



## **Sentient Africa – Pilot Beat sheet and summary**

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### **Summary – About Sentient**

Sentient is a new Sci-fi TV series being developed by Presence Global Entertainment. The same story is being developed by teams in Germany, Russia and Africa for production in those countries.

### **Inciting incident**

An alien life form wipes out most of humanity in just a night leaving the survivors to face an upgraded version of “Us” the, ‘Sentient.’

### **African Synopsis**

Firefighter Martin Dozie recovers from underneath a collapsed building to discover that his team and the rest of Lagos Metropolis have been wiped out by unknown mystery.

Dozie takes charge of other survivors and readies for whatever it is. Dozie is a struggling father, a devoted Nigerian who lost his wife in a bomb blast. He is a lifesaver, selfless to his duty.

### **Season one**

Season one features a sixty minute pilot plus five, forty minute episodes.

### **Pilot beat sheet**

Each act is labeled.

## Pilot Beat sheet - Sentient - DAY ONE

### Teaser Act

#### Opening scene

- ✚ Above and below the skyline of Lagos metropolis down to the Mainland Bridge and to the Lagoon. A red haze hangs in the sky. Lifeless human bodies stay afloat in the water. FIREFIGHTER MARTIN DOZIE and accomplice stare in dismay.

#### Inciting incident – Nigeria

- ✚ Shortly after having a heated confrontation with his daughter at home. Dozie and his team of ABLE-FIREFIGHTERS receive a distress call and are on a rescue mission to quench a raging fire tearing down a storey building in a residential quarter in Lagos.
- ✚ Upon getting to the scene they run out of resources to battle with the enraging fire and with his men now exhausted and vulnerable.
- ✚ Dozie rings the station for a backup.
- ✚ Dozie hears the voice of a lady screaming for help. Trapped in an apartment. Dozie goes to rescue her, in the process of saving her life the building collapses on the both of them.

#### Dozie's nemesis and intro of theme

- ✚ **CO-FIREFIGHTER DAPO ADEKUNLE** and squad is meant to serve as a backup for Dozie, Unfortunately he delays it. At the station he is obviously nonchalant about the situation.
- ✚ Dapo has always wanted to be in Dozie's position.
- ✚ He deliberately neglected the distress call. Presuming that Dozie wants to boss him.
- ✚ Dapo beforehand as express strongly his dislike for Dozie because he is from a different tribe and appears to be applauded by the other firemen and officers. Dapo has always wanted to be glorified but doesn't get it.
- ✚ The theme of prejudice and envy is portrayed.

#### Day One – The storm

- ✚ Dozie awakes from the collapsed building. Everywhere is outraged and deserted. The fire has however died down except for the smolders. The atmosphere is reddish. His vision appears blurred. He could hardly comprehend what's happened. He shrieks in pains as he struggles to get up. Dozie turns around to see the lady he has gone to rescue, she is coughing. She too is alive. She stretches her hand towards him. He reaches for her.

- ✚ They find their way to a part of the building still in good shape.
- ✚ The horror keeps starring at them. A powerful eerie sounds resonates the premises; they both put their hands on their ears. After awhile it reduces. They sit there for awhile, helpless.
- ✚ **FLASHBACK ON Dozie** - his mind races back to his daughter. That is the only thing he can think now.
- ✚ He has earlier warned her not to leave the house. They have a heated argument. She rebelled and left the house.
- ✚ **BACK TO PRESENT** - He gets up at once and begins to walk out of the building tottering. Not minding the lady.
- ✚ Outside, the damage is severe. Something catches his attention. He approaches their fire truck and
  - Observes some bodies piled up to the door, same with another ambulance car at the rear. They probably were scrambling for safety. But ended up dead.
  - Pool of dried blood smeared the faces.
  - The sky is bloody.
  - Howling winds blow.
- ✚ Dozie scurries his way back to the building. The lady stays there recoiled. (Introduces her name as **TITI**) Claims the gods are angry. Tell the tales of Sango (a Yoruba god of fire).
- ✚ Dozie looks back outside. He seems disturbed. When it appears that the wind has subsided. He goes out again. Titi follows him at the rear.
- ✚ He goes to the truck, and then to the ambulance. He is dumbfounded. The bodies are all gone.
- ✚ He turns around to see Titi standing and starring at him. He still can't figure it out. The sky is bloody. The winds blow harshly.

