

The Spot Twist

HOW ALIYAH'S SKIN REWROTE HER STORY.

BY RANELL DICKSON NSEREKO

At 18, most teens are fighting for WiFi, good grades, and maybe clear skin. Aliyah? Her skin decided to start a plot twist of its own. What followed wasn't just a medical condition. It was a full-on identity shake-up. But instead of hiding, she chose something radical: owning it.

When the mirror starts asking questions.

Ahaisibwe Aliyah Baabu's life didn't just "change", it did a dramatic U-turn. One day, her skin was familiar. The next, it was rewriting its own script.

"Being diagnosed with vitiligo at 18 felt like my world flipped overnight," she says. Just like that, confidence started playing hide and seek.

At first, all she saw was loss. The "before" version of her skin. The normal she thought she needed. But with time (and a lot of emotional wrestling), she began to see something else: uniqueness.

Not the *Instagram*-filter kind. The real, raw, this-is-me-take-it-or-leave-it kind.

The real battle wasn't skin, it was silence.

Let's be honest, teenagers can stare. Hard! Add whispers, unsolicited questions, and those "concerned" looks, and suddenly school feels less like a classroom and more like a reality show you didn't audition for.

"The mental and social challenges were heavier than the physical ones," Aliyah admits.

The real questions weren't about skin. The were deeper.

Will I still be loved? Accepted? Seen beyor this?

That emotional weig Heavier than a Mond morning double phys lesson.

Faith, focus & flipp the script.

Instead of letting define her, Aliyah d