers. Losers invariably end up occupying such mansions. Pg30
- Selfishness makes Asiya to walk out of her long 30 years of marriage. Pg33
- During the time Walomu was seeking a political seat, gunmen scared off the pursuers and killed his predecessor (p.35).

2. Family disintegration

- Kimani and Asiya's marriage can no longer hold. She left the following morning.
- After the death of Tuni, the only child to Kimani and Asiya, the family is inconsolable and each partner relies on the other for happiness. Asiya begins to loath Kimani because of his financial status, later she announces she is leaving to be with Walomu. Regardless of all sorts of persuasions, she walks out of her marriage and gets married to Walomu, leaving Kimani at a breaking point. Pg32, 33, 34.

3. Misuse of power or poor governance and impunity.

- Professor Kimani remembers MPs as loud mouths and failures in all courses as most of them were his classmates (p.27)
- The parliamentarians break the law and legislate that breach as the new law for instance, they increase their wages as they please and to do this they just amend the constitution by inserting a tiny clause (p.29-30)
- Africa's reforms in real sense aren't reforms as things remain the way they were before. Tyranny by presidents was replaced with tyranny by parliamentarians. The more things change the more they stay the same. '*Msitu mpya nyani ni wale wale*' (p.25)
- African politics is a felony. Because, those in it are greedy criminals who pretend that it is an honest work. It is for this reason that

professor Kimani doesn't want to join politics instead remain in teaching profession (P.23,24,25)

- African states have failed to render services yet the taxes the people pay oblige the government to ensure the safety of its people. As a result the people have opted to procure for the services themselves from private providers some of who are extortionist to assure of personal safety. For instance, Tuni informs her father that she has attended a personal safety seminar which is a precautionary measure against male violence. Vehicles have the anti-theft gadgetry, tour operators warn foreigners against showing valuables in public (P.26)
- Furthermore emergency services that is supposed to be rendered by the government is unreliable and inefficient. When Tuni Mr. Kimani's daughter was trapped inside a minibus that was involved in an accident where the trailer was atop of the minibus and all the doors had jammed. One man called the mystical number 999 to report distress and request for help which did not respond. The onlookers attempt to save the girl. Which eventually leads to her death as the minibus is flattened by the trailer. Pg30,31,32
- The rowdy fellows like Walomu amerce a lot of wealth after a short stint in politics.
- The institute leadership is marred with impunity. Having raised Dr. Kimani's points from being a lecturer to a senior lecturer. Pg21
- The next day she dies in a road accident where a truck sits on a minibus, she is trapped and even when a 999 is called it comes an hour later dies without help

4. Corruption

- Kimani comes to the University of Nairobi as a senior lecturer, a manipulated move by the institution (P.21)

5. Fulfillment and Gratification

- Walomu expresses satisfaction in his behaviour as a man who wants to have many women around him (P35).

- Kimani feels fulfilled after he marries Asiya Omondi the heart of a campus beauty (P.22)
- Walomu says that a real bull dies with green grass in its mouth.
Pg37

6. Education

- Kimani had just received a PhD at Oxford University, right from England and joined the University of Nairobi (P.21)
- Kimani becomes a professor at the university (P.21)
- The presence of University of Nairobi is an indicator that education has taken root in Kenya.
- Walomu was a junior colleague of professor Kimani at the University before joining politics. Pg29

7. Death, Fate, Pain, Suffering, loss and Desperation

- Tuni dies a painful death when she is trapped in a minibus and people try to break in unsuccessfully. The minibus crumbles on her when the trailer comes down (P.30-32)
- After the death of Tuni, Siya and Kimani are inconsolable and despondent. They mourn for six months. Asiya wakes up one day dejected, she loathes her husband and decides to get married to Walomu. (P.32-33).
- During the time Walomu was seeking a political seat, gunmen scared off the pursuers and killed his predecessor (p.35).
- Professor Kimani recalls how he had lost his daughter in a freak road accident in Kenya. Thereafter his wife Asiya was snatched away from him by a randy politician. He therefore endures a lot of pain (p.31-33).
- Kimani seems desperate with a small salary, complains from Siya and Tuni's wish to have his car. (P.24-29) He later desperately tries to plead with the wife not to leave him.

8. Poverty

- Siya feels Kimani has no much to offer her because even his vehicle has become a metaphor about him. She complains about poverty that sucks and tells the husband to leave the university (P.29)
- Professor Kimani possess a dying old Toyota. The car has stalled. When Tuni borrows the car, she cannot have it. Tuni proceeds to use public service transport which leads to her death. Asiya blames Kimani for the death of their daughter because he did not have a reliable one. (P.33).

9. Insecurity

- Tuni reveals the need for private security arrangements as a result of inability of state to offer the required security. She shares some notes from a seminar she has attended and tells her mother to be aware of where she is all the time, being strong, and walking in safe places. A specific reference to how women behave when they park and get back to their cars amazes Siya. Tuni proposes if one becomes a predator they need to smash it, surprise the criminal and run away. (p.29).
- Kimani suggests that home protection and transport area with touch-me-not anti-theft gadget has become obvious. (P.25)
- The author also reveals that there were high levels of rape, abduction, and theft in Africa (P.27-28). Tuni too talks about criminals and lack of security for a woman.
- Two thirds of women in the country experience violence against them by men. That is why they attend seminars on personal safety, just like Tuni. Pg26-27

10. Betrayal or Treachery

- The African governments taxes its citizens, therefore they are obliged to provide social services, such as security but they fail. This leads to the people contracting private companies and individuals. This is betrayal of the governments to its people. (P.25-26).

- Furthermore, Tuni dies as a result of inefficient government emergency services (p. 30-2).
- Asiya betrays Kimani. She leaves Kimani for Walomu after they have been married for over thirty years.

11. Greed

- He is already married to three women and he is still not contented as he has promised Asiya, Mr Kimani's wife that he was going to marry her (p. 33).
- All elections for political officers used to be rigged now few are free and fair(P.28)
- All business firms were state monopolies now, they are all private ventures
- Africa members of parliament earned less than professors did, now they rose up into hundred times the incomes professors receive. Earnings of professors still consists of salaries which are taxable but MPs salaries are not taxed (P.29)

12. Change and transition

- Kimani who once believed he was born to teach seeks a way to get out of it without saying goodbye (P.45)
- Global recession hit Africa and savings vanish. Earnings plummet, inflation soars, and African intellectuals are humiliated. The only sure way to have money is to become a politician, hence many lecturers turn to it (P.24-25)
- Kimani indicates that African reforms have only replaced tyranny by presidents with tyranny by parliaments (P.23,25)
- Walomu was a rowdy fellow from a minor tribe without roads or schools, a junior colleague of Kimani and now he was a prominent politician (P29).
- Professor Kimani believed his destiny was being a teacher, but after what he had went through, he has a change of hearts and exits teaching for a brighter future.

- A global economic crisis also hits Africa, jobs and incomes vanish. To get out of the crisis, Africa had to make changes. Changes, changes were everywhere.

13. Rivalry, Conflict and animosity

- Kimani and Walomu are enemies because he took a wife from Kimani. This leads to Kimani being jailed on the charges of assaulting an MP.

14. Materialism

- The comparison between Kimani and Walomu indicates that money matters as Kimani cannot afford a family car for his daughter, Tuni whereas Walomu has four cars (P.29,31).
- Kimani loses his wife, Siya as a result of being poor. He cannot satisfy the needs of his family. When he tells the wife that money is not the answer to everything, she responds by telling him he has never had money how can he know that money does not offer happiness (P.33)

15. Marriage and polygamy

- Walomu has three young women as his wives and intends to add one more, Asiya. Which he later does.

16. Hypocrisy and pretense

- The young and pretty ladies in Walomu's reception, smile at everybody including Kimani and when they recognize him they frown immediately meaning they were merely playing public relation (P.34)
- Siya seems hypocritical immediately she notes Kimani cannot be of help to her. She complains about poverty and later when the daughter dies becomes despondent. A few months later, she jumps and shrinks whenever Kimani approaches her then one day she smiles and at night tells him she is leaving and is ready to marry Walomu, when Kimani retreats, she sees through his lie (P.32)

17. Fear and anxiety

- People closed their eyes in fear when the minibus in which Tuni was kept crushing (P.29).
- Longway trusts that *Path Alpha* will transform the have they harbor against state officials into acts that add up and became a will for change (P.43-4).
- Kimani fears that he may not be allowed to come near the gates where the next summit of Africa's heads of the state will be (P.44).

18. Individualism

- In Kenya individuals now hire guards for their security.
- The parliamentarians ensure they change laws to their advantage.

19. Injustice

- Professor Kimani fights Walomu, he is imprisoned for six months while Walomu goes scot free. In addition professor Kimani is demoted from being a professor to a senior lecturer.

Characters and Characterization

1. Kimani Karanja

a. Assertive

He launched a noisy dispute in which he demanded that his new university henceforth strive for relevance to the society rather than simply excellence of its work (P.21).

b. Visionary

He wanted a university that was an agent of change not a mere spectator of it(P.21)

He also wanted a center of excellence when he arrived at the University of Nairobi.

c. Realistic

He tells Asiya even the rich have their share of trouble plus more trouble from their wealth(P.33).

d. Violent

When he goes to Walomu's office he brushed the girls aside and opens the doorway(p.34)

e. Arrogant

He abuses Walomu by calling him, 'You fat baboon(P.34)'

f. Daring

He dares fight in Walomu's office. Kimani swung a fist (P.37)

g. Educated

He had a PhD from Oxford University (P21)

h. Abusive

He quickly abuses MP newborn as a fat baboon(p. 34).

i. Concerned

He goes and faces the MP Walomu for stealing his wife. He is also worried for Asiya as the MP was known for using women ...many other he had killed but not eaten' (p. 36).

j. Aggressive

He confronts and wants to fight the MP Mr Walomu for stealing his wife and is later jailed for this for six months (p. 37-8)

k. Opportunistic

He applies for a position of a senior lecturer at the University of Nairobi when there is a vacancy he should fill immediately he gets a PhD (P.21).

He takes *Path Alpha* as a way to help him escape teaching that he no longer wants (p. 45)

After losing a daughter and a wife he feels it is suitable to change his career.

l. Inquisitive and critical

He asks Longway a lot of questions when he is persuading him to take *Path Omega* which will help solve the problems of Africa, how he came to select him as one of the participants in the whole project, and how the plan can serve Africa (P40-44).

m. Idealist, purist and absolutist

When Tuni asks her father whether she has ever considered going into politics he says it is not for him (P.31).

Longway says from history Kimani is an idealist because of what he writes and what he does at work (P.44).

n. Unrealistic and rigid

Kimani views the surge in guarding with disapproval, to which he adds contempt when he understands there is no way to meet these services without spending on them (P.25).

He knows very well the state does not offer security but says that their safety is not in seminars but the state should provide it (P.26-7).

He aims to change the University of Nairobi so fast when it is not quite possible (P.21-2).

o. Vulnerable and emotional

He knows how powerful Walomu is but attacks him in the office and he is later thrown in jail (P.41-44)

p. Outspoken and Frank

Kimani feels the people Sir Mark hired were mercenaries and not soldier and tells Longway this (P.43).

q. Determined and persevering

Regardless of the low salary, he sticks to his job as a teacher and keeps saying teaching is an honest profession for him when all his fellow intellectuals run to politics (P.29).

Kimani undergoes a lot of loss and suffering, but he seems composed in chapter 3 when talking to Longway.

Longway says that the traveller must have the drive to pursue goals and tenacity to stick with them just as Kimani is (p.44).

A month after arrival he demanded that his institute hence forth to strive for relevance and not excellence and six months later, his view prevailed. His personal view became the university's motto 'Relevance not Excellence' (p.21)

r. Racist and judgmental

When talking to Mr. Longway, he does not believe he can be an African because of his color. When Longway says us, Africans, Kimani asks did you say, 'us Africans'? (P.40)

Mr. Longway determines that Kimani is judging him by the cover of his skin, hence he code switches to speak like an Afrikan from South Africa (P. 40)

s. Disillusioned

He seems to have given up with life after he loses a daughter and wife and ends up in jail (P38-45).

He does not believe he can be allowed to attend the African heads of state's summon (P.45)

20. Siya

a. Materialistic, pragmatic, and realistic

She complains about their poor state, Africa's situation and hates it. She tells her husband to leave the university and make things better. She closely refers to MP Walomu who has four cars (P.29).

She opts to marry MP Walomu who is rich and desert Kimani who is poor (P.32-37).

She believes if money was not offering happiness, only people who have ever had it could be the only ones to tell (p.33).

She also believes if Tuni had a car that her father could afford for her, she could not have died in a car crash as it had happened (P.33).

b. Inconsolable and emotional

She becomes desponded after the death of Tuni (P.32).

She loathes Kimani after Tuni's death (P.32-33).

c. Motherly

She touches Tuna gently in a calming gesture when she seems to be annoyed with the situation in Kenya (P.27).

d. Frank and Open

She tells Kimani openly about their poor state and asks him to get out of the university (P.29).

e. Resolute

She tells Kimani she is going to leave and marry newborn Walomu and in the morning indeed she leaves despite his persuasion of her to stay (P.33-4).

21. Walomu

a. Cruel, scrupulous, and selfish

He tells Kimani even after taking Siya that he will have Kimani thrown out of the window on the 12th floor (P.35).

