

# **Order of Service**

# AT NAIROBI BAPTIST CHURCH, NGONG ROAD

THURSDAY, 9TH NOVEMBER 2023

9.45 AM	GUESTS SEATED
10.00 AM	PROCESSION BY IMMEDIATE FAMILY AND
	CLERGY
	WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER
	1ST HYMN
	1ST BIBLE READING
	EULOGY
	2ND HYMN
	2ND BIBLE READING
	TRIBUTES
	a. Colleagues b. Friends
	c. Family
	OFFERTORY & 3RD HYMN
	SERMON
	PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILY
	ANNOUNCEMENTS & VOTE OF THANKS
	BENEDICTION
	RECESSIONAL HYMN
	CONDOLING WITH THE FAMILY

# AT GACHOKA RESIDENCE, EMBU

SATURDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER 2023

## 10.45 AM PRO

PROCESSION BY FAMILY MEMBERS & CLERGY

**OPENING PRAYER** 

**OPENING HYMN** 

# **TRIBUTES**

- a. Extended Family
- b. Friends Representative
- c. Administration/Leaders
- d. Immediate Family

# **EULOGY**

HYMN

RECOGNITION OF CLERGY PRESENT

**BIBLE READINGS** 

**SERMON** 

OFFERTORY- CHOIR

VOTE OF THANKS

PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY

**BURIAL PROCESSION** 

TREE PLANTING CEREMONY

#### **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father There is no shadow of turning with Thee Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be Great is Thy faithfulness Great is Thy faithfulness Morning by morning new mercies I see All I have needed Thy hand hath provided Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me Summer and winter and springtime and harvest Sun, moon and stars in their courses above Join with all nature in manifold witness. To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love Great is Thy faithfulness Great is Thy faithfulness Morning by morning new mercies I see All I have needed Thy hand hath provided Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow Blessings all mine with 10,000 beside Great is Thy faithfulness Great is Thy faithfulness Morning by morning new mercies I see All I have needed Thy hand hath provided Great is Thy faithfulness Great is Thy faithfulness Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

#### **BWANA U SEHEMU YANGU**

Bwana u sehemu yangu, Rafiki yangu, wewe, Katika safari yangu, Tatembea na wewe.

Pamoja na wewe, Pamoja na wewe, Katika safari yangu, Tatembea na wewe.

Mali hapa sikutaka, Ili niheshimiwe, Na yanikute mashaka, Sawasawa na wewe.

Pamoja na wewe, Pamoja na wewe, Heri nikute mashaka, Sawasawa na wewe.

Niongoze safarini, Mbele unichukue, Mlangoni mwa mbinguni, Niingie na wewe.

Pamoja na wewe, Pamoja na wewe, Mlangoni mwa mbinguni, Niingie na wewe.

#### **CHAKUTUMAINI SINA**

Cha kutumaini sina ila damu yake Bwana

Sina wema wa kutosha, zambi zangu kuziosha

Cha kutumaini sina ila damu yake Bwana

Sina wema wa kutosha mimi, zambi zangu kuziosha

Kwa Baba nanyenyekea oh (Mwamba ni salama)

Niko kwenye Mwamba oh (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Ni Mwamba salama (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Sitarudishwa nyuma na chochote (Mwamba ni salama)

Nimesimama kwenye Mwamba (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Mwamba salama (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Anapigana kwa ajili yangu, oh (Mwamba ni salama)

Ananitetea Mwamba (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Mwamba yeye ni Mwamba (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Mtetezi anaishi milele, milele (Mwamba ni salama)

Yeye ni Mwamba kwangu, ni Mwamba kwangu (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Ni Mwamba (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

La-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la

Njia yangu iwe ndefu, yeye hunipa wokovu

Mawimbi yakinipiga, nguvu zake ndio nanga

Njia yangu iwe ndefu, yeye hunipa wokovu

Mawimbi yakinipiga, nguvu zake ndio nanga

Kwa Baba yangu nasimama, eh (Mwamba ni salama)

Nimesimama salama jamani (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Sina mashaka (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Mwenzenu nikilia ninanyamazishwa (Mwamba ni salama)

Jamani mi' nipo kwenye mwamba (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Mwenzenu sihofu (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Anateta na adui zangu wote (Mwamba ni salama)

Huyu ni Mwamba, ni Mwamba jamani (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Ni mwamba (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Anaandaa meza mbele ya watesi wangu (Mwamba ni salama)

Ananifanyia njia mwenzenu (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Niko kwenye mwamba (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Ah, ha

Kristo ni Mwamba imara

Nikiitwa hukumuni rohoni nina amani

Nikivikwa haki yake, sina hofu mbele zake

Nikiitwa hukumuni ah, rohoni nina amani

Nikivikwa haki yake, sina hofu mbele zake

Kwa Baba nanyenyekea, ah (Mwamba ni salama)

Baba yangu ni mwamba (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Nipo salama kabisa (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Mwenzenu sina mashaka nimesimamiswa (Mwamba ni salama)

Kwenye Mwamba imara (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Mwamba, mwamba (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Sijajaza mashaka ndani yangu ninanguvu (Mwamba ni salama)

Yuko na mimi Baba (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Ah-ah, Baba (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Ananichunga popote niendapo niwe salama (Mwamba ni salama)

Ananiandalia (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Meza mbele yangu (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Amenificha kwenye Mwamba adui hataniona (Mwamba ni salama)

Ni Mwamba, Mwamba (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Ni Mwamba, Baba ni Mwamba (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Ah, ahsante mwamba imara

Mwamba salama (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Sitaogopa chochote nipo kwenye Mwamba (Mwamba ni salama)

Mwamba umenikinga (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Mwamba unanilinda (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Kitu gani mwenzenu kinitoe kwake (Mwamba ni salama)

Amenitengeneza (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Amenibatilisha (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Ananikinga na kila hila za adui (Mwamba ni salama)

Kwenye Mwamba mimi nipo salama (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Jamani (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Ameyanyoosha mapito yangu napita salama (Mwamba ni salama)

Salama, salama, salama (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

Ni Mwamba salama (ndie Mwamba ni salama)

