

# BECOMING ME: THE STORY OF MY JOURNEY, GROWTH, AND DREAMS

## Chapter One: Who I am

My name is Liza Nyambura Nduru, a 22-year-old Kenyan woman whose life journey has been shaped by faith, family, and an unending desire for growth. I was born in Vihiga County, a quiet yet lively place in the western part of Kenya. Though my family lived there for a short while, our lives changed during the 2007–2008 post-election clashes, a difficult period that forced us to relocate to Nairobi. That move, though sudden and unexpected, became the foundation for the person I have become today who is adaptable, strong, and hopeful even in uncertain times.

Growing up in Nairobi opened my eyes to a world of diversity, dreams, and endless possibilities. The city was fast-paced, filled with people from different walks of life, and that environment shaped my personality in many ways. I can describe myself as someone who easily connects with others and finds joy in uplifting those around me. I enjoy meeting new people, learning their stories, and drawing inspiration from them. My empathy allows me to understand others deeply, while my extroverted nature helps me to bring energy and positivity into most spaces I enter.

My family has always been the center of my world. My father, Mr. Francis Nduru Maina, is a businessman whose calm, gentle, and understanding nature has always guided me. He corrects with patience and believes in teaching through wisdom rather than harshness. He has taught me that true strength is quiet and that every goal in life begins with clarity of purpose. My mother, Mrs. Dorcas Wairimu Wachira, is a Deputy Head Teacher, a woman of admirable strength, firmness, and love. She ensures that I stay grounded and focused on what truly matters. Her discipline has shaped my self-control, while her compassion has taught me that leadership must always come with heart.

I also share a special bond with my only sister, Joy Wangari Nduru, who is currently studying Human Resource Management at JKUAT. She is not just my sibling but my closest friend, a

confidant with whom I have shared laughter, tears, and countless memories. Being only a year older, Joy and I grew up like twins. We supported each other through school, shared dreams, and encouraged each other to keep going, even in tough times. Our relationship has taught me the importance of companionship, trust, and genuine friendship.

My parents' journey is the greatest lesson of resilience I have ever witnessed. They once lost almost everything but rebuilt their lives with faith, hard work, and unity. That experience has always stayed with me. As a family, we live by the belief that "what God has started in us, He will surely bring to completion." The verse Jeremiah 29:11 — "*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord...*" is not just a scripture we quote; it is the promise that gives us strength every day. My faith in God runs deep. I have believed in Him since I was a little girl, and even as I grow older, my faith continues to guide my thoughts, decisions, and dreams.

My personal values; honesty, discipline, kindness, and faith form the foundation of everything I do. I believe in staying true to my word, working hard even when no one is watching, and treating others with respect and compassion. I have learned that small acts of kindness can go a long way in making someone's life brighter. Discipline helps me stay organized and consistent in both academics and personal goals, while faith keeps me anchored when things get difficult.

When I look at who I am today, I feel proud of the woman I am becoming. I love structure and order, I enjoy keeping things clean, organized, and well planned. Having a schedule gives me peace of mind and allows me to balance my studies, personal goals, and creative passions. I have learned to celebrate my small wins and remain patient with my growth.

My biggest dream is to achieve financial freedom and create a life of independence and fulfillment. I often think of the little girl I once was, the one who used to gaze at the sky, watching airplanes pass by, and whispering dreams of being up there one day. That young girl had hope and imagination, and today, I live to make her proud. I am determined to give her the future she once dreamed of, a life filled with purpose, opportunity, and joy.

I want to build generational wealth and create opportunities not just for myself but for those who come after me. My dream of becoming a pilot may seem far from my IT studies, but to me, both dreams align in the spirit of innovation and ambition. I also aspire to grow my creative

company, designing logos, posters, and banners, combining art and technology to tell stories that inspire others. With my background in IT, I believe I can expand this dream into something even greater.

Above all, I dream of retiring my parents and giving them the “soft life” they deserve after years of sacrifice and resilience. They have carried me with love and faith, and I long for the day I can carry them with gratitude and comfort.

This is who I am, a woman rooted in faith, driven by dreams, and guided by love. My journey so far has been shaped by resilience, family, and a deep desire to become the best version of myself. As I continue to grow, I carry the lessons of my past, the hope of my future, and the unwavering belief that every step I take is part of God’s beautiful plan for my life.