He sits smiling and enjoying every moment of Kimani's anger (P.35).

He won a sit by using gunmen to scare off pursuers of the sit and had killed the predecessor (P.35).

b. Extravagant

He is said to have 4 cars (p.29).

c. Sarcastic

He asks Kimani what brings him in his office and even tells him to take a seat and stand forever if he wills (P.35).

He even tells Kimani that the Texas guy says there are no people who steal women and being devils they do not understand anything. They barge in at any time (p.36-7).

He tells Kimani Asiya is old but gold to him and that a real bull dies with green grass in its mouth (P.36)

d. Lustful

Kimani thinks of how Walomu always went after women.

He had three wives and still goes for Siya claiming that she is an old gold to him (P. 36)

22. Tuni

a. Inquisitive

He attends a seminar on personal safety and asks her parents their views about what the leader suggests (P.27)

b. Cautious

She takes precautionary measures against male violence by attending a seminar (P.27)

c. Feminist

She suggests that women should protect themselves against criminals as male criminals (P.27-8).

d. Cautious

She starts attending classes to help her learn how to protect herself (P27).

e. Critical

She analyzes the state of affairs in Kenya with a critical eye view. She says despite elections, politicians are all the same (P25).

f. Knowledgeable

She knows about self-defense and many other ways that can make her better in life (P.27)

She gives her mother four ways of safeguarding themselves including; always being keen and aware of where they are, appearing strong and in control, and never walking into bad neighbourhoods (P.27).

g. Outspoken

When talking to her mother and father about the state of affairs in the country and need for individual to offer themselves security, she speaks everything as it is (P.25-7)

Language and Style

a. Rhetorical Questions

When Kimani hears someone knock at his door he asks ‘Why didn’t people stay in their own homes? (P.38)’

Kimani asks himself after verbal attack on Walomu; had he not sounded like an envious loser? (P.37)

Mr. Longway asks Kimani whether the name Mark Thatcher rings a bell in him (P.39).

Mother and daughter look at each other and ask themselves rhetorical questions such as “How often had they heard him espouse that view? Yet did it not tend to undermine prosperity and result in poverty? (P.26)”

When Tuni is trapped an onlooker asks whether she is fine and the author places a question; “So how could she be fine? (P.31)”

b. Imagery and figurative language

i. Vivid description

The author says there was a loud crash; a moving object had hit another moving object. A trailer hooked to a truck negotiating a roundabout had broken free, spun outward, and ended up on top of a minibus in an adjacent lane (P. 31-2)

There is a detailed description too of how Tuni is trapped and the attempt to save her and finally how she is squeezed to death (P.30-2)

Walomu is described in the book as celebrating with a smile, his front teeth rusty brown and with a stomach that had grown into a ball, big and firm, known on streets as “compressor”... (p.34-5).

There is a vivid description of how Siya responds when Kimani touches her. She jumped back and shrank away. He pretended to understand why and kept out her path (P.32).

Tuni is said to have her mother’s eyes; wings of an imported butterfly, pure black in the middle, pure white at the margins, ringed with inch-long lashes (P.24).

The author describes Longway as a Whiteman-green of eyes, fifty-plus years of age-stood outside (P.38).

Longway’s voice is said to be a lion’s roar; deep, reverberating, and eerie (P.40)

Longway is said to have been speaking with a bi-tonal accent, seemingly mid-Atlantic for sounding both American and British (P.40).

ii. Metaphors

Longway’s voice is said to be a lion’s roar (P.38)

Kimani calls Walomu fat baboon (P.34).

iii. Litotes

The situation could not have been any worse if a demented god in some dark cloud was using the trailer as a hammer to beat the minibus flat (P.31)

iv. Personification

The bed protested (p.33)

Kimani puts a hand over his mouth to kill a yawn (p.42).

The secretaries at Walomu’s office kill their smile (P34).

Kimani and Asiya are said to have been married amidst approval of A Saturday full of claps of thunder and rain (P.26).

v. Similes

A fight between Kimani and Walomu is a ponderous scuffle, as between elephants (P.38).

Kimani tells Tuni new parliaments are like old and though the politicians keep changing their ideology is all the same (p.25).

Longways tells Kimani “Let it stew in your mind” meaning he should reflect on what he has been told (P45)

He also tells Kimani to mull over it between the sheets (p.45)

You are getting on my nerves meaning you are irritating me (p.23).

Watch your tongue (p.36)

Ring a bell (p.39).

Lay many he had killed meaning got attracted to and dumped (P.36).

Our think tank (P.41)

Kimani asks Walomu after he mocks him about Asiya ‘You have the nerve... (P.36)

c.Satire

Longway satirically shows how the heads of state in Africa promised to deal with poverty, ignorance, and diseases yet instead of eradicating that they added corruption (P.41).

The author satirizes the public management bodies particularly the emergency sector for failing to save Tuna from death. After being called, a police doubling as a driver arrives an hour later when Tuna has already died (p.30-1). Including safety arrangements becoming a private business.

The author also mocks the women empowerment trainings Tuna had been attending because the teaching that are propagated to offer safety to the women do not save Tuna from death (P.27)

It is also satirical that security lies in the hands of individuals and only the rich can afford it when in real sense the government should provide that(p.25).

The author satirizes Kimani’s choice to hang to the university as a lecturer and his view that he was born a teacher, hence he ends up languishing in poverty and his daughter dies because he could not offer her a car. He still waited for the next month’s salary to enable him repair the car(p.29).

It is laughable that the state cannot provide emergency services when needed. For instance when One man called the mystical number 999 to report distress and request for help when the trailer was atop of a minibus. The 999 arrived a whole hour after call nobody comes (p.38)

Asiya prof Kimani's wife is satirized for leaving her marriage of over thirty years because she isn't happy as her husband doesn't have money unlike Newborn who is filthy rich has promised to marry her (p.32-3). This she does when she is 60 years old.

The MP Mr Walomu is also satirized . He is already married to three young women but he is still not contented as he has promised Asiya a 60 year old woman Mrs Kimani's wife that he was going to marry her (p.36)

The government is also satirized for not recognizing and remunerating diligence instead the government serenade and celebrate sloth for instance MP Mr Walomu is given a ministerial post as the minister Without portfolio and he gets better pay than his previous post for doing nothing

It is laughable at African presidents who have added the fourth problem that is corruption and the fifth which is impunity despite promising their people that they were going to eradicate the three problems that were there ; poverty , ignorance and disease. Now they can longer be heard promising to eradicate the problem as they are the primary beneficiaries (p.41)

d. Irony

It is ironical that Walomu has three beautiful wives but still wants to marry Siya and leave Kimani a hurt man and he proudly says old is gold (P.36).

e. Sarcasm

Kimani is a bit sarcastic when talking to Longway who is persuading him to become part of the *Path Alpha* strategy. At some point he says he is a teacher not an activist and keeps correcting some terms Longway uses (p.40-42)

Walomu sarcastically asks Kimani whether he came to see him about something. He later asks him to take a sit or stand there forever because he did not care. He also refers to himself as a real bull that dies with green grass in its mouth (P.36-7).

f. Allusion

Margaret Thatcher is mentioned in the book by Longway. Mark hired them to stage a coup in Equatorial Guinea(P.39)

g. Flashback

It is through flashback that the readers learn the suffering and desperation of Kimani since his arrival in Kenya and loss of daughter and wife (P.32-42).

It is also through flashback that the readers learn of Kimani's choice to become part of the Path Alpha strategy (P38-42).

Professor Kimani has a flashback on how he lost his daughter in a freak road accident and later the wife leaves him for a wealthy politician (P.45).

h. Dialogue or conversation

In a dialogue between Siya and Kimani, Siya reveals her decision to marry Walomu and mocks him for rebuking wealth when she has been with him in poverty. She even questions whether he wanted her to have left early and she mocks him of not knowing what happiness is (P.36-7).

Walomu also has a dialogue with Kimani and he mocks him for questioning his need to marry Siya when he has three beautiful wives. The dialogue shows how the proud, arrogant, selfish, lustful Walomu disregards Kimani and has no sympathy for his situation (P35-7).

i. Idiophones

Ha (P.31, 33)

Ah (P.31)

Hack (p.31).

j. Onomatopoeia

Minibus were scrambling (P.30).

The door had jammed (P.30)

Perhaps scared, the crowd the hushed (P.31).

They only gawked (p.30).

A loud crash (p.30).

She seemed to loathe (p.32).

The bed creaked (p.32).

She really snapped out her gloom (p.32)

She scoffed(p.33)

As it crumbled amid groans (p.31)

Tuni blinked (P.24)

Reasons for flunking them (p.31)

Scrambled (p.34)

While he was wobbling ...(P.42)

Cookie crumbles (P.36)

Proverbs and proverbial sayings

When a can gets into a pigeon coops, it kills all the pigeons it finds, not just those it will eat. It refers to Walomu who takes away women even those he may not need, like Asiya (P.36).

A real bull dies with green grass in its mouth (p.37) Walomu justifies his greed for women.

Old is gold (P.36/37)

Chapter Four- Fiona for VOA

SYNOPSIS

Chapter four opens with Mrs McKenzie leaving Seamount hotel for the office. There are so many roadblocks and even though she promised to take few minutes, she realizes she might take hours. She mocks the taxi driver for having given a bribe and he sarcastically says he will be coming back for arrest. In a flashback we understand arch number 22, it dates back July 22, 1994, when The Gambia got into conflict, political instability that led to military coup-toppling of government.

Fiona is hired on loan by VOA because the new rule demands they consider non-Americans in their missions. Robert Manley, Chief of Bureau informs her that she will head for the Summit and work for them alongside Nick the technology expert. Nick informs her that Silent Listener reveals a possible threat around the summit and that involves four strangers under an anonymous caller. He plays some of the messages to Fiona and she is amazed. He calls Abiola and books an appointment. On her way to the hotel, she is abducted by Liberian Mailer who believes she is a street walker in need of pleasure. She shouts Abiola's name causing a fight between the two. Abiola wins though he is scraped in the face. He takes Fiona to his room and she offers first aid. Fiona reveals Nick's details and discovers Abiola is the Guide hence Abiola wills to meet Nick. Abiola thinks Fiona might be interested in some pleasures but she rejects.

Tad Longway

- a. Caring and compassionate

He also feels sorry for Comrade Melusi, Chiamaka, Kimani and even Tahir in conversations he holds with them (p.65).

- b. Persuasive

He convinces both Tahir, Melusi, Chiamaka, and Kimani to become part of the *Path Alpha* strategy (p.65,).

THEMES

1. Education

McKenzie Fiona is said to have studied in Scotland, Edinburgh (P.51).

2. Violence against women

Fiona is almost abducted by a man at the hotel and he says all women just want that(p.61-63).

3. Rivalry, Conflict and Political animosity

It happens in a pub when Ms McKenzie is almost abducted (P.58)

4. The Role of Media

Gambian News were following up what was happening in the summit through Viona.

VOA takes over in following up a story on the summit of the heads of states using Fiona and other technical teams.

Media restricted by American government to broadcast only in their home countries, this makes the public feel uninformed (P.48).

VOA, striking oversea audience as odd, BBC broadcast only in their home countries, this makes the public feel uninformed (P.48).

McKenzie who is a Gambian joins Voice of America, African institutions mistreat employees by paying them poorly (P49).

23. Corruption

(Pg. 48) I'm going to ask the guards I bribed to arrest me for bribing them.

(Pg. 47) they wanted something small.

24. Change

On July 22, 1994, the legitimate and undisputed president of the Gambia fell from power in a military coup (pg 46)

A new VOA policy now requires field offices like us to use local professionals whenever conditions favour their use over that of Americans. (pg. 49)

Stylistic devices

1. Vivid description

(Pg. 46) the arch number 22, lit bright by a blaze from a late morning sun, was shining with dazzling splendor.

Late morning clouds, sagging under the weight of imminent rain.... (Pg. 48)

Fiona joins Voice of America and she is to find the nitty gritty of the summit including talking to the participants and interviewing them (p.49).

The author describes Longway as having smiled and apparently winked as well (P.51)

2. Metaphors

This stub of a word rode on a whiff of mentholated breath (P.51).

The youth was a jargon-spewing buffoon (P.52).

‘Yes, those bullies’ (pg.47)

3. Personification

Silent Listener to keep a special ear open for all (P.53).

He killed all the lights (P.62).

4. Simile

Sticking it out like a rooster readying to crow (P.51).

5. Idioms

He also tells Kimani to mull over it between the sheets (p.45)

Codes can be tough nuts to crack (P.54).

To cut a long story short (P.54)

I'd lose my job for ruffling their feathers (P.58).

An ungodly hour (P.59).

6. Humour

I'm going to ask the guards I bribed to arrest me for bribing. (Pg. 48)

7. Irony

Chineke Chiamaka tells lies, he also drinks yet he is a religious leader (P.64).

8. Allusion

There is a historical allusion in which they refer to Gandhi glasses(P.51).

9. Flashback

Professor Kimani has a flashback on how he lost his daughter in a freak road accident and later the wife leaves him for a wealthy politician (P.45).

10. Dialogue

There is a conversation involving McKenzie and Mr Manley , and Nicolas Sentinel when Fiona is loaned briefly to work for the VOK on summit matters now that she knows Gambia well. She is informed of the possible insecurity in the summit (P.47-65)

11. Idiophone

Huh(p.51, 55).

