



DELIWE

MPHAZIMA

DESTINY.....



Deep breathe....

Close your eyes....

I know it's not easy I know its hard.

I know it's taking much of your energy. I know this is not who are Deliwe I know the reasons behind this decision. You are stranded and this is the only available option you have left. You've tried applying for a bursary but you never got approved you've tried sending out curriculum vitae applications but still nothing conclusive came out of it. Sweetheart you've been everywhere doing everything and anything to turn these tables you've gave it your undivided devotion. Don't be hard on yourself God understands that's if he really does. Remember the reasons behind this thought. You can't fold your hands and laze around and watch your dearest son starve! You need to do this you need this.. Actually Mcebisi needs this.

Breathe in and out.

I open my eyes and look at my reflection on the mirror. My salty water is howling all the way down to my chin tainting my make up. That took me hours to apply and perfect. I reach for a toilet roll to wipe my tears the door steadily swings open. Tiny hands appear before the face comes to show.

"Mama"

"Cebi"

"Where are you going?"

"I'm going to work. "

"This late?"

"Yes Cebi it's called a night shift"

"Oh!.. Does your boss allow you to wear short skirts and showing off your skin like this? Principal Maleka doesn't allow the girls from my school to wear such short skirts. She says it's unruly and a disgrace."

I swallow hard and close my eyes.

"I'm an adult Cebi"

"I don't like your work mama it's making you show off your nakedness. "

I bite hard on my enamel yet facing the mirror. I feel gashes of tears rolling out.

"Mama"

"Mmmmm..."

"Are you gonna come back in time so you can prepare me for school? Gogo doesn't like it when I wake her up to prepare me for school. She shouts or better yet beats me up"

God..

What did I ever do to you? Why are you complicating my life like? Why are you bringing me so much pain and anxiety? Haven't I cried enough or suffered enough? Haven't I begged you and pleaded with you enough for things to change? If not for me please do it for Mcebisi this life is no life for him.

Please... **

"I will come back in time my boy I will even walk you to school myself"

"Okay mama.."

"Come let me tuck you in"

"And tell me a story?"

"I will sing instead"

"I love that too"

"I love you son"

"I love you too mom"

I sing him a cradle song. As he snores I smash my full thick lips against his delicate forehead. A while later I put on my long black cot and heels. I put on a weave on my bald head. I reach for my sling bag then turn off the lights then walk out.

Today it's buzzing. It's pretty obvious these cheats well my clients are loaded especially since it's month end.

"You late!"

"My apologies ma Flo I had to tuck my son and read him a..."

"Shut up!! Shut up Catte!! Wena you starting to get out of hand you treating this place like it's your five star hotel or better yet your mother's house. You doing as you please. Are the other girls stupids for pitching in time?" Flo -

"Ma Flo I have a son. And I happen to use a public transport. If you want me to show up in time you might as well just get me a car only then I will be punctual"

"Are you hearing yourself huh? Instead of apologising you shitting with this dick sucking mouth of yours! Get to your station you have two important clients. Make sure you give them the best of you Catte!"

I look at her then the bartender.

"Give me the usual"

"One or two?"

"Two please"

"Coming right up!"

"You still here Catte?!" Maflo-

"I need a booster!"

"Get your arse in that room!!" Maflo-

" Here.." Bartender -

"Thank you" I gulp my shoots and catwalk to my room. I tuck my stomach before walking in.

"Catte I've been waiting"

Fuck you..

"My apologies"

"Give me your best give daddy a happy hour. Suck it like you sucking candy. Lick it like you licking ice cream using that python tongue of yours come baby"

This fat jerk says biting on his lower dry and cracked up lip with his legs spread apart. I kneel in front of his bushy tiny pinky swear sized finger to give him a hand job.

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I'm twenty seven years old of age. Mcebisi is eight years old and doing his third grade in a nearby free government school. I cant afford a private school. To give you a little clue about who I am. I'm a simple tall caramel tone lady with diastema(Gap tooth) on my upper jaw. During the day I'm a loving supportive and devoted mother at night I'm a doll a baby a toy or better yet a stress reliving ball. I am anything and everything my clients wants me to be.

Sometimes I'm a puppy bones are thrown at me. Like a dog that I am I crawl to collect whatever bones to shove them inside my mouth.

Sometimes I'm a pit a lavatory seat or container. Pee and spermatozoa are sprouts on my body to my embarrassment. Saying this brings me laughter I'm not laughing because I'm ecstatic and jolly about this. I'm laughing because my life is a joke a big fat joke. To think I'm one of those people who call upon the mighty God's mercy each time I need a confident and mentor a big fat joke. To think I'm one of those people who call upon the mighty God's mercy each time I need a confident and mentor I'm the kind who prays till tears gash out and saliva dries out but the results I get are always nothing if not silence.

I'm staying in a township in a RDP house that my aunt believes belongs to her while it is my father's. My mother and father both never raised me. Mom abandoned me when I was two years old She went to marry in the Eastern cape in a small hamlet called eDutywa. My father has been in prison for as far as I can remember forcing my father's sister to raise me. My Aunty has one child Jabulile whose married to a Pedi speaking guy from Limpopo province who happens to have money and a stable life.

Then there's me the Cinderella or snow white of the family or better yet the rapunzel. I am the kind who is treated like a nobody a slave or whatever you may imagine or think of. I'm the kind of a princess who is out casted and labeled by many I always call myself the evil fruit the forbidden fruit that God warned Adam about. I've never experienced anything holy evil and unkind things have always been happening to me. Hence I call myself Ester I always go around carrying a casket of my pain my failures and my burdens. I'm no different from an orphan I mean Mphikeleli is in prison and my mother is playing wife wife in dutywa. Everyone knows Mama is not my mother. I'm just a kid she took in clothed and abused throughout her childhood. Even when I was pregnant with Mcebisi the vile treatment never left the house.

Actually having Mcebisi made her to throw all towels on me to be honest with you I was excited by that. Because it meant she won't bully me around physically and have me doing all those crazy stuff that she used to make me do. She still does abuse me even now but now it's verbally or emotionally. I know it's bad but I can take that one in if I can handle so many man in one night what is a mere "You're useless"?

How I conceived Mcebisi? It's simple. My aunt locked me outside one time When I was doing my twelfth grade her reason was that I came home late. Mind you I was only coming from a physical science Afternoon class the time was five pm. Luckily My then boyfriend "Mcebisi's dad" gave me shelter at his mother's house that night we didn't do quickies he gave himself time to explore my body and tease each and every part of it. He even licked places I never knew were to be licked. We made love all night long.

Days went by I started coming home late on purpose. I knew she was gonna lock me out and my boyfriend would come to save the day. That became our routine for a little while. When I was writing my preliminary paper I found out I was pregnant. I told Mcebisi's father boyfriend was happy about the news and looking forward to the next step. Weeks went by boyfriend and his family were out of town. No letter was left behind no explanation actually nobody knew when and where they went. They just disappeared into thin air and poor Ester was left pregnant and heart broken and carrying the casket yet again.

Sometime last year I found a Facebook invite from Mcebisi's dad. Like every girl I put on my investigating shields and skills on use and went all private investigating on the dude. Guess what I found? He was married and happy. He has A decent paying job a comfy home trendy clothes and fancy cars. Well he has money and his living large his very well established. Things worked out

for him after all he was in varsity when he left me pregnant with Mcebisi. About the friend request I deleted it and blocked him. He deserved that slap back after all he sold me dreams and gave another woman my world my life and everything I had always aspired for.

"Ooh!!!!" He says grabbing hard on my butt. Poor Ester is grabbing hard on the bed sheets not paying much attention on what is happening.

"We done.." That comes as a whisper. He collapse besides me his soaking wet and all smiley.

"You have a Devine pussy Catte. Now I see why they call you a female cat"

"Pay up"

"We still having a little chat"

"I hate conversing"

"You so beautiful young lady. I wish I was never married"

I get up from the bed and put on a robe.

"Your arse is sexy too."

"Dude pay up I need to go. I have a son to prepare for school"

"Does your son know you are a whore?"

"Does your wife know you get an erection for whores?"

He swallows hard and starts dressing up. He throws a few notes on my face. I kneel to pick them up.

"Bring my condom you whores wouldn't mind using it to I'm pregnant yourselves so you can milk out money from educated and rich men like myself"

"Fuck off!" I slam the door on his face. I count the notes R1500. Not bad. I need a drink and a thoroughly bath.

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02 It's been a couple of minutes soaking my body in a bath tub. My water is even cold and starting to foam those fungal bubbles I don't know what to call them but I'm certain you know what I'm talking about. That algae like foam that floats on dirty water that's exactly what I'm talking about. I pull a towel and wipe my body. I brush my teeth and resume washing the bath tub. I walk to my bedroom to lotion my body. I wear matching under garments. A pair of Adidas maroon Tracksuits covers my body. I was given these by Jabu when her body started putting in more pounds than it was previously. I put on my perfume. "Cebi" He toss and turns. "Mcebisi..." "Mmmm...." "Wake up baby it's time to get up and prepare for school" "It's cold mama" "I know sweetheart I will dress you warm.

Wake up please" "Mama the teacher will be absent today" "But Mcebisi will not be absent Now wake up baby please" He gives up and wakes up. He rubs his eyes I look at him and smile. How I love him in all the bad that has been happening in my life his the only good thing that has ever happened to me. Such a cute little man I have. "Morning mama" "Morning baby how was your night?" "I didn't sleep enough." "My apologies. Come let's get you cleaned out. Did you polish your shoes last night?" "Yes" "Put your school bag nearby?" "Yes" "Lastly did we write all home works?" "Yes mama" "Okay then.. Come" I pick him up and walk him to the bathroom I help him bath.. "Brush your teeth boy" "I'm on it" He smiles. We walk to the bedroom I grease his body and face with petroleum jel mixed with Magnolia oil and tree oil essential oil. This combo has been good for his skin. It's sparkling clean you would swear he never plays outside the way his so even toned. He wears his long-sleeved under t-shirt woolie stockings follows then socks. His school long sleeved shirt and jersey pants and school shoes. I give him a tracksuit sweater and a scarf then a hat and gloves. He smiles. "What?" "I'm warm mommy" "Thats great son." "Mama" "Yes baby" "Do you love me?" "Of course I love you Mcebisi. Why are you asking?" "Because I need a new a school bag this one has a hole on the bottom-left" "I will get you a new one baby" "A puma one?" I look at him. "Not a puma one mama but the one you like and afford. " He says looking at me. "I will get you a puma brand but we will settle for the cheapest one Cebi" "Thank you mama" "It's my duty baby. Come let's go make breakfast." "And my lunchbox" "No lunchbox today you have pocket money" "Aunty Vuyiseka gave it to you?" "No.. Mommy has been saving up for you" "How much is it?" "Give it a guess" "R5. 00?" He says with a broad smile on his face. "No.." "R2. 00 again?" He says with a faint smile. "No Cebi.. Let's go please" I hold his tiny hand and walk him to the kitchen. I open the fridge I reach for the milk cartoon to my surprise it's empty. I just bought it yesterday. "Cebi" "Ma" "Have you been drinking milk again?" "No mama" "Then what happened to your cornflakes milk?" "It's finished I made a face masks out of it last night." Aunty- "Aunty that was Mcebisi's milk for breakfast" "So early in the morning you crying over used up milk? Come on Deliwe grow over it." Aunty- I huff and pant. "Morning gogo" Cebi- "What's for breakfast?" Aunty - "Mcebisi come we gonna run late for school" "Kodwa mama I'm hungry I haven't ate cornflakes" "You will eat porridge at school" "I don't like it" "Here's an apple then" "I want Cornflakes" "Cebi there's no milk njena" "Buy milk" Cebi- "Mcebisi can we not fight not again." He looks at me with a sad face. I hold his bag pack and head for the gate. Cebi is angry. "I will buy you fat cakes with liver spread is that fine?" "I hate fat cakes I'm gonna be fat just like gogo" "It's only for today my baby please" He looks at me. "If you don't want fat cakes then I'm no longer giving you the R10 I wanted to give you" "You want to give me R10. 00 mama?" I nod. "I will eat the fat cakes mamami" I smile and lean over to kiss him.. " Mommy le my son how are you? " "Buzz off wena" "Morning boy boy." Mcebisi smiles at this guy. The guy looks at me. "Morning

wife." I blow my nose. "One day otloba mosadi waka Deliwe I mean it. " He politely says looking at me. "Mama uthini?" "Nami angimuzwa" Cebi laughs so do I. "Deliwe can I drive my little man to school?" I ignore this fool and greet the lady who sells yummy fat cakes. "Ma Unjani.." "I'm fine sisi.. Hello boy" "Hello gogo" I glance on him. "Sorry... Sawubona gogo" "Better.. Can I have... How many fat cakes do you want baby?" "Two" "Can I have two fat cakes and two polony slices" I hand her money. "Don't worry I will pay." I look at this guy agitated. "Small do you have pocket money?" I look at Cebi. My poor son nods. "Here is R50 you can add on your pocket money" "Don't annoy me wena.." I say pulling Cebi's hand walking away. "My name Is Sidney.." "And my name is fuck off." "Mama uyathukana" "Uyasangana lobaba don't take money from strangers ne?" "I promise" "Thats my baby. Here is your pocket money. I love you" "I love you too and thank you so very much mommy. I will pass in all my class works and homeworks. " "I know you will my baby now off you go sweetie" "Have a good day mama" "Have a good day sweetheart." "You will fetch me?" "Yes I will fetch you" "You the best mom" With that said I'm instructed to lean over so I can get a kiss on the cheek though. I can't kiss my son with the same lips I used to.. Anyway never mind. He runs inside the school premises.. I smile and slowly walk back home. I find Aunty watching repeats of soapies wearing her pink gown. I open all windows and curtains. I start off by washing dishes and cleaning the kitchen. I move to the bathroom then my bedroom with Mcebisi. I decide on doing laundry I love keeping myself busy and occupied. Because if I don't do that I will get more time to think and maybe I might start having thoughts of ending my life yet again being busy leaves no room for thoughts. "Did you branch out to my bedroom?" Aunty - "No" "Why not?" "Because it's your bedroom and your mess is your mess" "Angizwa?" "I will clean it Aunty" "Bengithi uyagoloza" (I thought you were complaining) I head to her bedroom to start cleaning I sneeze while at it. That's how stuffy it is in here. I do laundry for everyone. A red Mercedes parks right in front of the gate. A window rolls down. "Ntase please open the gate for me" That's my aunts daughter Jabu. I wipe my wet hands using one of the dirty clothes. I walk towards the gate I wait for her to park before closing the gate. My Aunty peeps on the window. "Eh!! What's your name again? Oh! Deliwe! Please give me a hand pretty please" Jabu- I roll my eyes and slowly walk towards her. "How are you sisi?" "I'm good thanks and yourself?" "Very well thanks Tsiamo stop doing that to my car!" Jabu- "Mama it's not me

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ke Mahlatsi" "I will beat you up little rascals. " She says reprimanding her spoil brats "Bona Deliwe that black refuse bag has some of Tsiamo' s old clothes and shoes. Surely Mcebisi would make use of those. They still in good condition. Please help me carry these" She says walking inside the house only carrying her handbag mind you the are plenty of plastics on the booth but you know who I am

Cinderella and I must sweat as always. I off load the booth and put everything else in the cardboards and fridge some I put in the bathroom. I take the black refuse bag Jabu came with.. I start surfing through indeed these are still in good condition. At least she washed them this time around or maybe her maid did the washing? Whatever it is at least the clothes are sparkling clean. "Thanks for the clothes Jabulile" "It's a pleasure babe that's what siblings are for." Jabu- "Jabu it's Friday today my pots need to rest." Aunty- "Ma I'm craving for a home cooked meal can I rest from greasy foods please." "Hhaibo Jabu! Spoil me a little nobody spoils me in this house not even with a simple KFC streetwise two. Nix! Save me from my damsel please ngane yami" "Yoh! Fine mama let's go ke" Jabu- "Let me change quickly" Jabu looks at me then her cell phone. "Let me go finish up what I was doing outside excuse me" "Sure" She says standing up. I get back to doing my laundry. By the time I finish its 2pm Mcebisi will be coming out from school anytime soon. Oh! Flip it's Friday his already out. That explains Jabu's visit alongside her kids. God! This is gonna be a horrible weekend for my son I can feel it. _ Mcebisi Mphazima "Cebi jump in I will drop you off myself" "No thank you teacher my mother is gonna come for me" I say peeking on my Spiderman watch that my mother bought me a month ago. "Mcebisi it's dangerous and risky to leave you here standing all by yourself come I will drop you off." "There she is..." I ran towards my mother. She kneels in front of me and embraces me. She's been running her breathing is evidence of that. "I'm sorry my baby I was doing laundry and I lost track of time. I had forgotten it's Friday I'm so so sorry my boy" "It's okay mommy" "No Cebi it's not okay. It's not okay my baby. " She says embracing me and kissing me all over my face. I embrace her and smile. "I love you mama" "I love you too my baby. Look at how dusty your shoes are." She dusts my shoes and holds my bag pack. "Mama" "Yes baby" "Can I ask you something?" Deliwe "Can I ask you something?" "Yes" "Where is my father?" What the heck? "Your father?" "Yes mama" "Well your father is.. Ehm your father? Yooh Cebi.." He looks at me. "Your father is... Is working.. Yes his working somewhere far far away. Why are you asking about your father?" "Nothing.." "Mcebisi.. What happened?" "Nothing mama" "Cebi did someone tease you about your father?" "No" "Then why are you asking me about your father?" "I'm just concerned if wether he has a car or money just like Troy's father who always buys him beautiful clothes and shoes. And who loves him a lot" My heart immediately ache. "Does my father love me?" "Don't you want Nik Naas baby and that snake candy?" "No thank you mama" "Don't you want to go to the park?" "No mama I just wanna go home and write my homeworks" He says in a tone that breaks my heart. Mcebisi has never inquired about his father he has never bothered himself in wanting to know his father. This is all new to me. Actually my child is starting to act strange and this is scaring me.. "Mom I wrote you a letter" I smile. "Where is it?" "Here" He says reaching for his pockets. "Don't mind the drawings" "Okay.. And thank you" He faintly smiles. I open the letter my eyes land on a sweet message. I lean

over to kiss his cheek. We reach the house and my little man's smile fades immediately he sees his cousins. Tsiamo jumps to embrace him but Cebi walks away. Talking of a rude child that's Mcebisi this guy doesn't forgive easily. Surely his still angry about what Tsiamo once said about the lollipop he once bought him. "Mcebisi Hello.." Jabu- "Hi" He coldly says. "Cebi" I look at him. "Greetings mamkhulu Jabu" "How are you boy?" "I'm fine" "Thats awesome. We going to KFC do you want to come with?" Jabu- "He doesn't know KFC but rather chicken feet's" Mahlatsi- The kid giggles. Mcebisi blows his nose. "Mahlatsi stop it!!! I will smack you you hear me?" "I don't want to come with you" Mcebisi- "I will buy you a burger." Jabu- "Stop worrying yourself about him his comfortable with chicken feets" Aunty - I feel a sting on my chests. "I don't eat chicken feet's!!" Mcebisi- "Baby come... Let's go change your uniform" I say to prevent my tears from falling. "Cebi doesn't know KFC!! Cebi doesn't eat KFC!!" The Mahlatsi kid sings sticking his tongue out. My Aunty laughs while Cebi rolls a fists. "Mcebisi doesn't know KFC!!!" Mahlatsi - "Shut up!!! Shut up you fool!!!" Mcebisi bursts and walks away. Leaving everyone mesmerized myself too. "I'm sorry about that he doesn't normally use such words. I'm sorry Mahlatsi.." The kid cries Jabu looks at me. "This is what you get from kids who were never raised by their fathers" My aunt says standing up. "Are you coming with us?" Jabu- "You guys can go Mcebisi and myself will be fine. " "Ohw! I see.. " Jabu- "Deliwe Don't touch the meat that's in the freezer My daughter sweats really hard for that meat. So Please young lady don't go any where near the deep freezer. " Aunty- "Ma.." Jabu- "Yini Jabu? Meat is very expensive if she wants it. She must go buy it herself. You don't have a daughter as old as her. Already you helping her with Mcebisi here and there. The least she can do is to save the meat and opt for milk or sour milk if not tin fish and spinach Jabulile" Mamkhulu - "Mama it's just food stop fussing over it. Come on.."Jabu- " Hhayi Jabu. It's not your fault that her life turned out like this. She should've studied and avoided boys or better yet conceived in marriage Just like you. " Aunty- " Mama!!! "Jabu- "I won't touch the meat Ma" I say- "Good girl.. Let's go my baby. Mahlatsi don't let that rat get under your skin he doesn't even use fork and knife when his eating" Aunty - "Please don't call him that.." "Call him what? A rat? His a rat!" Aunty - "Deliwe Don't mind mama please. Shall you starve please eat. I buy food so you can all eat. I will bring something for you guys." Jabu- "Thank you Jabu but it's not necessary." "Come on Deliwe" "It's really not necessary thank you" "Oh! Fine then..." I run to my bedroom in search of Mcebisi.

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Jabulile Kfc is for the poor. There's no way I'm dinning in that place its no different from shopping at shoprite. That's not my kind of tea I would rather go to fishaways as an alternative. "This place is beautiful Jabu what is it called? " "Fishaways ma." "Mmmm... I see.. Had I not married your broke

father I would be parading on such places everyday this is beautiful" "It's nothing compared to most of the restaurants I dine in.. Anyway let's order" I wave for the waiter to take our order. "Ma what are you gonna eat?" "I will have meat my child" I look at her. "Like really mama?" "Yes.. I want a very nice meat not these knorr and rajah dunked pieces I eat at home" "Ma choose the meal you wanna have from that menu. There's hake and chips or calamaris and prawns or prawns dumblings if not mistaken" I say scrolling on my phone. Still theres no message from my husband. "Ready to order?" Waiter - "I would love your calamari salad and your prawns pops for a drink please give me carbonated water thank you" "Pleasure.. And mama? " Waiter "I will have whatever she's having" "Ma I'm having a salad." "Yooh nkosiyami angiyiboni I beef or wors or better yet Inkukhu. Nakhu ngizodliswa izintethe" Mom- The waiter giggles so are my kids. "Please give her one of your platters with chips and hake and a few other extras. As for the kids please give them..." They cut me short. "I would love the yellow rice with vegetables hake and a cold drink" Mahlatsi- "As for me can I have two Calamari sliders with two fries and two coke tins" Tsiamo- I look at my son. The waiter walks off. "Two calamari sliders Tsiamo? Whose gonna eat the second one because between you and I you are not a fan of food" "It's for Mcebisi's mama" Tsiamo- I blow my nose. "Whose gonna pay for that?" "I will pay if you have a problem" "Geez Tsiamo o raloka ka dijo le chelete. Wena wasenya!" I say snapping. (You playing with food and money. You wasting) "But you promised to buy him something Mme" "That was before he insulted your brother" "But Aunty apologized on his behalf" Tsiamo- "Whatever I will pay.. He better not vomit" I say pressing my phone typing yet another message.

Jabulile is a high school teacher teaching English and Biology. I'm thirty two years old and married. I'm a mother to two boys Tsiamo aged nine Mahlatsi aged six. Their father is a lecture in university of pretoria. On his spare time his a takelot driver and a rugby coach. We stay in a very good and quiet surbarb area just outside joburg. My kids go to a private school. My life is good I can afford myself and the groceries Bernard can afford the kids My self and our lifestyle. I am my mothers only child. My father is a story for another day. Deliwe is my uncles daughter making her my cousin. Growing up we were never close but I tried to bring her closer instead she chose her space. Her pregnancy shocked many people myself included because she was an indoors kind of a person. Till this date we still don't know who the father of her child Is or what he was doing. Rumor says it was a taxi driver but I doubt that's the truth. Surely it was one of his high school buddies because vele she preferred male friends than girls. Our food arrives. Mom rolls her eyes it's not what she wanted. "Ma" "Yes" "How is she with him? Does she still.. You know?" "No.. She longer beats him up. They are buddies now" "And the alcohol addiction?" "That too she no longer drinks. She loves him now. It's been like that after that iron incident when he was four years old." "I see... At least she remembered she was a mother" "But she's a useless one a mother that doesn't work" "Apparently she works ma"

"Works where Jabulile?" "At some club she sweeps and collects bottle empties. She told me that" "That explains her fake perfumes and cheap clothes from small street. She's not different from an unemployed person. What if she's selling Jabu?" "I've been pushing that thought for a while now mama but I doubt she would do that. We talking of someone who passed her matric with flying colors mama not the likes of me who passed without any distinctions. She had six of them ma" I say sipping my carbonated water. "What have those six distinctions brought her Jabu? She's a piece of furniture in the house a whole decoration my child. She has a child whom his father abandoned and left while it was still a clot. She's a nobody Jabu. Wena you married you have everything. Yena Lutho " " Yah neh... " " I anticipate the day she moves out. I can't stand my brother's child soon she will fight me for that RDP house. " " I can get you a house mama you can give the poor thing that house ma. It's not like you need it and after all it's her father's house" "Over my dead body. I'm going nowhere Jabu not after we've extended that RDP and turned it into a mansion no way" "Sometimes I wish we could have given her a loan to study mama instead of renovating the house. She would be far with her life now" "Wena with this kind heart of yours? One day she will open her legs for your husband or better yet be witch the money you give her." "You have started with your myths" "My myths landed you a well established husband.." I clear my throat and look at the kids. "It's not that mama he just happened to love me." "Jabu you all mistaken.." "Ma eat please" She giggles. I rethink the things she said I don't believe in witchcraft and sisters snatching each other's husband's. Deliwe might be struggling but she would never in a million years sleep with the father of my kids. Even at gunpoint. Mama is trying to cloud my mind... Deliwe My son has been crying hysterically. I'm trying everything in my powers to harsh him but Mcebisi is crying none stop.. "Cebisi what is going on my baby? Please talk to me" He sniffs.. I rub his back as I have his tiny legs wrapped up around my waist as his sitting on my lap and resting his head on my chest. My poor baby has hiccups. "Boy.." "Ma" "What's going on Mcebisi talk to me. Is it about what Mahlatsi said?" He keeps quiet. "Is it about me coming to fetch you late at school?" He keeps quiet. "Okay.... Do you want cornflakes?" "No." "Do you want a Kota?" "No.." "Mcebisi what do you want?" "I want my father" "Mcebisi...." That comes a whisper and whimper. I know exactly how he feels. I once was in his position. Each time my Aunty said vile words broke my heart or left me with a mark on my body I would scream "I want my father". I know how he feels right now sadly there's nothing I can do or say. He needs his father and I'm not him but rather his mother. If he was my age I would roll him a blunt or give him a shots or a blade to cut his wrists. At some point in my life these helped me greatly even though one time they put my son's life in jeopardy. "Shhhhh Mcebisi" "I want him mama. I want my father!!" He cries louder than before. I should've known he wasn't okay from the moment I collected him from school. "Mcebisi I'm here my baby ngikhona mina. Futhi ngiyakuthanda" "You not my father mama" The real truth is I

need his father too for moral support. For christ sake his the only man I've slept with and enjoyed the moment. His the only man who has ever held my body with tender loving care. The only man who has looked me in the eyes without having motives of hurting me. Unlike these perverts who insert themselves within my folds without caring about my state Wether I'm enjoying it or wanting it they just careless. All they care about is their cum. But not the mother who is fending for her child not the little girl whose soul is detached from her body. Not the weeping girl that's hiding behind this beauty all they praise and love. There's more to this girl but those idiots do not know.. They are filthy rich they should be hiring me not wiring me***** "Lets go for a walk. Or let's go buy a burger" "Can we visit my father" "I don't know where he leaves

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they should be hiring me not wiring me***** "Lets go for a walk. Or let's go buy a burger" "Can we visit my father" "I don't know where he leaves I told you baby he stays far" "Let's call him" "I don't have his numbers" "What is his name Mama?" "Mcebisi.. Let's go baby I'm gonna buy you ice cream too the one you love." He faintly smiles. "Really mama?" "Yes baby" "Cool.. Let's go" "First we gonna wash your face" "And yours too" "Indeed" I smash my lips on his forehead. "Come let's get ready" "Mama please buy me KFC today" "Fine baby" I say with a smile. My cell phone beeps I look at him and exhale deeply. Mcebisi looks at me. "Your phone is ringing" "I know baby" It rings unanswered. A message comes through. "Maflo wants you on duty in the next coming three hours don't be late Catte Vuyi" I roll my eyes. My son and I get ready for our little outing.. *** I buy the little man what he wants I buy myself a fold over with chicken wings. Mcebisi is enjoying his burger and meat. I look at him and smile. "You loving it baby?" "I love it mamami it taste good" "Thats great." "Mama" "My boy?" "Are you going to work today?" "Eehm... Yes" "Please don't go" "Nana I can't miss work I really have to go there boy" "What time are you gonna come back? There's a parents meeting tomorrow at school at 9 am" "I will make it for the meeting baby You're in grade 3 A right?" "Yes.." "I will make it baby I promise" "I know you will mama" He smiles. "Mcebisi" "Ma" "Please remain in the bedroom if they trouble you" "I will ma" "I love you" "Me too.. Mama can I taste that thing?" "Here..." I say drawing my fold over closer to his mouth he bites it. "I love it mama it's nice" "Everything is nice to you my baby you can have it" "Mama wena you don't eat why?" "Seeing you eat makes me full nana" "Please eat mama" "Fine Cebi.." He smiles.. "Can I join you guys?" I lift my head up it's that scumbag from my hood Sidney. "Hello Mcebisi?" "Sure" I look at Cebi after saying that. "Ma that's how boys greet each other." "Indeed Mfanaka wena o nswempu. " Sidney - "Mind your language when talking to my son" The guy looks at me. "My apologies.." He says staring at me. "Mcebisi are you full?" Sidney - "And how do you know his name? I don't recall ever telling you or anyone my

son's name" He keeps quiet and looks at my son. "Boy.. Don't you want ice-cream?" "It's already 6pm My son doesn't eat sugary stuff at this hour" "It's a Friday Deliwe" "And you think I do not have a calender to see that?" He heaves a sigh and keeps quiet. "Mcebisi take your things we leaving" "But mama I'm still eating" "You gonna eat at home baby" "You don't have to leave because of me Deliwe you guys can stay and enjoy yourselves. I meant no harm I'm sorry." Sidney says standing up I look at him. "Boy boy... Here's a little gift for you to buy ice cream tomorrow earlier on the day. Sharp neh?" "Thank you Malume Sidney" "Sure boy..." He says genuinely smiling showing off his white teeth and side dimple. He looks at me and walks away. Mcebisi looks at me. "I'm sorry I took the R100 mama" "It was your gift baby I'm sorry if I embarrassed you" He looks at me. My phone rings I stand up to answer. "Vuyiseka" "Hello mama womlungu." I look at my son. "Don't call him that. " "Okusalayo his father is white" "You meant biracial?" "Whatever... Look please show up early for your shift Catte it's hectic today. Mathepelo left the city Candice is off duty. It's only you and I please show up if you don't I will die of dick.. We have a lot of clients today" "Vuyiseka I'm with my son" "So?" "Don't piss me off telling me about work." "Catte please" "Do I have a choice?" "I will muff you shall you make it in time" "Stuff you Vuyiseka" She giggles.. "Greet the little cute fella." "Sure..." I end the call and walk back to my son. You want me to explain his race? Like it says he is a mixture of races. I'm black and his father isn't. I will give you a clue on how Mcebisi looks like.. He has an olive complexion his not fair nor medium but olive toned. He has Carly black hair brown eyes and pink lips. His race is not too obvious to many those whom I've told about his father realized later that Mcebisi wasn't fully black but rather blended. All thanks to my complexion people don't suspect his other race. Not that I'm not proud of my son I just hate explaining myself or his race. "Nana let's go home I need to prepare for work please" "Okay mama" Sometimes being called mama is the warmest feeling ever it's liberating honestly. It makes you feel a little bit like a certain superhero or an important being that your child looks up too. **** Jabulile I park outside the car and remain inside. Mama and the kids walk inside. I exhale deeply as I contemplate calling my husband. I ring him luckily he responds. "Jabu" "Honey I miss you" "Jabu please stop complicating things" "Benard please think of Tsiamo and mahlatsi.. Ben.. Hello... Are you still there? Ben... Ben!!" The line is dead. He cut me while I was talking. I howl and bang my head on the steeringwheel. I spot Deliwe and her son opening the gate. I quickly reach for a toilet paper and wipe my tears. I look at my reflection on the rear view mirror. Smile Jabu! Smile! I smile and walk out. Mcebisi stops laughing and clings on his mother. I must say Deliwe has the most cutest baby that I've ever seen. My kids are pretty but they take nothing on Mcebisi I don't know how to describe this kid. Surely his father was eye candy. "Hey.." "Hey Jabu you guys are back?" Deli- "Yeah we back.. Where are you two coming from?" "We were just stretching our legs" "I see... Mcebisi don't you want to come with us to gold reef city

tomorrow?" God knows I need the best distraction at this hour spending time with the kids will be a little more therapeutic. He looks at his mother. "It's fine baby you can go there" Deli- "Are you sure mama?" "It's gonna be fun Mcebisi. You gonna play games and eat candies" I add "Mama what am I gonna wear?" "Mamkhulu brought you clothes we gonna choose there." "No problem mama." "Are you gonna join us Deliwe?" "What time? I have a school meeting to attend tomorrow morning" "No silly we gonna go there after 12 besides I want my nails and hair done are you game?" "I will pitch for the gold reef part" "No stress.. I'm gonna need an outfit too" I say. "Great.." Deliwe says looking at me in awe. I know she craves for this life somewhere in the back of my mind I know she would've turned out like this had luck been on her side. It's a pity it is what it is. I walk inside the house I find Mahlatsi jumping on the couches.. I smile and go sit next to Tsiamo who is less chaotic.. Deliwe walks in with Mcebi Tsiamo smiles. Mcebisi walks to the bedroom with his mother. I click my tongue what a rude kid.

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04 Sidney I spot Deliwe wearing a long black coat with heels. She's wearing way too much make up. No filter she's pretty but I like her more in her natural look. This make up hides her true beauty. The guys I'm chilling with whistle as she comes nearby. "Mabebeza!!! Come my way!!" One of them says. "Aaah! Madam! Wena uyashisa!" I take a sip from my Sol beer. "Sweetheart mamela!" "Piss off!!" Deliwe- "Wena uyazitshela ucabanga ukuthi uwu queen wase London kanti uyigundwane lase Msotra!!" (You full of yourself you. You tend to think you are the it girl yet you nothing but a soweto rat) "Says a ugly piece of shit with yellow teeth. Fuck you!!" Deliwe- I furrow my brows and look at her. "Eeh!! Sithini lesfebe? Ithi ngisondele khona ngizokuzwa kahle. " (What is this bitch saying? Let me come closer surely I will hear Clearly) He says standing up I drink up my last ounces of beer yet looking at this guy. "Dare come closer to me I will slap you.. I dare you" The guys laugh. "Mina ngizokusakaza ngesende ngikuphe enye ingane msunu!" (I will dick you down and give you a second baby pussy) I roughly pull him by his clothes so much that he accidentally drops the bottle of beer on the ground. "Kamo! And now?" "Dare to talk to her like that I will fuck you up ntanga. You hear me?" "Kamo.." "Do you hear me?" I repeat myself. "Sure" "Free booze drives you crazy tsamaya lerete lapudi!! Fuck off!" (Get lost goat's balls) "Kamohelo I was joking mfethu keng kgante?" (What's up?) "A joke? Insulting a woman is a joke?" He looks at me. "That shit didn't sound like a joke or did it sound like a joke to you gents?" "No Kamza Jomo was being a dick." "Aah wena mnyamane!!" Jomo- "Listen dare talk to her like that ever again. You will have me to deal with you hear me?" "Sure Sidney" "Futsek!!!" I find Deliwe glaring on me. **** I gagg endlessly as I pleasure my client His pulling my weave drawing me nearer to his manhood. His cum fills up inside the

condom I've put on his shaft. There's no way I will go raw on a stranger. Some of these people have STI's and other sexual transmitted diseases that I hold no knowledge of. I can never risk with my life in this manner Rather I taste the latex of the condom than his sperms. "Thank you baby that was great.." He says spanking my arse. "I want more I want the cake as well." "You will pay double the amount. " "Money is not an issue baby." He says kissing my collarbone. I roll my eyes. "How old are you?" "Twenty seven" "Why are you doing this job?" "Are you fucking me or fucking off?" "No need to be rude you too pretty to be ghetto." "Dude. There's a queue outside of men who need to be satisfied pay up and leave before I huff any further. " "For you I would leave my wife. She can't even suck cock but you sweetheart damn!" "I'm not a social worker save your sobby stories for people who care. Are you paying or getting the hell out?" I stand up stupid old creep pulls me down on the bed. Forcing my butt to hang onto air he shoves his fingers inside before I know it his hitting it. I hold on tight on the bed sheets and take his strokes in as gifted as he is down there. In a spur of moment we done and i need a strong drink. "Long face yintoni?" She says chewing hard on her gum. "I hate this job" "We need money chomami it's either this or nothing. Unless you have a blesser" I look at the bartender. "Can I have four of these " "Scratch that make it one. " Vuyi- "Vuyiseka!" "No Chomie not on my watch. Do you want to relapse Deliwe and be a terrible mother yet again?" "I've been clean for years come on Vuyiseka you exaggerating manje. My guy please make them six" "Deliwe cut the crap! Have you lost your mind? You have a bad record of alcohol abuse and between you and I we know Mcebisi doesn't deserve to be in the cold not again! Just suck it up Catte. " "You two get up and get to work. You busy counseling each other while you should be moaning. Catte you have a client waiting for you upstairs. Vuyiseka your regular is waiting. Hurry up!!" I find my client pressing his phone. I shut the door only then he notices my presence. " Can we make it snappy I have a parents meeting to attend." I say walking towards him. He stands up and looks at me. "What do you want? Blow job or my pussy?" "Actually I'm not the kind to engage in any of that." He says looking uncomfortable. "It's your first time isn't it?" "No" "Then what is going on dude?" "Eehm... How about we talk?" "Talk? I hate talking. Since your mind is not made up can I be excused? I need a lavatory" "Sure.." He says acting strange. Mcebisi The time is half past eight in the morning. My mother is not yet home I miss her already. I'm seated on the couch playing games on the phone my mother gave me a year ago. Tsiamo sits besides me he handsover his phone that looks expensive. It's very beautiful it looks fancy. "No thank you" "Come on Mcebisi.." "Your mother will scold at me" "She won't besides it's mine" "I'm cool with mine." "Fine..." He says folding his arms. "We can play soccer" I suggest "Really?" "Yes.. I have a soccer ball in my mother's bedroom" "That sounds cool.." He smiles. I faintly smile too. "Breakfast is ready Tsiamo." "Morning Mamkhulu" I say- "Hi... Tsiamo come your food will be cold. We have plans for the day and we need to prepare. You do know

breakfast is the most important meal of the day come baby.. You can't miss it" "I'm coming mama" Tsiamo- I look at them. "Let's go eat" Tsiamo- "No.. I'm fine.." "Come on Mcebisi it's just food" "Fine.." I say standing up.. I reach the dining table the are only four chairs and one is placed by the fridge. Gogo looks at me then Mamkhulu. "Tsiamo sit down and eat." "Thank you come sit with me Mcebisi" "Hhayi!! You want to break my chairs? Sit down and eat Tsiamo" Gogo- "Sausage Mahlatsi?" Mamkhulu- "Please mama.." "Eat up boys so we can go for your haircuts" "Mcebisi is coming right?" Tsiamo- "It's just gonna be the three of us." Mamkhulu- "Mcebisi here is a plate for you come and eat.. I will bring that chair closer to the table" Tsiamo- "What food? What food Tsiamo? There's no food here let him make himself something to eat." Gogo- Mahlatsi laughs Tsiamo looks at me with sad eyes. I walk back to the sitting room. I play games on my phone. "Here is bread" Mamkhulu- She says putting a peanut buttered bread on the table. I look at it then my phone. "Did you say thank you?" "No" "And why is it like that?" "I don't want your bread" "Excuse you?" "I don't want your bread. I will eat when my mother comes back" She laughs. "Then whose gonna eat this bread?" "I don't know maybe you" "He wants eggs and sausages mama not peanut butter" Tsiamo- "Awuthule fakazile!!!" Gogo- "Mcebisi eat this bread" "I said I don't want your bread! Leave me alone!!!" I say and walk outside.. _ Jabulile "Mama what was that?" "A disrespectful child" "Wow!!! That child is rude mama he needs a whooping" "Or a father. These absent fathered children are troublesome. Look no further how is her mom?" I look at my mother I can't believe this child. Tsiamo looks at me. "You are wrong mama" "Shut up and eat" "I'm not hungry" "Tsiamo wena you getting ill mannered! Eat your food!" "Why don't you like Mcebisi? Is it because his not black like us?" "Tsiamo didimala!" (Shut up) "Mcebisi is a good sibling mama and he wanted to play soccer with me!!!" Tsiamo bangs the table and stands up. I follow him shouting.. His name.. *** Sidney I'm on my way to the mall when I spot Mcebisi walking on the street kicking stones. I pull over and roll my window down. " Mcebisi!! " He looks around. I wave so he can see me. "Mcebisi!!!" He finally sees me and waves back. "Come here!" "No! My mother said I must stay away from strangers" "Boy come here I'm not a stranger!!!" "No" He starts running.. I breath deeply and shook my head. I drive following him. "Mcebisi!! Come boy I'm not gonna steal you I arrest criminals. That's my job now please come." I lie of course to have him trust me. I'm not a cop by profession. He looks at me and wipes his tears. Why is he crying? "Mcebisi" I say stepping out of my car. I look at the young man. "What's going on Mcebisi?" "Something got stuck in my eye." "I see... Where are you going?" "I want to buy myself a Kota and cold drink then cut my hair just like Tsiamo and Mahlatsi. I also want to buy airtime so I can call my mother" I look at this little man. "Come.. Uncle Sidney will get you a fresher dope haircut.. I'm going to the stores do you want to help me with shopping? In exchange I will get you all those things you want." He faintly smiles. "I have money I will afford them" "Mmm that's a big

word Mcebisi Afford?" "My mother taught me" "She sounds like a smart woman." "She is smart. Whenever she helps me with homeworks I get more marks" "I see son come let's go..." "Promise you won't hurt me?" "I won't hurt you you so handsome and sweet to be hurt" "Thank you Malume.." "Pleasure.. let's text mommy and notify her about your whereabouts." "I don't have airtime." "Well I have it plenty of it." I say with a genuine smile.. I open the door for him and then mine. We drive to Maponya mall. Deliwe I hate parents meetings. These old women talk none stop. Most of the things they saying is irrelevant honestly. I should be home bathing and bonding with my son or better yet preparing for my little outing with Jabu and her kids. Had my battery not died I would be calling my son I miss him already. I hope he ate cos it's already late now for my baby not to have breakfast I know my aunt will not bother instead the repeats on television will be her focus as for Jabu I don't know how she is with kids honestly but I doubt she's bad towards them surely he gave my son food. "As I was saying our children are still young to be taught about sex" One parent- I roll my eyes.. My mind is not here I'm tired. I spot Mcebisi 's teacher and walk towards her. Such a beautiful lady. "Morning teacher ka Mcebisi" "Morning You are the sister or the mother?" "Mother" "Oh wow!! That's explains the beauty that Mcebisi holds. How are you and how can I help you?" She smiles my eyes land on her ring. Such a beautiful stone husband must be loaded. "I wanted to know about my son's behavior in class and how coping is he in class especially with his subjects Thats all." "Your son is one of the smartest student in class his school work is always up to date he participates fully in class. His a good kid and less aggressive. His a darling you have nothing to worry about" "Oh! That's great then" "Awesome.. It's a pleasure seeing you" "Likewise I've I got to run.. Thank you" "Thank you.." She walks away leaving behind her Devine fragrance. I look at her chubby sexy and beautiful body as she walks away. Such a beautiful woman her car captures my eyes. Damn! Some people are living large.. I sign the attendance paper and walk home. The last client I had didn't sleep with me but I careless because he left me good notes. As we speak I have R600 in my pockets for doing nothing. He paid a lot of money I took the agreed upon amount to ma Flo obviously but the Tip was mine. I think month end I will have a better salary. I walk inside the house I find my aunt and Jabu gossiping about who I don't know.. "Greetings" "Hey.." Jabu- "Morning Mamncane" Tsiamo- "How are you boy?" "I'm fine thank you and yourself?" "I'm all good thanks for asking" I scan the dining table someone is missing. Jabu looks at me. "Oh! He said he was taking a walk" Jabu- "Mcebisi and taking a walk?" I say surprised. "Yes.. He mentioned going to a friend's house" "What friend?" "How are we supposed to know Deliwe? Do we need to keep records or files on his whereabouts and with whom? Hhayi bo!" aunty- "Aunty it's important to know those details. Kids go missing every minute of every day the least you could've done is ask which friend he was going to.." "It's not our duty to babysit him people have babysitters for a reason" Aunty- I blow my nose and quickly change my

outfit I wear a sportswear kind of outfit. But mine is not that pashesh or enchanting. It's mundane and simple. "We can use my car to go look for him it's gonna be quicker that way" Jabu - "The very same car you could've used to drop him off at this certain friend's house?" I say pissed. "Deliwe I'm trying to help there's no need to for you to be this rude!" Jabu- "Help? Help Jabu? What help are you trying to give me or my possible missing son? Where was that help when you let him leave this house alone not knowing where he was going? You are a mother Jabu!! Such details matters!!!" I roar as tears make their way out. I walk past her running outside like a maniac I didn't even get a chance to charge my phone. For my hearts sake my son better be okay wherever he is. My first stop is next door. " Koko! Dumelang... MaMokete have you by any chance seen Mcebisi?" "Mcebisi?" "Yes. Did he come here?" " Mokete!!" The lady shouts. "Ma!!" "Did Mcebisi come here today?" "No.. I last saw him yesterday at school" "Oh God!!" I say having shivers down my spine and intestines tying knots. Where could my baby be? I run like a headless chicken in search of him but nobody has seen him some do not even know him. My heart is beating on my sleeve now. My son has never gone out without telling me better yet he never plays far. I don't like this feeling that I'm having.. _ Jabu "Boys let's go to the salon Maa we coming back" "Bye enjoy" The boys run to my car. Tsiamo is grumpy and I'm not yet to ask because God knows I will spank his tiny butt. "The front seat is mine Tsiamo!!" Mahlatsi - "Like I care butternut head" Tsiamo- I look at him as an indication of warning him. He walks to the backseat and slams my car door. "Tsiamo!!!!" He looks at me and puts on his head seats what a disrespectful nine year old. My phone rings I clear my throat and compose myself for the video call. I fix my boobs so my cleavage can standout. "Baby.." "Hi... Where are the kids?" "How are you doing handsome?" "You haven't answered my question" "Bernard why are you being like this?" "Give Tsiamo the phone" "I miss you" He keeps quiet. "Honey are you still there?" "Yeah. Efa Tsiamo phone" (Give Tsiamo the Phone) I swallow a hard ambiguous lump. I blink a couple of times smile and give Tsiamo the phone. "Baby.. Daddy wants to greet you.! Here..." I say giving him the phone. "Mommy Can I also speak to daddy?" "You will just after Tsiamo" "Okay"

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Tsiamo "Papa" "Shemanyana dintshang?" (My boy how is it going?) "Boring.. How is it going that side?" "All is good just missing you nothing much" "I miss you too you should visit or better yet come fetch me today. Gogo's house is boring." "I will fetch you later I love you ankere?" "I love you too greet your little for me" "Mahlatsi daddy says hi" "I want to talk to him" "His caught up" I say- "You promise daddy?" "Can I not promise?" "It's fine I will see you tomorrow." "Take care.." "Tsiamo tell daddy mommy's loves him" Mom- "Dad you got that right?" "Take care" He ends the call.. I give mommy her phone and look outside through the window. Sidney "This is all mine?" "Yeah it's all

yours boy. Do you need a milkshake?" "Yes please" "I'm coming now now don't move Mcebisi" "I won't." "Better" I stand up walk to the counter to order the milkshake. I try calling her again surely she's worried sick about her son. It's goes to voice mail. I deeply exhale and look at the young man. A smile forms on my face. "Here you go..." "Thank you" "Ehm Sir..." I look at the cashier and put my cellphone back into my pockets. "Is that your son?" "Sure.. Why asking?" "I see where he gets the looks from I'm single." I furrow my brows and smirk. "Really?" "Yes.. Can I give you my numbers?" "I will pass for now but the next time I come by I will take them. Thanks" "Even if you can use me for a night it's fine. I could use those abs and those arms." "Your customers are waiting have nice day" I slowly walk towards Mcebisi ladies turn their heads with me. Creeps.. "Here mfanaka" "Thank you" "Aowa Mcebisi eat like a gentleman.. Here is a tissue" "I will clean up later" "No way.." I put the milkshake on the table and reach for a soviets and wipe his cheeks.. He looks at me and smile. "Thank you I will be careful this time around" "No need boy. I will clean you up." He smiles. I look at him thoughts cloud my mind. "How old are you Mcebisi?" "I'm eight years old" "What grade are you in?" "Grade 3 A" "Let me guess you are the smart kind isn't it?" "I'm not smart smart smart but I only get one or two wrongs on my tests" "Wow!! You smart kiddo.. To prove me wrong what the capital city of South Africa?" "That has to be pretoria." I look at him. "What do you know about South Africa?" "We have eleven official languages nine provinces and we are the only African developed country if not mistaken but soon we gonna be last because Rwanda will go up on the map." He says biting his burger. I look at him stunned. "You are a smart kid Mcebisi.." "You are smart too." I chuckle. "No way.." "You dress good you smell good and you drive a fancy car. I bet your house is beautiful too.. Look at your haircut it's perfect I like it" I smile. "I like yours you choose a dope one." "Dope as in a good one?" "Yes.." "Thank you" We eat while chatting and laughing here and there. An hour later I drive the little boy home. He takes the few things I bought him then walks away. I know Deliwe will bring them back tomorrow. Or better yet she's gonna chop them off but whatever the circumstances I love her son. His fun to be around.. Deliwe "How certain are you that the child is missing?" "Theres no trace of him on the pavements nobody knows of his whereabouts. I've been searching but there's no sign of him." "How long has it been since you last saw the kid?" "It hasn't been that long probably four hours now. " "We can only report him missing immediately after 24 hours has passed without his trace. For now go home sisi surely he went to a friend's house. " "You kidding me right?" "Sisi we do not want to waste the states resources. Come back tomorrow" "What if by then my son would be dead?" "Then he would be dead sisi but for now there's nothing we can do" Is this person serving the community? So this is what he pledge for? Being rude and insensitive? My son is missing for Christ's sake. " You people are useless!!! Fuck you and fuck your state resources!!!!" I roar attracting eye's. "This is what you pledge for being insensitive on such matters?"

The audacity you have pig!!" "Please take her out" Cop- "Don't touch me!!" *** Sidney I hope my little time out with the little guy didn't consume much of my time. No filter I had a great day Mcebisi brought me joy and fulfillment and contentment which is something I haven't felt in a while. He kinder made me forget about all else and dwell on the moment. What a great soul he is. My phone rings. "Sure.." "Dude where the heck are you?" "I'm coming bra has the game resumed?" "Sid hurry up we waiting for you." "I'm coming Rhu has Lefa arrived?" "Yes" "Then I'm definitely running late" "Exactly hurry up" "Coming" I say glancing on my reflection on the mirror. I furrow my brows to check if I need a cap or I'm cool like this. "Dude I forgot to buy my drinks mind getting it for me? I will reimburse you please" "No stress Sol right?" "Sure.." "Hurry up and stop fucking during the day" I giggle. The line goes dead. I reach for a red cap to seal my look. Yeah I look good. Red cap

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please" "No stress Sol right?" "Sure.." "Hurry up and stop fucking during the day" I giggle. The line goes dead. I reach for a red cap to seal my look. Yeah I look good. Red cap White plain V neck shortsleeve t-shirt black pants and red sneakers I'm good and set. I look at myself again not bad.. I reach for my car keys and wallets. I jog outside heading to the garage. I step inside my car and wear shades. I play my kind of music to fuel me for the road strangely i find myself calling Mcebisi. "Hello.." "Hey boy how is it going that side?" "I'm fitting my sneakers" I giggle. "Again?" "Yes I love them" "Thats great.. Didn't your mom give you trouble?" "She hasn't arrived as yet" "It's okay son I was just checking up on you" "Thank you" "I'm off to watch soccer I will see you around" "Drive safe" "And stay well sharp neh?" "Sure.." We hang up while driving i spot Deliwe seated on a rock staring into blank air space. I wish I can bother her but this lady is rude. I drive off I look on my rear view mirror. I pull over and drive back to her. I park across the road then walk towards her. I put my hand on her shoulder. "Hey.." "Don't touch me!!" She says wiping her tears and mucus. "Heart break?" "Do I look weak in your eyes? Ungangijwayeli kabi" I narrow my brows. "Why are you always uptight Deliwe?" "Thats non of your business give me a breather please." "Anyway I tried calling you earlier on the day. To inform you about Mcebisi I took him to the mall. His a good kid hey" "You did what? You took my son where? Who gave you permission to do that?" She roars. "I tried calling you Deliwe I found him on the pavements." "Don't ever ever take my child without my permission! His mine only mine you hear me?" "I meant no harm" "You did! How do you explain taking a child to the mall without his mother's permission? Huh?" "Deliwe I didn't abduct your child if that's where this is going. Besides I tried calling you but your phone rang unanswered. Mcebisi called you too but the outcomes were similar I didn't kidnap your child or anything. His home now as we speak." I say disappointed in her. She looks at me and keeps quiet. "I've been searching for him since 11 am. I've

been worried sick Sidney! I even went to the police station thinking my son was missing. You are not his father don't ever ever take my child without my consent and don't ever talk to him ever again! "

"Had you been home by then the child wouldn't have paraded the pavements like a begger it still morning for a child to go Kota hunting Deliwe or better yet had you answered your calls non of this would've happened. So much for caring for your son" "Are you judging my parenting skills? Don't you dare insult me Sidney!!" "But it's okay for you to insult me or talk to me anyhow? Like I said I tried calling you but you didn't pick up. As you said sisi I'm not his father and I'm sorry for caring about your son. The next time I see him crying on the pavements I promise I won't care mommy I will step back. You happy now now?" She looks at me. " Was he crying? " " Whatever Deliwe.. " I cross to the other side of the road. I get inside my car and drive off.. ***** I walk inside the house.. I find my so called family gathered in the sitting room. Mcebisi is seated on a chair a bit far from everyone. I look at him and faintly smile. " Mcebisi come here" I say walking to the bedroom. He follows me and sits on the bed. "Nana what did I say about strangers?" "You said I mustn't talk to them" "What did you do?" "Mama his not a stranger his a good uncle. Look at my haircut mama he paid for it" I look at him he looks good honestly. "You look good my boy. Mcebisi my baby don't ever go anywhere without me you hear me? Baby children go missing everyday and they are never found. I don't want to lose you Mcebisi you are my everything I love you more than love myself. I love you more than anything else my baby. Don't ever ever scare me like this Mcebisi please. " "Mama I'm sorry I didn't mean to hurt you" "Mommy doesn't want to lose you Mcebisi mommy loves you." "I know mommy but uncle is a good person. He bought me food and this look mommy. But please don't burn these I love them a lot." "What did he buy you?" "Close your eyes it's a surprise" "Fine" I close my eyes as weary as I am. "Surprise!!!!!" He says excited. I open my eyes Wow!! "He bought me the Nike Airforce mommy and tracksuits" He says chirpy I swallow a hard lump these are expensive. Why would he buy my son such expensive things? What happens the next time he wants something expensive and I cannot afford to give it to him? This Sidney guy is annoying me honestly! Who buys someone's child such expensive clothes? I may not give them back but I will give him my piece of mind. Actually I want my son to stay the hell away from him. I'm getting him a school transport soon. "See mama his a good uncle? His fun too I like him" I look at my son.

