

I Found My Happiness

Inspired by a true story

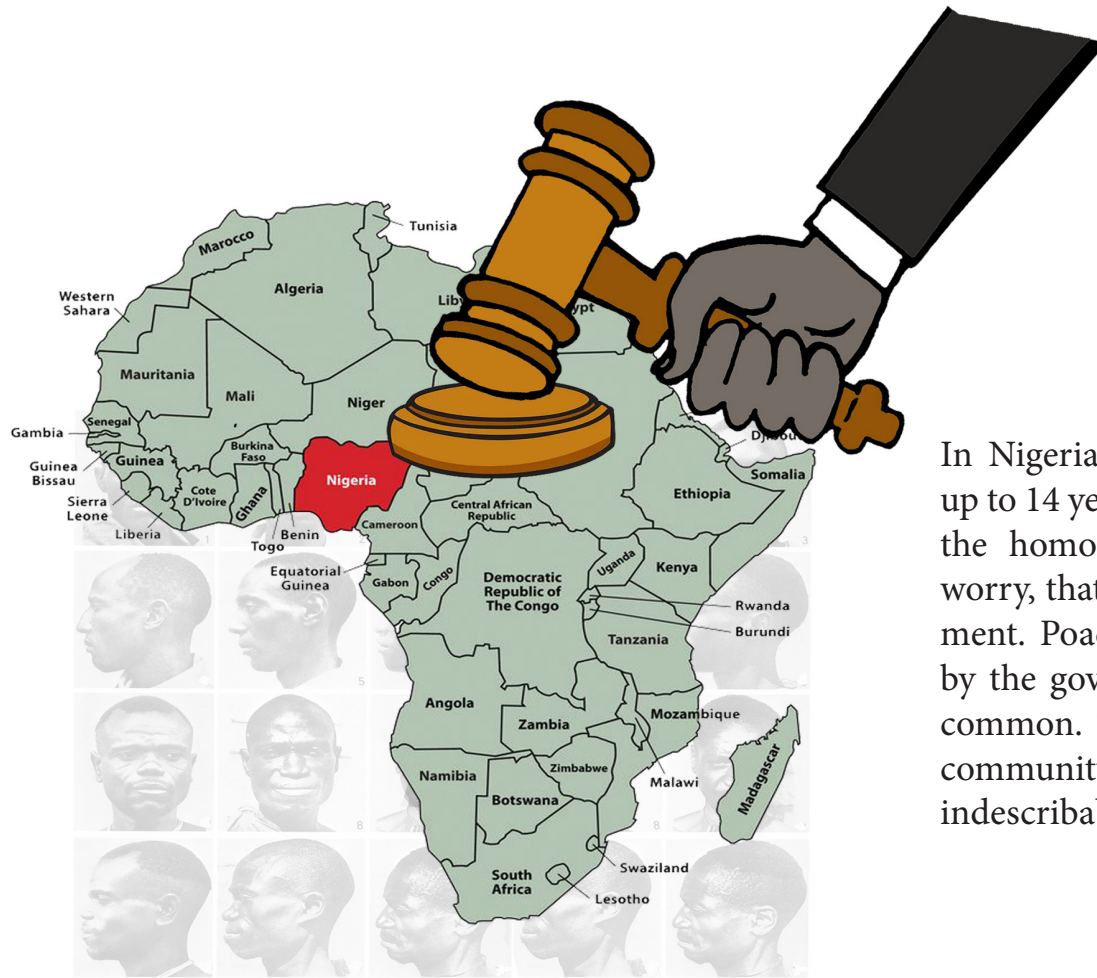
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LOTTERY FUNDED