Aha(P.53)

12. Onomatopoeia

She nodded and lobbed (P.52).

Had been squatting (P.54).

She slapped herself (P.55).

He scrambled to his feet(p.50).

He clasped his hands (p.51).

Dr Afolabi had tossed (P.57).

13. Proverbs

One goof turn deserves another (P.64).

14. Sarcasm

I'm going to ask the guards I bribed to arrest me for bribing them. (Pg 48)

Chapter 5

Chapter five begins with a flashback where Dr. Afolabi had been invited by The Foundation for Democratic Rule in Washington to give a keynote address to an annual conference. His wife looks at this invitation as a godsend, since it helps her reunite with her father after a period of over

six years. Her father is a widower who lives in Boston. She takes advantage of the foundations offer to pay for her husband's travel and pay for her own so she can visit the old man who lives in Boston. On arrival in Boston they find that the old man is not at home. Pamela takes the key and opens the door. Dr. Afolabi follows her. As Dr. Afolabi goes to loosen himself he stumbles on a scene he swears never to tell his wife. In America, Dr. Afolabi notices that there were old people more than his Harvard years as a student. Its citizens live longer unlike in Africa where the young take care of the old.

On their return to Nigeria he encounters a cranky passenger in first class, who demands to sit next to him in an economy class. This makes Dr. Afolabi and Pamela travel in different classes. He sits next to Mr. Longway who congratulates him on his address at the Foundation for Democratic Rule. On arrival in Nigeria, they find a stranger in the house. This stranger is a girl who Dr. Afolabi claims to be a cousin. Pamela insists to know who the girl is and has a feeling that the lady is having an affair with Dr. Afolabi since she cannot have children of her own. This leads to a break-up and Pamela goes back to Boston in the middle of the night.

THEMES

1. SEPARATION

- Distance has led to separation among family, members. Pamela's father lives in Boston. For over six years Pamela has stayed without meeting her father and she is happy of the possible meeting with him. This makes the father to live like a widower. The journey to Boston is godsend (P.66).
- As Dr. Afolabi travels back to Nigeria with his wife they seat separately. Mr. Longway sits next to Afolabi in separate class with Pamela. The whole of the journey they don't travel together yet they are couples (P.70-74).
- On arrival in Nigeria Pamela learns that there is a lady in the house whose origin she doesn't know. She leaves the homestead and goes back to Boston. She files for divorce while in Boston (P.81).

2. Change

- Dr Afolabi travels to Boston and realizes that there are more old people that they were during his days when he was studying in Harvard (P.66).
- Dr Afolabi is convinced by Longway that *Path Alpha* is a worth strategy than *Way Omega* and that he should mentor the four travellers from AGDA (P.74).
- Dr Afolabi notices that in the old days the old were being taken care of by the young, but in the contemporary society, they are taken to old people's homes (P.66-67).

3. Alienation

- Dr Afolabi notices that in the old days the old were being taken care of by the young, but in the contemporary society, they are taken to old people's homes (P.66-67).
- When Pamela is made by Longway to relocate from the class she had books with Dr Afolabi she is uncomfortable to do so because she is possibly alienated (P.70-72).
- Both Pamela and Dr Afolabi have ability to bear children but they decide to adopt a child unlike what his folks demand (P.80).

4. Corruption and impunity

- Longway believes that the worst problems that face Africa are corruption, a crime rewarding with kickbacks and impunity, a crime and also a way of protecting the criminals from punishment (P.72).

5. Class stratification

- The traveling arrangements in the flight are based on class. Pamela and Dr Afolabi are in the economy class (P.70-72)

6. Tradition

- Femi is send by Dr Afolabi's folks to bring a girl to his house so that he marries as a second wife because Pamela does not have her own children as they would wish. They intend to have her bear for him children (P.78).
- Femi is asked a question by Pamela a question and refuses to answer; instead he talks to Dr Afolabi (P.77).

- Femi also tells Dr Afolabi to tell his wife what kind of a brave fighter he is (P.77).

7. Deceit

- Pamela is tricked the cranky passenger “Tad” in the economy passenger to give away her seat to him (P. 71).

8. Loneliness

- Pamela’s father seems to be lonely that he even goes to the departmental store just to chat with the girl (P.67-68) .
- Afolabi thinks that old people in America live alone in their homes, empty of relatives(P.67).

9. Opportunism

- Longway believes that Path Alpha will bring change in the society , he says unless there is no will to change there will be no change (P.72).

CHARACTER AND CHARACTERISATION

1. Pamela

a. Caring

- She cares for her father that she accompanies Dr. Afolabi to America so that she can check on the father too whom she had not seen for six years (P.66).

b. Assertive

- Once she realizes that there is a lady in her room on arrival from Boston, she walks out of the marriage, she notes that Afolabi was possibly interested having a second wife. She later on divorce Dr. Afolabi (pg 79-81).

c. Short tempered and temperamental

- She quarrels Dr. Afolabi over Nimbo, She is angry on noticing that Afolabi is trying to have a second wife (pg 78).
- She shrugged Dr Afolabi’s hand in an ambiguous rebuff when he is cool her down.

d. Opportunistic

- She takes an advantage of the fact that her husband is going to Boston and accompanies him to go meet the mother whom they have never met for six years.

e. Decisive and resolute

- Once she realizes that there is a lady in her room on arrival from Boston, she walks out of the marriage, she notes that Afolabi was possibly interested having a second wife (P.79-80).
- She later on divorce Dr. Afolabi (P.81).

f. Observant

- She also notices that her husband possibly has something to do with the girl brought in the house(P.80)

g. Sensitive and suspicious

- Pamela suspects that there is something wrong when Issa grabs her left hands with both his hands and indeed later there are strangers in the house (P.75).
- She thinks that her husband plans to marry because she does not have her own children and that he knew everything about the girl who has been brought in by Femi (P.80).

h. Inquisitive

She asks a lot of questions.

Abiola so you know him?(P.77)

And who are you?(P.76)

A burglar ?(P.75)

Is it a yes or not?(p.77)

i. Authoritative

She reprimands Femi to show some respect to and to answer her directly (P.77).

She reprimands Dr Afolabi to tell Femi and the girl that they can't stay (P.80).

2. Dr. Afolabi

1. Intelligent

- He has acquired education up to university level. In a flashback we get to understand that he had attended higher Education at Harvard (P.66.).

2. Informed, knowledgeable and Reliable

- He has been appointed to serve as an advisor to a summit of heads of states. The foundation for Democratic Rule in Washington also invites him to give a keynote address at an annual conference (pg 66).
- During the conversation with Tad, it comes put clearly that he is conversant with *Way Omega* and what it can offer to Africa(P.70-74).

3. Open-minded

- After the conversation with Mr Longway , he agrees to mentor the four travellers and to ensure *Path Alpha* gets to the summit(P.70-74).

4. Secretive

- He stumbles upon Pamela's father at the departmental store and swears never to reveal it to Pamela (P.66).

5. Observant

- Dr Afolabi travels to Boston and quickly notices that there are more old people that they were during his days when he was studying in Harvard (P.66).
- Observes how tactful the girl at the departmental store handles the old man.
- He sees the green-eyed man in a different light after talking to him for that long (P.73).

6. Apologetic

- He apologizes to the girl at the store after making a foolish joke (P.69).

7. Loving, concerned, and caring

- He says that Pamela is the only wife he wants and he warps his arms around her before the strangers (P.78).
- When Pamela is annoyed and irritated with the situation they find in the house, he calms him by holding her on the shoulder (P.80).
- He says that the strangers should not go away in the night (P.80).

8. Temperamental

- He seizes Issa's arm roughly and threatened to break it when he is not answering questions that Pamela asks (P.76).

3. Mr. Tad Longway

1. Appreciative

- He appreciates Dr. Afolabi for a good address he gave at the summit. He sees value in him (pg.71).

2. Schemer

- Aware that Dr Afolabi will attend the summit in Boston, he tactfully switches seats with Pamela and gets a chance to talk to him about *Path Alpha* (P.70-74).

3. Persuasive

- He is able to talk to Dr Afolabi for long while in the plane and convince him into agreeing to mentor the four travellers and to ensure *Path Alpha* gets to the summit (P.70-74).

4. Sociable

- Once he has an opportunity to sit close to Afolabi, he strikes a conversation, appreciates his presentation and maintains the dialogue (P.71).

5. Optimistic

- He hopes that Africa will solve issues of impunity and corruption once *Path Alpha* empowers people with the will to change (P.72-73).

6. Idealist and intelligent

- He tells Dr Afolabi to still hold to Way Omega while taking *Path Alpha* (P.74).

4. Nimbo

1. Daring

- She goes to Pamela's house without her knowledge when it is possible that she may be attacked (P.78-81).

2. Vulnerable and naive

- She careless about the possible consequences (P.78-81).
- She agrees to come to Dr Afolabi's house and even get to the bedroom(P.78-81).

5. Femi

1. Chauvinistic

- He looks down upon Pamela in her own house because she is a woman (p.77).
- He even threatens that he is a brave fighter (p77.).

2. Racist

- He calls Pamela the White wife (P.77).

6. The girl at the store

1. Tactful

- She handles the old man with great tact when he comes to the store showing the blood pressure monitor (P.67-8).

2. Sarcastic

- She tells the old man that she is impressed for having seen him show the monitor instead of buying goods (P.68).

STYLES

1. Dialogue

- Pamela's father holds a discussion with the girl on a queue-that was the girl at the cash register. He tells the girl that he got Baby from Josh for Christmas. He tells her that Baby, monitors his blood pressure. This girl in this dialogue fakes excitement. The girl confirms that the old man had not come to buy anything but to show her a blood pressure monitor (pg 67- 68).
- Another dialogue is between the girl at the cash register and the woman in front of Dr. Afolabi. In their conversation she confirms that they get people of the likes of the old man who want to touch and be touched, such customers who have different interests from buying (pg 67).
- There is a dialogue between Dr. Afolabi and Mr. Longway as they are on the plane back to Nigeria. Mr. Longway who sits next to Dr.

Afolabi tells him that he gave a wonderful address .This seems so interesting. Mr. Longway calls himself a spectator during the presentation .Through this dialogue Longway says that Africa suffers corruption and impunity and Tad is persuading Afolabi to think of *Path Alpha* too (p.71-72).

- Elsewhere in the chapter there is a tense dialogue between Femi and Pamela. In this dialogue Femi tells Pamela that there is a stranger in the house. Dr. Afolabi, on the other hand, loses his cool and quarrels Femi demanding to know why he thinks that he wanted a second wife (g 75). This dialogue leads to a breakup in marriage as Pamela realizes that since she feels her husband must have taken part in the plans these people have.

2. Imagery and Figurative Language

i. Simile

- Sparks of earnestness were crossing his eyes both crystal-green like toy marbles (P.71).
- It differs from *Way Omega* like day from night (P.73).
- After the conversation with Mr Longway , he agrees to mentor the four travellers and to ensure *Path Alpha* gets to the summit(P.70-74).
- Longway is described to have a deep voice that lingered like a boom of a big drum(P.71)
- The blood pressure monitor is described as a watch-like gadget (P.67).

ii. Vivid description

- The author described Femi as having looked calm and skillful. He comes out of the bathroom, one hand zipping is fly while the other hand buttoning his shirt. He has a scary scar on his face (P.76).
- Dr Afolabi sees a child while in Boston and the author describes the child as a bi-racial child who is half-white, half-black. The mother is classic black, pure and unblended. Afolabi imagines that his children with Pamela would have had the toddler's fractions

too: half-black and half-white. Perhaps they would also have a sweetened complexion: amber, the color of honey (P.70).

- Mr Longway describes the man from Grassroots International as a short-fellow, round-off body and outspoken of manner (P.72).

iii. Metaphor

- Afolabi refers to the man from the Grassroots International as the Fire-eater (p.72)

iv. Personification

- Inhaling greedy breaths (P.66).
- Early summer had roofed Boston (P.66)
- A razor he did not need convinced him (P.67)
- Baby monitors blood pressure(P.67)
- He had killed the queue(P.67)

3. Idiom

- Tad tells Afolabi to go chew his cud (P.74)

4. Onomatopoeia

- He *shuffled*(P.68)
- The girl *swiped* (P.69)
- Bleep(P.68)
- A toddler *wobbled*(P.70)
- Still *snarling*(P.70)
- Boom(P.71)
- Abiola *spun* (P.76)
- Issa *hollered* (P.76)
- The man from *glowered* (79).

5. Idiophone

- Ho, ho, ho(P.67, 76)

6. Sarcasm

- She tells the old man that she is impressed for having seen him show the monitor instead of buying goods (P.68).
- Pamela tells Afolabi sarcastically that her husband should think it was alright if they had cleared with her(P.79)

7. Flashback

- It is through a flashback that we realize Pamela's father had been a widower after Pamela's mother died. He has lived alone (P66).

NOTE: COULD U KINDLY ADD THIS IN CHAPTER 3 20.

Story within a Story

Kimani's life becomes a story in this book (Chapter 3). He comes to the university of Nairobi marries a campus beauty Asiya bears Tuna in Tunisia and later loses both one to an accident and the other to Walomu for lack of wealth. He attacks Walomu a politician and is put in jail , hence losing his life .