6

Sidney I exhale deeply then toss my cellphone on the passenger seat. I'm so infuriated by Deliwe's vile treatment towards me. I really don't understand why I was slayed for caring about a child. Deliwe is so self centered and its exasperating. A normal person would've questioned how their child ended up on the roadside with a stranger instead of jumping to conclusions and creating none existing

scenarios. A crying child on the pavements in the morning denotes a lot but her pride and whatever attitude that pushes her to nearest mortuary freezer didn't let her see that nor look into it. I was trying to help for fucks sake. A simple thank you gesture would've been appreciated not the crappy attitude she gave me. Deliwé Charging my phone is my first resort. I head to the bathroom to take a long bathe. I relax and replay my conversation with the white guy whose stuck in a black man's body. The guy kind off insulted me he indirectly labeled me as an irresponsible and negligent and careless mother. What really annoys me is that he knows nothing about my life and the sacrifices that I'm faced with. Given a day to travel the miles I've walked barefooted he wouldn't cope with my reality. Him questioning me about my son really infuriated me. He sounded like a best father of the year winner bloody moron. I breathe deeply and wipe my body off from the excessive water. I cover up with a towel and wear my flops. I wash the bath afterwards. I walk to my bedroom I lotion and wear my under garments. I pull a pair of jeans and a stylish t-shirt. I wear sneakers too no make up for today. I grease my neck with my perfume. No weave today just my brush haircut.. "Mcebisi" "Ma.." "Did you bath?" "No" "Come let's wash your body" "Are we going somewhere?" "No.. Iza" I undress him and fill up the bath tub with water. He washes his body while I brush my teeth. He finishes I go about the cleaning and wiping of the tiles. He lotions while I select an outfit for him from Jabulile's handouts. I find something decent that Mcebisi can wear and love. He dresses up. "Let's watch movies in my laptop" "We no longer going to the reef?" "No.." "Why not mama?" "Because I've made up my mind Mcebisi" He looks at me. "What?" "Are you angry?" "No" "You are." "I'm not angry." "What happened mama?" "Nothing.. What movie do you want to watch?" "Iron man" "Fine.." I look at him then zone out to what Sidney said Something about Mcebisi tearing on the pavements. "Tyler" "Ma.." "Tell me.. Why were you spotted on the pavements crying? What happened?" "I don't want to talk about it mama" "Mcebisi what happened please talk to me?" "I already told uncle Sidney I don't want to talk about it anymore " "Mcebisi you do realize I am your mother not Sidney? You can't be freely opened to strangers and cagey towards me. Talk to me." "Mama the movie has began" "Mcebisi what happened? I'm gonna turn thing off if you don't start talking!" He looks at me and huffs. "You like shouting mama." "Is that a compliment or a sarcasm Tyler?" He fix his eyes on the laptop. "Mcebisi Tyler I'm talking to you!!!" He jumps frightened by my loud shudder. "I'm sorry Tyler" "See why I don't talk to you mama? You like shouting at me like I'm not your child!!" He says heading for the door. I sit on the bed massaging my forehead. I heave the longest sigh. I reach for my charging cell phone and dial maFlo. "Catte.." "I'm not coming in today" "You kidding me right?" "I'm not ma Flo I have an infection" She keeps quiet. "I'm giving you three days to heal. Normally I would give you a day." "Thank you" "Sure.." My door swings open. Jabu walks in. "Can we talk?" "I have so much on my plate" "Deliwé we need to address what happened earlier on" "You mean my son

walking on the pavements with tears meandering on his face?" She looks at me. "Deliwe you very much aware of your son's rudeness at times" "So that you gave you enough permission to bully him around huh Jabu? Aren't your children rude spoilt and ill mannered too?" "Don't label my children don't you dare please!" "But it's okay for you to label my son?" "Look Deliwe I don't know what that son of yours said about me or my mother. But whatever it is we have nothing to do with it. You Insulting my kids is inappropriate Deliwe and I won't tolerate that" "Geez! I don't have time for this bullshit." I say standing up. "Deliwe why are you so cold and mean towards everyone? I'm trying to fix things here but here you are making the world shake with your quakes. " "What exactly are you trying to fix Jabu? You Treating my son like garbage a whole nobody while I'm away? Is that what you want to fix Jabu?" She looks at me. "I didn't do anything to Mcebisi!" "Stop treating my child like a nobody as his mother I hate it Jabu. You wouldn't like it if I were to do to your children what you and your mother do to my son. Mcebisi is my child I gave birth to that boy and I had excruciating pains delivering him. If you feel your mighty parenting skills are superb and splendid please practice them on your children not my son. Mcebisi is nobody's punching bag nor is he a shooting range to detox stress. The next time I hear my son was crying because of you Jabu you won't like what I will do mark my words" "Is that a threat Deliwe?" "Depending on how to take it in. Your children are spoilt rotten they do not even have morals and respect. Shall you feel like reprimanding someone start with them not my son! Mcebisi is my duty my burden not yours and not your mother's back off from my son. " "You mean the son you've burnt with an iron? The son you used to beat up each time you drowned your liver in alcohol? The son you once covered with a pillow? You talking about that very same son?" I look at her and huff. "Thats not true Jabulile! I've never suffocated my son with a pillow" "Really? How do you remember that because your drunk days ended out with a blackout? We both know you never liked Mcebisi nor wanted him." "You talking garbage!! You talking nonsense!" "You wanted to kill your son!!" I slap her across the face and storm outside infuriated. "Even if you runaway Deliwe the truth remains!!" Jabu- "Hhaibo! Umsindo owani?" Aunty- "Tsiamo Mahlatsi pack up your bags we leaving!" Jabu shouts. Jabu The kids pack up their bags. My mother looks at me. "Jabu what happened? There's no need for you to carry your bags." "Ma please I want to leave immediately before I kill someone. " "What did she do?" "Tsiamo hurry up!!!" "Jabulile talk to me!" "Ma please it's nothing I cannot handle." "I can always kick her out if you not happy with her presence. " "It's her father's house Ma you cannot do that" "You think I'm stupid do you?" I look at her. "I don't follow" "The house is in my name I've changed the papers. Do you think I wouldve allowed you to renovate and extend the house knowingly it was hers? No Jabu.. It's my house and my rules!" "Mama how did you pull that one off?" "I have connections. " "But still ma you cannot do that to her. What's gonna happen to Mcebisi?" "They not my cross to carry. " I glare on her and say

nothing. "I wanted to take you somewhere before you leave for your house" "Mama we done packing" Mahlatsi- "Go to the bedroom I'm still busy with something" "Fine" They walk away.. I look at my mother. "Where ma?" "There's a prophet just nearby he charges R100 for everything" "Mama I don't believe in those things!" "Have you forgotten how you got Bernard?" "Mama Bernard and I just happened

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it's not your witchcraft that brought us together" "I'm not a witch Jabulile stop calling me that!" "I don't want these things of yours they gonna complicate my life. Already my home is a mess ma I don't need any more chaos!" She glares at me. "Yini Jabu kwenzekani?" "He wants a divorce mama. " "Who wants what?" "Bernard wants a divorce mama my marriage is falling apart" "Rubbish!!! That's rubbish!! He thinks he can sleep with you for years then ditch you like this after giving him two children? His crazy that's not gonna happen" "I'm pregnant mama" "See why we need to go see the prophet? Your home is collapsing we need concoctions to drink and bath with. Leave the kids behind we leaving Jabu immediately angisapholisi Maseko." "Mama" "Jabu stand up.. How are you gonna raise three children alone? Let's go wipe those tears. No daughter of mine cries over a man.!" " Mom says walking to her bedroom. I massage my none visible bump. I dial Bernard luckily he pick up. " Hey.. " " What do you want? " " There's something I need to tell you" "You signed the papers? Now that calls for celebration. " "I'm pregnant" A deafening silence creeps in. "I'm two months pregnant" "Is it mine?" "What kind of a question is that?" "Don't act blind or stupid Jabu not after the crappy stunt you've been pulling for years! I'm fetching Tsiamo pack his bag" "Benard you Insulting me" "Baby I can't find my sleepers where are they?" The voice says on the background. "Who is that?" I say now crying heavily I even have mucus. "I've got to go." "Who is that slut!" The line goes dead. I throw and smash my cellphone against the wall in frustration. When I hear footsteps approaching I quickly wipe my tears away I drink water too. "I'm done let's go." Sidney The match went well. It was really fun sadly we all had to drive back to our houses. I decide to go to nearest pub to get myself a couple of drinks to keep me company for the night. "Sure can I have a six pack of sol" "Sure my brother. " I hand the guy my cash. A message beeps on my phone. "Saw the missed calls sorry I snapped" I delete it immediately. "Your drinks" "Thank you" "Change" "Consider yourself lucky my guy." "Ta grootman" "Sure.." I walk to my car I put the beers on the passengers seat. I drive slowly listening to music. My phone beeps "Good night uncle Sidney 😊" I smile and respond. "Good night son will call you tomorrow" I put my phone on my lap. Another message beeps.. "Can I call you dad?" I swallow hard and feel a sting on my chests.. I drive inside my yard and park my car. I take my beers and put them inside the fridge. I warm up last night's pizza a message beeps again. I

check my cell phone "I'm sorry I shouldn't have said that uncle Sidney we still friends right? 😊" I smile and respond. "You can call me anything Cebi as long as it won't get you into trouble." he responds. "Thank you dad" I smile and eat my pizza. I reach for my laptop. I start going through my work. While sipping my beer. My phone rings I look at it. "Mama" "Kamo where are you?" "Ma please" "Kamohelo don't give me that attitude oko kae?" "I'm home" "What home Kamo? What home are you talking about?" "Mme I'm working please!" "Are you by any chance running away from your reality? Whatever place you at it's not your true home. Come back home Kamohelo" I end the call and toss my cellphone under a pillow. She calls again I let it ring unanswered. I check my emails I text Mcebisi. "I will be away for sometime I will call time to time okay boy?" He responds "Thats sad 😞" I breath heavily recalling what he told me. "Don't be sad Mcebisi I will be available just for you boy. I promise. If you need anything call me okay?" "I will call you..But it's sad that I'm gonna loose another father" My heart stings again I go to the sink to drink water "It's okay uncle Sidney travel safe" Thats another message. I text him "I love you Mcebisi don't forget that" he doesn't respond surely his angry at me. I have no choice but to call Deliwe so I can be permitted to see Mcebisi tomorrow for an hour or so... Deliwe I'm done dishing up for all the kids Jabu and my Aunty are not around. I wonder where they went. "Thank you Mamncane" Tsiamo- "Thank you mama" Mcebisi says. "Pleasure" I say switching to Mnet movies channels. Tsiamo and Mahlatsi are eating but not my son whose glued on his phone his facial expression has turned sour. I don't know what's going on with him but whatever it is I don't want to interfere I don't want to be scolded. I've done too much apologising for a day for now I'm letting him be. Mcebisi can be something else at times. "Mcebisi put your phone down and eat" Mahlatsi - "You not my father" "Mcebisi that was rude!" He looks at me then his food. "I'm not hungry" Mcebisi - "Tyler eat your food" "No I'm not hungry Deliwe!!" I stand up and walk to the bedroom I don't want to entertain his tantrums because I will do him bad. My phone rings I pick up. "Hello" "Hi" "I'm sorry to call you this late but I have a plee please don't bark at me" "What plee?" "Can I borrow your son tomorrow for an hour." "Why would I do that?" "Deliwe please" I roll my eyes and heave a soft sigh. "Fine.. Come see him now" "Are you sure?" "Yeah.. Tomorrow we going to church then town. I want to buy him an affordable school bag" "Thank you I'm coming now" "Sure" He ends the call. I'm only doing this because I want to earn my son's trust. If Mcebisi can confide in this guy granting him an opportunity into his life will automatically grant me the privilege of him trusting me too. After Sidney guy is all a trap I know this guy is gonna break his heart soon right there I will be the best mother ever. My son will confide in me and tell me everything. This is my trap honestly. "I'm outside" "Mcebisi" "Mama" "You have a visitor" "Who is that?" "Come" I say heading for the door Mcebisi follows me. I spot his car opposite my yard. Mcebisi and I jump across. He steps out of the car he flashes my son a genuine smile. Mcebisi smiles as Sidney scoops him up

in an embrace. I look at him analysing him.. "Hey boy" "Hey uncle-daddy" "You still mad at me?" "You leaving me so I'm angry" "Come on Mcebisi it's only for a little while" "Mmmmmm" They look at each other. "I will go inside call me when you both done" "Mama can I go with uncle Sidney" "Mcebisi no.. Don't push it please" "Fine.." Mcebisi- "I will call when we done" "Sure..." I say walking towards the gate I spot Jabu and my aunt looking at me then Sidney. I suppose they think his Mcebisi's father little do they know.

7

07 Jabu "Is this the place ma?" "Yes.. Go inside" "It's dodgy mama what if they steal my car?" "Jabu just go in." I look around this is place is strange and discomforting. How does mama know such people and places? This woman is something else. "Jabu you wasting time do you want the women from church to spot me here? Come on Jabu" "Fine mama katswa" "Phakisa" (Hurry up) Not to confuse you my mother is Zulu and my dad is not. I park my expensive car and wear shades. I put on a shawl over my shoulders. "Take off your shoes and those shades Jabu" "Mama" "Don't mama me do as instructed. I'm helping you Jabu or you want your husband to end up in bed with Deliwe? That girl is beautiful don't ever forget that" "Like really mama?" "Just do as instructed and stop whining" I roll my eyes and take off my shades and shoes.. "Thokoza.." My mother says bowing her head sitting on the grass mat that's laid out on the floor. I look at this woman she looks nothing like a prophet. "Greet the elder Jabu" Mom says between her teeth. "Hello Unjani?" the person looks at me then shakes her head in disbelief. "Not like that say Thokoza!" "Fine mama... Thokoza" "It's your first time I see." The person says. "Makhosi my daughter is in dire straits. Her husband is.." Mom- "Her husband wants to divorce her her marriage is falling apart. I'm very much aware of that." She says looking at me. "We need help I mean black magic. That man has money Makhosi shall he unmarry my daughter the community will turn us into a laughing stock. Please" Mom- "Blow here" I blow. She does her hilarious and absurd things of groaning and saying things are not audible. I look around the place. Wait is that a cat's skin? Oh no!! I think i see a snake's skin too and other creepy animals skins and teeths. Where am I and what am I doing here? Mom is about to turn me into those Desperate billioners actors from a Nigerian movie I've watched when I was in high school. "Young lady you've sinned against your husband. You've done something unforgiving!" I swallow hard. "Makhosi" Mama says giving me the most dangerous warning look. "This man is prepared to leave you already I see a woman parading your house." "Makhosi" "You need to act fast young lady.. You need to act fast." "Please help us makhosi" "You gonna bath and steam with this one With this one you will put it in his food. With this you will use it to bath your second son so your husband can forget your Rachel sin in connection to that child. You gonna speak when using the bathing and steaming

powder. The one to put in his food you can speak to it before using it. But let me warn you this muthi has consequences." " Makhosi" "This will cost you R250" "Pay up Jabu" I pull out the needed notes. "Put it on the floor" "Fine." "Here you go." "Makhosi" Mom takes the muthi and walks out. As I walk the lady stops me. "When the muthi takes long to work come back here for my strongest muthi that I get in Mozambique" ** "Jabulile what did you do to your husband?" "Ma please" "Jabu wenzeni?" "Ma can we leave already people are looking at us. I can't stand this place" "Jabulile wenzeni? Why does he want to divorce you?" "Mama isn't it obvious? His cheating" "Cheating Jabu?" "Yooh Weee!!!" I say unlocking my car she jumps in annoyed. We drive in total silence. "Please open the gate" "Mang? Nna?" "Mama please open the gate" She folds her hands and looks outside the window. I look across the road my eyes land on a good looking Tall fit light toned and tattooed arm guy. Holding Mcebisi His even smiling flashing his white teeth and a dimple smile. "Who is that Jabu?" "I don't know mama But he looks yummy I could have him for breakfast lunch snack supper and dessert... Mmmmm" Mom looks at me annoyed. "Aren't you married to be lusting over that devil worshiper with ink all over his body?" The guy looks at Deliwe as she walks away leaving him with Mcebisi.. Deliwe I volunteer to open the gate for them when I'm done I leave it open. They gonna lock it themselves. I pass the kids watching cartoons. I lock my bedroom door and throw myself on the bed. I look up on the ceiling and let thoughts take over me. I don't know if my eyes are deceiving me but Mcebisi seems to be enjoying himself with that man my son likes that Sidney guy. And this Sidney guy seems to like the boy too. I exhale deeply. My phone rings it's a video call from Vuyi. "Hey slut!!" She says screaming out loud there's noise wherever she is. "Hey dog face" "Yoooooh!! You laying in bed on this buzzing Saturday?" "Some of us are parents Vuyi" "I'm also a parent chini!!" "You just lucky you have a real family Vuyi your support system is very much solid and good unlike mine. Wherever I go Mcebisi goes." "I told you to bring him over at my house my mom doesn't mind so does my little sister. Honestly you need to let loose a bit

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my mom doesn't mind so does my little sister. Honestly you need to let loose a bit Stella get your groove back! Mcebisi is a big boy now. He will understand if you were to ditch him for a couple of hours" "Eish Vuyiseka you won't understand" "Or get a boyfriend Deliwe" "Nop! I don't need one.. I'm fine like this" "Deliwe you need someone who will make love to you not someone who will fuck you." I roll my eyes. "Why did you call again?" "I wanted to invite you to a party it's lit." "Have you forgotten about my relationship with Alcohol?" "Hhayi suka! You now responsible. Come Please" "I don't have a babysitter I wouldn't afford leaving Mcebisi with my aunt. I will find my son chopped" She laughs.. "Let me get ready since you won't be coming" "Be careful and responsible. No one night stand baby

please" "Fuck you" I giggle.. I stand up to walk to the window.. I look at Mcebisi and this Sidney guy laughing. Why did Shalton do this to his son though? Why did he choose to be a deadbeat father? His son needs him. Look how happy my son is with a stranger. Fuck Shalton... Sidney "You still mad at me?" "No.." "Oh! Thats great sonny!" I say playfully scratching his hair. He giggles forcing me to smile. "Uncle daddy stop!! I'm gonna fart!!" "I will only stop when you fart!" He giggles I stop along the way. "You have a beautiful smile charmer boy" "I'm not a charmer boy" I giggle. "You are" "Sizwe is a charma boy. He has four girlfriends and he buys them sticksweets every day" "All four of them?" "Yes." "Sizwe is a legend.." "How many girlfriends do you have?" "250" "WOW!!!!" He says with his eyes popped out and his lips forming a circle. "I am a legend aren't I?" "You are a G. O. A. T uncle daddy" I laugh.. "How many do you have Mcebisi?" "Zero" "Ouch! Why is it like that?" "I don't have money uncle Sidney if my mom was giving me plenty of money for pocket money. I was gonna have a lot of them" "You love girls don't you?" He smiles I giggle. "Do you want to live long Mcebisi?" "Yes.." "Then avoid girls. Date your mom instead." "But you have 250 girlfriends?" I laugh and look at the people who are pacing around with beer bottles. "Mommy says you need a school bag" "Yes a puma one.. Everyone at school carries one if not a Nike one. " "Why didn't you tell me? When we were at the stores?" "It slipped my mind uncle. " "Next time feel free Mcebisi to ask me for anything. I actually have a bag in my house if ts cool with you we can go get it quickly without your mother noticing. It's still in good condition. " "Really?" "Yes" "Please bring it over tomorrow I don't want my mother to shout at me" "She shouts at you?" "Sometimes" "I see..." "Shes a good mom though I love her.. I just wish my mother was able to buy me everything just like other kids but I know one day she will afford everything and I will be a happy kid" I look at him. "Are you not happy now Mcebisi?" "I am happy uncle daddy but only when I'm not in this house. I hate this house" "Why do you hate the house?" "My gogo hates me and she shouts me all the time she doesn't want me to eat her food. Especially her polony viennas and Russians not forgetting the meat that's in the freezer. She even call me names" He says looking at me with a smile. "Your gogo does that Mcebisi?" "Yes.. Sometimes my aunt does it" "The one driving a red car?" "Yes her... She's rich and she buys her children everything and gives me old clothes." Why is this hurting me? "How do they treat mommy?" "They always say bad stuff to her they also don't allow her to eat some of the food." "Can I ask you something" No Sidney dont ask a kid a question like this one. "Yes" "Where is your real dad?" "I don't know uncle daddy. I don't have a dad" "I see..." "Can I play that game you made me play yesterday?" "Sure boy.." I hand him the cell phone. I look at Mcebisi and replay everything he has said. I put my hand on his tiny shoulder. "Goal!!!!!" I smile as he smiles. Deliwe shows up later.. I look at her as she approaches us. "Are you done maybe?" Deliwe- "No mama I'm still playing soccer" "I brought you a jersey it's cold baby" Deliwe - "Thank you mama" He takes the jersey. "Let

me help you Cebi." I say helping Mcebisi out Deliwe looks at me then her son. Mcebisi decides on going inside the car leaving Deliwe and myself in total silence.. ***** "It's a bit windy" I say trying to clear the air. "Did you get my sms?" "No" I lie obviously I want her to apologize face to face. She gave me an stinking attitude face to face its only fair she apologize in person. "I see" "What did you write?" "Nothing major." "Okay" "Did he trouble you?" "No.. I like your son" She faintly smile.. Mcebisi comes to us. "Mama what time are we going to get my school bag? I forgot to tell you I have homeworks" "We gonna leave early" "Okay mama" "I don't mean to step on your cons I know his your son and that I'm not his father or anyone important to him. But I would like to give him my own school bag. I've used it once it's still in a good condition." She looks at me. "If you don't mind we can collect it now" "Why are you so interested and sweet on my child?" "I love kids Deliwe" "Do you love yours?" I swallow hard and look sideways. "It's fine if you do not want Deliwe I was trying to save you the hard work." "And I was trying to get a picture of who you are I meant no harm" She says looking away. "Do you need the bag pack or I should just step back and stop carrying once again?" "I'm sorry about earlier on I was rude and selfish. Sometimes I can be brutal its never intentional Some of us have spent much of their lives in the cold so much we try to protect ourselves all the time from people and situations" Wow! She's owning up to her mistake. She's even opening up that's a first. "I understand it must be hard being a single mother.. You are protective of him" "I'm glad you understand. Am I forgiven?" "No.." "Oh!" "So we collecting the bag pack?" "Sure it's not like you gonna kidnap us or something." I giggle. "I'll take the back seat" "No problem.. My name is Kamohelo Sidney Matthews by the way. " "Why that Surname?" I chuckle. "My dad is colored and mom is Pedi" "I see... Mcebisi's father was biracial too" " You haven't introduced yourself though" "You seem to know everything njena.. No need for that" "I don't know your surname" "Mphazima" "Okay.." I look at her and open the door for her.

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Jabulile "I'm outside" "I'm coming" "Tsiamo is coming not you. I thought I made myself clear. " "Not when I heard one of your sluts on your background Bernard. I want to see the bitch whose trying to be me" "Just shut up and bring my son not your ugly face" "Mahlatsi is coming too" He ends the call. I swallow a huge brick down my throat. My mother looks at me I choose to ignore her and walk to the bathroom. I brush my tummy and let my tears roll there's this agonizing sting and burning sensation that's taking over my chest. Bernards gloominess and hate towards me hurts it's cutting so deeply. He has splapped me before but that was nothing compared to this treatment I would have been better had he slapped me instead of doing me like this. "Mama" "Mmmmm..." I say wiping my tears as I'm settled on the toilet pit. " Daddy is outside I'm leaving " " I'm coming. Give me a sec to wrap

up" "Okay" "Mama I'm also going isn't it?" "No Mahlatsi you staying behind." "Why mama?" "Because you going nowhere!!" I blurt out "Mama phakisha papa onkemetse" (Mommy hurry up daddy is waiting) I stand up to flush nothing. I fan my eyes before turning the door handle." Smile and keep composure Jabu" I do the usual and walk out with Tsiamo and Mahlatsi. There he is leaning on his red Maserati car. His wearing denims short pants Gucci flops and a red Fabian short sleeve t-shirt. He has a cap on no shades today. He looks at me and I do the same with him. He moves his eyes to dearest "Tsiamo" His lips slightly move forming a smile. He slowly walks towards the kids how handsome he is. If I could get my hands on his Espresso skin I would be so very happy. "Hey son" Ben- "Daddy" Tsiamo- "You look.. You look skinny Tsiamo" Ben - "He was eating Ben" I say with a stern voice. "I missed you young man" He says picking Tsiamo up. " Hello papa" Mahlatsi- "Sure Mahlatsi... Tsiamo let's get going" "Mahlatsi let's go" "I want to give daddy a hug mama" Ben looks at me then walks away. Leaving Mahlatsi and myself wounded. I look at him as he drives away. "Come baby" "Why is daddy leaving me behind mama?" "Come Mahlatsi" I say with a trembling voice. I scoop my son up and walk inside the house with my teary face. I pass mama and go to my bedroom. I cry while embracing Mahlatsi... "Jabu" "Mama not now please!" "Jabu you owe me an explanation besides I want to discuss the stokvel meeting" "Mama not now I'm not in a good head space. Maybe later" "Jabu I want recipes to shock the skovel ladies with come out from that hole and help me out. We need to buy groceries tomorrow morning" "Mama give me a breather please!!" "Kanti what's eating you young lady? What did you do to your husband Jabu? Did you by any chance commit adulterous deeds Jabu?" "I'm coming boy try to sleep or something. Here is my phone" "Okay mama" I lay him on the bed and stand up to face my mother.. Sidney Mcebisi is such a blabber Young man has been talking since we drove off from his house. I'm sitting here looking at him as his enjoying himself I'm so gonna miss him. I know It's gonna take a while for me to see him again since I'm leaving tomorrow morning. I peep on the rear view mirror looking at the back seat. Such a beautiful fierce and smart woman. Some people never realize the beauty that stands before them. They be out there chasing pavements and garnishing stones to match the beauty of the galaxy not realizing the galaxy they trying to disguise was once what they had but never cherished. I know she has a bad and sickening attitude and that she's self centered but I know a good woman when I see one. I see her beauty on her son she loves her son and she would do anything to protect this little boy. That for me is a definition of beauty. When I describe beauty I don't normally rely on external characteristics to describe beauty how you treat people and those who are around you defines if you beautiful or not. As cold as she is she is beautiful within soul. My cell phone rings snapping me out of my thoughts.. "Tumi" "O ko kae Kgante mama ompotsha ka wena?" (Where are you Kamo? Mom is asking about you) " I'm safe and well that's all

that matters" "Kamo you need to tell us where you are we all worried about you. Dad included" I look outside the window. "Like I said I'm fine Boitumelo." "If you say so then." "Sure" "I love you" "Same here sleep tight" We end the call. "Uncle daddy who was that?" "Mcebisi..." Deliwe warns against questioning me. I look at Mcebisi with an assuring look. "My sister" "You have a sister?" "Yes.. I have one ugly sister.." He smiles. "Whose the eldest" "We are twins. " "Wow uncle Sidney." I look at him then outside the window. "Do you look alike?" "Not really but our complexion is" Sid- "Is it fun to have a sister?" I giggle "So many questions Mcebisi?" Deliwe- "It's okay I actually don't mind" I say looking through the rear view mirror. She looks at her cellphone. "Well having a sister is fun Mcebisi. She cooks she cleans she does the laundry she washes the dishes and does the Grocery shopping she does way too much. Guess what my chore is?" Mcebisi looks at me with his brows narrowed. "You cut the grass? Or clean the yard? Or wash the carpet?" "Sometimes but that's not my chore. I only do that when I'm bored or stressed out. " "Stressed by what?" I narrow my brows. "Life my job my family or any other thing that brings one stress" "Or maybe your 250 girlfriends" We laugh. "Maybe that too" I say looking through the rear view mirror. "Then what do you do uncle Sidney? You haven't told me about your chore. " "Come on Mcebisi give it a thoroughly guess" "I suck on guessing games." Mcebisi- "Fine let me tell you. My chore is to.." Deliwe clears her throat and cuts me short from saying what my chore is. "His chore is to make the house dirty and messy so his sister can have a chore Mcebisi." I peep on the rear view mirror. Madam is pressing her cell phone. "Is that true uncle daddy?" "Well.. Yeah.. Mommy is correct. Without me my sister would not have a chore." "Wow!!!! That's great I would love to have a sister too." Mcebisi- "It's great isn't it? Sisters are life savers. Ask your mother to get you one" I steal a glance on Deliwe our eyes meet. "The answer is no Mcebisi" "Mama please" "The chores done by sisters will go to you Mcebisi. You will be the one cleaning after her so no baby. Don't wish for that my boy. " Deliwe- "Bummer...." I say looking at Mcebisi with a smile. "Sorry boy!" Deliwe "Kanti how far is your house Sidney? We've been on the road for a while now." "Well I'm getting pizza for Mcebisi" My son jumps in joy. I roll my eyes and press my cell phone. Honestly speaking I'm enjoying this little time away from home. That house drains me more than my job does. "I'm sorry I didn't ask for permission" Sid- "It's fine" "Oh!" He says looking through the rear view mirror. "Mcebisi come let's go get your favorite pizza." "I don't have a favorite pizza. My mother buys me burgers at McDonald's. I've never tasted a pizza" Thank you Mcebisi for embarrassing me.. "We will see will decide on what to grab when we get inside come boy" He says opening the door for Mcebisi. He looks at me. "Would you like anything?" "Not really thank you" "Don't you want to come with us inside the store?" "Em.. I kinder hate crowded places. I don't do well in public" "I see... It's fine then" "Yeah" "Thank you for allowing me to see him." "I had no choice you are his favorite topic" He smiles showing off his side dimple. "Uncle daddy it's cold!"

"Sorry boy I'm coming. Bye for now" "Bye.." I faintly smile. He slams the door and walks away. I heave a sigh and bite on my nails. Another message pops up

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I ignore it. I really can't manage to go see a stranger who was never a part of my life. I know his my father but I know nothing about that man. He was never a part of my life I can't just up and go to see him in whatever hole his in. I really can't bring myself to doing that. He texts me again "Please Delive" The sms reads. I toss my cellphone inside my pockets. Sidney shows up minutes later with the pizza and beverages. My son doesn't hesitate he helps himself with the pizza. After all he didn't eat back home he said he wasn't hungry.. I look at Sidney as he laughs and jokes with Mcebisi their laughter fills my ears. I find myself dating back to my childhood. Jabu's father used to make me feel this way he loved me so much. He was the father I've never had. I remember how he would buy Jabu and myself matching clothes for Christmas and new year in his eyes we were his little girls who were probably twins but who were five years apart. That man cared for me he loved me and treated me like his own. I recall the walks to the park the ice cream dates he would take Jabu and I at. That man was the only parent I've ever knew or had he never excluded me nor ever made me feel like I wasn't his. He was treating me so much better than my aunt. Sadly he passed on when I was doing my grade six. The day he passed on he was going to my school to my collect my school report since my aunt had refused saying my prisoner of a father should be the one collecting it not her. My step father promised to leave work early to come collect it. He was knocked by a bus and poor ntate Mloto didn't make it. I guess you understand what fueled my aunt to hate me. Hearing Mcebisi laugh this much reminded me of that love I've once knew and had from ntate Mloto. "Pizza?" Sidney - "Thank you" He hands me a box while he shares with Mcebisi. "Well we have arrived." He says parking in front of a beautiful house with a clean and neat lawn. "Is this your house?" My son asks. "Yes...You like it?" "Yes.. I like it" "Next time you gonna spend a weekend here. Come let's go inside" He says looking at Mcebisi. "I think it's best we remain in here. So you can hurry up with searching for the bag pack" "Are you sure?" "Yes.." "Okay.. I will be back shortly" I nod. He walks away. Honestly speaking this guy is good looking he has a beautiful body too. His light in complexion but when compared to me he is darker than I am. I think I underestimated him his so much better than I am. He has a beautiful car a beautiful home I can say he affords his standard of living. His skin says it all his clothes spikes his wallet size. His just so much better than me a prostitute. What I like about him is that he doesn't gloat nor flaunt about his kind of lifestyle he is just doing him without making noise about it. His house is big beautiful yet a simple first brick house I love it honestly. His staying on the quiet and clean side of Soweto. This side is filled with tranquility this is the same

section I conceived Mcebisi in. But obviously not in this house but his father was residing this side. "You see his a good person mama?" He says with his mouth stuffed with pizza. "Yes baby he is" "I like him I wish he was my daddy" "Mcebisi..." I say with miff. I'm starting to think Mcebisi is becoming older and wiser. His starting to feel the void and melancholy of having an absent father. His probably in a phase of experiencing or having flashes of childhood traumas. My son can differentiate between a fathers role and that of a mother. His very much aware that I cannot be both he said it just yesterday. Hearing him wish for Sidney being his father really cuts so deep. Actually Sidney is the first guy to get this privilege of knowing my son better and having such a close relationship with him. I guess that's where the father figure wish derives from. "But nana he is not your father isnt it?" "I know mama I just wish he was my father. Mama please allow me to see uncle daddy at any given time please" "Nana that's risky. Mcebisi he has his own family his own life my baby. You just need to know your lane and be acceptive of it don't expect so much out if this do that to protect your heart and your own sanity. I don't want to get you wounded please my baby" He nods with sadness filled eyes. I feel a sting on my chest knowing I'm now teaching my son hard- reality life hacks as little as he is. It's sad but to be frank he mustn't be too attached to this guy yes the guy likes him and all that but he might be passing by just like his father. His surely window shopping and not planning on buy anything in this store. Shall something better and worth trying comes his way he will forget about my poor Mcebisi. He will go live his life with zero fucks about ever knowing my son or giving him false hope about a promising future. By then my child would be bowed headed and all weary. I can't afford to have my sons second heartbreak coming from a guy who was never even a partner to me not that he will be one but on the contrary I won't allow Sidney to scar my son and leave blemishes on his tiny soul. Already his first heartbreak was from Shalton his father. Imagine if he were to have another from Sidney? My child would be a broken husband or boyfriend. I wouldn't allow that. Judge me all you want but people change and when that happens some never even miss you nor think about you anymore instead their lives carry on just fine without you. I know how rejection feels like I do not wish it upon my son hence I'm avoiding this attachment on people especially men. Aunty (Jabu's mom) Her eyes are puffy so are her blushed cheeks. Something tells me this daughter of mine did the unthinkable to this man. A man would only want to divorce a woman for one two reasons "Comiting adultery" or "Being barren" And with Jabu I'm suspecting cheating. Why would mkhwenyana collect Tsiamo only and leave Mahlatsi behind? I look at her as she walks pass me heading to the kitchen. I put my hands on my waistline waiting for her to explain herself. My glasses clang against each other she's taking her frustrations on them. "Jabulile" "Mama I don't want to talk about it" "How do you expect me to aid you when you do not talk Jabu?" "Mama I will handle this all by myself please stop pestering" She says opening her wine or champagne bottle or beer I cannot differentiate between

those what I know is that they make people drunk and disrespectful when accumulated. "Want a glass?" "I don't drink a monkey's urine Jabu" "Fine.. Suit yourself" "Jabu stop being a baby and talk!!" "Fine mama I cheated.. I cheated on Ben are you happy now?" I look at her. "I cheated mama. He pushed me into doing it!!" She bursts. "You did what Jabu? Why would you do that huh?" "His been doing things to me things that you know nothing about mama. Never in a single day have i treated him like his doing with me throughout his shenanigans." She cries. "What was he doing my daughter?" "Ma it's too much. I don't know where to begin" "Jabu whatever it is you had no right to cheat on him. That man is very useful and important to you and us not forgetting the kids. Jabu do you want to end up like your cousin?" "Ma I'm telling you he pushed me into cheating!" "Hhayi suka you are weak Jabu! Stop justifying it." "Mama are you hearing yourself?" "Do you love him regardless of everything?" Deliwe and her son walk in with boxes of pizza and drinks. Jabu looks at me then them This conversation is not over..

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09 Sidney I put much of my clothes inside the bag. I text Mcebisi goodnight and thank you to Deliwe. Today she was way better than her usual self honestly I appreciate her little gesture. I scroll on my whatsapp I bump on father's status. "Mauritius with the family 😊" I click my tongue and throw my cell phone on the side. I hop off from the bed to go freshen up I lotion and brush my teeth mouth wash follows. I walk to my bedroom naked privileges of staying alone. I decide on trimming my beards I dress up warmly then go down on my knees to pray to my God for a safe journey. I get up and head to my car. I drive off to Nelspruit. My job is very demanding sometimes I spend months in different provinces putting my Geotechnical engineering skills to use. I will tell you more about my job description as time goes on. To answer your few questions I'm new in this place but not new in soweto. I came here to clear my head from my family drama and Chaos. My father Matthews is a very well known business man he is always on Forbes magazines or media broadcasts. His very well established like I said I'm biracial my "So called father" Is white and my mother is black She's a beautiful speaking and born Limpopo lady. I have a twin sister "Janet Boitumelo Matthew's-Groitbroom" Aged 35. There's nothing much to tell honestly well maybe there is but like I said. I came here to clear my mind off and distance myself from many things relationships drama's included.. You got that right I'm 35 years old and I'm a first born son of a filthy billionaire arse hole. But I hate that title I prefer my own "Sidney Kamohelo Matthews" no job tittle included or son of what bull just that... *** I ring my mother and put her on loud speaker it's 4 am by the way. "Kamo.." "Mme.. How are you?" "How must I be Kamo when I know nothing about your whereabouts?" "Ma I told Boitumelo yesterday kgore ke sharp oska stressa ka nna please" (I told Tumi that I'm fine please

don't stress about me) "Kamo you can't continue like this at least try to mend things with him."
"Mama I have nothing to mend with your boyfriend I wish you can just let me be please. Ake mothlogi nna Matthew's" (I don't need him ma) She heaves a sigh. "At least come home for nna le Tumi." "Have you spoken to Milly?" "No... Why?" "Nothing mama just asking" "I see... Anyway what are you doing at this hour Sidney?" "I'm driving to Mpumalanga I have a research to conduct that side. They want to build a stadium so I have some research and analysis to do." "How long are you gonna be that side?" "I don't know mama I might take a couple of weeks this side." "You mean a month or two?" "Probably" "Thats bad mosi" "I know..." "Hhayi Kamo you need to drive back here for your grandfather's birthday and besides Milly came up with this idea" I heave a sigh. "I will see what I would do about it mama" "Okay drive safe.. Nna ka robala" (I'm sleeping) "Fine.. Sorry to disturb you I just wanted to tell you I'm fine and that I was going to Mpumalanga." "Thanks son.. Kao rata ankere?" "I love you too mama" "Bye.." "Bye.." I end the call to play music. My phone beeps (Sms conversation) "No need to thank me. Morning" Deliwe- "Awake at this hour? Morning to you too" "I'm suffering insomnia besides it's that time of the month. Was woken up by the pains" Deliwe - "Neurofen helps with the pains take some and have Mcebisi spoiling you with warm beverages it's gonna help" "And how do you know about remedies for menstruation and its cramps?" I giggle. "I have a twin sister remember?" "How did I forget? Thank you I will try it out" "Pleasure.. Champ still sleeping?" "And snoring not forgetting his diagonally sleeping position and the kicks too😊" I laugh. "Motherhood chronicles I guess sorry" "Tell me about it thanks. Anyway let me nap thanks for the remedy" "Thanks for checking in" "Pleasure.." I toss my cell phone on the side and focus on the road. Deliwe I hop out from the bed and walk to the kitchen. I want to make myself a hot water bottle. Later on the day I'm gonna go buy myself the pills as Sidney suggested. I will use the money that was meant to buy a school bag for Mcebisi to buy the pills. I think i should get my son cheese polony and Viennas for his lunchbox then fruits and those zoom or fruittree juices for lunchbox. After all I didn't buy the school bag but his daddy uncle gave it to him. I must say it's still fresh the color is unique too. I owe Mcebisi a clean and cute lunchbox my son must get a break from jam and peanut butter. He might end up suffering from sugar related diseases not that the cheese will make him any healthier but I've noticed he likes those even though my aunt denies him. I walk past Jabu to go boil water for my hot-water bottle and a hot cup of Rooibos tea.. She's drinking wine so early in the morning. "Mcebisi's dad looks fine." Is that a compliment or sarcasm? I give her an elbow I'm not about to attend her A. D. D. disorder I'm so not okay. Actually I'm debating myself on visiting my father in prison or rather spending quality time with Mcebisi and helping him out with his homework and prepare for tomorrow. "Deliwe a little thank you would be great" "Okay.." I say making tea. "You still angry about yesterday's little Altercation aren't you?" "Jabu Its still morning" "I should actually be

the one whose angry Deliwe because you slapped me. But here I am as always trying to be a bigger person." She sips from her glass. "Nobody asked you to be a bigger person Jabu" She laughs. "Now that baby daddy is back in the picture Jabu is getting a brush off. Wow!! I'm hurt" "Jabu I don't know what's troubling you so much that you breathing alcohol so early in the morning. Please keep me out of your problems I have my own share." " I don't know what happened to you to be this cold and rude to everyone. A little smile with a dash of thank you would take you far in life. This hulk face you always pull at people isn't gonna take you far sister. Instead you will miss out on opportunities because of your arrogance and pride." "Jabu have you ever wondered how I was gonna be had your mother not ill treated me and shaped me into becoming this woman that I am today? Have you ever wondered how I was gonna be was I given hugs and kisses and a little smile filled with love and motivation by your dearest mother? Jabu you know nothing about the fatalities I've encountered growing up you know nothing about how alone and empty I am within soul unlike you who had someone to dust you up and pat your shoulders each time you had your knees grazed and injured you had someone to wipe your tears and give you comfort. While I had none of that. I was wiping my own tears being my own comfort. Don't tell me about arrogance and coldness because that's what I've always been exposed to. Give me a breather please!! " " Life is shitty on everyone Deliwe you need to toughen up and stop sulking" "How about you practice the last line? And stop smelling like a sewage so early in the morning" I say heading to my bedroom. I get under the blankets and sip my tea. I reach for my laytop and search for vacant job opportunities I give it my best try by applying. But I know I won't get anything out of it. I know how this route turns out. After I'm done with applications. I put on my investigating shields i mean his friends with my son why not? I search but nothing comes on his name bummer. I think I will go see my father I have no choice honestly. The time is now 7 am. I need to wake up and prepare for my day. I quickly make a call to Vuyiseka

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telling her I want to drop off my son at her place for a couple of hours. She tells me she's not home but she will notify her mother about it. I will warm up last night's pizza for Mcebisi as for me an apple would do. I find Mahlatsi and my aunt helping themselves on the pizza. I check the boxes theres nothing left for Mcebisi. "Where are Mcebisi's slices?" "Is that our good morning?" Aunty- "Aunty I'm not up for games or arguing I'm asking where are my son's pizza's slices? There's no way you could've ate everything and not thought of saving some for the owner" "It's finished!" I lose my cool "How finished? Who even gave you permission to eat this pizza Aunty? You never allow Mcebisi to eat your stuff but here you are swallowing like a whale eating his stuff! How could you? Actually what kind of a person are you?" "Don't yell at me Deliwe!!! You've been eating my food since you were

two what are pizza slices over the food I've fed you for years? Don't get too big for your shoes Cinderella aaibo!" "Yazi unehliziyo embi!!" "Deliwe don't you dare use that tone on me I will slap you!" "Hhaibo what is this noise?" Jabu- "Mama why are you shouting?" Mcebisi - "Deliwe is screaming this loud for mere pizza slices can you imagine?" "Hhaibo Deliwe! Like really?" Jabu- "They finished all eight slices and they didn't have the decency of saving at least two slices for my son.. What kind of cruelty is that?" "Mama why didn't you save some for Mcebisi?" Jabu- "It was nice and I'm hungry what was I supposed to do?" Auntie - "Fuck this rubbish!!" I say annoyed. "Kodwa mama you should've kept a few slices for Mcebisi." Jabu- "Leave me alone Jabu in case you've both forgotten this is my house. By the way start with the pots the stokvel ladies are coming." I paste jam and peanut butter for Mcebisi and make him a cup of tea he eats it without debating with me. I tap my foot while looking outside the window. Mcebisi looks at me. " I'm sorry mama " " It's not your fault baby they wronged you " " But you shouting because of me" "Cebi you are my baby and I care a lot about you. When someone does you wrong it's my duty to fight for you and protect you okay?" "But I hate it when you shout mama" "Baby don't worry about me" "Mama don't shout at gogo anymore I hate seeing you angry" "I hate it too but sometimes it's the right thing to do okay?" He nods. "Eat so we can go visit Gogo ka Thami" "We going there?" "Yes.." "Okay.." He says not looking forward to it. Jabu puts R250 on the table. "Go buy yourself the pizza I'm sorry about that" "No need for that.. Cebi come let's go bath" "Let me go rinse my cup and plate." "Go to the bathroom I will attend to that." "Thank you mama" He walks away I wash the plate and mug. "I'm sorry about that Deliwe" "Thanks but like I said there's no need." "My son ate the pizza as well so i owe you an apology" "It's chilled Jabu" I say walking away. I bath Mcebisi then myself. We dress up for our day. I leave him at Vuyiseka's house with a R50 note to at least buy bread and chips and eat with everyone else shall hunger knock in they gladly welcome him. I shoot to suncity prison. I barely know this man whom I'm meeting with today. A text beeps before I walk inside the waiting room. "How are the pains now?" "Better thank you" "Greet Mcebisi for me I will call him later." "I'm far from him but I will pass the message" "Where are you?" "Suncity" "Whose arrested?" "Father" "Whose father?" "My father" "Oh! Fingers crossed for everything to go well" "Fingers crossed" "Talk later pops has arrived" "Bye" Sidney I check my temporary chamber not bad it will push me through. I put my bag on the bed and go stand by the window gazing on the trees and mountains I listen to the melodies of the birds as they chirp. I close my eyes and heave the loudest sigh. I decide upon myself to call Milley. She picks up on the third ring. "Hey Sidney." "Hi.." "O sharp?" "Yeah.. How are you?" "Not good yesterday I went out to party.. My head is throbbing" "Had too much to drink?" "Yes." "I see.." There's silence. "Millicent" "Yes" "Have you done it already?" "I drag doing it Kamo you know how the tune goes." "Please do it and get back to me. I can't help but to think we won this time around." "Kamo please.

It's been years already getting the same results I just can't honestly" "Millicent come on just do the damn thing. It's not even gonna take you weeks to obtain the results" "Sidney I would've known by now. It's way pass three months now since we last went raw but still there's no sign." "Milly please do it I beg of you" "I think we should just end this Kamo honestly. We really going nowhere. " I keep quiet and look outside the window. "Kamo" "Yes." "Think about it" "Think about what Milly?" "Motho wamodimo time is no longer on my side My peers have three or more already. I've been ready since twenty four years Kamo" "You think I don't know that Millicent? Do you really think I enjoy this? I'm trying for christ sake!" "But you not trying enough Kamohelo you just relaxed. Had you been trying enough by now it would've happened Sidney. You could've used your father's money to see specialist regarding our issue. I can't stand this honestly your mom questions me about everything in her eyes the problem is with me Kamo and I can't take it anymore." " I will book you a flight to come see me today so we can reach common grounds regarding everything " " Fine" "Sure" I end the call and throw my cellphone on the bed. I later book her the flight ticket I tell her to get the utensils too.. She agrees to it.. Deliwe He sits opposite me. His tall and skinny. I don't even know how his supposed to look like because I hold no memory of him. I look aside he has brown eyes just like those of my son. "Deliwe right?" I nod. "Mphikeleli Mphazima Khosi Mphazima's brother" He smiles. "You beautiful just like a garden of eden" I don't know if I should smile or what. This guy has been here since I was two years Thats like for twenty five years. I don't even know his name till now. "Thank you" "Deliwe I want to apologize for everything" "What is everything?" "You know being absent from your life. I've failed you as a father" "Just like your girlfriend failed me?" "Deliwe life happened for both your mother and I" "Why didn't you guys give me up for adoption? Surely I would've been raised by a better family" "My heart wouldn't let me give you up I was gonna raise you" "But you ended up wearing an orange uniform as old as you are?" He swallows hard. "Deliwe I know you angry at me and your mother for not raising you" "You mean for being useless and cowards? You two shouldn't have had sex from the get go!" I say out of pain. "Deliwe. " " I shouldn't have came here" "Deliwe I want to tell you something that I've never told anyone." "And what is that Mphikeleli Mphazima?" "I was arrested for atm bombing" "And how does that erase and numb the pain I've worn throughout my childhood because of your poor pulling out game huh Mphazima? Do you know how you and your girlfriend complicated my life? At least one of you was supposed to love me and take me into consideration I should've been a priority to either of you. You shouldn't have resorted to crime. You were supposed to raise me" Salty water slide down my cheeks. He looks at me and swallows hard. "Deliwe I left you in my sisters hands I left you with my house and a little money to sustain you while I was away. I didn't leave you with nothing my child. Jabu promised to love you and take you to fancy schools with the portion of money I got from my heists. I didn't just

leave you with nothing I left you with a bright future something I've never had growing up. " " What future? You mean your sister beating me with kettle cables? Forcing me to sleep on tiles without a blanket on a freezing night? You call eating salt and pap a bright future Mphikeleli? You call going to school with pink shoes instead of proper shoes a bright future? Don't tell me about a bright future you know nothing about the kind of life your sister gave me. Yazini I'm done here!! " " She did that? Jabu did all that? " " Don't ever call me you and your girlfriend are dead to me. " " Deliwe what I called you for is important please me hear me out" "I'm done!!!" I stand up and walk out clouded by tears and pain..

10

Sidney

Anticipation is killing me. I've been trying to calm my nerves down regarding what awaits me from my girlfriend of years we've been dating since my second year in varsity when I was studying my Geotechnical Engineering course. My phone rings.

"Cebi how are you?"

"I'm good thanks uncle Sidney how are you?"

"I think I'm fine boy I'm actually fine. Where are you and what are you doing? I hear cars on your background"

"I'm playing soccer with my friends at the place mom left when going to the shops"

"What place is that Mcebisi? I'm concerned about the cars that I'm hearing on your background y

For both our sakes you better not be on the road Tyler"

" I'm playing inside a yard not on the pavements. "

"Mcebisi come!! They gonna score" A kid shouts on his background.

"I'm on the phone with my father wait up!!"

Something within me finds peace and happiness in his words. He called me father something I've been longing to hear for the few past years to no avail.

"Uncle daddy"

"My boy"

"Can I call you later before I sleep?"

"Sure my phone is yours to call Mcebisi"

"Thank you"

"No problem son kao rata ankere?"

(I love you Okay?)

"I love you too uncle daddy"

"Mcebisi"

"Yes"

"Becareful don't hurt yourself and stay away from the street"

"I will be careful. Bye bye"

"Bye boy" He ends the call leaving me brushing my chest that has suddenly engulfed by a foreign liberating feel that has taken over on me.

My phone rings It's Millicent.

"I'm outside"

"Coming"

I end the call and jog outside. I locate her at the gate with a luggage bag. She flashes me a faint smile then her lips comes in contact with mine. I pull out from the kiss and carry her luggage bag inside the house.

"Such a hot day it is." Milly-
"Yeah.. Mpumalanga is Hella hot"
"Just like yourself"

She smiles.

"How was your journey?"
"Cool I can't complain about it. And when did you get here?"
"Today"
"I see..How long are you planning on stay here?"
"A couple of weeks"
"I see.." She looks around the house.
"Well mama is planning a party."
"I've heard about it I don't think I will make it"
"Why? Is it because your father and brothers will be there?"
"They not reason enough for me not to come Millicent I have other things to do"
"Like what?"

She looks at me legs crossed on the sofa.

"Can we get to it Millicent I have a paperwork to do afterwards."
"I thought we were gonna greet each other properly Kamo like lovers you know? I'm wearing a sexy number too" She says walking towards me sitting on my lap and scribbling things on my chest.
"Can we focus on the test for now then the other stuff later on."
"We can do that later Kamo" She says removing her blouse.
"Milly come on I want those results as in yesterday. "

"And I want you to make love to me Kamohelo just like the old times."
She says seductively nibbling my neck She takes my hand and puts it on her
boobs.

"Do we do it here or on the bed?"

"We not doing anything Millicent but the pregnancy test"

"Kamo come on what is wrong with you? I just walked in here you cannot
ambush me with urinating on the bloody pregnancy test stick. We both know
there's nothing Kamohelo I'm not pregnant!!"

"Let the stick attest to tha do the damn thing and stop blabbering!"

"I don't have time for this"

"Millicent!!"

She walks away leaving me breathing livid.

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Deliwe

I go lean by the fence wall and cry myself a river i don't know what to feel or
what to say about seeing my father. This experience was supposed to bring
me joy or better yet peace of mind but here I am shattered and feeling more
and more anger beaming within me. I have mixed emotions especially over
what father said about my future. Anger and pain dominance all other feels. I
wipe my tears ruining my poor Mascara. I pull out my cell phone to dial my
son.

"Mama"

"Hey boy.. You good?" I say with a trembling voice poor me I have hiccups
too.

"I'm fine mama"

"Mcebisi come!!" A kid shouts on his background.

"Mama please call me later I'm playing with other kids"

"Okay baby mom was just checking up on you"

"Thank you mama bye"

"Bye baby"

The line goes dead I exhale deeply then walk towards the taxi In a split second the taxi drops me off at the mall. I buy Mcebisi's stuff I decide on going home. I think i need a little private conversation with my aunt i want to discuss what my father said about the money he supposedly left me before going for prison. I find the old hag hosting her stokvel ladies in our lawn the church uniform she's wearing would blind you from seeing the slutty and evilness she harbors underneath it.. I greet and pass them I start ironing my son's school uniform I move to polishing his shoes. I check his books if my signature is needed. I put aside the few books that have a homework so he can remember them. I will fetch him shortly. The other devils agent calls me these women wont let Deliwe be.

"Maflo"

"Deliwe we are under stuffed. You need to come to work"

"You gave me a day off Ma Flo"

"That was before clients came up queuing for you. Drop whatever you doing and get to work"

"Ma Flo I haven't healed"

"Catte come to work don't make me drag you there myself"

"I don't have a baby sitter"

"Just come!!" she ends the call. I exhale deeply as I'm leaning towards the table counter. Maybe I need the distraction from my thoughts. Maybe I need this little bit of time away to calm my mind. I will fetch Mcebisi wherever he is when I come back. Today I'm not planning on dressing up for my clients. I'm going there looking like this. I reach for my sling bag and walk out. I catch a taxi and ride to my work place. I find my regular customers waiting for me. A few of them wave at me with smiles i curse their arses within.

"And now?" Maflo-

"Now what?"

"Catte what are you wearing?"

"Clothes"

"Clothes Catte? These are rags no man would get erected with this outfit!"

"Maflo my head is throbbing don't add more please. Whose first?"

J"Big daddy"

"Sure"

I walk to my station.. I find Big daddy settled on the bed smoking.

"Catte I hate waiting"

"My apologies"

"Give me a head"

I massage his shaft when it's erected enough I roll a condom on it. I pleasure him. While I'm still on it a certain face flashes before my eyes. It's strange but its happening. By the time I'm done with this client I've replayed each and every single moment shared together. I have mimicked word by word he said every facial expression he has done.

"Catte"

"Big daddy"

"What skills do you have?"

"In terms of?"

"Professional skills."

"I'm writing and communicating skills. "

"I see.."

"Look I can employ you."

"What is the catch?"

"You leave this place and satisfy me alone. I will pay you greatly I love what you feed me. Please think about it"

"Why would you do that Big daddy?"

"Like I said I like you for myself"

"What happens when you tired of me? Will i still have a job or its gonna end when we end whatever shit we were doing? "

"You will continue working and I will continue paying you"

"I see. "

"Let's exchange numbers"

"Sure"

We exchange numbers. He dresses up another client walks in then more of them..

Sidney

I'm settled on the edge of my bed with my hands transformed into a fists. My heart is bleeding and troubled. I don't know how I feel honestly I actually don't understand why it's hard to make this work for once. I've been praying about it and eating clean for a while for this to happen but the results are always nothing. For a praying man i dont deserve this miff from my savior.

"So where am I gonna sleep?"

"We gonna share"

"Sure"

She says lotioning her body getting ready to sleep. I steal a glance to admire her body.

"What?"

"Nothing"

"I see" She says putting on her tshirt. I remove my pants and climb the bed I switch off my side lamp and lay on the bed facing the ceiling. A little while later Milly hops on the bed silence fills the room.

"You good?"

"Sure"

"Sidney you can talk to me"

"I don't wanna talk about it Milly"

"Talking helps Kamo I'm here for you."

"Now you care?"

"Come on of course I care Kamo."

"You care enough to throw away a ten years relationship Milly?"

" I want to have kids Sidney you very much aware of that"

"And I don't want them? I'm trying Milly!! I've changed my diet started working out and ridding my bad habits for this to happen I've sacrificed so many things for this to happen! Its not like i haven't been doing nothing i've been trying!"

"I don't want to fight"

"No one is fighting!" She looks at me for a little while.

"Sidney"

I keep quiet.

"Baby come on"

I look at her.

"Can we not fight not again"

"I think you're right let's abort this this whole thing. What the point of being in a relationship where I know nothing fruitful will come out of it you are free to go get a man whose gonna give you what you want Millicent Ngoyi. Excuse me"

I say walking out of the bedroom heading to my fridge. I take out a bottle of SOL beer and down it. I call the young man whom I've promised a call before sleeping. He picks up sounding sad.

"Uncle Sidney"

"Hey you still awake?"

"Yes I'm waiting for my mother to come collect me.. I have school tomorrow"
I look at the time.

"Mcebisi it's 12 am you need to sleep boy"

"No my mother will fetch me"

"Where is she?"

"I don't know she didn't tell me"

"Look boy get some sleep I will call mom to ask her about when she's coming to collect you okay. Sleep for now ankere?"

"Yes.."

"Good night"

"Night" I end the call and dial Deliwe she doesn't pick up. I ring her again but she doesn't answer this is strange. I stand up to go pick up another beer I down it while trying to ring Deliwe. She doesn't pick up. I check her last seen it was a few minutes ago at least she's alive. I text her "Son waiting up for you to fetch him from wherever you left him. Where the hell in the world are you Deliwe? It's 12 am Mcebi has school tomorrow. Go fetch the child and stop whatever you doing." I press send and throw my cellphone aside. It vibrates.

"I'm caught up"

"Caught up by what Deliwe? Is whatever you doing worth over your son?"

"Why do I feel like you shouting at me?"

"Pick up your phone i will call you now. "

"I'm busy"

"Deliwe pick up! Actually go home immediately."

"I will fetch him tomorrow morning stop texting I'm busy"

"You choosing dick over your son?"

"Excuse me?"

"If I wasn't where I am I would've fetched him already unlike what you doing"

"Don't judge me Sidney!"

"Whatever" I toss my cellphone aside.

"How dare you talk to me like that?" I ignore it and walk to bed. I find Milly on her phone typing. I open her legs and go down on her. I reach for a condom and roll it in which is also useless because I'm not fighting against anything. I'm barren after all.. I ride her with thoughts running wild on my head...

Deliwe

"Ohh!!! Fuck!!!" The guy groans behind me. When he stops I quickly lock my phone cell and breathe heavy for him to think I was enjoying it. He gives me a couple of notes. He goes to wash up. I sit on the bed and dial Sidney. He doesn't pick up. I go wash my body and dress up. I can't believe Mcebisi made me look like an incompetent and irresponsible mother again. This boy and his big mouth maybe taking his Sgedlemba will be of help right now. Already this guy thinks I'm choosing dick over my son. I will deal with Mcebisi. I wear my clothes and walk outside. I request an Uber ride. In a split second I'm knocking at Vuyiseka's mother's house. The poor lady attends to the door wearing her gown and her torn black hair wrap. She yawns.

"Deliwe"

"Mama I'm sorry I'm sincerely sorry to wake you up at this hour. I got caught up it is now that i.."

"Deliwe it's okay.. I understand my daughter but you should've came for him in the morning his sleeping now"

"He has homeworks ma"

"But you can't take the baby this late Deliwe. Rather come here in time in the morning with his school uniforms"

"Thank you ma it's just that his father thinks i'm..." damn! I didn't have to say that. Sidney is not Mcebisi's father.

"Irresponsible?"

"Yes"

"Explain yourself properly tomorrow Deliwe."

"Thank you mama"

"Good night"

"Night"

I request again and go home. I try calling Sidney but his phone rings off hook. I lay on the bed re-reading our messages again even the very first message he once sent me.

Sidney

First thing in the morning I go freshen up and brush my teeth. I wear my boots and blue overalls. I brush my hair and quickly go grab a fruit. To my surprise I find Milly making breakfast with a broad smile on her face.

"Morning handsome"

"Morning.."

"I made you breakfast"

"You didn't have to"

"Come on after last night you need it Kamo"

"Thanks I should get going"

"At least have a bite of the toasted bread. I made you a lunchbox too"

"Thank you" I say having a bite of the toasted bread.

"Sidney"

"Sure"

"Thank you for last night"

"Pleasure"

"What would you like for supper?"

"Please go back to joburg"

"I'm on sick-leave"

"You being here is not a good idea we ending things Milly just like you said. Leave the key by the receptionist. Bye" I say kissing her cheek and running towards my bag pack. I jog to my car leaving the house energetic. I call Mcebisi.

"Hi Sidney"

"Hi Deliwe where is the owner of this phone?"

"His at school"

"Fine I will call when his back from school"

"You insulted me last night"

"Where were you by that time Deliwe?"

She keeps quiet.

"Look I've got to run sharp"

"Bye"

11

Jabu

I'm at my workplace when I receive a call from my next door neighbor telling me to come home ASAP. I carry my handbag and rush to the office. I find the principal and lie of course about rushing to a doctors appointment. I drive like a maniac heading to my house. From a distance I spot rubbish bags on the lawn. I pull aside and run inside the house.

"Yeah that too take it out. Leave no sign of her clothing" Ben says shouting.

"Ben... Ben... What's going on here?"

"Don't you have eyes?"

"Benard what' is this? What are these trash bags doing outside?"

"Take your rags and get lost Jabu"

He says walking inside the house pulling his cellphone.

"Babe" I lose my cool and snatch his cellphone I bash it against the wall. He roughly pins me against the wall ensuring his hand brings discomfort on my neck.

"How could you?" Ben-

"Ben you hurting me! Stop it!"

"Do you know how much that cell phone is? Fuck off Jabulile before I fuck you up you hear me?"

"You are a coward Ben!! You are a fucken coward. You are a weakling!!"

"Get your fucken rags and leave my house Jabu."

"You hurting me!!" I wince in pain.

"I gave you enough time to pack up willingly Jabu right now you leave me no choice but do the packing on your behalf. Fuck off" He roars inside my ear. The people whom he hired to pack up my belongings look at me. I feel tears slide down.

"I'm pregnant Ben"

That comes as a whimper.

"Pregnant for who? Ska ndira setlatla wena. Onyabana le batho bagao kontle then come back here to pin your rubbish on me? Ska nyela!"

(Don't take me for a fool you go around fucking men out there then come back here to pin your rubbish on me. Don't get too familiar with me)

" This baby is yours Ben!! I'm not lying!"

" What about Mahlatsi? Is he mine too? Ke papa wa Mahlatsi? "

" Benard you need to stop doing this!!! You Insulting me and hurting me! Both the kids are yours even this one. "

"Do yourself a Favour fold your little tail and fuck off!"

"I'm going nowhere this is my house too! I have every right and say over this house. We married in community of property Ben! "

"In your candy dreams. Fuck off before I do more than strangling you. If really that thing you carrying is mine go abort it"

"I'm going nowhere. Call cops on me your bitches and your bloody corrupt friends I'm going nowhere! This is my home our house!"

"You should've thought of that before you went to whore and conceived Mahlatsi!!"

"His your son dammit!!!"

He chuckles.

"My guy remove the portraits too. Even a single tiny piece of hair get rid of it."

"That's not happening I'm gonna call cops on you!! Ben you do not want to earn me as an enemy!!"

"You think I'm scared of you? Bring it on.. Let's see what the court will say about your whoring while married."

I swallow hard.

"You are evil!! You've been whoring for years Ben and I forgave you. You impregnated two women while married to me but I forgave you! What is hard about you forgiving me huh??"

"It's not my fault your self worth amounts to nothing Jabulile. Had you known your worth you wouldn't have forgave me for cheating on you! That was your choice to forgive and forget as for me forgiving cheating isn't a part of my demeanor. I know my worth unlike you. "

These words cut so deep.

" I never begged you to forgive my cheating that was your choice not mine! Leave before I get you arrested for invasion of privacy. "

"At least give me the house Ben do it for the kids if not me. We both know you don't need it. You can get yourself another house in a flash please Ben.. I'm begging you. "

"Those crocodile tears of yours do not scare me. My mind is made up there's no turning back!" He says letting me loose.

"Mama are we moving out?" The voice says from the door both Ben and I look behind us it's Tsiamo and Mahlatsi they both back from school. The heartless motherfucker goes to Tsiamo to embrace him my poor son steps back and looks at us.

"Mama what is going on here?" Tsiamo -

"Boy mama is moving out you and I are gonna stay together" Ben-

"Ben! Ben just stop it!!"

"Why is mama leaving?" Mahlatsi -

"Tsiamo and Mahlatsi go to the car. I will join you shortly" I say wiping my tears.

"Come Hlatsi" Tsiamo - they walk outside.

Deliwe

I didn't get time to talk to my son this morning hopefully I will manage when he comes back from school. Today I'm not fetching him I'm very tired honestly. My aunt looks at me then the television. Her cellphone rings.

"Jabu.." There's silence for a little while.

"Hhayi Jabu uthini manje? No.. I'm coming sisi. Unjani uBen kodwa? Hhayi!! You say what? He did all that? No Jabu I'm catching a taxi I'm coming sisi. Yes don't cry sisi I'm coming!"

I look at her then my inactive cell phone.

"Listen I'm coming now.. No sisi I'm coming." She says taking off her gown. She rushes to the bedroom to change i guess. She looks at me.

"I'm coming shall I take forever to come back. Make yourself useful and cook"

I look at her then my cell phone.