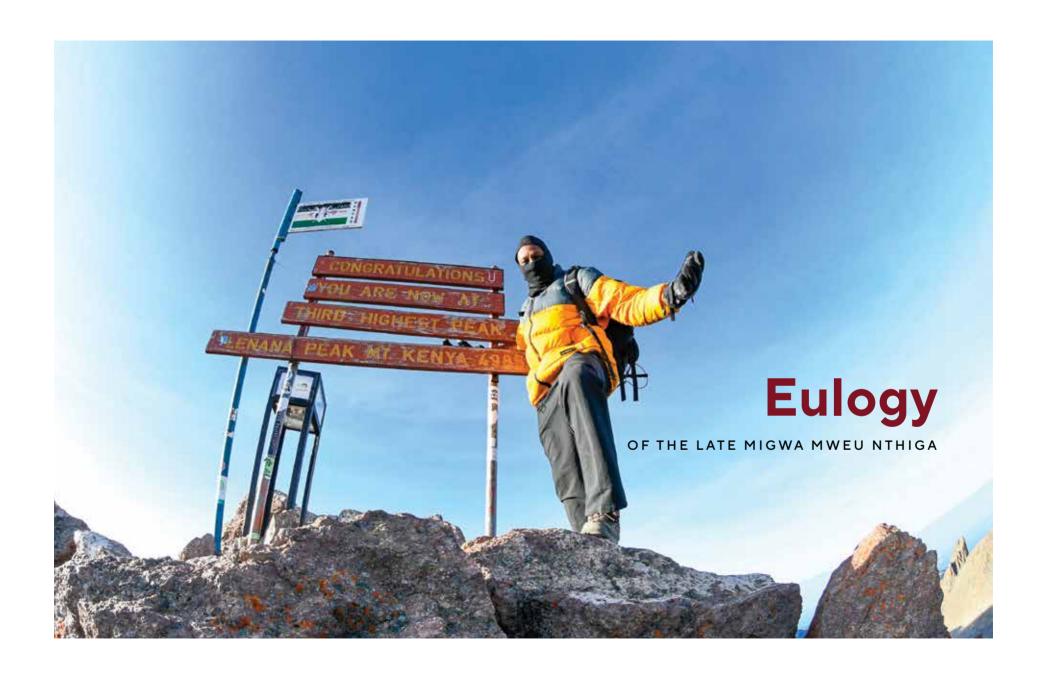
Amenilaza kwenye kifua chake cha upendo

Ni Mwamba salama kwangu salama, ah

Nimwache niende kwanani? Kwanani? Mwenzenu, oh

Yeye ni Mwamba, ni Mwamba, ni Mwamba oh, ni Mwamba





# 66 95

ONE DAY, YOU WILL LOOK BACK ON THIS TIME, AND ALL YOU WILL SEE IS MAGIC. YOU WON'T REMEMBER HOW STUCK YOU FELT, OR HOW FAR BEHIND YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE, OR WHAT YOU WISHED YOU HAD DONE DIFFERENTLY. ALL YOU WILL SEE IS THAT WITHIN YOUR UNCERTAINTY WAS ALSO YOUR POTENTIAL, AND WITHIN YOUR LOSTNESS WAS ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE FOUND, AND WITHIN YOUR DISCOMFORT WAS ALSO A CHANCE TO SEE WHAT YOU NEEDED TO CHANGE, AND CHANGING IT WAS YOU BECOMING THE PERSON YOU WERE ALWAYS MEANT TO BE. IF THERE IS ONE SINGLE THOUGHT THAT CAN COMFORT YOU IN YOUR DARKEST, QUIETEST NIGHTS, PLEASE LET IT BE THIS-ONE DAY, YOU WILL LOOK BACK ON THIS TIME, AND ALL YOU WILL SEE IS MAGIC.

# CHILDHOOD

Migwa Mweu Nthiga came into this world on January 7, 1987 at the Nairobi Hospital. He was the last born child and only son of Retired Colonel Franklin Nthiga and Dr Margaret Nduku Nthiga.

He was a gentle soul navigating his early life in the Langata Army Barracks and Golders Green London. He was an adventurous and accident prone little kid. He fell down banisters, walked into walls breaking his teeth, accidentally swallowed toy penguins, and plunged into big glass mirrors. Being the youngest of 4 siblings, Migwa was deeply nurtured and protected by his sisters from his earliest days and throughout the rest of his life.

He was a sporty kid with a passion for biking, rugby and basketball.

#### **EDUCATION**

He started his education at the Wentworth St Jude Kindergarten in London, UK. After returning to Kenya, he joined the Makini Primary School. Thereafter, he attended St Mary's High School. Migwa graduated from Daystar University with a Bachelor's Degree in Public Relations and Marketing.

#### PROFESSIONAL CAREER

His love for the arts started with music. Migwa loved expressing himself through music, from singing to playing the guitar. In his early musical journey, he was part of a contemporary youth rock band called Ueta at Nairobi Baptist Church. In his early 20s he was the lead guitarist in a rock band called Dove Slimme, winning 3 battles of the bands and performing at major festivals in Kenya.

Prior to graduating at Daystar University, Migwa started his professional career with a brief stint as an intern at Scanad, one of Kenya's premier marketing services agencies. He was never truly settled with this entry level role and could not fathom the prospects of several years working his way up the chain in a corporate culture.

True to his independent nature, and exposed to many enterprising creatives, Migwa quickly felt the need to apply his newly self-taught photography skills cultivated during university days. He was highly inspired by his close friends that are now well-known film makers. Photography grew from a hobby and healthy outlet to a fully-fledged career.

Migwa co-founded Magiq Lens in 2011 where he led on all creative and production aspects at the firm. This is where the documentary and commercial photographer we know today was born. The company provided him the platform to fine tune his craft that enabled him to fulfil his passion of telling



African stories from an African perspective and inspiring other Africans to do the same.

After an initial year mainly working on commercials, Migwa momentarily reconsidered going back to the corporate world. His former boss told him that he is way too bright and big and refused to re-hire him on the grounds that it would be a waste of his time. That provided the reassurance to Migwa that he was destined for greener pastures.

For over a decade at Magiq Lens, Migwa evolved into becoming a human interest visual story teller. He loved documenting people, culture and events. He often noted that he "loves to be a fly on the wall" through his masterful lens. He very much enjoyed being a critical observer in all aspects of life, something many of his close friends came to know.

Migwa's business model was premised on changing the industry paradigm. He wanted to establish a capability in photography, delivered in Kenya by Kenyans for a range of clients, that met international standards. Migwa quickly built a reputation for quality and service. He formed successful partnerships from young emerging talents to established film production companies. He was part of the first batch of the Safaricom "Capture Kenya" winners – a highly competitive

process to source the best talent to create documentary portraits along human centered stories. This launched his career to the next level. Some of his famous photos reached international publications.

Another passion project and career milestone for Migwa was the "Turkana Sessions" that he was a part of for one and half years. The series was designed to share conversation stories and contribute to solving matters of global climate justice. This project was exhibited in galleries from Nairobi to New York City.

Migwa had the pleasure of working with diverse, multinational clients such as Coca Cola, Red Bull, Taronga Zoo-Sydney, LEWAWildlife Conservancy, The Miligis Trust abd Pirkka Magazine just to name a few. Over the last two years he volunteered countless hours capturing precious moments and raising awareness for the Mount Kenya Waldorf school in Nanyuki. A form of education that represented what he believed in; love, freedom, creativity, spirituality, social responsibility and community. He had a magical connection to the children and was certain that one day his own children would attend the school.











#### **FAMILY LIFE**

He blessed the family with love and light which was symptomatic of his family. Migwa's parents always ensured that the entire family was looked after, providing for their every needs. Migwa's spiritual journey was greatly inspired by his parents and Nairobi Baptist Church family.

Migwa is brother to Njuri (Liz) and Scott Geller, Yvonne Nthiga and Joan Nthiga. They represent a very close knit sister and brother hood.

Migwa was raised in a loving family and was blessed with many cousins who were like extra brothers and sisters to him. Close ties with this community especially Joshua Mweu and his big cousin brother Soxy (Musyoki Mbathi) filled his already blessed family community.

