

MAMA'S WEDDING SHOES

by
ORBI EDOZIE IGHOFOSE
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Papa Monica.
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Who is Monica?

She was the Honorable Justice Monica Edozie, the first daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Okafor, the famous Papa *na* Mama. I am Monica's first daughter and since Monica has passed on, I want to tell a story that she told me about Papa *na* Mama. It happened when she traveled to the Vatican City with Papa.

They first went to London to see our folks there. My Auntie Ngozi, my mother, and Papa were walking on Golder's Green Road to the tube station. As they passed one particular shoe shop, Papa stopped.

I think that the name of the shoe shop was Russell. Mummy thought that he was just glancing at the beautiful shoes. She and Auntie Ngozi continued walking, only to discover that Papa was not with them. He was inside the shop.



"Papa, do you want to buy a shoe for Mama?" Auntie Ngozi said.

"No, she doesn't wear hi heels anymore. I'll buy something else for her in Rome."

"Then, why are you looking at the shoes," my mother said.

"I just want to see a particular shoe; the type that your mother wore at our wedding. This was where they bought her wedding shoes you now," Papa said.

"Really?"

"Yes, her feet were wide for the

wedding shoes in the shops in Enugu at that time, so I measured her feet and gave it to Father Brushan. He helped me to order them from London. They bought them from this shop. It was a Barley shoe."

"Russel has many branches. It may not be this particular one."

"It may be." Papa said.

Before my mother woke up in the hotel suite that she shared with Papa in Rome, he had already taken his bath and left for morning mass. When he came back, he was all excited because he was able to attend a mass that was performed by the Pope. He met the Pope. He bought a big chaplet and an Easter candle for Mama. This happened in 1979.

