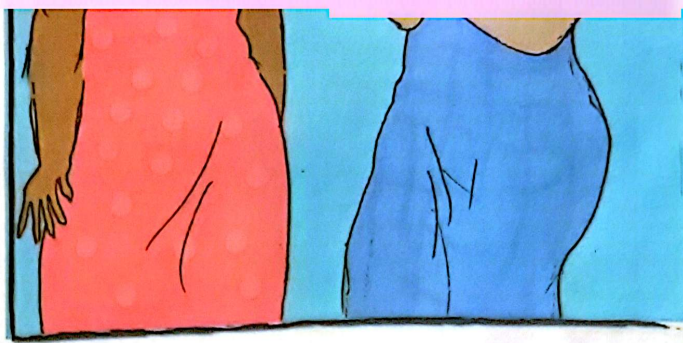




Sheenah's phonebook leaked

BY ARNOLD MUGABE

Almost everyone with a phone is guilty of saving contacts using unusual nicknames. While these names make people easily remember their contacts, they are not always flattering. That is why it is wise to ensure your friends never scroll through your phonebook.

Sheenah understood this very well. She was always careful about who handled her phone. But last Friday, at the end-of-term party, things went terribly wrong.

Her friend Rachael came rushing towards her in panic.

"Sheenah, give me your phone. Quick!" she cried, grabbing it before Sheenah could react.

"I can't find my phone. I need to call it right now," Rachael added as she hurried back towards the dance floor, already dialing her number.

Suddenly, she stopped.

She stared at the screen in disbelief.

From across the room, Sheenah immediately knew what had happened. Two years earlier, when she barely knew Rachael and they were not yet friends, she had saved her contact under the nickname; Shoebill. At the time, Rachael had seemed distant and unfriendly, much like the stiff, intimidating Shoebill at Entebbe Zoo.

Ironically, once she got to know her, she was warm and lively. But Sheenah had never updated the name.

Now, Rachael stood frozen, holding the phone, clearly

hurt.

Panic washed over Sheenah. She could not bring herself to walk over and explain. She knew how bad it looked.

Before she could decide what to do, the situation worsened.

Rachael's friends began gathering around Rachael, asking what was wrong. Their group of seven did everything together, school activities, netball, TikTok videos, even miming songs. Naturally, curiosity spread quickly.

When they realised what Sheenah had called Rachael, they all demanded to see the phone. Each wanted to know how they were saved in her contacts.

From the far end of the hall, Sheenah watched helplessly. She knew the truth: if they saw those names, she might lose all of them.

She had saved Emily as Miss Lil' Mouse. Emily was beautiful, but her most noticeable feature was her slightly prominent front teeth. To Sheenah, it was cute. To Emily, it might not be.

Then there was Mable, saved as Gary De'Snake, inspired by a blue-coloured animated snake in *Zootopia 2* movie. Mable loved blue, but that explanation might not convince her.

Sonia was saved as Rango, after the animated chameleon in the movie *Rango*, simply because she loved cowboy hats. Still, it sounded ridiculous and out of context.

Then, unexpectedly, Rachael refused to hand over the phone to the friends. Instead, she turned and began walking toward Sheenah, her friends trailing behind her, still trying

to grab it.

Seeing them approach, Sheenah made a decision to run. She turned and ran towards the exit. She could not face them.

"Sheenah, wait!" Rachael called after her.

Sheenah froze.

"It's okay," Rachael said gently as she caught up. "I'm not mad."

Now everyone was confused. "How can you not be mad?" One of the girls protested. "She called you Shoebill! Give me the phone. I want to see mine."

Before anyone else could speak, Rachael burst into laughter.

"Guys, I'm just as guilty."

At that exact moment, Modekai, who had picked Rachael's phone, came running in, laughing loudly and holding a phone.

"Hey! Whoever gave Rachael a phone to call, just so you know, she saved you as Miss Hippo!"

For a second, there was silence. Then they all laughed.

And just like that, Sheenah was no longer the only one with secrets in her phonebook. "What! You saved Sheenah in your phone as Miss Hippo!?"

Then Rachael turned to the friends and asked still laughing, "Ok, I saved her as Miss Hippo three years ago when we were not friends yet, and she weighed almost 200kgs. Now, whoever wants to see how Sheenah saved her, should bring out their phone first and we see"

One by one they all went back to dancing as if nothing had happened. They were all guilty.