Shine Brighter Terminale

SnapFile 11 Lost Ark Dreaming

Document 2, Extrait p.104 – Suyi Davies Okungbowa, *Lost Ark Dreaming*, 2024

EXCERPT 1

Office of the Pinnacle leadership

Special collections and archives

Diekara Goes Skyward

Africa's Biggest Real Estate Mogul Bets on High-Rise Living Communities

by Brenda Alli, 2 February 2034

"Making home in the heights is the future of luxury," he[1] says, as he takes me on a tour ahead of the grand opening of his newest project, the smallest of five towers he has named the Diekara Atlantic Community. [...]

Our current tower is called Little. The others, still at the foundationsand-scaffolding stage, will go by similar monikers[2] once completed: *Thumb, Index, Fourth.* The tallest of them all—expected to be completed by 2050 and planned to reach 180 levels (over a kilometer high)—will be an outlier[3]. It will go by Pinnacle.

I ask him why Diekara Industries is so invested in preparing for a submerged future. Does he think his island will be swallowed soon?

"Swallowed?" He laughs. "Listen, this is a project built to last generations, centuries. So, yes, we need to prepare for all possible futures, including one of submergence. But that's not for us here to worry about, no. It's for those *over there*."

We're standing at one of the expansive windows of the concourse[4]. I follow his arm, pointing at the rugged cityscape of Lagos that stares back at us. This high up, the economic stratification is quite evident to any keen eye. Rusted-zinc slums

already half-submerged by rising floods stand next to glittering apartment buildings that sport paved elevated roadways, sidestepping5 the rapidly rising waters like a disgusted foot.

“Nobody wants to live in that impending chaos,” Diekara says.

“Everyone will fight to come up here when that is no more. They will stand in that same spot you’re standing and say, *Thanks to Diekara, we escaped.*”

Suyi Davies Okungbowa, *Lost Ark Dreaming*, 2024

1. Akanni Diekara **2.** nicknames **3.** special one **4.** open space in a large building **5.** Avoiding

Document 3, Extrait p.105 – Suyi Davies Okungbowa, *Lost Ark Dreaming*, 2024

EXCERPT 2

The scene takes place in the Pinnacle, many decades after excerpt 1.

"I think we may need to evacuate this level as soon as possible.

I believe that's the easiest way to prevent any more harm to tower citizens. I believe this is something that might require your express approval, sir."

"Wait, hold on now." Diekara's interest was suddenly sparked. "That's quite drastic. I understand what you're saying, but we should leave evacuation as a final course of action."

"But sir," Yekini pressed, to Ngozi[1]'s growing indignation, "perhaps that might be too late? We waited only less than an hour, and there is already one wounded person."

"*Agent*," Diekara said, firmer now, sounding like the prime[2] that he was. "Do you know the resources an evacuation requires? Do you know what people have to undergo during a level evacuation?"

Yekini balked[3] "No, sir."

"An evacuation means moving the citizens of one level to another, which not only doubles the population of that new level, but also means you have people from two different levels coexisting. That's not ideal. Imagine if everyone from level eight was suddenly dumped on you there in level nine? Or the level teners were suddenly told to pack their bags and move to your level. Just imagine it. The overcrowding, the infighting, the scarcity. That kind of imbalance is completely against the ideology of this tower. In our history, large movements of people such as in an evacuation have only ever been a last recourse, and only when the levels in question are equipped to handle them." He sipped from his glass. "We wait and seek other courses of action first."

Suyi Davies Okungbowa, *Lost Ark Dreaming*, 2024

1. Yekini's colleague **2.** person at the top of a system **3.** Refused

Document 4, Extrait p.106 – Suyi Davies Okungbowa, *Lost Ark Dreaming*, 2024

EXCERPT 3

Yekini is speaking with her colleagues Ngozi and Tuoyo as they try to handle a critical situation in level 9.

"Well", Tuoyo said, looking to Ngozi. "The override[1] needs an administrator's scan". [...]

"Scanning for unauthorized entry using my biometric would be the end of my life—of everything I have worked for."

"Not doing that would be the end of your life," Yekini said. [...] "Are you even looking around? Your bosses are going to drown us. They know we're down here—they know you are down here—and they're going to do it anyway!"

"You don't know that," Ngozi said. "They might have taken control because they're trying to fix it. We should just wait until we know what they're doing, instead of making rash decisions like this. What if they are—"

"Shut up, shut up, shut up!" Tuoyo snapped. "Are you blind? You think those people up there care about us down here—any of us? They killed my wife. They killed her!"

Silence engulfed the closet and wound[2] tightly around the three. Ngozi bowed his head and looked away. Yekini exhaled audibly.

"You better believe what is right before your eyes," Tuoyo said. "This is who we are in this tower. This is who we have always been. This is what the Pinnacle stands for."

"No." Ngozi was still shaking his head. "This is not –"

"Listen to me", Tuoyo said, a sharp edge she didn't even know she possessed creeping into her tone. "I'm running out of patience, and we're running out of time. So you will go down there with me, and you will override the compactor[3], and you will save everybody on this level, or Savior help me, I will strangle you with my bare hands before any water reaches us."

"Then do it", Ngozi said, pointing into her face. "Do it, because this"–he opened his arms, gesturing toward the tower–"is the only thing I have".

Suyi Davies Okungbowa, *Lost Ark Dreaming*, 2024

1. manual bypass **2.** circled, wrapped **3.** machine that compresses

Document 5, Extrait p.104 – Suyi Davies Okungbowa, *Lost Ark Dreaming*, 2024

EXCERPT 4

This 'article' is an excerpt from the novella. It can be accessed in the archives of tower leadership.

An Afternoon with Gawl

by Daniel Onyeama

13 September 2012

Gawlo Jos, who grew up in a farming community in northern Nigeria, is less than impressed by how indigenous cultivators have frequently been portrayed as environmentally destructive in the wider climate change discourse. Having tilled[1] the land himself, Gawlo Jos is keen to point out that the real exploiters of biological resources are the same people crying over environmental decline.

"They say we kill our forests, we pollute our waters, we ruin the environment for our children," Jos tells me, then chuckles. "Us? With our subsistence farming in small patches for two to three years? My own father even forbade us to disturb roots, not to talk of cutting down trees! Back then, we grew other plants to replace the ground cover we disturbed and resupplied manure[2] to the soil. If we didn't do it, the gods who ruled over soil would cause our crops to fail and our household to fall."

He shakes his head, bites from a kolanut[3], then holds out a piece to me.

"Look at this fruit, for instance," he says. "We grow it in small portions for use in traditional practices and medicine, yes? But you know who comes here, clears out our forests and harvests this to make their cola drinks? The same people saying we are the ones causing yearly floodings in our cities. The same people who say, 'Oh, look at their anti-environmental practices,' then flare[4] poisonous gases into the air and bribe5 our governments to dump mountains of plastic waste into our rivers".

Suyi Davies Okungbowa, *Lost Ark Dreaming*, 2024.

1. cultivated **2.** natural fertiliser **3.** *noix de kola* **4.** burn **5.** corrupt