As uncle to Isaiah, Eli, Denzel, Taye, Tawi, Levi, Nava, Mugendi, Jasmin and many more, Migwa has always been a role model personality. His positive outlook and creative energy has enabled him to curate meaningful friendships with this younger generation of nephews and nieces.

Migwa is the nephew to Jane Ngari, Leah Wilson, Loise Mbura, James Migwa, Late Nathan Ireri, Late John & Lois Kilonzo Mweu, Late Smith Mackenzie





& Florence N Mweu, Esther & Late David Keli, Sarah & Late Dr Jason N Kaviti, Susan & Late Musembi Mbathi, Samuel & Milcah W Mweu, Ms Mary Mweu, Late Elizabeth M Mweu, Brig (Ret) Joe & Chao BM Mweu, and Henry & Rachel M Mweu and Mercy Njuki who loved him dearly throughout the years. This deep love was further nurtured by Petra and Peter Allmendinger, Jessica Allmendinger and

Ben Mbiyu, Sina Klenk and Yves, and Benjamin Allmendinger.

Migwa's family expanded over the past two years as the Allmendinger clan in Nanyuki came into the picture. His love for Tessa, his chosen life partner, was a first sight. This deep love was further nurtured by Petra and Peter Allmendinger, Jessica Allmendinger and Ben Mbiyu, Sina Klenk and Yves and Benjamin Allmendinger, who loved Migwa dearly, welcoming him into the clan and recently giving their blessing to Migwa to propose to Tessa, an event that was set to take place in true Migwa inspired creativity this November.

Migwa is also closely connected and loved by Scotts family in the US.

# **LOVE STORY**

Introduced by their siblings Joan and Jessi, Migwa met his soulmate Tessa at Bundu Café in Burguret. Their warmth towards each other (and with other family members) and deep connections were cultivated instantaneously. Migwa did everything to make sure the relationship thrived as Tessa was his perfect match.

The timing and location was ideal too, as Migwa always wanted to live in Nanyuki. They took





advantage of life to the fullest together. They loved, joked, laughed, drummed, and built community. Travelling was an important part of their romance with unforgettable times spent in Lewa, Castle Forest Lodge, Samburu, Lamu, Gachoka, Nairobi and elsewhere.

Within a short time, they even had their own little family in Thando and Coco, 2 loving dogs that they took care of at Bundu Café.

The Allmendinger clan welcomed the Nthiga clan to Sandai Homestay and Cottages which is owned and managed by Petra, and where Tessa grew up. This spiritually rich homestead provided the safe space to embed Migwa into his new family. In 2022, an amazing Christmas holiday was spent by the 2 families cementing the clanship.

Migwa and Tessa were ready to take the relationship to the next level, including plans to relocate and settle in Sandai. In late October 2023 an engagement ring was jointly designed by them, with Tessa blind-folded at the jewelry store to ensure it fit her finger. Blessings were given by the wider family, such as Tessa's parents and siblings. Migwa was on the cusp of the epic proposition to Tessa, just waiting for the ring to be finished.

He had a beautiful vision of settling down and starting a family with Tessa in Sandai.

# **TRANSCENDING**

Migwa's short yet full life came to an end on the November 1, 2023. Migwa never lived a timebound life, governed by the expectations of society. Migwa believed his spirit was infinite. Migwa always felt that his life on earth in the physical form was only one part of his journey. We are comforted to know that he has safely arrived in place to commence with the

next segment of his life journey. In the human form element of his journey Migwa grew an expansive web of friends across all walks of life. His ability to relate and love is echoed in the massive WhatsApp group that has attracted hundreds of active participants within a matter of days of his passing.

Our family wishes to express our heartfelt thanks to all those who have given their support, compassion and love throughout this very difficult time. We know in our hearts that he would not want us to grieving for too long. Rather, Migwa would want us all to remember the good times we all shared with him. We are grateful for the outpouring of love and support shown and we will continue to celebrate the life of Migwa, remembering the lives he touched and the people that loved him for the beautiful soul that he was. In keeping with Migwa's passion for the environment, we continue to grow the forest at Gachokashire (his farm in Embu). We know he would encourage all of us to plant indigenous trees wherever we can to continue a cause that was dear to his heart.

Migwa will continue to inspire all that knew him through everything he managed to accomplish and overcome. Soar far and wide Migwa. You are no longer confined. Watch over us. You'll never be forgotten. Thank you.



# **Tributes**



66 77

THE MEANING OF LIFE IS JUST TO BE ALIVE. IT IS SO PLAIN AND SO OBVIOUS AND SO SIMPLE. AND YET, EVERYONE RUSHES AROUND IN A GREAT PANIC AS IF IT WERE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING BEYOND THEMSELVES.

- Alan Watts -



66 99

WE THANK GOD FOR GIVING US THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE SO MANY WONDERFUL MOMENTS WITH OUR DEAR SON AND WE CHERISHED HIS LIFE WITH US.

Migwa, was born on 7th January 1987. A lovely son. Very joyful and loving and loved God. Migwa also had a passion for Dad and Mum. We thank God for giving us the opportunity to share so many wonderful moments with our dear son and we cherished his life with us. Migwa was one of the most genuine and loving human beings we can think and talk of.

Migwa could not pass a day without saying greetings to his parents. Mama...hi! Papa...goodnight...and Mama how did you sleep?...Papa how was your night?, how was your day?. We shall miss such words in our ears.

Sometimes when we are down Migwa would lift us up with such warm tender loving care. God has taken Migwa. We pray that our Lord of peace Himself gives us peace at all times and in every way.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our father who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope. Migwa believed whatever you do, do it heartily and with love.

#### Colossians 3:23

God gives and God takes away...Son rest in peace.

- Mom & Dad -







I wish I got to say "I Love You" one last time Migz, before you were given to the sky. If God could grant me one last wish, I'd ask to say "Goodbye." You always meant a lot to me. I could never love you less.

I now know it's true when they say, "He only takes the best." Fly high Migz. Love you eternally my brother.

From your sister, Ndungz.

- Yvonne Nthiga (Sister) -



Greetings and thank you all for being here today to honor my brother Migwa. I am Njuri Geller and Migwa was my baby brother. My dearest little brother Migwa, may you rest in peace, your were a truly wonderful and beautiful soul. Even in death you are forever and always will be brother. We are not saying goodbye forever but good goodbye for now. No words can describe the loss I feel for your death Migs, my heartfelt condolences go to

our/his entire family and friends both near and far. Thank you for making this world more beautiful and that much brighter with you in it.

My sons have lost a loving and caring superhero uncle. My eldest son Isaiah is an athlete, a sprinter. Isaiah adored him immensely. My heart breaks for you Issy and all of Migwa's nephews. Migwa encouraged Issy all the time as he did with so many of us. This one time Migs and Isaiah decided to race on our street, 100m.