## Act One

### The Present Reality

- ✚ Dozie resolves to find her daughter amidst the awakened horror that has engulfed the entirety of Lagos.
- ✚ He also is keen to know what has happened.
- ✚ Dozie searches for a car but he is disappointed when it refuses to start. The battery ruined. Titi agrees to come with him.
- ✚ Dozie spots a lone horse striding down a lone and abandoned street.
- ✚ Dozie and Titi get to the horse, climb on it and head to the fire station to see if there is anyone still left.
- ✚ Above their heads, an airplane slantly flies.

### Intro D Story

- ✚ **JAFARU UMAR** a wanted bandit struggles out of a ditch. He has bruised all over his skin. His eyes are hollow and a cut across his chin. He is dazed. He staggers until he hits the emptied road. It is weird. He curses.
- ✚ At the edge of the road he looks up to the sky, blinded by the harsh ray he covers his eyes. Umar kneels down in a prayer mood at an angle slowly facing the sun.
- ✚ Meanwhile Dozie and Titi ride the lifeless town. Still no trace of anyone. Except for the howling winds.
- ✚ At some interval hear noises of an airplane engine out of sight above their heads.
- ✚ They both appear weary and out-of-shape.
- ✚ The sky still glowing red.

### Intro C Story

- ✚ A lone teenage girl sobs; her back leaned against a wall, recoiled at the passage of a basement after the storm. **OMA DOZIE**, 17 years old. She scratches her body as she weeps in the semi-dimmed hallway. She is the rebellious daughter of Martin Dozie.
- ✚ **FLASH BACK** - before the storm, she and the **BOYFRIEND** had sneaked into an underground room. When she eventually dozes off only for her to wake to witness the horrific reality before her. Her boyfriend gone.
- ✚ Dozie alights from the horse while Titi stays up tight on strap. Looking out at every nook and crannies. Dozie discovers some burnt bodies on the road. Titi is apprehended by the sight.
- ✚ The bodies are in ashy form, some of them losing form, gradually blown away by the slow winds.
- ✚ Umar stands up reaching out to his back jean pulls out a revolver. Some distances away, he spots a Police vehicle.
- ✚ The car is smashed against a tree badly dented. Shattered windscreen. Umar stealthily approaches with his hand on the revolver. He scans the car but sees nobody however he finds a cell-phone humming. He picks it up, it is hot. He hurls it away. As he continues his search, he finds an I.D card. It has a picture of a young and brilliant detective. The name written on it is **KINGSLEY**.
- ✚ Dozie and Titi stop by a club house. He ties the horse to a pole. It is peculiar. **FLASHBACK** reveals Dozie dragging her daughter by the hand from the midst of people dancing and drinking.

- ✚ **BACK TO PRESENT - As he goes inside it is ghost like. Everywhere is deadly silent. Titi wanders off into a hallway. Everywhere is overturned. A METALIC SOUND drops. Each of them is startled.**
- ✚ **Umar takes the ID and smashes it. He begins to walk down the road. He sees a shoe after awhile stumbles on another pair. He jilts upon hearing the sound of an airplane in the sky.**
- ✚ **He treads cautiously.**

## Act Two

### Intro the B Story – the Nemesis

- ✚ **At the fire station, Dapo goes madly. He marches past for some minutes accompanied by a song then starts to laugh hysterically. He is dressed in full regalia of firefighting uniform, although severely torn.**
- ✚ **A part of his head is blood stained. He too has been affected but slightly by the storm.**
- ✚ **Frenzy, he clears the desk of the photo frames and other items on it. One of the photo frames falls down, the glass cracks and Dozie and FIRE CHIEF are on the photo. He smashes it again with his foot.**
- ✚ **He charges at someone but we don't know who. He storms out of the office. A tag loosely dangles indicating "Office of the Chief".**
- ✚ **Streak of red lights stream the room and corridor. Dapo goes about searching the entire premise for his men. At the dressing room, he finds two of them, HARUNA and KUNLE.**
- ✚ **Dozie and Titi cautiously walk-down the direction of the sound. He slides open a metallic door; the hinge is weak, making some squeaking sound. Outside, it is quiet but what they see is terrifying. They take a closer step toward the pool and see**
  - **Lifeless bodies stay afloat in the swimming pool.**
- ✚ **Dozie arrives at the Fire station with Titi. He searches around for any survivor but nothing seems visible. He enters his office, it has been overturned. He calls out for Dapo. No answer. He advances to the Chief office; he is shocked to see him tied on a chair. His eyes swollen. He looks around, on the floor to see the photo frame of both of them smashed on the floor. He becomes suspicious.**

- ✚ He helps untied the Chief but he could barely speak. He keeps pointing at a direction. Dozie hears noise. Footsteps. He goes to the window. He sees someone very much like Dapo with two other fellows.
- ✚ Dapo stops and looks back at him.
- ✚ It starts to rain human ashes.
- ✚ He runs downstairs to chase after them but Dapo visibility is swallowed by the rain of ashes. He vanishes in the ashes. Dozie is helpless as he returns. He perceives Dapo a terror and sinister.
- ✚ Whatever he has in mind, Dozie must act quickly. As things have fallen apart.

