

Dancing with Strangers: Stories from Africa

Retold by Clare West

1 Which story do these sentences come from? Ekaterina, Breaking Loose, Remember Atita, A Gathering of Bald Men.

- a In his dream the rebels attack his home and take him away from his mother.
- b She had stopped dancing and there were tears in her eyes.
- c Ranger was clearly a bit crazy, but he was also intelligent and had a clever way with words.
- d There was a circle of white star-like flowers in her long black hair.
- e Again her fingers feel my face and the scar under my chin.
- f He cried into his glass as he thought of Nothando and his daughters.
- g It was her husband, of course, whom she had never seen.
- h He opened the doors, pulled the two men out, and laid them on the road.
- i Yasmin's three brothers did not have this problem.
- j I remember how she walked calmly away, with her head up.

20 marks

2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- a ___ Three of the walls of Daniel's sitting room were covered with books.
- b ___ Ranger has been a problem to the police for months.
- c ___ Okema's mother wants the rebels to take him away.
- d ___ Ekaterina had married a South African that morning by proxy.
- e ___ Caleb's new company PHEW was not a success.
- f ___ Laker remembers that Oyella was shot between the eyes.
- g ___ Neil Gordon found Ekaterina's name in the phone book.
- h ___ Caleb was very miserable because he had discovered a bald patch.
- i ___ Daniel did not go to the funeral of Yasmin's father.
- j ___ The LRA rebels only attack the villages.

20 marks

3 Who said this? Who did they say it to? Ekaterina, Atita, Nothando, Ranger, Daniel, Neil Gordon, Yasmin, Marcia, van Vuuren, Okema.

- a 'I'm a foreigner, so I didn't know that.'
..... to
- b 'I used to be a taxi-driver.' to
- c 'Let's drink to Savvas Athanassiades.'
..... to
- d 'A man has got to live, hasn't he?'
to
- e 'I want her to remember *me*.' to

20 marks

4 Fill in the gaps using: in, during, at first, about, and, what, between, now, sometimes, but.

..... the holidays Yasmin read
India. Here Africa she was an Asian
but up to she had known nothing
about India. her search for her past
put a distance her and Akoto, the
African. this was he had
talked about – digging deep. the old
patterns were broken, things changed.

25 marks

5 Match the beginning of the sentence in A with the correct ending in B.

- A**
- 1 ___ The doctor arrived late,
 - 2 ___ It was the man from the photograph,
 - 3 ___ When he opened his eyes and smiled,
 - 4 ___ Why had he chosen her,
 - 5 ___ As I sit beside Laker,
- B**
- a but he was bald and old.
 - b she touches the scar under my chin.
 - c and by then Yasmin's father was dead.
 - d Nothando almost cried with happiness.
 - e and would he want to see her again?

20 marks

Total marks

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Setting

Choose the best answer.

- The streets of Johannesburg were full of _____.
a rebels b beggars
c blind men d policemen
- Daniel Akoto was a professor from _____.
a Asia b India
c another African country
d The Matumbia
- Ekaterina has _____ travelled on a plane before.
a often b perhaps
c never d sometimes
- Every day Atita visits Laker _____.
a on the veranda b in the hospital
c in the village d in the street
- Ekaterina was flying to South Africa to meet _____.
a Neil Gordon b her family
c an American d her husband
- Caleb did not want to tell Ranger about his problems at work or about _____.
a his wife b his daughters
c the money that he owes the bank
d his bald patch
- Yasmin's father had a shop which made _____.
a gramophones b sandwiches
c boxes d men's clothes
- Atita has an old black and white photo of _____.
a her old friends b her grandfather
c Okema d her parents
- Neil Gordon did not understand Greek but he learned _____ about Ekaterina.
a nothing b more
c a little d a lot
- Caleb met Ranger _____.
a in a bar b at work
c at home d at the hospital

20 marks

Characters

Choose the best answer.