## Chapter Two: Early Life and Childhood

I remember Vihiga as a gentle, simple place where childhood felt safe and full of small adventures. I played often with my cousins and followed my sister to school with the kind of stubborn excitement that comes from wanting to be part of whatever an older sibling is doing. Even though I was not yet of official school age, my parents took me to a nearby school so I could learn alongside my sister. Those early days were full of play, laughter, and the uncomplicated joy of running around with children I loved. Neighbours were a mix of kind and difficult people, but at that age I learned to meet others with an open heart and give them the benefit of the doubt. Those first impressions of community, belonging, and simple generosity would become the soil where my earliest values took root.

Moving to Nairobi changed everything in a short span of time. The city was loud, crowded, and full of new faces. At first the change felt harsh. We had no house of our own, very few clothes beyond what we had on, and no steady income to rely on. My mother had not yet been

transferred from her former posting as a teacher, so the stability we had known was suddenly gone. It was a difficult season. I remember the uncertainty and the nights when worry weighed heavily on everyone. Yet alongside the difficulty was a strange excitement. We were beginning a new chapter, and even a child can sense the possibility of something different.

In those early Nairobi days my mother started making necklaces and bangles. My sister and I learned to make them too. At first it felt like a game, a way to pass the time, but it quickly became a lifeline. My mother would go around the neighbourhood selling what we had made so we could put food on the table. I will never forget the pride in her face when a sale was made, the quiet way she kept going even when things were hard. Those days taught me that work can be creative and sacrificial and that dignity comes from effort no matter how small. When, later on, my father's matatu was stolen, it felt like another blow. Yet little by little, through renting a small house in Kayole and then later moving into our own home in Nasra, we saw recovery. Looking back I know now that we never walked that road alone. I believe God's hand guided us, and that belief shaped my sense of hope.

As a child I was talkative and full of energy. I loved the sound of people's stories and the way laughter could stitch strangers into friends. My sister loved animals and would spend hours trying to coax a friendly creature closer; I, on the other hand, admired them from a distance and felt a careful fear that kept me cautious. We were both very playful. Some of our mischief has become family legend. I remember one evening when my friends and I used coal to draw on the apartment walls. The next morning my mother made us scrub every mark off with a brush and a bucket of soapy water. The chore was hard and the lesson clear. It taught me responsibility and the quiet consequences of careless fun.

Playing games like Kati and Kalongolongo was how we learned rules, competition, and the art of making up stories together. Kati taught us strategy and patience, while Kalongolongo was noisy and full of roles we played and sudden laughter. These games sharpened my social instincts. I learned to read other children's faces, to negotiate who would lead and who would follow, to celebrate when others won and to accept defeat with grace. All these small qualities shaped how I interacted with classmates in later years.

Even as a playful child I showed early curiosity toward creativity and practical skills. Learning to make necklaces and bangles with my mother sparked an interest in making things that look and feel good. I found satisfaction in the small details, threading beads carefully, choosing colours that matched, learning what sold and what did not. This curiosity, though simple at first, would later link to my interest in design and technology. Helping my mother sell our crafts meant I learned basic communication and simple customer care early on. I discovered that work could be both creative expression and a way to support people you love.

There was not a single outside role model who altered my path; rather, the steady example of my parents was my guiding light. My father, calm and collected, taught me patience and wise correction. He would gently guide rather than scold, always encouraging clarity of purpose. My mother combined firmness with warmth; she was a teacher who insisted I do the right thing and was deeply involved in my life. Watching them rebuild after loss taught me the meaning of resilience. When you lose almost everything, the person who stands with you matters the most. My parents' teamwork and faith taught me to choose loyalty and to hold on to hope even in the hardest seasons.

One memory from those years that remains vivid is the way my mother would tuck our small crafts into a bag and walk the neighbourhood, her face determined and steady, while we watched and helped when we could. That sight is forever branded into my heart as the face of sacrifice mixed with hope. It taught me that dignity is not diminished by hardship and that starting again is a real possibility if you keep working and believing.

Looking back I see how those early experiences formed the backbone of who I am. My childhood taught me that life demands persistence, and that you can begin anew as many times as necessary. It taught me to trust in God and in the power of consistent effort. Rather than giving up, my family kept reinventing ways to move forward. That pattern influenced my later choices in school and in embracing opportunities that seemed small at first but opened doors later.

If I were to sum up my childhood in one phrase, it would be “learning step by step.” Each small task, each scraped knee, each late-night chore after mischief, and each sale of a handmade

bracelet contributed to the person I am now. The lessons were not always obvious when they happened. Only with time could I see how each moment was a building block. I learned to find meaning in everyday routines and to see possibility where others might see only hardship.