I knew that was not going to end well, but you know Migs. He was always willing to try EVERYTHING. On your marks, get set, go... off they went. Migs put his all in it. I actually thought he was going to pass out. Isaiah with his speed and agility got to the finish line like a Cheetah. Migs well, Migs pulled his hamstring before completion. We all fell down laughing. That famous Migwa laugh. That was Migs. He tried everything. He brought people together. He loved us all deeply, authentically. I will miss his smile, his laugh, his

presence. But his spirit is here with me, with all of us and that will never age, change or die. I will miss our check ins every couple of days. My heart is breaking but I know you are at peace now. Your body has served its purpose. Your soul has achieved what he came to do and you have left a contended man.

I, we love you brother Migs now and always. Your big sister Njuri

- Liz Geller (Sister) -

33 75

HE TRIED EVERYTHING. HE BROUGHT PEOPLE TOGETHER. HE LOVED US ALL DEEPLY, AUTHENTICALLY. I WILL MISS HIS SMILE, HIS LAUGH, HIS PRESENCE.







Migwas life wasn't easy. It wasn't easy because he always chose enlightenment above everything else and that's never easy...and definitely not always easy for the people he loved and who loved him. But that's how it goes for those who have chosen the difficult yet absolutely worth it path to self actualisation.

Now this may sound quite cryptic and perhaps a little airy fairy, but those that really knew Migwa will agree with this. I know this to be true because we talked alot about this. We chose this way of life because for us there was no other way to live. Migs sense of adventure started when he was a baby till the day his spirit, his immortal soul, left his body. He lived life searching and actualising his purpose in this very short part of his journey. He loved and allowed himself to be loved even when that was difficult.

He taught me how to follow my truth and I tried my very best to do the same for him. Sometimes I was over protective and many times we disagreed about many things. But we made room for these disagreements because we knew it was a big part of just trying to figure out who we are.

My big baby brother struggled with trying to balance his love for himself and others. Because he chose to live such an open, spiritual, love centred life, he put an incredible amount of pressure on himself to not let anyone down. We would have so many conversations about this. We would explore how to get out of funks so that we can get on with this adventurous life so willingly chosen.

Migwa touched the lives of so many people. I never knew how many until the very end, and what a blessing. What a gift.

Mummy and Papa, take heart. You poured so much love into all of us, your children and because of that, we had so much love to give. Migwa loved you both more than anything in this world. He was so grateful for you both. He lived his life because God inspired you both to raise such a remarkable human being. You couldn't have done any better.

You should be proud.

To my beautiful sisters I love you and I will show up for you for the rest of my days. We will get through this together. To my other family sent to me by my Higher Power and who keep me sane every single day (you know yourselves) thank you and I love you all. To Scott, we've got this. To Tessa, you were loved. To Migz friends who I claim:) let's not let the vision die.

Migz, through God's grace, we will continue to do life together. I have no doubt about that. Your spirit lives on and I pray that by God's grace I make you proud. Thank you for choosing to live the way you did. Thank you for your courage and wisdom. Thank you for your continued inspiration. Thank you for your love. Thank you.

- Joan Nthiga (Sister) -





Wow, this is a surreal situation my bravest brother. Your respectable humility is in danger my dear friend – just check your in-box! Since transcending wholly into the spirit world your presence is felt everywhere. I keep shifting up, down, left, and right. Man, your infectious smile and hysterical laughter is abundant and alive. It makes slipping into this new reality a bit easier. Most recently, we spoke deeply on what life is all about

and what happens next. Never a simple construct to unpack - the nexus between matter, spirituality and consciousness. I imagine you are now that much wiser about what the next chapter offers. Give a big high five to the larger than life creatures trawling space and time that are amped on your arrival. Hopefully, the demons are easier to handle in this new realm.

I am so pleased that fundamentals remain consistent – that being your charm and appeal meant everything to everyone. You touched so many of us effortlessly. Such an influencer and relationship extra-ordinaire with family and friends of all walks of life. You bridged ever-lasting clans from Embu to Nairobi to Nanyuki. We will treasure this precious global entrusted Whatsapp network to celebrate your life eternally.

Your courage and commitment, Migs, to a creative career has elevated African talent and shifted paradigms of excellence. You enamoured me with your fluid moves from college to agency to entrepreneur. The most recent success to integrate culture with climate and people is a natural reflection of the diverse worlds you navigated in life. You taught me that with the right attitude anything is possible, even for those taking the path least travelled. We will embark to realise your ambitious Gachokashire vision.

On the family front, you brought positivity and peace. Anytime Uncle Migwa rolled into our Loresho home the ambience was immediately uplifted. As the youngest and only son of 4 siblings you both rattled and rallied the Ole Villa sisterhood. A role model to so many of us, especially the next generation who deeply admire you. We are grateful that Issy, Denzy and Eli are respectfully guided by your personality, ethos and life philosophy.

Be at peace that as your light eternally shines, the world stays brighter.

- Scott Geller (Brother) -





You lived 5 minutes from my dad in Nairobi, in Kileleshwa. The serendipity of our proximity seems almost otherworldly, a testament to the inexplicable forces that drew us together. Our Benjamin & Denzel being in the same grade at ISK. You said you had always wanted to live in Nanyuki one day. The taste in music we shared. The connection we shared with an incredible out-of-this-world network of mutual friends, who seem to connect us so effortlessly.

Your beautiful Njuri and Scott had built a gorgeous cabin at The Castle Forest Lodge. I find out after saying I've always wanted to go back to that piece of heaven one day, as my mum and I would go there often, many years ago. I was so excited that we all went there as soon

as we possibly could, and many times after that. You would start a sentence, and I knew what you wanted to say immediately, almost as though we were telepathic, and eventually, we were just in each other's minds, as though we shared an unspoken language.

We had a safe word, if we felt uncomfortable in situations, it was 'pineapples' as we were both allergic. However, we never needed it, we just knew.

I farted quite early on; anyway, Migz was lying on my lap, and he made me laugh so hard. It just happened, but he stayed, we

laughed, he loved me anyway. It did eventually become a shared-in-bed nighttime routine. Sometimes it'd be Thando & Coco. We would just giggle like little children over this all the time, or sneak in a fart and just wait snickering till the other noticed. When we questioned each other's unique qualities, 'You chose me' we would say to each other, knowing we would not have it any other way.

Jojo & Jessi played an unexpected yet crucial role in our story. As this is where the Mt Waldorf School got to meet Migz in a light that are shared by both Migz and the school. He spent countless hours capturing precious moments and raising awareness for the school. A form of education that represented what he believed in; love,

freedom, creativity, spirituality, social responsibility and community. Migz was certain that one day our own children would be a part of the school, and although we didn't know their paths beyond, the Mount Kenya Waldorf School was an unequivocal choice.

The moment the world went still, almost like we were floating, it was like fairy dust all around us, under glistening fairy lights, we shared our first kiss, on my 23rd Birthday. Migz held me from then on and never ever let me go, through all my pain in those early days.

My love... you showed me love. What it is, what it means, what it looks like loving others, what it means to be loved by someone like you, so unconditionally, so immensely. I think that is the biggest privilege I have been so lucky to ever have in my lifetime, my angel. We held each other from the beginning, and that never changed, regardless of what was going on around us, within us; we just knew we had each other, and that was everything.