"Did you hear what I said Deliwe?"

"Yah"

"Good thing." She runs outside. I play music and sit on the couch. There's a knock at the door. I go open the door. It's Vuyiseka.

"Hello Cattle!"

"Hey stranger how are you?"

"I'm very well thanks and how are you? Where is Coco mama? Is she around?" I laugh.

"Come in silly she just went out"

"Better.. Yooh friend I have news for you. Where is your little handsome creature?"

"His still at school"

Speak of the devil Mcebisi walks in.

"Aunty Vuyi how are you?" My son jumps on Vuyi. Vuyi is that one girl who forced me into a friendship while I wanted nothing to do with it. Her and i are complete different from each other. She's a blabber and a sweetheart and I'm the opposite of that. She is loved by kids and kids hate me. Not that I care..

"Hey sweetheart how are you?" Vuyi-

"I'm fine. I love your hair Aunty"

"And I love you too sweetheart. How was school?"Vuyi-

" School was good. Today my mother made me a yummy lunchbox most children were salivating"

I smile so does Vuyi.

"What do we say ku mama?" Vuyi-

"Thank you mama kaCebi. " Cebi-

"Pleasure my baby. Please go change your uniform"

"Before you go there Mcebisi I have a little surprise for you. Ina" (Here) She says pulling out a R100 note.

"This is your pocket money for the next coming weeks. R10 a day Mcebisi"

Vuyi-

"Thank you Aunty!!" My son jumps in joy hugging Vuyi. He walks away leaving us with privacy.

"Out with it"

"Well ndithole umuntu chomi"

(I've met someone)

"What someone?"

"Someone to fuck me and break my heart wethu. "

"You have time Vuyiseka" I say not interested i hatemen apart from my own man Cebi.

"Unlike you some of us want to make love Catte not to fuck.."

I look at her.

"Who is the cursed guy?"

"My lips are sealed for now. But friend the guy dishes out so good he hits all the Gspots Catte."

"And when he breaks your heart his gonna mince all those spots.. Juice?"

"Awumuncu kanje sana"

(You so bitter)

"I'm just saving your heart Vuyi"

"Catte I love him sana he treats me like royalty. And mind you he doesn't have a problem with me being a prostitute"

"His too good to be true"

"Catte stop it kanene yintoni ngawe?"

(What's wrong with you)

"Why doesn't he have a problem with you being a prostitute? Most men wouldn't date a prostitute Vuyi"

"Well this one does and uyandithanda ke tana. "

"Vuyi I suck at giving comforting words especially to heart broken women. So whatever you do don't hide behind curtains when he shows you his true colors. Your juice"

"Thanks angry bird"

I chuckle. A message beeps "Is he back from school?" I respond to it.

"Where did you meet your soon to be men are trash guy?"

"He happens to be a regular at the club his a fine man."

"You mean your kind of fine? Pitch black and yellow teeth?"

She laughs.

"Tall dark and handsome you meant?"

"Wait till loadshedding happens you won't find that handsome."

"Hhayi Catte umuncu sana"

(You bitter)

Mcebisi walks in.

"Mama"

"Baby"

"Have you seen my ceell phone?"

"It's charging in the bedroom"

"Thank you mommy"

"Are you hungry Mcebisi?"

"No.. I ate an apple a minute ago. " He says disappearing to my bedroom.

"Such a cute little man. So tell me when are you planning on introducing the little man to his father?"

"He knew where I stay Vuyi. And he knows pretty well my aunty hates dogs. If he was interested he would've came nothing motivated his running away from responsibility demeanor. "

"But Deliwe tell him"

"He knows he left a Deliwe pregnant Vuyi. It's not like I've never told him about the pregnancy. I won't chase him yooh"

"Catte you have a very bad and odor filled pride. You have this mentality of thinking you do not need people kanti Lutho sana we all need each other out there. Stop allowing your pride and ego to drive you on the nearest pit. Khawuphile Catte. We all know life is cold just like a frogs butt but that is not reason enough for us not to live our lives out of the cold. Live Catte just once" I look at her.. Another message beeps." His phone is off please borrow him yours" Sid-

"Eehm let's go get something to eat by the container." Vuyi-

"You scared of eating Coco mama's grocery?"

"Yooh yikaka yomuntu leyo"

(She's full of rubbish that one) We laugh.

"Cebi come we going out"

"I'm coming mama"

"Hurry up baby."

"Well there's a guy. He loves Mcebisi"

"And?"

"And that's it Vuyi"

"You suck at telling stories. Does he like you?"

"He loves my son and that scares me. He already bought him an air force sneaker he calls him everyday. He worries about him Its like Mcebisi is the center of his world. My poor son likes him too and that alone scares me Vuyi"

"You fear history might repeat its self? Broken heart rejection loneliness? The list is endless"

"Of course. This bond is getting too deep i fear for Cebi. "

"Catte for once khawubone ifoto e bright. Stop allowing your eyes and mind to seeing the bad in people only. If the guy loves your son more than he does with you doesn't that portray a blessing in disguise? Catte i wont lie to you men hate this step fathering duty finding a man who genuinely loves your child is a high Catte. Like I said get rid of this garment of pain fear and insecurities. I know people are dicks out there but sometimes you just need to put your guard down and go with the flow give things a benefit of doubt. His father broke your heart fine vele first lovers are never staying. Young love never lasts at all Catte it always leaves ungrateful. Deluwe stop being hard on yourself. Wena you here mourning a guy who barely remembers his son while yena he is dropping panties wherever he is surely licking scary things. "

I giggle.

" But really Catte you too young to go around disguising yourself as your life sufferings. Too young to throw in the victims card all the fucken time. Live babe do it for your son. He deserves a fully healed and happy mother. Allow this nameless guy to love your child. Let them be. "

" When did you graduate from being a prostitute to a motivational degree? "

" I'm a woman of many talents"

" Mama let's go phela"

"Thank you baby for saving me from this third degree"

I say laughing. We all stand up going outside. Another message beeps reminding me i haven't responded to the poor guy.

"I'm waiting" Sid-

"Will give him the phone when we get home. For now we going to the shops"

"Okay. I will wait thanks"

Sure? Or pleasure? I get it pleasure will do.

Sidney

My work sounds easy but it's not honestly. As a Geotechnical civil and construction engineer I'm involved in all stages of the designing of structures from the concept to construction. My job starts on the desk i study assess maps and contact local authorities. This is then followed by a ground investigation based on the findings of my desk study it later involves trial pitting and sampling to uncover any potential issues of the ground or any other climate change related dilemma. It's too much work honestly without me most buildings and roads or any other infrastructure would collapse putting lives in danger. As I've said I'm working on building a stadium hence I have so much analysing to do. See why it could take me a while to leave this place?

I walk inside my place I need a quick bath and maybe a quick fix to silence my stomach. I'm met by an inviting aroma meaning she hasn't left. I heave a sigh before turning the door handle. I'm met by roses on the floor and candles and soft music. I swallow hard and walk deep inside the house.

"Hey you back? That was too Soon"

"Milly what is this?"

"Relax this is our final goodbye candlelight dinner."

"Oh! But it wasn't necessary it looks good and quite of some work"

"We come a long way sweetheart. This is the least I can do to thank you and appreciate you for being a good partner to me. Men like you are rare to find Sidney"

"Milly I hope this is not gonna change our final decision"

"Not a chance."

"I see and thank you. Let me quickly go freshen up"

"Sure" I walk away leaving my stuff on the couch. I lotion and walk back. I find Milly on the phone.

"As in now? I'm out of the province. Fine! I will board a plane now" She ends the call and looks at me disappointed.

"Look I have to leave"

"Work?"

"You know the struggle. I'm needed to perform a surgery as in yesterday.. I'm sorry"

"It's okay I understand I will drive you to the airport"

"Thanks Kamo. I'm sorry once again"

"No problem." I say kissing her lips. She deepens the kiss I scoop her up and pin her on the couch. I take off her dress and stripe her naked. I suck on her nipples as I have both her boobs squeezed on my hands. She let's out a soft moan. My phone vibrates in my pockets. She looks at me with lust filled eyes.

"I have to take it it's important"

"Sure.. I will go pack up then"

"No problem" She walks away.

"Boy"

"Mom says you want to talk to me"

"Of course. How was school?"

"School was great."

"Thats awesome. Don't you have homeworks today?"

"I have them but mama will help me before we go to bed."

"Better. I miss your endless questions you know?"

"I miss your big cell phone with nice games"

"Mcebisi eat"

"Mama I will eat I'm still on the phone"

I smile.

"Sorry about that mom is forcing me to eat."

"But you need to eat so you can grow. How do you feel about me coming to visit you on Saturday?"

"I would love that but can I sleep over?"

"That's if mom will agree."

"Eeh.. Sidney I'm done"

I look behind me.

"Who is that?" Mcebisi -

"Look boy let me call you later"

"But who is that?" I giggle.

"That's not important for you to know boy."

"No I want to know it's my duty to know"

I giggle.

"A friend maybe?"

"Mmm... I see.. Bye bye"

"Bye" I end the call.

"Who was that?" Milly -

I look at her then her luggage.

"Ready to go?"

"Yeah... But who was that Kamo?"

"My friend"

"A friend that makes you smile ear to ear?"

"Yeah.. Is there a problem with that?"

"Sidney you seeing someone don't you?"

"Milly why do you care about my private life?"

"I care cos it's not long since we ended things Sidney we called it quits just last night. I'm just surprised by the speed of you replacing me so snappy."

"Milly not now please."

"No Sidney you owe me an explanation that's the least you can do."

I look at her.

"That's my son"

"Son? What son kamo?"

"Motho wamodimo let's go"

"You have a son? And you never said anything about it?"

"I'm talking about my twinny's child"

"Tumi has a daughter not a son"

She looks at me with worry. I drive her to the airport. We share a goodbye kiss and walk our separate ways. Knowing Milly she won't tell people we are

separated instead she will carry on playing the daughter in law role. After all my family loves her big time I also love her its just a pity things turned out this way for the both of us. She deserves better than what I'm giving her. She desperately wants to be a mother it's only fair I let her go find someone who is gonna grant her hearts desires. As for me I only want to enjoy whatever relationship I have with Mcebisi that's the only relationship I need right now. Not the one of being committed to someone especially a woman. I don't want to ruin anyone's time and efforts. If possible I will plead with Deliwe to give me parental rights to Mcebisi. I know that would lead to world War 3 but I'm willing to save that boy from a deadbeat father trauma. Already they abusing him and his mother wherever they staying the least I can do is be a pillar for that boy. I earn quite a lot of money wasting it on him would make the world a better place.

I know I'm not his biological father but I can be a present father to that boy regardless of our blood types or relation. Deliwe is a mother she cannot be a father to Mcebisi I can do that for free.

Okay maybe I'm over doing this but Mcebisi needs to be saved that boy is too smart. If he loses his innocence now his talents and opportunities could go to waste his future might be dim and I won't allow that. If nobody saves him now he will grow up with anger and pain. That alone is uncalled for and unhealthy. My phone rings I pick up with a frown.

"Son.."

"Sure.." I say annoyed.

"How are you?"

"What do you want?"

"Sidney come on when will you stop doing this?"

"What do you want Matthew's?"

"Look your mother told me about a function they hosting. Im looking forward to talking to you"

"If it's about the Matthew's family business spare me the talk. I'm not interested"

"Kam hello"

"Kamohelo."

"My apologies. We need to talk please"

"I don't want your bloody shares Matthews"

"I wasn't fighting but asking. I'm on a business trip with your brother"

"So?"

"Sidney come on when will this end?"

"Sharp." I end the call.

12

Deliwe

Vuyi has me laughing my lungs out with her hilarious stories. I've never laughed like this in my whole entire life. Such a bubbly being she is.

"I'm telling you Catte"

"You lying hhay suka"

"I'm not Deliwe" I laugh yet again.

"Hhayi Catte let me get going I have a shift at Five."

"Thank you for popping by"

"Pleasure don't forget what I said. "

"I got it.. No picture today?"

"I'm too hot not to be snapped come closer"

We pout for a picture.

"Post them Deliwe don't make me a Zombie in your gallery. Post me please"

"Fine I will.."

"Boy boy bye bye neh? Aunty will see you tomorrow"

"Bye Aunty Vuyi"

She kiss Mcebisi's cheeks and then mine. A few guys whistle as she walks away such a thick pretty woman she is. I take more pictures of Mcebisi and myself. We share a few snaps and walk home..

I'm surprised to find Jabu crying so hysterically in the lounge. Rubbish bags are scattered in the sitting room making it hard to move around. I may not know what is going on but I know rubbish bags denotes a "aGet out of my house" kind of situation. My guess tells me Ben kicked her out. My eyes move to Tsiamo and Mahlatsi. I greet them and walk to my bedroom to help my son with his homeworks. I later fix his school uniform and sign his books too.

"Knock knock"

"Come in" Tsiamo walks in.

"Mamncane can I go play with Mcebisi outside?"

"Do you want to play Cebi?"

"Sure we can go play" Cebi-

"Have you written your homeworks?" I ask Tsiamo.

"I won't be going to school tomorrow"

"Why not?"

"Mom said we not going to school for tomorrow"

"I see.. Go play soccer buy yourselve kipkips. Buy some for Mahlatsi." I give them R6 it's two rand per child.

"Thank you Aunty"

"Mind the cars please"

"We will"

"Off you go." They walk out. I quickly tidy up the bedroom and walk to the kitchen to start with supper. My aunt is still comforting Jabu I really do wish to ask what's going on but knowing my Aunty she will think I want to make a joke out of her daughter's misery so it's best I mind my business. I chop my onion and robot peppers then my carrots. I'm making beef stew with pap and cabbage.

"Deliwe"

"Aunty"

"Go fix a room for Jabu offload these plastics too. Jabu will be staying with us for a time being. She's only visiting nothing major."

"I see. I will attend to it after cooking."

I look at Jabu.

"Go rest Jabu you need it my daughter"

"No mama I think I need a walk. "

"Jabu don't be stubborn you gonna collapse on the pavements. Go sleep"

"Ma please!"

"Hhayi ke Hamba Thomas I just hope that walk wont lead you to number 33 rueben road"

I manage to hear this from their conversation.

My phone rings.

"Hello and his not around"

He chuckles..

"Who said I want to talk to him?"

"Thats the only thing you've been devoting much of your time on lately"

"Why do I sense jealous in your tone?"

"In your dreams."

"You lying Sesi you jealous just admit it"

I smile.

"Why are you calling me by the way?"

"I'm bored and I just happen to have your numbers."

"So I'm your boredom detox bin?"

"Why are you so angry Deliwe?"

"Gosh! I'm trying to be nice"

"Then that sucks try harder. You can do better than that. " Another smile. "What are you doing? Let's hope I'm not disturbing"

"I'm cooking by the way"

" I didn't know you cook does it taste good? "

I smile.

"I cook dude very delicious food at it."

"I see sisters.. Anyway I was just checking up on you nothing much"

"I would've appreciated it had I been admitted in hospital it's a pity I'm not"

"A normal person would say thank you"

"A normal person would've been able to find the sarcasm in what I've just said instead of going all emotional about it."

"Look I got to go cheers"

"Cheers uncle daddy"

"To you I'm baby not uncle daddy"

I laugh.

"In your dreams. The only baby I have is Mcebisi not a grown ass nigga with 32 teeth"

"You will age sooner laugh a little. Bye"

"I do laugh maybe your jokes are not sending me to hospital to get myself stitched up."

"You saying my jokes are lame?"

"Of course"

"Honestly speaking I don't recall ever telling one"

"Then why do you expect me to laugh?"

He heaves a sigh.

"Mama can I have water"

"How many glasses did you drink today?"

"I drank four"

"Four more to go.. Here"

"Sorry about that"

"It's okay.. Anyway let me get to work"

"Bye"

I put my cell phone back inside my pockets. A knock comes to the door. I wipe my hands to go open the door. My eyes land on Mphikeleli wearing a black hoody and a pair of jeans.

"Greetings"

"Hi..hi.." I say mesmerized isn't he supposed to be in prison?"

"Can I come in?"

"Yes.. Sure" I say standing aside.

He looks at Mcebisi then myself.

"Who is that Deliwe?"Aunty-

Mphikeleli looks at me then my son.

"Your son?"

I nod.

"Name?"

"Mcebisi"

"Hello boy.." He says kneeling in front of him Mcebisi looks at me then the stranger. I hear echoes of sleepers sounds being dragged to the kitchen That's my aunt coming to the kitchen.

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Mphikeleli Mphazima

Khosi my sister. She hasn't changed much from the last time I last saw her but its safe to say she looks very old for her age she's now twice the size she once was. She scans me then blows her nose.

"What is happening here?" Khosi-

"Mcebisi how old are you?"

"I'm eight years old"

"Great.." I say playfully rubbing his head. I stand up to pat Deliwe's shoulder then walk to the depths of my house. Which is extended and renovated. I'm glad my money managed to turn this house into a home. Had I not left anything behind when I went to prison I would be so embarrassed to walk inside this house looking the same as i left it. I clear my throat and look at the other kids who are looking at me.

"And them?"

"They Jabu's"

Deliwe says.

"What brings you here Mphikeleli?" Khosi-

"I see..Hello boys"

One of them answers but the other one goes to hide behind Khosi.

"I'm glad my house looks this good well done big sister.." I say walking past Khosi who is infuriated for what? I don't fucken know and I don't fucken care. I throw myself on the couch.

"Hi you must be Jabu?"

"Yes and you are?"

"You don't remember your uncle? Or your arrogance has wiped off your memory?"

She looks at me then her mother. I scan the few portraits that are on the wall non of them has a face of my daughter. How nice..

—

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Jabu

My mother doesn't look excited to see uncle Mphikeleli'. She's is very infuriated.

"Excuse me" I say standing up heading to the table counter to collect my car keys and wallet.. I drive outside the compound I park in front of my house. I know he kicked me out but this is my house I cannot just let it go just like that. I use one of the herbs I was given by the witch doctor.

"May his eyes see me only me may he come back to his senses and want me back. May he remember the love we once shared. May he need me once again and love me once more. Benard you are mine and mine alone." I say spitting inside my car. I collect myself and walk inside the house. He hasn't changed the keys. I walk past the kitchen heading to the sitting room I'm met by a view of a thick woman with creamy thighs spread wide open on the couches between them there's Benard pleasuring her. His face is buried between her thighs the lady is drawing him nearer to her num num. Bloody skank is moaning on the highest of pitch. Surely Bernard has a tongue long enough to match that of a python.

"Ohhh!! Baby!!" I walk back to the kitchen I reach for a broom and bash them with it. The lady screams but Ben turns to slap me hard across the face.

"Ben yintoni le?" Lady-

"Baby go to the bedroom"

"This is the bitter ex you told me about?" Lady-

"Yes.. The one who used muthi on me with the help of her mother" with that said Ben roughly pushes me outside the house. I trip and fall I'm wearing heels mind you my face is greased with tears.

"Ben please"

"I told you to back off but you won't listen!!" He says kicking me out while I'm on the ground.

"You thought I didn't know about what your mother did to me? My ancestors are very strong Jabu if you don't leave me alone wingilly. I will raise Tsiamo all by myself and poor Mahlatsi will be a charity case moving from one house to another and poor you will be dead by then. Fuck off!!!! "He throws my bag at me and locks the gate leaving me crying on the pavement and aching. The lady walks out looking at me with no damn care.

" Bhabha iza we not done. " I look at her and cry even more..

Deliwe

I place a basin on the table right in front of Mphikeleli so he can wash his hands before eating. My aunt is nowhere in sight she's been cupid up in her bedroom since.

"Here is food." I say placing a tray in front of him.

"Thank you Deliwe"

I dish up for the kids too and place the plates on the carpet. Khosi wants no one to eat on her couches especially the kids.

"Tsiamo Mahlatsi and Cebi come eat" I demand. They wash their hands and eat.

"Why are you here?" I ask as I sit down to eat.

"Because I have to be here."

I keep quiet.

"What about your sentence?"

"That's what I wanted to discuss when you brushed me off. I wanted you to sign my release forms but a lady friend helped me out"

"I see."

"So why didn't you go to your lady friend instead of here Mphikeleli?" My aunt shouts out of nowhere.

"I have a house Khosi this one to be exact"

"Really? Do you recall having a house like this one Mphazima?"

"Khosi have manners have the D. E. C. E. N. C. Y. this is no right time to be discussing such things there are kids here"

"Yey!!! Don't tell me about kids this is my house and I don't want you here Mphikeleli!!!!" Aunty roars.

"That's not for you to decide Khosi. Up the volume Deliwe please"

My aunt looks at me.

"Eehm it's too loud already"

Mphikeleli glares at me.

"We shall see where you gonna sleep. Over my dead body are you gonna crash in here"

"That's the very same line you've been using on my daughter all these years while abusing her huh?"

"She told you that?"

"Khosi I'm gonna urge you to shut up and respect me in my house!"

"You think I'm scared of you because you from prison? I don't fear you Mphikeleli!!" Aunty-

"Mcebisi Tsiamo and Mahlatsi come to bed." I say excusing the kids from this feud. They go bath and wear their night clothes. I tuck them in and go freshen up I have work. I leave the house leaving Khosi making noise. I just pray the kids will be safe in that noise..

Sidney

I'm busy on my laptop designing the structure of the stadium when my so called father walks in with a mugg and bean paperbag and two coffee cups. He places them on the table and looks at my personal assistant.

"You can go young lady" The lady turns to walk away. He sits on the chair opposite me he clears his throat.

"I brought you breakfast son"

"I didn't ask you"

He looks at me and breathes heavily.

"It's a harmless gesture Sidney"

"Like I said I didn't ask you. If you don't mind please leave I'm very much busy as you can see"

"Your mom tells me you and your fiancé are struggling to conceive"

"And that is none of your business"

"Your brother is a doctor he might help" I bang the table so much that the coffee spills.

"Who said I need help huh Marcus Matthew's ?"

"Sidney I'm your father and it's my duty to care and aid you if needed be"

"Shove your bloody help and duty to care into your arse hole or better yet the front of your wrinkled penis! I don't fucken need your help!!"

"We are family Sidney!" I roughly grab him by his suit and fix my eyes on his.

"The only family I have is my mother and my twin sister you are nothing to me and never will you be something to me!!" I say pushing him aside.

"Take your bloody breakfast and fuck off!"

"Kamo come on."

"Get out!!!"

"Kamo you know this is not right son I'm trying"

"Marcus piss off"

"But talk to your brother his gonna pull in a few strings for you."

I crog my gun and point it on his forehead.

"By the count of three I want you out of here other than that your whore will Bury you you hear me Marcus?"

My PA walks in she immediately drops the papers that are on her hands. When she sees the gun it's too late to hide it.

"Fine I will leave son"

"Fuck off!" He stands and heads to the door.

"And who are you leaving these for? Take your rubbish and fuck off!!"

He raises his hands in surrender and walks out. I go lean by the window the poor lady walks on egg shells as she attempts on picking up the papers.

"Leave those I will handle them"

"Are you sure?"

"Sure"

"Fine.." She says walking out. I sit on top of the table and try to calm myself down. A knock comes to my door.

"Come in"

"Dude what's up with you? What was that noise?"

"Marcus was here"

"And?"

"Arse hole won't let me be. He thinks his sissy boy can aid me since his a bloody doctor like who the fuck declared me infertile?"

"Sidney calm down Ndoda"

"Sihle that nigga annoys me one day just one day I'm gonna kill him self"

"Don't let your father take you back to those days but honestly his trying Kamo"

"To justify his pussiness right?"

Sphesihle keeps quiet and looks at me.

"Yati mine angati mneftu Kepha nawe you need to calm down"

(As for me I don't know my brother but you need to calm down)

"Look let's do drinks later"

"Sure" He says patting my shoulder Sihle is a friend of mine. Our friendship was birthed by our girlfriends they were friends and that forced us into forming a friendship his not a best friend but

rather a friend. His wife and my ex Milly are good friends. See what she meant when saying her "Mates have four or more children?" She meant that. Both Sihle and myself are into civil engineering. Our other friends are doing their own shit out there but it's safe to say most of us worked hard at school to get where we are. Yes my father is rich but his riches never made my life any better than that of others. We both 35 years old. I pick up the papers and put them neatly on the table. I wipe the coffee stains and look at the muffins Marcus brought. Having one won't hurt.

13

Khosi (Aunty)

Mphikeleli is watching a movie on the television with his legs crossed out on the table to my annoyance. He thinks this is prison. I'm washing all the dishes and mugs that are inside my cupboards I'm trying to distract myself from my endless thoughts or stabbing my little rebellious brother who thinks he is untouchable and undefeated. I'm really trying not to allow my resentment or anger towards him lead me into prison. But I want him gone and I will do every thing in my powers to ensure he leaves me the heck alone.

"Clanking those plates and cups won't change the fact that you were abusing my daughter on my absence. It won't undo the damage you've brought that girl Khosi. Even if you break every single piece of cutlery the truth will remain unchanged."

"Phuma kimi Satan! I'm trying by all means to make you invisible Mphikeleli. Back off please!!"

"Actually tell me what school did Deliwe go to?"

I lean against the table counter.

"What matters is that she went to school"

"I said what school did she go to Khosi? Was it a multiracial school or a boarding school?"

"What game are you playing at Mphikeleli? Why are you even here huh?"

"This is my house Khosi. I don't need a reason to be here. I asked you a question. What school did you take Deliwe to?"

"A government school"

He stands up immediately and walks to my direction.

"Askies? Iyibambi I network utheni?"

(I didn't hear you correctly what did you say?)

"I took her to school that's all that matters"

He chuckles and walks by the fridge.

"My daughter went to a free and crowded school while yours went to multiracial schools with my money? that's what you telling me right? "

I swallow hard.

"Your husband was a fucken drunkard there's no way he could've afforded that school! You used my money to better your own daughter in return of destroying mine isnt it?"

"She was happy with her school Mphikeleli you should be thanking me that I looked after her and gave her a home that her own mother couldn't give to her! I raised her not even yourself raised her but I did Mphikeleli don't stand there and judge me.. You know nothing about the things she was up to as a teenager for starters your fatherless grandson is evident of her ill morality "

He clenched his jaw and gave me a side look.

"Didn't I leave you with money Khosi? Didn't I save you from that limpopian abusive and useless husband of yours who was cheating on you and left you living with HIV? Khosi don't push it!! Don't push it I fucken made you. I saved you from Jabu's father. Had i not saved you from him you wouldn't have met the man who loved you after Jabu's father. You would've died had I not took

you in! So abusing my child was your token of thanking me for everything that I've done for you and Jabulile huh? "

I look at him and continue minding my business.

The man i loved died going to collect her child's report I'm still angry at that.

" I'm not talking to a wall!! " He says punching the wall.

" I'm done talking"

"Get your rags out of my house Khosi"

"Over my dead body Mphikeleli this is my house. I'm going nowhere! The only person who should be packing is you and your little family! The house is in my name ke Bhuti. Dare touch me I'm calling the cops on you i will cry rape and have you locked up once again. Between you and I we know you won't come back Mphazima justice will favor me because women get away with anything. Poor Deliwe will be a street prostitute Mark my words"

He looks at me with red eyes with his jaw clenched..

I sing my favorite gospel song while he walks outside.

Deliwe

I bump into Mphikeleli as I'm walking inside the house coming from work.

Today I was caught up and I'm certain Mcebisi had to force himself up given I wasn't there to prepare him for school this morning. I just pray he didn't snitch on me again portraying how ignorant I am to details. The reason I came late today it's because I went to print out my cv and had it delivered at that client's office. Which was also a waste of time because he had company and sent me home without looking into it. On the other hand since I didn't make much money last night I volunteered to clean the brothel in exchange of few notes.

He greets me and walks out. I close the door and greet my aunt who only decides on slapping me instead of greeting me back.

"That's for being a sell out! A snitch Deliwe! You've barely known that prisoner but already you dishing out nonsense to him saying all vile things about me. Are you that desperate for a father's love?" She says infuriated I rub my cheek.

"I don't know what you talking about!"

"You calling me a liar? So you saying I'm hallucinating and making up theories in my head? "

"Even if I did Aunty that was nothing but the truth!! For years you treated me like garbage while my father gave you money to raise me and secure a future for me. You chose to be evil and greedy Made me eat pap and salt for supper locked me outside on freezing weathers made me wear torn casual shoes at school. Made me sleep on tiles do you remember the beatings I've succumbed? The list is endless Khosi!! "

" Whoa!!! Whoa!! Who are you calling Khosi? "Jabu says walking in.

" Can you imagine Jabu? The whole me being called by my name by this fool! A fool who had a hand on Samson's death the man who treated her with love after that lot of nothing of her father spat her like a spatum. "Aunty-

" Don't call me that!! I'm not a fool and i never killed anyone he was killed by a bus not me!! Dont you dare Khosi. "

" Hheee!!! Little butterfly has grown a pair of wings. Two minutes nyana of daddies return boom!! She shitting with her mouth. Yeyi my mother made you wena don't forget how you got here Deliwe. My mother clothed you fed you and ensured you had a roof over your head. This is the faeces plate you giving her? "Jabu-

"Jabu just shut up! This is my father's house!"

"And how do you know that huh?"

"Mind your swollen face and butt off from my business!! Yazini I don't have time for this! "

I say attempting to walk away but something pulls me back forcing my handbag to drop on the floor my condoms scatter out on the floor especially the used up seals. Both Jabu and my aunt look at each other.

" Hheeee!!!! "My aunt claps.

" So many used up condoms seals? Hhaibo Delly are what services are you rendering? Are you a prostitute? "Jabu laughs. What the heck happened to this girl? She used to be sweet and caring. What the hell happened to her innocent self?

" Leave me alone!! "I say with a trembling voice kneeling to pick up my disgrace.

" In nigerian laungage you are what we call an Ashawo!! In simple English you are a harlot!! " I lose my cool and slap Jabulile there's biting involved. The mother tries to push me off but I don't give up without a fight.

"Leave my daughter alone let go of her slut!!" Aunty-

"I'm gonna show you a slut!!"

"Yeyi wena dustbin! You will show no one anything! This is my house!" She says bashing me Jabu breaks free and helps her mother in fighting me.

"Mama!!!" The voice says from the door.

"Mcebisi" I say between the beatings.

"Leave my mother alone!!! Leave my mother alone!!!!" Mcebisi roars making me to drop the tears I've been holding back.

"Mama!! Leave my mother alone!! Leave her alone" My son says with a breaking voice his crying..

" Listen ke Deliwe. I want you and your son out of my house as for your father I will take him back to that dark place he was in. A simple "He tried to rape me" will have him spending years and years in prison. I'm a woman and justice is on my side. After all who will believe a prisoner? Take your rags and fuck off!! "Aunty says roughly pushing me against the wall. I'm bleeding from my nose.

Jabu hurries to my bedroom to pack my clothes maybe. I scoop my son up and embrace him. He has hiccups.

—

—
Mphikeleli

I down another bottle of black label while shaking my head in disbelief. I really can't believe my own blood sister was my low key enemy. Her hate was revealed on my only child. She even changed the house papers to her name. On top of that she wants to send me back to prison? After everything I've done for her and her daughter? How could she? It's true when they say people shit on the very same tree that gave them shade when sun bursts were burning their skin. My sister is a leaving proof of that. I'm ashamed to even call her that. I don't want to spill blood I really don't want to do that. Especially that of my sister.

"Leli.."

I look behind me.

"Sure Caro" Our eyes have locked and i hate it.

"You back? When did you come out?"

"Yesterday"

"Can I hug you? Long time" She says embracing me voluntary. She's an old flame I really don't want to do that. Especially that of my sister.

"Leli.."

I look behind me.

"Sure Caro" Our eyes have locked and i hate it.

"You back? When did you come out?"

"Yesterday"

"Can I hug you? Long time" She says embracing me voluntary. She's an old flame we happened before I went to prison. I was twenty three when we happened. Because I remember Deliwe was two years old by then. I had her when I was 21. Now I'm 48 years old and her mother is 44..

"You haven't changed Leli."

I look at her then her ring finger there's a fat stone there. Even if you didn't want to have a look it's shining way too bright for one to notice it. I sip my beer.

"Stress?"

"Khosi. I see you married"

"Yeah.. I am.." She says looking at her ring with less charm or joy.

"What did she do?"

"Who?"

"Your sister"

"She was abusing my daughter in my absence.. That cuts so deep Caroline"

"Everyone knew and saw that. Poor Deliwe was a punching bag a whole Cinderella in a tale. While Jabu was the princess going to fancy school and what nots" I look at her.

"And you did nothing Caro?"

"Mphikeleli I had no other choice my hands were tied. Jabu built a wall so high making it hard for me to climb in and save her. She would even lock me out for asking about her simple stationary and lunchbox money. What was I gonna do? I wasn't her mother I was gonna lose eventually. " i glare at her so does she.

"I see.." I say and sip my beer.

"I missed you" Caro says smiling. I stand up and reach for my beer.

"Pleasure seeing you once again"

I walk out of the pub. What did she miss? Not even once did she come to visit me in prison. Boldy horny married woman.

"Kaizer"

"Sure.."

"Look ndoda I need a little Favour from you"

"What Favour?"

"Are you still working on those housing offices?"

"Sure.. What's up?"

"I need advice on how these housing things work"

"No problem Mphazima"

"Sure."

As I walk I bump into my daughter and my grandson carrying black rubbish bags. Mcebisi is crying Deliwe has red cheeks and a red nose. I jog towards them.

"And now?"

"They kicked us out you included"

"What? They did what?"

"Don't go near the house it's gonna put you at risk of going back to prison.

Dont go there at least not now"

"Deliwe they have no right to do that. That's my house. Your house!! My father left the house in my name!"

"The paperwork is on their side let it slide. It's your criminal record I'm concerned about not the house."

"I will fix this Deliwe.. I will fix this" She looks at me.

"Where are you going now?"

I ask with care.

"To look for a shack. My son can't sleep on the pavements baba just like i once did at some point in my life. I can't afford to put Mcebisi in that state"

I heave a sorrowful filled sigh.

" I will make a plan I have a few notes that can push us for a couple of days. Look how about you go crash at a friend's place while go search for a room to rent?"

With that said I pick up the baggy bags and have them dangling on my back.

Deliwe picks Mcebisi up.

" Where are you gonna sleep? "Deliwe -

" I'm a man Deliwe I will make a plan till I fix my house's matter. "

She looks at me.

" Let's go my child. Sorry Mcebisi "We walk in silence heading to a Vuyiseka's house. The woman grants them a place to hide their heads for the night. I walk back home to my surprise I find the gates locked. I walk down the road there used to be an old abandoned house. Thats where I'm gonna be crashing

till my house matter is fixed. As long as Deliwe is okay and safe then all is good..

Kamo(Sidney)

Sihle and myself are having drinks over braai meat with pap and chakalaka. We having a great time honestly. My phone rings.

"Let me take this one"

"Sure"

"Boy.. Hello"

I say standing up heading to the exit of this tavern.

He keeps quiet I only manage to hear sniffs. I force myself even more to move away from the noise.

"Mcebisi.. Are you still there?"

"I'm here uncle daddy"

"Why are you quiet boy?are you okay?"

"No I'm not okay."

"What's going on?"

"My mother is crying inside the house I'm crying too outside on the veranda"

"Boy what's going on?" My mind races on his gogo and mamkhulu who denied him food the day I found him on the pavements. My guess tells me they haven't eaten in a while the thought of that sends me shivers on my spine.

"Son talk to me what's going on? I can come there now. Just talk to me!" He cries I press my lips against each other as I feel anger and fear of the unknown creeps in.

"Cebi"

"Yes"

"Talk to daddy boy what's going on? Did they hurt you or deny you food again?"

"They were beating my mother and they tossed our clothes inside black plastic bag's and told us to leave the house. My mother is crying because she was bleeding from her nose. We don't have a home we sleeping at Auntie Vuyiseka's house now. But my grandfather has no home. "

To say I'm hurt that's an understatement I'm broken and weeping. I feel nothing but tears and anguish engulf me. So much that lean against someone's car.

" They kicked you out of the house? This late Mcebisi?"

" Yes.. " poor thing has hiccups from the crying.

"Look boy don't cry I'm gonna fix this okay? You and mommy will go stay in my house. As for your grandfather I will find him a better home okay?"

He doesn't talk but sniff.

"My boy are you listening?"

"Yes.. Give mommy the phone please. I want to talk to her"

"She's gonna be angry that I told you"

"Don't worry about her leave her to me Mcebisi. Go give her the phone"

"Hello"

"Sweetheart are you okay?"

"I'm fine."

"I spoke to the little man please don't shout at him or punish him. Please Deliwe."

"I knew he was gonna report to you I'm certain he reported about today morning as well"

Of course he did but i wont sell Cebi out. There's a strange numbing sting on my chest.

"He said nothing. Look I want to help you don't take it as an insult or anything to tarnish or bruise your ego. It's from a caring heart Deliwe actually before you snap think of Mcebisi's needs. "

"What help are you talking about?" She sounds drained.

"Tomorrow during the day or morning. Please go to my neighbor and tell her to give you my house keys. I will call her to inform her about this. Please make use of that space till I find you guys a better place to stay. Invite your father over I will fix everything when I get back. I have no choice but to come back sooner. Don't bite me I'm doing this for Mcebisi and maybe you cos honestly I like you Deliwe "

She keeps quiet. A bomb is coming that I'm sure about.

" Fine ... I will go there after picking Mcebisi from school Thank you. "

" You mean that? "

" I'm down and out Sidney rejecting help wil mean I'm stupid naive and too proud. Actually thank you. "

" Thats a relief.. How's your nose?"

"I will heal"

"Try to sleep then."

"Night"

"Night"

14

Mphikeleli

My night in the cold wasn't a pleasant one. I hardly slept I've been tossing and turning all night long. My prison bed was way more comfortable than this fuck Khosi with her cruelty. If she thinks I'm gonna fold my arms and watch her win again she's got another thing coming. I can fight fire with fire I can be heartless as well. Loving my daughter so much doesn't mean I'm weak and powerless. This was a slap on the face I'm so gonna react to the itch.

"Caro" I call for her attention as I'm seated on the table having a beer. "Leli..." She says with a smile on her face. I clear my throat and look at her. "You

called for me." I take a sip from my beer. "I need a favor" she narrows her brows. "Look I need a place to rent out for the next coming days or weeks. The last time I checked your mother has rooms." She looks at me. "Who needs a place to rent out?"

"My daughter and grandson. They are in dire straits please help me out."

"Deliwe is unemployed how is she gonna pay up?"

"I will take care of it."

"You just came from prison Mphikeleli how are you gonna pay up?"

"I have my ways. Just get me the damn place please."

"Since it's you asking I can put in a few words for you. Surely some strings will be pulled." She looks at me salivating.

"Actually why don't you give me a hand in running this tavern? You can get a little something on month ends Leli." I sip my beer.

"I know finding a job will be hard Mphikeleli especially with you coming from prison."

"Now I must lick Anthony's balls?"

"Excuse me?" I look at her and stand up.

"Here is my number call me when something pops up regarding the room."

"And the job?"

"I won't take it Caro."

"Come on Mphikeleli."

"Sure."

I say putting the bottle empty on the table close to the door. I bump into Anthony I look at him then Caro.

"Make a way wena!" I say walking past him. He clicks his tongue. I let him be...

Today I've decided on making my son skip school. After last night Mcebisi needs sometime to himself to unsee what he saw yesterday. I'm gonna use his company to go collect the house keys from that neighbor Sidney told us about. Normally I wouldn't accept anyone's help especially a man but right now I'm stranded honestly. The money I have in my account will not be

enough to get us a place to stay food and pieces of time being furniture. It's not gonna last us that long. Around here you pay for water and electricity finding a new place to rent out would mean I would also have to consider changing Mcebisi's school or better yet put transportation fee on to the to do list. So far all these expenses surpass my little money...

"Deliwe..."

"Ma?"

"Porridge is ready sisi wozani."

"We're coming ma please give us a second to wrap up."

"Alright!" She says from other side of the curtain. I quickly fold the blankets and sponge we were given to sleep on last night. I steal a minute or so to wipe my son's face and have him brush his teeth. I later butter his face with Vaseline. I change him from his pyjamas to a simple Ackermans bought red Spiderman matching pants and tee. He wore his sleepers too. As for me I will attend to it shortly after eating porridge. We make our peaceful walk to the dinning table. Three bowls of brown mabele porridge are placed on the table of which one of the containers is that of a used up stock margarine. The irony is that it's now a bowl.

"We don't have bread sisi and eggs for now blind your tummy with porridge." Mama Vuyi says placing sugar and a milk cartoon on the table while wearing her pink gown. "Thank you mama we really appreciate it."

"Pleasure sana lwami."

Something within me melts when she said that.

"Tell me Deliwe. What was the reason behind Khosi kicking you out of your father's house?"

"I honestly don't know ma."

"They are evil very evil. To think Mphikeleli was the one who saved Khosi from the abuse Jabu's father was giving her. Phela everyone knew how ill treated Khosi was. Had it not been for your father she would've long joined abo Karabo Mokoena."

She says shoving a spoon inside her mouth. I didn't know about that.

"I saw Jabu and her spoilt brats yesterday as I was on my way to emakhishini. Is she back from her fancy house?"

"I don't know much mama but I think she is. Cos I saw plenty of rubbish bags in the house."

"They kicked her out?" She says covering her mouth.

"I suspect so."

"Yooooh!!! That's bad mosi. Now she will be putting light brown polish on her face not those expensive face creams she used to flaunt at church alongside her mother."

Are we by any chance gossiping now? Isn't it too early for this? But either way I don't mind it.

"I heard your father is back from prison."

"Yes he is back."

"Yoh! I just pray he doesn't end up in prison again."

"He won't go back."

She looks at me then Mcebisi.

"Eat my boy you won't enjoy it if it gets cold." Mama Vuyi -

"Gogo I don't mean to sound disrespectful but I don't like porridge." I look at my son with warning eyes. "Mcebisi eat your food."

"Mama I hate porridge it makes me sick to my stomach." I know he hates it he vomits after eating porridge hence I buy him cornflakes instead.

"It's okay Mcebisi gogo has R10 in her wallet she will buy you fat cakes instead okay?"

"Mama it's okay he will eat the porridge."

"Gogo I don't like fat cakes too I love cornflakes"

"Mcebisi!!!" I roar. "Eat up your food and stop complaining I will spank you."

He looks at me and blows his nose beggars can't be choosers not today.

Sometimes this kid thinks his father is Patrice Motsepe yet he is a live chicken. A whole runner. "Deliwe myeke he is just a kid." (Leave him)

"Ma he needs to accept and be grateful for the little that he has. His mother is a poverty stricken being he can't be making demands."

"Deliwe he hates porridge the last thing you need is having your son vomiting grains. I will get him a packet of coco pops by the tuck shop there's a sachet packet for R6." I look at this poor loving and caring woman. Whose willing to use up her last penny for my ungrateful son. For some weird reason I'm jealous of what Vuyi has in this woman. She has a mother a pillar of strength a burden lifter a friend and a hiding place. She has a whole vineyard to herself something I was never blessed with. I would die and kill to have a person like her mother. Had it been my aunty Mcebisi's cheek would be throbbing by now...

"Mcebisi come with me to the shop."

"I'm coming gogo!" I look at the spoilt brat as he walks out. I heave a sigh and wipe off invisible sweat a tear rolls out of my eyelid. I reach for my mobile phone and dial Mphikeleli.

"Deli?"

"Baba it's me. I... I wanted to ask how you're doing and if you need something" There's silence for a little while.

"I'm doing fine sisi

Sponsored

AD

I can't complain. And how are you guys holding up that side?"

"We're doing fine we're safe too."

"That's great. I'm on my way coming there."

"Oh!"

"Yes... I want to drop off a few things."

"Please do come I actually want to have a word with you."

"I'm coming." I wipe my rolling tear with the back of my hand. "Fine bye for now."

"Bye sisi." The door swings open Mcebisi and mama Vuyi walk in laughing. I faintly smile.

"Here boy eat" Mama Vuyi says smiling...

I voluntarily wash the dishes while mama Vuyi is cleaning. Mcebisi is outside playing games on his phone. A knock comes from the door I wipe my wet hands with a cloth to attend to the door. My eyes land on Mphikeleli carrying two Shoprite plastics the other one is carried by Mcebisi. He takes off his hat before entering the house. He looks at me then mama Vuyi. He clears his throat to greet.

"Let me switch off this gospel music." Mama Vuyi says ending the music and showing my father a chair. "Have a sit Mphazima. Pardon us our house is little and upside down it is now we decided on cleaning and all. Would you like a cup of tea?" She adds.

"Ngiyabonga sisi I'm not a fan of tea." My father says looking at me. "I see... Let me excuse you" Mama walks out she shouldn't have this is her house. We're just intruders. "Thank you Cebi boy give that to mom."

He hands me the plastic. "I bought you guys bread eggs and cheese. Then a couple of other stuff to eat" he says putting the plastics on the table. "Thank you Baba. Can I make you something to eat?" He nods.

"Please" I take the plastics. I quickly make him food while he is busy fiddling with his hands. I steal a glance on this guy he looks a bit young honestly. If not mistaken in his young life he was probably a ladies man. He doesn't look ugly it's safe to say I look like him just that I'm a lighter shade than him. I think him recently coming from prison adds more to his sudden skin tone. But Mphikeleli looks nothing like a 60 year old.

"Juice?"

"There's Coke in one of those plastics." I take the longest glass in the kitchen and pour him some. My phone beeps it's a bank notification. Sidney did say he was gonna deposit money for me to look for a better place for my father. I text him back but stupid him calls.

Sidney

Work is a drag today I have a terrible hangover. But I have to succumb to it and do my work. Surely Deliwe is surprised as to why I haven't sent her money as yet when I promised her last night. Honestly it slipped my mind. I quickly forward her money I was testing waters by sending it using her number. Luckily this number of hers has a bank account with Capitec. Let me call her to apologize...

"Hey" she says.

"Morning how are you?"

"I'm good thanks and yourself?"

"I'm tired."

"So early in the morning?"

"Last night I went out for a couple of drinks."

"And hangover is doing it's humble job" she chuckles. I lean back on my chair and swing it around.

"Humble job?"

"Yes."

"Wena you hate me why vele?"

"Why should I like you?"

"Do you really want me to answer that?"

"No don't."

I chuckle.

"Bona pancake I'm sorry I sent the money late. I won't lie it slipped my mind I'm sincerely sorry."

"Thank you so much."

I smile. Sihle walks in yawning.

"Yabona utshwala mfethu masimba esitafu lawa."

(See alcohol my brother it is shitty stuff.) He says throwing himself on the chair opposite mine. I put my hand on the phone and look at him.

"I'm on the phone Sphe!"

"Oh! Ngu Millicent?" I look at him with warning eyes I even do the cut cut sign to shut his mouth.

"Sphe privacy!!!"

"I want to nap don't mind me" he says resting his head on my table..

"Pancake?"

Deliwe

"Pancake?"

Who is Millicent?

"Sure."

"I'm sorry about that."

"It's cool. Look I'm in the middle of something can we talk later?"

"Oh!"

"Yes... My father is here and I..."

"Oh! I get it... See you."

"See me?"

"Later. I will video call you guys before I sleep. My neighbor is working shift please hurry to collect that key."

"Okay later it is thank you."

"Be comfortable Deliwe. Let him break anything if needed be." For some weird reason I find this heart warming.

"Fine." I end the call and look at my father.

"Who was that mama?"

"No one."

"Mama was that daddy?"

"Your food." I say putting a plate in front of Mphikeleli.

"Thank you..." He takes a bite then two. "You said you wanted us to talk" Oh yeah...

"Yes... It's about a place to stay"

"Oh! What about it?"

"Cebisi please go play outside."

"Okay... Bye." He says to Mphikeleli...

"Bye boy..." He looks at me. "Ehm... A friend of mine kinda allowed us to stay in his house till we have enough money to get our own space. So I want you to come with us." He narrows his brows. "Come where Deliwe?" I clear my throat "To stay with us." He puts his sandwich back on the plate. " Stay with you and your boyfriend?"

"He is not my boyfriend Mphikeleli but my friend."

"So you want me to stay with your boyfriend Deliwe?"

"I just said he is not my boyfriend but a friend."

"A friend who is a boy isn't it?" I heave a sigh.

"He is trying to help us."

"He is trying to help you and his son not me. I'm going nowhere with you. I would rather rent a shack Deliwe."

I look at him and run out of words.

"I'm gonna give you money so you can pay up for your rent for a little while."

"I have my own money."

"You just came from prison what money is that?"

"Yes I come from prison but that does not declare me broke."

"Mphikeleli take the damn money please!"

"Use that money to get yourself a place to stay I'm not comfortable with this boyfriend moving in that you're talking about Deliwe. Men are killing women left and right I won't allow you to degrade yourself. Not when I'm still alive."

"Please play the caring father role later for now get a room. It's important after all."

"I will get the room."

He looks at me.

"Call me if that boyfriend of yours does things you're uncomfortable with."

If only he knew men do uncomfortable things to me in exchange for money. I doubt Sidney would do me any harm but to put him at ease I nod.

"I will send you the money so you can get a bed and pots then a two plate stove. Give the house matter a little bit of a blind eye for now."

He looks at me and says nothing. We later go to the shops to withdraw the money. All thanks to Mphikeleli I won't have to buy mama Vuyi a few grocery stuff I mean Mphikeleli bought them a five kg of mixed portions 5kg rice and 5kg maize meal. And a few other stuff he even bought Mcebisi yoghurts fruit juice Simba chips and apples when he went to Shoprite. He might've not raised me but I see a loving father in him and I'm willing to give our relationship a little benefit of the doubt...

15

Mphikeleli

"Sure?"

"I have good news for you."

"Talk!"

"I've found you a room to rent it's R600 per month. It's a two rooms. There's a shower inside and a toilet."

"Where is it based?"

"Not far from where I stay."

"I will come to check it out"

"I will take you there myself." I roll my eyes and huff.

"Sure."

"Afterwards we can do drinks two beers on the house to celebrate your release late at 6pm?"

"No thank you Carol. It's best we focus on the room."

There's silence...

"Mphikeleli please..."

"Carol I'm cool with the drinks mfethu." I end the call. Deliwe looks at me.

"Thanks for the money"

"Pleasure. We will keep in touch."

"Take care... Is it safe to hug you?" She opens her arms for me I embrace her and fist bump Mcebisi...

As promised I find Carol waiting for me. She flashes me a broad smile.

"Blessing I will be right back."

"Fine sisi Carol." She puts on her shades and walks towards me. The few familiar faces glare at me. I walk outside. "The red Benz here you can drive." I catch the keys and glare at her curves. I open the passenger door for her. I go back to the driver's side. She plays music more like one certain song that I happen to love. She looks at me and smile.

"Tkzee?"

"Still fond of it?"

I glare at her and swallow hard.

"Where is the place?"

"Glen extension 10"

"Sure."

"Yoh it's hot today." She says removing her jersey.

"Why are you wearing a polo neck?"

"I hate showing off my skin"

"You hate doing what?"

I narrow my brows. She chuckles.

"I'm a mother now Mphikeleli."

"I see."

"Back then I was young fresh and beautiful but now... I'm a scrap yard" She laughs showing off her white teeth and her dimple. I steal a stare.

"You're still fresh and beautiful"

"You're pulling my leg Mphikeleli."

"Okay."

"You still look good just like how I remember you."

"It's hot today." I change the topic. She puts her hand on my thigh I tilt my head to stare. Her eyes are on me.

"Carol..."

"Skhanda king sami?"

I look away.

"You used to call me iskhanda queen sakho"

"Carol that part of us is over."

"No it's not Mphikeleli."

"You're married and besides you never came to see me in prison."

"That was for a good cause."

"Sucking Anthony's balls you meant?"

"Mphikeleli you don't get it don't you?"

"Get what? You waited for me to go to prison so you can fuck with my friend! You even bore him children."

"I don't love him and never will I do Mphikeleli."

"Mxm! Uyasangana wena." I say shifting her hand from my thigh. I park in front of the yard she showed me. It's a nice place I love everything about the yard. Carol does the talking as always. I give the landlord money to my surprise he refuses it. I look at Carol this has everything to do with her...

Deliwe

"Thank you mama for your hospitality we really appreciate it."

"Don't be strangers Deliwe."

"We won't mama." We share a bear hug Mcebisi and myself make our way out. Alongside our rubbish bags. We decide on requesting an Uber. We ride to extension 11 of Protea Glen. We get off of the car and place our disgrace of plastics in front of Sidney's house. I walk to the neighbor's house a woman in her 50s attends to the door. She is very beautiful she's married too. She smiles as she looks at Mcebisi.

"Wow! Kamo has a beautiful son. Sneaky boy said nothing about having such a handsome little man. Hello boy boy..." She says playfully pulling Mcebisi's cheeks. My son and his attitude he looks at the poor lady and gets all serious. He only smiles after the lady promised to give him a chocolate. I'm told to take the bags inside the house then come back for a cup of tea. I do as instructed I go to the toilet. Sidney has a beautiful and spacious house. It's sparkling clean surely Millicent is a neat freak let's hope she doesn't invite eyes on us. Especially her accusing me of sleeping with her man. I lock the house and walk to the neighbor's house. She gives me cookies and tea.

"How are you?"

"I'm very well thanks mama and yourself?"

"I'm good too my daughter. You're so pretty."

"Thank you mama."

"You should join us at church on Sunday there's Sunday school for Mcebisi. If you are a good singer you can join the praise team. Kamo goes to church with us by the way I'm a pastor in my church."

"Oh! Of course ma we will come."

"Worry not about transport you will ride with me and my husband."

"Thank you mama we will join you."

I faintly smile. Me and church? Sweet Jesus I hate that place. I've given up on that place and the man behind it. I mean he made my life a living hell. She looks at me and smiles. "His the only child Kamo has?" I know nothing about Sidney but for now I will say the obvious. "Yes but there are other kids." She sips from her mug. "You have other kids?" I chuckle. "I meant nephews and nieces." She smiles. "I see my daughter phela your partner is not much of a talker. At first I thought he was a gangster." I look at her concerned recalling the day he attacked the guy who was insulting me... He kinda threatened to fuck the guy up. Only he knows what he meant by fucking him up. "Daddy is not a criminal" Mcebisi says.

"Sorry young man granny is sorry" the Rev pastor says. Her husband walks in he greets us and plays with Mcebisi. "Kamo told me so much about you" the

man says to Mcebisi. What did he say about my son? It better be good things.

"And you must be the mother?"

"Yes sir" I say faintly smiling.

"It's about time you and Kamo made more exercises in the bedroom this boy is old now. He needs siblings."

I choke up immediately.

"How old are you Mcebisi?"

"I'm eight years old."

"See what I mean? You were supposed to make him a sibling at 4 years" I roll my eyes. Kamo and I are not dating.

Sidney

"Yey! Wake up and get to work."

"Dude I'm tired." Sphe-

"Nobody sent you to drown your liver in alcohol" I say yawning. Who am I fooling? I feel exactly like him. A text beeps.

"Sphe get up you're making me contagious with her endless sleeping habit."

"I scored ndoda remember?" I chuckle and head for a bottle of water on the table then my cell phone. Another beep comes. I check my phone it's voice note. I open it it's safe after all isn't it? Deliwe would never send me a voice note masturbating or sexting me. I open the voice note.

"The boy is eight years old Kamo must be on the field. This is wrong Deliwe. Make a sibling for Mcebisi." I immediately choke on my water Sphe is wide awake glaring at me. I know what he is yet to say.

I quickly stop the voice note. Sphe walks towards me and sits besides me.

"You have a... You fucken have a child Kamo?"

I drink up from my bottle of water.

"I have a serious hangover Sihle."

"Hangover yemdzidzi!!" (Hang over my puss*) I loose my cool and laugh

Sponsored

AD

Sphehlehle is wide awake glaring at me. I know what he is yet to say.

I quickly stop the voice note. Sphehlehle walks towards me and sits besides me.

"You have a... You fucken have a child Kamo?"

I drink up from my bottle of water.

"I have a serious hangover Sihle."

"Hangover yemdzidzi!!" (Hang over my puss*) I loose my cool and laugh with water splashing out of my mouth.

"Sidney this is not funny! You have a child Sidney? And you said nothing about it?"

"You sound crazy right now."

"Crazy is you hiding a whole human being. Who the fuck is Deliwe? You're still cheating aren't you?"

"Sihle awume it's hot." He reaches for a bottle of water and gulps it down.

"You cheated on Millicent? Does she even know about this child of yours?" I look at him and start packing up. "Kamo come on mfethu! Give me your phone." I hand it to him while I pack up my stuff.

"Whoaaaaa!!! Whoa! You fucken have a child?"

I narrow my brows.

"He is not mine."

"Not yours? Then how do you explain the resemblance? Kamo this boy looks everything like your white arse."

I giggle.

"Bring my cell phone."

"Not before you admit Kamo."

The door swings open.

"Admit what?" The buff dude Rhudzani walks in.

"Admit what? Howzit motherfuckers!" He says sitting on my chair looking at us. What brings him to Mpumalanga?

"Talk gents. Who must admit what?" Rhudzani -

"He has a son a whole eight year old!"

"I beg your pardon? Chief you have a child and you told us nothing?"

Rhudzani -

"I was waiting for the right time" I say to give them what they want to hear.

"So you have a child?"

"Yes I have a child he is eight years old and handsome. As we speak I'm driving to Gauteng. See yourselves out." I say heading for the door leaving both of them with their jaws dropped. I laugh as I playfully throw my hands in the air. I log in on whatsapp I write a simple dot in response to the emoji. She sends the eye rolling emoji I check statuses. I look at Lefa's my friend then Millicent's looking good in her white dress. I pass to others. I toss my cellphone aside. I drive home to quickly freshen up. I pack up my laptop bag only. By the time I reach Gauteng they will be long fast asleep...

Deliwe

"Mama this house is beautiful look at the fridge. It has a wardrobe." Mcebisi -

"This is beautiful my boy."

"I don't want to leave this house."

I look at him.

"Do you like this place Mcebisi?"

"Yes mama." I faintly smile.

"Let's cook baby."

"Can we buy pizza?"

"I fancy beef stew with dumplings boy."

"Okay cook mama."

"Thank you handsome."

"Must I help you or go watch movies?"

"Go watch movies."

"Thank you mamami" he rushes there. I start with the cooking. I explore all the rooms of this house. It has three bedrooms I love the main bedroom the most. It's spacious and has nice dim lights. The paint is remarkable too. I also love the piece of art portraits. I love the view of the lawn too. Unlike the other one that's facing a swimming pool. I spot his portrait on the wall I give myself time to look at him. He has brown eyes full lips long lashes full eyebrows. Black beautifully trimmed hair. His complexion matches that of Mcebisi. He has a beauty spot on the side of his chin. He is handsome honestly I hear footsteps approach. I walk out of his bedroom and walk back to the kitchen. I later dish up for Mcebisi and myself I keep the leftovers in a container then refrigerate. Mcebisi and myself eat while watching Moana.

"Mama I love your food."

"I love you more."

"Really?"

"Yes Tyler what are you suspecting?"

"But you shout at me Deliwe."

I narrow my brows.

"That doesn't mean I don't love you Mcebisi."

"But uncle daddy never shouts at me."

"So are you saying he loves you and I don't?"

"Huh?" He says with his brows narrowed.

"You heard me."

"Mama I didn't say that but I said uncle daddy never shouts at me and he loves me."

I giggle and bite my meat.

"Are you hearing yourself? You're saying I don't love you but he does?"

"Maybe."

"Wow! I pushed you young man in case you've forgotten. For you I ate a whole monkey Mcebisi just to feed my cravings."

"Pushed me where?"

I laughed

"In the hospital."

"How does one push a baby in hospital ma?"

"Because you were inside me the only way I had to take you out was through pushing you out."

"But you said I came with an aeroplane ma you even said you bought me in a shop."

I giggle.

"What plane? And what shop?"

"Plane babies and shop babies"

I crack up in laughter.

"Cebi you and I have been to stores not in a single day did you ever see a store that sells babies."

"Then where did I come from Deliwe?" He says biting his meat.

"You were in my tummy."

"What was I doing there and how did I get into your tummy mama?"

"Huh?"

"Yes. What was I doing in your tummy and how did I get into your tummy?"

"Haibo Mcebisi..."

He looks at me.

"I can't tell you that but all I can say is that I made you."

"How mama?"

"Moana has met a friend in that ocean look at them they are quarreling."

I say to distract him.

"Mama you're avoiding my question."

"Did you know the man we went to the shops with is your grandfather?"

"My grandfather?"

"Yes... That's mhulu."

"He is not using a cane to walk and he doesn't have grey hair how come is he my khulu?" I laugh yet again.

"To be a kid it doesn't mean you must have grey hair or use a cane to walk sweetheart."

"But he doesn't look like a khulu Mama. Is he your father?"

"Yes."

"Why is he back now but not then?"

"He had to go somewhere faraway sweetheart."

"Just like my father?"

"Yes."

"I see... Then I must call him khulu?"

"Yes baby"

"I can work with that..."

"That's my boy."

He smiles.

"Mama?"