This period of my life also taught me to observe carefully and to value people's stories. I learned that resilience is not a dramatic moment but a set of small daily choices: to wake up and do the work, to keep faith when money is tight, to be gentle with others, and to persist. Those lessons are visible now in the way I approach study, creativity, and community. My childhood shaped in me a compassionate curiosity and a steady determination to build a better life not just for myself but for those who stand beside me.

As the city grew more familiar and our home became more secure, I began to see the long arc of possibility. The games, the coal on the walls, the beads and bangles, all of it made me who I am. I carry those memories as proof that beginnings can be humble, that skill and character grow slowly, and that hope is often a quiet companion. The story of my early life is built of small acts of courage and small choices to start again. It has prepared me to face the future with patience and faith.

## Chapter Three: Education Journey

My education journey has been one of growth, discovery, and perseverance, a path marked by curiosity, faith, and the strong desire to make something meaningful out of every opportunity. From the time I first held a pencil, I knew that learning was my gateway to the world. It opened my imagination and gave me the courage to dream beyond my environment. Education has always been the place where my faith, family values, and personal drive intersected, forming the person I am becoming today.

I began my learning journey at a very young age. I cannot remember the name of my very first school, the one I insisted on joining simply because my older sister had already started school and I wanted to follow her. Eventually, I joined Mudasa Academy for a short while before the post-election clashes. After we relocated to Nairobi, I enrolled at Newlight Academy, where I studied until the end of Class Six. Later, I joined Musa Gitau Primary School in Class Seven and completed my primary education there.

At Musa Gitau, I held two leadership positions that became important stepping stones in my life: I served as school president and editor of the school magazine. These roles taught me early lessons in responsibility, communication, and teamwork. They also helped me understand that leadership is not about control, but about service and example. I enjoyed being a voice for my peers, listening to their ideas, and working together to make the school a better place.

Throughout my primary years, I was a top student and an active participant in co-curricular activities. I was both studious and outgoing, a student who enjoyed academics as much as she

enjoyed sports, entertainment, and even school politics. I loved the balance between books and play, between discipline and laughter.

Some memories from Newlight Academy remain bright in my mind. In Class Four, one of my teachers once told us how she had been afraid of becoming a teacher and had prayed to God to give her courage. She shared how God removed her fear and filled her with confidence. That story stayed with me, it taught me that prayer changes not only circumstances but people too. I remember moments of innocence, like how in Class One, we used to tell our teacher that her phone was “crying” instead of ringing. I also remember nearly crying myself when I struggled to pronounce the word *headache* correctly; at that moment, I felt like I might fail English forever.

I loved Wednesdays because they were club days, and I alternated between French and Art lessons. My science teacher had a rare gift, he could draw a cheetah chasing a gazelle with chalk so vividly that it felt alive on the blackboard. Those small wonders made learning magical. Of course, there were also funny or painful moments, like when a teacher once threw a duster that accidentally hit my eye. He feared I would never forgive him, but by lunchtime, I had already forgotten. I was never good at holding grudges.

Closing days were always my favorite. Everyone brought snacks, and we shared them freely as we laughed and celebrated the end of each term. Swimming lessons were also among my fondest memories. My swimming instructor once told me to dive into the deep end and promised he wouldn’t let me drown. I took the leap, swam across the pool, and true to his word, he was there for me. That moment taught me what trust looks like and, in a deeper sense, how faith in God works. To this day, I love swimming because it reminds me of that simple yet profound act of courage and belief.

After completing primary school, I joined Karima Girls High School, a national school known for its discipline, academic excellence, and strong Christian values. I was filled with excitement so much that I forgot to read the admission instructions properly and didn’t realize we were allowed to plait our hair. I ended up arriving with blow-dried hair that lasted until midterm, which still makes me laugh. Unlike many students, I wasn’t homesick because I had already

experienced boarding life in the last two years of primary school. I was ready to explore the new chapter that awaited me.

The transition was smooth, but the academic environment was challenging. Every girl there had been a top performer in her former school, and the competition was intense. This environment sharpened my focus and taught me humility. I learned that success was not only about talent but also about consistency and effort. My favorite subjects were English, Mathematics, and Christian Religious Education (CRE), though I eventually dropped CRE in Form Two. I enjoyed English because of its storytelling nature and Mathematics because it challenged my mind and gave me a sense of satisfaction when I solved complex problems.

In Karima, I was active in both academics and extracurricular activities. I joined a club called True Love, which organized school talent shows and creative events. I was also part of the basketball, netball, chess, and scouts teams, as well as a guidance counsellor. I participated in sports competitions and represented my school in a mathematics contest. These experiences built my confidence and gave me valuable teamwork and leadership skills. I learned to manage my time, to stay grounded, and to appreciate every victory no matter how small.