PLOT SUMMARY CHAPTER XI

Its sunrise in Banjul when the summit begins. It is an important day since it is the opening day of the summit. The participants are fifty heads of states. Therefore nothing is left for chance since security is tight.

Comrade Melusi faces a major huddle at the security check with a young man who has trouble with the needle that Comrade Melusi is carrying. The security clearance personnel perceives the needle as a potential threat to security, comrade Melusi is cleared after he explains that it is for the adrenaline injection since he has diabetes.

Elsewhere, in Chaminuka Restaurant, Comrade Melusi is meeting Tad Longway over lunch. They are the only customers since the country is going through tough economic times.

Comrade Melusi highlights on the struggles of independence but after that Zimbabwe has had a leadership crisis.

The leaders are weakening opposition and strengthening their supporters. The government plants incriminating evidence in opposition leaders and imprison them. The sacking of the leader of the group leads to political unrest among the Ndebele people who attack government officials through insurgency.

The new ruler betrays the Ndebele folk (who fought side by side with the Shona so as to attain independence) by coming up with the *Gukurahundi* which is meant to purge the Ndebele people as a retaliation mechanism. The purge also affects Comrade Melusi, his wife is strangled by the *Gukurahundi*.

Comrade Melusi and Tad Longway meet again and decide to try some traditional cuisine. Comrade Melusi has branded the new ruler a 'bomber' because he is killing the country's economy.

Comrade Melusi confesses naivety leads him to form an opposition party (NIP). The party fronted him for the presidency seat. Who later lost to the bomber terribly because he rigged the elections.

Due to economic crisis, the government fails to shield its people against calamities such as droughts and therefore is easily declared as a national disaster. However international bodies try to revive Zimbabwe's economy, but it proves futile, since it is beyond repair.

Despite the troubles the Zimbabweans were facing, they still remained adamant in uniting so as to achieve a common goal. The opposition too failed to unite because each one of them was selfish and wanted to be the next president as the next person. The country is ravaged by an inflation. This inflation renders their salaries useless thus Comrade Melusi decides to leave the country.

The Zimbabwean government comes up with impractical solutions to solve the poverty crisis such as '*Murambatsvina*' which aims at demolishing slums and evicting the slum dwellers. The people are

hopeless and uncertain of how the future will look like and don't care whether they live or die.

It is ironical that, '*Murambatsvina*' which was to curb spread of diseases and crime does nothing of the sort, instead it fuels crimes. The real aim of the project was to punish the urbanites who supported the opposition parties.

THEMATIC CONCERNS

1. BAD GOVERNANCE

In Banjul, the security personnel uses sophisticated equipment to scrutinize the guest who come for the summit. But the people who reside in the slums of Banjul are not getting basics such as proper housing, water and sanitation. Pg82.

The new ruler retains his presidency through electoral malpractice. This is an indicator that the country does not recognize democracy. Comrade Melusi vies for the top seat, together with other competitors, who are thwarted by the incumbent president who garners a total of 99 percent of the total votes. Pg93, pg95.

Due to bad governance, inflation is at an all-time high. The inflation dwarfs the salaries that the masses receive. Therefore leading to poor living standards.

2. POVERTY

The masses are living in abject poverty. The poverty gives rise to crime and spread of diseases in the slums. The government comes up with the '*Murambatsvina*'. Its advocates for the eradication of the slums. Which fails miserably.

3. GREED AND HUNGER FOR POWER

The new ruler. Does everything in his power to retain the presidency. He rigs the election. He wins by 99 percent, leaving only 1 percent to the opposition.

The opposition parties are greedy and selfish. They do not want to unite against the new ruler and defeat him by fronting one candidate, rather, they do it individually, with none of them unwilling to front the other.

The new ruler, in the process of retaining power and eliminating his enemies, especially, the opposition leaders, plants caches of firearms in opposition leader's residence and sacks them. This makes him powerful and unchallenged.

4. ETHNIC INTOLERANCE

The Ndebele, who are in power oppress the Shona. They kill them through the militia '*Gukurahundi*'. This militia even kills Comrade Melusi's wife by strangling her in the kitchen. Their aim is to purge the land of the Shona people with the blessing of the new ruler.

STYLISTIC DEVICES

1. Personification

Sunrise threw the heavens wide open over Banjul... pg82

2. Hyperbole

Comrade Melusi waited in line to be cleared, he was the perfect picture of calmness. Pg82

Melusi had polished off his chicken pg88

Flashback

Our leader and I had fought smith side by side for years. This was why he used to call me comrade. Pg87

Comrade Melusi narrates how he lost his wife in the hands of the Gikurahundi militia, who strangled her. Pg91

The narration on how Comrade Melusi contested and lost in the presidential election has been presented in a flashback. Pg93

Symbolism

National anthem was sung – to symbolize freedom

Irony

With the implementation of the Murambatsvina, it was expected that the spread of diseases and crime to reduce, yet it increased and even made it worse.

CHARACTERS AND CHARACTERIZATION

1. Comrade Melusi

Emotional

Comrade Melusi is overwhelmed by emotions when he is narrating what happened to his wife in the hands of the Gikurahundi.

Naïve

He confesses at some point that he was naïve in trying to compete against the new ruler in capturing the presidential seat

Persistent

He insists that he must be allowed to enter the summit with his needle despite being denied access by the security check at the entrance. He succeeds however.

2. Tad Longway

Generous

He offers Comrade Melusi lunch at the Chaminuka Restaurant thereafter a dessert and on another day also buys Melusi lunch at the Muponda Restaurant which offers traditional cuisine.

Critical

He analyses and criticizes the menus that normally overstate their food but turn out to be substandard.

CHAPTER 7

SYNOPSIS

The chapter begins with the host president engaging with the visiting presidents before the summit began basing on political hierarchy of their countries in Africa continent. This hierarchy is anchored on four poles of influence: pure power, population, technology, alliance with one or more of the other poles, sheer obstinacy and also refusal to abide by agreed rules.

The host skipped other presidents and went to exchange pleasantries with the president of Nigeria first to show the premier status of his recognition because of its highest population in Africa. As soon as the summit host had finished humoring the Nigerian head of state, he went to humour South Africa's president next because its technology is second to known in Africa. After greeting the South Africa's president, the summit host went to greet the president of Kenya next because it is America's best ally in Africa. When the host had finished greeting Kenyan president, he hurried to greet Zimbabwe's president next due to

his sheer obstinacy, he had once rebuked America and Britain during the general assembly of United Nations something not many heads would have dared. The host then went to greet Libya's president because of his refusal to abide by the agreed rules which is regarded as a pole of influence. Libya's president had once refused to surrender the bomb planters for trial and pay for compensation to the families of their victims after his followers had blown up a pan American world airlines plane over Scotland killing three hundred.

CHARACTERIZATION

SUMMIT HOST

1. Discriminative

He greeted visiting presidents based on the political hierarchy of their countries. He greeted the Nigerian president first while skipping other presidents because it is the most populous nation in Africa. Every fifth African is a Nigerian...pg100

Proud

He and Nigerian president revealed their personal secret that they were *born* presidents. Pg101

2. social

Before the summit opened, he thought he might break the ice by going from guest to guest engaging each in a friendly banter first. He began with the Nigerian president pg 100.

3. Humorous

He kept moving from one visiting president to the other humouring. After he had finished humouring Nigeria's head of state, he went to humour South Africa's president pg. 101

KENYA'S PRESIDENT

1. Welcoming

He invited the summit host to visit his country during the short talk they had. Pg 102.

ZIMBABWE'S PRESIDENT

1. Daring

He rebuked America and Britain during the general assembly of the United Nations something many heads of states would not dare. Pg 101.

2. Defensive

He answered many questions before he was asked about his reign in Zimbabwe. For instance, he tells the summit host that Zimbabwe's economy is on the mend before he was asked. Pg 103.

3. Cruel /inhuman/wicked

Through his order bulldozers were sent to drive thousands of Zimbabweans out of their homes into wild lands. Pg 103.

He sends Zimbabwe's fifth brigade that murdered hundreds including Comrade Melusi's wife. Pg 103

LIBYA'S PRESIDENT

1. Defiant

He refused to surrender his followers who planted a bomb that blew up a pan American World Airlines plane over Scotland killing three hundred. Pg 103.

2. Traitorous

Engineer Tahir feels that Libya's president had sold his country to the west by abolishing Libya's nuclear programme and by so doing he had thrown the country's only insurance against western future attacks and signing his own death warrant. Pg 104.

PROFESSOR KIMANI

1. Resentful

He is bitter about the death of his daughter on a public road that he feels the Kenyan government could have prevented more so, he is angry at the randy member of parliament who had stolen his wife. Pg102.

THEMES

1. BAD GOVERNANCE / MISRULE

If only the man could rule Nigeria well, Pastor Chiamaka an observer thought to himself. This implies that he is mismanaging his country. Pg 101.

Professor Kimani felt that the Kenyan government could have prevented the death of his daughter Tuni and his wife Asiya running with a randy member of parliament who already had three wives. Pg 102

2. DEHUMANIZATION

Zimbabwe's president had let his fifth brigade to murder hundreds of Zimbabweans including Comrade Melusi's wife. He also ordered the bulldozers to drive out thousands of Zimbabweans out of their homes into the wild lands. Pg 103.

3. BETRAYAL

Through Engineer Tahir, Libya's president used to snap at the West's heels like a terrier but now he was a poodle happiest seated on the West's lap as he had sold his country by abolishing Libya's nuclear program and by so doing, he had thrown the country's only insurance against western future attacks and signing his own death warrant. Pg104.

STYLES

1. RHETORICAL QUESTIONS

Given the avoidable nature of their causes, were they not losses the Kenyan government could have prevented but had not? Pg 102.

After years of misrule Zimbabwe now was taken back in the Stone Age. Had the man not taken it there? Pg 103.

How could we have failed to see marveled Engineer Tahir that by so doing he was throwing away the country's only insurance against future western attacks and signing his own death warrant in bargain? Pg104.

CHAPTER 8

The chapter introduces Chineke Chiamaka who is described as a careless driver, he drove dangerously with his elbow sticking out of the window, a radio blaring out the latest hit songs.

He swerved out from his initial lane and kept cutting into other lanes until he reached his new destination and through his careless driving he laughed as the terrified pedestrians fled out of his path.

Chiamaka adored Lagos because it allowed him to drive carelessly. Everyone hated him with the exception of his younger brother Obinna, he had a special liking for his silver grey Mercedes despite his reckless driving.

Chiamaka drops his brother Obinna at Lagos University who takes evening classes. Later he drives to his office at Earth Movers Ltd where he uses a different route and finds himself in holy camp, he finds born again Lagosians driving out of Lagos heading to holy camp hence there was traffic.

Chiamaka drives against the traffic flow, he drove on opposite direction and all the motorists stopped while some swerved out of his way.

His Mercedes flew off the road and spun in the air several times before landing on the road again. Although his car had lost its shape, it could still move, Chiamaka came out of the accident without serious injuries. He thought that this was a miracle

Motorists never stopped at accident scenes in Nigerian highways, since some turned out to be traps by armed robbers, Chiamaka's accident did not attract any motorist.

Chiamaka came to believe these 'miracles' were a connected segment of a single revelation and he therefore became a preacher and did not have to attend any seminary.

He had acquired several skills which made him a preacher.

1. Nodding to express agreement to points made in church.
2. Shaking hands with the preachers after services.

3. Flourishing speech and rhythms of gesture
4. To show courage to face down a congregation by lecturing and reprimand.

Through this skills he preached everywhere both indoors and outdoors like shopping malls, and open air markets which later made him open his church.

One Sunday, his sermon announced in a bulletin at church entrance was “God is watching you!” and started the preaching with a standard opener “Let us listen to our maker” which the congregation responds “Let us hear his word”

Chiakama’s congregation is made up of various types of audiences e.g. market women, government bureaucrats, tradespeople.

Chiamaka begins his sermon by challenging them if one day while heading for your car that you had safely packed in a secluded area and you see a black plastic bag lying on the ground and contains 10 million Americans.

He asked his congregation what they would do with the money.

He gave them 3 options

1. Some would keep the money and call it good luck
2. Others would carry it home for the time being and figure out what to do with it later
3. While the last option is that some would hand over the money to the police (pg. 11)

He continues to tell the congregation that AISHI, the Australian Institute for Studies on Human had done a research before and found answers on how people would react towards the money.

Group 1, 20% of the people would pocket the money

Group 2, 50% would carry the money home and think of what to do with it.

Group 3, 30% would actually hand the money to the police right away (pg112)

He challenges his congregation that what if a guard who was patrolling in the parking grounds had seen you pick up the black plastic bag, the percentages of the three groups would change. He reprimands the

congregation that “God sees every step one takes, every move one makes” (pg113). This made the sermon excellent and delivered with a lot of wisdom and persuasive nature.

The following Sunday the sermon was combative, he began by criticizing the president for sending a public memo he had written to his staff about an ongoing problem (pg114). He wonders why the president is advising his officers instead of solving the problem (pg115)

He continues to criticize on the wrong governance the citizens are experiencing like ‘riots that broke out and brought havoc in the land’ (pg 115) with the persistent outbreaks of fires that have been consuming the cities, with nothing being done” we realize that the congregation does not respond since they are afraid of the consequences.