"Yes?"

"Can I use the hate word in my sentence?"

"Sure"

"Okay... Do you know what I hate?"

"No I don't."

"I hate gogo and mamkhulu Jabu."

I swallow hard.

"When I grow up I want to be a policeman so I can arrest them for beating you and making you cry mama. I hate them just like I hate my English teacher"

I look at my son.

"You will pursue that my boy I believe in you" I faintly smile.

"What does your English teacher do?"

"She calls me Mlungu ontulayo sometimes she calls me mubiza." (Poor white sometimes ugly.)

I blow my nose and gulp for air.

"She does what? Who is that Mcebisi? What is her name?"

"I will show you when we go to school on Monday."

"Monday I'm going to your school. I didn't have a child to be bullied mina. She must never yoh" I say standing up heading to the kitchen to wash our plates. I'm so gonna deal with that teacher. I decide on bathing my son then tuck us in bed...

Sidney

The time is 11pm on the dot when I reach my house. I park in the garage and quickly go shower. I wear my trunks and white vest. I walk to the bedroom that I surely believe Mcebisi is sleeping in. I knock once and turn the door handle. I find them peacefully sleeping. To my surprise this guy has his mother's boob inside his mouth. Like what the heck? At his age? I giggle and go kneel by his side. I brush his brows and plant a soft kiss on his delicate face. I glare at the mother such a beautiful woman. I shift my eyes from her back to Mcebisi. I whisper in his ears.

"Guess who is home?" He rubs his eyes.

"As promised I came boy" He tosses and turns forcing his face to come in contact with mine. I kiss his cheek.

"Wake up buddy come on."

"Mmmmm..." He says with his eyes closed.

"I guess I'm gonna drive back." He opens his one eyelid then the other suddenly his lips slightly part. I scoop him up and cover his mother with the blanket. I carry him to my bedroom. He smiles at me.

"Uncle daddy!!!"

"Hey boy osharp?"

"I'm happy!" With that said someone jumps on me with a hug. I giggle and embrace him.

"I missed you."

"And I missed you too."

"I thought you were coming tomorrow!"

"I changed my mind and decided to show up today."

"Wow!!! You're awesome!" We exchange hugs then someone's son robs me of my phone.

"Let's sleep boy you're gonna play tomorrow."

"I don't feel sleepy any more."

"No Mcebisi we're putting that cell phone down and sleeping. Failure to do so I'm leaving for good"

He looks at me "fine here is your phone."

"Good boy." I take the cell phone and toss it aside we talk a little before falling into slumber.....

A blessed weekend to you all.

16

Sidney

"Where are you uncle daddy?"

"I'm going for a morning run."

"Can I come with?"

"Are your lungs functioning well? No asthma or any other underlying cardio related problems?"

"No I don't have asthma. "

"Really Mcebisi?"

"Cross my fingers hope to die. "

"Fine.. Get up and go wash your face. Wear comfortable shoes and pants. No jeans please. "

"Fine."

He hops from the bed. I quickly make the bed and open the curtains and windows to let fresh air flow in.

Today is actually the day I'm supposed to go to my parents house for that whatever celebration they have I drag this day because Marcus will be there so are my half brothers. I really need a huge breath in for this day.

"I'm done"

"Let's see" I look at him.

"Mmm... Black and red?"

"I want to match up as well just like you did. "

"Mcebisi come on"

"Boys should dress like men and I've dressed like one."

"Fine copy cat. Let's go"

"Don't I need a bottle of water?"

"You gonna get a still water bottle by the fridge. Come soldier hop on!" I say patting his shoulder.

"Catch! A bottle of water for Mcebisi"

He holds it. Mcebisi and myself go about the morning run. Little man is actually good at it Here I was thinking he was gonna cough up endlessly and complain about it. Little did I know he got this.

Mcebisi and myself freshen up and go prepare breakfast. I didn't know Deliwe is a heavy sleeper she's still at it.

"Careful not to burn your hand Mcebisi"

"Okay." He continues with the bread toaster.

"Are we gonna finish all this food?"

"It's only bread eggs bacon baked beans and sausages nothing more Mcebisi"

"You forgot to mention the tomatoes and avocado"

"Still its not much."

"We wasting food uncle Sidney. If we have eggs on the plate theres no need for us to have the bacon and sausages then the avocado and bin beans"

I crack up in laughter.

"You say what? The bin what?"

"Bin beans!" He says with confidence. I crack up yet again.

"Why are you laughing at me?"

"It's baked beans Mcebisi not bin beans"

"Thats what I said though" I furrow my brows.

"No way Cebi you said bin beans. Nevertheless son i heard your concerns I'm sorry to waste food but you need to eat all of this. Shall you not like it next time I won't waste food. Deal?"

"Deal"

"Thats my boy"

"I'm done with bread where do I put it?"

"That plate"

"Okay."

We quickly dish up.

—

Delive

"Mama vuka"

"Mcebisi I want to sleep I'm tired please."

"Mama vuka.." With that said I'm being shooked. I open my eyes. Flipping hell what is he doing here? I jump and sit on my butt. He looks at me with narrowed brows. Surely his judging me for sleeping till this time without waking up to make my son breakfast or better yet to mind him. God knows I don't usually do this I'm an early bed. I don't know what happened to me

today. Maybe I must've been tired from all the drama that was happening in the house mostly the beatings I've succumbed.

"Ehm.. I.. I don't normally wake up at this .."

"Afternoon Deliwe" He cuts me short. I look at him then Mcebisi.

"Afternoon Sidney. " I say embarrassed. He looks at me I return it back.

There's a little stare battle going on.

"We made you food mama" Mcebisi snaps me out of it.

"Food? For me?"

"Yes.. My daddy uncle made everything else and I made the bread." I glare on daddy uncle as his leaning against the wall. I shift my eyes from him to take a glance on the plate that's supposedly mine so much food? What is the occasion?

"Wow! That is so sweet of you and uncle daddy. This looks appetizing and delicious. Thank you guys and I'm sorry I woke up late."

"It's a pleasure mommy. " Sidney-

" It was fun making you food uncle was making jokes." He says with a broad smile.

"I'm glad you enjoyed boy."

I faintly smile.

"Mama do you know where I went this morning?"

"Where did you go?"

"Promise you won't shout mama?"

"I promise"

"Pinky swear?"

"Pinky swear."

"Fine.. I went jogging this morning mama." I look at him mesmerized actually not mesmerized but infuriated. I can't believe this child.

"You say what Mcebisi?"

He looks at me.

"Did I hear you correctly Tyler? Did you just say you went jogging Mcebisi?"

Little rascal keeps quiet and stands up from the bed.

"Since when do we jog Mcebisi? Who put you to it?" Sidney looks at me my tone has suddenly changed from soft to harsh.

"I'm talking to you!!!" I roar

"Deliwe..." Sidney -

"Sidney please!! Not now! Wena talk. Who lured you to jogging?"

"I.. I went there willingly nobody forced me mama"

"Mcebisi you were not supposed to go there how could you be so careless with your health Tyler huh? How many times did I warn you against part-taking on such activities Mcebisi?"

"What health Deliwe? What is going on actually? " Sid

"He didn't tell you didn't he?" I look at Sidney with glassy eyes.

"Tell me what?" Sidney says looking at me then Mcebisi.

"Cebi what is mom talking about?"

Mcebisi looks elsewhere.

"Cebi I'm talking to you you have a mouth isn't it? " Sidney says politely
Mcebisi nods.

"What happened Mcebisi talk to me" Sid -

"His asthmatic Kamol!! "

" What? Mcebisi you... "

"I'm sorry mama and I'm sorry uncle Sidney. I'm sorry I lied. Please don't kick me out from your house for lying please uncle Sidney"

He starts crying. Sidney scoops him up into an embrace then disappears with him.

—

Jabulile

The house is upside down as I'm doing a spring cleaning. I heard keeping yourself busy and distracted helps in not making room for thoughts. Hence I'm trying to put that into action. Madam is also playing gospel on full blasts mind you it's Saturday. I'm even singing along I care less about my off key pitch. I'm trying not to feel..

"Mahlatsi messed his pants Jabu"

I can see my mother's lips moving but I can barely hear a word she's saying.

"Uthini? Iyabambi I network"
(I can't hear you)

"I'm saying izibhoshele ingane yakho!!"
(I'm saying your son messed on himself) I really can't hear Khosi. I walk towards our Hisense subwoofers speakers I lower the volume.

"You saying?"
"Mahlatsi messed his pants"
"What? How?"
"Ngazelaphi?"
(How am I supposed to know?)
My mood instantly goes back to zero

Sponsored

AD

I lower the volume.

"You saying?"

"Mahlatsi messed his pants"

"What? How?"

"Ngazelaphi?"

(How am I supposed to know?)

My mood instantly goes back to zero point one percent. Mahlatsi doesn't shit on himself this is new to me.

"Mahlatsi!!!" I shout out.

"Mahlatsi!!!!"

"Ma.." He says with a trembling voice.

"Where are you?"

"His sitting on the veranda mama" Tsiamo-

"I'm coming."

I say storming there.

"What did you do Mahlatsi?"

"I accidentally messed up in my pants"

"Accidentally? Are you saying accidentally Mahlatsi?" That infuriates me so much that I take out my flip flop and start bashing him with it. He cries his lungs out apologising.

"Don't you have a mouth Mahlatsi? Can't you talk huh?"

"I.. I.. I can... I can talk mama"

He says crying.

"What was hard for you to go to the loo huh?"

"It was an accident ma"

"Whose gonna wash these pants of yours huh?"

"I.. I.. I.. I'm.. I'm gonna wash it mama" He says with a trbling voice.

"Tsiamo!!!"

"Ma" He shouts back.

"Connect a hoarse pipe to the tap"

"Okay mama"

"Dare shit on yourself ever again I'm gonna show you a living hell you hear me?"

He nods. I use the pipe to clean him out. This is all an abomination Mahlatsi has never pulled this stunt before. My mother looks at me as I walk naked Mahlatsi inside the house.

Sidney

Mcebisi cried himself a river till he doze off in my arms. I know the young man was at fault for lying about his cardiovascular dilemma. But I still feel Deliwe wasn't supposed to lash out on him she was supposed to be calm when calling him out. But I won't attend to this now maybe later when I come back from my little trip. I walk out from my bedroom leaving Mcebisi snoring peacefully. I dart to the sitting room putting my watch on. I bump into Deliwe sitting on the couch. I tell her I will be out for a day not that she cares. In a split second I'm parked in my compound my heart is beating on my chest. My palms are sweating and my saliva is getting lesser and lesser. I do simple relaxation techniques then quench on a bottle of water to calm my nerves down. I step out of the car mine is the last one on the driveway. Meaning all the other arse holes have arrived. I look at his car "Marcus. M" my eyes move to another one "Shaltee" My breathing struggles resume again. I don't think I will cope in the presence of my father and my brother. I turn my back to head back to my car.

"Kamohelo!!" I reluctantly turn my head to face my mother.

"Kamohelo please!"

"Coming here was a big fat mistake!"

"Son.." I hear his voice I turn my head to look at him.

"I thought you wouldn't come Welcome son" I look at him from head to toe.

Expensive suits ties and shoes won't hide the monster that he is or was. I look at my mother her eyes are begging me to honor the invitation but the dog that's standing besides her makes me sick.

"Kamohelo please it's only for a minute"

"This air is too polluted for me to take in. "
"Kamohelo do it for me Please ngwana ka"
"Please Sidney" Marcus-

I turn my back and walk towards my mother.. She cups my face and kisses my cheeks.

"Thank you son.."
"So everyone is here?"
"Yes Even your fiance Milly"
"Why is Milly here?"
"Look what the cat dragged in!" My sister walks towards me wearing a blingy Maroon dress it hangs her body so very well. She's wearing her usual look. Fancy wigs and too much make up. She embraces me and does her annoying whistle.
"Aren't you the hottest mother fucker in the world? Damn Twinny you fucken hot!" Janet -
"Don't you get tired of the fake hair Lashes and nails?"
"And fake tits" Mom-
"Mama!" We laugh.
"The party is this side not over there" Milly says with a broad smile. She looks good on her black dress and heels. She throws herself in my arms.
"Hey lover" With that said I get a steamy kiss..
"You two should get a room" Janet-

I break free from the kiss I glare on her surprised by this warm yet awkward welcome.

"You look dazzling honey" Milly -

"Then my soon to be son in law has arrived" Millicent's father says as his walking towards me. Actually the minister of health. He force's me into a bear hug. Theres a little catching up moment till we decide on walking to the stretched white tent with a dash olive green that's placed in the garden. The decoration has my mother's name on it. The chairs are made of class the reception is way too much. I spot my brother Shalton having a little chit chat with my father whose holding his Son "Jason" while he is holding the girl child "Emerald" He looks at me and waves his hand I look at him without returning it..

"Please try to avoid him Sidney please" Milly says looking at me.

"Why is it packed? I thought it was an intimate family thing not Forbes Villegas "

"Sidney you know our families are those kind of people everything is exaggerated this side."

I look at her as she clang on my arm.

"What was that kiss all about?"

"I did it to shut the rents I don't want them knowing about us being separated. Us being apart will look bad for business"

"For a moment it felt real"

"Liar.. Let me go greet your brother"

"Let me go catch up with Boitumelo"

"Sure thing." I walk to my twin sister. Her clingy daughter jumps on me. I pick her up and kiss her chubby cheeks.

"Candy sir"

"Thats my greeting Kaone?"

"You do know uncle that talking to me comes with a price"

I giggle.

"Like mother like daughter"

Sidney

The forks and knives are clinking against plates. Everyone is laughing and having the time of their lives. I'm settled here glaring at everyone.

"We have an announcement!" My big headed brother Shalton says demanding everyone's attention.

"What announcement son?" Dad-

"Ehm... Well... Mathapelo and I are pregnant again" He says looking at Mathapelo. I roll my eyes and drink from my glass.

"Oh! Congratulations son that's beautiful!" His mother says with a broad smile on her face.

"There's another announcement." Shalton-

"So many announcements" my twin whispers in my ear. She's being sarcastic.

"What announcement?" Dad enquires.

"Well you're looking at a new hospital owner. I Shalton Matthewsthe first born son of Florence Matthews I'm a hospital owner. I have my own private hospital in Cape Town!!!" They all applaud him I glare at him without cheering for him. He owns that hospital because of Marcus's money after all he insured a brighter future for him than that of mine and Boitumelo. I would've clapped had it been out of his sweat and undivided devotion of hardwork and determination. He got this because he is Marcus's son and there's no astonishment over this. I clap for people who get good results out of hard work and sweating not these cheeseboys. I gulp my drink once again.

"I'm so proud of you son! That's my boy! That's my son people." Dad-
"You should be dad. After all your hard earned money is being put to good use. You should be proud I would be proud too. Congrats Shalty. " Tumi-
"Boitumelo!" My mom warns.

"I'm trying to be nice Zelda." Tumi-
Everyone looks at Tumi.

"May I be excused?"

"Excused? Where are you going Kamo?"

"Home."

"And where is home is this a jungle?" Zelda-(Mom)

"Ma not this again. I came you should be happy."

"Sidney sit down and eat your food. You will leave when everyone does. It's not like you left a woman back home Milly is here." Marcus-

"You don't get to dictate me Marcus. You're nobody's father maybe you have that privilege with Shalton and Brandon but not with me." People look at me.

"Sidney Matthews I said sit down NOW!!!"

"I'm afraid I can't. I left a very important and beautiful woman back home. I'm out" I say reaching for my car keys and wallet.

"What woman Matthews?" Minister-

"Yeah what woman Kamo?" Mom(Zelda)

"Milly and I are not dating not anymore."

"Kamo..." Milly says between her teeth eyes move to her. My phone beeps on the table Mcebisi's face appears as the caller ID. Tumi looks at it since my cell phone is closer to her.

"Kamo who is this?" Tumi-

"Bye sweets" I lean over to kiss her cheek. I will brief her some other day. I walk to my mother to kiss her cheek but Zelda faces the other direction as an indication that she doesn't want my kiss.

"I will walk you out Sid" Brandon says standing up.

"Milly what happened between you two? Why are you not together?" Her mother questions. I make my way to my car. Brandon and I are walking in silence.

"Sid?"

"Yeah?"

"I'm getting married and I need you to be my best man."

"Why don't you ask your brother Shalton?"

"Dude come on. You're my brother too and you are the eldest one."

"Bro I'm currently working in Mpumalanga I don't think I will be around."

He looks at me.

"Sidney you're pushing everyone away especially us your siblings. We should be united Sidney and supportive towards each other."

"Brad listen I'm not in the mood for this talk. I'm exhausted and bored. Please save it for another day" I open the door of my car.

"Dad and Florence are the arse holes you should be punishing and pushing away Kamo not me! For fucks sake I did nothing to you!"

"But you had everything on a silver platter Brandon you went to bed on full stomachs stuffed with dessert too. While my twin sister and I had nothing but empty complaining stomachs don't tell me you did nothing. You benefitted on my pain!"

"Sidney I'm your brother I'm only 26 for fucks sake. You're barking at the wrong tree Sidney!"

"Like I said I'm not having this talk with you at least not today" I bang the door and drive away leaving him staring at me. Along the way I remember I forgot my watch in the kitchen. I pull over to drive back home.

Zelda(Sidney's mother)

I excuse myself from the table to make my way to the kitchen. I lean against the table counter with my eyes closed. I heave a sigh. I feel hands wrap around my waist the cologne tells me it's him. I wish he could stop torturing me we are separated for Christ's sake. Actually he cheated on me and married her... I feel his cold lips press hard on my neck.

"Marcus..." That comes off as a whisper as his hands are now squeezing my boobs sending giddy vibes to my tummy.

"Your son is getting out of hand Zelda. Sidney is getting way out of hand" he scoops me up and puts me on the table counter. He smashes his lips against mine. I reciprocate the kiss.

"You're smoking hot Zelda."

"But you left me still."

"I never left you I still care."

"You care enough to ditch your children Marcus? It's only a matter of time before Sidney slaughters your throat he hates you and I hate you too. Do you have a condom?"

"No..." He says with a smoky voice. His pants go down my dress is rolled to my tummy. His erection buries itself within my folds. It's a steamy one...

"What the fuck?!" We both tilt our heads. Sidney!

"I can explain son it's-" Sidney punches Marcus endlessly. Till his nose bleeds all I'm doing is to scream.

—

Deliwe

"I'm sorry that I shouted at you my boy I don't know what's happening to me" I say brushing his head as it is rested on my lap.

"I love you boy I really do."

"I hate it when you shout at me mama. I wish you could talk to me in a much calmer tone just like uncle. He didn't shout at me for lying about my respiratory dilemma he was soft and understanding but you... You acted just like gogo." I strain my eye socket by widening my eyes. Is this my son? Is this really my Mcebisi?

"I'm sorry sweetheart I really am. Thing is mommy doesn't know how to handle a child she was never loved or shown love throughout her existence. She was always screamed at or punished she doesn't know how to

reprimand you without raising her voice. Mom is broken Mcebisi. But I'm sorry my boy."

"Can't you fix that mama?"

"I can try but it might need money and time money that mommy doesn't have."

"Then ask daddy to help you." I swallow hard as I hear him refer to him as "daddy" instead of "uncle daddy".

"Daddy likes us mama."

"He likes you baby."

"And you too."

"Mcebisi stop it. He can't like me. But even if he does like us we can't ask him for money. He has already given us a roof to hide our heads. We should be grateful for that my boy and not bother him with our problems. I will fix this myself okay?"

"Fine... But mama you need to change how you talk to Cebi if you don't Cebi will be embarrassed to call you his mother."

What the heck? I force him up is this really my son or an intruder.

"Cebi where are you?"

"I'm here mamain front of you."

"No way you did something to my son. My own Cebi would never talk in this manner."

"This is me mama" he says giggling. I tickle him a little little guy farts.

"I love you Cebi and guess what? Mommy is gonna change baby she's gonna try to be the best mom for Cebi okay? No more shouting and screaming at you."

"You promise?"

"Yes I promise!"

"Pinky swear?"

"Pinky swear!"

"You're a cool motherI love you."

I kiss his forehead

"I love you too my boy."

"Are you gonna have another baby?"

"No Cebi. Mommy is not gonna have another baby Cebi is enough for mommy."

"Uncle said you will."

"Maybe he said that to scare you for being a bad boy."

"I would love to have a sibling mama."

"Mcebisi I can give you everythingbut not a sibling. Babies are expensive nana. Not so long I wasn't able to buy you sneakers that you love. I can't bring you a sibling. Not now boy maybe when I'm working and driving only then I can give you a sibling."

My phone beeps it's a message from my father.

"Khulu is outside boy boy let's go open for him."

"Okay!" We stand and walk there. He better not judge the length of my skirt. He smiles from afar I pray Sidney doesn't come back now. He won't like it finding a stranger in his house. But it's not a big deal I will explain myself. No I will brief him about Mphikeleli. Another thingI want to discuss something with him. I think I want to go stay with my father I know Sidney is trying to help by accommodating us and etcbut I need to bond and catch up with my father too. Maybe he is gonna love me as his daughter maybe he can be the family I never had in aunt and Jabu. I pray he understands.

I open the gate for my father my little man runs to him and he then embraces him. I lean by the gate and smile at the view of them.

"Sawubona Khulu!"

"Sawubona Mphazima. Unjani?"

"Ngiyaphila unjani uKhulu?"

"Grandpa is doing fine and how is Mkhulumi?"

I giggle realising he has a name for my boy.

"You have a name for him?"

"He talks too much Deliwe."

"I wonder who he takes after because mina I'm not talkative."

"Maybe Khosi." We giggle.

"Come in baba."

"Thank you sisi. How are you doing?"

"I'm doing fine and yourself?"

"I'm pulling through my daughter. Please carry this plastic since Mcebisi decided on being a baby by refusing to walk on his own." I giggle.

"I smell chips." Cebi-

"You got it right Mphazima Khulu bought you chips. Does he eat fish Deli?"

"He does baba but there was no need. I cooked."

"It was just a treat sisi."

"Thank you I made pap please come inside."

**

My father is analyzing the house. I know he wants to say something but whatever it is it better not be something in connection with my relationship with Sidney. Everyone already thinks we are an item. I don't want my own father thinking the same thing.

"It's a beautiful house Deli."

"It is indeed baba."

"So tell me how long are you willing to stay here?"

"I will leave baba if that's what you want."

We both keep quiet.

"We need to claim our house back though" I say.

"I'm working on it. Where is your boyfriend? I thought I was gonna meet him today."

"Baba he is not my boyfriend but a friend."

"A friend that has a different tool from yours?"

"Baba..." I say with a smile on my face.

"I might be 48 years old but I'm not a slow man Deliwe. No man would agree to be a friend to a woman he is not attracted to. Friends end up in bed Deliwe."

"Not this one baba I don't even see him in that way."

"Wait for him to be naked at 2am knocking at your doorstep. Only then will you realize that this friendship thingy only applies to you but not him. Kodwa nawe you might betray that so called friendship and find yourself making another Mcebisi."

"Excuse me baba I think the microwave is done warming up our food." That's my cue to abort this talk. This man is trying to convince me to accepting something that I do not think of or maybe something I'm trying to avoid. I really can't have this talk with Mphikeleli. I walk to the kitchen and dish up. A couple of hours later he leaves my son crying for him. Poor Mphikeleli suggested I bring him next weekend for a sleepover at whatever place his staying at but that didn't stop him from wailing. I had no choice but to carry him on my back like a toddler. Chronicles of a mother.

Sidney

Zelda is weak. How could she allow Marcus to fuck her on a table counter? Why would she even allow things to get this far? Marcus is using her stupid her doesn't see that. Marcus came here with his wife Florence but here he is bending his ex over. I'm so infuriated right now.

"Sidney..." My mom calls out as I'm making my way to my car. I drive off and head home. The time is ten o'clock on the dot when I drive inside the yard. I quickly go shower and brush my teeth. I walk to Mcebisi's room but he isn't there. I make my way to Deliwe's room. I find them sleeping I gently shake

Deliwe awake. At first she's not budging. I guess my cold hands around her waist snaps her out of it.

"Pardon me mama ka Mcebisi but today I'm sleeping in here with you and our son." I say moving a bit closer to her.

"You're cold Sidney."

"Warm me up."

"My bed is small for the three of us."

"Then nna le wena we're making use of the master bedroom let's go."

"What's wrong with you? You're acting strange."

"Deliwe kao rata can't you see that?"

(I love you)

"You're drunk good night."

She says turning moving away from me. Stubborn me moves closer to her I locate her breasts and seductively pinch them.

"Sidney stop it!"

"I love you Deliwel mean it."

"You love me or you're horny? There's a baby in here."

"I told you that i love you and that I can make use of the master bedroom."

With that said I squeeze her boobs and plant a soft kiss on her neck. "Turn over I want to kiss you please pancake."

"Sidney..." I don't know if that's a moan or what since I'm playing with her boobs. But if she's not comfortable it's fine by me I understand.

"Please sweetheartface me."

"Sidney you're drunk you're not thinking straight."

"Deliwe I'm not drunk I know what I'm doing. Please believe me mommy." She keeps quiet.

"Mama I want to pee" Mcebisi says all of a sudden. She gently unhooks my hands from her boobs.

"Go pee boy" she says with a trembling voice.

Young man disappears. Deliwe turns over to face me.

Deliwe

I turn over to face him and move a bit closer to him. When our chest's are in contact I cup his face and smash my full lips against his. He slightly parts my lips and sucks gently on my lower lip. I ace for his upper lip and take in his sweetness our tongues join the melody and dances a routine of it's own. My eyes are shut as I'm devouring his delicate lips. I feel his hand reach for my leg he places it on his waist then positions himself closer to my pundeda. I feel his erection expanding bit by bit. His hand moves to my butt cheek he squeezes it. Sending giddy vibes to my body something I've never felt with my clients.

"Cebi is awake Deliwe" he says with a smoky voice.

"Do you want this like I want it?" The Catte in me says. Catte is never this weak Catte hates being touched by a man but with this one she's willing to let him touch her. I pull his lower lip and gently suck on it. I move my hands to his trunk. I shove it deep inside his underwear. I play with his shaft.

"Pancake... Ngwana... He is back. Let's wait for him to sleep please."

I exhale deeply and make a way for Mcebisi to sleep between us.

Khosi

I'm laying in bed reading my black and pink Zulu version holy bible. When my cell phone rings I pick up.

"Khosi!"

"Ngilele Kaizer!"

"Your brother called me yesterday."

"In connection?" I say taking off my reading glasses.

"What does he want?"

"You know what he wants."

"I don't follow Kaizer stop talking in riddles and shoot straight to the point."

"He wants the house."

"Over my dead body Kaizer that cannot happen. Didn't you get rid of all the records that connect him to this house?"

"I was only able to change the house name but there's still information in the archives and other systems that I have no access to."

"Bullshit! Change those records Kaizer. You promised njena now keep your word!"

"I'm afraid I can't do that Khosi. Like I once said such things need money I might lose my job Khosi."

"It's a pity because I don't have money anymore. At first it was easy because I was using the money he left when he went to prison. Where am I gonna get money manje? I will talk to my daughter and see what we can combine. I will call you tomorrow after church."

" Sure..."

I heave a sigh Jabu has to make a plan. We both know what's going to happen to us if Mphikeleli gets his house back. We're going to be squashed in one shack like sardines in a tin of fish. I can't allow that. A plan must be invented even if it means she has to give her body to Kaizer in return for his help she must get on top of it. I can't go back to that horrible situation of living in an informal settlement no way.

Deliwe

He carries Cebi to the other room.

He gently pulls my legs to the edge of the bed. He strips my pyjamas off me he rolls his trunks down. Wow! He has a big fat eagle tattoo on his chest.

There's another one on his abs God damn! This Sidney is so sexy from the Sidney that I know. He gently spreads my legs apart and leans over to kiss me. Our lips and tongues dance to a tune of their own. I feel his one hand moving between my thighs. It later peels my folds and moves to my clit he rubs it while kissing me. I curl up my toes and deepen the kiss. His finger is still at it on my clit. He stops kissing my lips to kiss my jaw line forcing me to tilt my head to the side he nibbles my neck gently so. I press my lips against each other. He moves to kissing the back of my ear. I squirm at the feel of that I've never experienced this. While I'm still praising that he moves his hand to my left boob and seductively pinches my nipple. I gulp for air.

"Are you okay?"

"Yes..."

"Good." He kisses my collar bone and moves to the passage that's between my boobs he plants kisses heading to my belly. I find myself arching my back as his lips move around my belly. This is too foreign to me.

"I love your stretch marks."

My clients hate those they always tell me to use a product because it's annoying and nauseating.

"Mcebisi's fault..."

He pinches my nipple a bit harder forcing me to let out a soft moan. I now feel his lips making traces to my pundeda. He can't kiss that area it's very dirty. I mean I sleep with a lot of people. I mean countless of people. Actually he mustn't... No! What is that friction? What is that warmth? I know he opened my vagina lips because there's a pinch of air hitting it then... Mmmmm. What is that? What is he doing?

"Sid... Sidney..." I stutter

"Pancake?" He says sliding his fingers inside my fruit.

"Aaaaah... What are you... Ooooooh... Oh shit!"

He moves his fingers inside my fruit it's like he is slicing something in there.

"You were saying sweetheart?"

"Mmmmm... I was what? Ooooooh..." He ups the pace of his fingers inside my fruit my body is slowly tensing up. He leans over to kiss me yet again while

slicing me with his fingers. He pulls out from the kiss to seductively suck on my left nipple. "Aaaaah... Sid... Sidney" I let out a moan.

"Keng pancake?" (What is it Pancake?) He says with a smoky voice.

"Nothing..."

"Oh! I thought you were talking."

"No I'm not." I say kissing his lips. The kiss is short lived because I feel that strange warmth again. His head is between my legs. I find myself drawing him nearer while arching my back as this pinch of pleasure is talking over my body soul and mind. I feel him grab my butt cheeks and move me much closer to his face. There's friction on my clit he is muffing me. Shalton once gave me this but it wasn't as good as this one this one is advanced. It is well polished.

"Sidney!!!" I let go of his head and grab hard on the bed sheets. God damn he is doing something on my labia. It's coming my orgasm is in progress. He eats me out in a split second my toes curl up. My body experiences a shock i just jettied. He holds his medium long and side facing penis he massages it while glaring at me.

"Welcome back to life can I?"

"Please wear a condom."

"I won't make you pregnant pancake my fluids don't make babies."

"You're lying."

"I'm serious Deliwe. Do you think I would be this focused on Cebi knowing I had a family elsewhere? I promise Pancake you will have your monthly cycle as normal as before." Now I'm thinking with my vagina. I nod. He massages his medium sized yet a few inches long penis his body and mine come in contact. He rubs the tip on my clit. " I love how you call my name"

He says i nod not knowing what to say. "Relax you wont be pregnant i promise"

"You are drunk though" He looks at my vagina as he rubs his tip on it. " Can we date already please?" He slide his tip inside then pulls out. While rubbing my clit.

"I don't know Sidney I'm a mess."

"A beautiful mess that I don't mind to clean up and fix and turn into something that i want for myself." He shoves his tip again then pulls it out when I'm still enjoying it i wish he can shove it all inside.

"Sidney I'm too broken I have a lot of demons that I need to put to rest first. " I'm so meltdown you would swear I'm butter in a pan.

"Pancake I'm here now let me in. Give me a chance please."

"I don't trust men."

"That's what you think Deliwe. That's not true... You wouldn't be on this bed if you didn't trust men sweetheart." With that said he slides his entire erect penis inside my num num I catch a breath as it fills up my oven. I feel tears threatening to leave my eyes because of the pleasure. He gently lifts my legs and puts them on his shoulders. I'm pulled yet again to the tip of the bedfalling is knocking on the door step. He pushes his entire wand inside I let out yet another loud groan as I accommodate his entire manhood. His strokes take me to Disneyland. He thrusts gentle.

"Deli please"

"Sidney I can't... I can't put my guard down that easily. Mmmm oooooh! I have Mcebisi and that's how I prefer things to be." He glares at me.

"Can we give it a try please? Forget about Cebi you deserve to be loved and needed Deli. Let's give it a try please."

"What if it ends before it resumes I'm not a good person Sidney you deserve better than me."

"You are my better. It's you I need please. If we crash pancake then we're gonna crash what matters will be the initiative of trying. Can we try please mommy." His strokes are now getting deeper and more aggressive not that I'm complaining I'm loving it and enjoying it.

"Finelet's give it a try but for a month or so."

"Thank you you won't regret it" he says thrusting vigorously. Our moans fill up the bedroom.

Florence is pacing around our bedroom. She's been angry since we left Zelda's house.

"Marcus what was that? How could you embarrass me like that? Having sex with your ex like really?"

"I'm tired."

"Don't give me that attitude Marcus!"

"I said I'm sorry what more do you want from me? It's not like she castrated my penis it's still here with me. You being melodramatic!"

I say switching off the side lamp.

"You still love her don't you?"

"I won't answer that."

"Answer me dammit!" She roars.

"She's the mother of my children Florence."

"You mean the mother of the kids you abandoned at birth?"

"I don't have time for this."

"Marcus I won't sit back and watch you disrespect me like this. Not with Zelda."

"Zelda and I are history she's my ex."

"An ex you fuck on table counters you meant?"

"I was horny."

"So you won't apologize for going behind my back again Marcus? With her!"

"Goodnight."

"Don't do that Marcus! Don't do that you know how I hate it when you do that!" She cries.

"Switch off the lights when you're done crying."

"Fuck you Marcus!!! Fuck you!" She curses and slams the door walking out. She's surely going to her club.

I close my eyes and replay everything that has happened today. Sidney really hates me I don't blame him I would've done the same thing had my own father abandoned me and my sister to go love other kids and give them everything on a silver platter while I had it rough. I would've gone crazy over this predicament too.

I won't justify my wrongs I was an arse. I was a horny jerk who ruined so many lives with my selfishness. I deserve this treatment he is giving me and my family. Now I made things hard and

worse for Zelda by fucking her on the table counter it's pretty obvious Sidney will hate her too for betraying him and Janet. To clear the air I will give you a snippet of what happened between Zelda and I.

Zelda's mother was a domestic worker. She was working for my parents. My parents treated her like family. This one time Zelda came to visit her mother at our cottage house. It was during the June school holidays when her and I first met. I myself was on a school holiday too I was staying and studying in Eastern cape Rhodes University.

If I'm not mistaken Zelda was 17 and I was 23. When we met if I remember correctly my parents wanted to meet her so they can discuss her tertiary studies finances. So she spent a couple of weeks at my house. During those weeks her and I developed feelings for each other. We confessed to each other and then boom we were a couple. During the day when her mother was out to run errands we got a little bit naughty I took her virginity. Our little secret went on until she was 18 and doing matric. That was the year that changed both our lives...

Deliwe

I can't believe what happened last night I've never seen nor tasted this kind of making out. It was so calming and rejuvenating. I couldn't get enough of his touch. I used to think my moment in bed with Shalton was a bliss but honestly he is nothing compared to this Sidney guy... As for loving him it hasn't come to that stage. But as promised last night I'm gonna give it a try if we crash we crash no hard feelings. But at the same time my worry is about Mcebisi this thing might affect him more than it might with us shall it end in tears.

"Freshening up so early in the morning?" He says pressing his body against mine while squeezing my boobs.

"I just felt dirty."

"Why would you feel like that pancake?"

He says nibbling my neck reminding me of last night.

"Ehm... Sex involves the change of gametes that's what I meant."

No I'm lying I'm confusing him for one of my clients. It's my routine after all.

"I'm sorry you feel that way" he says squeezing my boobs harder than previously.

"Can I help?"

He says with a husky voice his manhood has enlarged again.

"Help?"

"Bring the spongel will wash your back. "

"Sidney I want to go make breakfast Mcebisi will be awake any minute from now."

"The sponge please."

"Sidney..."

"He is having cereal. Can I help you before he busts us?"

I toss the sponge over.

"We need to go to the stores and get more groceries."

"There's still food."

"You need more Deliwe. And besides I want him to get a new cut it's Monday tomorrow his cut is a mess."

"He had that cut a week ago."

"Exactlya week ago and tomorrow is another week."

"Sidney you're wasting and carelessly spending."

"There's something I've been meaning to ask you Deliwe please do think about it."

"What is that?"

"Turn over please" I do as instructed.

"Can I wash you all the way down to your toes?"

"Sidney..."

"I won't do anything you're not comfortable with I respect you Deliwe. "

"Fine" I say looking at him.

"I wanted to plead with you to give me parental rights to Mcebisi I know you hardly know me and etc. But please allow this boy an opportunity to have someone that he can boldy declare as his father when talking to other kids. Can i please be his father legally... Please Deliwe?" I keep quiet and swallow hard this is crazy.

"Deliwe"

"Mmmmm..."

"I don't expect you to agree now but please think about it. Another thing can we discuss what happened yesterday. Not the sex because I know we both loved it. But rather the child."

"We spoke about it sino Cebi."

"Did you apologize?"

"Of course I did." He furrows his brows and looks at me.

"I'm serious Sidney I apologized kuyena."

"Sweetheart bona ka tseba gore ake ntate wa Mcebi

(look I know I'm not his father)

but I care a lot about him his well being and his future Deliwe. Ko Cebi ke bona ngwana waka eseng ngwana wa motho omongwe." (In Cebi I see my child not somebody else's child.)"

I look at him so does he.

"Deli I'm one person who says things as naked as they are. I'm gonna tell you the truth today a truth that nobody has probably said before. You don't understand Mcebisi. You don't even give yourself a platform to explore his mind and beliefs. You don't have trust in your son's decision making. Mcebisi is a very smart and responsible kid. He knows what's wrong and what isn't. For starters he told me he hates how you always shout at him and snap each time he says or does something that he feels is good for him at that time."

" I don't follow Sidney."

"In simple terms Deliwes stop being hard on him. Allow him to make mistakes allow him to fumble around and play with sand and have his knees bruised just like every child does. You can't always protect him from things that most kids are doing or experiencing. You should understand that Mcebisi has his own preferences likes and dislikes. You can't always build a tough wall around your son or locking him indoors. Mcebisi must have friends she must be carefree and happy."

"Did he say he wasn't happy?"

"That doesn't matter. What matters is that you have to change your tone towards him. Teach him that mistakes are to be corrected not punished. When he accidentally spills milk tell him to mop the floor clean after his mess or better yet to hold the carton with care the next time he makes use of it. See with this tone the child understands their mistake and they have a solution on how to correct it the next time it happens or better yet they will know the repercussion that comes with spilling milk which is cleaning or having it run out. Not gore he will get his arse whooped. Talk politely don't lash out because shouting brings nothing but confusion to a kid. The next time he spills milk and you shout at him he will start lying repeatedly. Shifting the blame on his siblings or other people that alone is a bad lesson to a child Deliwe."

I look at him speechless.

"In closing pancake you can't raise your child the same way as you were raised Deliwe. Be your son's peace of mind be his hiding place his refuge. Be his best friend his number one supporter and his confidant. Pancake you can't build a you in your son. Allow your son to be a different version of you. If your past consisted of pain and struggles try to make your son's a peaceful one that's filled with laughter and happiness. The things that brought you tears growing up don't allow them to come to existence through your child. Cebi must be a child Deli he must play in the rain and make silly mistakes then run back to his mother to tell her about it. He mustn't run away from his mother each time he makes a mistake okay love?"

I sniff. Something about his words awakened old wounds. I hated it each time my aunt lashed out on me meaning Cebi hates it too and he did confess. Sidney is really good with kids.

Sidney

"You're crying?" I chuckle softly and pull her to my chest to embrace her.

"Askies rato laka like Eminem once said to his mother when apologising. Nami I didn't mean to hurt you. I didn't mean to hurt you but today I'm cleaning up after the mess life challenges and experiences left on your soul akere?" (right?)

She cries even more. I scoop her up and pin her against the wall.

"Sorry sweetheart. I'm sorry."

"I will try to work on that I promise I will try to be less hard on him"

She says wrapping her hands around my neck and kissing my lips hungrily. She reaches for my erect penis and shoves it inside her private part. She glides against it I help her with my strokes. This girl can ride a man her waist is boneless.

"Don't you have kids of your own Sidney?"

"I don't have a kid I've been struggling in that department for years Deli."

"You tested positive for infertility?"

"No... I'm not positive it's just that my ex and I have been struggling to conceive for years. I think if I try with you but only when you're ready I might get lucky."

She giggles.

"Me? No way."

"I'm serious Deliwel want to try with you. Mcebisi would love to have a brother or sister."

"No thank you. I still have dreams to chase and a stable life at that."

"What dreams are those?"

"I want to study civil engineering."

"What field? Structural environmental geotechnical surveying or water resources?"

"My most intrigued field is construction engineering."

"Really?"

"Yes. You don't think I have what it takes?"

"No mommy I do believe in you I'm just surprised by your preference. So do you have the minimum requirements for the course?"

"I think so."

"Which university do you want to register with?"

"At first I had Stellenbosch in mind but since I failed to practice the no sex before marriage rule I'm now thinking of Witwatersrand University or better yet University of Pretoria. I don't want to be far away from Cebisi. If needed be I can even settle for UJ."

"If I'm not mistaken registration openings will be talking place soon. As for me I was enrolled into the University of Cape Town I studied the geotechnical field of civil engineering. I suppose Cebi will have to study structural engineering together we will make the Civil family." She giggles.

"That means you earn a lot Sidney. I mean civil has money."

"I try cupcake. We should get you enrolled."

"I'm working on that."

"It's rising again."

"Let's get out Cebi is surely worried. Besides your neighbor invited us to church I just wanna go there to make her happy not that it's in my best interest."

"You're gonna love their church."

"Not me. Please put me down."

"Yeah." I say hooking her. We share a little kiss before she walks out of the shower. I quickly freshen up.

Mcebisi is wearing a simple outfit the tracksuits I bought him and the sneakers. Deliwe is wearing a tight army green straight cut dress with that square black heel. She has make up and and a weave on. There's a white sling bag dangling on the side of her shoulders they look good honestly. As for me I'm wearing a simple slim cut grey formal pants with a white slim fit long sleeve shirt and Grayson

formal shoes. I'm gonna wear a dusty pink blazer if needed be. Deliwe is glaring at me as I'm putting my watch on. She immediately shifts her eyes when she spots me staring at her.

"Mmmmm... Daddy looks good"

I smile.

"Thank you sonny."

"Not bad" Deliwe says. I smirk and glare at her.

"You smell good too can I also smell like you?"

"Sure... Come" I pull his tiny hand to the bedroom. I grab my Dior Fahrenheit bottle cologne. I give Mcebisi a few sprinkles. He inhales deeply.

"Mmmmm... I smell good. Thank you" he says with a broad smile. I return it while admiring the beauty of having a child. This is something I've always wanted. A warm home and a good woman besides me and maybe my four mini me or mini her. I just pray and hope we last. I really love this this is a life I must be living everyday.

"Let's go before your mother goes all hulk on us."

We laugh. I hand Deliwe my blazer to hold on purpose.

I open the door for her then Mcebisi's. I hop on the driver's seat and put on my seatbelt.

"You look stunning." She blushes.

"You look good too."

"Thank you. Cebi you're good that side?"

"Yes I'm fine."

"Cool then" I drive to church. There are plenty of cars here. "We have reached our destination."

"It looks packed."

"It is I suppose the main founder- pastor of this church is here. It's always like this when Reverend Langa is visiting this branch."

"Okay. And your neighbor what is she?"

"She's an appointed pastor for this church by the founder of this church."

"Oh..." Cebi opens the door for himself. I steal a minute to kiss Deliwe.

"My lip gloss."

"Sorry." We step out of the car both of us holding Mcebisi's hand.

Mphikeleli

I'm standing outside the gate. Waiting for at least one of these people to appear. I want to get inside my house. Khosi has to stop this madness we are siblings not rivals. I'm willing to put an end to this madness. As I'm standing outside the gate a car pulls over window semi rolled down. Anthony's face appears.

"Leliindoda yasekhulukuthu!"

(Leli the prison man!)

I furrow my brows and look at him with my hands buried inside my pockets...

"Mphikeleli I'm talking to you."

"Fuck off!"

"How do you feel about Carol warming up my bed every night? Phela you two you were the Bonnie and Clyde of this township." I clench my teeth.

"I feel nothing I had my chance to fuck her and I guess now it's your chance."

"You should hear her screaming my name at night."

"Dude fuck off!"

"You still care about hersadly she's mine."

"Does Carol consider you as hers? Are you sure she's head over heels about you? Anthony I wasn't prepared to have this talk but since you insisted I can end your sham of a marriage with just my one finger inside her underwear. Just imagine the damage that my cock would do."

He huffs and glares at me.

"Busy barking at me over food that I left you? What a scumbag you are. You should be thanking me for leaving you at least something to bite on instead of leaving nothing at all. Fuck off before I fuck up your marriage." He drives off annoyed. Jabu looks at me and says nothing.

"Jabu call your mother."

"She's bathing."

"Open the gate."

She looks at me and disappears inside the house. Khosi shows up minutes later but she's not coming to attend me but rather to enter the car to drive off to church. Leaving me standing like a jerk on the pavement. I click my tongue.

"Leli!!!" The next door neighbour calls out my name or should I say a friend that I happened to have a situationship with back then.

"Sara."

"How are you? Please come closer I want to ask you something."

I heave a sigh. I walk towards her how Carol hated her.

"Hi."

"Hey Leli. You good?"

"Yeah I'm good. What's up?"

"Look I heard that Khosi kicked you and your daughter out. I know it's not my business but I can help you get your house back."

"Does your help come with terms and conditions?"

She giggles.

"Of course not silly I'm doing it for Deliwe. That child has been through a lot and besides her mother used to be my friend." I glare at her.

"Speaking of Angie has she made contact ever since she left?"

"No."

"Yoh that's strange because her and I have been talking for the past years. She has three children and she is a dentist."

I huff.

"You said you wanted to help me with the house issue can we focus on that not Angie."

She looks at me.

"Actually let's discuss the house thing tomorrow afternoon thanks."

"Sharp" I walk away agitated. Angie is so cruel very cruel. How could she? Deliwe doesn't deserve this she really doesn't. I walk to the tavern that Carol works at. I find a little girl who looks like Carol but not fully at the till.

"Sawubona sisi can I please have a black label."

"How many baba?"

"One one litre bottle."

"Okay... It's coming up."

"Thank you." Carol appears.

"Sindiswa! Go to the back" she yells.

"Kodwa mama I'm helping him."

"Helping him? I said go to the back!"

"He wanted a black label a one litre"

The young lady says. Carol snatches the money from her. She aggressively hands me my change without looking at me. She gives me my beer.

"Thanks."

"What do you want from my daughter Mphikeleli?"

"Excuse me?"

"Stay the hell away from her!"

"Whoa! Stop right there Carol I wanted a beer not her I don't even know who she is. Don't you dare belittle my manliness. I don't prey on kids mina! Yeses!" I reach for my beer annoyed both sides by my exes.

"Leli I'm sorry."

"Fuck off!" I say walking outside with my beer. I spot that Sindiswa kid smoking. She looks at me and I do the same. I walk to my rental place and drink my beer. I find myself going on Facebook to search Angela Bhunu. I don't find her instead I find a Angela whose surname is Ngoyi. But the profile picture doesn't match Deliwe's mother's description. There's a young lady as her profile picture. She's probably Deliwe's age. Anyway I don't have time to play Khumbul'ekhaya especially on a woman who left her child at her father's doorstep and walked away with no return. It's not like I raped her we knew what we were doing. She even put it back when it slipped out. I won't bother myself with her.

19

Mphikeleli

I'm seated on my bed when a knock comes from my door. I stand up and walk to the door to attend to it. I heave a sigh of annoyance when my eyes land on hers.

"Can I come in?"

"Ukhama ini?"

"Leli please."

"Carol I don't want you to come in I want you gone."

She pushes the door wide open and makes herself comfortable on my bed.

"Your curtains are still like this at this hour Mphikeleli?" She says standing up to open them. She moves her eyes to my little dirty containers. She makes her way to attend to that. I look at her with my hands buried inside my pockets still standing where she left me.

"So many dishes? Hhayi Mphazima!"

"You're not here to wash dishes and open curtains. What do you want Carol?"

"First thing in the morning open windows and curtains Leli it's good for lifting your mood and your room smells good."

"Yey mom Dora! I didn't ask for your philosophy or lame techniques. What brings you in my house?"

"Mphikeleli I want to apologize about what happened."

"You mean when you thought I was lusting over your daughter?"

"I didn't say that."

"Don't make me a fool Carol. You thought I prey on young kids? You've really insulted me."

"I'm sorry Leli."

"You embarrassed me in front of people and you're telling me you're sorry? Yazin' leave my curtains and dirty dishes as they are and fuck off" I say trying to push her out.

"Mphikeleli stop it!"

"Get out! If it's not your canine less husband barking it's you. Kahle kahle nibhebhana egameni lami! Get out!"

"Sthandwa sami please..."

"Don't call me that!"

"Leli please... Don't do this."

"Get lost!" I say trying to push her out but she doesn't budge instead she cups my face and smashes her lips against mine. "What are you doing?"

"Have me Leli please."

"Carol stop it!"

"Mphikeleli please I beg of you. Make me feel like a woman."

"Go ask Anthony to make you feel like a woman."

"Mphikeleli ngiyakucela!"

I glare at her.

"How old is your daughter?"

"That's not important."

"I see... Anyway I have somewhere to go."

"Where is that?"

"I have an important meeting with Sarah."

Her face changes immediately.

"Which Sarah?"

"The one and only Sarah"

"Your bitch?"

I ignore her and wear my takkies.

"I'm talking to you!"

"Ungazokhonkotha lana go bark at your husband's house."

"You still love her don't you?"

"That's none of your business."

"Mphikeleli! What is your business with Sarah?"

"We're sleeping together happy now?"

Her eyes fill up with tears.

"Do me a favour and go cry outside on the veranda or better yet that rock that's on the pavement."

I reach for my t-shirt. As I'm wearing it Carol holds my waist and rests her head on my back.

"Caroline I want to go let me loose."

"I love you."

"Not this again."

"I love you not him."

"You love me so much that you never came to prison to visit me? Fuck your love Carol!"

I say yanking my body.

"Lock after you're done put my key under the carpet by the door" I walk out.

I love her too but we can't be together. The past is better off as the past. I don't want drama not a vagina drama to be specific already Khosi's drama is too much to deal with. I can't add Carol and Anthony. That can only take me back to prison if I did give it my attention.

Deliwe

We are invited by melodic and angelic voices from the praise team. The church is packed so much that Sidney Cebi and myself find ourselves seats at the back of the church. Mind you it's only two seats Cebi is sitting on uncle daddy's lap. People are obviously looking at us or maybe me you may find that they know me from my workplace or better yet they made me moan at some point in life. If I was doing porn I would suspect that's where they saw me or know me from. That's how deep their stares are.

"Pancake?"

"Mmm..."

"Are you okay?"

"Yes... I'm fine."

"You don't look like it."

"I don't do well in crowded places."

"Don't panic you're safe here and besides I'm here beside you."

I glare at him then faintly smile. He squeezes my hand as a sign of comfort or better yet assurance. Mcebisi is busy playing games he cares less about where we are. Our next door neighbour heads to the pulpit she looks pretty that I give to her. The praise team stops singing and sits down on their chairs. I guess they long finished singing.

"Thank you my beautiful children for sharing this beautiful gift of yours that the Lord has blessed you with to lift up spirits of those that are troubled and hopeless. Empty and hollow. Thank you my children for shaking the heavens with your divine melodies the Lord is moving in our midst Amen" she says looking down on what I believe are her notes of Bible scriptures. She raises her head and looks at the congregation she smiles as people are clapping and cheering on for her. For what? I don't know.

"Do you see who that is?" Sidney whispers in my ear.

"The neighbour."

"That's all?"

"Yes. Or there's more to her?"

"She's the most powerful preacher and prophet."

"Okay..."

He giggles as he sees that I'm not interested on knowing our pastor slash neighbour. I'm only here because she begged us to come nothing major. My contract with God ended the day he allowed me to prostitute myself for Mcebisi to have bread and a few rags to cover up his nakedness. Other than that God is nothing to me but a weakling who is declared powerful yet he hasn't used his powers to defeat Lucifer. I mean if he is powerful why is Satan still doing the things he is doing to people out there? God would've long defeated him if he was as powerful as pastors describe him to be.

"Such an honour it is to stand here in front of you yet again. Bazalwane it shows how sufficient his grace and mercy is. So many people didn't get the chance to see this day some died in their sleep. Some had car accidents and died some were stabbed some were poisoned and some died in hospitals. But you are here your children are here your spouse is here your brothers and sisters are here your parents are here and your entire family is here. Such an amazing grace bazalwane."

Sidney looks at me and then Cebi.

"Bazalwane us being here on this day didn't happen because it's a must happen kind of thing or better yet we are smart or too pretty to live. It takes great favour thorough thinking mercy and grace for us to wake up each day. It is never our will but the Lord's will. Like the Bible says the Lord never sleeps nor does he yawn his eyes can reach far places that no physical eye can reach nor see. His ears hear things that are said behind closed doors even within hearts. He can even hear a thought of a human being. So I want you to ask yourselves ukuthi why does God not sleep nor yawn? Ask yourself what is he doing when he is not sleeping while you are? Ask yourself why does he deny himself the chance to sleep just like everyone else does. If you answer those questions by yourself you will know and understand why seeing another day is such a blessing. Regardless of the things that are going wrong in your life breathing is a a very very big blessing that the mighty God can bless a human being with because without air whether you're rich or poor you become a nobody without breath Amen." The brethren mumble Sidney included.

"Bazalwane today I won't be preaching but my daughter in law will be preaching Likhwezi please..." My neighbor descends from the pulpit. A beautiful chubby lady with dreadlocks wearing a long beautiful dress with stilettos walks to the pulpit. The congregation screams above their lungs. I suppose she's too important. She smiles and waves showing off her beautiful smile. She's married too I think she's pregnant too. Her ring is glimmering so bright so much that it can blind my sight from where I'm seated. Sidney is smiling as she is taking the pulpit.

"Such an amazing grace indeed he is a good Lord. Look at yourselves

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anisebahle..."

People scream making it hard for the poor lady to talk.

"Greetings Soweto!" She shouts forcing the congregation to make more noise. She giggles. I roll my eyes.

"I greet you all in the wonderful name of our Lord and saviour. My name is Likhwezi Langa a mother to three and counting. I'm a wife to the most handsome beautiful and charming man uSibusiso

Langa mostly known as Buddha love. Since I'm a respectful woman can I take this opportunity to greet my beloved husband. Sawubona sthandwa sami?"

A handsome guy stands up carrying a baby in his hands whose probably four years old. He walks to the pulpit people scream much more louder than they did with the wife. I don't blame them such a handsome man. His body and walk is to die for. The guy leans over to kiss his wife people cheer. Now this is sweet and cute. I find myself smiling Sidney looks at me with certain eyes.

"Greetings bazalwane. Well I'm sorry about that kiss God knows I love this woman big time. I can't go a minute without her besides me but this is not my wedding to be giving such speeches. My apologies" Husband-

"Holy matrimony!!!" A guy shouts from the front row making people laugh. The husband walks away smiling the wife is left smiling.

"I love that man. When you get a chance bazalwane please fall in love and please get married umnandi umshado. Can we all open Philippians 4 verse 6 in our Bibles."

Sidney

Deliwe is slowly becoming comfortable and enjoying herself. All I'm doing is glaring at her she's not noticing because much of her attention is fixed on the sermon. Trust Mrs Langa with preaching she's the best. I position Mcebisi properly on my chest young man is snoring. The blazer I was meant to wear is now covering the young man. It has substituted to being a blanket. I guess I'm adapting pretty well to this parenting thing. The church service is over I give Deliwe the car keys.

"I can't drive."

"Just open the door please."

"Fine" she does as instructed.

"Please hold him."

"Okay..." I place Mcebisi on his lap. I hop on the driver's seat. "How was church?"

"I loved Khwezi's preaching that lady is G.O.A.T!"

"Wait for her husband to preach. He murders preaching."

"Who are they actually?"

"By they you mean those plenty guys with plenty children and pregnant wives?"

"I meant the couple."

"That's Likhwezi Langa and Sibusiso."

"The neighbour referred to Khwezi as her daughter in law"

"Yeah. Our neighbour's name is Dora Langa a second wife to Dumisani Langa."

"So the pastor is in a polygamous marriage?" I giggle.

"Yes she is."

"Isn't that obnoxious for Christians?"

"They are African Deliwe before being Christians."

"That's strange and the Sibusiso guy does he also preach or he does other things?"

"Buddha is a preacher a singer a prophet a dream interpreter he is a healer and he is a death negotiator too. In conclusion he is everything."

She looks at me jaw dropped...

"Like he does all those things?"

"Yes just like his mother not forgetting his first born son."

"And how do you know all that?"

"Everyone knows the Langas."

"Well I don't."

"You will with time... We need to get groceries and get him a new hair cut."

"Sidney we have food and his haircut is still good."

"Come on tell me you're joking? There's no snack in the house no frozen pizzas and pies. You can't call vegetables and meat food come on Deliwe" she looks at me.

"What time are you leaving?"

"I was thinking of 3pm."

"Okay" she says. I put my hand on her thigh I squeeze it gently. "Are you okay?"

"Yes I'm fine."

"I will be back pancake it's only a matter of days."

"Or weeks or months Kamo."

"I will stay in touch."

"It won't be similar to having you around."

"Sweetheart I need to work. I'm not the allowance kind of guy I work for my money please allow me to go."

"It's not my place to decide on your life Sidney."

I glare at her and say nothing she looks outside the window. We reach the stores we get groceries and toiletries for them. I get my beard trimmed same with my hair. Mcebisi does his hair. Deliwe's

cellphone rings she looks at me. It rings repeatedly without her answering. It could be her aunt. We wrap up and drive to the nearest franchise we get takeaways. Mcebisi goes to watch cartoons while Deliwe and myself offload the grocery bags.

"Who was that?"

"Who was what?"

"Calling you?"

"Nobody."

"So your phone made itself ring?"

"I'm not having this conversation Kamo."

"Is that your ex?"

"No."

"Then who is it Deliwe?"

I ask softly.

"The lady I work for."

"What work is that?"

"Domestic work."

"Then why didn't you pick up?"

"I told her I'm quitting so she didn't take that lightly."

"Then block her if she's a nag."

"I will."

"Good. I will leave a few notes in case there's an emergency in the house."

"We will manage Kamo thank you."

"I'm not trying to disrespect you Deli but I'm doing this out of free will. Please."

"Fine."

"Mind helping me pack up my clothes?"

"Sure but I need to eat first"

"We won't be long"

"Fine." She says putting the last koo bean tin inside the cupboard. We walk to my bedroom I lock the door when she's inside.

"Does packing require the doors to be locked?"

"Of course not that's for safety purposes. I just want to cuddle nothing much. I have an hour or so with you two."

"Mcebisi needs this more than I do"

"That's why the next coming hour is dedicated to him."

"Why don't you leave at 3am?"

"I can do that but I needed to sort out a few papers"

"You should've came with them."

"Next time I will."

She sits on my lap.

"There's an opening day at Wits next week go try your luck."

"I will try online."

"Go there Deliwe."

"Fine!" I grab her boob.

"Actually let's all cuddle Mcebisi included."

"I will go call him"

20

Khosi

"Jabu"

"Ma"

"Bona.. Kaizer called yesterday to inform me about the house"

"What about the house?"

"Mphikeleli wants the house back"

"And?"

"We can't allow that Jabu."

"The house papers are in your name that's what you said nje ma"

"Yes that's what I said but there's a slightly problem my daughter"

"What problem?" She asks polishing her nails and chewing hard on her bubble gum to my annoyance.

"Yooh. Kuthiwa indlu isabiza yena emahhovichini"

(Apparently they are archives that declare him as the rightful owner of the house)

"Kanjani ma?"

(How come ma?)

"Nami angazi angincwadile Jabu"

(I don't know I'm not educated)

"Kanti what did Kaizer say he was doing the first time around?"

"I don't know Jabu but he wants money for coke. "

"What coke? Give me his numbers his full of shit that one. His getting nothing from us if it's coke he wants he must go buy it by my friends corner-store it's only r25 unless he's a kingsley type. Sodlala oKaizer. "

"Don't insult him Jabu doing that will result to us staying in pavements just be polite he might charge us less please. "

"Charge us less my foot mama. You gave him money he must deliver. He thinks money grows on trees. Leave him to me I will handle him."

"Don't be rude phela"

"I can't promise"

Mphikeleli

Sarah promises to help me get my house back and I trust her by the way she's married as well it was by luck that I saw her. She made herself clear that she only comes to visit her mother this side. She's staying at Rosebank a whatever in government. I'm just glad Deliwe will be home before her so called boy friend leaves his DNA in her womb. I want them back home shall this get over and done with. I walk to my house. To my surprise I'm met by bedding on the washing line along side my curtains and clothes. There's an aroma too coming from my house. The landlord looks at me with a broad smile while tapping her snuff as she's seated at the veranda on her wrinkled swinging chair that looks exactly like her. I open the door she's humming while wiping my tiles knees down kind of wiping. I don't have a mop here.