When I joined Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology, it felt like stepping into a world of possibility. The world was changing rapidly, and technology was at the heart of that transformation. I wanted to be part of the change, to learn, create, and innovate solutions that could make life better for others. Over three years, I have watched technology evolve at a breathtaking pace, and I have grown with it.

University life has been full of defining moments. I am proud of being crowned Miss Dedan Kimathi University (2023/2024), Miss Karatina (2023/2024), and Miss Congeniality Universities Kenya. These titles were not just about beauty or appearances but about confidence, communication, and purpose. They taught me to represent others with grace and humility. Another milestone was being part of a team that emerged second place in the Huawei Cybersecurity Challenge, an achievement that strengthened my passion for technology and teamwork.

Beyond academics, I have found joy in influencing and supporting local hostels around the university, helping them connect with students and fill their spaces to capacity. It taught me about networking, marketing, and the power of digital influence. My university journey has been a blend of learning, exploration, and impact, all grounded in the same resilience that my parents taught me.

University life has also been a teacher of discipline and independence. I have learned that no one will come to save me academically; I must take responsibility for my learning. Freedom in university comes with choices, and every choice has consequences. I have witnessed friends make mistakes that cost them opportunities, which has reinforced my belief in making wise decisions. I have learned that the values I was raised with, faith, honesty, and discipline are not negotiable, and they keep me grounded.

Through projects and coding challenges, I have learned teamwork and resilience. There have been moments when my code refused to run or my project seemed to collapse, yet each challenge taught me patience and problem-solving. University has also been a spiritual classroom. It has shown me that I cannot do everything alone; I need God's guidance in every season. I have faced heartbreaks, disappointments, and setbacks, but I have also experienced beautiful friendships, laughter, and growth.

Education, to me, is more than just passing exams or earning certificates. It is a pillar that has lifted me, silenced doubters, and opened doors that once seemed closed. It has taught me who I am, what I am capable of, and how far faith and effort can take a person. Education has shown me that learning continues outside the classroom; in conversations, experiences, and challenges. It is about connecting with others, understanding perspectives, and turning knowledge into action.

If it were not for education, I would not have discovered my passion for design or technology, nor would I have found the courage to lead, speak, and create. Education is indeed the key to my future, a key I hold firmly as I continue shaping my path with purpose, gratitude, and faith.

## Chapter Four: My University Life

Joining Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) marked the beginning of a new chapter in my life that blended excitement, independence, and self-discovery. I still remember my first day on campus vividly. The university looked big, clean, and incredibly organized. I was amazed by the beauty of the environment, from the neat lawns to the architectural design of the lecture halls. At the same time, I felt a wave of nervousness wash over me. Unlike high school, this time there would be no one to remind me of what to do or when to study. I was stepping into a world where my choices would define my success.

I was both excited and nervous. Excited because this was a chance to explore life freely, to meet new people, learn, and experience independence. Nervous because I would be far from home, managing myself entirely. I wondered if I would adjust well, whether I would make the right friends, and if I was truly ready to make decisions on my own. I also had a funny concern that the campus might feel too "ushago", meaning too quiet and traditional for my liking. However, over time, I learned that the peace and nature surrounding Dedan Kimathi were exactly what I needed to focus, grow, and reconnect with myself.

When I began my Information Technology degree, I was eager but unsure which area would capture my heart. As I explored different topics, I realized that while I appreciated coding, my true passion leaned more toward design. I loved bringing ideas to life visually, making things both functional and beautiful. I discovered that creativity and technology could blend seamlessly to solve real-world problems. That realization gave me direction in my studies and future goals.

Academically, I have always been a morning person. I love waking up early when the world is still quiet and my mind is fresh. Morning hours are my most productive time for reading, revising notes, or working on projects. I also enjoy writing things down as it helps declutter my thoughts and organize my ideas. For coursework and group projects, my teammates and I always plan our work carefully to meet deadlines on time. We divide responsibilities, set milestones, and check on each other's progress. I have found that teamwork is more than just dividing tasks; it is about trust, respect, and communication.

University has not been without its challenges. There were moments when certain topics or semesters felt overwhelming, especially when balancing practicals, assignments, and personal commitments. But those challenges taught me discipline. Whenever things got tough, I learned to wake up earlier, study harder, and seek help from classmates or lecturers. I discovered that persistence pays off, even when results take time.

Outside the classroom, my social life has been lively and fulfilling. I am a social person who enjoys connecting with others, though I value my space and peace too. I love events like hiking, paint and sip sessions, coffee and poetry evenings, and sports. I rarely go clubbing since it is not my type of thing, but if an event has music, count me in to go dance and have a good time. I believe in balance, working hard but also giving myself permission to unwind and have fun.