You are such a beautiful soul. I told you that probably a thousand plus times. I hope you heard me. I will never stop telling you that. You showed me life; you gave me life. You were so open with me and free; you lay it all on the table, the past, the present, and we spoke about our future every single day from the beginning. You worked on yourself every single day. I often thought, what is a soul this beautiful still working on? I think there is something we can all learn from that. I, without a shadow of a doubt did. He called me out on things with so much love, never a mean fiber in his being, just love, unconditional love. He made me a better person. He just saw others for who they were, no judgment, ever, ever...



Yoga on the deck / our veranda, your love for archery, your love for drumming, often drumming to our very own rhythm at home. The teacher in you that just came out so effortlessly & naturally, with so much love, so much patience, you made everyone feel so comfortable, because you instilled a safe space inside of people and made them see their magic. It was just always such a pleasure to get to see that, my love.

How we laughed at each other's jokes the loudest, and everyone would make fun of us for that. Your jokes are the best... you made me laugh every single day of our lives no matter the weather. You embraced the German, especially Swabian, language and culture wholeheartedly. And seeing you in 'full Lederhosen Tracht' never failed to bring us joy - you looked absolutely handsome in it, as you always did.

Family, was and is one of the most important things to both of us, and my word... did we show each other and family showed us what that meant.

When he spoke of family, he never spoke of just one side; it was always the Allmendinger-Nthiga Clan. His love for his nephews and niece was something on a whole other level, dear Denzi, Isiah, Eli, Taye, Tawi, Levi & Nava, he loved you all beyond your wildest imaginations, he will always be your guardian angel, he will always guide you through this thing called life. The way he just instantly bonded with my parents, so deeply so naturally as if they'd had another son all along. My siblings, Jessi (& Ben), Sina (& Matze), Yves & Benjamin, a special bond with each & every one of them each so unique. And Yves... oh Yves I really questioned why I hadn't seen you

in 4 years, now I know why it had to be now... you had to meet the love of my life. With Migz, it never took long for him to see someone and their very own unique magic. Njuri, Scott, Jojo, Yvonne, an unbreakable bond from the beginning, our loves, our protectors, our cheerleaders. How did I become so lucky.

Migz always felt at ease when we were all together, we have shared some beautiful memories, there will be more to come in time and I know he is so grateful for the bond we all have.

Mama Migz, Papa Migz, thank you for taking me in as your daughter; I don't think I have ever felt so at home outside of home. We always wanted all four parents to walk me down the aisle because that is just how special all of you are to us, we couldn't decide so we said none or all.

My love, you always told me, you are loved, you have an army, you are loved. We have that; it is so hard but also in so many ways so beautiful. I see it now; I just wish you were physically here to see it too. Our tribe, you know who you are, I am so so grateful.

Our trips, each filled with their unforgettable moments of pure love and magic, Lewa, Castle Forest Lodge, Samburu, Lamu, Teddy Bear Island, Embu (aka Gachokashire), the Loldaigas, Solio, Nairobi, the Aberdares, Msambweni, to name a few.. Christmas with the almost whole Allmendinger-Nthiga clan on Sandai, Christmas day in Embu, so many special moments, we'd be here a while if I listed them all, Migz would be napping by now.

Our fur babies, Thando and Coco, I never thought I would find someone who would share the same love as I did with them. I hope you're taking our baby girl on walks up there. I will never forget when your 'Ma' called you and asked what we were up to, and you said we just washed the dogs, and she responded 'It's time you stop washing dogs and start bathing babies', we laughed so much.

The night before, your last words before we went to sleep were 'I'm going to marry the sh\*t out of you, baby,' and I just lay there knowing I was being held for the rest of my life; we both knew it was this or nothing. The next morning, we cuddled and looked out our window into the forest, with so much love, just knowing how much love there was between & around us, not a worry in the world, in our little magical fairy dust bubble. Not knowing our world would collapse only hours later. I promise to always have a forest around me for us to look into, to





plant trees in your honor with a lot of help from Mum, Jojo, our family & friends. I would like us all to remember & honor Migz for the beautiful, beautiful soul that he was, his care, his kindness, his intention, his unconditional love, the way he just saw everyone, his never judging of anyone, ever, ever... I think we can all take a page out of his book, and just be better for it.

Your craft and talent will live on for lifetimes to come; I know that is what you wanted, for your work always to mean something beyond you, it will help people, inspire people, impact people. It will show people a large part of you and what you stood for, perhaps the world even. We will not let you or your work disappear, on the contrary, we will paint it in the sky for everyone to see because the chance & privilege to see life through your lens doesn't come very often, and we are not going to miss out on that for one second. You have been so kind to Mother Nature, and I am sure she will be to you too.

I vow to you, Migwa Mweu Nthiga, that our future will look something like this, our family, fur babies & friends by our sides every step of the way, good food, a healthier relationship to chicken wings maybe, laughs, music, the best vibes & love, always so so much love.

You are my best friend, my partner in just doing life, crime or no crime, my constant, the absolute love of my life, For lifey, (and you would answer, my wifey...)

You are my sun, my moon, & all my stars.

I love you, always, unconditionally, forever, Your Sweet Pea xx







My Uncle Migwa was an Uncle who many would have wanted. He was always there for me, and he always helped me with things I could not do on my own. He taught me many things, including how to use a camera to take good photos. He was the best photographer I knew and Uncle I could ask for. Uncle Migwa, you are gone, but you will never be forgotten. We may be apart, but your memory will live within me forever. However, I am only left with memories to live with now. No words can express my grief. I pray that God will bring peace to our family. I will miss the games we played together and the movie nights we had.

Rest in peace, Uncle Migwa.

- Isaiah Geller (Nephew) -



Whenever I saw my uncle Migwa he wore a big smile on his face, that was one of the things I loved most about him. His joyful disposition always changed the mood of whatever room we were in for the better. I think that is something my brothers and I should strive to become. Uncle Migwa was a great role model who we can all learn from. His indisputable light-heartedness will never be forgotten.

Thank you for everything Uncle Migs.

- Denzel Adhola (Nephew) -



#### Uncle Migz,

You left me too soon. We still have a lot to talk about. You always wanted to know what I'm doing, including details. I still remember when I told you about Kagwe and we laughed it off and you ended up calling him and I talked to him on phone while my heart was beating fast. We still have a lot to laugh about.

Your laugh, oh your laugh was pretty infectious. I remember telling you about my pastry business and you said you'd love to taste the samosas and I ended up coming to your office to bring them and you enjoyed it with Auntie Melissa. Oh how I miss those moments. We still haven't gone to Junkie for our date as you promised. I still haven't cooked you your favorite dish, Chapatti and chicken. I remember how I used to run around up and down the stairs in Cucu's house and that's how I got the name "Jumpy Jumpy" and "Kavulunze." I am still processing. My heart is literally shattered.

I want to call you and tell you how much I love you as we'd always say after every conversation whether on phone or text. All these are memories I still hold quite dear. Fare thee well, I love you and always will Favorite Uncle.