## Act Three

### The plan

#### Oma and Femi

- It appears Oma isn't alone in the deserted party house. **FEMI**, a UBA banker and celebrant before the incident occurred crawls out underneath a bed, a Tibetan hum resonates in her room. After awhile it dies down. Femi shabby appears confused.
- Everything seems strange to her. The television channel is bizarre. It looks like an explosion had occurred.
- Still trying to get over her hangover. She mistakenly knocks down some bottles. It splinters. Accidentally, she steps on one of the splinters and it cuts her feet. She shrieks. Blood dripping. She tears of her dress and ties up the wound.
- She wipes her face with a white towel and discovers it's stained with blood. She is alarmed. Her reflection appears on the broken mirror dangling on the wall. It is scary.
- She wipes and wipes over.
- Lights flicker. She gets to her phone humming on the bed. No network. She picks it up, it's hot. Fidgeting, tosses it away.
- On the door, something catches her attention. It appears to have been damaged as if someone was trying to find a way inside.
- She limps to the door. Terrified with stack of bodies. She staggers backward.
- After absorbing the horror, slowly makes her way out of the room, scrambling on the bodies. It is isolated down the hallway.
- She walks on. No life. The hum rises.

- Her ears widened. She hears someone crying. She traces the direction.
- She is surprised to see Oma. She approaches.
- Oma thinks she's seeing a ghost and becomes apprehensive. Femi speaks out to her but she will not answer.
- They stay mute until Oma breaks the silence and resumes sobbing. Femi comforts her to stop crying and think of a way out.
- She suggests they should report themselves to the nearest police station.
- Femi remembers her car key.
- They both head to her room to collect it.
- She becomes agape. She stares at Oma in disbelief. Oma enquires "what the problem is?" She points at the position where the bodies were laid.
- The bodies are gone.

#### **Dozie and Titi**

- He searches around the fire station. For any possible medical aid to save the Chief.
- Titi stays on with the Chief.
- Dozie reappears with a medical kit but the supplies are missing.
- Chief beckons him not to worry. His condition has almost degenerated.
- Chief mutters a few words to him on what he feels had caused the change of event. Insinuating a natural disaster. He then hands him over the mantle to lead "Dozie take charge", before giving up.
- Dozie tries to go after Dapo but Titi dissuades him not to. At least they should rather focus on knowing what has happened and also to find his daughter.
- Dozie buys her idea. He finds a curtain and shrouds Chief. Titi sympathizes with him.
- Dozie suggests that in situation like this, they need to be armed because anything could happen.
- Titi nods her head. She opens up to Dozie that she has a brother who is a detective, "Kingsley". If they can get to him. It will be safer and better.

#### **Dapo, Kunle and Haruna**

- Dapo convinces the duo that this is a perfect time for them to rebuild a new world. Since the previous world is gone.
- And with this new world comes the craving for men of will and power (like him).
- He instructs them on what to do. To him, he draws an analogy from the bible and just like in the days of Noah, God spared Noah's

household as he and his family escaped the flood in the same way that God has spared their lives.

- And it is only for them to prepare against any usurpers or any force that will come their way.
- To him the likes of Dozie do not deserve this gift and should be marked out if their path crosses again.
- He suggests they rally for mobility, any kind of weapon, set up armoury for defense and protection.
- He sets up a militia government.

#### **Kingsley and Jaffaru Umar**

- Kingsley continues to walk the lone road. He is weary and worn-out. He walks barefooted.
- He wants to make it to the station as soon as he can.
- He looks up in the sky to see a birdlike shaped object. He is astounded. If that be the case then for him there is a ray of hope.
- The rain of ash obscures his view.
- The object appears to get bigger as it approaches his direction.
- He wonders what that is.
- Umar finds the same object hovering in the sky before him. He takes a look again at it and then continues his tracking.
- Kingsley stoops. He has walked a long distance. The object flies above his head with a loud noise. He waves his hand as if he is being seen. Or a search and rescue team has been sent to offer assistance to any surviving victim spotted.
- The airplane passes him by. He gazes on until it's out of sight. He thought he sees someone. Nobody. He stoops again. Trying to catch rest.
- Umar has spotted him.
- Ash continues to fall and obscures their vision.
- Kingsley still not satisfied, gets a feeling that he is being followed as he turns around. He gets hit on the head by the butt of a gun.
- He collapses.