"Leli you back?" She immediately rolls down her long-sleeved t-shirt. My room looks very clean things that are meant to be shining are shining bright. It smells good.

"Food will be ready soon. I'm sorry I couldn't keep my hands to myself just that I wanted to apologize for everything. I'm sorry Mphikeleli"

"Kulungile Carol. It smells nice in here"

"I decided to pamper you a little."

"Ushaye ama seven colors." She giggles I smirk and sit on the bed. That has an unfamiliar bedding.

"About that I ordered online."

I glare on her.

"Not to sound rude shouldn't you be home with Anthony cosily smiling at each other while listening to Wilson Nkosi's music collection on metro fm? I mean that's what couples do on Sundays in Soweto."

"You and I did that Leli on Sundays at that back room of yours."

We glare on each other.

"Caro do you love this guy?"

I shouldn't have asked that question.

"I never did"

"Then how did you marry him?"

"Remember my father?"

"Dan?"

"Yes.. He was owing Anthony's father money plenty of it the rest is history."

"Why didn't you run away or shoot him?"

"And risk giving birth in prison?"

She looks at me.

"Kanti how old is your daughter?"

"Anthony and myself don't have children of our own. I've miscarried all his kids I'm raising his bastards kids. Whose parents are drunkards and irresponsible."

"I don't follow. But you have Sindiswa If I recall well"

"Would you like something to drink?"

"Changing the topic?"

"I hate discussing Anthony."

"We not discussing him but your daughter. You said you and Anthony don't have a child of your own which is strange for a married couple."

"Do you want to eat now or later?"

"Carol what's going on?"

"Nothing"

"Come on you can talk to me."

I say standing up making my way towards her.

"Leli can we not ruin this moment by discussing bygones."

"Bygones so you say" I say blocking her way. She lifts her eyes to look at me.

"Can I pass."

"To where?"

"I want to discard the mopping water"

"Your husband thinks I will fuck you What do you say about that? Do you see that happening or not?"

I say glaring at her eyes she swallow hard.

"Leli can I pass."

"I asked you a question"

"Mphikeleli stop it you old for such talks"

"Me? Old? Have you ever seen an oldie whose 48 years old? I'm still young and active Carol. Anyway thanks for cleaning this shack of mine"

"Pleasure." I make a way for her. She walks outside then comes back only to find me in my boxers and chest that has a cross necklace dangling on it and a tattoo that I took when I was still young and naughty. She looks at me.

"Cover up"

"It's hot this is a one room."

"Mphazima I'm married"

"To a debt collector?"

I chuckle and press my phone.

"This is not funny"

"The fact remains you are bringing back what's Caesars which is repaying a debt to your dearest ugly husband."

"Will you ever change Mphikeleli? You still the same guy you where years ago"

"The guy who used to make you cry on the back seat of a caracara or inside toilets. "

She clicks her tongue and goes to check her pots.

Jabu

He texts me to come outside.

I walk to his car that's packed outside my house. I knock on the window he opens the door for me. I occupy the front seat he glares ony thighs.

"Jabu"

"I don't see Woolworths paper bags what's your story exactly?"

"Jabu I have a family I can't buy you food at Woolworths. That store is expensive."

"Jabu don't be selfish."

"Selfish? Are you really calling me selfish? Nayi ingulube inginonela. A whole deadbeat calling me selfish when all he did was to cum and play hide and seek. Mahlatse needs food and transport money he also needs lunchbox money."

" Jabu I have a family"

"And you think I care?"

"I only have R600"

"That will only cover his transport"

"Kanti why don't you take him with your car to school?"

"On whose petrol money? Do you buy me petrol? Ska nyela wena give me money or maintainance court awaits you"

"Jabu think about my wife and my kids. "

"Did they think of Mahlatse when they had drumsticks on their plates? I'm thinking of no one. Sell your stock if needed be"

"That's my wife's pub."

"Then wash plenty of cars to cover up what I need"

"The car wash too it's Carol's."

"The eatery?"

"That too."

"Kanti what do you have wena? Black testicles?"

He looks at me.

"Give me money"

"You used to love me Jabu"

"I was stupid then not anymore. Ke batla chelete yangwana or reya straight ko court. "

"Mara Jabu think of what could go wrong shall you open your mouth about this. I will lose my marriage and my family."

"I already lost mine because of you and your son. Shall you lose yours then so be it but right now I need money you not maintaining your child for years was evident that you investing for him so right now I need that money that you've been saving up. "

I'm being sarcastic right now I know he hadn't saved up a penny but with my fancy English I'm gonna make him cringe all the way to the atm.

"We can drive to Maonya to withdraw"

"I don't have money Jabu"

"Really? Then I will go ask it ko Carol simple." I throw the R600 on his face then walk out.

Deliwe

For some weird reasons hearing Sidney saying his leaving in few hours is breaking my heart. I don't want him to leave I kinder like having him around.

After all his an adult we can have decent conversations unlike with Cebi. But anyways he has a life of his own a life that is not centered around Deliwe and her son.

"Cebi"

"Ma"

"Uncle daddy is calling you"

"What have I done now?"

"Nothing just go. "

"I'm still having my pizza"

"Take it with you but don't dirty his bedding. "

"Okay mama."

We make our way in the bedroom just go. "

"I'm still having my pizza"

"Take it with you but don't dirty his bedding. "

"Okay mama."

We make our way in the bedroom hand in hand. Tyler hops in the bed tickles him. Their loud voices and laughter fills the room. I glare at them then curve my lips to a smile.

"Are you gonna stand there?" He says with a smile.

"I will join you shortly I want to change from this dress to something loose. "

"Pancake come to bed"

Cebi laughs.

"And why are you laughing young man?" Sid-

"You called my mother pancake instead of Deliwe or mama ka Cebi.

Pancakes are food not a name of a person." He giggles again.

"Mommy is my pancake Cebi"

"Your breakfast?" He says that giggling.

I'm not participating on this topic. I go lay besides Sidney forcing Mcebisi to lay in front of me. A throw blankets covers all three of us. His hand makes its way to my waist. In a split second I feel his lips pull my ear. That makes my blood to run.

"Cebi was supposed to be the one laying this close to me not you." I tilt my head after he whispers that.

"His playing games."

"But still." He smiles so do I. He cups my boob.

"When are we telling him?"

"Telling him what?"

"About us. Pancake he needs to know"

"It's too soon though. "

"He deserves to know. So he won't be surprised when I hold you like this you are his before mine. I respect his territory."

"What does Cebi know about territories?"

We still whispering Cebi is not paying attention because whatever game his playing is way too loud.

"He just inquired about me calling you pancake meaning he doesn't want her mother being given pat names without his permission."

"You sound hilarious right now." I say smiling.

"We must tell her sweetheart"

He says nibbling my neck I arch my back and shift my butt to his manhood.

"So do we tell him now or in twenty minutes time?"

"Yooh Hhayi ke lemoto!" (This car though)

He says putting the phone down.

"Is everything okay that side?" Sidney-

"This car made me lose the race."

"Sorry Cebi choose the green one it's way faster" Sidney -

"No. I no longer want to play." He says sulking what's next is my boob.

"You giving up Mcebisi?" Sid-

"I think I want to watch cartoons"

"Fine go watch cartoon but I will join you shortly boy" Sidney -

"Let's go play soccer mom is gonna be a goalie and you and I will be player s
how's that's?"

"Mmmmm?" Sidney says making me giggle. Cebi is distracting his plans.

"Cebi"

"Ma"

"There's something we need to tell you fana. Can we talk maybe?" Sidney looks at me I know I said it's soon but whatever I'm feeling right now feels good and I'm certain I won't regret it. Sidney is nothing like Shaltonhe won't hurt us. Likhwezi preached about teaching our minds to dwell on the good. She said we must nourish and enrich our minds with positivity just like we do with negativity. So this is me feeding my mind with saturated fats over lean thoughts. Something strange is happening over me but whatever it is I don't want it to stop.

"Talk about what mama?"

"Mommy and daddy have something to tell you Mcebisi. "

"Something like what?"

"Eem.. Well mom is.. Eeeh.. How do I say this?" I tilt my head to look at Kamo.

"Mama talk phela."

Sidney giggles.

"Mom and dad love each other" Sidney-

"Okay"

"Mcebisi..."

"Ma"

"Did you hear what uncle daddy said?"

"He said you love each other"

"Are you okay with that?" He looks at us without any reaction of some sort.

"Bye loving each other I mean there's a chance of us getting married and kissing in front of you." Sidney says. Now boy is interested on this topic.

"Wait you love each other as mother and father?" Cebi-

I swallow hard he doesn't like this. I shouldn't have been forward.

"Yes mfanaka"

"You will get married?"

"No baby we won't but if things work out we might marry. Cebi what's important is that daddy and.. I mean Uncle and myself are an item now yes its on probation but it is happening."

"Probation pancake?"

"We giving it a try remember?"

"It's no longer trying if he knows about it."

"Sidney.."

"Fine carry on"

"Uncle daddy is gonna be my new father?"

We both nod.

"Your first and last father" Sidney says suddenly I feel a tear build up. In honesty his the first man to father my child. Especially after his father ghosted us.

"Would you like uncle Sidney to be your father?"

"Of course mama!! Wow!!! Finally I have a father" My son says embracing me. My tear drops on his head.

"I'm sorry" He whispers in my ear.

"It's nothing."

"I won't disappoint you I promise."

"I will grant you the parental rights." I say as I wipe my tear.

"On one condition Sidney."

"Fine what condition? "

"Shall we not work out you will continue loving him like you doing right now. Please don't break his heart but with mine you can break it even repeatedly so. I will bounce back unlike him. Even if you move on please love him Sidney."

"Pancake I would never put him through that. I myself have been messed up by that kind of life I can't put a kid on something that took me years and years to heal from. Whatever the future brings his my son. Even if his father can knock on my door step I will boldly declare him as mine you have nothing to worry about. I'm on your side. Kao rata Pancake"

"I think I love you too"

"Must I celebrate?"

I giggle.

"I will leave at 3am just wanna bond with you two" He says brushing my privates.

"I'm tired Kamo"

"Where I'm going I will starve please feed me pancake"

I giggle.

"Nihlekani?"

"Nothing boy." I say.

"Cebi don't you have homeworks?" Sidney asks.

"I think I have it"

"Come let's go write your homework and fix your school uniform."

Cebi jumps off from the bed. Sidney presses his lips against mine. He walks out leaving me jumping on the bed that my son has a father for the first time in forever. To those who get to see my ex boyfriend please show him a middle finger tell him I've found a man who loves me and his child.

Sidney

I help the little guy with his homeworks. I call Sphehile to inform him I will drive back tomorrow and that he shouldn't wait up. My phone rings as Cebi and myself are busy washing my car.

"Hey beautiful"

"Don't hey beautiful me Kamohelo. You better start talking."

"Don't you want to say hello to your nephew?"

"Give him the cell phone."

"Okay. Cebi?"

"Ba.."

"Come greet your aunt"

"My hands are wet"

"Wipe them on my trouser"

He does just that I put them on loud speakers.

"Hello."

"Hello boy boy how are you?"

"I'm fine and you?"

"I'm fine Aunty.. What is your name?"

"Aunty Boitumelo or Janet. I'm your father's twin sister and I have a baby girl Kaone. Would you like to visit me?"

"My mom won't allow me"

"Give me her numbers I will talk to her. Bye bye neh?"

"Bye Aunty."

"Kao rata neh Shimanyana?"

"I love you too. Your phone daddy" He hands it to me I smile by looking at him Indeed we look like for some weird reasons.

"Twinny"

"Such an incredible person he is. I want to see him Kamo"

"Not too fast. You wanna take my son to your snobbish family no thank you."

"I won't do that come on"

"No Tumi. I will talk to his mother."

"So you've been lying to us all these years? How could you keep such a big fat secret for years Kamo? To make things worse Milly knew nothing as well."

"Did you tell me about your virginity breaker?"

"Of course not"

"Thank you"

"But these two different things Kamo.. You kept a baby a secret. Why?"

"I was young and horny Tumi."

"How old is he?"

"Eight years old"

"So you've been a deadbeat for that long?"

I giggle.

"After all an apple doesn't fall far from the tree. I took after your brother Shalton and his father."

We laugh.

"I'm joking twinny I will talk to you shall I get time"

"Brandon is getting married."

"He asked me to be his best man"

"Honor the invite Kamo. His nothing like the brother"

"I'm trying by all means not be to attached to the Mattews. Using their surname is already suffocating the breathe out of me. I don't like them Tumi"

" I know iook ugly let me get going some of us have good husbands who takes us to spa's ."

I giggle.

"Daddy is it fine like this?"

"It's very fine my boy you doing a great job Cebi"

"Being a father looks cute on you. I want to meet them. I love you"

"Mega love bye"

We end the call. Deliwe shows up wearing a short skirts with flip flops and a vest she's not wearing a bra. I see her pointy boobs from where I am.

"The car you washing is that one not this one" She says walking past me.

"Your the kind of car I wouldn't mind washing ten times in a day."

"It's a pity I'm not in a car wash."

We giggle. The neighbor greets us. We discuss church and all that. She kisses her husband who drives away surely it's first wives chance to get the dick since Dora is resting. I giggle by looking at her.

"Deli you showing some thighs my girl?" neighbor-

"It's hot mama I need the vacuum."

"See that man over there?"

She points at me.

"Keep on showing him those thighs he will show you maternity ward." They laugh I join them.

"I will cover up mama"

"Please do anyway you should be regulars at church especially that little guy over there"

"He will ma" I guarantee her.

21

Sidney

Putting Cebi to sleep was a hard one especially with him knowing I'm leaving tomorrow. The little champ was finding it hard to take in I had to comfort him till he doze off. Kids are very good in that department of guilt trapping you its a pity I need this money. I would love to stay behind and play soccer with him and video games but there's more to life than those. I'm now in my bedroom busy on my laptop with signing a few contract deals. Deliwe is so gonna get mad at me in the next coming months because from Mpumalanga there's another project in Umhlanga then Bloemfontein. I will be home less and more on the road I just pray she will be understanding of my situation and life.

As for her she's busy packing up some of the things that I will need for my trip such a darling she is. I knew there was a sweet caring and loving little girl behind that masquerade she wore each time I tried to persuade her. Not that I'm complaining I loved her fierce personality. A strong woman is enchanting.

"I'm done I need a bath"

"I will join you shortly"

"I won't take long."

"Baby ka tla"

(I'm coming)

"Okay.."

We shower together and get under the bed sheet. Cramped me gets back to the laptop.

"Good night"

"Just like that?"

"You still busy nje. I don't wanna disturb"

"I will wake you up babe"

"You need some sleep Kamo. It's eleven on the dot in case you haven't noticed. In three hours you need to wake up."

I glare at her direction. She's right and besides I should be making use of this time wisely by bonding with her and stuff. I signout from my laptop and toss it aside. I lay behind her and scoop her up.

" Your hands are cold"

"Askies."

We remain silent for a while.

"Baby"

"Mmmm."

"Can I ask you something personal"

"Sure"

"Eehm.. What happened between you and Mcebisi's father?"

"He left me pregnant and never looked back."

"Did he know you were pregnant?"

"Yes."

"Did he ever meet the young man since he was born?"

"No... You the first man his ever known or seen as a father. I've always been the mother and father to him. I had to lie each time about his father's whereabouts."

"That's bad pancake. So you telling me this guy left you pregnant and never looked back not in a single day?"

"Yes...What hurts the most he knew how hard my home situation was He knew he was my refuge each time storms came threatening to sweep me off. I guess he used that to make me believe he loved me and cared about me. At some point he painted this future that I believed he was gonna deliver you know."

She chuckles.

" He promised me a happily ever after. Said he was gonna marry me and give me a heaven on earth. Said he was gonna quench my thirst and hunger I believed him because he was the only man who would accommodate me each time my aunt sent me to the pavements and locked me out on freezing nights. He lied to me Sidney and my biggest mistake was to believe in his little lie. "

I embrace her from behind and kiss her shoulder.

" I'm sorry pancake you had to experience that. That guy was a douchebag. I mean who impregnates a lady and ditch them like that with their kid? And continue living his life like he did nothing wrong elsewhere?"

" Well Mcebisi's father did that. The cherry on top is that he made it in life while Deliwe had to go hell hustling for his child to have a decent meal and a few rags to wear. God blessed the dog who left me broken and empty. His living large Sidney he wears fancy designer clothes and drives fancy cars yet

his child walks barefooted to school on an empty stomach. Something on torn pants. What scarred me the most was me boiling cremora powder at some point to give my little boy as a replacement for a formula. I had nothing Sidney and poor Cebi was crying he needed food. My poor boobs had no milk in them because my self I was starving and my aunt had locked all cardboards and storages of food. Luckily she forgot the cremora that I boiled. "

My heart shrinks. I hold her tight and plant kisses on her bare back.

" See why I was begging you not to hurt my son Sidney? Our life has always been a series of pain and struggles. Cebi deserves to be loved and needed. My child doesn't deserve to be treated like a pandemic disease that is contagious and deadly. As much as my life has been a bumpy one I'm just grateful I had Cebi even though at some point I didn't understand why God gave me a child knowingly I wasn't fit for that because I myself I still needed hugs and kisses from both my parents I still needed someone to wipe my tears and mucous each time my soul was tainted but God gave me Mcebisi and I'm grateful for that."

She says sniffing.

I myself I'm pushing back my tears her narrating her story its more like she's narrating my story with my kid sister. I remember how hard it once got for both Tumi and I when my mother left us with a relative in Tzaneen in the limpopo Province after our grandmother passed on due to cancer.

Life was rough to an extent our of color skin cracked due to hunger and abuse. At some point Tumi ate rat poison saying she wanted to numb the pain I as Kamo I had to run with my dying sister on my back taking her to the hospital. If I remember correctly a week later the bastard who calls himself my father came to Tzaneen saying he wanted to take care of the medical bills Zelda was with him. As for Zelda I understood her reasons for not being home. She was studying and working part time. That day I recall very well that

I ran out of the hospital covered in tears cos my father only showed himself whe my sister was on a death bed. I was in grade 12 when all this happened.

"I'm sorry sweetheart. I'm now here to share the load with you. I know babe his not mine but his mine Deliwe. Whatever the future brings I won't leave that boy I won't put him through that dark and freezing room. I will be the father I never had in my own life. I will try to be the best parent to him. Don't cry sweetheart I'm here now"

"I just don't understand why God keeps on blessing those who are not deserving of good things Kamo. He keeps on giving them beautiful things while they have destroyed and decayed other people's green pastures. He grants the evil doers joy and abundant prosperity then us who harm nobody we always get the pain the stagnation

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AD

the stagnation the persecution hungers and struggles. If not lucky enough we are the first ones to die but not the evil ones. It's like God is picky. I deserved the life that Mcebisi's father is living Kamo. Cebi would be a happy child because I was gonna give him anything and everything given the opportunities that he had. I wasn't gonna ditch my son and enjoy the money without knowing what he was eating or wearing.. I would've impacted life's with that kind of money but ke not everyone is God's favorite especially the kindhearted. "

" Baby your time will come let him be. As painful as it is let's be grateful he gave us a rare gift that I myself couldnt give to another woman and maybe you too. Let's focus on raising Cebi in unison let's worry less about the sticks and stones thrown at us. Like Likhwezi said in church. We must not worry about anything but rather we should pray about everything the good Lord will handle our anxieties. So don't worry babe I'm here now and I promise to love you and Cebi the way you deserve to be loved and treated. "

She sniffs. I move closer to her then shift her pyjama pants on the side. I peel off her butt cheeks roll my trunks down and gently rub my now erected manhood on her privates..

Deliwe

The time is 3am. I'm seated on the bed glancing at him as his dressing up and getting ready for the road. I don't know how I feel right now but I feel my usual coldness creeping in. I feel that gown of loneliness and pain that I've worn throughout my life creeps in. The past few days this gown has been over my shoulders and body. Having it come back brings me misery. He fix his pants. He glare in the mirror looking at his reflection.

"Baby o sharp?"

I nod.

"Come on pancake don't do that"

I look aside and push back my creeping tear.

"Aowa Deliwe you crying again? Baby I'm gonna come back"

"After two months?"

He exhales deeply and stops fastening his belt to come sit on the bed besides me.

"This is hard for me too."

"I will make you breakfast"

"Just coffee babe"

"Fine" I stand up and walk towards the door.

"Deli.."

"Yes.."

"Take this."

"What's that?"

"My card"

"No Sidney"

"Deliwe you need it more than I do"

"No"

"Look my dead beat of a father sends a lot of money in that card as an allowance. Use it to do your driving license and registering at Wits you can use it for counseling purposes too please"

"Sidney you already doing so much for us."

"It's my duty. The pin ke 21-06"

"Isn't that Mcebisi's date of birth?"

"My coffee sweetheart I want to go kiss the young man before walking out."

He continues dressing up. I glare at him such a kind man. How does he know Mcebisi's birthday? I go make him a cup of coffee. He shows up minutes later. I hand him his cup of coffee I lean against the wall wearing his gown. Glaring at him as yet to leave us too. I walk to the bedroom to collect his luggages.

"Why is your pin Mcebisi 's date of birth?"

"That's my birthday date pancake"

I look at him I'm not buying that his making this up.

"You lying Sidney"

"Pan cake why would I lie?"

He asks giggling. I roll my eyes and glare at him again. How come I never saw this charming man when he was nagging me throughout?

"Stop salivating on me Deliwe Mphazima"

"I'm not."

"I have eyes at my back"

I roll my eyes.

"I see that woman"

"See what?"

"You rolling your eyes at me"

"I didn't"

"You did"

I smile and walk towards him to kiss his neck.

"And that?"

"Nothing."

"Mmmm.. A random kiss is never a nothing. You welcome pancake." I giggle. He finishes his coffee. I walk him outside I put his bags in the back seat. He pins me on the car and kisses me passionately. I hold on tight on him.

"I will be in touch."

"Please do and I will do the same thing"

"I wish you were coming with me"

"I wish so too but schools are closing soon."

"I love the sound of that"

"Got to run sweetheart"

"Yeah you got to run"

"Yah neh.. Goodbyes ke masepa fela isn't it?"

"You got it right handsome just go"

"Then she gives me a pet name."

"Bye"

"I will call Cebi later in the day and don't attack that teacher Deliwe please"

"I won't"

"I have eyes and ears pancake"

I giggle and hug him once again. He jumps in his car and drives away. I fold my tail and walk inside the house. I curl myself next to my son.

Carol

Its 3am when Anthony walks in the house making noise. I suffer palpitation for a little while as his footsteps echoes In the passageway. I bite hard on my lips. It's past 5 minutes of waiting for him to enter through the door to my surprise he doesn't.. I wear my gown and walk through the passages. I'm met by a strange noise in Sindiswa 's bedroom it's like my daughter is negotiating for her life. I turn the door handle it's locked. My heart is beating on my sleeve as thoughts I'm trying to push aside cloud my mind.

"Sindi!!!! Sindiswa!! Open the door!!"

"Go to bed wena!!" Anthony shouts from inside.

"Anthony let go of daughter!! Open this door or I'm calling the police!"

I say with a trembling voice with my palms sweating.

"Anthony!!!!"

"Mama he wants to.. He wants to force himself on me! Mama help me"

"I'm calling the cops on you Anthony!!" I say crying or maybe I should call Leli.

I hear sounds of breaking things I need to do something. He cannot rape my daughter not on my watch. I run to my bedroom. I call Leli.

Mphikeleli

It's 3: 30 am when my cell phone rings. I pick up with my eyes semi closed.

"Caro..."

"Leli please help us... Anthony wants to hurt my daughter please come
ngiyakuthandaza"

I sit on my butt

"What? Hurt her how?"

She cries. "Please hurry up I beg of you Leli run!!"

"I'm coming at the moment use a knife to unlock the door just like I taught you
years ago. I'm coming"

I sprint from the bed reaching for my pants and t-shirt. I wear the shoes
outside. I jog to their house. I knock.

"Whose that?"

"Caro it's me open!"

The door handle turns. She's about to hug me when I push her aside to go
help the poor kid.

"Which room?"

"That one"

"You haven't opened why Carol?"

"I couldn't do it."

"Give me the knife!!"

"Here"

"A table knife not this Caro hurry up."

She gives me the knife it's not long before I open the door. Bloody son of a bitch.

"What does he want in my house?" A punch on his chin is enough to shut his mouth. The little girl runs to her mother. I exchange punches with Anthony not that his gifted in that department.

"Oh!! Oh!! You called him to attack me Caro after years of feeding his bloody sperm? This is thank you I get?!!" I look at Carol surprised.

"What is he talking about Carol?"

The little girl looks at me.

"Mphikeleli he has a knife!!!" Caro shouts. In a split second a stinging metal lands on my skin. Anthony punches me wounded or not I'm so gonna kill this pervert we wrestle.

"Call the cops and report him." I say as I limp outside bleeding.

"Mphikeleli stay I will call an ambulance."

"I'm an ex con I can't be here. That can only take me back to prison."

"I'm sorry"

I look at her annoyed. I walked away bleeding.

Sex scene in the group ♥

21(Sex scene)

Sidney

I rub my hard and medium sized manhood on her folds. She tilts her head to look at me. Her eyes are puffy and her cheeks are pink it's pretty obvious

she's been crying. I lean over to kiss her cold lips. I pull her lower lip and gently suck on it she sucks on my upper lip. Then moves closer to me with her back still turned against me. I'm throbbing. We share a long passionate kiss She pulls my navigates my hand to her boobs forcing me not to grab on her butt cheeks. I pull out from the kiss to sucking her neck while pinching her nipples.

"Ooh!!"

She sucks on my finger seductively.

"Sidney"

"Baby"

"Are you sure you can't make babies?"

"I haven't succeeded in years sweetheart. My ex wasn't even using a pill or any birth control method. I won't impregnate you sweetheart trust me. If I do set me alight but for peace sake I will pull out"

"I won't set you alight but I will need a ring."

"I can work with that"

We share a steamy kiss I finger her. Her moans fill the room. She opens her legs even more.

"Wanna be muffed?"

"Yes please. I'm enjoying this"

I flip her over and have her squatting on my face I eat her out with my tongue and fingers aiding me. She curses in pleasure.

"Aaaah!! Sidney.."

"Baby open your legs much wider I want that labia all over my face sweetheart. "

"The tension is too much Sidney I can't hold my self."

"Squirt on my face it's fine." I slid my tongue in there. I lick her out contemplating alphabets the O letter sends her screaming loud. In a split second gashes of water pour over me.

"I'm sorry"

"It's okay." I make her lay on the bed with her tummy flat. I slightly open her legs and enter her. She grabs hard on the bed sheets. I pump her and cum. I lay flat on top of her as my cock throbs inside her folds.

"Kao rata Mommy"

"Me too."

"Your vagina is addictive Mommy. Are you also doing those pineapple eating routines? I'm so gonna miss you Mommy"

"Natura like that. I will miss every moment shared."

"Let's try to sleep pancake"

"Fine." I lay besides her and breath heavily. She rests her head on my chest. My heart is beating fast I glare into her eyes then kiss her forehead.

"Im not satisfied" That comes a whisper.

"You want more?"

"Yes. But I want to be on top. "

"Help yourself sweetheart"

22

Deliwe

I haven't been to this place for days now. I just hope coming here won't attract drama.

"Look what the cat dragged in Catte the special prostitute who decides when it's suitable for her to show up at work.!"Maflo-

" Maflo can I talk to you in private"

"You wanna justify your reasons of not coming to work in days Catte? Do you know how much I've lost in your absence? Do you have any idea of what you have done to my pockets Catte? You've costed me young lady"

"Maflo can I talk to you in private is that too much to ask?"

"It better be a valid reason Catte!"

I follow her to her office. She pours herself a glass of whiskey then crosses her legs as she's seated on the table glaring at me.

"You didn't come here to flaunt your beauty isn't it? Now talk. "

"I don't know how to say this Maflo not even where to begin with this."

"I can't hear you Catte speak up!!"

" I'm leaving my job"

"I beg your pardon?"

"I'm leaving the job Maflo. I want to fetch my life and be a good mother to my son. "

She blurt out a laugh.

"Maflo I'm serious. I'm going back to school and I'm in the process of getting married and starting up a family of my own. I no longer need this job"

I'm lying about the marriage part and starting up a family. She's gonna give me a peaceful exit shall I play those cards maybe I should lie about being pregnant.

"Going back to school I'm in the process of getting married I'm starting a family of my own" Are you hearing yourself Catte? "

" Yes and I'm making sense.. I'm leaving this job to focus in my dreams and my son. Maflo I appreciate you for helping me out with this job when most doors were slammed in my face but now it's about time I started flying with eagles I can't be hanging around chickens for the rest of my life. There's more to me than prostituting myself. "

She blurts another sarcastic laugh.

"Maflo I quit and thank you for everything."

"Catte are you hearing yourself huh? What eagles are you gonna fly with? Which man is gonna see you as a woman deserving to be loved and treated with respect after you've been sucking and burping all different kinds of sperms and penises throughout your life? Catte you are a whore a slut a prostitute a whole harlots. You are not a woman to build life with you are for the street Catte. Whatever guy promised to marry you was just horny he didn't mean that. Sweetheart you and I know the real you the real you is a skank not a wife material. No man would settle with this you are not worth it Catte. "

" I am not a harlot Maflo. I only agreed to this job because it was my last resort to putting food on the table."

I say blinking endlessly.

" Catte just go upstairs and get naked that's what you do best. Stop with this joke you turning yourself into a clown."

"I said I'm leaving maflo I'm done. Stop calling me and texting me. I'm done with this shame of a job. "

" We shall see about that Catte. Soon you will be here knocking on my door step when that so called man of yours has spat you out like a tasteless

chewing gum. They all said the same thing but guess what they came back to suck dick because that was their only profession. But you can go Catte to fly with your so called eagles but remember there's no place like home sweetheart. "

She stands up to open the door for me. I walk out with a lump on my throat.

Mphikeleli

My mind is all over the place I don't know what to say or what to do but im certain I need explanations and clarifications. She owes me that much. We can't just pretend like yesterday didn't happen. It happened and it's only fair we treat it as that. As we speak I have a bandage on my waists. If she thinks crocodile tears will save her on this she got it all wrong.

"I'm listening Carol."

She glares at me and fiddles with her hands.

"Talk Caroline!!" I roar so much that she jumps in fear.

"Mphikeleli..."

"Is she my daughter or not?"

"Yes.."

"Yes to what?"

"She's yours Mphikeleli.."

"And you chose to say nothing about it?"

" Khosi refused to tell me where you were arrested Mphikeleli. Each time I came over to your house she poured me with dirty water. I wanted to tell you"

"You lying!! You think I buy that stupid little lie Carol?"

"Mphazima I'm telling the truth. I couldn't even help Deliwe because of your sister."

"Don't blame your cruelty on my sister yes she's evil but right now you lying on her name"

"I'm not lying Mphikeleli I promise. I wanted to tell you about Sindiswa but you were not in suncity I didn't even know which section you were understand!"

I glare at her as crocodile tears cover her face.

"How old is she?"

" She's turning twenty five in two months time."

"Your bloody husband has been raping her isnt it?"

"Sindi told me yesterday was the first time Tony sneaked into her room besides the police said she was still intact there was no sign of forced penetration."

"Why didn't you tell me before I was arrested about the pregnancy Carol?"

"You were cheating on me with Sarah."

"That wasn't reason enough for you to keep my child away from me. If I recall well I've told you a several occasions that I was suspecting you of being pregnant but you dismissed me saying you were on the pill. Why did you lie Carol?"

"I was nursing my broken heart Mphikeleli. Have you forgotten you were a cassanova? I found you in bed with Sarah the very same day I wanted to spill the beans. Three days later you were arrested.. Khosi didn't tell me where you were arrested. Two weeks later I was married off to Anthony how was I supposed to tell you huh? "

" Your bloody husband wanted to rape my daughter how do you explain that Carol? "

"What daughter baba?"

The voice says from the door. Damn Deliwe.

Sidney

"Someone is in a happy mood Milly is to blame for dishing out the cookie very well. Look at you Kamo you all glitters." Sphe-

"I thought it was only me who noticed that Mr Sphe" Pa-

"Spill the beans already Kamo." Sphe-

"I see what you trying to do Sphesihle and I'm not burging dude"

I say busy on my laptop.

"Meaning?"

"I've known you for two decades Sphesihle and in that time phrase I've learnt not to share crucial information with you because you such a blabber when a woman is sucking your cock"

"Too much information. Lunch Mr Mattews?" Pa-

"No. I will pass thank you"

"I will leave you two to it." Her footsteps fill the office as she walks out.

"Kamo what was that?"

"What was what?"

"The I've learnt not to share crucial information shit statement you just made in front of her! How could you insult me like that Ndoda? Yati awungiboni mbamba phela"

I giggle.

Once Sihle says "Mbamba" Just know swati boy is livid.

"Siphesihle you and I have been friends for years and I know you when you surfing information for your wife. And right now you doing that."

"I might as well just tell her about your child mosi since you don't trust me with your affairs"

"And I tell her about Mrs PA how's that?"

He swallow hard.

"Come on Sid spill the beans." Sphe-

"Like really Sidney spill the beans." Rhudzani and Lefa say in unison as they enter my office.

"My sex life is my business"

"Your sex life is our business how's that?"

He swallow hard.

"Come on Sid spill the beans." Sphe-

"Like really Sidney spill the beans." Rhudzani and Lefa say in unison as they enter my office.

"My sex life is my business"

"Your sex life is our business your line dude"Lefa-

" You can never give a doctor a prescription Lefa"

"Sometimes doctor's need doctors too. Come on Kamo just spill the beans."

Rhudzani -

"Before I do that why are you both here?"

" Some of us chose good careers we get holiday leaves and family leaves so yeah. Spill the beans" Lefa says licking a lollipop.

"Her name is Deliwe Mphazima. That's all there is to know"

"Come on Sidney you haven't started talking"

"Guys I'm on duty geez! Can we postpone the sex talks for later"

They mumble I crack up in laughter. I'm not describing nor explaining the good sex I've had over the weekend. That's my private life.

Deliwe

For a moment I thought this Carol woman was my mother I mean she's a yellow bone just like myself. And when I walked in they were discussing a daughter that I happened to confuse with myself but little did I know. They were talking about another daughter not me. Mphikeleli has two children me being the first born and a Sindiswa girl.

Who is the only child to this woman whose seated here. I've just found out the husband to this Carol lady tried to force himself on the girl whose supposedly my sister hence Mphikeleli was called in to play Hercules or the batman explaining the bandage that's on his stomach. How do I feel about all this? I don't know honestly all I know is that Maflo broke my heart she actually minced it. Sidney is not toying with me isn't it? He meant every word he said to me. Maflo is trying to mess me up right? I won't mind her I'm gonna use Likhwezi Langa's sermons as my motto.

"Baba I came to drop this off."

I say standing up leaving the few plastics bags on the table.

"Delly can we talk about this some other time?"

"No problem."

"I will call you later in the day I want to see Mkhulumi"

"No problem baba stay well and bye sisi" I say to the lady.

"Bye Deliwe" She says softly. I walk out of the house to go collect my son from school. It's such a pity I didn't find that bitchy teacher who is insulting my son the principal told me she was transferred elsewhere. She was very lucky that I give to her.

"Mama"

"Baby"

"Will I find daddy home?"

"No handsome his in Mpumalanga if we lucky his gonna come back weekend. Let's go home to write your homeworks and water the garden or maybe play soccer"

"Mama you not going to work?"

"Mama is unemployed handsome. And besides mama wants to be a good mother to you and a good friend to daddy"

"But daddy is not your friend mama but your boyfriend"

"Cebi!." He giggles.

"Who said I have a boyfriend young man?"

"He told me"

"His a dirty and corrupt father bring your school bag Cebi"

He hands it over. A taxi drops us off by our gate. Cebi changes from his uniform to his normal indoors clothes he eats and writes his homeworks. A while later I play soccer with him. I spot my neighbor stepping out of her house to collect a kid from what looks like a chauffer. The gentleman is wearing suits and ties He doesn't look like your normal kind of school drivers. The boy steps wearing white tracksuits and Jordan sneakers. I think the school bag is a Jordan too.

"Mama Cebi how are you?" Neighbors -

"I'm good thanks mama and how are you?"

"I'm doing great sisi. Cebi how are you?"

Ngiyaphila gogo Unjani wena? "

" Ngiyaphila Nami.. Nkanyiso greet elders. "Gogo-

" Sanibonani" The boy says. We greet him back.

"Now can I go inside the house Gogo?"

"Nkanyiso aren't you gonna introduce yourself to Mcebisi?"

"Gogo I had a rough day at school can I go inside please"

"Nkanyiso Langa!!"

My neighbor warns the child.

"Hi Mcebisi my name is Nkanyiso Langa I'm eight years old and I'm doing grade three. I have two siblings they twins a boy and girl but my mother is pregnant again meaning im gonna have another siblings whose gonna tore my books and stain my clothes too. I love playing soccer with my dad and I... Gogo I've introduced myself now can I go inside? "

" Mcebisi hasn't introduced himself. "

" I already know what his going to say gogo. His also years eight years old and doing grade three He was born on june 21 2014. His mother's name is Deliwe Mphazima and she's 27 years old. I know all that gogo. Can I go now? "

Mcebisi and I look at each other clueless.

" I'm sorry about my grandson his a handful." She walks inside her house.

" That boy is a genius mama. How did he know that? "

" I'm lost for words as well. "

" His cool "

" And spoilt"

"And he wears expensive clothes did you see his schoolbag is a Jordan ?"

I glare at Mcebisi.

"Not that I don't like mine but a Jordan is way too expensive than a puma mama"

"You will buy that Jordan when you start earning money. Come let's go prepare supper"

"Can I go play with Nkanyiso?"

"He had a rough day at school. Surely his parents are gonna collect him soon"

"Fine.. What are we having for supper?"

"What would you like to eat?"

"Spaghetti and mince"

"Spaghetti and mince it is." My phone rings a smile and fear both lurks in.

"Pancake..."

"Sthandwa sami.."

"Well sounds like we in a good mood today what happened?"

"Nothing"

"Mmmm... Are you in love maybe?"

"No.. Today morning I opened my windows much wider lettling hope and happiness to fill up my little space"

"Did you win lotto? I would love to go to Mauritius"

"Let's say life is good. I have a sister"

"Oh.... That's new information to me"

"Same here I found out minutes ago"

"But you this ecstatic?"

"I'm tired of being gloomy life is shitty and complicated so is whining about it and complaining about it."

"Deliwe are you drunk or high?"

"None of the above."

"Can I please talk to my son before I hear things I'm not supposed to hear."

"Such as what?"

"Cebi come on the phone!!" I giggle and give Cebi the cell phone. Even if his ditch me at some point theres nothing wrong with enjoying the little time shared.

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MaFlo/Florence

My office door swings open. My handsome son walks in.

"Are you gonna stand there or sit down Shalton?"

"I need information on one of your clients"

"What client? Don't tell me you've fallen in love with one of my bitches. You married Shalton"

"Mom Its not about that. This is important"

"Whats going on Shalton?"

"Brandon told me he saw my ex girlfriend. The one I.. I impregnated years ago"

"Shalton stay out of trouble for once. Leave that girl and focus in your life and your marriage."

"Mom you don't get it don't you?"

"Get what?"

"As long as that girl is still breathing that means my life is doomed.. She's gonna show up soon declaring me as the father of her child and I do not want that. I really can't afford to have another slut gunning for me mom. Already I have two baby mama's that Mathapelo knows nothing about having this other one will mean three baby mama's."

"If this old flame of yours is gonna turn your world upside down then why are you gunning for her? Why waste your precious time chasing pavements? Bygones should remain in the past Shalton. Leave that prostitute the hell alone Shalton"

"I guess you right. I just don't want drama ma. I wanted to buy her out or something. "

"Nonsense Shalton. Let her raise the child all by herself. You married the only family that matters is the one you have in your marriage. Being a single mother won't start with her and it won't end with her. Stay the hell away from women especially this harlots."

He looks at me.

" For once Shalton keep your pants zipped. "

"I will try."

"Don't try just do the damn thing. And this prostitute what is her name?"

"It doesn't matter mom not anymore. Anyway I should get going I have a flight to Capetown. "

"Before you leave get your wife flowers. She loves Tuples the yellow ones. You owe her an sincere apology Shalton especially after what you have done yesterday. That's the only way you gonna make up for yesterday. Another thing give her a full body massage the rest is obvious."

"Can I play with one of your dolls?"

"SHALTON!!!"

"Geez!!. I'm joking mom." He says glaring at me with a smirk. I huff in annoyance some child I have.

Deliwe

Mcebisi and myself are sharing a bed. I'm busy massaging his scalp while his sucking on my boob. I know his old for this but his my only man my only human being. Sidney video calling me snaps me out of my little fantasy. His been having that shower.

"What a long shower you had Cebi even slept while waiting for you."

"I'm sorry sweetheart I just got caught up. I had a few papers to go and besides my friends are around so we had a few drinks over a Manchester united game. My apologies."

He says brushing his forehead.

"I understand."

"I'm sorry babe I should've told you."

"Don't sweat it's okay."

He faintly smile.

"Sid.."

"Yes"

"Are you coming over this weekend?"

"No sweetheart but the other one I will drive there to check up on you and the little one."

"I guess I will invite my sister over I mean a little getting to know each other moment won't do any harm."

"That sounds great big sister." He says yawning.

"You tired."

"Definitely babe I hardly slept yesterday all thanks to you and your sinister teachings and doings. "

I shyly smile.

"I'm not complaining though it was worth it I'm a happy man pancake. "

"Thats good to hear get some rest"

"Not yet babe. I'm still enjoying the sight of your beautiful face. What time did he nap?"

"A couple of minutes ago"

"I see.. So he sucks tits everyday?"

I giggle.

"Yes.. His still a baby"

"Come on Deliwe this is not right. Sucking boobs was supposed to have ended at three years. Snap him out of it. "

"You reckon?"

"Of course"

"It's such an irony that you at this age of yours you still at it yet you saying sucking boobs was supposed to come at a standstill at three years"

He smirks showing off his one dimple.

"We were not talking about me but him"

"It makes no difference. You should practice what you preach"

"Get the poor guy a sibling this will end even if it's a puppy." I glare at him.

"I'm serious his eight years old. Get him a puppy so he can't stop being a baby who is sucking titts at night"

" This dog is barking so loud can you hear it?"

He blurts out a laugh.

"Scared of pushing?"

"I'm never heading to that place ever again"

"Choose your never's wisely. Tumi said that four years ago then boom she has another one boarding a flight."

"I think it's safe to start playing it safe. I don't trust this little prep talk."

"Fear no harm nothing is gonna happen pancake." He yawns again.

"You so certain about that and it scares me Sidney. "

"Baby I won't make you visit a maternity ward I know me but for your sake you can try those preventing methods any of your choice."

We both keep quiet.

"Don't you think you've been trying with a wrong person?"

"I don't follow?"

"Are you certain you can't bear your own seeds?"

"It hasn't happened for years Deliwe any of your choice."

We both keep quiet.

"Don't you think you've been trying with a wrong person?"

"I don't follow?"

"Are you certain you can't bear your own seeds?"

"It hasn't happened for years Deliwé besides none of the women I used to vibe with came forth with pregnancies or children. With Milly it's worse we've been going raw since our varsity days."

"Milly..."

He looks at me with his brows narrowed.

"What about her pancake?"

"Nothing"

"Baby come on talk to me"

"Seems like she was more loved. I mean she's been a part of your life since varsity days meaning she holds a soft.."

"Pancake don't do that. Don't even think about such I'm done with her just like you done with your ex."

"You've been together for years Sidney meaning she knows all the buttons to press to have you eating from her palms it's like I'm gonna be competing with her."

"You don't trust me do you?"

"Sidney please.." I look aside.

"Baby I'm done with her there's nothing to be afraid of. Sidney is all yours sweetheart. I love you only you"

"But you've known Milly for years"

"That doesn't mean I love her more and you lesser. To put you at ease next week I want you to meet my twin sister I'm taking you and Cebi with me to her house."

I glare at him.

"I mean it. Can we not argue over Milly because I trust you Deliwe. I know you will never hurt me by going back to your ex so le wena dira so ka nna. Trust me baby I know it sounds to good to be true but try sweetheart."

His such a good step dad to Cebi. God should've blessed him with fertility. It's really sad for a guy who loves children and understands them better not to have one of his own. He would make a great dad honestly and I wouldn't mind giving him one. No scratch that delete that Deli. No babies!! What did I say?
"No babies"

"Pancake can I nap please I'm tired"

"Sure thing. Sleep well."

"Kamo loves you. "

I smile.

Carol

She's been distant since last night. She hasn't touched her food nor said a word to me. She's giving me silent treatment which I believe I deserve.

"Sindiswa please say something"

"Like what? That you kept me a secret mama?"

"Sindiswa it was complicated and hard"

"What was hard by saying you left me pregnant old lover? What was hard by saying your father went to prison Sindiswa and that you have a sister just nearby? What was hard ma?!!"

She roars as tears slide down her face. I reach for hand but she yanks it.

" Sindiswa I'm sorry."

"You sorry? You sorry mama?"

"Sindiswa it the least I can say at the moment. You were young sisi and I." She cuts me short.

"Don't tell me you sorry mama! Your sorry and lies nearly got me raped mama by your so called debt collector. Were you gonna say sorry when I was raped? I hate you Carol!!"

She says and storms to her bedroom. I let a tear slide down my face. I call Mphikeleli but he doesn't pick up. What did I do? I should've came clean but Khosi was the Goliath who made this unattainable. But I can't blame everything on her I should've at least told Sindiswa the truth about Mphikeleli and Deliwe but hopefully she will move past this and forgive me.

I call it a night.

Mphikeleli

I quickly tidy my room up. I try this cooking thing. Normally I prefer my beetroot sprinkled in vinegar but for today I will use mayonise I don't know what Sarah will prefer. I even added mixed vegetables to my rice to make it look fancy. Cooking is a new technique I've learnt from prison. Back then I only focused on eggs nothing else. I quickly go stand by the door to ensure that I cleaned up properly. "Akufani Leli" I say to myself before I get my hands on the cell phone.

"I'm outside"

"Give me a minute"

"Sure"

I use my perfume to make my room smell good. I walk outside and spot her leaning against her car. I make my way towards her.

"Leli" She says throwing herself at me. I hug her back.

"Thank you for coming"

"I couldn't keep the good news to myself"

"Can we go inside?"

"Yes.. Sure"

We walk inside my single room. She looks around it then me.

"It smells good in here this is beautifully decorated. I love it."

I glare at her.

"Can I have a seat?"

"Yes.. Sure.. Water? Juice or Coke?"

"Juice will be fine."

"Coming.. Must I dish up for you? I.. I cooked."

"Please do I'm starving or let me dish up for both you and I." She says placing the file she came with on the bed. She makes her way towards me.

"Can I?"

With that said our eyes lock.

"Eeh.. Yeah.. You can dish up.. The good news?"

"You look handsome just like I remember you."

"You haven't changed yourself still pretty only your third finger is changed."

"Yeah" She glares at her ring.

"Is he treating you good?"

"He tries. There's nothing he wouldn't do for me I can say he loves me."

"Thats beautiful."

"You and Caro what's the story?"

"Nothing serious she's just an ex girlfriend that kept my daughter from me for twenty five years."

"She tried Mphikeleli to reach out but Khosi was never lenient with her. I can say she loved you honestly"

"And you didn't?"

"Of course I did and I still do but I'm married now Leli and besides I was your sperm dish nothing more than that. Any way your title deed was finalized."

"Why didn't you tell me you loved me Sarah?"

"Because you were head over heels with your gintsakazi and besides we were friends"

"Friends who fucked right?"

"Mphikeleli can we end this conversation."

"Make me Sara" I say putting my hands around her waists. She glares at me.

"Leli stop it.. I thought you were over this.. We both grown now."

"I know you want to do this"

"Mphikeleli I'm married"

I shut her up with my lips. She wraps her hands around my neck. We start kissing in a split second my finger is making its way under her tight skirts. Clothes start flying around the room. In a split second my bed monitors nakedness. "Leli... Oooh!! Aaaaah!"

"Still juicy as I remember."

"Leli this is wrong I'm married and my husband is... Oooh aaah!!"

"Damn Sarah!"

"Mphikeleli!!! Mphikeleli!!!" A voice shouts from outside for a moment I'm taken back to years ago before I was imprisoned. Carol found Sarah and myself in this position I guess history is repeating itself again.

"Open!"

I glare at Sarah whose legs are still positioned on either sides. Her head is seem lifted there's worry in her eyes.

"Mphazima it's important please I know you're inside. I can see the key on the keyhole."

Caro says from outside.

"Leli you can't open the door you know she's crazy"

"There's no way out of this. You know how stubborn she is. She won't stop knocking till I open"

"Mphikeleli how I will explain a blue eye to my husband? Between you and I we know Carol will set this shack a light. You can't open that door your girlfriend is a lunatic"

She's right Carol will have to go back unattended to.

"Leli vula." She says defeated.

"Must we continue? I was close to climaxing can't back out now"

"Leli snap out of it there's no time for climaxing we are in dire straits snap out of it now already."

I glare at her as I'm still between her legs. I swallow hard and slowly slide out my manhood from her privates. I pull a toilet roll to clean her out then roll the used up condom.

" I want to see myself out of this place and maybe out of your life for good Leli" I glare at her as I put on my trousers.

"Sawubona mama and how are you"

The voice says from outside. The stew is getting more tastier my daughter is outside oNdlangamandla have forsaken me honestly..

Deliwe

I went to register for a drivers learners today. I was told to come back tomorrow at 8:30 for more briefing and other relevant information. Trust South African officials with making you waste your last penny not that it's my last penny but given certain circumstances those people don't mind sending you home just because they can't find a ballpen to give you to put a signature on a document Thats how lazy and inconsiderate they are.

I've decided to go pass by my father's house I want to tackle the Sindiswa case and see what's gonna come out of it. My son will surely love and enjoy the pecks of having an aunt one that I'm hoping and crossing fingers to love and care for my son effortlessly. After all sisters are meant to be alternative or second mothers to their sisters children. Or maybe that's how I view sisterhood? I'm one person who would love my sisters kids like they mine just pray and hope I'm not putting my standards too high for this one. I know sometimes there's disappointments on counting your chickens before eggs hatched. I'm surprised to find mama Carol seated on the veranda with her chin balancing on her hand. She looks lost in thoughts.

"Mama how are you?" I said glaring at her with worry and thoughts to why she's outside but not inside the house. It's pretty obvious my father is around I mean the burglar is opened. Nobody goes far without locking their burglar that would be the first in Soweto.

"Deli how are you sisi?"

"I'm very well thanks and yourself?"

"With all the tension going in back home I'm trying."

"How is Sindiswa coping with her sudden reality?"

"She's.. She's angry sisi I don't blame her."

"Shame. Why are you outside?"

"I'm waiting for your father to attend to me after his done with whatever his doing inside."

I glare at her as I knock.

"Did you knock though?"

"Yes I tried but his not bulging."

"Surely his bathing.. Baba!!"

Strange..

"Baba!! Baba!! Baba please open"

"I wonder what's taking him so long." She says in a tone that denotes disappointment if not pain. I must say Mphazima has a taste in women Carol is very pretty and beautifully shaped. So was his other girlfriend whom I've known and heard of from people as I grew saying she was my father's side dish that's actually my neighbor ma'am Sarah.

"Baba!!!"

"Coming!" He shouts from inside. In a split second ma'am Sarah's face appears I glare at my father who shys away. I move them to ma'am Carol it's best I leave.

Sidney

Today I woke up with an excruciating pain and swelling on my testicle area. So much that I had to call in with my doctor the one I consulted with for my

fertility related concerns. I haven't been in touch for a while now but today I have to check with him because he once mentioned something that I happen to suspect today.

"Mr Mkhathini how are you?"

"I'm very well thanks Mr Matthews and how are we doing?"

"Do you have a minute?"

"I can spare you five minutes of my time Mr Matthews. How can I be of help today?"

"I kinder have a situation here."

"What situation?"

"Something is wrong on my balls"

"What's going on Mr Matthews?"

"There's a discomforting pain and swelling on that area. What could be wrong Mkhathini?"

"You need to see me urgently Sidney. That's not a good sign especially with you having denoted you were struggling to conceive for years. You need to see me"

"So you think it's related to my fertility misconceptions?"

"Yes. Where are you?"

"Mpumalanga"

"Let me refer you to a close friend of mine." The door swings open my PA walks in.

"Send me the details I will go there as in yesterday"

"There's a little crisis Mr Mashaba is.. " I cut her short with my hand.

"Tell him I'm not around. Or better yet squeeze him for tomorrow. "

"His throwing a tantrum outside he means business Sidney. "

"I have bigger problems than to worry about Masha...Ouch!!!" I let out a sharp groan and lean against the table.

"Mr Matthews are you okay?"

"I'm fine.. Please give me a bottle of water"

"You don't look okay can I take you to the hospital or call a family member?"

"I'm fine!" Sphesihle walks in and glares at both me and his mistress.

"Is everything okay here?"

"His not okay Sihle" Pa

"I don't follow what's going on?" He makes his way towards me.

"Oh shit!!" I curse again groaning louder than before.

"Sid kwentenjani ndvodza?"

(What's going on dude?)

"I need... I need to see a doctor Sihle immediately"

"Sidney you scaring me whats going on?" Sihle-

"Hello I'm calling from mbombela we have an emergency..." Pa-

I say between my teeth.

Carol

I glare at n Sarah then Mphikeleli. I know what they did it's written all over their faces. His staring at me like his waiting for me to explode or throw in a tantrum like I did when I was young and stupidly in love.

"You can come in" Leli-

Deliwe glares at me then her father not forgetting the slut who just committed adultery with the father of my child so much for a God fearing woman whose married to a deacon. Back to Leli the cassanova. I glare at him till he clears his throat.

"Baba I just remembered Cebi will be knocking off from school any minute from now so I will pass by some other time. Bye" Deliwe says walking away. Leaving me behind with the cassanova. I avoid eye contact for obvious reasons I don't want my mascara getting ruined not over him.

"Are you coming inside?" Leli -

"Not anymore"

"Carol I can explain it's not.."

"How it looks like? Or what I think it is huh Mphikeleli?"

"Don't do that."

"Yazin it's no longer important Mphikeleli. Never mind the reason behind me coming here."

"Caroline come inside let's talk"

"I have nothing to say to you Mphazima not when you just slept with the same reason that made me to delay telling you about our daughter!"

"Caroline"

"Ngiyeke!"

With that said I stormed towards the gate. I bump into Sarah checking out her bonnet. She steps back in fear when she learns I'm glaring at her.

"Carol I'm sorry I meant no harm. It's not how it looks like I promise. I don't want to fight"

I glare at her and walk away without saying anything. They both not worth my strength. They are both adults they know what they wanted or doing. I'm so not going back to that place of fighting women all because of Mphazima. His not worth it. I can't be chasing pavements all because of him.

Millicent

I run towards him to take the photo album his yet to bash against the wall.

His been breaking things the shattered pieces of glass on the floor are evidence of that. I wish Sphesihle gave me all the details on what really happened for him to be this way. Sidney has been a mess before and trust me it never had a good narration. But because I loved him sincerely I stayed after that storm took place not even my friends knew about what happened but rather me.

"Sidney.."

"Back off Millicent!!"

"Sidney please stop it"

"Don't tell me what to do fuck off!! I didn't ask you to come here!" He roars so much that saliva escapes his lips.

"Baby please.."

"Millicent get lost!"

I walk towards him with hopes and thoughts to tame the beast down. To my surprise actually to my expectations he does what I had expected from him. I stumble and collide with a wall. He storms out leaving me just like that. I stand up to make my way towards the mirror. I call Sihle I want to know what happened.

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Milly

"Sphe what happened?"

"Milly I have no idea. All I know is that I took him to a doctor and then he was a different person when coming out."

"God I wonder what the doctor said cos his breaking everything that's before him"

"Milly what could be wrong? I mean you've been sagging the guy for years surely you have an idea"

"Sphe thanks for letting me know he wasn't doing okay. For now I need to call his father because really I can't handle the messy Sidney. Unless you guys want to read about my biography on news papers with RIP's"

"What are you implying by that?"

"Bye"

I end the call and start pacing around his house. I wonder what he was told.

Deliwe

Today the next door lady called me saying she's bored and needed company. The creepy grandchild is not here. She sips from her cup and glares on me.

"Don't you miss him?"

"Who mama?"

"You know who I'm talking about"

"I miss him mama." I smile by thinking of him. Even though he hasn't been taking my calls since the past few hours.

"Thats beautiful sisi. I myself I miss Dumisani

It hasn't clicked to me that I'm sharing him with another woman who has a three years old daughter."

I glare at her.

"Your husband has a three year old daughter?"

"Yes."

"Thats strange."

"And crazy right?"

She faintly giggles while staring at her ring.

"So don't you miss London and your daughter?"

"I do miss London in times like this I wish I was in London."

"Mama is everything okay?"

"Deliwe my child I have no choice to be okay."

She sips from her tea.

"Why don't you go to your house in Houghton?"

"It's way too lonely than this one. My son stays with his wife in Pretoria My daughter is studying in Capetown. Dumi only comes to see me on selected days. I'm always alone sisi hence I preferred this small township house"

"I would kill to stay in Houghton"

"At least you have Mcebisi you wouldn't feel the boredom."

"Why don't you go back to work as the surgeon that you are?"

"I have a spiritual gift my child I can see and hear things that no eyes and ears would see or hear. My gift was interfering with my work. One time I couldn't save my daughter in laws mother. My guides have already told me her fate was death more and more people came to the hospital with a minor illnesses but went home with a pile of thoughts and concerns blame it on my gift. It was complicated sisi I had to leave "

" That must've been rough. "

" It has been and it still is. What is Sidney doing in Mbombela? "

" His working that side mama"

"Did you talk to him today?"

"Yes I did but that was in the morning"

"Around 7am?"

"Yes mama"

"Mmm... He will come around Sisi"

"Thank you mama I think i should get going. Cebi has homeworks and I have supper to prepare"

"Thank you for the visit sisi. Do visit any time you feel like it"

"I will mama and nawe do visit"

"I will"

She faintly smiles while looking at me. Poor thing longs for the husband I wouldn't survive polygamy. As I walk out a message pops up its from Sidney.

"Give Cebi the cell phone"

I text him back " I've been calling you Kamo"

"Are you with Cebi?"

"Are you ignoring me or my question?"

"None of the above"

" Then why the silence?"

"I have to go"

"Go where at this hour Sidney?"

"Home"

"And where are you?"

"I can't drive and text I will call Cebi on his phone"

"We need to talk"

He doesn't respond to that one. I blow my nose only to be met by mama Dora staring at me.. I faintly smile and wave her goodbye then shoot straight to the house. I find my boy writing homeworks with a packet of chips besides him.

"Cebi"

"Ma?"

"Can I borrow your cell phone?"

"I don't have airtime"

" I want to play one of your games"

"Okay. It's charging in my room"

"Thank you boy. Do you need help?"

"No I'm fine."

"Okay... And for supper what do you want to eat?"

" I'm not hungry mama"

"A sandwich maybe?"

"That should do."

"Now or later?"

"Later"

"Okay.." I say walking away. Sidney is acting up and I hate this madness. I'm gonna call him using Mcebisi's cell phone. I ring him but he doesn't pick up how I feel right now? Demented and infuriated. I avoided men because of this..

Sidney

I adjust the car seat then lean back with my eyes closed. I heave the longest sigh and rub my forehead.

Why me? What did I do the universe to be hated this much? Wasn't Marcus hate for me enough? Weren't the beatings and suffering I've been through enough evidence to show God that I've been wearing this garment of pain for years? This I can't take it in I really can't live with this. This is too much. A tear slides down my eyelid. I quickly wipe it and bang my head on the steering wheel. I care less about the pain I'm in right now it's doesn't surpass the pain I'm feeling within soul. I swallow hard and reach for my cell phone. I contemplate calling my mother but it won't help. A knock snaps me out of my thoughts. What brings Brandon here?

"Sidney step out"

"Fuck off"

"Don't be rude Kamo.. Not when I ditched everything I was doing to get here." I glare at him and slowly step outside my car. We walk to my apartment it's now spotless. There's no sign of broken glasses. Thank God Milly is gone

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AD

it's now spotless. There's no sign of broken glasses. Thank God Milly is gone or not.

"Supper is ready" Milly -

"Thanks Mills" He says leading me to my bedroom. He leans against the wall while I sit on the bed massaging my forehead yet facing the ground.

"Kamohelo what's going on?"

"I am infertile"

"What the heck?"

"The doctor confirmed it today. "

A tear slides slides down my face.

"Kamo you joking right?"

"I'm not Brandon. I will never ever be a father. I'm just a useless dick So much for having a full underwear!"

Brandon makes his way towards me then sits besides me. He puts his hand on my shoulder.