- Joanne Murugi Aka (Small Jojo) -





This is a very hard moment for us as a family as it is for everyone else. A devastating and tragic loss which has shocked everyone who loved and cared for Migwa. In our early years as we grew up, you've always shown a sense of kindness and generosity. We both interacted as cousins because we were practically age mates and we never used to see each other as uncle and nephew or vice versa, it was always 'hey cuzo'. As the years went by and we all got into our creative element, we were always encouraging each other as we met in all our family events to be the best in our craft, exchanging ideas and learning from one another. With the number of times we've interacted together professionally, I've always admired your creative mind and your great ability to take very artistic pictures which have marveled the world. I still remember when we were meant to go to the UK to shoot a mega TV commercial where you were supposed to be the lead photographer and I was the lead video editor at the time. We both got denied our visas but life moved on as we both consoled each other and you told me 'Don't worry fam, put your head up, there's always a next time'. I still remember mid this year how I recommended you to one of my clients to take pictures for the Gates Foundation. I was the producer at that time and we kept things so professional like we never knew each other. You did an exceptional job and made me so proud - you delivered! Always passionate and extremely good in what you did and detailed to the end. Words can't express how hard it is to see that you are no more. We've only been left with your memories and we ask the almighty God to continue giving us the strength to overcome this moment of sadness and grief in our family.

You will be dearly missed fam. May your soul Rest In Peace. From your Loving Nephew - **Brian Mulei** -



Our was a bond forged beyond blood. I remember your band days, Scanad days, your very first shoot with a borrowed camera, vour first edits, coke studio shoots. my first Facebook page was opened on your desktop. The office transitions from the bedroom, to the garage to your space. I was there when magig was born, not the company but the fire, the excitement that you had found your niche in life. You took it and reached for the skies, all along touching the life of every friend and family maintaining the relations with a delicate balance that seems elusive to many. Leaving Lasting impressions that would linger fresh and untainted till we would see each other again.

We shared rich conversations about life, family and love. I shared my girl troubles and you showed me your fair share. You were there for me when I joined law school and became an advocate, you cheered me all

along insisting that I must become the best. You celebrated my milestones like they were your own. We talked about setting my practice in Nanyuki and how I would be lead counsel negotiating those huge contracts coming your way. I wanted the best for you and You did for me too. When you told me you wanted to settle down with Tessa I lit up like a Christmas tree, after meeting her for the first I understood why. She became family. And I will look out for her just like you did for me.

Grand ma and Grand pa and your sisters were the world to you. Can't even begin to bear the pain of losing your born son. A part of you literally ripped apart. I will stand with them now and always. You told me to always find time and pass by Ole Villas and it won't stop now. You maintained your role as a son, brother, nephew and friend. It was not the same if you were not around. I am not sad, I am heart broken and shattered. The cruel hand of death has snatched you away but I have hope that we shall be reunited that blessed morning when the Lord takes us home.

In your honour, I shall live fully making each day count and I will be the best.

So long Miggy, I will see you again...