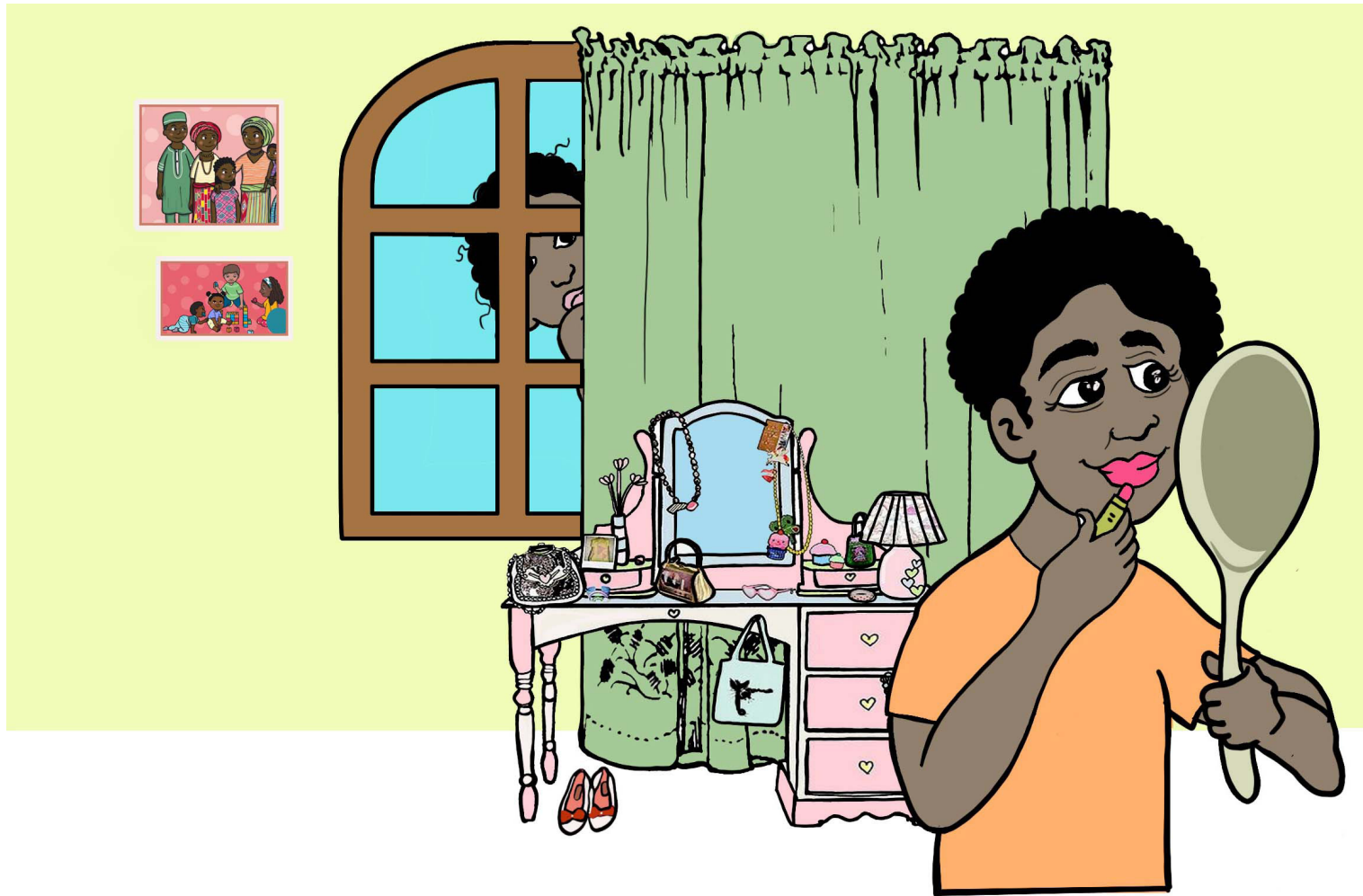
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In Nigeria, homosexuality is punishable by up to 14 years in prison. Constant fear riddles the homosexual community, as members, worry, that they could be harmed at any moment. Poaching, arrests, and social violence by the government armed forces are all too common. This leaves those in the LGBTQ+ community in Nigeria with no options and indescribably distressed.



Nasir grew up in a middle-class family in the Kano region of northern Nigeria. He grew up with his four sisters. His mother was a teacher, and his father was a small business owner.



From an early age, his mother noticed his behaviors and his choices are different. She committed to making him strong by never leaving him alone in the ugly face of social stigma. But her eyes filled with tears as she saw Nasir explores his identity by wearing his sisters' clothes, painting his nails, and looking in the mirror.



He was ridiculed and bullied due to this. Whether it was from his peers at school, or his family a thorn, he was subject to scorn. Nasir had no safe space.



As a teenager, he was sent to dozens of doctors to try and cure himself from being different, but this never helped him. These attempts left him with a more confused and depressed mental status. To keep him from trouble, Nasir's mother tried to persuade him to study religion but, Nasir preferred to spend his time being creative and his only dream was to become an artist.



Nasir's parents were aware of the fate of homosexuals in their home country. When Nasir came to his age, they decided to send him to Wolverhampton University in the United Kingdom. Many students from Nigeria visit here to pursue higher education. But, for Nasir, this was to live a safe life.



About two years after moving to the UK, Nasir's father died suddenly of a heart attack. Due to this, financial difficulties arose, and his mother was unable to continue paying for his education. Nasir's university education had to be discontinued, and he spent days on the road without any money to pay for a shelter. Around this time, under the guidance of a volunteer at a charity organization, he had the opportunity to enlist the help of a social activist.



Through this person, he was introduced to some charities and relief agencies in Wolverhampton, where he received food, clothing, counseling, and legal assistance, the intervention of this social activist saved his life during this difficult time in Nasir's life. With the legal assistance, he received Nasir made an asylum application to the authorities explaining his situation. One and a half years later, he has been called for an asylum interview and was able to officially settle in Wolverhampton.



After receiving refugee status, he had the opportunity to continue his university education. He excitedly re-enrolled. He made his dream come true by getting his degree in fashion design. After obtaining his degree, he got a job in advertising and managed to mortgage a house. Nasir continued to create a life for himself in Wolverhampton by marrying the man of his dreams, Jay. They continued to build their family and life together by adopting two children.



Nasir and Jay's only dream was to have two children and live a happy life together. They feel safe in Wolverhampton, and are doing well as a family. Nasir is saddened by the loss of his family, who still live in Nigeria and look down upon his lifestyle and sexuality. But, his mother is thankful to God for giving her child a happy home.

The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013, was passed on 17 July 2013, and the first marriages of same sex couples took place on Saturday 29 March 2014. Same sex couples who got married abroad under foreign law, who were consequently treated as civil partners in England & Wales, are now recognised as being married in England & Wales.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marriage-and-civil-partnership-in-england-and-wales/marriage-and-civil-partnership-in-england-and-wales-accessible-version>