### **Act Four**

**The plan defeated.**

#### **Oma and Femi**

- Panicking, leave the party house. The red haze still hangs in the sky watching their next move.
- Femi starts her car. The ignition is dead. It poses a problem for them on how to reach the station.
- Both of them become despondent.
- An airplane passes above their heads.
- Somewhere not far away from them, it lands and explodes.



- The duo exchange glance.

#### Umar, Kingsley

- **FLASH BACK** – We see Kingsley starring at the photo of Umar pinned on the wall. Umar is wanted. Kingsley is given the task to find him. On a mission, Kingsley chases after Umar after a shootout but eventually loses him as the storm approaches.
- **BACK TO PRESENT** - Kingsley hears some people talking. First he thinks he is in the right place. But confused on how he got there fast.
- His vision still blurred gets clearer until his eyes opened. He needs no one to tell him. He is trapped. He sees a little girl tied with chain some distances away from him.
- He tries to motion to her. The little girl keeps starring at him.
- As he makes to approach her, he realizes that he is chained too. Restraining him.
- He fights it until he gives up. He looks back at the girl and
- **FLASHBACK** remembers his childhood. Playing with his elder sister.
- A heavy-weighted man walks in, **HARAN BASHI**, Umar joins them too. Bashi strikes Kingsley a blow.
- The girl covers her eyes.
- An explosion shakes them.

#### Dozie and Titi

- Arrive at the Lagos police station.
- A door swings back and forth. Dozie goes to the counter. No sign of anyone.
- Titi calls out the brother's name. No answer.
- They notice ashes of human on the floor and walls in Kingsley's office.
- Titi assumes it is the brother. She breakdowns and begins to sob.
- Dozie consoles her.
- As they make to leave, Dozie spots a **POLICE SERGEANT** hidden at the back of a counter.
- He is terrified and a mess.
- Titi demands for his brother. He tells them that Detective Kingsley had earlier gone out for a mission before what happened. He might still be alive or dead out there.
- Dozie tells him what is his plan?
- He bursts out laughing. They gaze at him, surprised. Then he starts to cry and says. It is the end!
- He tells them that some group of people breakthrough to the armoury and make away with weapons and ammunitions.
- That they should prepare to face anarchy.
- They are doomed!
- The engine of an airplane roars above the station.

- They hear an explosion.

## Act Five

### Resolve and Cliffhanger

#### Dozie and Titi

- It is getting darker. Unsafe and ominous
- Dozie and Titi decide to stop by a bungalow.
- The house is dimmed. The power is cut off.
- Titi brings out a lighter from her jean. Dozie makes a face. She smiles.
- They lit a lamp and illuminate the room.
- They search the house for any suspicion. None.
- Titi goes to the kitchen for food. She opens the fridge some items have deteriorated.
- She picks some cans of beer with canned food.
- She offers Dozie. They eat.
- Titi emerges from a shower. She falls on the bed.
- Dozie hangs on a couch then finally sleeps off.
- DREAM SEQUENCE – He sees himself in a very strange place with fire burning. He sees his wife screaming for HELP! But the fire has created a boundary between them. He can't cross over. He can't extinguish the fire. He just watches helplessly as the fire devour the wife. The daughter hitting at him to do something.
- BACK TO PRESENT – he jolts up. He is bathed in sweat. He calls out the name of his daughter "Oma". No answer he realizes he has been dreaming.
- The night is cold. He turns to see Titi fast asleep.
- Suddenly his eyes gaze at the window. Something "a face of a human shape" glows. It's TRASCULENT.
- It appears to be starring at them. Like it has been there for awhile. Watching.
- Dozie wipes his eyes. It is still there fixated. Not moving.
- Dozie stands up reaches for the lantern.
- As he raises it up and approaches. Whatever that is has gone.
- He opens the door.
- Outside, he scans around. He sees nobody. It is quiet as a graveyard.
- As he closes the door. Behind, him he is shocked to see Titi.
- She queries if everything is alright. Dozie stammers unsure of the answer to give.
- She urges him to rest. He must be very tired. And wouldn't mind he comes to the bed this time around.
- Dozie climbs the bed with her. His eyes on the window. Nothing appears. As soon as he closes his eyes.

- **The glowing figure REAPPEARS!**
- **Outside, there are thousands of them gathering.**