- Mugendi Jared (Nephew) -

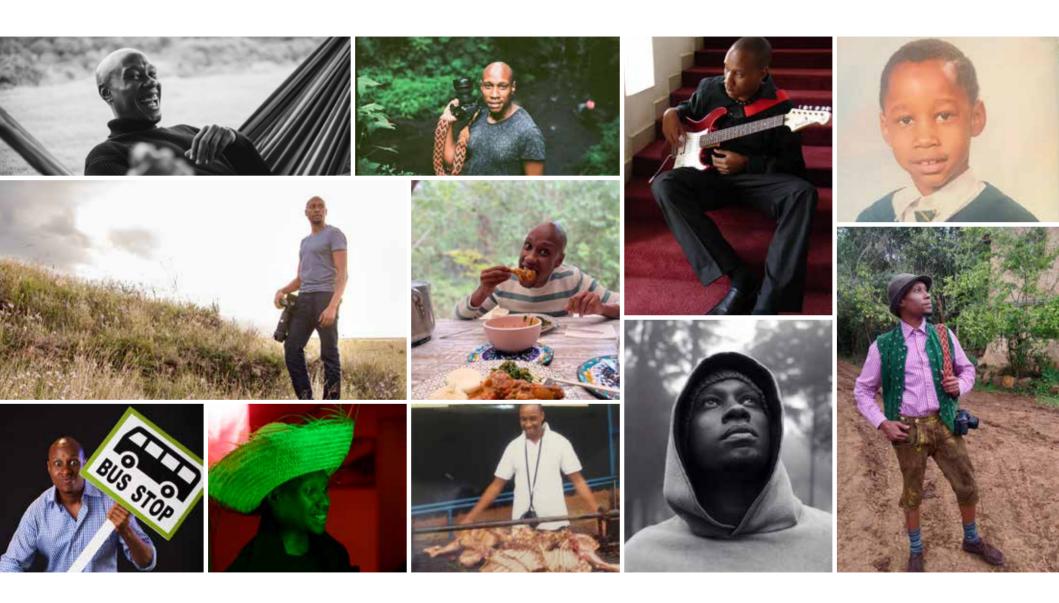


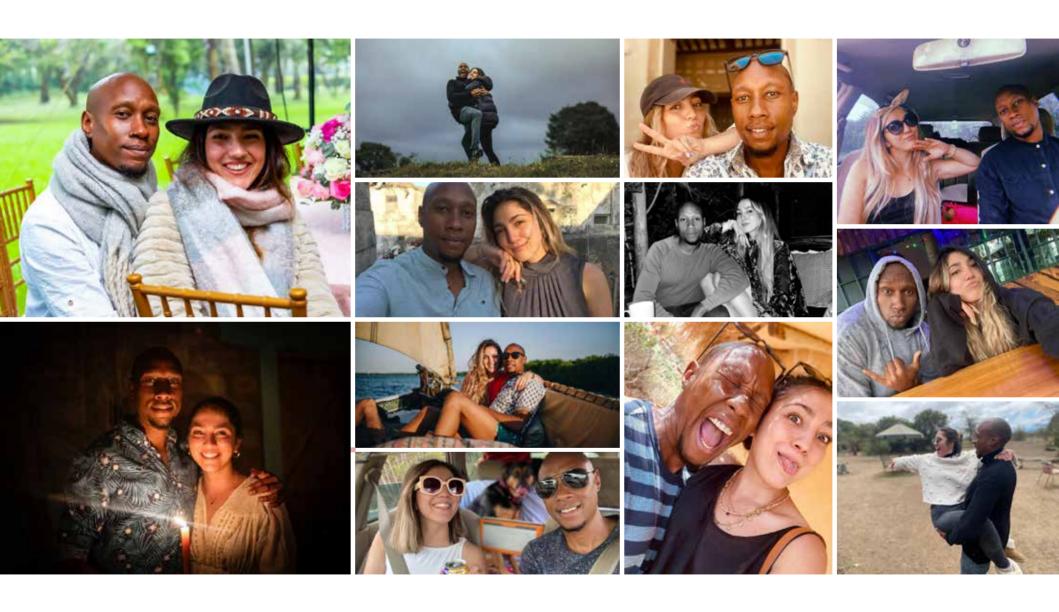
# - Eli (Nephew) -

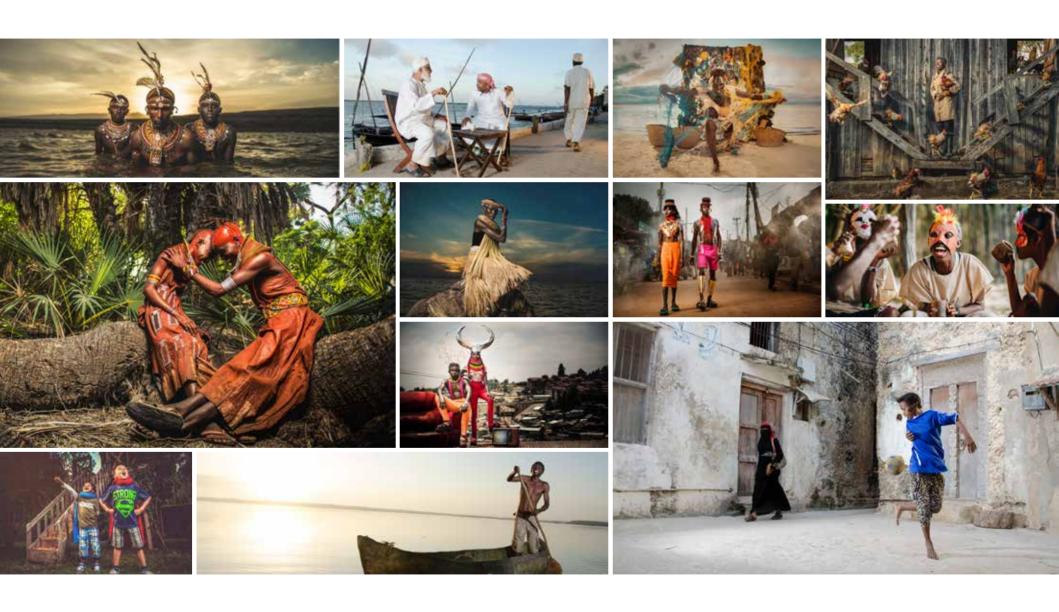














Migz used to call me my Schaetzle, Tessa taught him that, it's a word you call someone you love very much. And I called him the same.

A bit over two years ago Migz walked into our lives and it took us no time to recognize how special he was and shall always be. Migz immediately became like a son to me but also very much a soul mate in terms of spirit. We used to have long talks and exchanged a lot of our visions on life. Sometimes I would randomly receive a link on my Whatsapp about a topic we might have just talked about. Our conversations would transcend time and space and it made me feel very connected to him. I realized very quickly how much he loved our Tessa girl and how much she loved him. Needless to say that they both got our blessing from the start.

Everyone Migz touched with his being loved him immediately. Be it Tessa's siblings, my grandchildren, our friends and even guests. He became an amazing archery player and drummer and our evenings on Sandai always turned into little drumming sessions, filled with laughter and happiness.

We were blessed with his presence on our many small holidays to his beloved Samburu, Lake Baringo and the Aberdares... how we enjoy those days! Migz lived his life to the fullest and we were so lucky to be part of it. He taught me many lessons and I will try hard to live by them, since they would save many situations before they got into a disharmony.

At this moment I am deeply saddened that our time was so short, but I am still thankful that we were given such a gift. Migz will live on in us, he will remain a big mentor, and I will forever remember him, in my heart and soul. Migz is in the place he belongs, gone physically but spiritually will always be with us and I know I can still rely on his wisdom and power. Through our faith we are connected.

Migz you fly with the angels and I know you will be just there when I need your advice and guidance.

Till we meet again in that eternal place, in Love, dei Schaetzle

- Petra Allmendinger - Mama Tessa, Mother-in-law -



YOU KNOW THE SOVIET FIGHTER PLANES MIGS? JUST THINK OF THEM THEN YOU HAVE MY NAME.

One story perfectly captures his whole being and he instantly won my heart.

Migz was a gifted teacher. Patient, kind and able to connect with anyone. From my grandchildren to old men like me, generally unable to remember names. The first time I met Migz he politely introduced himself, and from the look on my face he immediately knew I may struggle to remember. I expressed the same and knowing my love for planes he effortlessly offered a solution. "You know the soviet fighter planes MiGs? Just think of them then you have my name." And remember I did. Not once did I forget his name and never will. I truly will remember and treasure him and the memories forever. From the first moment we met we had a very close connection. I was delighted to welcome Migz into our family. Seeing Migz and Tessa together was wonderful. Such a very special person who will forever live in our hearts.

- Peter Allmendinger - Baba Tessa, Father-in-law -





Dear Migz aka Babe, you brought so much light and love to all of us.

You gave us gifts that we will gratefully keep unwrapping for years to come. You inspired us all to grow, to be better, to do better, all the while accepting and loving us just the way we are. Your patience, attention to detail and passion for what and who you loved was like no other. Driven from deep within, executed with such ease. Giving your all to everything and everyone. Hours spent on a photoshoot for a lantern was not out of the ordinary. You did it wholeheartedly all for the children and the love of it. Your generosity was beyond words.

Your passion inspired Taye so much so that he also needed a camera for his shoots, a laptop to edit and weights to be just as strong as you. And thank goodness for those muscles of yours. Holding and throwing your nieces and nephews around was a particularly great skill. They adored you. It was all about Uncle Migz. Captured by your energy and love for life you provided both joy and safety. Only your sleeping habits the kids did not quite take on. Nothing could stop your power-naps. Not

even a car full of rowdy Allmendingers.

We thank you for choosing us. For allowing us to be part of your life. For giving us front row seats to the love you and my sister Tessa shared. And thank you for loving her so deeply.

You have left a big hole in all our hearts. One that only with your spiritual guidance, we will begin to fill with beautiful memories and lessons you have taught.

We love you and forever will.

- Jessica Allmendinger - Sister-in-law & mum to Nephews Taye and Tawi -



HIS LEGACY LIVES ON NOT ONLY IN MY HEART BUT IN THE HEARTS OF ALL WHO HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF KNOWING HIM.

I was fortunate to have known Migz through my beloved sister-in-law Tessa, and for that, I am eternally grateful.

The memories we shared, the laughter, and the heartfelt conversations we had will forever hold a cherished place in my heart. Migz was a remarkable person and made an indelible impact on the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing him. His kindness, warmth, and generosity were infectious, and I feel truly blessed to have been touched by his presence.

His legacy lives on not only in my heart but in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

- Benjamin Mbiyu - brother-in-law and dad to nephews Taye and Tawi -





33 77

WE WILL FOREVER CHERISH THE BEAUTIFUL, FUNNY AND ADVENTUROUS FAMILY TRIPS TO SO MANY AMAZING PLACES AND ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL THAT WE GOT TO SPEND THAT TIME TOGETHER.

We feel so blessed to have known such an amazing person. A gentle soul with so much warmth and patience and the most infectious laugh. We had the honour of meeting Migz through my precious sister Tessa and we say thank you. Thank you for bringing such a bright light into our lives.

