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# Merchants of Trouble

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Olatunbosun Taofeek

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**Debbie Publishers**

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To

**Iyabo Olatunbosun and Joshua Olayiwole**

## *Note*

This is a magisterial play where attempted solution becomes insufferable as a result of the complexity which defies resolutions. Possible solution is left to the reading legislators by not imposing a way out but leaving it to their judgements as well as their possible suppositions.

Actually, the play is on the question of trouble and those merchants who trade trouble for profit as a means of survival. The complicated nature of their trade is not only confusing to the on-lookers but to them who trade as well. Thus, who to blame or hold responsible becomes elusive as several parties fiddle in this quagmire calling it an individual liberty to self-fulfilment. The vilest parts of this occupation within occupations are the law enforcement agents who are puppets executing the intents of their puppeteers. They are not only traders of trouble but trouble has become their stock-in-trade. This gives birth to anarchists who fuel the vehicle of human restlessness to glorify tyrants as sponsored by the silence of patriots who make trouble merchandisable.

Olatunbosun, Taofeek

*Advice to the would-be Director*

Attention should be closely paid to  
dialogue and sounds.

*The Persons of the Play:*

**Sheik Mahmud**, a terror financier

**Major Dogo**, a terrorist in the army

**Sergeant Lasisi**, a soldier under the command of Major Dogo

**Corporal Udi**, a soldier under the command of Major Dogo

**IP Wahala**, a police officer

**Corporal Moso**, a policeman under IP Wahala

**Corporal Monbe**, a policeman under IP Wahala

**Driver**, a terrorist

**General Gboko**, a kidnapper

**General Cairo**, a kidnapper

**Mr Born**, a citizen

**Journalist**, a reporter

**ICA Agent, Spy, Second Spy, Mr Abdul**

Note: Italicised non-English words are explained under the glossary.

*The Acts of the Play*

**First Act**  
**Confusion is Terror**

**Second Act**  
**Confusion is Confusion**

**Third Act**  
**Confusion necessitates Terror**



**(Confusion is Terror)**

## Scene One



Lights reveal a living room having a sofa, a sofa table and a blanket, a footstool, floor pillows, a recliner and a chaise lounge where **S. Mahmud** sits waiting impatiently. He stands up moving to and fro then back to his previous seat. He goes to a coffee table and takes a glass cup and pours in coffee-drink from a glass jug. After sipping and meditating on the same spot for a while, he returns the cup and goes back to the sofa. Not too long, **M. Dogo** enters in a fully kitted military uniform. Sighting **S. Mahmud**, he laughs and embraces him. Both exchange pleasantries as **S. Mahmud** ushers **M. Dogo** to the sofa.

**M. Dogo**

*As-salamu alaykum!*

**S. Mahmud**

*Wa alaykum s-alam!*

**M. Dogo**

Sheik Mahmud! Sheik Mahmud! I hope by the mercy of Allah you are okay? (**S. Mahmud** nods his head in affirmation) Work is on-going. We're seriously working. Work is going on in the field. All the places are full of people crying (standing) "terror terror". The infidels are dying seriously, *wallahi*. There is no place to hide under the

heaven. Their crying are beyond that of a mayfly. They want to live but we have brought death home and death is knocking at their doors.

**S. Mahmud**

(*Rises in appreciation*) They will surely die as long as Allah lives. Those *kafirs*! There is no *Jannah* for them because they cannot get to *Salsabil* to take out of *Rahma*. Allah is not sleeping. He is in control. This is a political game the SAs always play with religion. By the grace of Allah, we shall play it back. It is a full time match –we versus them. It is not yet over. Watch out!

**M. Dogo**

Sheik, it is a great job fighting for Allah, the Beneficial and the Merciful. The whole place is upside down. Trouble is everywhere. Trouble has entered into the cities; it has entered homes and now Trouble is everywhere. Sheik, Trouble has taken the driver's seat because it is a long journey and he is the only one driving. Everyone in my country is a passenger and Trouble is the only available driver. He is always driving. I mean, driving them to their graves.

**S. Mahmud**

Good to hear that Major Dogo. This is my only contribution to humanity. At least to defeat that long time problem sitting everywhere in the world.

**M. Dogo**

We're winning the war against them. We started it from the north-east of Nigara. We took it to the north-central and entered into the south-west. In those places, I mean south-west, a lot of problems. The people there believe too much in books—the western books. So even the Muslims among them will not co-operate. But with money, even the Christians among them will help us to do the job of terror. You see, even those ones in south-south and south-east of Nigara, all they need is money. Twelve of them from there became Muslims because of money.

**S. Mahmud**

*Allahu Akbar!* How did you do that? Because I know that part of Nigara hate Muslims. They don't like Muslims. They said Muslims are not on the side of God. They said we are felons and spiritual scoundrels. They said we are like those who killed the son of God. Well... go on Major Dogo.

**M. Dogo**

That is what money can do, Sheik. Chukwuemeka Orji is now al-Faras, Ngozi Macpherson is now al-Udhrah, Ofonime Inyang is now al-Butayn, Christopher Okpara is now al-Alyah, Adebayo Ogunde is now al-Awwa. Many of them are now with us. I brought the report for