Due to his criticism, the following morning he is arrested and jailed for two weeks. By the third week, he is set free and banned from preaching.

Two years later, he claimed to have heard a deep voice call him from on high with news about Africa, about change, AGDA had come up with a project about Africa’s development path Alpha and he signed on (pg 116)

THEMES

1. RELIGION

Every Friday evening, born again Lagosians chocked all routes to this destination, the most popular place of worship (pg 106)

Highway 69 had been nicknamed “God’s Highway” (pg 106)

Chineke Chiamaka did not need to attend a seminary to become a preacher he had learnt common skills needed for preaching e.g. Nodding to express agreement to points, made in church, shaking of hands with the preachers, audacity to reprimand and lecture a congregation etc. (pg 109)

Chineke Chiamaka is seen everywhere preaching both indoors and outdoors like at shopping malls, open air markets (pg 109)

Chineke Chiamaka opens his church and has various sermons with the congregation in one of the sermons his topic is “God is watching you!” (pg 110 - 114) and another one which is combative (pg 114 – 115)

Our heavenly father does not take bribes (pg 114)

He clapped his hands three times to evoke the Holy trinity (pg 107)

His maker had given him all the gifts he needed. (Pg 109)

2. EDUCATION

Obinna, Chineke Chiamaka's young brother was a student at the University of Lagos studying during evening classes (pg 106)

3. IDEALISM

AISHI, Australian Institute for Studies on human inclination had done a research on how various groups of people would react once they find money that did not belong to them and picked eg group one 20% would pocket the money etc. (pg 112)

AGDA had come up with a fresh approach to Africa's development, path Alpha was the heart of it's project (pg 116)

4. POOR GOVERNANCE

Chiamaka criticises the government for "riots broke out and brought havoc to a region of our land. Wholly to blame in that chaos was neighbouring region (pg 115)

The president had nothing with the fires that were consuming the cities, he called the fires "recent events" (pg 115)

Chiamaka also criticises on a public memo the president had written to his staff about an ongoing problem instead of finding a solution, he gets advices (pg 114)

As Chiamaka criticises the president, the congregation is afraid of the consequences (pg 115)

5. POLICE BRUTALITY

Chiamaka is thrown in rat infested cell with smelly inmates for two weeks and later on the third week, his jailer set him free. Police ban him from preaching (pg 116)

6. INSECURITY/INDIVIDUALISM

Motorists never stopped at accident scenes in Nigerian highways for very good reason that it could turn out to be a trap and sometimes it sprang an armed robbery on them (pg 108)

CHARACTERIZATION

CHINEKE CHIAMAKA

1. Unruly/ obnoxious

He drove dangerously with an elbow sticking out of the window and radio blaring out the latest hit songs (pg 105)

He changed his mind in mid traffic and decided to drive to his destination instead (pg 105)

He crossed over to lanes for vehicles travelling in the opposite direction and kept going in his previous direction (pg 105)

2. Concerned

He opts to drop his brother to the University of Lagos for his evening classes before he goes to his office “Earth’s Movers Ltd” (pg 106)

3. Entrepreneurial

He works at Earth's Movers Ltd" (pg 106)

4. Religious

He is a pastor and he preached everywhere, indoors and outdoors, in a glare of light at shopping malls, open air markets (pg 109)

5. Humorous

His preaching was marked by a strong physical presence, a knack for the dramatic gesture, a reverberating rumble of voice and a very rich sense of humour (pg 109)

Chiamaka asks the congregation "suppose a guard is patrolling the grounds and sees you pick the black plastic bag. Aha! Would the three percentages change? The church rocked into laughter (pg 113)

6. Charismatic

He opened his church which lashed his congregation into feverish frenzies (pg 109)

7. Critical

He criticises the president for sending a public memo instead of solving the ongoing problem (pg 114,) but instead sends advices.

He further criticises the president for not curbing City fires but the president calls them "recent fires" (pg 115)

8. Witty

He delivers the sermon "God is Watching You" in a Witty and persuasive way (pg 114)

His approach to moral correctness was usually coercive but it could be persuasive (pg 109)

9. Daring

He talks about the president without caring who is in his congregation (pg 114, 115)

10. Insensitive

He laughed at terrified pedestrians who fled out of his path (pg 105)

OBINNA

1. Loving/caring

When everyone hated him, with the exception of his younger brother (pg 106)

2. Intellectual

He is a student of university of lagos attending evening classes.

STYLISTIC DEVICES

1. Hyperbole

His Mercedes flew off the road and spun in the air several times before landing on the road again. (Pg 108)

Market women were wearing perfumes, smelling of money (pg 110)

2. Allusion (Biblical Allusion)

Moses On wheels cross the red sea (pg 107)

3. Irony

It is ironical that even after Chiakama's Mercedes flew off the road and spun in the air several times, mangled out of shape, he escaped without injuries and the car kept going (pg 108)

4. Vivid description

He was looking out of his silver-grey Mercedes which needed a new coat of paint (pg 106)

Chiakama's congregation is made up of various people eg. Tradespeople, market women, government bureaucrats (pg 110)

5. Personification

God's highway was throbbing (pg 106)

At the open air market the wind whistled (pg 109)

His fist pounded the pulpit (pg 115)

6. Story within a story

There is a story about the black plastic bag that contained 10 million dollars which was picked and options are given into 3 groups of individuals on how they would behave with the money. (Pg 110 – 114)

7. Rhetoric questions

Where do you fall among those groups? (Pg 112)

So why do you even consider sneaking off with it? (Pg 113)

CHAPTER 9

Synopsis

Engineer Tahir is a graduate of a university in Paris. He goes to study about weapons development, he is very optimistic, that once he come back to Libya he will participate in building real weapons for Libya.

P 117,118

At the start of the chapter Engineer Tahir is depicted as a patriotic Libyan. He joins the ‘fist of Allah’ that is launched by the president of Libya. This is dream come true for him. Since childhood he had always wanted to make real weapons. **P 118, 119**

Engineer Tahir’s happiness is short lived, the Al-qaeda bombs the America. The president of Libya dismantles the ‘fist of Allah’ in fear that America would attack Libya. Tahir is so disappointed that his love for the president turns to at most hate. **P118**

Tahir encounters ‘the accident’ that changes his life. He pursues a female, junior colleague called Ms Mahmoud. He misinterprets her no, this fuels hatred in him. Tahir avenges by slapping her, she accidentally pierces his left eye with a letter opener. The opener slits his eye open. In his defense, he said that, he slapped her because she had gone against the Libyan culture by shedding her veil in public. The court ruled that the lady’s left eye to be removed. **P 121, 122.**

Tahir is greatly affected deeply by the loss of his left eye. He is often reminded of ‘the accident’, the artificial eye does not fill the void deep in him. Tahir decides to relocate from Tripolis to Benghazi. It is in Benghazi that he meets Mr Longway, he accepts to join AGDA. **P 124,125**

THEMES

1. INJUSTICE

Engineer Tahir attacks Ms Mahmoud by slapping her. He tells the court that, he did that because she had uncovered her head in public. After slapping her she attacks him with a letter opener that splits his left eye. The court does not investigate the cause of this mishap but unjustly makes an archaic ruling that is referred to as the Hammurabic Verdict. The verdict is an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth. She loses her left eye in an operation. **P 122**

2. MILITIA GROUP

The Al-qaeda attacks America. **P 118**

3. CHAUVINISM

Tahir is depicted as a male chauvinist. This is brought out when Ms Mahmoud turns down his advances. He is humiliated by a woman, he decides to retaliate. He slaps Ms Mahmoud in pretense of punishing her for going against the Libyan culture. He tells the court that she uncovered her head in public hence disrespecting Libya.

4. DISILLUSIONMENT

Engineer Tahir was determined to build real weapons for Libya. This is short lived after the attack of America by Al-qaeda group. The president of Libya decides to dismantle the ‘fist of Allah ‘, this is because he fears America would attack Libya. Engineer Tahir who once adored the president hates him. The president had become a villain.

After ‘the accident’ Engineer Tahir feel disillusioned. The new artificial eye does not make him any better. The artificial eye is a constant reminder of ‘the accident’. Although it was not capable of vision, it hid the hole in his face quite well. Instead, he hated it. He loathed himself. **P 124**

5. CULTURE

The Libyan culture prohibits women from uncovering their heads in public. The men are allowed to administer discipline in such an event. This is depicted when Engineer Tahir slaps Ms Mahmoud. In court he says she was going against the Libyan culture and imitating the American women. **P 122**

STYLES

1. DIALOGUE

There is a conversation between Engineer Tahir and Ms Mahmoud. Tahir asks her for a date of a bowl of tomato soup one evening. The dialogue brings out Tahir's intention of courting Ms. Mahmoud. She turns down the advances. **P 119, 120.**

Through dialogue, we encounter the verdict of the court. Ms Mahmoud left eye is to be removed. An eye for an eye. **P 122**

Dialogue is also between Engineer Tahir and Mr longway. The conversation brings out the history of libya. Tahir talks about the foreigners and indigeneous.

2. IRONY

It is ironical that engineer Tahir attacks Ms Mahmoud out of revenge when in real sense her no to his advances meant yes. As a proper Libyan woman, she felt had this thing right: by letting him fill in the blanks that she left blank for him to fill in. **P 121**

3. VIVID DESCRIPTION

Ms Mahmoud is vividly described by the author. She was beautiful enough: big smile, big eyes, big everything really, and very kind. **P119, 120**

Her big smile is brings out. Big teeth, white and big gums, purple. **P 120**

4. SYMBOLISM

Ms Mahmoud name Rahmah is symbolic, it means in Arabic ‘very kind’
P 119

5. METAPHOR

The president of Libya is described as ‘the man had guts of steel’. He is said to have closed down all foreign military base and nationalized all foreign businesses in Libya. **P 117**

6. LOCAL DIALECT

Local dialect is present in the chapter.
Sabah kher- hello. **P 119**

Characterization.

1. ENGINEER TAHIR

Proud

He is full of pride, in that when he is turned down by Rahmah, he does not take it politely. He thinks that she said no so as to humiliate him by putting him down. **P 121**

Before he approaches Rahmah , he thinks of a probability of being let down. He is so proud that he says that he can endure any indignity, but rejection by a junior colleague. **P 119**

Deceitful

He lies to the court that he slapped Ms Mahmoud because she had shed her veil in public. In reality, he did slap her for turning down his advances. **P 122**

Patriotic

He is so determined to come back after his studies and built real weapons for his country Libya. He is so happy when he joins the ‘fist of Allah’. P 118

Chauvinist

He looks down upon women. Tahir takes advantage of being a male to slap Ms. Mahmoud, in the presence of correcting her for shedding her veil in public. P 118,119

Chapter Ten-Silent Listener

SYNOPSIS

Fiona who is shortly engaged by VOA receives the youth's call and when he arrives at the office, this boy shows him a Silent Listener. The Silent Listener happens to be a beautiful gadget rather than an anticipated ugly monster by Fiona and it is able to harvest any possible suspicious, dangerous, or suspicious dialogues from other peoples. The youth fits its antenna on the window of the office and checks from time to time what possible conversations it has harvested then draws a chart and follows the specific location where the calls are. Using the Global Positioning System, the gadget has been able to show one specific point of interest in Seamount Hotel where a Guide addresses Kimani, Melusi, Chiamaka, and Tahir. The conversation seems troubling because of the mentioning of the word The Ruse.

Fiona gets to the hotel and appears to arrive just when Longway Tad is raising complaint over having been assigned a room that has a non-functioning air-conditioning system. The receptionist later attends to Fiona but refuses to call Abiola and tells her to do it on her own. Fiona knocks on Longway's door to present to him some documents he dropped by the reception desk, but since he is bathing he instructs her to give the receptionist. Fiona uses scheme and tells him to come down and pick them and so he picks them. Fiona gets to Abiola's room just after he has called the four visitors and asks him about Mr. Longway. Abiola reveals that he is Guide and intends to have *Path Alpha* win in the place of *Way Omega*. Abiola is mesmerized when Fiona reveals the other four he is working along with in his plan and wills to meet Nick.

Character and characterization

1. Nick

a. Devoted and Committed

He is so committed to his job that when he comes to the Summit he engage in a task of using every possible means to collect information about the ongoing around there.

When he suspects what is happening at the hotel, he informs Fiona and put her at a task of finding exactly who the Guide is and how he is involved in the possible suspicious conversations with the four (P.136-7).

b. Knowledgeable

He knows quite well how the Silent Listener works. He explains using technological jargon that he is sure Fiona cannot understand (P.130)

2. Fiona

a. Inquisitive and interrogative

She asks Nick a number of questions about the functionality of his device (P.126-130).

When Abiola tells her that he intends to also have Path Alpha in the summit, she asks him about the conflict of interest (p.137).

She also asks him about the four others he is communicating with (P.136)

b. Skeptical and doubtful

She wonders whether the Silent Listener can really do much.

c. Scheming and Manipulative

She uses the information Nick gave her to make Abiola reveal who he is and what is intention is in the summit (P.138-139).

She uses the lost document to get to Longway (P.136-7).

Even when Longway tells her to leave it with the receptionist, she tells him she is a Gambian and in Gambia he may lose everything. He better meets her and takes it (p.137).

d. Observant and keen

Fiona observes that the receptionist's eyes moves from one person to another (P.134).

