

Moonshine Night

My Uncle Tata was a man who enjoyed his liquor. He drank white rum straight sometimes without adding water or juice. As well as drinking alcohol, he enjoyed smoking his cigarettes. Tata's best friend was Miss Sally, and she too loved both alcohol and cigarettes, so they definitely had something in common.

Tata lived with his sister and her family, as he was divorced and had diabetes, so he felt it best to rent a room there. Every evening, when Miss Sally was coming home from work, she would stop and have a drink plus dinner with Tata, and when they were drunk, they would cuss each other and anyone else who tried to get involved in their argument.

Tata had grown children of his own, but Miss Sally had no children; however, she loved dogs and had two at home. She was very kind and was also godmother to one of Tata's nephews. Sometimes, I wondered why they didn't get married. They never really admitted that they were in a meaningful relationship, but it seemed that way to me because they were always together.

Anyway, that is not really what this story is about, as you can see from the title. In fact, the story is really about what happened to Tata, but I had to tell you a bit about him so that you could understand who Tata was.

Tata loved to sleep off his drunkenness underneath the ackee tree at the back of the yard, where he lived. He had a special piece of sponge shaped like a single bed mattress that he would lay on. His sister, Tun, always told him not to do that, as it was not good to sleep outside in case green lizards fell from the tree on top of him. Tata was not good at taking advice from others because he knew it all. After a continuous warning, Tun gave up trying to convince him to stop doing so.

It was a moonshine night when as usual, Tata had drunk white rum with his friend Miss Sally and then went to sleep under the ackee tree. Everyone in the house had gone to their beds and forgot to wake him up so that he too could go home to bed. It was about 1am in the morning when a continuous banging on the kitchen door awoke everyone. Tun's husband, Brim, went to answer the door, and when he inquired who it was and opened it, Tata stood there with a

swollen head and was unable to talk for a while. They gave him some water to drink, and he slowly sipped it.

Tun ask him what happened, and he said, "Lord, have mercy, did you see a tall man in a long black gown behind me when you let me in?" Brim, who'd answered the door, said, "No." Tata then said, "You must have seen the man because he was right behind me." Brim insisted that he did not see anybody. Tata did not say anything more until later that day.