

Idaraset, is a first-generation Nigerian woman in her early 40s. She talks to her lover.

IDARA

You should know this, so you know what you're getting into when you say you-

...My mother, like before we started dating, my mother, she-...

OK.

My mma-mi and I. My mma-mi made me make a promise, OK? And I did it. For... years. I did it. Because promises are...they're important.

I dated all the men. Every single one of them. I had no judgements because... marriage and promises. So. Any one I could find breathing? I dated. I found the men where they hide. I went to the club on meetups, speed-dating, the church...I hired a match-maker. I wore no clothes, got pimples from MAC foundation, gave myself corns and bunions and. I did it all. And it was...relatively easy. And it was...nice. ... I even dated this young guy. ...Stressfully young but. But he was going places. He was actually my favorite. He was gonna quit his job at the center and go to medical school. And I did that. I dated him. ...Or, he dated me. I don't know. And we- ...I got busy and couldn't give him the things he- He had a 5-year plan. I just. I was too old for his 5-year plan. But I was keeping my promise to my- ...so I tried. This past year alone...? I have dated ... Tyrell, Stephen, Esosa, Marcus...I'm forgetting some. Robert, Jason...too many.

I know you probably didn't wanna hear that cause you already sorta skittish about... about histories and...

Listen. ...I dropped by my mma's house a couple weeks ago and told her that...I had to rescind my promise.

My mother is my world...you know that. I don't have- First generation. All my other family is back- My mom and dad and brother are literally all I...and we are soooo Nigerian. So. So...So...Naija. And. This is not-

She might come around...she will learn to love who I- But...you should know Nigeria isn't like here and- my family can be-

...When, mma-mi found out about me and my first girlfriend...I broke up with her and promised I'd only date men. That made sense to me at the time. I used to be someone who used to make promises like that. You should know that. My family is important to me and I love them. Even now. And I hope you also know that I am now someone who can't do that kind of promise-making anymore. Because of where I am and... because of you...Plus... I'm of an age, yes? It's about time. You are the first person I felt compelled to...- make a promise of truth to...? I don't know how to phrase it. It's complicated. I do not know what I am going to look like tomorrow. I might be a mess. So when you say you love me...know that I love you too and that...for me... Right now? Is my biggest terror-joy.