"I'm sorry Kamo this is fucked up honestly. Can't we talk to Shaltee? Surely he knows of specialists"

"No.. I don't want anyone knowing about this Brandon especially the parents"

"Why? Sidney you need everyone's support they need to know they are family"

"Your family but not mine. I have a son"

"That doesn't make sense"

"His not mine biologically but his mine. That's what I want everyone to know Brandon and you gonna make sure nobody knows about his true paternity."

"Sidney I don't like this. Whose kid is that? You can't use other people's kids to heal Sidney it's wrong."

"Brandon you don't understand. I'm infertile do you know how people will mock me shall this come out? I can't tell anyone not even my girlfriend. Please promise you gonna keep quiet about it"

"Sidney.."

"Brandon promise.. You said you wanted us to be siblings and this is me giving you and I a chance to be siblings"

"By lying to the rents? I don't like the ending of this lie. The father of the kid is gonna come back to claim his son and you will be left with nothing but an empty heart. This is wrong Sidney I would've understood had you adopted a baby whose parents are late"

"I'm gonna adopt him legally. Brad please don't tell already I'm dying a silent death here of knowing I will never ever get the chance of being called father. The only chance I have is Mcebisi please be on my side and keep my little secret. Tumi knows I have a child I've ditched a couple of years ago and I want you to make everyone believe the kid is mine please. Look at this picture"

I show him a picture of Mcebisi and I. He glares at me.

"This is your kid mosi"

"Exactly. See why I need you on my corner?"

"But how come the kid looks like you?"

"I don't know"

"Sidney that kid looks like you."

"That's another reason why I liked the boy. I saw myself in him we even share a date of birth."

"Fine I will keep it a secret but you need to come to my wedding and be my best man"

"Fine"

"I'm sorry brother about the fertility thing. I really am sorry."

"I will live"

My phone rings.

"Whose that?"

"My boy"

"Pick up then I will go nap. I was forced to take an emergency leave because of you"

"Thank you"

"Pleasure.." He walks away. I can't tell Deliwe about my fertility predicament deep down I know she would love to have a baby with me someday shall our relationship go further. I know learning about my fertility will break her and she won't see the need of being with me. This is one secret I'm taking with to the grave. I can't hurt Deliwe like this I myself I'm a wreck because of this. I can't drag her into my mess.

Deliwe

"Mama are you okay?"

"I'm fine sthandwa sami"

"But you look worried mama"

"Cebi I'm fine come let's tuck you in bed"

"Did I upset you mama?"

"No handsome you didn't"

I say faintly smiling while pulling his cheek.

I scoop him up and carry him to the bed. I sing him a cradle song in a split second his sleeping. I walk to the bathroom to shower. A tear escapes my eye. Sidney is ignoring me his not even picking up on Cebi's phone.

I towel dry myself and go brush my teeth. I lotion and wear my pyjams. I lay next to Cebi while trying to call Sidney again probably for the hundredth time. He sends an sms saying he can't talk. And guess what I'm gonna let him be maybe for a lifetime I can't beg a man. His another Shalton. I kiss Cebi with teary eyes.

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Deliwe

I feel tiny hands shaking me. I open my eyes it's Cebi my boy is already dressed up in his school uniform. His even carrying a bag pack. Wtf! I overslept I didn't even hear the alarm. I jump off from bed and sprint to the bathroom. Okay we have menses how I hate periods. I wash up and put a tampon on. I get dressed in a simple torn jeans and a white t-shirt with sneakers. I have a learners to do today.

"Mama we are late"

"Askies Mcebisi did you eat?"

"I will have a banana"

"Better"

"Had dad not called me this morning I wasn't gonna wake up"

"He called you?"

"Yes."

"Oh!" I say glaring at him.

"What did he say?"

"He told me I must get ready and go to school and that he loves me that's all"

"I see... Let me fix your collar"

I say trying to ignore the sting on my chest.

"Come let's go sweetheart. Today you gonna visit Mkhulu maybe he will be one picking you up from school"

"Why won't you pick me up mama?"

"I have something to do my boy it might take me long"

"Does Mkhulu know my school?"

"I think so."

"Okay let's go"

We walk outside I spot a taxi. Today I let Cebi walk himself in the school premises. Im running late myself I need to get more tampons after my learners thingy. But first let me notify my father. He picks up on the third ring.

"Baba you sleeping?"

"Cha I was bathing."

"Going somewhere?"

"I want to see Carol"

"Wanna justify your cheating?"

Damn I shouldn't have said that.

"What did you want to say Deli"

"Baba can you please collect Cebi from school at 2pm. I'm going to do a learners today I might finish late. Please baba"

"No problem sisi"

"Thank you"

"Good luck"

"And have a blessed day I love you"

"I love you too."

"Bye baba"

"Bye" I end the call with a broad smile. I just told my father I love him which is a first. I decide on calling Sidney I miss him honestly and besides I want know why I'm being ignored. He picks up.

"Hello"

"There's nothing wrong with telling a person you done with them other than acting up."

"How are you doing?"

"You are with Milly isn't it?"

"Baby.."

"Don't baby me Sidney not when you've been ignoring my calls. Actually I called to tell you I'm gonna leave your keys next door."

I end the call. He calls me back.

"Ufunani?"

"Baby I know you angry at me I'm sorry. Don't leave please"

"Why shouldn't I?"

"I love you enough to let you go. Look I will make it up to you"

"Before you make it up to me tell me where did I go wrong Sidney? Didn't you enjoy my sex?"

The driver glares at me I dont give a fuck about him. Not when the guy I'm talking to fucked me without a rubber for the whole weekend only to play chase with me. He cannot use me by using love as a cover up.

" The sex was devine"

"If it was good then why are you ignoring me? Unless I've infected you with hiv Sidney"

The driver glares on me he better not.

"Baby it's still morning can we not fight please."

"I want to know the reason behind your actions!"

"I have a situation this side. I'm not feeling well I went to see a doctor yesterday and it's not looking good pancake"

My rage immediately subsides now care and worry is creeping in.

"What happened baby? Is everything okay?"

"Pancake I can't talk about it over the phone can you at least wait till next week?"

"I can't wait that long Sidney what's going on?"

"Baby please.. I prefer telling you in person"

"Cebi and myself will come that side on Friday. I really can't wait that long."

"I would appreciate that.."

"Did you get any medicine maybe?"

"I did but the pills cannot make the pain subside. This wound is beyond pills and syrups."

"Sidney you scaring me what's going on?"

"Pancake we will talk on Friday I love you"

"I love you too. Can I call you later?"

"You don't need permission. Im sorry about yesterday I mean it sweetheart"

"It's okay see you in two days"

I end the call with worry written all over me.

Carol

"Sindiswa sit down and eat"

"I'm not hungry"

"When will this attitude of yours end?"

"Mama you did me bad at least show some remorse"

"I've been doing that mosi. What more do you want me to do Sindiswa? I've been apologising since then. Can you stop acting up and rather focus on fixing your relationship with your father. This dramatic effect won't counteract anything."

"Mama awuswabi. Twenty five years?"

"Sindiswa I don't want to argue.. I'm sorry"

"I'm off to work"

"Sindiswa eat your food"

"I'm not two years old ma"

She says leaving her bowl food. I heave a sigh and walk to the couches with a bowl of muesli and plain yoghurt. I curl up on the couches and scowl down on the channels nothing is exciting. Maybe I should bath and go face the world. I can't continue like this. A knock on the door snaps me out of my little bubble world. I drag myself there.

"What do you want?"

"Good morning and how are you?"

"Your daughter just left She's not around. But I can give you her numbers so you can talk to her"

He glares at me with his brows narrowed. His biting on his lower lip not seductively of course.

"Are you gonna hear me out or leave me raining on your parade?"

"I thought you came here to meet your daughter"

I say walking back to the couches leaving the door opened. He sees himself in and sits on the couch opposite me. He glares at me.

"You angry and I don't blame you"

"Angry over what?"

"You know what I'm talking about"

"You no longer give me shivers down my spine I do not react on your bullshit Mphikeleli! Actually you are a slut not even dogs whore like you do and how you did Mphikeleli"

Okay I'm losing it he still gives me shivers.

He glares at me with his brows narrowed like his saying go on and dish out nonsense bitch.

"How could you Mphikeleli? Sarah of all people in the world?"

" I'm sorry Carol."

"Sorry for what exactly? Fucking her on the bedding I recently bought Mphikeleli? The bedding that cost me R900? You are unbelievable you are sickening"

"I'm sorry but Carol we not dating nje I would've understood if we were an item but still I'm sorry given you are the mother of my daughter"

"So if I wasn't Sindiswa's mother you wouldn't be apologising Mphazima for banging a woman on my bedding?"

"It was on my bed though"

"Mphikeleli shut up because you talking rubbish. Rubbish that I could slap you to rid off."

He stands up and walks towards me. He kneels in front of my couch.

"I'm sorry Carol I really am next time I will remove the bedding or better yet I will bring a different woman"

He says glaring at me.

"There's gonna be a next time? Wow!!"

"I'm joking. I'm sorry seriously."

"You love her don't you?"

"And you don't?"

"Even if I did it's been replaced by hate. Get lost!"

I say stand up leaving him kneeling. Sindiswa walks in.

"I forgot my wallet and.." She glares at Mphikeleli.

"Morning Sindi" Leli-

"Morning"

"I love hugs" Leli says this fool will never break free from his player's tactics.

Sindiswa walks towards him.

Leli embraces her and kisses her braids.

"Do you know who I am?"

"Maybe"

"I'm your father the one who made you."

Sindiswa giggles.

"I'm sorry you had to find out in that manner. I myself didn't know I was your father had I known about you.. Your paths wouldn't have crossed with that of that lunatic. I'm sorry Sindi"

He says holding her much more tight. Sindiswa wraps her hands on his waist Leli glares at me. I return the stare.

"You have a father now one whose willing to kill steal and die for you. I love you Sindiswa."

"Thank you."

Sindiswa says with a trembling voice. Mphikeleli breaks the hug and wipes Sindiswa's tears.

"Sorry my daughter."

Sindiswa nods.

"Let me not delay you for work we will talk okay?"

"Yes.. It's a pleasure knowing you"

"Likewise. You look like your sister"

She smiles.

"Sindiswa go to work before you delay"

My daughter walks out leaving Mphikeleli and myself in total silence.

Mphikeleli

"We didn't do anything"

I break the silence of course I'm lying.

"Ow! I believe that Mphazima"

"Carol I'm telling the truth"

"I'm not seventeen not anymore Mphikeleli. You think I'm stupid and naive?"

"Carol ngiyaxolisa can't you forgive and forget? It's not like you've been a saint yourself. While I was locked up Anthony was fucking you for years."

"So this is your revenge Mphikeleli? Using the same bitch who made it hard for me to tell you about the pregnancy all because we were fighting and not in a good space? Why didn't you opt for another woman? You love Sarah you just don't want to admit!!"

"I don't love her I like her"

"Whatever Mphikeleli. Just like you said we not dating you owe me nothing."

"You still my girlfriend are you aware of that?"

"Was is the name you looking for"

"We never ended things"

"It's Over Mphikeleli I just said it now leave and go live your life to the fullest by being a side dish to your old flame. As for me uCarol I'm done with you for good."

I glare at her with my hands buried inside my pockets.

"You don't mean that"

She keeps quiet. I make my way towards her. I block the exit for her. She glares at me and swallow gashes of saliva.

"Move..." She says pushing me aside I'm a man not a piece of paper.

"Can we try again? This time around there won't be drama or chaos I promise.

"

"Try what?"

"Us.. Can we give us a try? I mean we have two daughters don't you think it's a good thing for us to give both Deliwe and Sindiswa a home?"

"Sarah's vagina isn't accommodating enough for you to find a home in it?"

"I'm serious here."

"You selling me dreams Mphazima dreams that will never come true."

"Carol I know you still love me just like I do with you."

"What a cute way of showing it. See yourself out I want to bath and attend to important stuff not your old whoring self. "

"I admit it I slept with her. It was a moment of weakness."

The truth is I'm a dick I've always had a soft and slippery tongue on women. Dozens of them wanted to get under my pants the lucky ones got their wishes come true it's pity Caro only found out about Sarah.

"Just admit you are a whore say it after me Mphazima and stop justifying nonsense."

"I'm a whore a whore that needs you to raise his two girls and grandson."
She glares at me.

"Of course I fucked up and I'm sorry Carol. Can we please try again? Or Let's talk later I have to attend to something urgently. "

"What is that?"

"I don't know how to say this but Sarah is helping me with getting my house back. So I kinder have to go there so we can"

"Her help comes with a vagina?"

"Yoooh Carol"

"Mxm!" She walks away. I see myself out.

I find her wearing a black dress and heels. She's barely looking at me she's probably feeling guilty for cheating on her husband yesterday. I myself I feel guilty after what Carol said. Honestly speaking I should be focusing on Caro not Sarah. But I'm a man I needed to release I last had an orgasm two months ago. I don't want to go there. Right now we need to get these people out of my house..

Milly

He shows up wearing his pyjams he has ear phones on. Brandon left a couple of minutes ago. I spent a night in Sidney's bed while he slept on the couch. Honestly it's evidence his moving on.

"I made you breakfast"

"You should leave Millicent"

"Sidney you not okay I can't up and leave while you looking this Sidney"

"Someone will take care of me thanks but you should go Milly"

"Sidney.." I say walking closer to him removing my gown remaining on my birth suit.

"Sidney..."

"Cover up Milly nothing is gonna happen"

"Sidney you like it rough when you angry I'm here on silver platter. I can handle it just like I handled the slap across the face"

He looks at me.

"I can handle you not another woman."

I say reaching for his hand placing it on my breasts while biting my lower lip.

"Squeeze them baby"

"Millicent just stop this just leave please"

"Choke me if needed be"

"We are done you shouldn't have came here"

"I still care and I still love you"

"Milly I have a girlfriend you shouldn't be here"

"Who is she Sidney?"

I lose it.

"Thats my business."

"She's the girl you have a son with? A little bird told me about your son that you kept from me for years Sidney!!"

I shout trying to push back tears.

"I'm sorry about that Milly but it is what it is"

" You are cruel you are evil!! How could you Sidney?"

"I don't have time for this"

He says walking outside. I tie my robe and reach my cell phone. I book my flight ticket with tears blurring my vision. I go shower and dress up. A while later I go to the airport. I call my mother before catching a flight.

"Lilly"

"Mama he moved on he has a child"

"Come home baby we will talk about it in person"

"He cheated on me mama after everything I've done for him ma!"

"Milly come home and stop crying over split milk. He doesn't deserve your tears."

Trust my mother with playing the careless and unbreakable card in every situation. A text comes through.

"I miss you can I be on your to do list?"

"Mama I have to go bye"

I end the call to respond to the message.

"Rose's on or tuples?"

I smile.

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Mphikeleli

Khosi wouldn't have opened had I not been accompanied by Sarah and the guy he referred to as a legal whatsoever. Khosi isn't happy about this visit her eyes are cutting my skin.

"And now what is this Mphikeleli? What are these people doing in my house?"
Khosi-

"Khosi we come in peace just hear us out before you throw things at us."

"Take these people and leave my house Mphikeleli you know one single call will get you back to that hell. Get out!"

"It's a pity none of that will happen but here is what's gonna happen. You need to vacate this house immediately Mrs Maleka failure to do that you gonna face the hands of justice for practicing fraud and corruption to attaining ownership papers for this by bribing an official worker. Deep down in your heart you know this house doesn't belong to you but him. I urge you to leave with a harmonious spirit of Godleave peacefully " the accomplice says.

" I'm afraid that won't happen not when this fugitive told you all that rubbish about me. I didn't bribe anyone nor did I practice corruption. This fool is crazy and bitter it's not my fault he turned out like this. I'm going nowhere. You can hire hitmen to kill me I'm going nowhere" Khosi-

"Khosi I'm nothing like you I wouldn't stoop that low. Listen I want you out of my house. My daughter's need a place to hide their heads a place called home. While you still here none of that would happen. Leave Khosi and go back to swamp I've plucked you from. "

" Mphazima I'm going nowhere this is my house too this is my home. It's our parents house! I'm not gonna grant your wish I'm going nowhere. This is my parents house. "

" My father's house correct that part Khosi. It was my father's house not your father's!"

She glares at me then Sarah.

" Khosi I am a Mphazima and this house belonged to Derrick Mphazima making him my father. Don't make remind you how you became a Mphazima Khosi."

"And how would you know that because you were still feasting on mucous when I was young? Actually when did you become this cruel and vicious Mphikeleli? Where am I gonna go after leaving this house? "

" Where did my daughter and I go when you threw trash bags on our faces? Where do you think we went Khosi after your vile act? You didn't even put little Cebi into consideration when your greed and selfishness got the better of you" "I wasn't gonna harbor a prostitute in my house. Mphikeleli I'm going nowhere kill me if needed be I'm going nowhere. I lick my elbow too Khosi is going nowhere. Actually let me call my daughter so she can call her lawyers to deal with you accordingly. I can't be mugged on daylight. "

"Khosi don't waste our time leave this place or go to the nearest police station to get yourselves arrested alongside your friend Kaizer for temparing with the papers of this house. Actually you have a day to leave these premises. Tomorrow we want to find this house empty with no sign of you. This bickering won't take you anywhere start packing. See this person over here is a very important person who might turn your world vice versa." Sarah says heading for the door.

I follow her a while later.

" Sarah"

"What Mphazima?"

"Thank you for everything I don't know how to thank you or pay you"

"You've done more than paying Mphazima"

"I'm sorry about yesterday"

She glares at me.

"Mphazima I'm married and I want my marriage to workout when all this is over please erase me from your mind and heart. I can't loose my husband because of you"

"But I didn't say leave your husband or something."

"Mphazima please stay away. I'm a mother of four beautiful babies I love my husband"

"Like I said I wanted to thank you for today. That's all"

"Leli I know you. You wanted to lure me to your bed again"

"Sarah I have to go. Thanks again"

"You lied about Carol isn't it?"

Women and their lame fights. I have a grandson to collect from school.

"See you around Sarah and thanks once again"

She looks at me with lust filled eyes. I narrow my brows and glare at her.

"Bye"

I walk away I find Mcebisi heading to the gate. He runs in joy coming to me. I scoop him up and sway him around. He giggles along the way. I buy him a mayo and kpota. We make our way to my house with Cebi talking non stop.

Deliwe

"And wena where are you hiding yourself Catte?"

"Vuyi not that name please I'm someone's girlfriend now"

"You lie! You in a " i love you" kind of situation?"

She says mesmerized by my statement.

I munch on my mcflurry with a smile painted on my face.

"Catte you seeing someone?"

"Yes Vuyi. I found someone to make love with. The cherry on top is that he loves me and my boy"

"It's the Sidney guy isn't it?"

"Duh!"

"Catte!!! I knew it you would give him a try. Does he know about your selling business?"

"No"

"Why not Catte?"

"It's embarrassing Vuyi I don't want him to judge me. I hate sharing about that side of me."

"Catte he deserves to know bhabha"

"I will try over the weekend when Cebi and myself pay him a visit in Mpumalanga. "

"You're in a long distance relationship?"

"Kinder"

"Mmmmm..."

"What?"

"Can I see his picture?"

"Why?"

"Just wanna see something"

I show her the picture she glares at me with her eye socket strained.

"This Heather is your man? As in Sidney the guy you in a long distance relationship with Catte?"

"Yeah"

"Catte don't tell me you trust him enough not to cheat on you chomi"

I glare at her.

"Catte his a player a very big one trust me."

"Thanks for helping"

I say talking my cellphone from her talking of a cell phone I'm getting myself a new one. Immediately after this meal.

"His too much Catte

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this guy is hot. And men like him are either gay or cassanovas."

"Vuyi can we stop discussing my boyfriend please"

"You love him?"

"Is that a sarcasm?"

"Deliwe his gonna hurt you trust me chomi"

"Vuyiseka can you stop with the negativity. You told me to live a little and now I'm doing that."

"Long distance relationships don't last Catte. Especially with men like him"

"And your local ones workout Vuyiseka?"

"I'm being a good friend Catte preventing you from heart break."

"Maybe I'm addicted to pain and Vuyi you can't save me from it."

She looks at me.

"Bye. I've got to go and thank you so much for believing in my relationship with Sidney."

I say standing up.

"Chomi.. Deliwe!"

I ignore her and walk to a Samsung store I buy myself a S22 ultra don't ask me about the price. I move to buying my toiletries and Mcebisi's. I buy us a few trendy clothes. Four stylish jeans four dresses and four t-shirts and sneakers for me. I get Cebi five jeans two track pants four t-shirts and two pairs of sneakers. Like Vuyi said shall he hurt me. At least I will know I've spent his money. Wait I need a tiny bag for our little trip to mpumalanga. I find myself buying a lot of things underwears included. At least I'm getting rid of the suspense of what Sidney is yet to tell me. I need to drink something for these periods to stop. There's no way I will be comfortable sharing a bed with a man while I'm oozing tomato sauce I'm a heavy flower all thanks to Mcebisi.. I request to the house I leave things in the kitchen. I walk out heading to my father's house to collect the young dude. I find them helping each other with school work.

"Like this Khulu?"

"Yes you got it right"

"Sanibonani"

They both face my way. Cebi runs to me he tells me what they did with Khulu and him helping with the homework. I smile at my little human being.

"Baba thank you"

"No problem my angel. How did it go with the learners?"

"It went well baba tomorrow I'm writing a test. I wanna study a little when I get home about those road signs and what nots"

"That's great sisi. Deliwe"

"Ba"

"We got our house back sisi meaning you can leave your boyfriends house and come home."

"Oh! That's great baba"

Does Mphikeleli know how fun it is to sleep next to a man?.

"I want to do a ceremony for you and Sindiswa your little sister"

"What ceremony baba?"

"Imbeleko and besides I want the Mphazima ancestors to recognize you as their children"

"Baba wouldn't that require money?"

"Don't worry about money Deliwe."

"Baba you just left prison and you do not work. How will you manage to do that without money? "

"Deliwe there are plenty of things that you do not know about your father I myself I don't know what I'm capable of or who I am but let me tell you something. I will do that ceremony sooner than expected. I didn't go to that hell for nothing Deliwe."

I glare at him then Cebi whose looking at us.

" Mkhulu I'm done"

"That's my boy now put your books back inside your bag pack"

"Okay Khulu."

"What did you do exactly baba?"

"Bombing robbery. "

"Atm?"

He nods.

"Baba!!"

"We need to go Emahlabathini that's where I will do the ceremony. Both Sindiswa and yourself should avail yourselves and abstain from intimacy Deliwe."

I glare at him as he says the last sentence.

"I will try baba." He giggles.

"Don't try but do so"

"Okay. So you still have remaining money from that heist?"

He glances at me. That's the look that says "Yes" to my question.

"Hence I'm saying we should go to Emahlabathini"

"How much are we talking about here?"

"Enough to take you and your sister to school and give you the life you never had."

I look at him.

"Baba uyinkinga wena can my son not take after you because Lord knows I will be doomed "

"I guess the apple wouldnt have fell far from its tree"

"So this ceremony when are you planning on doing it?"

"In two weeks time"

"Okay no problem. On Friday Mcebisi and myself are going to Mpumalanga"

"What's in Mpumalanga?"

"His father is not feeling well so I have to go there"

"The father we talking about is the friend you said was your friend?"

"Baba"

"I'm asking"

"Yes"

"You love him?"

"Yoh baba"

"Deliwe come on do you love the guy yes or no?"

"Of course I do"

"Tell him to come see me I wanna have a little chat with him."

"I hope it has nothing to do with cows baba"

"That too needs to be counteracted"

Wtf? He better not.

"I will let him know then for now we should get going baba and thank you so very much for collecting him from school"

"It's only a pleasure."

As I stand to leave a knock comes from the door both father and myself share a stare.

"Surely it's one of your girlfriends"

"Deliwe.."

Mcebisi giggles and shouts "Come in" Carol and a lady whom I believe is the sister of mine walk in. My father smiles so does the girl.

"Greetings" Lady-

"Hello and who are you?" Cebi-

I give him a warning look he clears his throat and greets properly he even apologize for what he said.

"My name is Aunty Carol and this is Mamncane Sindiswa your mother's sister"

Mam carol says smiling at my son.

"My mother doesn't have a sister isn't it mama?"

"I do have a sister Cebi"

"How come I don't know her?"

"Mcebisi..."

"It's okay sisi Deliwe." Sindiswa.

"His talkative hey once he starts talking he won't shut up unless you force him too" They giggle.

"Please come in and make yourselves comfortable" Dad-

"I will make you something to eat in the meantime"

God knows I was leaving but it will look and sound rude if I left now.

"Mama we no longer going?"

"Not now Cebi"

"But I want to watch cartoons and Khulu doesn't have my favorite channels"

"Mcebisi you can watch your cartoons through my cell phone" Sindiswa -

"You have a television inside your phone?"

Sindiswa nods with a smile I think i like her not because she's my sibling but because her aura is clean. I love people who are kind towards kids not those monsters who don't even show a tiny snippet of their teeth.

" Thank you mama's sister"

"Mamncane" Dad-

"Thank you Mamncane"

"Pleasure handsome" My son walks towards Sindiswa.

I do a simple meal while there's a light conversation being held all because of Mcebisi who won't zip it up. His busy asking these guest questions here and there he tells them about "Dad" talking of him I should text him.

Sidney

I'm laying on the couch facing the roof. Rhudzani walks in followed by Siphesihle. They take the opposite couch.

"Howzit Kamo?" Rhudzani -

"Utiva njani lamuhla?"

(How are you feeling today?)

"I'm great."

"Kamo what's going on?" Rhu-

"It's nothing major.. Sihle"

"Sure"

"Dude why did you call Millicent to come over knowingly she is my ex?"

"Come on Kamo Milly is on your speed dial" Sihle -

I glare on him.

"Besides we all have her numbers not your baby mama's"

"It's about time you deleted them."

They both look each other.

"Kamo I know it's none of our business but buddy are you sure you making a right decision by mending things with the mother of your child and ditching Millicent after so many years?" Rhu

"Milly and myself were not working out and I can't put my life on standstill because of that. I know what I'm doing and Tyler's mom is my best decision ever"

They look at each other.

"Brief us a little on this girl"Rhu-

" There's no way I'm doing that. "

" Sidney you starting to be secretive and that sucks dude. " Sihle -

I glare at them and heave a sigh. My cell phone rings I stand up to pick up.

" Brad"

"Sidney how is it going vandag?"

"I'm hanging in there. Is my secret still safe?"

"Of course it is. But I had to tell dad about you having a kid there was no way I wasn't gonna say a senseful thing after travileling such miles."

"Told him it's mine?"

"Yes"

"Fine then. No problem"

"Cool stuff. Hang in there you will be okay"

"Thanks Brad"

"Pleasure"

I text Deliwe back may the Lord grant me strength and courage to spill the beans to her on Friday.

Deliwe

It's finally Friday my bags are packed and ready to go. Mcebisi is excited about the trip so am I. I miss Sidney honestly I just can't wait to sleep besides him and gaze into his brown eyes. The thought of him is exciting and liberating. Sindiswa volunteered to drive us to nearest airport Sidney's orders.

Since we met she has been nothing but the sister I never had in Jabu. She's really kindhearted and polite. She's a bit naughty and chaotic here and there she's funny I must admit. Apparently she's a "Fun and cool mom" than I am that came from Mcebisi's mouth. Indeed Sindiswa is good with Cebithey best of friends.

Anyway back to my trip. I'm putting my bags inside the booth of the car Cebi will change his uniform inside the car. Don't judge me I'm that serious about this trip. To think I hated the guy at some point now here I am thinking about him 24/7. All thanks to my loving sister who is a student nurse at Bara hospital she gave me a remedy to make my periods stop. Obviously that doesn't need a serious educational background to know but I on the other hand. I cared less about men.. There's no way I would travel this far only to come back undicked no way I might be Deliwe Mphazima but somewhere theres still a chatte in me.

"What time are you gonna get there Liwe?"

That's what Sindiswa calls me and Cebi is "Ebi"

I know right?.

"I don't know surely around 7pm"

"Okay. Let's go I have a boyfriend myself to visit its Friday today"

"Who is this guy Sindi?"

"His not good looking Sisi." I giggle.

"Sindiswa come on I care less about looks but rather the dog that's biting my little sister at night"

"Apart from him being ugly and all that his a good guy and besides he rides real good"

"Can we change the topic please!!" I say covering my ears Sindiswa giggles and hugs me from behind. I kiss her cheek.

"You're a cool big sister I love you"

"And I love you more naughty. Let's go fetch your son please"

"Fine" We drive to Mcebisi's school guess who he jumps at? I look at them and smile. I text Sidney.

"Cebi has found my replacement I guess I should find him one too. What do you think babe?"

"Don't break his little heart pancake"

"Baby he replaced me as we speak his on the backseat of Sindiswa's car he didn't hug me nor kiss me"

"Kiss love their aunts mostly babe how far are you?"

"We on our way to the airport"

"Fine. Travel safe"

"See you soon"

"Love you"

"Love you too"

I end the call and walk inside the car.

"Mamami sawubona"

"Hello boy boy Unjani?"

"Now that I see my beautiful mom in fine"

"Which mom?"

"This mom" He points at Sindiswa I blush. God gave me a sister I was hoping for. Sindi drops us off we share hugs and kisses before making our way to our designated flight.

Vuyiseka

I'm seated on my high chair sipping a cocktail.

"Vuyi can I have a minute please"

"Kazi ufunani nangu ugogo" I say between my teeth.

"Maflo"

"How are you doing?"

"I'm fine"

"Look Vuyi as you know Catte left her job meaning there's no replacement for her. So I want you to fill up her shifts"

"Hhayi mama Flo I won't survive. Already I'm tired"

"I will pay you double the money you were making and besides I want a little help from you"

"Double? I want more fucking men is not a child's play."

"What do you want then?"

"I want 8k monthly if not we do not have a deal"

"Fine Vuyiseka 8k it is but look girlie. You know Catte in and out isn't it?"

"Yeah.. Ndiyamazi uCatte what do you want from her?"

"I like her as a daughter do you mind telling me about her just a little"

"Well she's a mother and she never had a good upbringing. Her mother left her at two years old. Her father went to prison her Aunty was abusive and all bitchy. Thats all I know"

"Mmmm... How old is the son?"

"His eight years old if not mistaken"

"Where is Catte from? And what are her real names?"

"Deliwe Faith Mphazima she's from soweto Glen extension 9"

"I see. Thank you sweetheart"

"Pleasure"

"Here are few notes buy yourself something"

"Hheee MamFlo you full of surprises"

"It's just a token"

"Dankie" I say with a broad smile and walk away.

Sidney

I need a few groceries Cebi loves food I can't starve him. My pa walks in with a container of rinsed apricots and grapes.

"Here you go"

"Thank you"

"Do you need anything else?"

"Not that I could think of"

"In the meantime let's get you water so you can drink your meds"

"Thank you cutie I really appreciate it."

She smiles and opens our tiny fridge to give me a bottle of still water.

"Here you go"

"Thank you Nomfundo"

"Pleasure."

"Eehm.. Nomfundo can you please do me a favor?"

"What favor?"

"My son and his mother are coming over today I need a little shopping to be done"

"Goodies for the little one?"

"Something that a decent house would have please"

"No problem I'm on it"

"Thank you"

"This privilege will only last till you are fully healed Kamo. Afterwards it's back to being shitty and selfish"

"Can I be sick every day" I say with a smirk I hand her my card and continue being busy on my laptop while contemplating what Deliwe said about replacing Cebi. I know she was joking but eventually she won't be joking but serious. I gulp my water from the bottle of Cebi sends me a message. It's his blurry picture with the caption "I'm coming to see you"

I can't help but to blush right now. I respond to his text. Sihle walks in with a grumpy face.

"And now?"

"Wife is coming over this weekend"

"Plans with Nomfundo ruined?"

"Tell me about it I was looking forward to banging her"

I chuckle.

"Let's do brai tomorrow my girlfriend is coming over today"

"Isn't that risky Kamo? You know my wife and Milly are best of friends.

Obviously she will tell"

"Sihle are we doing the brai or not? You guys were complaining about me being secretive now I'm trying to fill you in them boom. I will tell Rhudzani and Lefa to come along it's nothing fancy.. I just want a happy and stress free weekend. You all gonna love my son"

"Please invite Nomfundo too maybe I will manage to bang her in your toilet"

"You getting your claws too deep in this Sihle. You married"

"Come on Kamo I'm playing it safe. She knows we just vibing"

I glare at him.

"She's a good girl don't break her Sihle"

"Would you judge me if I wife(d) her?"

I chuckle.

"This game is no longer a game trust me."

"She is fun and all kinky. Nomfundo is.." The door swings open.

"Nomfundo what?" Lefa says walking inside holding a bottle of water.

"That's none of your business" I say with a smirk

"When is the braai? Any beautiful girls Maybe?"

"Bring your girlfriend over no girlfriend no entry." Sihle-

"I guess Nomfundo is not invited too"

"Come on Kamo kanti yini ngawe?"

"She doesn't have a boyfriend unless Lefa and Nomfundo pair up."

"Uyanya!" Sihle says I crack up in laughter.

"Wait... Swati boy is screwing the PA isn't it?" Lefa-

"I don't know anything mina" My cell phone rings.
"Excuse me gents gotta take this one... Pancake"

(Phone conversation)

"Baby we have arrived"

"Already?"

"Yes please come collect us"

"Fine rato laka ka tla"

"Can we get a shuttle instead?"

"I want to fetch you myself"

"Okay baby we will wait"

"Rao rata ne?"

"I love you too"

"Bye for now"

"Bye.. Cebi stop doing that uyabona?" She says.

"What is he doing?"

"His wetting himself with a coke"

"It's an accident babe ska mchika"

"Fine I won't lash out."

"Better.. Bye for now"

"Bye" I end the call with a broad smile on my face when I turn I'm met by four eyes and narrowed brows oh no it's six eyes. Nomfundo is here.

"And who is that?" Sihle-

"How about mind your business? Nomnom bona I'm having a braai tomorrow you are invited"

"I'm definitely coming thank you"

"Pleasure. I'm coming gents I'm driving to the airport"

"Can I come with? I ain't busy after all" Lefa-

"Let's go" We both stand up to walk outside. I get inside my car. In few minutes I look for my people in the crowd.

"Baba!!!!" A voice shouts from the benches I jog there with a warm feeling on my chest. I kneel to embrace him I swing him around and he cracks up in laughter. I kiss his cheek.

"Hello young man how are you?"

"I'm fine and how are you?"

"Daddy is finey boy you tall Cebi"

"But not like you"

I chuckle and glare at Deliwe I narrow my brows and slowly walk towards her with Cebi in my hands I use my free hand to gently tilt her head. I smashes lips against her lips I suck on her lower lips while she nuzzles for my upper lip. In a split second our tongues collide against each other.

"Sidney you gonna drop the kid" Lefa-

I don't have ears I can't hear him. I smooch Deliwe yet again horses are galloping on my chests.

"Mama yekani ukuncabuzana abantu basibhekile" Cebi-

(Mom please stop kissing people are looking at us) Lefa giggles. "Tell them boy come here" he scoops Cebi from me. I put my hands around Deliwe's waistline. We share a stare. "Hey beautiful"

"Hey handsome" She smiles. I turn to look around me Lefa and Cebi are not in sight. I kiss her yet again I missed her.

"Baby can we stop before we undress each other here"

"Yeah you right let's go beautiful"

I say intertwining our hands while pulling the suitcase with our loose hand. I find Mcebisi and Lefa giggling over what I don't know. By the way Lefa is the youngest amongst us his an accountant by profession and he has no kids and no girlfriend. It's by choice though unlike me. Rhudzani is the eldest amongst us his an advocate by profession. He has a son whose doing grade ten.

"You look beautiful"

"Thank you baby."

I smile.

"This boy is talkative Sidney we need a super glue. If not this weekend will be long" Deliwe giggles so do I.

"That was only a warm up buddy."

We giggle.

"Hello Mamakhe and how are you? I'm Lefa by the way"

"I was gonna do that Lefa"

"You wasted time smooching each other. And you are the beautiful lady we've been hearing about?"

Deliwe nods.

"I bet it was good things maybe?"

"Don't sweat mommy whatever you fed him go get a refill it's working." I giggle.

"Baby meet my friend Lefa his a lunatic. And Lefa meet the lady who holds my heart"

"Pleasure knowing you Lefa"

"Likewise mommy dearest. And this young man over here tells me his name is Mcebisi Tyler Mphazima."

"Thats correct" I say

"Do something about this surname Kamo imagine a whole white offspring being a Ndlangamandla a whole thirteen letters surname no way Kamo" a I whisper in Deliwe's ear "Don't mind him his tipsey"

"His actually a good friend"

"Not sure about that one" She glares on me.

"Mama can we go please!!"

"Fine Cebi" Lefa takes the backseat with Cebi Deliwe is on the front seat. The hard work is yet to come.

Carol

I had no choice but to help Mphikeleli fix the house since Khosi moved out. I'm helping with the cleaning and mopping. Khosi left a mess the cherry on top are the windows she broke and so are the plates and cups. Talking of a lunatic that's Mphikeleli's sister. She has a missing screw. Mphikeleli walks in with refuse bags and gloves. He hands me the gloves.

"Khosi is a pussy maarn!" he says shaking his head I can't help but to laugh.

"I'm serious Carol. What is this Mara?"

"She was angry"

"Of all siblings mom give birth to her? I wish she suffocated her at birth"

I glare at him. I'm still angry at him I'm only here because I love my daughter and she asked me sincerely to help out with the cleaning so here I am.

"Are you hungry Leli?"

"No I'm not"

"Fine I will help myself then" I say jumping the garbage that's on the floor. I reach for a leave of Nandos and eat.

"I need you to come with us to Mahlabathini I need you to brew umqombothi"

"Only wives do that I'm not a Mphazima bride. Is that your way of asking me out Leli?"

"I need your help it's very important for the girls"

"Can't you ask your elders?"

"I want you to do it and I want you to pace around my father's compound with basins in your hands and calamine in your face."

I giggle.

"Calamine? In your prison dreams"

"Come on Caro what am I supposed to do for you to agree?"

"Kill Sarah"

"Hhayi Carol you still there kanti?"

"Where else am I supposed to be?"

"On my chest screaming my name out loud."

I glare at him and push back my smile.

"You've always wanted to be uMrs Mphazima can't you grab the opportunity with both hands?"

"Leli I can't touch your family's food I'm not recognized by your ancestors traditionally."

"I understand I will ask the few calamine women from my village surely one of them would dive on the opportunity of being Mrs Mphazima" I stand up and start cleaning. He giggles and spanks my butt.

"Leli stop it"

"That position you standing in reminds me of the day I had you in a caracara"

"Can you stop being old and horny Mphazima"

"I'm still fresh Carol I still my know my ways to a woman's underwear."

"Mphikeleli I will stop cleaning"

"What's wrong with you and playing hard to get? Where's the Carol who lived her life like tomorrow doesn't exist?"

"She drowned in a drainage"

I say continuing to pick up things on the ground. He stands behind me much closer to my butt his hands are on my waists I feel vibes I shouldn't be feeling.

"Can I pass?"

"Yeah.. Sure" I say swallowing hard.

He moves and starts working elsewhere.

"When do you want me to go to Mahlabathini?"

"We need to go on Thursday"

"Fine I will come but I don't have dresses"

"I will get you one"

"Not something ugly"

"Did I ever buy you ugly? I didn't even give you a ugly child why I would I give you an ugly dress?"

"You will never change."

"I'm not a cheetah babe"

"You full of yourself"

"So is my underwear"

I glare at him and bite my lower lip as she's busy. Leli has always been my weakness.

"Have you given my plea some thinking?"

"What plea"

"You me Cebi and the girls being a family?"

"Oh that?"

"Yes"

"I haven't divorced that goat as yet I'm working on it"

"I'm giving you 90 days Carol after that there's no thinking but rather moving on"

"Leli"

"Mmmm!"

"Please pass me a tissue"

"Why?"

"I'm bleeding"

"Oh shit!" He says walking towards me. This was bound to happen.

"Is it a deep cut?" He says holding my finger and wiping it. I glare at him.

"No its not deep"

"Does it hurt?"

"Ehm... No"

"If it hurts don't continue I will continue cleaning up I don't want you to...." I smash my lips against his lips.

Deliwe

People are staring at me as we walk to his office to collect his keys and whatever he says he needs in there. A few men are playing with Cebi they calling him "Sidney small" Sidney is all glitters I love seeing him smiling. As we walk inside his office my eyes lands on a pair of eyes. Ses like Sidney wanted me to know his friends because really these eyes are too much. There's a lady too I wish he told me about this audience. I swallow hard and greet them

when standing by the door. They greet me back Sidney does the introduction procedure he tells them tomorrow is another day. I say my goodbyes we collect Cebi from his colleagues and drive to his place it's actually a lodge. We reach the house he takes the bags and I reach for a light one. He walks out again to collect groceries. This lodge is beautiful I love everything about it. My little man is not in sight meaning I can get myself a quickie. Sidney walks in our eyes lock we both smile and say nothing.

"You need to stop staring at me Deliwe"

"I wasn't staring at you"

"What were you staring at if not this handsome face?"

"I was looking at the door"

"Really?" He says standing in front of me.

"really" I say putting my hands on his shoulders. We both look at each other.

"You horny"

"I'm not horny"

I lie.

"Your eyes are watery ma'am." He says kissing my neck.

"Are you gonna help me maybe?"

"Not today baby maybe tomorrow"

"Sidney come on why not today?"

"I can't help you out babe I'm not fully healed"

"Tell me your joking?"

"I'm not joking babe trust me"

"Oh!" I say removing my hands from his shoulders.

He glares at me without blinking.

"You angry now?"

"I'm not angry"

"Pancake I can see right through you"

"Can I please offload the groceries and start with super"

"You gonna attend to that later right now I want to see you in a happy mood"

"How am I gonna get there if you not dicking me down?"

"Pancake I'm gonna fuck you tomorrow please understand"

"Understand what?"

I heave a sigh.

"I'm not cheating on you in case you thinking of that we gonna talk in bed when Cebi is sleeping please"

I glare at him he puts his hand on my butt cheeks and squeezes them.

"I love you"

"Okay"

"Pancake come on we can't do this now. You just arrived for christ sake"

"You don't get it Sidney. Please let me loose I want to prepare supper and go nap"

"Deliwe..."

"Yini?"

"Our first fight will be over sex like really?"

"Mama where is the toilet?"

"Ask daddy to show you"

"I'm coming Cebi"

"Please go now"

He kisses my neck and makes his way towards Mcebisi. I heave a sigh and lean against the table so much for drinking that bloody bitter thing that Sindiswa made me drink in hopes I was gonna get some all night long.

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Deliwe

Supper was long served dishes were washed too. Mcebisi and Sidney are snuggling in bed I think they playing games or whatever they have their attention on. As for me I want to bath and call it a night.

"I'm off to bath"

"I will join you shortly. "

"Fine" I cover myself in a towel then make my way to the bathroom I fill the bathtub with water and calming bath salts I want to soak myself in there then think of ways to disclosing who I was before he came into my life. There's no easy way to confess you were fucking men for a mere plate of food. How will he even look at me or think of me? He might not even trust me around men given I was seducing men for a living. This is fucked up honestly. I feel hands cup my boobs before I feel his soft lips nibbling my neck.

"Penny of your thoughts?" He says inside my ear.

"When did you get in here? I didn't see you walk in"

"You were lost in a world of your own I guess you still angry at me." He says squeezing my boobs.

"Is Cebi sleeping?"

"Yes.. But he was reluctant." He kisses my neck again as his seated behind me. We remain in silence for a little while.

"My friends are coming over tomorrow for a little braai with their partners"

"Okay.."

"I would really appreciate it if you could help with the cooking and making them feel welcomed."

"Sure thing."

"Thank you. Can I help with that?"

I hand him the bathing sponge. He moves it around my boobs with the help of his other loose hand that's playing with my nipples.

"Pancake"

"Mmm.."

"Do you love me?"

I keep quiet.

"Enough to choose me over everything and any situation that may come our way? Is your love for me very deep and worth risking for and fighting for huh pancake?"

"Why this kind of a question?"

"Because I need answers Deliwe."

"Sidney I love you even though you denying me an orgasm after drinking bitter things so you can smash without being nauseated by my periods."

"Im sorry babe I didn't know. But are you sure mama Cebi?"

"I mean it Sidney. I love you mostly because you were able to love me and see the good in me something I couldn't do nor see in my own self. If there's one person whom I'm willing to fight for that's you"

He keeps quiet and rests his head on my shoulder.

"Baby do you promise to stay when the going gets hard?"

"Baby are you okay?"

"Yes I'm okay"

"But you don't sound like it Kamo you saying a whole lot of things at once. I can't even articulate some of it."

"Baby I don't know how to say this but my world is crumbling the only thing that makes sense in it it's you and Tyler other than that my life is empty and not valuable "

"Kamo..." I say tilting my head to face him. I put my wet hand on his cheek.

"Baby you can talk to me. What's going on? "

"Pancake there is no easy way to break this silence."

"Your ex is finally pregnant? Is it related to your fertility maybe?"

He looks at me.

"You deserve better than I'm willing to give you"

"You are my better Sidney I myself I'm not deserving of your love babe. If you could press play in my previous life you would swear that you made a mistake by loving me. My past is filled of turmoils and shocking discoveries. The only person who doesn't deserve the other here its me. "

" Babe whatever it is you think you did is nothing compared to what I'm yet to tell you "

"Fertile or not I love you Sidney. I mean it"

He glares at me.

"Pancake I won't be able to give you children in future. Loving me would be a waste of time and a whole draining process. I mean who would want to fuck for fun till they turn grey and walk on the support of a cane? Pancake I know in a long drive you will want kids Mcebisi will want siblings. Just like his been hinting already baby I won't be able to give you that because I'm infertile. I'm barren mama ka Cebi. I can't make kids being with me will be a waste of time and a delay to finding your true love. "

" My true love Kamo? "

" Baby let's tell each other the truth. "

" And your truth is telling me to give up on us and our love? Actually you believe all of this Kamo? "

"The doctor declared me as infertile I have no choice but to believe her Deliwe. I had swollen testicles and tests were ran my sperm count is weak and my tubes are blocked what's not to believe there? Deliwe it is what it is."

"Okay I get the doctors reports but what I do not get nor understand is you believing that our relationship will dissipate and die all because you won't give me children. Which is an insult to me Kamo!"

I say with a trembling voice while yanking his hands from me.

" Milly is a living testimony that I cannot make babies. It's hard to believe I'm fertile when the results and experiences I've had are those infertility "

" You not answering my question Kamohelo!! So you really think I'm gonna leave because of this?You think my love for you is seasonal Sidney?"

" I didnt say that "

" Then what are you saying huh? "

" Pancake I don't want you to be here knowingly I won't give you what you aspire for. Women want kids they want a partner that's gonna give them their happily ever after one that involves mini versions of themselves and I can't give you that. I couldn't give Milly children for years Deliwe"

"Can you stop bringing up your ex girlfriends name in our conversation! You've never heard me bring up Shaltons name as Mcebisi's father! I'm nothing like your ex girlfriend stop comparing me to her!"

I blurt out and reach for a towel.

"I'm using her as a reference Deliwe. You just getting all of this twisted I'm not fighting you or anything."

"I'm not getting anything twisted Sidney. Right now I feel like you giving up on us and our relationship. You've been saying lines that prove to me you want to end things!"

"I didn't say that"

"Mama..."

I glare at Sidney and let tear hit the ground.

"Come baby"

"Mama are you fighting with daddy?"

"No boy we not fighting" I say wiping my tears. Sidney looks at me as I pick Mcebisi up..

Sidney

They walk away I'm not fighting you or anything."

"I'm not getting anything twisted Sidney. Right now I feel like you giving up on us and our relationship. You've been saying lines that prove to me you want to end things!"

"I didn't say that"

"Mama..."

I glare at Sidney and let tear hit the ground.

"Come baby"

"Mama are you fighting with daddy?"

"No boy we not fighting" I say wiping my tears. Sidney looks at me as I pick Mcebisi up..

Sidney

They walk away leaving me in the bath tub. I heave the longest sigh. I didn't expect her to rub Shalton as Cebi's father on my face. Already I'm aware of that. I collect myself and towel dry myself. I make my way to the bedroom. I find Mcebisi sucking on his mothers breasts. I lotion and wear my trunks. I sit besides Deliwe who has puffy red eyes.

"Cebi"

"Mmm"

"Come here boy"

He comes to me. I make him sit on my lap.

"Look champ I'm sorry you found mommy and I in that state. We were not fighting"

"But you were shouting."

"Adults shout all the time but mom and I were not fighting. I'm sorry we scared you"

"Don't shout at each other again. I hate it when you both fight"

"I promise we won't fight ever again I'm sorry"

"I forgive you"

He says resting his head on my shoulder I glare at Deliwe Mphazima. She stands up and walks to the toiletries cabin. She lotions and wears her pj's. I walk out of the bedroom with Cebi. We play playstation I bring him snacks and a beer for myself. In a split second Cebi is snoring I pick him up go tuck him in bed. I lay him next to Deliwe I walk back to sitting room to finish my beer. I find myself going outside to dial my cousin who is also my legal advisor. We both from the same Province. His father and my mother are siblings.

" Meso"

"Hey howzit?"

"I'm good do you have a minute?"

"You have five minutes dude more than that will make Berita punch me across the face thinking I'm cheating on her"

I giggle.

"Look I need your help"

"Ka eng?"

"I want parental rights for ngwana"

"Is it yours or ke ngwana wa relative?"

"Something like that"

"Sidney give me a straight answer"

"It's mine"

"Bona we will talk when I come back to Jzi"

"No stress"

"Greet Milly mo"

"We not together"

"You lie"

"Sharp cuz"

"Sure"

Florence

I've decided on blowing the candles off. It's quite lucid Marcus won't be sleeping home. He's been sleeping out for as much as I could remember. I know it's abnormal but I've grown to make peace with it. If there's one thing that people who are watching your life from outside the transparent window glass they tend to think you're living large and that your life is all glitters and blings but little do they know about the emptiness that fills up your corridors. So many nights my husband and I have slept in separate rooms spent days without being intimate when we are it's not passionate but rather him trying to relieve himself. Being married to a rich man isn't goofy and all fun as people think it is. You get the money but not the health of it. Poor people are actually the happiest of souls when compared to us rich people. You eat your pork belly and sip wine then go to emptiness afterwards. While on the other hand the poor eat their cabbage and pap then drink water afterwards they share laughter and jokes they watch soapies together and share their daily experiences unlike here on the cliffs of the north..

I blow off the last one and climb the bed. Just when I'm about to switch off my side lamp the door swings open.

"Honey"

I keep quiet. The singing resumes mixed with laughter.

"I know you not sleeping Florry"

"Where were you Marcus?"

"I was out and about"

"You went to her didn't you?"

"I went to Ngoyi"

"You lying!"

"Then where did I go?"

"Marcus why are you still with me?"

"Shhhh..." He says climbing the bed. I sniff him.

"You smell familiar"

"Duh! It's my signature"

"Thats Zelda's signature"

"Good night wife" He kiss my cheek and lays in the bed wearing his suits and shoes. I hop off from the bed and go to the kitchen. I pour myself a glass of wine. I dial my sister.

"Let's do lunch tomorrow"

"I won't make it Ntase I'll be working"

"Fine"

I end the call and glare at Deliwe's pictures. I gulp my wine again.

Deliwe

I'm glancing at my son and playing with his brows when I feel cold hands on my waistline. I move towards Cebi. He moves closer to me now invading his hand under my t-shirt. I move yet away from him stupid him moves closer to me.

"Sidney stop it"

"I love you so much to waste this limited time grumpy at each other. I would rather hold you in my arms than having my back turned against yours."

I keep quiet.

"I'm sorry pancake for everything that happened or everything I said. I thought you would leave after knowing I wont make you pregnant in future"

I keep quiet and move closer to him. I'm enjoying what his doing with his hand on my tits.

"Baby ke sorry hle please forgive me"

"Would you walk away if I told you what I was doing before I met you?"

"Selling your body?"

I turn immediately to look at him eyes popped out.

"How do you know about that Sidney?"

"Can I kiss you?"

"No tell me. How do you know about my line of work?"

He smashes his lips against mine I kiss him back but stop along the way as the kiss gets heated up.. His tipsey.

"Sidney.."

"I know"

"How?"

"I've been researching about you"

"Why Sidney?"

"Because I love you. When we're you planning on telling me though?"

"When I'm ready"

"I see pancake. In case you never noticed I've been following you for months and maybe years. How did I know Mcebisi's name for starters?"

"I don't know"

"I know your father was in prison I know your snobbish sister Jabu and your Aunty. I just didn't know how they treated you but I had a clue on who you are"
I blink once.

"When I said I loved you I meant it Deliwe I wasn't horny or playing games. I'm nothing like Shalton"

I glare at him. How does he know Shalton? Yes I mentioned his name but he sounds like someone who knows Shalton.

"Still want to be fucked?"

"How do you know Shalton?"

"His my half brother"

My heart stops beating immediately I try to jump off from bed but he pulls me back. My vision is now blurry.

"Don't cry cheesecake. I love you and I mean it Deliwe. You and I belong together Allow me to love you and protect you and cater for all your needs. I'm not using you or anything I love you big time"

"Why didn't you tell me you were more than a uncle daddy to Cebi?"

"Because I knew you would walk away and never look back after hearing the truth. I wanted you to love me and trust me willingly Deliwe only then It was gonna be easy to tell you the truth about who I am and what I am to Cebi"

"I need a breather"

"Can I join you or hold you tight in my arms?"

I look at him and cry.

"I'm sorry I wasn't upfront but doing that would've pushed you away. Deliwe I loved you the very first day I laid my eyes on you and I'm wiling to love you till I close my eyes for eternity."

"I wish you told me though"

"I tried but you pushed me away each time I initiated. "

"Does Shalton know about this?"

"I don't want to go there please"

"Why not?"

"Baby I don't want to argue again.. Already we've argued twice."

"But I want to know"

"Pancake why do you want to go there?"

"Sidney please"

"Fine then I guess I should go there. He doesn't know just like he doesn't know his son whose eight years of age"

"Does he have children?"

"Yes and I must say he loves his kids. No offense"

"Wow!! You just striked a nerve"

"I know it hurts but not all is lost you have me and Cebi"

"I love you Sidney"

"And I love you too Catte"

"Don't call me that"

He giggles and pulls me closer to him. Shalton will never ever see Cebi that I promise.

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Sidney

"Baby don't call me that"

"I love the name though."

She frowns and sticks her tongue out. I giggle and move closer to her.

"I love you mama Cebi"

"Le nna kao rata"

"Enough not to be mad at me over sex?"

"I love that babe its just a pity I didn't know you were in pain"

"I've never seen a scorned woman like yourself"

I smirk.

"Phela I drank bitter things to chase my robot days away"

"Shame poor thing." I say brushing her brows while she plays with my trimmed up beards.

"My father wants to see you"

"What have I done?"

"I don't know"

"What did you tell her pancake? A parent calling a meeting means trouble"

"You scared?"

"Deli we talking of your father here"

"Surely he wants to know what your plans are"

She rolls her tongue in a way I do not comprehend. I look at her blank.

"My plans?"

"Yes babe.E.g Mngcebisi is here surely he wants you to fix that"

I swallow hard and widen my eyes.

She bursts in laughter.

"Why the flabbergasted look?"

" I'm not comfortable with this Pancake"

"Why not?"

"Your father is Zulu my poor arse is white Deliwe"

"And pedi don't forget that"

"I'm a total white that's the first thing people see about me."

"Relax he won't do any harm"

"So he will want cows?"

"Since you are Mcebisi's father? The answer is yes."

"Can somebody shoot me right now"

I heave the longest sigh. This beautiful devil laughs in my damsel.

"When is that again?"

"He hasn't confirmed the date"

"So what am I supposed to bring to the meeting?"

"A machete it might get ugly"

"Catte come on"

"I said don't call me that" She says kissing my neck.

"Fine I will bring seven AK47's and grenades."

"Russia versus Ukraine"

I giggle.

"You gonna wake Cebi"

"You have boobs to rock him back to his sleep"

"You will be doing that intentionally isn't it?"

"Come here and stop complaining"

I say putting her one leg on my waist while sneaking my hand to her pussy.

"It's soaky in here what's up madame?"

"I don't know you tell me"

"I have no idea I've never had a pair of lips on my privates." I say rubbing her cookie from the underwear.

"Sidney I'm gonna wake Cebi up"

"There won't be a need for that because you will keep quiet."

"Let's go to the sitting room instead."

"Nope it's cold."

"Sidney.."

"What?" I say shifting her underwear on the side.

"It's better not be menses that I'm touching"

She giggles.

"That would serve you right for being a naughty daddy"

"You will wake up the following morning boyfriend-less. I thought you wanted to be laid off "

"You in pain baby I can wait till tomorrow"

"Really?"

"Yes"

"I don't believe that"

"Well I do"

"Make me believe it"

"Stop flirting with me it's gross"

I giggle and press my cold lips against hers. While stimulating her clitoris. Our kiss gets heated up my dick has expanded already since it has a mind of its I can't deny it it's fever pinch. It's wounded and numb but denying it pleasure will only bring me yet another pain on top of the one I'm feeling. I slide inside carefully She gulps and pulls me closer. I gently suck her neck and thrust in softly. She wraps her legs around my waist.

"Baby..."

"Pancake don't make noise Cebi cannot see and hear this. Please"

"I will be silent"

"I love you" I press my lips on hers again. I thrust yet again making sure my thumb is inside her mouth to prevent her from moaning loudly it's like that till we both explode and lay naked chest to chest..

First thing in the morning I do stomach exercises and burpees with my training partner of course. By the time the mother wakes up breakfast is ready and waiting for her. She makes her way to Cebi leaves a cheek kiss there and make her way to me. I get a slooply kiss and long hug.

"Morning Boyz to men"

"Morning mama"

"Morning pancake"

"You guys are making me feel like I am a lazy bone or better yet a heavy sleeper"

"You sleep a lot mama"

"I'm sorry Cebi I'm tired. "

"I will massage you" Cebi says.

"Good one boy"

Deliwe kisses my neck. I guess last night was great so many kisses. I'm not complaining.

"Thank you for breakfast. What time is the braai?"

"12pm but we need a couple of groceries"

"Baby please go buy them with the help of Cebi. I will do the cleaning and peeling for the available vegetables"

"No problem sweetheart" I kiss her cheek. We eat a while later we all wash the dishes we made. The little man and I jump into a shower.

"Why do you have so many drawings uncle daddy?"

"Because I love them Tyler"

"Why didn't you draw me?"

"Would you draw me if I drew you?"

"I will write you a card and maybe draw you something but not on my body. My mother would beat me up"

I giggle.

"I will draw you son don't panic."

"Draw me here"

He says pointing on my back"

"Consider it done"

"I want you to show it off when we walking together"

"Meaning I should walk around naked Tyler?"

He shyly nods I crack up in laughter.

"Then your mother would scream at me"

"You also afraid of her?"

"That woman can bark Cebi there's no way I cannot fear her"

He giggles while covering his mouth.

"Have you found friends as yet?"

"The one I met is creepy and he wears Jordans to school. He knows things that nobody told him about"

"And who is that?" I enquire while scrubbing his tiny body with a bathong sponge.

"Gogo Dora's grandchild"

"Oyintando?"

"No he said his name was Nkanyiso"

"Oh! That one.. His a cool kid Cebi"

"But his scary daddy Sidney. He knew my mother's name and my date of birth. We didn't tell him"

I giggle.

"Close your eyes so I can wash your face"

"His a special kid Cebi"

"How so?"

"He has powers"

"Like power rangers?"

"Maybe. He is spiritual gifted boy."

"Am I also a special kid?"

"Definitely"

"What are my powers?"

"Talking a lot"

"Only?"

"And maybe being a good boy especially for calling me your father instead of uncle"

"If I continue calling you daddy I will have more powers?"

"Definitely"

"Okay you are my father not uncle."

"I love you Cebi"

"More than mommy?"

I giggle.

"Now we comparing depths of love?"

"She's a woman after all"

I glare at him confused.

"Meaning?"

"She's not in our team but you and I are on the same team"

I giggle.

"She will have her own team when she gets a baby girl"

I swallow hard and faintly smile.

"Come let's go out we need to rush to the stores we have guests today"

"Are they speaking English like you?"

"They speak everything even Chinese"

"Cool.. They know kung fu too?"

"I don't know about that let's go"

"Fine"

We go about the process of lotioning and dressing up. It's hot today hence shorts will do. We grab what's needed for the road leaving Deli in the house..

Deliwe

I'm almost done with the cleaning when a beautiful looking pregnant and chubby lady stands on my doorway. She glares at me for a little while I look at her as well without saying anything. If she won't greet me then I'm not greeting her either. It's called balancing forces and actions Its equilibrium in short. I'm

matching her energy I can't be the bigger person. I continue peeling and chewing on my peeled carrot.

"Knock knock and greetings" A guy says behind the lady.

"Dumelang Sanibona and Ndaa!!" He says walking in a happy mood while holding beers in his hands. His tall and a bit muscular he has chiskop and perfectly trimmed beards. His handsome that I give to him.