Through the years, I have realized that I am known by many people around campus, though not everyone is a close friend. Some are acquaintances, classmates, or event colleagues. My real friends are few, but they are genuine, and they have become family to me. University has shown me that not everyone will walk with you to the end, and that is okay. People come into our lives for different reasons and seasons.

I have also been involved in many extracurricular activities that made my campus life memorable. Beyond the pageants and hackathons I took part in, I have explored different universities through sports and modelling. Competitions took me to Meru, Embu, Chuka, Karatina, KeMU, Kirinyaga, SEKU, and KU Kitui, among others. These experiences exposed me to new cultures, people, and environments. They reminded me that learning extends far beyond lecture halls. I currently play pool and proudly serve as the captain of the ladies' team, in addition to participating in basketball and netball. Sports have shaped me into a disciplined, confident, and team-oriented person. The friendships, laughter, and lessons from these events are memories I will always treasure.

University life has also been one of deep personal growth. Living alone taught me to rely on myself completely. I learned how to make decisions, budget, cook, and manage time. I became more confident in who I am and more protective of my peace. I learned to stand up for myself when necessary, even when it meant losing people who misunderstood my intentions. Some

friends mistook my friendliness for weakness, and when I finally spoke up for myself, they shut me out. At first, that hurt, but later I understood that growth sometimes means letting go. I learned to prioritize myself, my peace, and my purpose. I also learned to choose environments that make me feel seen and valued.

Through all these lessons, I realized that I do not need a crowd to feel complete. The right few friends, those who inspire, support, and correct me, are enough. I now do things for me, not for approval or validation. I have become more grounded, confident, and self-aware.

Of course, university life has not been without challenges, financial, emotional, and academic. There were times when managing finances was difficult, and I had to stretch resources creatively. Emotionally, there were moments of loneliness and heartbreak, but they also became opportunities to rediscover my strength and faith. Academically, there were demanding semesters that tested my patience, especially when projects failed or results were not what I hoped for. Yet every challenge refined me. I learned to pray more, to stay patient, and to remember that setbacks are not the end, they are part of the process.

Balancing academics with personal and social life has been about setting priorities. I plan my days around what matters most and give each aspect its time. I have learned to work hard when I need to and to rest without guilt. This rhythm keeps me focused and healthy, both mentally and emotionally.

Looking back, I can confidently say that university has transformed me. I arrived uncertain, shy, and a little scared of independence. Today, I am confident, self-aware, and deeply grounded in my values. I have grown academically, socially, and spiritually. I know what I stand for, what I deserve, and what I will no longer tolerate.

If I were to summarize my university experience in one phrase, it would be “transformative growth”. These years have been a period of significant personal, academic, and social development, a time when I discovered my strengths, refined my purpose, and embraced my identity. DeKUT has not only given me knowledge but also the courage to believe that with faith, discipline, and resilience, there is no limit to what I can achieve.

## Chapter Five: Career Interests and Aspirations

As I continue to grow both personally and professionally, I have realized that my greatest passions lie in design, aviation, and entrepreneurship. These three areas reflect who I am at heart: a creative thinker, an explorer, and a dreamer who believes in building something meaningful from the ground up. Design allows me to express myself creatively, aviation fuels my sense of wonder and ambition, and entrepreneurship gives me the freedom to create and lead.

During my attachment, I decided to explore different fields within Information Technology to see which path aligned best with my strengths and interests. Through that experience, I learned that coding and networking, while important, did not excite me as much as design did. I felt more alive and fulfilled when creating something visually appealing and functional. My supervisors noticed this too and encouraged me to pursue it further. One of them shared my passion for design, and we often exchanged ideas. I would create posters and show him my work, and he would offer constructive feedback that helped me grow. Over time, I noticed a clear improvement in my designs, and that growth gave me confidence. That experience confirmed that design is where my heart truly belongs.

I am not entirely sure how Information Technology will fit into my dream of becoming a pilot, but I believe where there is a will, there is always a way. My IT background has already complemented my design skills, giving me the technical understanding needed to use design software effectively and think logically when solving problems. Perhaps in the future, technology will play a role in aviation or in the company I plan to build. For now, I choose to trust the process and remain open to how God will connect all the pieces.

In the short term, my goals are clear. By April next year, when I graduate, I hope to secure a good job that will help me gain experience and financial stability. However, I do not want to remain employed forever. I have always known that the traditional nine-to-five routine is not for me. I want to create something of my own, something that reflects my vision and passion. My dream is to start my own company, grow it step by step, and eventually employ others. I also plan to further my studies and pursue my lifelong dream of becoming a pilot. It may seem like a

major pivot from Information Technology, but it has been a dream that never left my heart. I believe that taking risks is part of success, and I am ready to take that leap of faith.