- Yasmin's _____ did not want her to be friends with a man who was not Asian.
a father b brother c mother
d friends
- _____ has come back to Gulu to search for her friends.
a Atita b Okema
c Oyella d Laker

- _____ was a salesman for a large insurance company.
a Nothando b Caleb c Ranger
d van Vuuren
- _____ had never left Greece but had a South African passport.
a Ekaterina b The air hostess
c The Italian passenger d Neil Gordon
- Nothando worked with _____ at the bus company.
a Caleb b van Vuuren
c Ranger d Marcia
- Yasmin was studying _____ at university.
a sociology b music c literature
d culture
- Won Okech was Atita's _____.
a father b grandfather
c friend d mother's cousin
- _____ was a South African, living in Johannesburg.
a Ekaterina b The air hostess
c The Italian passenger d Neil Gordon
- _____ has slept on verandas in town for almost a year, hiding from the rebels.
a Atita b Okema
c Oyella d Laker
- Daniel was a _____ at the university.
a professor b student
c neighbour d great man

20 marks

Dialogue

Who said or wrote this?

- 'The world is not ready for it.'
a Yasmin b Daniel c Yasmin's father
d Yasmin's mother
- 'I shall become President and end the war.'
a Atita b Okema
c Oyella d Laker
- 'People aren't at their best at a funeral.'
a Yasmin b Yasmin's mother
c Yasmin's father d Daniel
- 'I'm the only one in my family too.'
a Atita b Okema
c Oyella d Laker
- 'Are you taking her to her husband?'
a Ekaterina b the air hostess
c Neil Gordon d the Italian passenger
- 'You're looking very good today!'
a Nothando b Caleb c Ranger
d Marcia

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- 27 'What's that song we used to sing?'
a Atita b Okema
c Oyella d Laker
- 28 'Go back, and learn to be free.'
a Ekaterina b the air hostess
c the Italian passenger d Neil Gordon
- 29 'You're lucky he didn't kill you.'
a Nothando b van Vuuren
c Ranger d Marcia
- 30 'Who asked you to come? Go away!'
a Yasmin b Daniel
c Yasmin's father d Yasmin's mother

20 marks

Vocabulary

Choose the best answer.

- 31 a sympathetic understanding of another person's troubles
a insurance b pity c suicide
d instinct
- 32 the usual, accepted way of doing something in a society
a custom b culture c sociology d funeral
- 33 surprised and confused
a embarrassed b innocent c cheerful
d bewildered
- 34 a man whose job is selling things to people
a professor b salesman c gentleman
d hangman
- 35 looking or sounding happy; making people feel happy
a embarrassed b sexy c cheerful d innocent
- 36 a small area, which is different from the area around it
a patch b scar c seesaw d stage
- 37 the study of human societies and social behaviour
a culture b custom c sociology d literature
- 38 to say that you are sorry for something you have done
a respect b spit c attack d apologize
- 39 ashamed; worried about what other people think
a embarrassed b torn c ancient d blind
- 40 a person who is silly or acts in a silly way
a beggar b gentleman c salesman
d fool

20 marks

Plot

Choose the best answer.

- 41 _____ knows what happened to Oyella.
a Atita b Okema c Won Okech
d Laker
- 42 Caleb gave Ranger his car keys because he _____.
a was blind b wanted to drink
c wanted to die d felt sick
- 43 Ekaterina was looking everywhere for _____.
a yesterday's Greek papers b a photograph
c her passport d a fan
- 44 Yasmin was studying literature but she had not heard of _____.
a new African writers b Soyinka
c Achebe d African literature
- 45 Caleb felt miserable because of _____.
a his daughters b his wife
c his bald patch d his two dogs
- 46 _____ left Gulu after her grandfather died.
a Okema b Atita
c Won Okech d Laker
- 47 Yasmin's mother was angry because Daniel _____.
a came to the funeral b did not go to the end-of-year dance
c did not buy a gramophone d returned the books
- 48 Savvas was at the airport but he was _____.
a very unhappy b sweet and warm
c strong and handsome d bald and old
- 49 Caleb and Ranger appeared on television programmes talking about _____.
a suicide b baldness c beggars
d insurance
- 50 Daniel respects Yasmin because she _____.
a is studying literature b went to the funeral
c did not go to the end-of-year dance
d is trying to find her own path in life

20 marks

Total marks