"Mrs Mattews in pending? I'm Rhudzani and this is my beautiful Mrs me Kedi" He says stretching his hand to shake mine.

"Pleasure meeting you I'm Deliwe Mphazima the girlfriend to Kamo"

"And baby mother.." He adds flashing me a smile I return it and shake his hand.

"Where does one sit in this house?" Kedi-

I ignore that one she's definitely not talking to me not when she made it obvious I'm abstract and invisible. I'm not responding to that.

"Where's the white man?" Rhudzani -

"They went to the stores"

"I see I hope you don't mind us"

"No it's only a pleasure make yourselves comfortable. I will go wear something decent" I say.

"Do you mind showing me a sit Mrs in pending?"

"I wouldn't mind had you greeted me first before asking me about chairs" I say softly. The Rhudzani guy glares at me then the Wife.

"Excuse me ladies. I will prepare the braai stand at it" He says reaching for a beer leaving his tarantula with me. She walks to the couches I roll my eyes. I myself I once was pregnant and I don't recall not greeting being one of the hormones that comes with pregnancy. She's too full of herself. I quickly

change from my short dress well t-shirt. Thats a proper name for it to a pair of jeans. I continue peeling and cooking the pap. I open the fridge I think I need a drink damn Sidney with his SOI beer. I text himHe calls.

"Baby"

"Please get me something to drink"

"Which is?"

"Can I have Bernini classic if it's not there please get me a bernini blush"

"I'm on it"

"One of your friends is here"

"Which one?"

"Rhudzani"

"Oh! Okay.."

"I think you might as well buy meat from the shisha nyama cos we delayed already."

"My thoughts exactly but we gonna need a home cooked pap and side salad"

"I'm making chakalaka and salsa"

"Thank you babe don't mind the pregnant one she's always grumpy to everyone herself included"

I giggle. Mrs grumpy glares at me.

"I know how to handle her type babe she doesn't scare me"

"I trust you my lady ninja"

I giggle. I feel eyes piercing my back I look behind me it's the guy from the airport "Lefa" I faintly smile at him. So does he.

"Baby please get Cebi anything thing to keep him entertained"

"He wants Heineken"

"No way Kamo"

"Mattews men drink babe"

"Not that one please"

"I'm joking there's ice cream in the fridge"

"Better let me wrap up then"

"I love you"

"I love you too"

I end the call.

"Finally you done.." Lefa-

"Hi Lefa"

"How are you Mrs Kamo?"

"I'm very well thanks and yourself?"

"All good. I actually came to offer you a hand in this department."

"Eehm.. There's actually nothing much to do it's all shorted"

"Oh! Better then. We will be outside shout if you need anything"

"Thank you." I notice theres another face outside a guy with and another big belly. Do these people even sleep? I crack up in laughter. A while later I go to freshen up and apply makeup on my face. I'm not wearing a weave I'm rocking my short hair. I wear a simple yet elegant outfit. A denim dungaree with a white t-shirt and stylish flip flops. It's blazing hot outside so says the name of the Province we in. A little Arthur Ford perfume does me justice I smell like a million dollar. I don't want to be a boring girlfriend today but a fun one. I won't keep quiet but rather engage on much conversations.

Sidney

By the time we arrive the gents are already comfortable and playing their music so loud. They drinking at it. Cebi clings on me more like he clings on my leg.

"Daddy I don't know these uncles and I'm scared of them"

Rhudzani is the first one to scoop him up and playfully mess up his hair. They all gather around Cebi.

"No Sidney you borne yourself with this boy." Rhudzani -

"Hello boy" Sphe-

"Sawubona malume" Cebi-

They crack up in laughter.

"Can you stop laughing at my boy his frightened as it is. You making him worse" I say with a smirk in my face.

"He speaks Zulu?" Rhudzani -

"The mother is Zulu so duh!"

"You ruined a kid Sidney" Sphe-

"Daddy I want my mother" Cebi-

"You will go to your mother shortly boy" Lefa-

Cebi looks at me with glassy eyes.

"Let me take him inside before he bursts in tears."

"His a cute little man. You worked dude" Rhudzani -

I giggle. Deliwe appears damn! Is that my girl? I don't think so. Cebi jumps on her and wraps his arms around her neck.

"Mama"

"Cebi"

"I'm sorry I spoke to strangers"

"It's okay my boy. Did you greet elders?"

"Bayangihleka" Lefa giggles.

"Please don't laugh at my boy he doesn't like that" Deli says with a smile.

"Our apologies Cebi we were shocked by your Isizulu" They all say. I kiss Deliwe's lips.

"You look gorgeous and enchanting"

"Thank you handsome let me go wash his body"

"No need I will do the honors myself. You can slide into the conversation held over there" I point by the corner where the ladies are gathered Nomfundo included and Milly's best friend Pearl.

"Fine"

She kisses Cebi and myself then walks towards the girls. The gents glare at me and help me with the plastics.

"She's pretty" Sphe-

"That's a fact" I add.

"She's nothing like Milly though" Rhudzani -

"There's no need for her to be like her explaining why her name is Deliwe not Milly"

"I didn't mean it in a rude way Kamo" Sphesihle -

"What were you implying Sphesihle ?"

"Let it slide Kamo" Rhudzani -

"His being a jerk a whole dick."

Cebi glares at me.

" I meant no harm"

"She's not here to please you nor to scratch your nuts. Whether you like her or not that doesn't change my erection towards her nakedness"

I click my tongue and walk inside the house. Rhudzani walks towards Cebi and I.

"Don't mind them dude especially Sihle"

"He annoys me Rhudzani and I'm gonna fuck him up if he continues being a vagina"

I say between my teeth.

"No vulgar there's a mini you today respect him."

"Fine.."

"She's fiesty and unapologetic I like her already. She put my wife in a tight corner"

"She's blunt I fear her too"

We giggle. Cebi rests his head on my shoulder.

"Let me wash his body we just revived his haircut"

"Bring the meat and all I will get to the braai game"

"Check on the plastics but it's already made unless you wanna warm it up"

"Definitely"

"Hello Everyone!!! Guess whose here!!!" We all face the door what is a chillas without my half?

Carol

I sit on the bed and glare on him. He frowns and glares on me.

"Don't tell me you regret last night"

"I made you brunch Leli"

"You didn't enjoy didn't you?"

"Only you can handle me in that department so suck it up"

He smirks.

"What's for brunch?"

"I will bring your plate"

"Already filling in the Mrs Mphazima pinifers?"

"You galloping Leli. Only night with you then boom you jumping guns"

"Stop playing hard to get Carol not after you begged me to fuck you harder last night"

"Leli do you really have to use the F word all the time?"

"But that's what you said"

"Can you make it sounds a little lesser vulgaris please"

"Okay we made ziki ziki"

"Gosh! That's even worse" He giggles.

"Come here and stop playing the virgin Mary"

I glare at him and reach for my glass of juice. I go sit besides him.

"You spending a night again right?"

"I have things to attend to Leli"

"Come on don't be hard on yourself a little nice time won't hurt"

"Getting too close to you might lead to another heartbreak Leli I don't want to go through that not anymore."

"You being dramatic right now Carol. Ive been singing the same chorus for a while now. Let's build together and turn grey together please"

"You're a serial cheater Mphazima"

"I will be better for you I promise"

"That's what you said years ago"

"Carol you don't forgive do you?"

"You not the one who was cheated on Leli"

"Maybe I don't know how painful it is to be cheated on but I know how painful it is to spend years in prison without having your hearts ruler coming by to check up on you or better yet calling you to ask how your life is. Then boom years along the line she's fucking a dude who was once your friend and her keeping your child away from you now that is the pain I know off Carol. "

I heave a sigh.

" I'm divorcing him njena"

"For what and who?"

"I'm giving you one last chance Mphikeleli shall you jinx it I'm done for good"

"You know you stuck with me Carol there's only one Mphikeleli and that's me.

I know you love me fucked up I'm your true love"

"Eat your food getting cold"

"A little kiss maybe?"

"Fine" I lean over to kiss him.

"We doing this isn't it?"

"Doing what?"

"This commitment thing? You gonna teach me isn't it?"

I giggle.

"Yes I'm gonna teach you and no more Sarah"

He glares at me.

"Wherever Sarah is involved I'm involving myself"

He giggles.

"Uzofa I stress sento engekho. Come feed me"

I chuckle

Deliwe

These girls bore me at least the Nomfundo lady is less uptight. She shows some teeth and a bit of her tongue each time we converse she's actually more accommodating than the two unprotected sex carrying evidence that are settled here besides me they even making me sleepy with their huge bellies. That's how boring they are.

"I prefer making use of an air fryer darling unlike an oven"

I glare at them then roll my eyes. My cell phone rings.

"I nearly forgot I'm someone's big sis"
She giggles.

"Hey Liwe and where is Ebi?"

"With the father bathing or something"

"I miss you"

"I miss you more Sweetheart judging I'm bored where I am"

The ladies glare at me do I care? They don't fuck me after all.

"Hhhaa.. Kanti where is ubaba ka Ebi?"

"We can't fuck every minute of the day Sindi his resting. And how's everyone that side? I forgot to call your father notifying him we traveled safe"

"I don't know how they are but mama didn't sleep home last night"

"Where did she sleep?"

"I don't know"

"Mmmm... Are you thinking what I'm thinking?"

"Liwe don't go there that's gross and yucky"

I laugh and cross my legs.

"They have feelings too"

"There's no way I'm participating in this conversation not when elders are involved"

We giggle.

I spot Sidney and some lady making their way towards us. You would swear the lady is going to some sophisticated beach party the way she is dressed. She looks like a million dollar I love her body mostly. She's thick and toned. I wish she can take off the shades I mean the sun is not bursting this side.

"And your night out how was it?"

"It was great he took me out and yeah the rest is history"

"I hope that history won't make me uMamkhulu Sindi and besides December is around the corner to go around with watermelons in your tummy"

She bursts in laughter so do I. I think I've just striked a nerve on these women. I'm doing it intentionally they can't be rude at me and expect me to be the bigger person. I've always been that throughout my life now Its fire by fire whatever lemons to throw at me I don't make lemonade out of them but rather

I throw them back right in your face making sure they break your nose. People become over familiar with you whenever you become the bigger person all the time sometimes a little bit of rudeness is sexy especially to people who think they hold the keys to our success.

A kiss on my neck gives me shivers down my spine something else's jumps too.

"Hey sexy" He whispers in my ears.

"Sindi sokhuluma yezwa?"

"Bye sexy and don't do what you just warned me against"

"Hhayi suka" I end the call and fix my eyes at Sidney and the lady besides him.

"Baby... Hello" I say to the lady whose holding my son.

"Greetings you must be the mother?"

"Yes I am."

"That goes without saying I see where the chin comes from.. Boitumelo or jannet or the twin"

I glare at Sidney whose now holding my waist.

"Twin?"

"Yes. I bet he didn't tell you hello ladies" Tumi says I glare at Sidney. He narrows his brows.

"He didn't tell me he was a twin"

"But you know I have a sister babe"

"I know about you having a sister but not a twin"

"Well here I am it's a pity he took all the goods looks and the brain too. Then left me with this such a cruel man!" She gently punches Sidney I smile. Now that she mentioned it they do look alike thing is Kamo is more good looking than the twin sister.

" I love hugs by the way do you mind? " Tumi-

" Pleasure " I embrace Tumi Cebi being a clingy mama's boy he throws himself at me.

"I love your cologne and dressing style. Look babe there's still plenty of time to catch up but for now can we please go dish up I'm starving" Tumi-

"Can I help?" Nomfundo -

"Please" Sidney says still holding me.

"Babe you've already met the talkative aunt whom Cebi took after" Sid-

"I'm not talkative Sid I'm polite right now" Tumi -

"Watch the movie after a couple of drinks" Sid-

"It's a pity I won't get drunk!"

"Re tla bona Sesi Tumi" Sid

"Re tla bona abuti Kamo"

Already I'm certain they always fought and argued throughout their childhood something I never experienced. But I must say hearing them speak vernacular is weird because these beautiful is very far from being black like me and any other black individual. Cebi is even darker than them now you can imagine.

"When is Millicent coming over?" Kedi-

"Why don't you ask her? Im certain cell phones are for communicating isn't it sisi Kedi?" Sidney -

"I guess we will have to get used to having her replacement in our get together events" Pearl-

"Baby let's go dish up I'm starving myself" I say kissing his lips. I won't attend to these watermelons now I'm hungry. Let me charge up first when I'm battery

full they won't know what struck them. We walked away with Cebi talking endlessly.

Sidney

I'm loving how my twin sister is handling Deliwe I wasn't expecting Jeannette to be this calm and collected. Knowing my sister she has always being team "Milly" I really didn't see her coming in for me. As for Pearl i expected it after all they all got attached to each other because of the friendship that we have as the partners but Siphesihle is worrying me I expected that kind of shade coming from Rhudzani after all his the only one who hates nonsense but I was wrong.

We gathered not far away from where we collected Deliwe. The males and I are having drinks and discussing in a light conversation. Lefa being the talkative and active one amongst ourselves goes on with his hilarious and dramatic dating life or should I say one nighting life? Sihle looks at Cebi then myself. He better shut the fuck up because honestly it's gonna get ugly before it gets beautiful.

"Baba what time are we playing games?"

"Tyler we gonna play games later before we go to bed"

"But I want to play them since I don't have friends to play with here"

"How about you use my cell phone instead?"

"I know all your games I want different games"

"How about Ice cream maybe?" He frowns and gives me a look I've never seen before.

"Baba we ate ice cream at the mall you want me to eat it again and risk Deliwe shouting at me?" The gents giggle. I brush my neck.
"Sorry I forgot champ so what do we do to keep Mcebisi afloat?"
"We play soccer all five of us!" Lefa says standing up. Cebi smiles.
"But we drunk" Sihle-
"Speak for yourself Murathu wanga don't include us come here Sidney small and stop clinging on your father boy! " Rhudzani-

He picks him up. The gents walk away with Cebi I glare at Sihle.

"What the fuck is wrong you?"
"Wrong with me?" Sihle-
"Why are you doing all this rubbish?"
"I'm doing nothing Sidney nor am I aware of what you talking about"
"Sphehlehle if you have a problem with me I would suggest you say it right in my face and stop acting like horny bitch you hear me?"
"Actually nginayo inkhanga Kamu"
(Actually I do have a problem Kamo)

"Spit it out now"
"Uyenta kanjani intfo lenje kumuntfu lotsandzane naye minyaka leminyeti? Umfihla kanjani mtfwana for eight good years?"
(How could you do such a thing to a person who've dated for years? How can you hide a child for eight good years?)

"So that's where the problem is? Me keeping my son a secret for years or me ending things with your wife's bestie? "
" Sidney Milly is not taking this break up thing well. Kepha wena ulana playing happy family with your old flame have you forgotten Milly knows so much

about us and our past? Sidney if you do not care about your life mine matters you hear me? "

" So your biggest fear is what we did years ago? Not me moving on? "

" Shall she talk all of us are in trouble the past will come back to bite us. "

" I fear nothing I never did anything wrong! So me fucking her was benefiting you of your freedom? "

" I have children Kamo and a family thats depended on me. One whisper I will go to prison"

"You are a weakling grow some balls and stop using me for your own personal gains. We did nothing"

"Sidney dude!!" Lefa says calling me to play soccer with them. Milly won't use that against me because she knows what happened that night We were just a wrong place at the right time..

Deliwe

"Baby where are you?" The twin sister says on her phone. I just wonder how we gonna sleep because honestly this house has one bedroom.

"So you girls won't ask for our help?" Kedi-

"Do we need to ask maybe?" I say as I'm pouring water in the pap pot.

"I mean where I come from I was taught to get busy when everyone else is getting busy."

"Jumping on people's pots is inappropriate where I come from a woman's kitchen is her private room permission is to be granted" Kedi-

"And where I come from you If your arse is starving you go dish up for yourself or die of hunger."

Tumi says biting on her meat she's been using her mouth as a plate.
Nomfundo giggles.

"Honestly speaking when there's a function and you know you brought your man or a guest helping out is something that you do not need permission on. You follow the other women and do whatever they doing the only place you need permission to enter is someone's cooler box there I can even moer you for opening it without my permission "Tumi-

I burst in laughter.

" You reckon? "

" Believe me mama Tyler you can eat all the paps in the house but don't touch my cooler that box is more like my husband. I don't like sharing yooh!! "Tumi-

" I feel you honestly a cooler is the last thing I want you to invade without asking me" Nomfundo-

"We still waiting for an answer?" Pearl-

"Sweetheart we already done" Tumi says. Indeed Sidney was right about this one she's talkative but I like her though.

"Wait are you ladies expecting?" Tumi-
They roll their eyes.

" I didn't see you honestly I suppose I'm already drunk" Nomfundo and I giggle. Siphesihle walks in he glares at us but mostly Nomfundo then the Pearl woman.

"Can I have water"

"Tap or still?" I ask.

"Still"

"Coming.." I give him a bottle Lefa enters tshirtless. Those abs.

"I love your abs if I wasn't married Lefa I would make you my fuck buddy because I'm certain you not the ringing type"

Lefa giggles after Tumi's statement.

"I know you still have a crush on me" He smirks

"How can we help you?"

"Mama Cebi can I have something to drink be it a beer or tap water or juice or wine whatever it is can I have it. Your son is dribbling us outside it's proof otloba F boy" I laugh no I shouldn't be laughing.

"Such a cute little man you have there" Nomfundo -

"Thank you Fundo" I hand Lefa a bottle. They all walk outside Sidney appears. He walks towards me and embraces me from behind.

"Your son will be the death of me"

"What did he do?"

"His a soccer player pancake His going all Skhwama Sama Italiana on me"

"I didn't know about that"

"You owe me a massage"

"Which one?"

I say facing him.

"I want them both but mostly the other one"

"You want it now or?"

"When do you want to give it to me? Any time is the time"

He says biting on his lip with his forehead touching mine.

"Let's feed you first then the massage"

"Baba woza!!!"

"Damn Cebi" He says between his teeth I giggle and perk his lips. Stupid him gives me a long one so much that Cebi pulls him away. I'm left smiling and having four pairs of eyes glaring at me..

We go chill outside and eat our food. The conversation is flowing by now I'm certain I like the twin sister and Nomfundo but there's something awkward and strange between Siphesihle and Nomfundo keep on glaring at each other. I smell a rat here Sphe is married to one of the melons. Wait unless Nomfu is the PA that I do not wish for my husband to have. I mean most PA's are sister wives and I do not want that for myself. Sidney better not have any she will end up giving my man that the look that I want to be the only giving him. Anyway its none of my business.

Florence

I'm seated on my couch gulping my bottle of wine while wearing a gown. My husband is not home as always I'm listening to the music while buried in thoughts. Shalton needs to stay the hell away from Deliwe Mphazima Now I have a very valid reason for him to stay away. I didn't know the girl he was sneaking into my mother's house was Faith Mphazima. All along I thought it was a randomly girl but little did I know. I gulp the bottle yet again. I make my way to the garden to have a smoke as I'm pacing around playing my thoughts vividly so a hoot comes to the gate. Whatever happened to using buzzers! I open the gate..

Sidney

People are busy drinking outside and making noisemost of them are kaak drunk especially Tumi whose now arguing with her husband. He finally came.

They arguing over alcohol I once told you my sister is expecting so you know what the fuss is all about. I don't know if Deliwe is drunk but she's been laughing and saying hilarious things with the motivation of my twin obviously and Nomfundo the other women are too serious and boring. Maybe it's because they pregnant.

"Sid bring the laaite here" Vernon says. I put Cebi on his lap. I look at Liwe luckily she's looking at me. I walk away in a split second she walks in the bedroom and locks the door. I scoop her up she wraps her legs around my waistline. I go pin her against the wall as we kissing aggressively.

"I've been holding the urge" He says taking off my t-shirt. I slid out her soaky underwear i roll her mini skirt all the way to her tummy. I quickly roll my trunks and pants half way over my knees. I give her a sloppy kisses then stimulate her clitoris. She unbottons her dungaree and have it roll on the floor. I squeeze her boobs in my hands she softly moans.. I shove her one boob inside my mouth and suck hard on her titts. She reaches for my hard penis and rubs it against her dripping wet pussy. She moans at it.

"You dripping wet pancake"

"I know baby"

"I love you fucked up"

"I love you too" I slide my cock inside her vagina I thrust her a bit fast paced. I'm still swollen down there but feasting on her is gradually healing me. I go deeper and deeper with her she holds on tight on my shoulders and helps me bump her.

"Baby!! Ooh! Ohh!! Sidney oh sucks!!"

She resorts to sucking my neck We fuck till we release. She rest her head over my shoulder while I deposit my useless fluids inside her while listening to my throbbing penis. I kiss her forehead.

"You fuck real good"

"And you moan so well"

"I think I love your drunk sex even more"

I chuckle and pull her lower lip.

"With the pace you going you would be pregnant by now"

"I wouldn't mind"

I giggle.

"You need deliverance woman. Let's wrap up and go fetch Cebi. It's cold out there"

"We should get inside the house then"

"Definitely"

I unhook her and help her dress up. I dress up too we make our way outside. Tumi and Vernon are at it again. Deli takes Cebi while I try to calm down the storm.

32

Sidney

"Cebi are you kidding me?"

"I don't want to go"

"You have school tomorrow you need to go Cebi."

"But I want you to come with us back home"

I glare at Deliwe to bail me out of this one.

"Bona Cebi on Friday I'm coming home I promise boy. Don't cry okay?"

He clings on my leg more than he was doing previously. We have attracted a pair of eyes already kids can be something else at times especially in public spaces.

"Cebi hug daddy and kiss him goodbye"

"No."

"Mcebisi we gonna miss our flight stop throwing a tantrum please" Deliwe-

"Baby it's okay let him be"

"I can't Sid already we late by five minutes. We need to go"

"Can't he miss school for tomorrow?"

"No Sid he will get used to being spoilt. We leaving and there's no backing down. You coming on Friday he needs to appreciate that"

"His just a kid babe don't be this hard on him"

"Sid please."

"Baby come on don't be hard on him the kid is struggling with this long distance situation. Just like it is with you."

"Cebi is getting out of hand we need to tame him sooner. His becoming a spoilt brat and I don't like it at all"

I glare at her then pick up Cebi.

I don't want us to fight or argue on our goodbye moment. Cebi is being a kid right now and poor Deli is confusing that with being spoilt or melodramatic. I feel Cebi's pain goodbyes are the hardest. Even if it's for a little time but watching someone vanish into thin air is heart wrenching. Unlike us adults we can't mop about the situation and shed tears like the likes of Cebi. I walk to the nearest canteen with Cebi resting his head on my shoulder a little gesture of care comfort and sympathy lands on his neck.

"Don't cry Tyler I will be home on Friday I promise boy." He sniffs I plant my lips on his shampoo smelling hair. "Want pizza?"

He shakes his head sideways. On a far distance Faith is pacing around. I get Cebi a milkshake and a cap his still not happy but his way calmer than previously.

They call out their flights name on the intercom.

"Baby.."

Deliwe says as I approach. I pull her in for a long passionate filled kissed and hug.

"I love you sweetheart and travel safe"

"We love you too handsome"

"Thank you for popping in I really appreciate it"

"It was worth it."

"Gosh watching you two leave hurts." I say kissing her neck. She blinks. "Let me not delay you I love you okay Cebi?" He nods. I kiss his cheek and walk them to the door heading to their flight station. Deliwe rolls a tear.

"Baby not you too"

"I can't help it. Now I understand what Brandy was on about on her Long distance" song. This distance is killing me Sidney and it's hard to handle. With you is where I would rather be but we are stuck where we are"

"Babe please don't do that"

Her tears betray her now I have two crying babies.

Deliwe

I've always wondered how being in a long distance relationship feels like. Coming from my own personal experience this is the hardest battle ever. People who make it work are really strong honestly I applaud them. Imagine being a stranger to your lover? It's really hard. But as they say "Where there's love there's a way"

"Baby don't cry people are looking at you"

I faintly smile.

I can't help it this guy loves me as complicated chaotic and shaming my past and life is. He chose to see the good in me not after what I had to do to put food on the table. I love him so much because he makes it easier too. I think I'm getting addicted to him.

"Mama they saying we must go in there"

Cebi says pointing at the lady whose probably a security guard if not official.

"We will talk then."

"We will talk babe"

"I love you guys and be safe for my heart's sake. Bye boy"

"Bye daddy."

"Babe don't forget to forward me the documents"

"No problem. Take care"

We share a hug then turn our backs on against each other. The flight back to Gauteng is quicker than i expected

Sponsored

AD

maybe its because thoughts of him kept me entertained throughout the journey. I miss him already. I text my kid sister informing her we are at the airport.

Mphikeleli

"I love how it looks you did well Caro. I couldn't have perfected this. "

"It's nothing major Leli just knowing your color coordination and what blends with that in terms of furniture"

"Thank you so much I don't know how to thank you. The girls are gonna love this"

She glares at me.

"Of course I can picture you swaying your big curves on these titles and cardboards making me a warm and delicious meal" She blushes.

"Like really Carol you really pulled through for me"

"Can we stop being emotional or being poetic. Deliwe and Cebi are coming back today Sindiswa confirmed they sleeping over. We need to cook or something."

I glare at her and smile.

This woman is a wife material there's something about Caro that I can't seem to understand nor describe. There's this uniqueness aspect of her that's very natural and soothing.

" I don't like that look Mphazima "

" What look?"

"Dumplings and beef stew or samp with salads?"

"You"

"Excuse me?"

"Can't you add yourself on the list or better yet spend the night over. I mean you bought the bedding trying it out won't hurt"

"Leli!" She giggles and walks towards the cardboards.

"Make yourself useful and go get groceries"

"I don't drive"

"I guess my car is a decoration Leli"

"I can't do shopping only a beautiful lady is capable of doing that. It's a pity I'm a handsome gentleman not a beautiful lady" She giggles.

"I can't believe that tongue once made my knees weak and all wobbly. You are a sweet talker Mphazima"

"I guess it's natural. So is that a yes?"

"I need to take off this pinifer first"

"You look good let's go"

"You don't want men glaring at my assets not that I don't look good in pinifers"

I chuckle.

"Let's go and guess what? We will pass by your house to collect your toiletry bag"

"Leli.. The girls and grandson will be here. I can't allow kids to hear us"

"You won't be loud of course"

"Gosh!" She rolls her eyes and walks outside. We get in the car I spot a strange car just outside our gate.

"You good?"

"Whose car is that?"

"I don't know why are you asking?"

"Nothing"

"Leli come on Yini?"

"That car is strange and dodgy."

"Don't get ideas of going back to your old ways Mphikeleli. You are a father now and a grandfather at it"

She looks at me.

"Mphazima I don't want to go back to that hole"

I look at her. I can't act all girlish and ignore such pointers. I once was a criminal I know a dodgy and dangerous thing from afar. Someone is playing

detective and I will give them what they want. I'm a father to girls and it's my duty to protect them from creeps like this one.

Shopping with Caro is good and fun. We get everything we need and a couple of things for Cebi. She even buys alcohol "Bottles of wine" To be quite frank. She swipes afterwards she's always been the kind of person who doesn't see disgrace or shame on spending her own money instead of that of a man. That too contributed to me loving her.

Sidney

She forgot her G-string but knowing women she probably did it intentionally to mark her territory. I've experienced a lot of these with Milly talking of her I'm glad she got the message through her friends. My sister is making whatever she's making in the kitchen. She's still here and Vernon is crashing at some hotel that's how their relationship is draining. I grab the peeled carrot.

"Hey pretty face"

"Hey daddy face"

I glare at her and sit on the table counter biting her carrot.

"What are we making?"

"Food"

"Duh I see that but what kind of a meal? It's Sunday I could use a served in colors meal"

"I'm not your girlfriend Sidney"

"But you are my sister one that I love so deeply"

"Vernon is cheating on me"

"Excuse me? That nerd?"

"Tell me about it"

"Vernon and cheating? Those two do not mix"

"The so called girlfriend is pregnant we are two weeks apart. Can you imagine?"

"I'm sorry leave his arse"

"Are you crazy?"

"But he cheated"

"With all the men fucking each other in south Africa you think I will get me a boyfriend after ending things with him?"

"Then what's the way forward?"

"Killing the pregnant bitch"

I wish she was joking.

"No way Jannet"

"Yes way Kamu. It's not any chick but his ex girlfriend."

"Which one?"

"The one I once slapped in varsity"

I giggle.

"It's not funny Sid I want her six feet under. "

"Start with Vernon"

She glares at me and rolls her eyes.

"Thank you for being helpful"

"I know you can handle Vernon and his mess."

She glares at me.

"You seem bothered by something. Missing them already?"

"That too but there's more"

"What more?"

"Remember the girl incident?"

"Yeah. What about it?"

"Sphe thinks Millicent might use that against us just to settle a score"

"The bitch wanted to die it was nobody's fault that she died"

"Tumi you do not get it don't you?"

"Get what Kamo? You had nothing to do with her death"

I heave a sigh.

"Remember when they said there's nothing like a furry of a scorned woman?"

Milly might use this to hurt me for keeping Cebi a secret"

"She must go fuck herself or I will fuck her up. She ain't shit after all."

She looks at me. "Stay the hell away from that bitch Sidney. Don't entertain her but your current girlfriend. What happened years ago has got nothing to do with you and the boys. I guess it was her fate."

"Let me get to work then"

"Do you still have Sibusiso Langa's contacts?"

"Yeah why asking?"

"I want him to send thunder to this pregnant girl after all guy does things that no human being can do"

I giggle.

"You sick in the head."

I walk to my bedroom and glare at my laptop. She sent the documents let me forward them to my cousin immediately. Whatever Milly does with the information she thinks she knows I'm afraid I will silence her for a little while. I still have that in me.

33

Deliwe

We drove to my house firstly wait I think I love how I refer to his house as "My house" Mmmm the Entitlement. We managed to get few clothes for a week I will be staying home for a little while. Since I will be starting with my driving lessons and my computer skills course as of tomorrow. I need my father to mind Cebi after school hence me going home. I will go to the other house when daddy is home or when I need privacy.

"He has taste Liwe"

"I know right?"

"Does he have siblings?"

"A twin sister yes"

She rolls her eyes. "There's Lefa though" I taste waters she blushes and activates the "Tell me more" demeanor.

"I'm joking Sindi. No fuck boy is sharpening his thrusting skill on my baby sister."

"Kodwa Liwe"

"No sindi stick to your boyfriend"

"Kodwa Liwe I also want to speak not ukukhuluma" I crack up in laughter and reach for Cebi's bag.

"Ncane do you know a bouncy bed?" Cebi-

"What kind of a bed is that Cebi?" Sindi-

Why am I not comfortable with this conversation? Maybe I'm looking too deep into it. Pack Deliwe maybe there is a bed like that one. After all Cebi knows trendy things unlike you mommy - granny.

"My father has a bouncy bed"

"Hhayi Cebi what bed is that? Deli please explain"

I blink endlessly.

"I was bumping yesterday and this morning" Cebi-

"Cebi don't you want ice cream?" I say to protect my arse Sindiswa laughs.

"On what directions where you bumping Cebi"

Little devil. My son is embarrassing me right now.

"I slept peacefully though the bed had magic" Sindiswa laughs even more.

Cebi walks out.

"His lying there's no such thing"

"He was referring to a water bed Liwe" She giggles.

"Next time take it to the floor. Cebi can't be bouncing for the whole night and morning in bed that's a no no mama"

"Wait whose the big sister here?"

"I am"

"Great one Sindiswa"

Adult devil laughs. We drive to the house we are met by a beautiful aroma.

"It smells good in here!" I say salivating already.

I'm choosing to ignore the memories I've had in this house. They not beautiful ones I must say especially the last ones.

"Greetings Khulu and Aunty" Cebi-

"Greetings khehla come give me a hug" Carol-

Cebi walks to her She embraces him. Then me lastly Sindiswa.

"Bokayise" Dad says walking towards us. He gives us hugs and then scoops Mkhulumi.

"Mmmm that smile baba" Sindiswa -

"What about my smile?" Dad-

"It's beautiful and inviting" I add.

"The couches are this side" Carol-

We look at each other then make our way to the sitting room.

"Wow!" We say in Unison.

"I love this baba you have a good taste in colors and furniture" I say-

"I love this house the dinning area is my favorite" Sindi-

"It's a pity I have nothing to do with this ladies. I only swept and spoke till the work was done by your mother obviously"

Mama Caro glares at us.

"So mom was here throught out the weekend?" Sindi-

I told her. "Yes."

"We were cleaning up the place" Mama Caro adds. "This was a very good cleaning you did" I add. My father looks at me. "How's your boyfriend doing?" "His doing fine baba thanks for asking." "I see.. Anyway let's go room picking" Dad- "The big one is mine" I say - "Not that I care I'm a lazy bone. A small one is mine. After all Liwe needs a bigger one because I'm certain Cebi will have a sibling or two soon" The eyes I get.

"You pregnant faith?" Dad- "No.. Geez baba!" I roll my eyes recalling my sad reality of Sidney not going to give me kids in future. I wish my baby sister didn't remind me of the truth I've been avoiding all weekend long.

"Better that way" Dad- "Stop ambushing Deliwe and go room picking" Caro- "Where is gogo and mamkhulu Jabu?" Cebi- "They no longer staying here Cebi" I say. "Why?" "They found a new place" I say. "The house is much more nicer than it was when gogo was staying here. She was making the house dirty with her brown used up tissues" They all giggle.

We look into our rooms I love mine more. This is the room that used to belong to Jabu it's very much spacious and has a beautiful view. Sindiswa took the one I once was using. I love this place. Dinner is beautiful the meal is delicious too. Mama Caro leaves the house saying she has things to do in her house my father walks her out or maybe drives with her these oldies have been naughty throughout the weekend.

"What is happening with these two?" Sindi-

"Isn't it obvious?"

"The thought of them babying each other makes me wanna puke"

"Stop being dramatic Sindi they not that old"

"They heading to 50 Liwe"

"They won't make babies if that's your biggest fear." She giggles and wipes the table.

"I'm so tired hey. Ngapha I still have some uniform ironing to do." Blame it on the bouncing bed dude kept on coming in and out on my sacred places last night and this morning.

"Don't sweat about it I will get to it."

"It doesn't end there"

"I'm very much aware Liwe. There's ironing lunchbox to be made. Checking his school bag and polishing his school shoes. I got it mommy!"

I glare at her with a smile.

"Thank you sweetheart."

"Pleasure"

"Pecks of having umancane.."

"And guess what I'm killing this Mamncane role."

I giggle.

I once heard Vuyi saying oMamncane spoil kids rotten and right now Sindiswa is a living proof of that.

"Another thing tomorrow I don't have a class meaning I will drop him off at school and pick him up"

"Where were you all these years? God knows I've been yearning for this love and support you showering me with." I say pulling her in a tight squeeze hug.

"You suffocating me!"

"Hhayi suka!" I let her loose.

"I love the whole idea of having a big sister and a handsome little nephew not forgetting my cool father. It's a high. To think I was this close to doing drugs and nyaope blame it on the toxicity that came with Anthony. I nearly resorted to bullshit denying myself this great opportunity. "

"I guess there's a lesson in pain or any sort of anxiety. I mean some of the things that are happening in my life currently are things I've never pictured myself doing or having. I never saw a life where Cebi had a loving aunt like yourself a grandfather like dad and now a grandmother like your mom.

Throughout my life I thought where I was and the things I was going through was the only place I'll ever be but I was wrong. I have a beautiful and sweet family and a good partner by my side Like izinto zihamba ngolayini"

"Indeed zihamba ngolayini. If I had known better I would think a God is behind everything and anything that's happening in our lives. I'm going to church next week just to say thank you lord. "

We giggle.

"I guess God does listen after all and our tears are never vanity"

"Preach sister!"

My cell phone rings.

"Now the call I've been yearning for"

"See you tomorrow mommy cos I know you won't be ending that call now. "

She shouts as I walk to my bedroom. I throw myself on the bed and cross my legs while staring into blank air space.

"Hello"

"What happened to babe?"

I blush. "I wasn't aware it was you calling"

"So you take calls without looking at the caller ID pancake?"

"My heart and mind told me it was you calling babe"

"You just said you didn't know it was me calling"

"I didn't say that" He giggles.

"And why did we leave our G-string behind? Are you trying to scare off my whores mommy?"

"Next time I will forget my vagina I will make sure I plug it on the entrance door." He giggles.

"That's yucky and nasty too"

"Why would you bring whores in our house? "

"To keep me entertained or warmed up on freezing days. "

"Sidney don't annoy me please"

"Are we getting jealous?"

"Not in a million years"

He laughs. Cebi walks in rubbing his eyes.

"Mama can I have my toothbrush"

"Baby can I attend to Cebi"

"Definitely"

"Why are you rubbing your eyes? Have you been crying Cebi?"

"Mamncane refuses to give me ice cream"

"It's late Cebi you know we don't eat sugary things after six pm"

He looks at me. This boy is turning into a cry baby and it's exasperating honestly.

"Here is your toothbrush"

"Thank you mama"

"Stop crying yezwa? You will have more ice cream tomorrow after school"

He nods and walks out. I heave a sigh.

Sidney

"Your little man is becoming the child I hated growing up."

I chuckle.

"Leave Cebi alone nawe you cry mosi"

"Baby honestly speaking Cebi is turning into this annoying child who thinks crying and sulking will make his life much more easier and less complicated "

"I've noticed that as well. But we mustn't punish the little boy but rather let him be a kid"

"I'm thinking of sending him away"

"Where? "

"Obviously kuwe and besides next year I'm going back to school."

"I want to change his school I don't like that school"

"Registration applications resume in September"

"I know sweetheart.. I was thinking of a private school somewhere in sandton or randburg"

"Isn't that far though? Can't you find something nearby?"

"We will go school searching soon I will be home for the next coming months"

"That's beautiful then." I had to cancel certain contracts I will be home for the next coming months"

"That's beautiful then." I had to cancel certain contracts I've seen how broken they were so I owe them at least a month together. "So where do you want to stay next year?"

"Off campus"

"You going to wits or"

"Not yet sure where they approve me first that's where I will go"

"It better not be somewhere far away"

"I wouldn't cope being miles away from my son. Yes his troublesome but his still my buttercup"

"I see.." I say resting my head on the pillow staring into blank airspace.

"Baby"

"Mmmm."

"Ehm I don't think we gonna spend time together this weekend"

"Reason being?"

"The ceremony is taking place over the weekend.. I'm going to Kzn"

"Oh! No problem babe."

"I miss you"

"And I love you"

Carol

Time flies honestly. As we speak I'm busy pacing around on the Mphazima compound in Kwanondlovu village that's situated in Mahlabathini. I'm busy mixing ingredients to brew the African beer. Yesterday I was forced to clean the parents house which was not in a good condition. It's pretty obvious no one has been staying here since their death. You should've seen the dust that was on their portraits I've been sneezing endlessly trying to clean off the dirt. At least now it looks good. Leli and I were forced to go furniture shopping in town the furniture that was in here was very not pleasant especially the beds. As the woman Leli came with I had to give this place at little woman feel as exhausting as it is.

Leli appears wearing a sun hat boots and blue overalls. There are three grown men with him. I stop rinsing off the wooden spoon I'm holding.

"Greetings Makoti" The elders say as they step in the yard.

"Greetings elders" I say with a tone that I never use on Leli this tone carries respect. Leli stands in front of me.

"I'm tired"

"Did you manage to get the goats though?"

"Yes but they not fat as I wanted them to be if I were to compare them to Jean size I would say they are a size 32 and I wanted size 36 upwards" I giggle.

"They model goats?"

"Tell me about it.. How is it going this side?"

"All is going well I can't complain"

"You need rest though the girls are on their way to aid you with everything"

"I would really appreciate that help cos I'm tired. I've been working my butt off since yesterday"

"I'm sorry maNdlangamandla" He kisses my neck.

"Let me give the elders drinks who are they?"

"My uncles"

"Why were they not minding your parents compound though?"

"Bad blood it was my love. I will help you with the drinks"

"Thank you Leli" He holds my waist and walks me to the kitchen. I dish up for them a basin of water follows.

"Let's get married next month"

That comes as a whisper in my ears.

"Huh?"

"Will you marry me Carol?"

I glare at him.

"You can think about it I will patiently wait. " He kisses my neck again and walks away. There's nothing to think about I'm marrying him without a doubt but first we need to disclose our relationship to the girls. Talking of them Leli's phone rings I pick up.

"Baba where do we turn from the Mavundla tuck shop?"

"Turn right the third homestead is where you coming"

"Okay ma" Deliwe says..

Mphikeleli

"Why did you come now Mphikeleli?" Uncle-

"I had things to do back in Joburg"

"Do you see how ugly your parents compound is? Those houses are falling but you saying you were busy in joburg?" Uncle 2-

I glare at him.

"So are you gonna be able to heed the ceremony malume?"

"We have no choice we are all that you have"

"I'm getting married next month I need your help on that as well"

They glare at each other.

For some weird reasons I'm taken back to the years when my father and mother were both alive. These people mocked them and turned them into laughing stocks. Given they were not gifted on the luck part of having money. My mother was a domestic worker and my father a gardener. They never had the power and strength to build a simple three room house in here but rather the stick and mud houses and later a rondavel that Carol and myself have been occupying since we got here.

Them having an RDP house back in Soweto meant a serious achievement for them. We moved from Nondlovu to Soweto by the time only my father was in Soweto at fifteen when we moved to Soweto Jabu was a couple of years older than I was. These uncles of mine had money their houses were beautifully built mind you they were younger than my father they mocked him using that "They left home saying they going to the big city to sought for greener pastures but they came back with nothing but torn pockets and we villagers had to contribute our cents for them to buy Christmas food then return to their miserable shack lives" Thats what they would say to my father hence when I got to Soweto.

I wanted to proof them wrong about my father being a failure hence I started befriending the likes of Anthony and few other people. I got introduced to crime but I kept on studying and matriculated with beautiful results. First crime money I bought groceries and a proper bed for my mother and father even though they were against me providing at such a tender age. Years later I bought better looking furniture. At twenty I met Deliwe's mother we fucked and she fell pregnant. Finding out she was expecting my child I started doing serious crimes my mother died a few months later then my father the following year.

Jabu went to marry herself off. I continued doing crime the aim was to make this place a better place unfortunately Deliwe was born her mother dumped her off on my door step forcing me to father her. Then boom my arrest. But before my arrest I drove to this place in the wee hours. I knew a week wasn't gonna pass by without cops coming for me. So I hid a lot of money here I left some to my sister. The day I was arrested I remember how Deliwe cried on that day she was restless since morning I stayed indoors for the whole day making sure she remembered my heart beat if not me. Caro on the other hand came in during the day saying she wanted to talk to me but we were not on good speaking terms so we ended up fighting she cursed and left teary. That day was the reason I lost both my women and a chance to turning my parents compound into a home.

"You want to get married while your parents houses are this embarrassing Mphikeleli?"

"I will fix that njena"

"Before you get married fix this nonsense"

I glare at him. I see chicken curry with pap and spinach drives him to next nonsensical pit.

"I will fix this nonsense when I want too at my own time."

"We are your elders Mphikeleli you don't use that tone on us"

"If this nonsense was total nonsense why didn't you fix it? I mean it's your home too"

"This boy is still disrespectful I won't stand this rubbish"

My rudest uncle whose a taxi owner says standing up.

"Mphazima you need us stop using this tone it's not gonna take you anywhere"

Sindiswa's car drives in.

"Excuse me"

I stand up they annoying me. I shouldn't have called them to assist me on this ceremony.

34

Deliwe

This place is far I've never traveled such a mileage. My feet are killing me I can't even feel my buttocks. We've been at it. Thank God we finally here but I must say this place doesn't look good. I see weird and ugly houses. The only beautiful thing about this place is the size of this compound. This single compound would accommodate and provide shelter to 13 plus people had it been situated in Soweto. That's how space is a foreign and scarcity thing in the big apple of South Africa. I think people who are staying in villages are highly blessed than us who reside in the busy city. I mean this place might be ugly and quiet but believe me it's heavenly. Everything that surrounds you you certain it's yours unlike in Soweto. I wouldn't mind building myself a three room house here so I can make it little lesser ugly looking. Don't get me wrong the are few houses I've passed and spotted how beautiful and ravishing they were only this compound is meh.

Father opens the door for us I spot mama Caro wearing those pinifers outfit with a doek and flip flops. Sindiswa laughed so loudly saying her mother looks so much like a "Kzn wife material" I added by saying "Only calamine or red clay is missing to perfect the look not forgetting those stripped heavy winter goalies black socks" we definitely not going to heaven for this one.

"Girls" He says embracing the last born. I love their bond honestly Sindiswa is that sibling that most people refer to as being a pain in the neck. She sulks quite a lot in the presence of dad she even clings on him like a little baby. Not that I'm jealous that act is suffocating Cebi is a living proof of that.

"I missed you baba" Sindi-

"I missed you too my angel.. Faith how are you my flower?"

"I can't feel my legs and buttocks. What is this place baba? Khuvukiland?"

They laugh.

"This is kwaNondlovu village Mkhulumini how are you?"

"I'm tired Khulu"

"Sorry my boy go greet your mother and those oldies under a shade. "

He points at a far distance we spot two men.

Mama Carol showers us with hugs we are given food within seconds of arriving she's rocking this wife role.

"Why are you wearing trousers?" Elder-

"Because we love them" My thoughts shoots to my mouth.

"Women don't wear trousers unless you have a pair of balls"

Sindiswa laughs.

"It's not funny young lady. "

"Well it is Khulu" Sindiswa says still laughing. I think I want to call my man and ignore these oldies.

Sidney

It's a family norm to gather around together in celebrating Marcus Father's birthday. As I'm talking we all here Shalton included. After Deliwe's departure with Cebi I had no choice but to come here.

"Oupa I got you a gift" Shalton

"And what is that?"

"A Maserati" I choke on my drink they all glare at me. Let's be honest who buys a 70 something a sports car? This dick head is stupid honestly forgive me.

"Excuse me" I say so can continue to utter nonsense.

"Like I was saying Oupa it's red in color" Shalton-

"We trying to kill my father Shaltee I see" Dad-

"Who buys a 70 something a sport car Shalton let's be honest here?" I say.

"People who have money and more of it." Shalton-

"You meant people with a pituitary gland that is blocked and not functioning well right?" I say glaring at him.

"Excuse you Sidney?"

"Excuse your slow or jammed reasoning skill. Oupa is too old for a sports car you could've bought him anything else but not a Maserati"

"And what did you buy him since yours is functioning well huh Sidney?"

Shalton-

"Thats not your meal to cook"

"Sidney and Shalton can you two stop it already" Dad-

"No problem" Shalton glares at me with his nose growing gradually in anger.

"Excuse me" He says leaving the table. My mother glares at me. "Oupa I got you a little something I'm certain you will love it" He smiles. "And what is that Ras?" I giggle.

"It won't be gift if I describe it"

"I'm certain whatever it is it's something a king would hold so dearly to their hearts"

Dad looks at me I prefer my grandfather over him and the " Ras "name it's a nickname that my grandfather gave me after they found out about father's and their domestic worker's daughter's little lie and secret of having impregnated

each other and the dog doing life elsewhere with no care about the kids he made. My name means "A Duke or a leader" it's actually a Spanish name..

"You gonna love it just like you love your wife"

They giggle. "You such a charmer Ras" My ouma says with a smile on her face they so grown. Anytime from now we might bake scones and serve salads bidding them farewell.

Shalton appears with Milly and her parents following behind them. Tumi glares at me.

"Greetings everyone I hope we not late" Milly's mom says kissing my grandmother and grandfather's cheeks.

"Happy birthday Mr Matthews senior." Mama Milly -

"I got you this I hope you gonna love it" Milly hands my grandfather a gift she walks to sit besides me. She kisses my cheek. "Hello stranger"

I glare on her and sip from my glass.

"You look good as always"

"Thanks."

We eat with laughter here and there I excuse myself to go smoke.

"I thought you were bringing her over"

I look behind me. There she is wearing a knee length dress.

"Bring who over?"

"Duh! My replacement"

"Nothing was replaced I just found something new"

I puff. "But still. I thought she was gonna get the Matthews privileges. I mean the showing up on important events and galas opportunities. "

"Millicent what do you want?"

"Nothing I'm just trying to clear up the air."

"Why are you here?"

"I was invited you and I might be done and out but our families are still conjoined"

"Soon my girlfriend will be coming to such events I would really appreciate if you could stay in your lane"

"And what lane is that? Already I heard she was in Mpumalanga with the kid playing Mrs supreme. "

I glare at her. "She's my girl after all"

"I'm still concerned about the kid Sidney"

"Milicent stick your nose out of my business please."

"Are you sure the baby is yours though? I mean you are a Mattews any township trash would do anything to have you eating from their palms. You are a Mattews meaning you screaming out I have money and I'm wealthy. I'm just saying be careful"

I glare at her.

"I will keep that in mind"

"She might be another Portia your one night stand who wanted more than she was"

"Milly we done talking"

"Be careful Kamo."

I throw my cigarette butt on the floor and stomp on it. I walk away. Walking past Shalton.

"Kamo"

"What?"

"Was that necessary for you to embarrass me in front of everyone?"

"There was no offense on my statement"

"When will your jealousy ever end Kamohelo?"

"Jealous? What jealous?"

"Is it because I married your crush and gave her two kids? "

"I careless about who you fucking and not fucking. It's not like it's me you fuck Shalton"

"You've always had a problem with me since at 17"

"Dude I'm not here to entertain your arse nor to change your diapers you have Florence for that and Marcus."

I attempt to walk away.

"So you cum water?" He says glaring at me.

"Excuse me?"

"You heard me dude. You shoot blanks? You can't make a woman miss her periods for nine months in short you are infertile?" He giggles.

"What did you call me?"

"Impoverished and hardscrabbled"

A punch lands across his face. He throws one at me I return more punches so much that he slips and falls on the ground. Making it more easier for me to punch him even more. Women starts screaming attracting eyes on us.

"Call me that shit again!" Strong hands pull me away from Shalton. My fists are bloody.

"Kamohelo stop!!"

"Let go of me!!" I say.

"What is wrong with this boy?" Florence -

"Sidney what rubbish is this? You wanna kill your brother?" Marcus-

"I see childhood trauma is getting a better of you!!" Florence says trying to help Shalton up.

"Childhood trauma that you contributed too. " My mother says.

"Don't interfere Zelda! Im gonna get this thing of yours arrested!" Florence -.

"Thats the day you will understand why I'm from Limpopo I dare you to bring it on" Mom says.. I yank myself from my father's grip. "Are you Okay?" Milly says holding my arm I roughly push her aside and storm to my bedroom. I lock the door and start throwing things on the floor while at it. I get a hold of my gun that I once used on a family member. I close my eyes and try to calm myself down. My cell phone rings. I pick up.

"Hello daddy" A hard lump on my throat makes it hard to talk I just gave his biological father a beating one that might take him to ICU. "Boy" I say with a trembling voice with a tear escaping my eyelid.

"I see goats and scary animals around here. "

I chuckle while my heart is bleeding profusely on my sleeve.

"Sidney open the door"

"Tumi go away!"

"Kamo open the damn door!!"

I heave a sigh "Boy let's talk later."

"I love you daddy wami"

"Me too." I end the call and open the door..

"What the heck was that Kamohelo?".

"He asked for it" I say moving from the door heading to my bed.

"You still have that?"

I glare at her she's talking about the gun.

"Kamo the agreement was for you to burn it! What if cops walk in right now and they find that what then? Have you forgotten what we did with that gun?"

"I'm very much aware and I think I'm gonna use it again"

"Wanyela! Give it here!"

"Not a chance"

"Kamohelo give that gun! You can't kill again! Not Shalton at it."

I glare at her and hand her the gun.. We sit in total silence.

"What did he do or say?"

"It's not important"

"He might die you moered the guy"

"His a deadbeat after all"

"Kamo stop letting him get under your skin. Have you forgotten your pain is my pain? We share a heart dude stop fighting demeaning battles you draining me!"

"I'm sorry I just couldn't help it"

"I'm feeling hollowed right now. Don't entertain him please"

"I'm sorry" She pulls me in for a hug my pain subsides little by little. I could use Deliwe's fragrance right now.

Mphikeleli

The girls and Caro are busy with whatever peeling they doing inside the house. Cebi and myself and one uncle of mine we busy in the kraal. The others left saying they had important things to do and that they would attend to us later not that I care. The present one is Kusile Mphazima his two years older than me. His married and has six children.

"Do you know our clan names Mphikeleli?"

"I will Google them. But I knew a few of them. "

"Google fabricates clans at times. Some families have their own clans that even Google knows nothing about"

I glare at him.

"Don't worry I will attend to it"

"Thank you."

"You have a beautiful wife and children."

"I tried"

"And this boy too. Is he white?"

"I believe so"

"Great"

He fastens the goat with a rope. Cebi glares at us then the goat. I know he wants to talk we continue getting handy.

"Khulu why is the goat tied with on a rope?"

"We gonna slaughter it Cebi. "

"What did it do to for you to slaughter it?"

"Nothing. "

"Then why are you planning on slaughtering it and arresting it like it's a criminal if it did nothing?" I giggle

"We gonna eat it tomorrow as a celebration feast and you gonna wear it's skin as a wrists band. "

"Poor goat. Not only are you arresting it and slaughtering it but you gonna eat it and use its skin as a wristband"

Kusile giggles.

"Uzwela imnyama Cebi?" (Feeling pity for meat?) he says still showing some teeth.

"It's not fair on the goat Khulu surely it's mother is gonna cry and struggle to eat nor sleep for days after realizing you slaughtered its child."

Kusile laughs but I find this a bit emotional. No parent deserves to lose their child to death but sadly this meat is our food.

"Cebi can we not guilt trap each other please. "

"But Khulu its wrong to kill an animal. How would you feel if someone did this to you or to Mamncane or my mother? Would you be happy? "

"Nkosiyami! Deliwe!!!!" I call for his mother I need some saving from this conversation I can't honestly.

"Go to your mother in the kitchen Cebi"

"I wanna see the goat die "

"You gonna cry because it's gonna cry too"

"I want to see it Khulu"

"Nkosiyami ngiyalingwa" I say huffing.

"Cebi boy come woza to hold for baming the goat" Kusile-

Cebi laughs. "You should've said woza uzobamba imbuzi Khulu"

He says walking to Kusile such a smart boy.

"Kanti uyamazi umageba?"
(You know Isizulu?)
"Umama ungifundisile"
(My mother taught me)
"Kuhle mzikulu woza uzobamba"

I glare at them Carol stands outside the kraal with beers.

"I bought you drinks to wet your throats"
"Siyabonga makoti" Kusile.
"Siyabonga sthandwa" She smiles.
"Gogo are you gonna eat the goat too?"
"Yes Cebi"
"It's gonna cry in your stomach"
"Hhaibo Mcebisi" She giggles.
"I will bring you a drink too young man"
"I will drink beer with the elders my father won't know and my mother too. I'm a Zulu man and Zulu men drink beer" We all look at each other. "In your candy dreams Tyler" Deliwe says.
"I'm gonna tell your father"
The begging resumes. Such a beautiful view to watch. My cell phone vibrates I take it out to check the reason behind it. It's a friend request I check the pictures. Guess what the cat dragged in? "Deliwe's mother"

35

Tumi(Janet)

Kamo and myself had a very rough upbringing. We did a whole lot of shitty things in our previous life. By "Whole lot of shitty things" I mean just that. Finding our father never stopped us from doing things that gave us adrenaline rush. We did everything dangerous from small crimes as pickpocketing to selling drugs and hijacking. We never relied on anyone else for shit that had to do with us or our personal things such as fees and varsity accommodation especially me who never got lucky with getting a bursary. So we had to kick asses for things.

Kamo and myself share a lot in common from small habits to big habits. If I were to narrate our past two decades would go by without me wrapping me the narration. About the gun. He used it on our mother's cousin that dick head deserved to die after all the shit he put us through he deserved it. We don't regret our act till this day. We just grateful to him for getting himself kaak drunk on that night making it easier for us to kill him and having people believe he was killed somewhere in a tavern over alcohol disputes or querrals he was an alcoholic an abusive piece of shit. I won't dwell much on him but rather who I am apart from me being a "Twinnie"

Tumi works at suncity correctional services of course it's not something I went to varsity to study for but rather something I got through connections mainly for my side business purposes.

I am a mother to a beautiful baby girl Kaone and a wife to my cheating bastard nerd husband. Well I'm also that "Phuma silwe" kind of a girl believe me I can fight a whole community of Elderado coloreds all by myself and come out from the battlefield with no single scratch. I'm talkative too and I do not tolerate nonsense apart from that of my husband's cheating.

You can't blame me though it's hard to find a man who makes you squirts in South Africa mostly because most of them are licking other men's balls and starving themselves over heartbreaks left by another man. I'm not

homophobic don't get me wrong but I'm talking on behalf all the women who are struggling to find their soul mate or who are single and searching with no luck due to them babying other men other than them. Don't mind me I talk quite a lot shit included.

"Tumi"

Milly says glaring at me with a smile on her face as I'm getting ready to hop in my Mercedes-Benz.

"Milly"

"Leaving already? Without me complimenting your dress? "

This bitch wants to discuss my twin and I'm so not having it I have Shalton to deal with. Don't get me wrong All my brother's girlie i refer to them as bitches but obviously bitches differ by class. We have escorts prostitutes only fans and porn stars so yeah. Deliwie is also my twinnies bitch but her sense of humor is my favorite not forgetting my cute little fella oh a nephew. I like that bitch for these two reasons. As for Milly I loved the naughtiness in her and how she matched my drinking appetite we would drink all weekend long and show up to work the following morning.

"I heard you were also in Mpumalanga with the new replacement" I slightly raise my brow.

"Tumi I thought you liked me and that we were best of friends"

I roll my eyes and heave a silent sigh.

"It's wrong of you to be buddies with the new girl and the illegitimate son.

Deep down you know that kid isn't Sidney's. "

"Hold up Milly. No offense but you do not decide on what Tumi should do and not do or whom she can smile with and be grumpy with. Kamo is my twin brother whatever he likes I like. I don't get to decide on whom he should fuck and not fuck unless I want to be the one his fucking. "

"We used to borrow each other shoes and clothes Tumi what changed? New pussy? "

I sip from my glass and move my finger around its top while glaring on Millicent I would be sucking dick by now.

" Back then you used to beg us to mend things whenever we fought and got inches closer to ending things but now this? Like really Tumi?. I feel like it's a huge stab on the back Tumi especially coming from you. "

"Sweetheart let me narrate a little story called life shit. So this story is simple out of sight out of mind."

"Excuse me?"

" Bona.. When a relationship ends the family and mutual friends owe you no shit nor any loyalty. Never ever make a mistake of thinking your boyfriends family has your back same applies with his friends. Where their friend is fucking they will go there to host a weekend chillas and eat food prepared by the new girl over a soccer match and drinks not forgetting the complements they will shower to the new girl "His adding a few pounds and glowing thank you ma'am" Kind of shit. Your biggest mistake Milly was thinking we have your backs and in this shitty cruel world you have your own back nobody else's. Like I said Milly "Out of sight out of mind" "

She glares at me with her lips pressed against each other. I attempt to walk away then remember something.

" Piece of advice the nigga is happy and content wherever he is. You should be moving on as well Milly stop entertaining hearsays and rumors. They gonna fuck up your life Cheers! "

She blinks endlessly then gulps her drink.
These girls they really think in laws got their backs? What a candy store dream they have. Shit is real out here. I leave Hyde Park suburbs and drive to the hospital where Shalton is.

Deliwe

Today is Saturday and we having the ceremony thingy. A few family members are here more like the relatives who wants to flaunt their big fat ass rings and car keys if not designer clothes. Especially the uncles who are wearing Brentwood and Fabian t-shirts not forgetting that brown hat that "Ndlovu" from Isibaya used to wear.

The few cousins have been giving Sindiswa and myself ugly stares I guess our confidence and beauty makes them gloomy. They haven't greeted us since they got here they just pop their eyes like a cock just slammed their walls and broke their virginity. Mphikeleli's daughters do not care as for me i only care my boyfriend being bored wherever he is without me to keep him company.

"Look at them namagumgedlela" I crack up in laughter as Sindiswa whispers in my ears. "Kid I'm planning to going to heaven when I die"
"Your cousins annoy me especially that one whose been staring at that tablet. Her nail polished is even cracked yet she's acting like Mrs Carter"
I laugh again. "Sindiswa please.. Do we still have our little hols?"

"Yeah need some?"

"Please I want to be out of hand after sipping in some hols. "

"Don't be out of hand to an extent of you sucking these oldies foreskins"

"Eew!!"

She sticks her tongue out showing off her tongue ring I roll my eye.

Mama Carol walks towards us such a beautiful woman.

"Can I have whatever you've been drinking since yesterday. These clay women annoy me. They so rude they giving me ugly stares and slay comments thinking I don't know Isizulu. Mind you they were gossiping about me. God knows I will Baptiste them with thunder on their cheeks" We burst in laughter. Sindiswa disappears and shows up with three red plastic cups with smirnoff pine twist I'm not sure if it's a cider or what but only Mrs bossy here knows what it is.