We all loved him right from the moment we met him and we knew he was the one. We were so excited for what the future had in store for Migz and Tessa. We are all heartbroken and wish we could have had just a little more time with him and had the chance to tell him just how much we love him. We will forever cherish the beautiful, funny and adventurous family trips to so many amazing places and are forever grateful that we got to spend that time together. Levi and Nava (nephew and niece), believe that when someone passes away, they become a star in the sky. They say that Uncle Migz is now the brightest star in the sky, so when you look up in the sky and you see a star shining exceptionally bright, just know that that is Migz looking down at us.

We have lost a beautiful and loving soul. We say goodbye with heavy hearts and send love and comfort to all those whose lives he touched.

We love you Migz and miss you so dearly.

- Sina Klenk, sister to Tessa, sister-in-law -
- Matthias Klenk, brother-in-law -
- Levi and Nava, nephew and niece -



Migz, I wish we'd got a chance to share our common interests and get to know each other better. After just a few days of getting to know you I was ready to open my heart and accept you as a brother, and that is how I will remember you. As my brother.

You have impacted a lot of people's lives, and I am grateful to have been one of those.

- Yves Allmendinger - brother-in-law -



I will always cherish the time I spent with Migz talking about one of our shared favourite movies, Dune. It was more than just a film; it was a bond that connected us. We laughed, debated, and shared our love for every scene. It is a memory that will forever remind me of the joy he brought into our lives.

- Benjamin Allmendinger - brother-in-law -



## My hunbun,

I am thankful for the time we shared, even though it was regrettably short. It's not the quantity but the immeasurable quality of that time that truly matters. Our friendship was a quiet beauty, mirroring your own gentle spirit.

I am in awe of the ripple effect that writing your resignation letter and forcing you out of 'that place' caused. Look at what you have set in motion hunbun, look at the countless lives you touched and the lasting impact and influence you have left behind.

Humans like you, I wholeheartedly believe, never truly fade away. It's a belief I will hold on to, if only to offer temporary solace to my breaking heart. Every version of you is deserving of celebration. That is precisely what I intend to do, once the tears have subsided and my heart has found some measure of peace within the painful acceptance I am yet to find. You will always be tangible to me my hunbun, through the random love notes, the photographs that grace my family wall and the memories we will continue to share of you as time passes. Your memory is eternally engraved in the deepest recesses of my heart.

Here's to you, who you were and who you will forever remain.

With all my love... quiet, true and unwavering.

- Joy Oww "Big Sis" - Work Friend -





We can truly say we knew Migwa before he was Migwa.

We grew up within the safety of Ole Villas. The little sanctuary in a forever busy Nairobi that we'd always somehow find our way back to, even as we grew older. It still feels surreal to know that you've left us so soon. We remember the days of endless laughter and adventure, when we'd play any combination of hide and seek, tip and tip or football and piggie until 8 - 9 PM. Or at least until our parents chased up back into the house. You were always the one to ignite our imaginations, leading us on grand escapades that transformed our ordinary neighbourhood into a realm of endless possibilities.

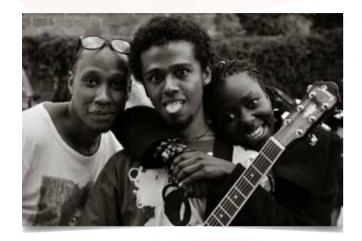
As we grew older, our friendships deepened, weathering the storms of adolescence and navigating the complexities of life together. You were a confidant, a rock, and a source of unlimited inspiration to us. You listened without judgment, offered sage advice, and celebrated our triumphs with unwavering enthusiasm. We watched you pick up the guitar and a DSLR camera for the first time. Then we eventually watched you turn from a rockstar, into the world-class photographer the world was lucky enough to experience.

Today, as we say goodbye, we find solace in the memories we shared. You may be gone physically, but your essence will live on in your art, the lives you touched, the laughter you evoked, and the love you so generously bestowed upon us. Rest in peace, Migz. We may not be able to see you, but your spirit will forever be with us, guiding us through life's challenges and reminding us of the joy and beauty that surrounds us. Until we meet again, your memory will forever be cherished.

With love and gratitude,

- Your Ole Villas Family -







# To my lifelong friend

Migwa may not have been my first friend but he was the first friend I remember having. We always considered ourselves brothers and as fate would have it, we would later become cousins. Well, technically he became my uncle, as much as I refused to accept it.

"Sup, Uncle" doesn't have the same ring to it as "sup, Cuz"!

I still can't believe you're gone. We knew each other for over 30 years and it feels like just yesterday we were kids, running around Ole Villas, carefree and full of life. Our friendship carried forward into adulthood and it didn't matter where life took us, he always managed to somehow drag me along, forcefully adopting me into these little families he created everywhere he went. From the Makini crew to Saints and Daystar, to inviting me to Sunday school and to countless bands and gigs, just to mention a few.

Finally, he introduced me to his Nanyuki Tribe and to "Tata" Tess. I'm sorry I didn't make more of an effort to come and see this beautiful new life he was building. I honestly thought we'd have countless more tomorrows to catch up and grow old.

To Baba Migwa and Mama Migwa, Joan, Ndunge and Liz, thank you for sharing the blessing of your son and brother with all of us. I can assure you that we would all have been emotional wrecks if not for the bravery and calmness you've shown in what must be your greatest tragedy.

I'm so proud of the person Migwa became. Thank you for everything, my friend.

I love you more than words can say.

- Ali (Friend) -





I never knew I could cry the way I have Migz. When they said El Nino was coming, they really meant it. The void in me echoes with your contagious laughter and memories of the adventures we had as Migz and Magz from shoots, to road trips, to the random on the spot songs of which I'm upset we didn't release as those would have gone platinum.

The creative person I am today owes you so much, a debt that I now cannot repay and it pains me. You introduced me to the creative scene when I came back home from university and helped doors open for me that kick started my career in Film and Photography. But our journey didn't start here. We met at college and immediately became best of friends because we just got each other. From our days in Daystar, we made music, to our days living together we made movies and amazing photos. You are such a multi talented creative and you pushed me to be the same.

For you, nothing was ever impossible, you used to set your mind to anything and get it done! It pains me we had a few years apart but we had to go discover ourselves individually. I'm more grateful that we found each other again and the few years apart felt like a few days once we reconnected. You were the happiest I have ever seen you in the last 15 years as you finally found your calling in your personal life with Tessa and in your professional life as well. Migz, I wish you can see the impact you have left behind wherever you are. Just look. Sometimes I feel I didn't deserve your love but you had enough for every single person you met and I'm left wondering how I can't help but feel so blessed to have been in and part of your amazing life. To the people that never met you, how unlucky they must be.

One of my many fondest memories was how we used to just be silly 24/7. My ribcage saw maximum damage from all the laughter. Anyone who knows you knows how much joy this brought them. We could be our entire selves in your presence without judgment. You are so accommodating, selfless, kind and compassionate Migz and looking back, I really never remember seeing you angry. Your legacy will live forever as you nurtured a lot of talent and pushed us past our limits. You loved unconditionally, whole heartedly and had one of the biggest hearts I have ever known. I know your spirit still lives with us and you will always have a piece of my heart. I love you brother.

## - Mageto (Friend) -







33 77

JUST ROLL WITH IT BABY...YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE.

- Migwa Nthiga -