In addition, I want to continue growing my journey as an influencer. It started as a simple passion, but I have come to realize that it has potential. I love connecting with people and using creativity to tell stories that inspire. If I can grow that space, I can use it not only for personal gain but also to promote causes, businesses, and social projects that make a difference. I would love to collaborate with airlines, brands, creative agencies, and organizations that help the less fortunate. I am passionate about using my voice and platforms for good, to spread positivity, and to inspire young people to dream big regardless of their background.

In the long run, I hope to build a stable and fulfilling life. Ten years from now, I want to look back and see how far I have come with gratitude and pride. I want to have my own company, with employees who feel valued and motivated. I also dream of becoming a pilot and a prominent designer known for creativity and excellence. By the age of thirty-two, I hope to be settled, with investments and financial stability. I do not want to live from paycheck to paycheck. I want to create wealth that sustains me, my family, and future generations. I look forward to the day when I can retire my parents and give them the comfortable life they deserve after all the sacrifices they made for us. I dream of seeing my sister and I both successful, deeply rooted in faith, and leading fulfilling lives.

I have many dreams for the future, both big and small. I want to own an Audi someday, travel the world, and celebrate my wedding in a beautiful, joyful ceremony surrounded by love and family. These are not just material desires but symbols of hard work, patience, and God's grace. They remind me that every dream is valid if pursued with determination and faith.

Achieving financial freedom and supporting my family will require consistency and innovation. I plan to use my creativity and influence to finance my future business and build a niche that meets real needs in society. I may not yet have a full blueprint for how it will happen, but I believe that the drive, skills, and ambition within me are enough to start. I trust that God, who placed these dreams in my heart, will guide me and align everything at the right time.

Through my work and ideas, I want to make a difference in people's lives. It is not just about personal success but also about service. I plan to volunteer in projects outside my comfort zone, mentor colleagues and students, and treat people with the same kindness and respect I hope to receive. I want to foster teamwork and connection wherever I go, whether in business, aviation, or community work. One of the projects that reflects my desire to make an impact is QueueTrack, a matatu route queue application I am currently developing. The system aims to digitize and streamline queue operations in the public transport sector, reduce conflicts among drivers, and enhance transparency in departure scheduling. I believe small innovations like this can bring meaningful change to communities and industries.

What keeps me motivated, especially when things get tough, is my faith. I constantly remind myself that God did not bring me this far to leave me. This belief gives me strength when I face uncertainty, rejection, or setbacks. It helps me stay calm and focused, knowing that every delay has a purpose.

My guiding values are honesty, excellence, service, and innovation. I believe in doing my best in everything I do and treating others with integrity. These values define how I work, study, and build relationships. They also remind me that success is not measured by how fast I achieve my goals but by the impact I create along the way.

To me, success is not about fame or wealth alone. It is about growth. If I have made even a small step forward today compared to where I was yesterday, then I consider that a success. Life is a journey of continuous progress, learning, and resilience. Every new experience, whether good or bad, shapes me into a better version of myself.

In everything I do, I remind myself to stay grounded, grateful, and hopeful. My career path may not be the most conventional, but it is mine, and it reflects the woman I am becoming. I believe that with passion, discipline, and faith, I will achieve all that I have dreamed of, and when I do, I will look back and thank God for every twist, turn, and lesson that led me here.

## Chapter Six: Community and Contribution

Throughout my life, I have come to understand that community is not just the people around us but the shared sense of belonging and purpose that connects us all. I have learned that giving back does not always require wealth or status; sometimes, it simply requires presence, compassion, and a willingness to help where you can. My community has played a big role in shaping who I am, and I have always felt the need to give back in the same way others once supported and guided me.

In every stage of my life, I have found ways to contribute, whether through encouraging my friends when they are struggling, sharing knowledge, helping others online, or volunteering for causes that uplift people. I believe that kindness has a ripple effect; one small act can inspire another, and before you know it, you have changed an entire atmosphere. Even as a student, I have used my skills to design posters and online materials that help clubs, school projects, and small businesses reach more people. It may seem like a small contribution, but to me, it is meaningful because it combines what I love with service to others.

Helping people gives me a sense of fulfillment that no amount of personal achievement can replace. Whether it is listening to a friend who needs encouragement, assisting someone in their work, or volunteering my time, I find purpose in service. I believe that our talents are not meant for ourselves alone but to be shared with others. I have learned that leadership is not always about titles or positions; sometimes, it is about lifting others up quietly, without expecting recognition.

