

Contributions

The chapter describes a tight-knit group of women who practice "esusu," a traditional rotating savings system where members contribute money monthly, and each takes turns receiving the pooled funds. The system relies on strict rules and mutual trust, with severe consequences for those who fail to meet their obligations. The women pride themselves on self-sufficiency, rejecting banks and loans, and enforcing order through collective discipline. Past incidents, such as seizing a generator or temporarily taking a member's daughter, illustrate their uncompromising approach to maintaining the system's integrity.

When a new woman joins the group, she initially adheres to the rules, participating in meetings and paying her contributions on time. However, she soon begins to struggle financially, pleading for extensions. The group, following their established protocol, seizes her husband and later her mother as collateral, but both prove ineffective—her husband is lazy and disruptive, while her mother transforms into animals and escapes. Frustrated, the group demands alternative forms of repayment, leading the woman to offer her body parts piece by piece.

The woman surrenders her arms, legs, torso, and eventually her head, each part serving a practical purpose in the group's daily lives—chopping vegetables, comforting children, or providing emotional support. Yet, despite her sacrifices, she remains unable to fulfill her financial obligations. The group continues taking her body parts, only realizing too late the consequences of their actions. The woman's voice grows increasingly faint as she diminishes, leaving the group to confront the unsettling reality of their relentless enforcement.

In the end, the chapter highlights the dangers of rigid systems that prioritize rules over humanity. The women's unwavering adherence to their collective savings scheme leads them to dehumanize the new member, stripping her of her body and identity.

The narrative serves as a critique of unchecked power and the moral costs of absolute discipline, leaving the group to grapple with the unsettling outcome of their actions.