3. Tad Longway

c. Ill-tempered

He seems quite annoyed with the receptionist (P.133)

d. Sarcastic

He sarcastically tells the receptionist that she cannot remember her complaint (p.184).

When Fiona tells him she is a Gambian and it is a bad idea to tell her to hand over whatever she picked to the receptionist he says “All right, so you are a Gambian. Well, I am South African. Now how has that helped advance world peace? (p.136).”

e. Skeptical and doubtful

Longway suspects that the room he is given might not be having a functional air-conditioner again (P.133)

When he brings back the wrong key and is given another he seems to think it might not be the correct one and so tells the lady “It had better be”(P.133-4)

f. Persuasive

He convinces both Tahir, Melusi, Chiamaka, and Kimani to become part of the *Path Alpha* strategy (p.36 p.65, p.99, 125).

Thematic Concerns

1. Change and Transition

Lagos grew! Population rising from less than a million inhabitants to more than fifteen million in less than a life span, at that point making Lagos one of the world’s five largest cities (P. 137).

2. Technology

Nick shows what technology can do when he presents the Silent listener to Fiona. He shares that this gadget has a way of listening to every conversation especially to those that sound suspicious, risky or dangerous and later draws a chart and determines where the callers are (126-132).

There was an air-conditioning system in the rooms at the hotel (P.133).

Language Use

1. Rhetorical questions

Who thought of Portugal whenever people mentioned Lagos? (P. 136).

McKenzie wonders 'Might she be answer they were looking for?(P.132)'

2. Imagery

i. Vivid description

The youth shows a gadget that was a smooth silver-looking block, like a rich woman's safe-deposit box, with complicated electronic gadgetry cleverly hiding inside its simplified exterior (P.127).

The youth began to rise from his chair, lifting his lanky self in tall installments. This process went on until he reached his full height of six feet and eight inches...(P.126).

She imagined it is as ugly monster with a jungle of cables spilling out of its ears and a jumble of wires pouring out of its nostrils (P.126).

Her hair, done in shiny cornrows, resembled a tight crown woven out a little black snakes(P.133).

ii. Hyperbole

Nick comments that he has not yet explained but Fiona is sweating blood (P.129)

But his eyes still flashed flares of the iron will that flamed in his soul at a trillion degrees of hotness (P.134).

iii. Simile

Fiona checks Nick's gadget and thinks "It looked like a refrigerator (P.126)"

She also thinks it was smooth like a rich woman's safe-deposit box- with complicated electronic gadgetry (P.127).

Lines ran outward from that circle to the four other circles like spokes from the hub of a wheel(P.129)

Metaphor

Nick calls his gadget a goddess(P.127)

Personification

Nick says a computer tells it what to save (P.127).

3. Satire

The receptionist is a bit rude and too harsh on Fiona when she seems to want to be served before Longway only for her to be disappointed with his rudeness. Fiona observes that she sounds betrayed after that (P.133).

It is ironical that though Fiona had imagined that the Silent Listener was an ugly monster with a jungle of cables spilling out of its ears and a jumble of wires pouring out of its nostrils, instead, she meets a sleek device, new, shiny, and compact (P.126)

4. Dialogue or conversation

There is a conversation between Nick and Fiona when he explains to him how the Silent Listener works. The entire conversation proves how knowledgeable Nick is and how inquisitive Fiona is.(P.126-128).

There is a dialogue too between Longway and the receptionist revealing his sarcastic personality and the dysfunctional way in which the hotel functions. Longway is given a wrong key and he has been in a room whose air conditioner is now working (P.136-7).

There is another conversation between Fiona and Abiola and it reveals selfishness in his desire to have his own *Path Alpha* proposed instead of *Way Omega*(P.138-140).

5. Idiophone

Tap.(P.129)

Uh-uh (p.132)

6. Onomatopoeia

She nodded(P.130).

The reception hall was humming... national garb ebbed and flowed(P.132).

She grabbed a sheaf (P.133).

His dream... it exploded; and out popped ... how he screamed and shouted (P.173)

The man was grumbling (P.134).

Fiona was spiking (p.134)

The man was grumbling... (P.134).

She was seething with anger (p.135).

She gasped for breath (P.136).

The door then steered (P.138)

7. Idiom

She fished out another small envelope (P.134)

Spiking her words (P.134).

Don't go burn yourself at,...(P.137).

What's your poison (P.137).

8. Sarcasm

Longway tells Fiona "I am a South African. Now has that helped advance world peace?(P.136)"

Questions

Seen Excerpt (25 mks)

Read the excerpt below and answer the questions that follow:

Mr Robert Manley, Chief of the Bureau, met her at the main entrance then he led her up two flights of stairs. Trim and tanned, he looked even younger than his youthful forty years. All the way up, he walked and a **zestful** pace as if he were daring her to race him, for a prize he would specify later, if she won.

“I’m afraid we are going to put you to work right away Ms McKenzie,” he told her the moment they entered the office. “We have a breaking story that can’t wait.” His every word had a humid flavor of mint, his preferred scent of breath-freshener apparently. “Take a seat.” He motioned her into a chair on the near side of a rectangular conference table.

“Thank you, Sir. ” She sat down.

“Now then...” He sat beside her. “The VOA thanks the *Gambian News* for agreeing to loan you to us, and thanks you for accepting the terms of that arrangement . You see, a new VOA policy now requires field offices like us to start using local professionals whenever conditions favour their use over that of Americans. Your presence enables us to say we have met the requirement. But we are not selfish, so we hope you, too, will like your stay.”

“I will, Sir.”

“Sure?”

“Positive.” She meant it. As part of the leave-on-loan arrangement, the VOA would be paying her a salary **dwarfing** two beans the News had been paying her. “Mr Manley, I know I will.”

“Then meet a new arrival from America. His name is Nick. Nicolas Sentinel.” He gestured at the youth in army fatigues , rounded off with wire-rimmed Gandhi glasses . The youths was sitting on the far side of the table. “This young man has just hit our shores. He’ll be our communications-technician-in-residence.”

The youth, twenty-five years old at the most, had been brooding quietly before this introduction. He continued to **brood** motionlessly even after.

“I am Fiona McKenzie,” she said, stretching a hand to him. “but you may call me Fiona.”

Now the youth sprang into action. Goodness, did he spring into action! He scrambled onto his feet and grabbed her hand from across the table. “Pleased to meet you, Ms McKenzie,” he said. He was shaking her hand “Mr Manley says you are the best reporter in town.” He was still shaking it.

She heard the youth’s compliment. Yet, to **relish** it inwardly and therefore completely, she pretended she did not. This was why she raised a totally unrelated question.

1) Explain three things that happened before the excerpt (3mks).

2) What question did Fiona Mackenzie raise and what was Nick’s answer?(3mks)

3) What is the breaking news Mr Manley refers to that has forced them to take Fiona on loan and why her?(4mks)

4) State and explain any two stylistic devices that are used in this excerpt (4mks).

5) Discuss any two themes that come out in this excerpt (4mks)

6) What kind of person is Fiona? Explain (2mks)

7) Write this in indirect speech(1mk)

“I’m afraid we are going to put you to work right away,” he told her the moment they entered the office.

8) Explain the following words as used in the excerpt (4mks)

- i. Zestful
- ii. Brood
- iii. Relish
- iv. **dwarfing**

Read the excerpt below and answer the questions that follow:

Up to this point, the visitor had been speaking with a bi-tonal accent, seemingly mid-Atlantic for sounding both American and British . Now he switched to a South African accent, mono-tonal.” Yes, I sed us, Afriken.” Each word throaty, had the sound of a big boot grinding on an **unpaved** road. “P’fessor Key-money, I em ey Seth Afriken. Or , es, we sey beck home, ey Seffriken. So I em just es much eyn Afriken es you are. Don’t you joodge me ba the colour of me cover.”

Amused, against himself, Kimani **chuckled** . “I wasn’t judging you by the colour of any cover, Mr Longway. I apologize if it seemed I was. Please continue.”

“Thank you,” said the visitor. His accent was bi-tonal again: American and British. As I was saying, we must not let our leaders keep riding on our backs and **wrecking** our lives, when our lives are finally all we’ve got.” At independence, they told us our problems were three: poverty, ignorance, and disease. They promised to **eradicate** all three. Decades later, have they eradicated even one? Ha! Instead, they have added a fourth corruption. And this time , you don’t hear them promising to eradicate it because, , as its primary beneficiaries, they mean to keep it. Result? Everyone has taken the cue from them and embraced corruption as well. Listen, I get sick each time I hear our presidents telling the police to stop taking bribes. Why should they stop, when those who tell them to stop take even bigger bribes? I’ll tell you something else, Professor Kimani. Our presidents are busy adding a fifth problem right **under our noses**: impunity. You can see how far they have gone with it by looking at their reluctance to punish offence. They just don’t want to do it. Now, will they change? No. To change, there has to be an agency with a will to change.’ ”

“I’m not sure I understand, Mr Longway. Are you saying you know of an agency willing to bring change to Africa?”

1) Where is the visitor talking from and what is the possible time?
(2mks)

2) Give three events that follow this conversation (3mks).

3) How is Longway portrayed in this excerpt (2mks)

4) Which agency does Longway think can bring change to Africa and why? (3mks)

5) Using your knowledge from the rest of the text show how true Longways' claim that Africa is experiencing impunity is (3mks)

6) Identify and explain any two aspects of style prevalent in this excerpt (4mks)

7) What evident theme does the excerpt have ? (2mks)

8) Change the following into a question(1mk)

“I wasn't judging you by the colour of any cover.

9) Explain the meaning of the following words as used in the excerpt (5mks)

- i. unpaved
- ii. Chuckled
- iii. Wrecking
- iv. Eradicate

v. under our noses

Read the following excerpt and answer the questions after it

Engineer Tahir's dream of a **resurgent** Libya now having been punctured, it exploded, and out popped the emotional boil that had been **fester**ing inside him since 'the accident'. How he screamed and shouted! He calmed down eventually, of course, but only soon to sink into a wordless **depression** he refused to shake off.

His friends tried to talk him out of it but he waved them away. When they **persisted**, he left Tripoli and moved east to live alone in Beghazi.

- 1) Put this excerpt in its immediate context (4mks)
- 2) How is Tahir portrayed in this excerpt (4mks)
- 3) Discuss two stylistic devices evident in this excerpt (4mks)
- 4) Describe any two evident themes in this excerpt (4mks).
- 5) How he screamed and shouted! He calmed down eventually, of course, but only soon to sink into a wordless depression he refused to shake off.(Combine into one sentence)(1mk)

6) Relating to the rest of the text, show how this excerpt relates to the entire mission of the summit (4mks)

7) Explain the meaning of the following words or phrases as used in the excerpt(4mks)

- i. Resurgent
- ii. **festering**
- iii. Depression
- iv. Persisted

Read the excerpt below and answer the questions that follow:

“Sorry. GPS is short for Global Positioning System, a way of determining location on earth using signals from satellites in space, in the sky.”

“Enough. Second?”

“Second, there is a control segment based here on earth that oversees the space segment. Do you know how much the US government spends each year to run it?”

“No, and I don’t care. Third...?”

“It spends a billion dollars. Third, there is a user segment also based on earth, featuring stuff cell phones. This is where The Seamont Five come in.”

That piqued her interest. “I’m listening.” She said.

“I thought you would be,” the youth remarked drily. Now, most cell phones these days are not just telephones: devices for delivering sound cross long distances. They are also GPS receivers...”

“That will do. So what were you going to say? Is that how your Silent Listener located The Seamount Gang of Five?”

“Yes.”

“By listening in on conversations sent out from their mobile phones?”

“Now hear this Fiona. The four outer nodes are not in communication with one another. That is why my chart shows no lines connecting any one of them to any of the other three.”

“How can you be so sure?”

“Trust me. All four are communicating only with someone else-their guide, the Hub-node. He is their leader. And if I were you, I’d be out there looking for him.”

Fiona’s brow clouded, “I thought the Silent Listener had found him.”

- 1) List five events that follow this excerpt(5mks).
- 2) Who is talking to Fiona and where are they? (2mk)
- 3) Compare and contrast how Fiona and the other individual in the above conversation are portrayed here (4mks)
- 4) What is Fiona’s attitude here . Give evidence(3mks)

5) From your knowledge of the rest of the book, who are the four that the other individual talking to Fiona refer to ?(2mks)

6) Use relative pronouns to make this one sentence(1mk)

“Trust me. All four are communicating only with someone else: Guide, the Hub-node. He is their leader. And if I were you, I’d be out there looking for him.”

7) State and explain two aspects of style shown in this excerpt (4mks)

8) What evident themes are displayed in this excerpt (4mks)

Read the excerpt below and answer the questions that follow:

Dr Afolabi arrived early. Mr Longway had said he wanted to broach the meeting with him first before it began. Then the other participants came: Professor Kimani, Comrade Melusi, pastor Chiamaka, and Engineer Tahir. When all had taken their seats, Mr Longway rose. Since he knew them all and they didn’t know each other , he said , perhaps he ought to do the introductions . He began with Dr Afolabi, seated on his immediate right.