As a young woman in Information Technology and Design, I want to impact my community in ways that combine creativity, innovation, and empowerment. I want to use technology and design to tell African stories in modern ways ,through digital art, interactive learning, and community-focused innovations. Technology has the power to preserve culture, promote awareness, and solve real-world problems, and I want to be part of that movement.

One of my dreams is to create a platform or initiative that supports young people, especially women, in gaining digital skills. Many girls still believe that technology is not for them or that design and innovation are fields reserved for others. I want to show them that it is possible to

be both creative and technical, that you can code and design, lead and innovate, dream and achieve. Representation matters, and I want to be an example of what is possible when you have faith, confidence, and access to the right opportunities.

My passion for mentoring others comes from the people who believed in me even when I doubted myself. I have been blessed with teachers, mentors, and friends who encouraged me to keep going when things were difficult. Now, I want to be that same encouragement for someone else. If I can inspire even one person to dream bigger, to believe that they can achieve what once seemed impossible, then I will have done something meaningful.

I also hope to engage in community projects that focus on education and innovation. I believe that access to information can change lives. Whether it is teaching basic computer skills, guiding students through career paths, or creating community programs that use design and technology for awareness campaigns, I want to be involved in work that empowers others to grow.

Faith has always been at the center of my motivation to give back. I believe that God blesses us so that we can bless others. I often remind myself that we are only stewards of what we have, and our true value lies in how we use it to make a difference. My relationship with God shapes how I treat others, how I work, and how I dream. When I help others, I feel closer to my purpose because service is one of the purest forms of worship.

When I think about how I want to be remembered, I hope people will describe me as a woman of resilience, kindness, and purpose. Someone who stood firm through challenges, stayed true to her values, and used her journey to inspire others. I want people to say that I made them feel seen, valued, and capable of more. I do not aim to be perfect, but I want to be impactful — to live in a way that reminds others that no matter how small their beginnings are, they can still create something beautiful out of their story.

To me, living a meaningful life means using your talents and opportunities to touch others positively. It is not just about personal success but about leaving the world a little better than you found it. It means loving people genuinely, serving God faithfully, and finding joy in the progress of others. A meaningful life is one that creates light , one that inspires, teaches, and

uplifts. It is about living with intention, being grateful for each moment, and using every experience as a chance to grow and give.

Community is the heart of humanity. When I think of my journey so far, I see how interconnected we all are , family, friends, teachers, classmates, mentors, and even strangers who cross our paths for a moment. We are all part of each other's stories. My hope is that my story will remind others that success is not complete unless it also lifts someone else.

## Chapter Seven: The African Identity In My Journey

Being African is not just an identity to me; it is a blessing, a story, and a rhythm that beats within everything I do. My journey as a Kenyan woman, rooted in the Kikuyu culture, has been shaped by values that run deep within our people, respect, unity, hard work, family, and resilience. These values are not just words but guiding principles that have influenced how I live, work, and interact with others. I believe that being African means carrying a piece of your heritage wherever you go, and allowing it to shine through your character, creativity, and courage.

Growing up in a Kikuyu family taught me the importance of perseverance and faith. In our culture, we are taught that “Mûndû mûgî ni wîhîi,” which means a good person is one who is patient and kind. I grew up hearing proverbs and stories that shaped how I viewed life. They emphasized that success is earned through effort, that humility is strength, and that community is everything. My parents and elders often reminded us that even when life gets tough, we must not give up because God always rewards hard work and integrity. These lessons have stayed with me and continue to influence my mindset both personally and professionally.

I strongly identify with the African sense of togetherness ,the belief that “I am because we are.” This idea of shared humanity has taught me empathy and service. It is the reason I value collaboration and community in everything I do. As Africans, we understand that no one succeeds alone; we rise by lifting others. This has guided me in my journey as a student, a designer, and a young woman finding her voice in the world of technology.

Over time, I have also witnessed how African culture has evolved, especially in how it views women. In the past, women were often expected to remain silent or confined to domestic roles. Today, women are being seen and heard. They are educated, innovative, and leaders in their communities. In Kenya and across Africa, women now hold leadership positions, start companies, and pursue dreams once considered unreachable. This transformation inspires me deeply. It reminds me that we are living in a generation where barriers are being broken, and I am proud to be part of that change.

