The Last Breath
by Sam Kahiga
Sam Kahiga is a Kenyan author who is also a musician, painter, and producer of documentary films; none of this is evident in the story, however, which could be set in almost any country where eye-surgery is possible.

The title, *The Last Breath*, gives us a clue that there is going to be death somewhere in the story.
Characters
The narrator: a young man about to “come of age”.
His father, who is continually arguing with him.
His mother, the family peacemaker.
Eva, the lady he hopes to marry, who is blind.
Plot
A young man is in love with a blind lady whom he intends marrying, and he takes his father to meet her. The father strongly opposes the marriage because of her disability, so the young man snaps at him, “Then give her eyes.” That same day he hears the news: his father has terminal lung cancer.
When he later proposes to the lady she tells him that she wants to wait until she can see the ring; a donor has been found who is providing the corneas that she needs to regain her sight, and she is about to go into hospital for the operation.

In the end it becomes apparent that, knowing he was about to die, the father gave his corneas to restore the lady’s sight.
Themes
If you know that you are dying, try to be of benefit to others through it.
Parents care more about their children than the children realise.