“Dr Abiola Afolabi here is a Nigerian.” He said. “We’ll hear more from him later.” His eyes moved farther right. “Next to him is Professor Karanja Kimani, a Kenyan. Until recently, he was in the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Nairobi. On the right is Engineer Seif Tahir, a Libyan. He was once a nuclear weapons developer in Tripoli.” Mr Longway came back to his left. “Comrade Ngobile Melusi there is a Zimbabwean. He used to be a **big-time politician** in his country. Finally, next to him is Pastor Chineke Chiamaka, another Nigerian. Still based, I believe, at the Laos branch of the CIA.”

Everyone present **snickered**

“Make that the ‘Church Inside Africa’.” Mr Longway added.

Now everyone laughed out loud.

Mr Longway could now turn to serious business. “You four, **ostensibly** at the summit as observers, are here really for four other reasons.” He was referring to Professor Kimani, Comrade Melusi, Pastor Chiamaka, and Engineer Tahir. “First, you are here because you see Africa has problems whose solutions its present heads of state are simply not up to. Second, you are here because you believe *Path Alpha* will solve those problems, not *Way Omega*”. Third, you are here because you suffered ugly state abuse you do not want to ever suffer again. Finally, you are here because you want to address each of the above by making your heads of state adopt *Path Alpha*, not *Way Omega*.” He turned to Dr Afolabi. “Dr Afolabi now will describe what you must do. So over to you, Dr Afolabi.” He sat down.

- 1) Who is Longway and why does he hand over the description role to Afolabi (3mks).

- 2) What will Afolabi tell the four and why does he tell them?(3mks)

3) Longway says “Third, you are here because you suffered ugly state abuse you do not want to ever suffer again.” How true is this, give a detailed description of each case (8mks).

4) State and explain two evident stylistic device in this excerpt (4mks)

5) What possible character trait does Longway have. Explain.(2mks)

6) Why did everyone laugh at the mention of CIA?(2mks)

7) Explain the meaning of the following phrase (3mk)

- i. **ostensibly**
- ii. Snickered
- iii. **big-time politician**

Read the excerpt below and answer questions after it:

Dr Afolabi heard someone call him from behind. He stopped walking then turned to look. There she was! She wore a scarlet blouse, a black skirt, and red high heels. Who was she? She was not anyone he could remember. Perhaps she had called someone else. He looked around. No

one else had stopped. That made sense: she had called his name. Well, who was she, and why had she chosen him?

She called again, “Dr Afolabi! May I please have a word with you?” she asked.

“With me?” he asked. “Are you sure?”

“I am sure all right, which means you will now follow me. This way please.” She led him to a corner with two chairs. So sit here” She indicated one of the two chairs . “One minute is all I’ll take. Well, maybe I’ll take more, but five at most” She sat on the other chair.

“One minute, five minutes-where is the difference?” he joked . Then he sat as well.

“My name is Mckenzie,”she began. “Fiona McKenzie. First, let me thank you for agreeing to sit for this interview. Wait. Can I tell you something else first before I continue ? You see, whenever I say my name is McKenzie, people look at me **quizzically**, silently demanding an explanation.”

“And the explanation , Ms McKenzie, is what?” he asked.

1. Why do people look at McKenzie quizzically and demand an explanation? (3mks)

2. Explain why Fiona is pursuing Afolabi who does not seem to know her at all (3mks)

3. Discuss three stylistic devices used in this excerpt(6mks).

4. How are the following characters portrayed in the excerpt (6mks)

i. Fiona

ii. Dr Afolabi

5. Change this into a statement: She called again, “Dr Afolabi! May I please have a word with you?” she asked.(1mk)

6. From your knowledge of elsewhere in the text, how important is Dr Afolabi to Fiona in person(3mks)

7. Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases as used in the excerpt: (3mks)

i. Hail

ii. Bat an eyelid

iii. Quizzically

Read the excerpt below and answer the questions that follow:

Now the passengers in the unlucky minibus were scrambling to get out, except for one- a woman trapped in her seat. A man had seen her on his way out. He tried to go back in to get her out, but all doors had **jammed**. He pulled a mobile phone out of his pocket and called the **mystical** number- 999-to report distress and request help. The hour was ten in the morning.

Onlookers started arriving. First, they only **gawked**, fascinated by the spectacle of a trailer on top a minibus. Goodness, how did it get there! Later, their attention moved down to the woman trapped inside the minibus.

“Look”, said one onlooker.

A beautiful girl was trapped in her seat. She was still conscious.

“She is fine, then” said one onlooker.

Come on” said the first onlooker. “A heavy trailer was sitting on her minibus. So how could she be fine?”

When onlookers became a crowd, they tried to push the trailer off its perch. They failed. Then a big van appeared.

“Ah! This could work,” they said.

What if the van **hitched** with the trailer through a chain then drove off? A good idea, but the chain kept breaking. Each time the van pulled, the trailer rose up a little at its hitched end. Seconds later, the chain snapped, and the trailer fell back down on the minibus. Every time the trailer fell down like that , people closed their eyes in fear because, it punched the roof of the minibus down further. The situation could not have been any worse if a angry god in some dark cloud was using the trailer as a hammer to beat the minibus. Four attempts later, her roof started crushing the woman down.

Just then, a male giant came out of nowhere. He was carrying an axe. The crowd **hushed**. It was puzzled and perhaps scared. After realizing

that he meant no harm , it relaxed and parted to make way for him. He walked towards the minibus. The moment he reached the minibus, he spat on his palms, rubbed one against the other, and started hacking. *Hack! Hack!* He was still hacking when the minibus, now weakened by his axe, gave in and collapsed. As it crumbled, amid groans of yielding metal, it compressed to the ground the woman trapped inside it. Her ordeal ended only ended after the minibus had squeezed out her final breath.

- 1) Who is the lady trapped in the accident and who are her parents (3mks)

- 2) How is the death of the lady significant to the future of her parents, explain (4mks)

- 3) Explain two incidences that are ironical in the excerpt (4mks)

- 4) Apart from irony discuss two other stylistic devices eminent in the excerpt (4mks)

5) Describe two themes that the excerpt brings out (4mks)

6) The moment he reached the minibus, he spat on his palms, rubbed one against the other, and started hacking. (Use a gerund)(1mk)

7) Explain the meaning of the following words as used in the excerpt (5mks)

i. Jammed

ii. Mystical

iii. Hitched

iv. gawked

v. Hushed

Chapter Eleven-Conspiracy

Chiamaka plans to get his way to the president, even though he successfully sails through Pinnacle's security clearance formalities without a hitch, the anticipated program changes. Instead of the heads of states going for refreshments as scheduled they left for their private rooms for a nap. Considering what presidents are, he had planned to observe the law of nature and worm his way through the melee of bowers and kneelers patiently until he reaches his president. He would offer a hand shake then once the president offers his hand he would refuse to release it until he asks him whether he would reject or ratify Way Omega and why. To prove that the president's counselors were wrong in making him believe he was known everywhere, he would also ask him what his name was before escaping. Chiamaka is stuck on what to do. Guide calls Chiamaka when he is in a bad mood to make him aware that there is a meeting in Room 2059.

Guide calls Melusi, Kimani, and Tahir too. Longway soon introduces himself to his team and shares his objective. He reminds the four that are in the summit as observers because of seeing Africa as a continent of problems whose solution is not in the heads of states. He also states that the four believe *Path Alpha* can solve problems of Africa and not *Way Omega*. He also reminds them of having suffered ugly state abuse they do not want to incur and that they have to make the presidents choose *Path Alpha* and not *Way Omega*. Dr Abiola Afolabi introduces himself as Guide to the shock of the four, he informs them that though he came to the summit as an advisor of Way omega while the four came as advocates of *Path Alpha*, he was obliged to work with the four without rival. He later studied the two proposals and has seen a balance. He informs them that nations hold summits out of self-interest and not to amuse foreign visitors. If they do not have to miss opportunities of regaining an image or wealth, presidents for hosting nations are always

chair unlike is the case with the Gambian's president who has declined that. With the proposals ahead, the summit might be acrimonious pleasing and displeasing some heads, hence knowing that this may not allow him to serve his country's interest best, he has sidestepped the honor of serving as a chair. The possibility will be that the new Chair who calls the situation The Ruse will want a committee to convene and devise a create a win-win situation, hence it will give room for Path alpha. He asks the four to go think about what they can tell heads of states on this proposal.

Characters

1. Pastor Chiamaka

Schemer: pg. 141. He had schemed so well that he had gone through the pinnacle's security clearance formalities without difficulty (pg.141)

Temperamental : he responds to the guide angrily. (Pg 142)

2. The guide

Emotional and short-tempered

When the Guide calls again after failing to meet the head of state, he is angry to the realization of Guide. He even threatens to call the media (P.142)

3. Afolabi

Knowledgeable

He understands that nations host summits out of self-interest not to amuse foreign visitors including wealth summits bringing to diminishing national coffers in the form of the visitor's daily subsistence allowances (P.147).

He hides for so long from Kimani, Melusi, Tahir, and Chiamaka until he decides to meet them (P. 147).

Engineer Tahir

Emotional.

(Pg. 146) he did not like threats. He says... one day, I am going to... ‘he said then hung up’

Themes

1. Revenge

When Melusi relaxes in the hotel, he looks at Ziliza’s photo and her lips, painted peppery red for some occasion , are a bitter pout announcing retaliation ahead of provocation She gives a mournful plea that the man responsible for her death must die (P.144).

2. Technology

America has a way of replacing a lost eye with an artificial eye after surgery; ocular prosthesis (P.145).

Styles

1. Direct address

Longway addresses Abiola, Tahir, Melusi, Chiamaka, and Kimani when they finally meet to agree on what to vote for in this summit (P.147-9).

Abiola too addresses the rest and informs them on who he has been, why they should go for Path Alpha and why the president of Gambia declined to be chair (p.147-9).

2. Flashback

(Pg.143) comrade Melusi was in bed day dreaming about his wife. Ziliza, he was telling himself, had to have been the most beautiful woman on earth...

3. Suspense

Dr Afolabi leaves the four strangers in suspense so that they think over how they will convince the heads of states about Path Alpha(P.148).

Dialogue

(p.g 142) dialogue between the pastor and the guide.

Dialogue between professor Kimani and the caller.(Pg. 144to 145)

Hyperbole

His voice was all syrup and honey (pg. 142)

4. Rhetorical questions

If the accident was in fact a trap and it sprang a mad gunman on them, who would come, and from where, to bail them out?(P.141)

Which of these options would people be inclined to take, do you think?(P.145).

Where do you fall among those groups: one, two, three?(P.146).

So why do you even consider sneaking off with it?(P.147)

5. Imagery

Vivid description

There is a vivid description of how the four observers in the summit get to their rooms after the session of the day. For example, Comrade Mwelusi, in bed flat on his back, was daydreaming about his wife, Ziliza had to have been the most beautiful woman on earth, he was telling himself. What breasts! Babies did well to leave them alone and such their own thumbs (143).

As professor Kimani brushed his teeth, readying for bed, the mirror before him showed he was loose everywhere. His belly hung over his belt like a half-empty sack. Loose. He tried to suck it in. It stayed put. His face had wrinkles like a dry prune. Loose. Two folds of skin ran on the left and right sides of his nose down to the left and right corners of his mouth. Loose. He tried to smile them away. They refused to leave (P. 144).

Engineer Tahir was all set to turn in. Still, a nagging thought kept crossing his mind, as might a mosquito determined to suck a bit of his blood before letting him wave it away... (P.145).

6. Similes

Tahir has an eyeless socket a lens-like cap over the filler of the hole... (p.145).

Kimani's belly hung over his belt like a half-empty sack (144).

His face had wrinkles like a dry prune (P.144). The two similes suggest aging for Kimani.

A nagging thought kept crossing his 'Tahir's' mind, as might a mosquito determined to suck a bit of his blood before letting him wave it away (P.145). Possibly to suggest his depressive state.

7. Allusion

One Paul on his way to Damascus, had seen a light, song I have plan for you(P.142)

There is literary allusion in the song by puff daddy and Faith Evans 'God sees every step you take, every move you make(p.146) .

Flashback

Melusi also flashbacks Ziliza as he pulls her photograph and looks at his wife who was killed by the state machinery twenty years ago (P.143).

It is through flashback that we learn Tahir had lost his eye in a lab. He slapped a woman in the lab and when she struck back and piloted a letter opener it had slashed through his eye (P.144).

8. Story within a story

The loss of Ziliza by Melusi is also a story within a story (P.144)

CHAPTER TWELVE

The chapter tells us about the occurrence at the African Summit that is taking place in Gambia. The summit is meant to ensure that African leaders choose between Way omega or path Alpha. The leaders are described as being selfish, ignorant and greedy. This leaders for instance the Gambian president are portrayed as having a big body with a thin and nasal voice. Leaders like Bangoure who are very old are still leading their countries since independence. He is the oldest president in the summit. This are leaders who display greed for power. Ironically he doesn't distinguish way omega from pat Alpha.

Leaders like Jemba-Jemba have taken royalty for life. We are told no one could take this leadership from him. For him leadership was a clean birthright pg163. Other leaders like Dibonso are seen to be bullies. Dibonso abuses power .He is said to have been in power for over forty years, this has converted him into a permanent bully. He is old and at some point he wets his pants in public. He goes to shower and comes back to address the summit complaining that the chairperson was not controlling the meeting. The whole of the summit ends up without a solution but pure arguments. Leaders do not want any discussion touching on term limits.