However, I still believe that our society must continue working toward equal opportunities for everyone. Equality does not mean replacing one gender with another but creating space where both men and women can thrive together. I believe that when women are empowered, families grow stronger, communities become healthier, and nations develop faster. My dream is to be part of this wave of empowerment , to contribute to an Africa where everyone, regardless of gender, has the freedom to dream and the opportunity to succeed.

Being an African woman in IT and design has given me a unique perspective. I see the world not only through technology but through culture and emotion. African women are natural innovators; they are problem solvers, nurturers, and creators of change. We often find ways to make life better with limited resources, and that creativity inspires my work. I bring the warmth, vibrance, and resilience of my culture into my designs. The colors, textures, and patterns I choose often reflect the richness of Africa , its diversity, stories, and energy. In every design I create or idea I pursue, I try to connect technology with humanity. I do not just want to make things that look good; I want to make things that matter.

As a young African woman, I have learned that leadership begins with self-awareness. It means knowing who you are, where you come from, and why you do what you do. I lead not just by giving directions but by inspiring others to believe in their own strength. I carry the grace and boldness of African women who came before me , women who tilled the land, raised generations, and fought for education and equality. Their strength runs in my veins, and their courage reminds me to never dim my light, no matter the circumstance.

To me, being an African woman means strength, beauty, and grace. It means standing tall despite challenges, breaking barriers, and creating room for others to shine. It means balancing ambition with compassion and knowing that my worth is not defined by societal expectations. It is carrying history with pride and rewriting the future with courage. It is knowing that my voice matters, that my dreams are valid, and that my story is part of a larger legacy of women who dared to rise.

In every space I enter, whether it is a classroom, a design studio, or a professional environment I bring my full identity with me. I am not just a woman in tech; I am an African woman in tech,

and that makes all the difference. My culture reminds me to stay grounded, to lead with humility, and to always remember where I started. I am proud to come from a continent that is rich in wisdom, art, and diversity. Africa teaches us that no matter how fast the world moves, we must never forget our roots.

If I were to describe African culture in one word, it would be beautiful. Beautiful in its diversity, beautiful in its resilience, and beautiful in the way it brings people together. It is a culture that celebrates both tradition and transformation. It is a culture that dances, sings, and tells stories that never die. It is a culture that believes in tomorrow even when today is uncertain.

My African identity is not a limitation but a gift. It gives me strength to keep dreaming, confidence to keep creating, and purpose to keep giving back. It is the foundation of who I am and the inspiration for who I am becoming. I am proud to be African, proud to be Kikuyu, and proud to be part of a generation that is redefining what it means to be both traditional and modern, deeply rooted yet forward-looking.

## Chapter Eight: Conclusion

As I look back on my life, I see a story woven with grace, resilience, and faith. Every chapter, from my early days in Vihiga to my university journey at Dedan Kimathi, carries lessons that have shaped the woman I am becoming. My life has not been perfect, but it has been purposeful. Every challenge, every delay, and every triumph has been part of a divine plan that continues to unfold with time.

I have learned that growth rarely happens in comfort. It comes in the moments that stretch you, humble you, and teach you patience. It is in those quiet seasons that God does His greatest work, molding you, pruning you, and preparing you for what is ahead. I have seen Him turn struggles into strength, confusion into clarity, and pain into purpose. For that, I am deeply grateful.

This journey has taught me that who I am is not defined by where I started but by how far I have come and the values that guide me. I am proud of the young woman I see in the mirror, one who dreams boldly, works diligently, and walks faithfully. My story is still being written, but today I can say that I am grounded, focused, and hopeful. I have learned to trust God's timing even when I do not understand it.

I am grateful for my parents, Francis and Dorcas, whose unwavering love and sacrifices laid the foundation for my growth. Their faith taught me to believe in myself, their perseverance taught me to never give up, and their humility taught me to lead with heart. I am thankful for my sister Joy, my constant companion in laughter and learning, and for every friend, mentor, and teacher who has walked with me through different seasons of my life. Each one has left a mark on my journey.

As I step into the next chapter of my life, into my career, my dreams, and my future, I carry all these lessons with me. I carry the spirit of my family, the faith of my upbringing, and the fire of my ambitions. I know that challenges will come, but I am no longer afraid of them. I have walked through storms before, and I have learned that faith will always bring me through.

My prayer is that my life will be a testimony, a reminder that no dream is too big, no start too small, and no path too uncertain when God is at the center. I want my story to inspire others, especially young women, to believe that they too can rise above circumstances and create something beautiful from their journey.

If I were to summarize my story in one sentence, it would be this: I am a woman becoming, guided by faith, strengthened by love, and driven by purpose. The road ahead is still long, but I am walking it with courage, gratitude, and the unshakable belief that the best is yet to come.