

# A Covid Christmas Trio

Kóla Túbòsún

December 25, 2020



## An Exchange I

"You didn't send me your list yet?"  
I murmur a procrastination.  
Undecided whether to tell you  
How I burnt the list.  
Blowing the ashes into the night air  
On the breath of my own longing.

In any case the gifts I want  
No money can buy.  
Not now. Not this year.  
Not from anyone.  
A hug. A slow dance.  
A kiss.

Like so many others  
We settle on a phone call.  
On Christmas Eve.  
At midnight.  
Our own communion.  
A memory of this strange year.

## Christmas Present     II

"Surprise me!"  
You rebuff my demand.  
Calmly pointing out that  
You can hardly be expected  
To know what I want  
If I don't know what I want.

I sulk at this logic.  
Jealous of Past Me.  
Who would have crossed water,  
Flown miles, clambered hills.  
Sure of my room at your inn  
At the end of my journeys.

And oh so resentful  
of Present Me.  
Restricted to  
Virtual spaces  
And electronic dependencies  
To touch a face on a screen.

Hesitantly hopeful that  
Future Me, Future Us  
Will once again  
See each other unmasked.  
And re-learn to hold hands  
Without terror.

## New Year's Eve     III

New Year's Eve -  
A time of promise.  
Of new starts and fresh slates.  
But this past year has  
Brought so much, so many  
I am tired of the strange.  
Of becoming accustomed  
To masked non-recognition  
And garbled internet speech.  
Tired of the virtual  
I long for the personal  
To be tangible once more.  
Not at a shadow digital remove.  
However, tonight  
Physically distanced.  
We shall dance.  
You and I  
On our individual screens.

So that next year's eve  
Gorging on our touchability  
Sweaty and hand clasped  
We shall sway  
As if to never, ever part.

---

Aduke Gomez is currently the Chair of the Steering Committee of Art4Life - an initiative of the Lagos State Ministry of Health established to introduce art and the practice of art into the entire healthcare process. Her recent children's book "Lost And Found In Lagos" - a collaboration with Biola Alabi Media was selected as one of Channels TV Book Club Top Twenty Books for 2019.



OLONGO  
AFRICA