THEMES

1. GREED FOR POWER

This chapter brings out clearly the theme on greed for power. African leaders like jemba –jemba have been in power for so long. In fact they believe that power is a clean birthright. Despite Dibonso being too old to an extent he cannot control his bladder ,he does not leave power to other people. He believes that he still have energy to lead. pg 164.. President WasiWasi has fought had to stay in power. Despite coups that he had anticipated, he had nipped all of them. This shows how greedy he is for power. When the chair in the summit wants to know who would speak first they all raise their hands. This also displays how hungry they are for power and identity. pg156.

2. CONFLICT

Conflicts emerge in the summit over whether Way omega is the best or Way Alfa. The African leaders attack each other during the summit on pg164. Dibonso refers to the chair as a disgrace, he angrily does so because president Ibarosa had raised an imaginary issue. This shows how some leaders are rigid to change while others like Ibarosa are chaotic and violent, the likes of Ibarosa who in fact is addressed as fire-eater pg16. Dibonso at some point insults the chair.

3. Political instability

Some African countries suffer political instability. Coups and toppling of countries is an order of the day. Ruthless leaders also cause political instability in their own countries. We are told that President Wasiwasi had anticipated many coups in his country... Leaders like Ibarosa are considered Fire-eater. This in a way shows us how violent and chaotic such a leader is likely to be. pg 165.

STYLES

1. HUMOUR

The Gambian president is said to be so big. On the contrary the writer states that his voice was thin and nasal clashing with his big size. pg 150.

Pastor Chiamaka also creates a sense of humor when saluting the head of states as Christians in a congregation. He fails to answer him. He prays in his name 'So heavenly father I ask this in my name...' pg155. HE further calls them non-believers.

SATIRE

The writer satirizes African leaders at some point in the text. Bangoura is very old. He calls the Gambian president his brother. The writer satirically states that for reasons grounded on truth, grandson would have been more accurate pg158.

Bangoura also states that he is not going to read the document. He says that at his age he has no energy. He even states that way omega and path alpha should be stapled together into a single document.

The writer satirizes old presidents who have vowed never to leave power even when vital body organs have started failing. The writer says old age

has got funny ways of loosening bolts even on valves best left alone pg 164. This was referring to Dibonso who publicly wet his pants and shamelessly takes a shower then comes back to address the summit

Characterization

1. The Gambia's President

Irresponsible

He fails to take his responsibility as a host to chair the summit. pg 150

Paranoiac

He for no reason fears to chair the meeting pg.150

2. Miniko Menkiti

Aggressive

He takes up the role to chair the meeting even when he is not the host pg 151

Wise

He uses his wisdom to contain the meeting when the debate gets worse pg 153

Tolerant.

He tolerates Dibonso even after he insults him pg 165.

3. Jemb-Jemba

Proud

He ignores and despise everything said by President Ibarosa. He feels that his reign is a clean birthright.. He could even dare walking out of the summit.

4. Dibonso

Arrogant

He is a permanent bully in most cases angry, he loses self control easily pg 164

Greedy

He doesn't want to leave power even at his old age ,he even wets his pants but does not fear but comes later to give his address after a shower.

CHAPTER 13 ANALYSIS

PLOT SUMMARY

McKenzie give Abiola the directions to her apartment. They enjoy the company of each other while entertaining themselves with wine. They are joined by Nick and he gets acquainted to Afolabi.

Afolabi thanks Nick for the trick which enabled him put *Path Alpha* on the summits agenda in the first place.

The silent listener has come up with the method committee which has devised The Choice Matrix which will help in choosing between *Path Alpha* and *Way Omega*. Ms. McKenzie sees her two visitors out as they prepare for the summit on the following day.

THEMES

SECRECY

Dr. Afolabi and Nick are invited over at McKenzie's house so that they could strategize on the following day, the summit day.

The silent listener's identity is still a mystery. No one knows his true identity.

Chapter 14

PLOT SUMMARY

While the summit was reconvening all heads of states were eager to know what the Method Committee, they had formed the previous evening had done its work and found which method they could now use to choose between Way Omega and Path Alpha. All the heads of states were still afraid of their choice of president Bangoura as the chair of the Method Committee because he had not read the documents yet they had charged him with the task.

The summit chair called meeting to order and asked president Bangoura if they were able to find a method they could use to choose between Way Omega and Path Alpha. He responded that they had and were able to wrap up the task in half an hour. This surprised other presidents.

President Bangoura informed members that the projected image was the method they had found. It was a table of four cells and they named *The Choice Matrix*. Each cell contained a simple equation. He explained to them that if a coin is tossed twice and it lands on head for the first toss then the first equation in the first row, first column of *The Choice Matrix* means Way Omega is selected whereas if the coin lands on the tail, then the second equation in first row, second column means Path Alfa is to be chosen. Minster Zinto protested *The choice Matrix Method* terming it a total nonsense as real summit according to him to do not decide by flipping coins. Doctor Afolabi also wanted to give his advice but wasn't allowed by the chair. President Bangoura went a head to explain Third equation in second row,first column if the coin lands on the head it means that the document must be approved whereas if it lands on the tail it means it is rejected that is in the second row, second column.

Once finished presenting *The Choice Matrix*, he asked if anyone had any question but the heads of states were then busy exchanging funny notes until when he had asked for the third time, that is when all of them heard and murmurs of anger began to grow. To avert the looming trouble the chair informed members that they were going to have fifteen minutes breather break.

The summit resumed after the breather break. President Bangoura wanted to execute the choice matrix itself and so he called the chair to join him together with minister Zinto and doctor Afolabi to be witnesses.

He tossed the coin and it landed tail up which meant the second equation first row, second column of the choice matrix which says Path Alfa progresses to the second toss. Mr longway and professor Kimani were very happy while Minister Zinto tried to object but the chair told him to be quiet. President Bangoura once again tossed the coin and it landed head up which implies third equation meaning Path Alfa had been approved by the summit.

Pastor Chiamaka at the back said praise the lord and a few heads of states murmured Amen. Professor Kimani, Pastor Chiamaka, and Engineer Tahir as well as Comrade Melusi felt victorious because they felt in Path Alfa a concrete action would be taken to right the wrongs each had suffered. The chair then formally closed the summit informing the heads of states that there was supper at Pinnacle to cap the summit.

Immediately president Dibonso sprang up to challenge *The Choice Matrix* but the chair informs him that the summit is closed but he insisted that it is still open as the argument went on, president Dibonso took his pistol and wanted to shoot the chair fortunately the chair pressed the panic button under his chair and the commandos burst in with machine guns this made president Dibonso to slip through the emergency door. The chair then tells the other heads of states who were hiding that they can now leave but they swore that they won't return for the summit closing ceremony. Mr longway and his four men were the last to leave they hugged and cheered their Path Alfa had carried the day.

CHARACTERISATION

1. ZINTO

Sensible/reasonable

He challenges suggestions fronted by Method Committee presented by President Bangoura. Infact he rubbishes the suggestions as nonsense and tells president Bangoura that real summits don't make decisions by flipping coins before he was ordered to sit down by the chair. Pg 178.

2. CHAIRPERSON

Authoritarian/ dictatorial

He orders minister Zinto to sit down and that he would only speak when he says. This happened when president Bangoura had asked if there is anyone with a question on the choice matrix method he was presenting and minister Zinto stood up and began saying that what he had suggested was total nonsense. Pg178. On pg 181, minister Zinto is still not given chance to express his opinions.

He doesn't want to listen to president Dibonso views insisting that the summit is closed. pg 183.

Closes the summit before a consensus is reached over the summit debate and hence a conflict between him and president Dibonso arose as he rejected the choice matrix method that was used to approve Path Alpha. He almost shoots the chair. Pg 183

Far-sighted/cautious

He quickly notes murmurs of anger growing and he realized a looming danger and to avert this he ruled out that they take breather break for 15 minutes pg 179-180.

Appreciative

He appreciates president Bangoura after he is done with his presentation "Good stuff", he said appreciatively pg 182.

PRESIDENT IBAROSA

Cruel

He shouted cruelly .pg 176.

Engineer Tahir

Religious

When it was decided that path alpha is approved, he says praise be to God in Arabic 182

3. PASTOR CHIAMAKA

Religious

He hollered praise the lord when path alfa was approved. Pg 181

Professor Kimani/Pastor Chiamaka/Engineer Tahir/Comrade Melusi

Vengeful

They felt victorious win when their Path Alpha carried the day as being the chosen strategy to be adopted as they saw it as a chance to right the wrongs, they had each suffered. Pg 182.

4. PRESIDENT DIBONSO

Violent

He wanted to shoot the chairperson of the summit for declaring the summit closed yet he was in agreement with *The Choice Matrix* as presented by the method committee. Pg 183.

Daring

He openly challenged the chairperson on *The Choice Matrix* as a way to be used to decide to choose between Way Omega and Path Alfa. He informs him that they aren't senile and that they won't buy that madness. He also insists that the summit is open again despite it having been closed formally by chairperson.pg 183.

5. PRESIDENT BANGOURA

Unpredictable/ senile

All head of states knew president Bangoura as unpredictable and probably senile. They were suspicious that he may not have come with any method or he was pretending. Pg 174.

Incompetent

He was tasked to lead The Method Committee which was to find a method that would be used to choose between Way omega and Path Alfa. He informs the presidents that it only took them half an hour to complete the task pg 176. This made other heads of states to let out gasps of surprise which imply that they did a shoddy job that's why some members rejected that method for instance president Dibonso pg 183.

He performed the task he did not know. This is because president Bangoura had not read both documents that is Path Alpha or Way Omega. Pg 173.

They came up with the flipping of the coin as the choice method to be used in deciding between the Way Omega and Path Alfa which was not agreeable by all the heads of states and that is why president Dibonso

wanted to shoot the chair insisting that the summit still remains open as the.

Appreciative

He appreciated the members of the method committee in which he is their leader. He also appreciated the young man whom he instructed to switch on the projector. Pg 176.

Witty/Quick-witted

He responded quickly and effectively to minister Zinto's protest on the issue of flipping the coin to determine the strategy to be adopted. He challenges him whether he was going to protest with much vigour when his way Omega gets win. This made the summit hall rocked with laughter.pg 178

He also cuts off Dr. Afolabi when he wanted to interrupt his presentation by wanting to advise on minister Zinto's protests. "Your advice here would be what? That we utilize your method of this on one hand and that on the other hands?" pg 178.

THEMES

1. FEAR

The heads of states were skeptical about the report the Method Committee were to present to them on the task they had earlier been given to deliberate on whether the summit will adopt Path Alpha or Way Omega. Their fear was because president Bangoura had earlier told them that he had not read the documents and yet they choose him to be the committee chairperson. Pg 173.

The head of states scrambled to hide under their desks when president Dibonso wanted to shoot the chairperson of the summit.

2. VIOLENCE

President Dibonso pulled a pistol and wants to shoot at the chair of the summit as he had the declared the summit closed yet he was not in agreement with *The Choice Matrix* as presented by The Method Committee. Pg 183.

STYLES

1. SATIRE

African heads of state are ridiculed for choosing president Bangoura to lead The Method Committee which is tasked with finding out the development strategy method to be adopted whether Path Alpha or Way Omega and yet he had told them that he had not read the documents.pg 173.

The Method Committee is satirized for flipping the coin to decide on the development strategy to be adopted by the summit members. Pg 178.

During the presentation of choice matrix by president Bangoura, it is laughable that the other heads of state are busy exchanging funny notes instead of giving their opinions or asking questions. Pg 179.

2. CODE SWITCHING

President Bangoura Seems not to have good command of English language hence he keeps on switching between the two languages that is English and French during the presentation of the method committee report.

Personification

Mood was expectant. Pg 173.

3. HYPERBOLE

His voice grating on all ears with *tones of rage* pg.183

4. SIMILE

Page 183 As we say in my country, *travel like lions* without fear of attack or worry about supper. The chair Said this when he was about to formally close the summit.

5. SARCASM

Page 178 we would still be here next year admiring our hands if we were to do so. President Bangoura cuts off Dr, Afolabi when he wanted to give his advise

6. DIALOGUE

Several characters converse

Between the chair and president Bangoura before and during the presentation of The Method Committee report

Between president Bangoura and the young man who switch on the projector pg 176-177.

Between minister Zinto and president Bangoura challenging use of coins in making summit decisions. Pg 178.

Between Mr. Manley and the VOA technician pg 184.

Between the chair and the commandos. Pg 184.

Between Dr Afolabi and Mckenzie pg 184-185.

7. ONOMATOPOEIA

‘Hush, You two back there hissed,” the chair in anger

So, shush!

Page 183 Gavel hit wood one *bang*.

8. RHETORICAL QUESTIONS

The heads of states casts doubt about president Bangoura competency as the leader of The Method Committee as he had not read the documents and he had also told them that he would not read them.

How was he going to perform his task if he did not know what the task was and sworn never to know? How could he answer a question he had not heard and was determined not to hear? Pg 173.

The chair

Had the trick not saved the day? Had it not eliminated the need for consensus he could not achieve? Pg 182.

President Dibonso protesting on the matrix used.

The choice matrix indeed! Do you really expect us to buy into that madness? Can’t you see that some of us are not senile? Pg 183.