"They annoy me too ma." I say.

"I want to see myself gone before I roll these skirts up making them crop skirts. So I can show them a ghetto woman's thighs!!" Caro-

"Phuza wena mama mina ngibawela lo ogcoke amagumgedlela" Sindiswa-

(As for me mama I fancy that one whose wearing amagumgedlela)

Not to confuse you "Amagumgedlela" are those shoes flip flops with a huge sole known as "Frankenflops/platform shoes" growing up they use to have that "Hello kitty" label with a pink cat if not mistaken.

"And ungamshaya sisi" Mama adds on Sindiswa's statement I can't help but to laugh.

"Can we not fight not today please" I say.

"They judging us because of these stick and mud houses like we've been staying here for years. " Sindiswa -

"Don't worry my baby soon you will start working and build yourself a decent house same applies to you Deli. You gonna prove them wrong in time. Claim your home with pride that alone will be a huge slap across their faces. As they expect you to be embarrassed and all bowed head. . " Caro-

I smile at her such a darling. My father appears with Cebi covered in cow dug my poor son." He fell in the kraal" Dad says as they approach. I just bath him not long ago.

"Kodwa Cebi"

I say holding his hand leading him to one of the mud houses. Guess whose calling? I immediately pick up after putting water in a basin for Cebi to rinse himself.

"Baby"

"Sweetheart keng kare Walla?"

(Why does it sound you are crying?)

I click my tongue since I cried at the airport someone's son has been making a joke of me.

"I'm not crying. Your son is bathing again"

"Didn't he bath an hour ago?"

"He did but he fell in a kraal his covered in dug"

He laughs. "Surely he was running away from" Amankomo" as Joburg kids say"

I giggle. "Not this Joburg kid I taught him well"

"You tried babe nna ke le kgopotse"

(I'm missing you)

"Come to Kwanondlovu village. "

"Knowing myself I won't hesitate. "

"We miss you too babe. Hey i forgot to share with you the embarrassment Tyler brought me."

"What did he do?"

"His telling people your bed is bouncy"

"What the fuck!.. Meaning he? "

"He was bouncing because we were at it"

"Oh fuck!!"

"I'm getting a bigger lodge so he can have his own not bouncy bed. This is embarrassing babe. He didn't say that in front of your father"

I laugh. "Everyone knows Cebi was bouncing in bed"

"Oh shucks!!"

"I love you let me dress this boy up"

"Let's talk later senorita. "

"Fine"

"Sidney loves you"

"Kisses" He does that "Mcwaah" sound.

Mphikeleli

"Are you Okay?"

I say kissing her lips as we busy searching for something in the kitchen.

"These dug smelling and monkey riders annoy me Leli"

"Don't mind them they don't have curves. That alone is enough reason to make a woman bitter." She giggles.

"For a moment I felt like slapping them"

"Come on Caro let me dress this boy up"

"Let's talk later senorita. "

"Fine"

"Sidney loves you"

"Kisses" He does that "Mcwaah" sound.

Mphikeleli

"Are you Okay?"

I say kissing her lips as we busy searching for something in the kitchen.

"These dug smelling and monkey riders annoy me Leli"

"Don't mind them they don't have curves. That alone is enough reason to make a woman bitter." She giggles.

"For a moment I felt like slapping them"

"Come on Caro don't entertain them. I've been meaning to ask where did you hide it?"

"For now it's in my booth I don't trust these people. Especially Mbheki he saw you digging from across his fence"

"Thank you maMphazima"

"We need to find ways to make it legit Leli"

"Mmmm... We will figure something out for now can I have salt"

I say letting her loose.

"Here you go"

"Thank you mami"

"Ngiyakufatela Leli"

(I love you) I giggle it's been years not hearing her say that.

"Nami ngigcwele queen wase London"

(I love you more queen Elizabeth)

She blushes and smashes her lips against mine. Her hand moves to my cock she gently grabs and brush it.

"Caro... Thats off limits"

"I miss you Leli it's been days seven days now."

"Are you drunk?"

"No I'm not"

"But you've been drinking right?"

She blinks her bug eyes I slightly raise my brows and look deep into her eyes.

"Those red plastic cups have everything to do with this isn't it? "

"I had one"

"Four"

"No three"

"MaMphazima don't be a naughty mother"

"What are you gonna do about it?"

"Are you challenging me maybe?"

"Does it feel like that Mphazima?" She says still brushing my cock I bite hard on my lower lip.

"Not today Delilah Samson has a mission to push. "

She laughs. I kiss her neck and take the salt. "You can't go outside with that showing"

"Damn you woman!" I say heading to a bucket of water when it's gone I walk outside feeling her eyes on me. I go to Kusile I need a little Favour from him. I find him with Mbheki arguing over what I don't care Mbheki glares at me.

"Why didn't you tell us that woman isnt the biological mother to the one girl?"

Mbheki-

"Thats because you didn't bother inquiring about my life babomncane"

"Then whose going to eat the piece of meat cut from the foreleg of the goat for your first born child?" Mbheki-

"I told you I will handle it Mbheki!" Kusile-

"Don't be stupid Kusile that piece is given to the mother of the child only!"

"My soon to be wife is here she will take care of that"

"But she's not her mother don't insult my ancestors Mphikeleli!" Mbheki-

"So where do you expect me to get her mother huh?" I sternly say.

"Don't raise your voice at me!"

"Yazini you don't have to do it Mbheki if it's that of a problem to you. I will handle it after all I am my father's only son"

"That will call for disaster!!" He says pushing me aside leaving me biting my upper lip as I feel my palms sweating.

"Don't mind him I will guide you throughout everything."

"Can't your wife eat the piece of meat on her behalf?"

"The woman you brought will eat that piece of meat for both the girls don't mind Mbheki not releasing his sperms in months is messing up with his head. He needs a vagina not to throw tantrums. " Kusile says I chuckle and watch him drink the African beer. His very funny I must say but that Mbheki I won't leave this place without punching him father or not his a dick. The whole ceremony picks up Kusile is leading it.

Deliwe

Sindiswa and myself are seated on the grass mat with our heads facing the ground. Mkhulu Kusile is burning impepho and moving it around the meat then to us. The whole purpose of this ceremony is for our umbilical cords to be separated from that of our mothers to be introduced to our ancestors meaning the paternal family needs to be notified of our existence so they can protect us watch over us and bless us with blessings we were meant to carry throughout our lives.

Failure to doing this ceremony bad luck and grieve if not struggles will chase you like a ghost chasing its killer. They say you won't know peace in your life you might even suffer death in the process. Yes we all gonna die but a person who never had this ceremony will struggle to such an extent that they die without fulfilling their purposes on this earth. That's what they told us and I

personally believe them on the struggling part because obviously I've been a Cinderella and rapunzel throughout my life.

"Ndlangamandla
Mphazima Mntungwa
Mawandla kaNdlela
Nina baseMandlovini
Mlotshwa Siwela
Mphazima kaLanga
Nina bakwaLanga libomvu.

Elders It's me Kusile Mphazima your grandchild born to Vusumuzi Mphazima a son to Dobani Mphazima whose calling for you. I'm not alone but rather with my eldest brother's son uMphikeli Mphazima. Whom also brought his two children Deliwe faith and Sindiswa Lucia. Today we want to introduce them to you so you can protect them and see them through their lives and give them your blessings as your grandchildren like you have been doing with your other grandchildren. With this goat we invite you to approve and bless this ceremony and be welcoming if these beautiful girls and their father. Bo Nkonjane yenkosi Mpangazitha! Come in fully to bless this ceremony as of today an umbilical cord has been separated from these kids hence we humble ourselves before you pleading and sincerely begging with you to bless this ceremony Nkosi!! "

He says making us to inhale impepho. The few candles burns more than they were doing before the impepho smoke too burns profusely so making this whole hut Smoky. Kusile smiles and gives mama Caro a piece of meat then again as the are two goats in here. In a split second they make us wear the goats skin on our left hand wrists.

A few things coming from the goats were buried in the kraal. Sindiswa said "Inyongo yembuzi and Umswane" blank me thought those things are to be placed over our heads and legs unfortunately that's not the case. Caro mom said only married women do that but when cleansing the bile and dug and tiny ounces of blood are used to bath especially after the death of a family member do I get this? Here and there.

We start feasting and drinking. Before I know it it's Sunday and madame is excited about going home.. I want to see my boo before he leaves by the crack of dawn on Monday. Cebi is going nowhere with me I don't want him saying our beds are "Bumping" he would rather stay home instead of bumping on people's beds. I honestly can't wait to be with my man even though I'm not planning on making beds bounce but for your immaculate condition heart try not to put your hopes on me I might disappoint you maybe I already have**

My father and Caro confessed the obvious to us "Them dating" but the marriage part shocked us but I'm so very much happy for them they deserve their little Réunion and happily ever after especially after what they both went through. A little happy moment together won't do any harm but poor Sarah will be in stitches.. By the way father has found himself a friend and family on Kusile they really jel no edits. As for mama Caro she hates Kusile's wife she's the very same woman who made her livid yesterday and her wanting to Baptiste her with slaps.**

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Sidney

He makes his way towards my table punctuality has never been a good friend to him I pity his clients myself included.

“Pardon me Cuz I had to drive the kids to their grandparents house. Otherwise you good? “ He pulls the chair to sit down. “Argh! The brother love it slipped my mind” I chuckle then stand to embrace him. We order drinks and food.

“How’s Aunty Zelda and Mrs. plenty words? “ I fill him in he then requests me to narrate the whole story about the kid I’ve never kept secrets from this guy hence I spill all the beans.

He sips from his beer can his look is piercing me.

“And you think getting parental rights for the little boy will be a wise thinking? “
“Thabo come on help a brother out”

He glares at me then puts his can on the table he leans over to give me his serious look and one he does when his about to speak sense .

“Kamo I won’t sugarcoat this sponge lollipop I will shoot straight to the probability of this situation. So two things are going to happen here one “She will mend things with her baby daddy” two “You will have your heart broken Sidney” don’t get me wrong I’m not trying to discourage you or to make you doubt your relationship with her but what you intend on doing its going to backfire its going to burn you Kamo. You’ve hardly been with her for a year you don’t even know if she means it when she says she’s done with the baby daddy. Chances are they have unfished business like nobody dumped the other. She might be saying she’s done just because she’s with you shall Shalton come back from the unknown things are going to change Sidney”

"Thabo you not helping are you aware of that? "

"Look cuz don't get me wrong with what I'm yet to say okay? But as an attorney who deals with such cases everyday Bru I won't lie to you. This might come back to bite you in the long run and trust me it won't end well. Do you even know the mess that you putting yourself into Matthews? "

"I know what I'm putting myself into and this is the right thing to do Trevor. I love them and I'm willing to turn the world upside down for them. Deliwe loves me that I'm certain of. " He glares at me with his brows narrowed.

"My biggest concern Sidney is what if this lady has unfinished business with the baby daddy? What happens when she makes up her mind and decides on forgiving the biological father?"

" She will never do that I trust her"

He chuckles. "Really?"

" Thabo are you helping me or not? "

"Sidney you are my cousin and I won't mislead you. All I'm saying jump to these heights after you've seen her reaction and attitude in the presence of Shalton. Shall she show signs of disinterest and lack of entertainment from him then its safe to make your boy yours whatever turns out of yourselves will either reflect negatively or positively on the boy. Don't allow feelings to control you dude they going to fuck you up in the long run. For now this whole thing it's too good to be true Sidney "

I hate how his thesis always comes out relevant and true. He might be unto something but I also trust Deliwe she will never ever put me in a tight corner especially over a deadbeat. She hates Cebi's father as much as I do after all it's all Shaltons fault that Deliwe and myself never dated years ago.

“For your hearts sake Kamo pull back a little on this mission. Till you certain she's really really over Shalton because right now you signing your own death wish this is a suicidal mission. Nothing sucks in life like falling hard for someone who has already met their soul mate and trying so hard to heal from them by being with you. I'm not trying to burn bridges but a little truth is worth hearing Kamo. ”

I heave a sigh and glare at him.

“ Fine I will figure something out along the way in terms of her world colliding with that of Shalton”

“ Better”

“ Thank you once again I should get going. I promised to spend the day with her”

“ It's okay cuz thank you”

We share a brotherly love again we settle the bill then go our separate ways.

Florence

“I don't follow you saying? “

She says pacing around my office she's feasting on her nails too. “The deal was you take her to an orphanage Flo not her father's house! Do you have any idea of what this means? “

“Angie It was a long draining procedure to squeeze her in some orphanage home. I had no choice but to ditch her on her father's doorstep. ”

“That was the most stupid thing ever Florence I made myself clear an orphanage was our resorts but you being selfish sister you did what made you happy do you know how many things I will lose once my true identity comes

out? You and I will go back to those dusty roads and shacks our parents left us Flo. We worked hard to be here and to have the things that we have that girl finding out about me I will lose so much! You ruined my life yet again Florence! How could you huh? “ She shudders. I bite hard on my lower lip. “Angie calm down my problems are bigger than yours okay? Stop being melodramatic and join heads with me on finding a solution here. Your daughter has been my biggest commodity and sadly I wasn’t aware she was family. “

“I want nothing to do with her Florence She’s not my family but a waste of my womb do everything in your powers to get rid of her. Be it killing her or selling her to Russians or human traffickers I care less. I want that child out of my life for good. You made this mess now fix it!! “

She gets a reach of her handbag. “My mind is made up kill her. “ her shoes echoes as she walks out. I drop my face on my table while brushing my neck. I need a strong beverage for this one.

A knock comes from the door I shout “Who is it!!! “ with anger in my voice.

“Geez! Ma it’s me”

“Brad” I say softly. He sits on the table and stares at me. “What’s going on mom? “

“These sluts are stressing me out son”

“Still in dire straits with Catte’s replacement? “

“Is it obvious? “

“Relax mom you will find someone in time don’t be hard on yourself and your workers please.” I heave a soft sigh and glare at him “What brings you here Brad?”

“I need your help on planning the wedding”

“Can’t you do it with your fiancé and her family? I’m swamped “

“Ma I only need a venue that’s all”

“People normally go for botanicals or beaches if not halls. Choose one”

“I was thinking of a ship wedding or a deck kind of setup somewhere in the middle of an ocean like Seychelles kind of vibes”

I glare at him not interested. I wish he can piss off already. As I'm minding this one another one walks in. For a moment I'm reminded of my grandson that I'm willing to watch grow from afar. Shalton really needs to stay away from Deliwe. The closer he gets the more complicated my life will be so much will go wrong for me and my sister.

Deliwe

He calls to confirm his outside. I carry my mini bag then make my way outside. I find him leaning on his car then make my way outside. I find him leaning on his car with his legs crossed. Today his rocking gray Rebok tracksuits with a white cap. I glare at him admiring the tantalizing looks such an A la mode gentleman to think he irked me at some point in my life. I smile as I get closer to him he trimmed his beards too Lord Jesus he smells good. Okay why the cigarette?

"Baby" He faintly smiles.

"Please throw that thing away the smell is unpleasant"

"So that's my welcome?"

He narrows his brows and drop his eyes to glare at me.

" I hate guys who smoke" Like I never smoked myself. He furrows his brows I spot his nose turning pinkish if I didn't know better I would have mistaken it for being infuriated.

"If you hate men who smoke then what are you doing with me?" He says with his eyelashes flaps rapidly. I won't answer that cigarettes smell awful and

that's a fact. He glares at me and puffs silence will be golden right now. He pulls his phone out "Boy come outside... Oh.. I thought you around but it's okay bye" He puts his cellphone back inside his pockets my hands are folded my eyes are on him. I'm trying to understand what is happening here on the other hand I don't want to fight with him. I miss him so much to waste our little time bickering on whatever nonsense that is going on right now.

"Are we fine?" He looks at me. "Are we?"

"I don't know honestly. You acting strange Kamo it feels like you don't want to be here with me. It's like someone forced you and I hate to admit I don't feel comfortable with leaving with you looking like this."

" I caught offense from your statement faith "

"Which one?"

"You hating guys who smoke it's like you using someone as a reference. What's even worse is you not seeing your mistake or the need of correcting that Let's go"

He says opening the passenger door for me. I sit on then press my cell phone he puts his seat belt on.

"I'm sorry it wasn't intentional" I say.

He looks at me then heaves a sigh.

"I meant no offense babe trust me. I'm sorry from the bottom of my heart."

"It's okay baby"

He squeezes my thigh while glaring at me.

I brush his hand.

"I'm sorry neh?" I say sounding like my son.

"It's okay baby I love you okay?"

I nod. He brushes my exposed thigh then flashes a bit of faint smile. His not okay something is wrong with the him but I will find out.

The drive to the house is filled with silence. He carries my bag inside I follow him. He places my bag on the couch then leans against the wall with his hands buried inside his pockets and his ankles crossed. He looks troubled though I wish he can talk to me. I make my way towards him I don't say a word but rather throw myself at him he gently wraps his arms around me. I stand on my toes to match his height he notices my dire straits. He uses his finger to lift my chin up he tilts his head on the side. I do the same he presses his cold lips against mine.

He sucks hard on lower lip I such on his upper lip. He moves his hand to left butt cheek he squeezes hard on it

Forcing a moan to escape my lips. He pulls me more closer without breaking this tense kiss. I feel his hard stick poking my belly. I move my hand around it massing it. He shoves his tongue against mine causing friction. He carries me to the sofa he sits down and places me on his lap with my legs dangling either sides.

He breaks the kiss to nibble my neck his warm breath on my skin gives me goosebumps. I put my hands around his shoulders his stick is harder than before and it's bringing me more torture. I feel one of his hand caressing my thighs I bite hard on lip. He glares at me with glassy eyes.

"I hate it when we fight" I manage to say. "I hate it too cos it makes me miss out on a good conversation with my best friend" He says kissing my chin he shifts my panty on a side and slips a finger on my clit. "Sidney...." That comes as a moan "Yes baby"

"Please don't hurt me I really love you. I see my future with you only you"
He shoves his finger inside my cunt I whimper "Thats my biggest fear as well pancake please don't hurt especially with Cebi's biological father please. Shall you break my heart I will never ever be the same Faith please promise me"
"I promise I won't do you wrong I swear on by the moon and the stars"
"Let's attend my brothers wedding next weekend? Shalton will be there though. "
"I would love that baby I'm coming with you but on one condition"
"Which is?" He says rolling his pants all the way down to his feet . He rubs the tip of his hard manhood on my soaky velvet with his thumb rubbing my clit. I bite hard on my lower lip then close my eyes. "The condition babe I'm all ears"
"Honor my father's invitation he wants to see you."
"I will definitely do that and more" He shoves his manhood inside my velvet he moves his hands to my butt cheeks. He helps me bounce up and down on his wand I even go in circles and moan on his neck.
"I love you Deliwe"
"I love you more"
"I mean it.. Ooh shit mommy!!" He says squeezing my butt cheeks hard.
"Sid!!" I whimper
"Pancake you killing me! Damn woman!!"
He says cursing and groaning simultaneously. I glide on him.
"Marry me Deliwe"

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Deliwe

"Lets get married sugar. Be my wife Deliwe"

This person is not joking he's really proposing. In another world I would've mistaken his words for sex excitement. I would say he's not thinking straight. After all we say a whole lot of crazy things when these combos are communicating. We even promise we will never separate that's how crazy it gets.

"Sugar..."

"Sthandwa sami"

"Please do me an honor of being my wife my best friend and my smile keeper. Can you please grant me the opportunity to age with you let's turn grey haired together please pancake."

I'm not hallucinating he's definitely saying it. He's seriously proposing to me he's asking for my hand in marriage. Sidney is rushing things I mean we've barely been together for a while now this?

"Baby did you hear what I said?"

"Yes I did"

"So what do you say?"

"You serious aren't you?"

"Why shouldn't I? I'm certain about this about us Babe."

I swallow hard and glare at him.

Honestly speaking I'm still trying to contemplate everything. By everything I'm referring to the "Marry me" plea and also the "Wedding invitation". I know I said I will come with him but I don't know if I'm ready to cross paths with Cebi's father. Seeing him might bring back all that I've been trying so hard to erase and forget and maybe heal from. Seeing him after so

many years might change my life from better to worse or maybe vice-versa. I honestly don't want to find myself doing things that my normal self wouldn't do most importantly I don't want siblings hating each other on my name. Sidney is my boyfriend an uncle to Cebi and a brother to Shalton making me a common denominator to whatever that's yet to happen in their worlds. I love Sidney so much but the thought of having my past and future on the same dining table brings me fear worry and uncertainty. This whole thing will bring forth drama and chaos what makes everything worse are the parents finding out I slept with both brothers. This is very complicated.

Gosh! His glare is cutting deep into my skin how long has he been staring at me?

"Talk to me sugar." He says brushing my brows. I pull the bed sheets to cover my nakedness. I wrap my hands around his waist.

"Baby are you okay?"

"I'm fine" He narrows his brows. "Faith I don't buy that talk to me."

"I'm hungry" He breathes deeply. "I hate what you're doing Delive keeping things to yourself instead of sharing with me. I know something is eating you up I wish you could just voice it out instead of doing this."

He stands up to wear his boxers and sweatpants I glare at him. "What is going on?"

"Nothing" He huffs.

"What do you want to eat?"

"Mcflurry with oreo cookies."

"That's not food Faith."

"You asked what I wanted to eat and I'm telling you"

"So you're saying I must drive to McDonald's right now?" I keep quiet. "Or not" He says stepping outside the bedroom in a couple of minutes I hear his

car drive out. I heave the longest sigh ever. I call Cebi my sister answers saying his sleeping. Shalton! Shalton! Shalton! You ruining my life yet again.

Shalton

I'm standing at the balcony smoking when i feel echoes of footsteps fill up the room. I tilt my head to look whose coming Amber appears with our daughter in her arms.

"She's struggling to sleep"

"Surely she's teething did you give her something maybe?"

"I did shes restless still"

"Surely she needs daddy's touch bring her over here"

"The cigarette babe"

I throw it away. I pick the baby up Amber wraps her hands around my waists.

My daughter keeps quiet immediately "Ouch that hurts"

I chuckle "Little biased rascal"

"Sorry babea father's touch is everything"

"But I'm the mother i feel betrayed"

"Sorry.." She plants a soft peck on my neck. "Jason will be playing tennis tomorrow you need to be present Shaltee"

"Of course i wouldnt miss such moments for anything that's my boy"

"You're a good loving supportive and caring father. The kids are blessed to have you"

"And what about you? Arent you blessed you with having me as a husband?"

"You hurt me Shalton with your cheating."

I glare at her she blinks. "Let me go wrap up on my research."

"Amber"

"Yes"

"I'm sorry for everything"

"Its cool."

"Its not cool you're a good person"

"Its okay I've forgiven you"

"I'm blessed to have you as my wife. I love you"

"I love you more"

She walks away. My cell phone rings immediately i close the glass door before answering. "Hey"

"Hey do you have a minute to talk?"

"Actually i wanted to talk to you"

"About what?"

"Look

Sponsored

AD

i close the glass door before answering. "Hey"

"Hey do you have a minute to talk?"

"Actually i wanted to talk to you"

"About what?"

"Look no hard feelings or anything. I'm tired of being the reason my wife is unhappy and broken. "

"Where is this going?"

"Look i want to focus on my marriage and my kids. Amber doesnt deserve this we need to end this thing before we hurt those who matter"

"Shalton are you ending things with me?"

"Its for the better"

"I'm pregnant" i choke on my saliva. "You what?"

"I'm pregnant just found out this morning"

"Come on Milly not this again"

"I'm keeping it this time around"

I spot my wife heading to my direction with a mug. "Listen you will do no such thing"

"I'm not terminating not again Shalton!"

"Baby i made you coffee." I faintly smile at Amber. "Thank you baby"

"The pleasure is mine"

She walks away. "Milly!"

"What?"

"Terminate that kidi can't afford to have.."

"I'm not terminating anything! Not anymore Shalton" I swallow hard. "Keeping the baby will ruin my relationship"

"You were mine before that bitch came into the picture." i look behind me. "We were both young and horny playing victim wont take you anywhere.You avenged yourself by shagging my brother"

"I never loved him but you. I only found out years later that you were related."

"Milly stop it I'm working on my marriage and this has to end. "

"You dont love her you've said it countless times"

"Now i do and i would prefer you stay the hell away from me failure to do so i will spill the beans about Portia?" She keeps quiet "Fine.. I will pin it on Sidney"

"Better that way." I end the call and block her callsi cant be having more babies on top of the number that i have. Already i missed out on one's life for eight good years i cant add more regrets on my plate.

Sidney

I make my way inside the house i open the cardboards to take a plate.I dish out the food on the plate i make my way to the bedroom.

"Here is food"

"Thank you"

"And your Mcflurry"

"Thank you baby"

"Sure.. I will be in the bathroom i need to freshen up"

"Sidney"

"Mmmm.." She brushes her neck i go sit besides her. I look deep inside her eyes. "Baby I'm scared"

"Scared of what?"

"Getting married and seeing Shalton after so many years. I feel like i will ruin your life and your relationship with your family. Your parents will not approve of me knowingly i slept with both brothers and that i.." She flaps her eyelashes "Look baby eat your food and stop worrying yourself with my mess."

"Kodwa Kamo its unfair on you."

"Baby ska wara i got this can i ask you something Faith and please be honest with me" She nods. "Do you still love him?"

"He broke me Sidney"

"I'm aware of that but do you still love him? If he were to come here claiming you back what would you do or say?" She looks at me then her food. "Talk baby we friends remember?" i nod. "So what would be your response?"

"Honestly speaking i dont know. I mean we never broke up when he left he was just excited about me naturing his seed the following morning he was gone and no sign of him was left behind" I reach for a chip from her plate i shove it inside her mouth. "So it might happen you find yourself having feelings for him yet again?" She looks at me. "Sidney can we change the topic" I search the truth that's in her Thabo was right. She has unfinished business with Mcebisi's father she still likes him. I know its a painful reality but i understand her demeanor they have a child together and i have nothing but my sincere and earnest feelings that I've had for the past twelve years but never got the courage and chance to express due to cowardice reasons. If she still loves Shalton i dont know what to do or say and maybe trapping her with a ring will be pointless. I guess I'm rushing things here and its best i pull back a little already there's a sting on my chest as I'm asking questions about Shalton. "Look babe if you not ready to settle down specifically with me dont force yourself into doing something that you do not want. I know i scared you off with my proposal and I'm sorry pancake. "

"Sidney ..."

"Look let me go shower then try to sleep"

I gently squeeze her legs then stand up i undress and let water pour over me i feel her hands on my waist. "Baby are you okay?"

"Would you be okay if the person you've loved silently for years was in love with someone else? Someone who isn't you?"

"But i love you Sidney"

"Your eyes told me the truth you wont say Deliwe you still love Cebi's father"

"No i dont"

"Geez! Deliwe you lying"

"I'm not lying I'm here with you Kamo"

"But that doesn't mean you love me more. Thabo was right Deliwe you silently still love him"

"Kamo can you stop it!! Just stop it okay!"She says sniffing while attempting to leave the shower. I gently pull her hand.She looks at me with teary eyes i glare at her with a tear escaping my eyelid. "You hurting me Kamo"

"And you hurting me as well my heart cannot handle this pain Deliwe. "

"I dont love him and whatever that Thabo guy said it was irrelevant to say"

"Do you love him yes or no"

"Kamo!"

"Deliwe just say the damn thing!"

"You accusing me of things Kamo!!"

She yanks her hand and walks away.

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Sidney

I hate how I'm feeling right now. I hate this pain it's fucked up this is the same pain I've felt when my father abandoned my twin sister and i.This is the same pain i felt when my brothers posted designer clothes and expensive watches on social media while we had cracked up lips.This is the same pain i felt when my uncle abused me and Tumi repeatedly without stopping to sympathize with us.This is the same pain i felt when Tumi had her first period and we had no money to buy her pads hence she went to school with a newspaper as her sanitary pads.The same pain i felt when i had no shoes to wear at school and no food to eat. The same pain i felt when i was told I'm

infertile and that i was never gonna have babies of my own. This is the same pain i've been wearing and eating throughout my life. This is the same pain i've always tried so hard to cover up and conceal with a fake smile and tough face. This is the same pain that pushed me into hurting other people Millicent included. This is pain... No this pain!! I find myself punching the mirror profusely while groaning. The mirror is shattered and covered in blood.

"Sidney!! Sidney open this door!!! Baby!!" She shouts from outside i locked myself in here. "Sidney please open!! Baby vula ngiyakucela" I keep quiet. I hear echoes of her feet disappear.

Tumi

"Kamo!! Kamo!!" i say jumping out of bed i get a hold of my phone. I dial but it rings unanswered i have no choice but to call Deliwe. It rings unanswered. My chest is tight there's this sting that's suppressing so hard on my chest. It's like someone is poking me with needles this pain is indescribable but one thing for sure my twin is in pain that I'm one hundred percent sure. I ring Deliwe again "Pick up! Pick up!!!!" I guess I've ran out of options. I shift his hand from my boobs and wear my tracksuits and drive to his house i know he will be angry that i've been stalking him but right now the nigga is draining me and dragging me in his pit. Sometimes i wish we were never twins i hate how his emotions sharply dig on me. With him it's different he never senses my pain like i do with him. What the fuck? Why is the gate opened? These people are crazy or maybe there's an attack pistol would do. I walk inside the house the doors are opened. I search all the rooms but there's no sign of him or Deliwe i go check by the pool.

"Where is he Deliwe?" A voice says from somewhere nearby i jog there. Its Mrs Langa the second - Dora "Greetings mama" She greets me back. "Girlfie where is he?" She wipes her eyes "Bathroom"

"There's no one in this house i've turned it upside-down" I say. She widens her eyes "What happened Deliwe?"

"We had a little altercation then he started groaning alone in the bathroom it was locked." She says still crying "He punched the mirror his bleeding wherever he is" Mrs Langa. "Dammit!! What was the altercation about?"

"Eehm.. Well its a long story"

"Just give me a clue! Is it a person related or just a sex argument?" Mrs Langa looks at me. People fight over sex i am people. I look at Deliwe she says nothing. "If its a person related Deliwe Sidney will ki..." or not. "Sidney will what?" Deliwe-

"He will do the unthinkable"

"Such as what?" Bitch your man is a handsome monster his gonna unite that person with their maker but obviously i cant tell you. "I have to go" I say heading to the gatei remember something. "Where is Cebi?"

"Home with my parents"

"And where is home?"

"Not far from here"

"Come with me to your house"

Mrs Langa glares at me she better not start with her readings especially on me. I know every shit that i've done and been doing. She better not remind me of my skeletons. Deliwe is sniffing endlessly i find myself laughing instead of comforting her. "What happened Deliwe?" We left Mrs Langa.

"We had an altercation"

"About what and who? Actually the question i should be asking is who cheated between the two of you" Okay shut up Tumi you not helping at all. As we get closer to Deliwe's house my phone rings. "Dude where the hell are you?"

"I'm fine"

"Dont give me that sobby story Kamo where are you?"

"My house why asking?"

"Can i talk to him?" Deliwe says. "Girlfie wants to talk to you" He says nothing i pull over to drive Deliwe back home.

Deliwe

We find him sitted on the sofawith his hand bandaged. I reluctantly sit besides him. Tumi glares at us "What's going on here?"

"Why dont ask your friend?" Sidney -

I glare at him but he doesnt return it. I feel Tumi's eyes piercing on me. "What happened?"

"Nothing we cant handle" Sidney glares at me "Nothing we cant what?" Sidney -

"Sidney.."

"Can you handle the truth?"

"What truth?" Tumi-

"Sidney is this how you want us to handle and solve problems in our relationship?"

"Do we have that? Huh" I swallow hard what is he impying by that? "I asked you a question"

"Tumi thanks for popping in but we gonna be fine.We will keep you posted on everything " I say. Kamo looks at me then his sister " Fine but dont kill each other Cebi is still young to visit either of his parents in prison. "She says walking outside with Sidney following her. I go lean by the window i text Mrs Langa a simple message "My sincere apologies for waking you up at night i was freaking out. Sorry mama" i press send.She responds "Baby daddies make babies while fathers nurtures love care support and always avail themselves.Fathers build shape fill and lead with integrity. While baby daddies birth and increase the statistics of everything that is going wrong in the world and country. " Thats her first message.

" When you reach a crossroad always remember home is where stillness lives and tranquility remember the road that will lead you home

Delive.Keep it in mind that a home can sometimes be a person not the bricks and expensive roofing not the delicate furniture and tasty food but rather their eyes their heart their smile and their embraces or touch.Home is a person whose intentions are to shed light on your darkest hour. Cherish what you have and let go of what you never had Goodnight"

Gashes of salty water makes it's way on my face. I tilt my head to look behind me it's Sidney he is back to my surprise his leaning against the wall with his hands buried in his pockets and his eyes fixed on mine. I make my way toward him i throw my body at him and cry. He embraces me "Lets go to bed We will talk tomorrow when we both calmer"

I nod we walk to the bedroom. He undresses and climbs the bed. "Switch off the lights when you decide to nap"I undress and climb in bed.We both silent. "Good night"He says."Night"

He moves closer to scoop me up his hand caressing my boobs. I slowly move my butt on his privates i want him inside me. "Sidney"

"The answer is no"

I fold my tail and cross my legs.

"Still leaving town tomorrow?"

"Not when things are like this"

"Do you still love me?"

He keeps quiet and plays with my nipple."Sidney.." He heaves a long sigh so much that his warm breathe gives me goosebumps. "I love you" i turn to face him. "I want to talk sthandwa sami. "

"Fine I'm all ears" He says brushing my back seductively i bite my lips as i feel an itch that needs to be scratched."I'm listening"

"We do have a relationship sthandwa sami and I'm gonna do anything in my powers to fight for it. I love you and i will marry you Kamo." I rest my head on his chest he holds me tight and rests his chin on my head. We both keep quiet

" I think i need closure i have so many why's that i need him to answer. I want to know the reason he left me pregnant or why he impregnated me knowingly he didnt want the baby. "

" I understand "

" To answer your question i always had hope that one day he would return and we will be happy once again and that we were gonna raise our son but when days turned into weeks and weeks into months and months into years i realized that dreams were meant for sleeping and that i was confusing my feelings with the truth that he was never gonna return.

When he sent me a friend request after browsing his pictures i knew it was done and that he was never gonna return. So i had to let go what i never had young love never lasts after all they say it leaves ungrateful and that's exactly what happened with Shalton and i"

"I'm sorry i forced you to go there I'm sorry that i didn't believe you. Thing is Deliwe Shalton has always succeeded on ending up with every single woman I've ever loved whole heartedly. He always got the first priority spot and i had none. In the early days of finding out we were related he asked me to accompany him to Soweto which is this township. His grandmother was ill so he was asked to look after him. So along the way i spotted you wearing a navy blue school uniform you were walking with your friends. My biggest mistake was confessing to Shalton i liked you. So yeah the rest is history "

I lift my head to glare at him." I dont follow "

" I've known you since your tenths grade Deliwe unfortunately one time i saw you sneaking out of Shalton's outside's room. The guys Shalton's friends told me how Shalton had confessed that he broke your virginity and that he was using you for sex just to prove he can fuck whomever he wants. Unfortunately you were pregnant.. The grandmother died his

mother sold the house and advised him to forget whatever he had left in Soweto yourself included."

I've been hurt before trust me. I've been racked and tainted and embarrassed previously starting from the men who slept with me while i was dry and less aroused coming to my bitch of a mother who hated me so much that she ditched me on my father's doorstep coming to my aunt and cousin Jabu butsee Shalton Matthews? This son of a bitch butchered me he actually blended me and pounded me till powder and juice came out of my body. This guy didn't only break my heart and my virginity but he turned me into some gimmick stunt. He really made a clown out of me. He discussed my nakedness in public he.. I dont even know what to say. He jinxed my chances of finding true love he ruined my life. Actually he was the lucifer that the Bible describes as "A thief destroyer and killer" He stole my joy he destroyed my hopes and dreams he killed every positivity in me. I prostituted myself because of him why didn't i abort his child huh? Why did i keep Cebi? I love my son but his father his father is.....

"I'm sorry baby i never wanted to say this but i felt i should. So you know what you putting yourself into. Shalton is not the man you thought he was to him this was all about the sex and getting ranks of being a ladies man. Your true love was me I'm the one who loved you like crazy not him"
"Sid.. I.. No...no! Why would he do such a thing? Why me huh? I was a good person why me?"

"I love you i always have. I should've approached you sooner"

"Cebi would've been yours. I chose a wrong lover"

"Its not your fault we all make mistakes"

"I hate him!" He brushes my back while cry.

Florence

"Marcus just stop it okay" I scold exasperated what part of "I'm not in the mood" does he understand? Men can be creeps at times.

"Florence can you cut the crap already"

"I'm not in the mood i told you"

"Are you getting laid at the brothel?"

"Geez Marcus!" I say rolling out of bed. "You do realize you not the only woman who has those pair of lips?" i glare at him while fastening my robe. "You meant to say Zelda has them? Go on and drop her underwears if interested give her tons and tons of babies Marcus! I have so much going on your little erect is not on my to do list!" He looks at me then rolls out of bed "Fine. Dont cry when she claims what's hers"

He disappears to the bathroom i go stand by the balcony with my box of cigarettes. I lit one and puff it. I really dont want to do this i cant have a child killed not my blood at it. Angela is delusional money has drove her to such depths of lunacy? Faith is her daughter she bunked school to make her nobody forced her on having sex. I dont understand this craziness. Had i not killed someone and my sister witnessing it. I wouldn't be dancing to her tune as speak but here i am.

Deliwe

I dont know when and how i slept last time.

But i slept peacefully in his arms. I wake up to a throbbing headache and dry aching throat its pretty obvious i cried myself a river last night. I really went over board. I'm surprised to find his side of the bed empty and

cold normally you will find him next to me staring at me but knowing him he probably went for a run.

I open the curtains and windows before making the bed. I then tidy up the room. When all looks better I go freshen up with yesterday's reality kicking in. There's nothing painful like finding yourself falling for a person whose intentions were to play you and settle a bet while stupid you thought it was real love. Now i believe Sjava when he said "There's a thin line between real love and lust. They both painted in the same colour" Honestly Shalton was always there for me not in a single day did he ever show me hate or pretense thus crying over split milk wont do me any good. All bridges should be burnt. I take forever to wash up my body with thoughts Sidney will be back by the time I'm done bathing. Poor me is now dressing up and this dude is nowhere to be found.

I'm starving i should go make myself food.

Sidney

I feel like I'm losing Deliwe what hurts the most is losing her to a guy who has never showed interest to loving her to the maximum but rather used her to gain status of being a fuckboy. I really hate Shalton no filter. I liked Deliwe he made a move on her then i liked Amber he did the same thing. With Milly it was different he never showed interest in her. Had he liked her by now. i will be raising kids who are not mine given my current situation. Not only did Shalton turn Deliwe's life upside-down but he ruined Cebi's life as well imagine a kid had to go as far as begging me to be his father while that shit is alive and living large. Honestly the thought of Shalton being a part of our lives brings me worry and fear because I'm certain he will do more damage

shall he decide on stepping up as Mcebisi's father which i do not wish for it to happen.

She looks at me then her pots. I remove my headsets. "Morning. "

"Morning" We both keep quiet. "Excuse me i want to freshen up the sweat is stinging"

She nods and does whatever she's doing. I jump in the shower and grease my body with a shower gel. I go lotion then wear a black Jean with a simple v-neck black tshirt i wear red sneakers and a black cap i get a hold of my red bomber jackets. As I'm sprinkling my cologne she walks in and stands by the door.

"Breakfast is ready" I glare at her then put on a watch."Thank you but I'm not hungry sorry. "

"Fruit salad or toasted bread?"

"Deliwe I'm not hungry"

"I get that but i made us breakfast Kamo and we gonna eat together like the couple that we are." I heave a soft sigh."I dont have appetite"

"All I'm hearing are excuses" I glare at her.

"I woke up to your side of the bed cold Kamo you didnt wake me up like you normally do. Now you refusing to eat why Kamo?"

"Mama Cebi come on can we not do this"

"I want answers"

"How was your night?"

"Can you answer my question before hopping to the next Kamo!"

"And why are you shouting kanti?"

"Because you frustrating me by giving me a silent treatment Sidney!"

"I'm not giving you a silent treatment come on Deliwe!"

She chuckles. "What?"

"Now we calling each other by our names?" God she better be kidding me.

"Have you noticed you haven't called me by my pet name today? Yini ngawe Sidney?" I narrow my brows and look at her. "Do i annoy you? Just say it

instead of acting up by playing hide and seek in your own house! If you do not need me here its fine i will leave instead of you doing this to me"

She says annoyed. I walk towards her.

"You nauseated by me because of Shalton isnt it?"

"Baby can we not do this please you just imagining things. I woke up early because i needed to jog I'm not eating because i have lost my appetite.

I'm not playing hide and seek or giving you a silent treatment i have to be somewhere in thirty minutes time. Come on pancake."

"Where are you going right now all dressed up Sidney?"

"Wanna take my car to a mechanic then run a few errands thereafter."

"And you not asking if i wanna come with you or not to the mechanic?"

"My appointment is in twenty minutes time. You know you take forever to dress up and all that. I want to leave sooner then come back to you"

She looks at me with her arms folded and her leg doing that tapping nerve-wracking thing.

"I hear you Sidney"

She says walking away i follow her to the kitchen. To put her at ease i deep two spoons inside my mouth of her fruit salad. I drink a tiny portion of her juice. "Ngiyakuthanda yezwa?" She nods while scrolling for channels. "Faith"

"What?"

"Aowa baby like really now?"

"Tsamaya Kamo"

"Without my" I love you more" phrase? "

" Its not like you dont know" She says biting on her sandwich i narrow my brows then kiss her neck. I jog to my car in a split second I'm seated in the mechanic's office waiting for my car. While browsing my social media.

"Hi not to sound rude but you look familiar" A lady says glaring at me. I narrow my brows trying to remember where i could've seen her or stuffs like that. "I dont know you"

"No maarn i know you serious isn't your name Sam or something?"

I narrow my brows. "Sidney"

"Bingo!!! I know you dude. I was dating one of your friends a couple of years ago

Sponsored

AD

Rhudzani" I look at her. "Your name?"

"Priscilla"

"Okay" I say pressing my cellphone. "Mr Matthews your car is ready you can check it out" The mechanic saysi look at this Priscilla chick then make my way to the mechanic. "Kamo"

"Bra Brain"

"Look boy I've been meaning to ask"

"About?"

"Business what happened? My family is struggling since we stopped doing that kind of business" I glare at him "That was risky Bra Brain"

"Aaaa Kamo chuna i plan ndoda"

(Make a plan)

"How much are you charging me Bra Brii"

"Mphe 1"(Give me 1000)

"I will make it R2k the 1k is for the kids."

"Sure Sidney.. Ta laaite"

(Thank you)

"About business i will ask around if there's someone whose in need of your services"

"I prefer working with you you deliver son!" He says punching my shoulder playfully. "Bra Brain I'm so over that life I've worked on myself now and besides i made quite a lot from our last heists"

"I miss those days though"

"They were fun and all but now I'm a father bra Brai. I cant put them in danger. This hiding and running around thing is not much of a life"

"But you were a G. O. A. T."

I chuckle. "I guess i will always be one but i was forced to be one you know hunger motivates and pushes one. " He chuckles. "The streets raised you son but i understand a man has got to do what a man must do."

"Yeah" I say with a faint smile recalling the kind of cars i would bring here after hijacking people. One of my worst hijacking that i will never ever forget was the one involving a woman and a child i recall how they begged me to spare their lives. The kid was even crying i had to give back the car and abort the mission. Thereafter i knew i had to change i knew this crime was gonna end badly. I stopped doing much of it but Tumi still does things that only her is aware off but if provoked i wont hesitate putting my masquerade and pull up a standing ovation concert.

"Sisi wezinkophe please come closer!" He says to Priscilla whose glaring at me in the most uncomfortable way. "Sure bra Brai let me get going gotta pick up a laaite from school at 2pm"

"You have a son?" Priscilla -

"Sure"

"How old is he?"

" Sure bra B"

"Sure Mattews!" I smirk then enter my car. Priscilla is still glaring at me. Let me ring Rhudzani. " Mu ngana wanga" (My friend)

I say giggling "Makua" (White person)

"Fuck you Rhudzani" He giggles. "What are you happy for dude?" He says.

"Just saw your ex shes hot as fuck"

"Who?"

"Give it a guess"

"Come on Kamo talk"

"Her name starts with P and ends with A"

"Sidney talk I'm with a client"

"Priscilla"

"Tell me you joking!"

"Hell to the no. "

"Send her picture. "

"Its kinder crazy but i dont remember her"

"Tell me you joking"

"I'm not who is she?"

"She's one of those girls we dated from that varsity group of girls who called themselves " Spicy hot" the disk chick's. You dated the skinny and quiet one remember her? "

" Portia "

" Yeah they were close friends. That explains why she knows me"

"Yeah. Look lets catch up later."

"Later" I end the call.

Millicent

My colleague glares at me then the file she's holding. "What?"

"Are you sure it was positive Millicent?"

"I dont like where this is going"

I say snatching the file she's holding. "Milly give it you asked for my help now allow me to disclose the information"

"Geez!! Dont go all doctors procedures on me i dont have the whole day. I have patients waiting for me the least i can do is waste time"

She heaves a sigh i quickly read the results. "Sorry babe"

"No you probably made a mistake"

"Not at all you not pregnant Millicent"

"But both pregnancy test said i was"

"We conducted a blood examination between you and i we both know it's way too accurate than pregnancy tests" i throw the papers at her i storm to the rest room. I sit on top of the toilet seat with tears rolling out of my eyes.

"Milly can we talk"

"Shalton butt off"

"I got pills to terminate it we need to do it fast. Sidney will know its not his just take the pills. I have a patient car accident related. "

I sniff then wipe my eyes. I turn the door handle his eyes are the first thing i see.

"Here you go" I take the damn pills and flash them. "And now?"

"There's no bloody baby! I'm not pregnant!"

"Wow! God is great these are good news"

He smiles. "Good news for you but not for me Shalton! My womb might be decayed and destroyed!"

"You blowing things out of proportion Cheers"

"Shalton this is damn serious. We had two abortions!"

"This is not the right place Milly come on cheer up. You not stuck with me as a baby daddy just rejoice. By the way i will get you tulips and your favorites champagne and doughnuts to celebrate these news they will be here before the end of the day. I'm leaving tomorrow for Capetown i guess i will see you on Saturday at the wedding. "

I glare at him with worry written all over my face. What if i can't conceive? I mean they did say abortions decreases chances of falling pregnant in the long run i already had three. Two were Shaltons and one was for my first love. High school kind of vibes. Meaning i aborted three times. The thought alone is killing me softly this cannot happen to me.

Deliwe

I'm laying on couch reading a book when two voices fill up the house.

"Mama!!!" He says throwing himself on me I'm getting kisses too.

"Sotshalami" I say with a broad smile. I fix my eyes to the door there he is.

"Daddy fetched me from school and my friends were jealous mama" He says excited i kiss his cheek. "Daddy Sidney is cool!! I love him more than i love power rangers" I glare at Sidney with a smile on my face. He returns one. "I love you too son now snap out of it. We need to offload those plastics"

"Cant i change my school uniform first?"

"Go change it dont take long." Sidney says. Cebi jogs to his bedroom. Sidney makes his way to the sofa I'm laying on. He slightly lays on top of me. "You heavy Kamo"

"I miss you" i look at him then narrow my brows. Stupid him smashes his lips against mine he sneaks his hand under my dress."I didn't eat last night so is this morning"

I giggle. "Stop complaining people are sleeping on hunger everyday"

"Have you forgotten I'm leaving tomorrow? I have good news"

"Dont remind me that.The good news?"

"Save that for when Cebi is snoring"

I narrow my brows. "What's going on?"

I enquire with a smile on my face "Daddy I'm done. Lets go" He kiss my cheek then walks to Cebi "Lets go son"

"Baba sisazopheka?" (Are we still gonna cook?)

"Yes mommy is taking a rest today. "

"Are we gonna cook after playing soccer? You promised"

"And i keep my promises"

"Youre cool i love you"

"And i love you more than i love my car"

I blush as i eavesdrop on their little conversation my little family..

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Sidney

"Cebi its getting dark young man lets go inside"

"I'm still enjoying baba"

"Come boy we need to cook remember?"

"Fine.." He says with a sad face i smirk. "Soldiers dont sulk Mcebisi"

"But i love playing soccer"

"I know son but its late now look lets have a deal"

"Okay"

"Do you remember uncle Lefa?"

"Yes. The one who plays soccer like a soccer star?" i giggle "Yes him."

"What about him?"

"He has a soccer team i will talk to him to squeeze you in on weekends though"

"Really?"

"Yes"

"Thank you daddy!!" He jumps on me with excitement. "My friends will be jealous after hearing this"

"Don't gloat Cebi that's wrong."

"Angithi nabo they were mocking me in class when i told them i dont have a father.They were saying my father left me in a bin."

"If so you can gloat son. The next time they bully you punch them on the face" He giggles. "Violence is prohibited at school"

"You will be fighting bad and evil children not the innocent ones"

"Fine i will" We giggle."Its getting late daddy and son"

She says glaring at us with the wind rippling through her dress."We coming sweetheart"

"Its lonely inside without the both of you. "

I smile. "Its gonna be worse when you go back to school next year"

"Honey dont remind me of that"

**

Supper was delicious and delighting.I made a simple meal lasagne then meat on the side.I'm glad they both loved it.We laying on Cebi's bed singing him a lullaby Deluwe is giving me some "Fuck me already" vibes from where she is.If Cebi was between us i would be in trouble.

I brush Cebi's brows and peck his delicate lips. "His sleeping can we go cuddle?" She says i narrow my brows. "Come" I say standing up.

"I want you to carry me to our bedroom "

"Aowa baby not you again"

"Kamo its not hard thing to do." I narrow my brows "You slowly becoming a baby and Cebi becoming an adult" I say walking towards her. "Stop complaining and be romantic Kamo"

"Can somebody shoot me!" I roll my eyes and pick her up. She pecks my nose i glare at her "What drives you?"

"You"

"You forever horny babe should i get you toys?"

She rolls her eyes. "Especially a dildo"

"Sidney stop it"

"I think kegel balls will do what do you think?" I glare at her with a smirk on my face "Kamo.." She warns i giggle. "You good baby?"

"I'm good just saddened you leaving tomorrow"

"Its only for three days on friday morning i will be here. We need to go shopping"

"And to go meet up with the rents"

"Dont remind me of your father please"

She giggles. "You're a natural just do you babehis a good person trust me"

"You will say that because his your father"

"His cool sthandwa sami okwangempela"

"So i must wear formal or casual clothes?"

"Just look like Cebi's dad and Deliwe's hubby"

"Mmmm... That means formal with a dash of casual?"

"If possible yes"

"Fine i will do so. "

"Better" She says smashing her lips on mine.

"I want a red slit dress for the wedding"

"Which wedding? Ours or theirs?"

"Theirs"

"I thought we were gonna opt for something unique babe like olive green or army green if not dusy pink"

"I hate how you know fashionable clothes and colors more than i do"

"There's so much that i know baby"

"Just like what?"

"Making you squirt." She glares at me. "What?" I say with a smirk "Why do you look this good?"

"I dont know but i guess mom drank cinnamon and milk the day we were conceived"

"Or maybe black label" i crack up. "Excuse me Faith?"

"Yes baby i heard if you drink black label during pregnancy your baby comes hot"

"Not Zelda but i can say we are products of secret sex"

"Meaning?"

"My maternal grandmother was a domestic worker and my paternal family were the bosses. So a boss's son and the domestic worker's daughter fell in love and had they sex Tumi and i happened. "

"Wow!! Surely your parents are great people"

"Aaaah! I dont know babe"

"Thats not convincing"

"They kinder didnt raise me so i wouldn't say much on the kind of people they are."

She looks at me. "They made a very rare breed of a son.A loving compassionate caring kind giving respectful understanding and humble soul. They really made me a good partner in you.One that i love so much!"

I smile "The only lucky being here babe its me. I'm blessed to have you Catte" i smirk. "Stop calling me that babe" We giggle and lay on the bed eye to eye. "The good news baby?"

"You looking at Mcebisi's father legally"

"You lie!!

" Not a chance."

"Thank you baby"

"You can dump me tomorrow but Cebi and i are stuck with each other for good and your lousy boyfriends will have a tough time with.." I dont finish my sentence because this daughter of Delilah is sucking my neck. "Deli.... Aah"

"You talking rubbish" She says giggling i force her to climb on top of me with either her legs resting sideways more neck kisses for me and obviously the cookie..

Deliwe

Its been two days with Sidney gone. Today I've decided on spoiling myself with Kamo's money after my driving classes. My hair is now grown a little i can plait if interested. Well let me go pamper myself. My class is over meaning i have time. My first stop when reach the mall is buying myself food greasy food i meant. "Catte" i lift my eyes to glare on whose calling me. "Maflo" "How are you?"

"I'm good and yourself?"

"I'm good."

"Fine" i reach for my ribs i have a mouthful of it. Maflo glares at me making it uncomfortable to eat "You must be starving" What does she want kanti? "Very hungry can i get you something?" She looks at me. "That wont be necessary i was just here to grab lunch. See you around" This is the last time you see me.

"Bye" I look at her as she walks away if i didn't know better i would think Maflo is losing her fierceness touchthat woman is a bully. Her smile and stare is enough to suffocate you to death but today i saw a very different shade of her. Maybe she just lost a family member to death. I clean my mouth and hands with a napkin. I walk out of the restaurant heading to a nearby salon. I check on what i can do on my hair. A good looking guy with dreadlocks walks my way "Hello beautiful how can we help you today?" Dude its my first time here dont make it sound like I'm a regular and besides i dont know what i want. I've never been a lady in my whole living life especially on the hair and nails department. "I want a wowing hairstyle anything in mind?"

"Mmmmm.. Lets see.. What is the occasion?"

"Wedding"

"Your face shape would complement a finger wave with fade cut"

"Finger what?"

"This hairstyle babe" His gay. Why are all the fine men gay though? "Perm?" He giggles.

"Perm ended with apartheid this darling its a finger wave you gonna look good in it."

"Mmm.. Lets try it out. Do you do nails?"

"We got you babe you cute hey"

"You handsome yourself"

"Thank you babe if i wasn't gay i would've long made a move on you" i giggle. He firstly gives me a haircut then does my finger waves. He moves to my toe nails i opted for a white pedicure. He moves to my hands giving me exact size of stiletto nails that i wanted. I dont want those long witches nails that i do not even consider knowing what they are called. Sidney calls video call. The guy whose working on me gives me a very sharp stare. I let my phone ring a message beeps "Just collected our orders I'm jealous of your dress will have heads turning" i blush. "Boyfriend?" "Yeah"

"Mjolo is a pandemic babe trend carefully. Actually love with your vagina not your heart"

I giggle "For this one i prefer doing it both ways"

"Ojele makhanana vista"

(You are whipped)

"I'm a gone girl" We giggle. A familiar perfume fills my nostrils. "Deliwe" "Jabu"

She looks at me from head to toes. This is one of the reasons i hate public spaces already I've bumped into two night demons. She's not wearing her weave no fancy make up but rather a normal looking face. "Lwa shall you finish with her please come to my aid" Jabu-

"Sure babe" I glare at Jabu no fancy make up but rather a normal looking face. "Lwa shall you finish with her please come to my aid" Jabu-

"Sure babe" I glare at Jabu so does she. "I heard your father is getting married Deliwe"

"Okay"

"When is the wedding?" Jabu-

"Whomever told you the news was supposed to have given you all the details babe starting from the venue all the way to the date. Mina angazi lutho about these news"

"Even if you knew you wouldn't tell that's how wicked you've become"

I smile. "Blame it on your mother i learnt from the best"

I say standing up. "Lwah thank you i will be back soon ."

"Pleasure." I give him money and tip him. "If i were you i would be careful sisi of the people i go to war with. What you and your father did was inhumane "

"Yooh Jabu awume! Not now and not today please"

"My mother renovated that house"

"With the money she stole from my education fund right? From the same money she stole and paid for your private school fees right? Dont play victim here you this gained Jabu because of stolen money. If there's a victim in all this that's me and my son not you and not your mother.

She looks at me for little while "And if you threatening me and my family bring it on Jabu. Go to witches call hit men on us do whatever we will meet you halfway!" I reach for my handbag and storm outside this bitch. Who the hell does she think she is? Anyway i wont let her get to me i came here to spoil my self and i will do just that. I go about my shopping till its late.

Mphikeleli

Carol and myself are laying in bed having a little chat about tomorrow. We are having Deliwé's boyfriend she's concerned about the menu and all that. As for me i have a pile of questions and maybe a little cautioning to do Liwé is my daughter.

"Leli please be on your best behavior dont scare off the boy"

"I wont scare him off I'm not that ugly Caro"

"I don't trust you honestly" i narrow my brows and flap my eyebrows. "I'm dead serious Mphazima i dont trust you."

I giggle."Relax"Lets sleep and stop talking a lot. "Dont do anything ridiculous"

"Sthandwa sami i won't do anything stupid by the way Kusile called"

"And?"

"He wants to pay us a visit"

"Why?" i look at her "Because we are family Caro"

"And you trust him Leli?" i narrow my brows.

"Sthandwa sami Kusile is a peaceful man he holds no harm"

"Mphazima you getting too attached to these people and that might invite trouble."

"You think he will bewitch me?" She glares at me. "All I'm saying is be careful not every peacefulness is accompanied by pure intentions sometimes its associated with plotting" She's been saying this and honestly Kusile has no vile and parasitic motives with us i dont see him doing harm on me and my family. Thing is women like to question everything." "Shall he do i will shoot him"

"From where? The grave?"

"Caro stop it no one is going to bewitch anyone you just being dramatic"

"I'm too young to be rocking all black and warming up a mattress"

"Okay i will be careful"

"I wonder how Cebi's dad looks like i cant wait for tomorrow"

"His a bacon and ham boy i can feel it."

"I think his got good looks" i narrow my brows while she laughs "And i dont?"

"Leli stop being jealous hawu"

"I'm asking maka Sindiswa"

"I remember the last time i complimented someone's looks it didn't end well" She sticks her tongue out teasing me. "Do you remember the boy Leli?" i roll my eyes she laughs even more "You enjoying this dont you?"

"No I'm not enjoying it my love" She laughs even more. I once did something stupid back in the years when Caro complemented a boy over his looks. "I love how jealous you get Mphazima. It shows this little heart still beats for me"

"Uyaphapha inkinga yakho" She laughs forcing me to faintly smile. "I love you silly"

"I love you more lets sleep my love"

"Yeah good night"

"Good night my love" i say squeezing her in for a hug. "My good night kiss Leli"

"Take it"

"I will take more than that"

"I'm on dietsaving myself for marriage" She cracks up we share a passionate kiss then sleep..

Deliwe

"Mcebisi wake up!!"

"Why?" He says rubbing his eyes. "Because you going to school"

"Hhaaa mama"

"Mcebisi please"

"Fine!" He stands up rubbing his eyes. My poor son has a morning erection crazy right? I know** I fill the bathtubs with water and foam bath. "Cebi i will go make you breakfast while you wash up"

"Okay mama and thank you"

"Pleasure Sthandwa sami" I say yawning heading to the kitchen. Today its the day for Sidney to meet the Mphazima's honestly speaking i dont trust my father he might scare the poor guy but i trust Sidney he will handle father just like he handles me. "Cebi dont take forever in there please!" I'm starving myself. I quickly fix breakfast for both Cebi and myself today I'm not attending my short course class i want to do the cooking for later on and maybe buy what's missing. I'm having a toasted cheese and polony when i hear a car outside pulling over. I peep on from the curtain. I melt immediately when i register the number plate i immediately get wobbly knees. He walks in whistling while carrying his sportsbag and a wimpy paperbag I'm certain he cant see me.

"Mama where is my uniform?" Cebi says walking in naked. My son jumps on Sidney poor me is leaning on the stove with my legs crossed. "Good morning boy!" Sidney says dropping his sports bag and paper bag on the floor to carry Cebi. "I missed you" Cebi says clinging on Kamo. "I missed you why aren't you dressed Cebi? Your bum-bum and pee-pee are all over my face young man!" He tickles him their laughter fills the kitchen. I'm jealous right now he hasn't noticed me as yet. Mind you I've been here before Cebi.

I'm very much jealous Cebi took my spotlight. I find his eyes staring right into mine when did he even get this close. "Good morning mommy"

"Morning baby and how are you?" i wrap my hands around his waistline

"I'm tired and sleepy driving isn't a child's play. I wanna nap babe and how are you?"

"Im feeling cold!" Little rascal blurts. "Will catch up shortly" He kisses my cheek then walks to the bedroom with Cebi on his hands. I carry bag

following them. "Where is your uniform Cebi?" Sidney

"Its casual day babe" I say. "What is he wearing then?"

"I haven't picked up an outfit yet"

"No problem i will attend to that."

"Thank you" Our eyes lock. He picks an outfit for Cebi young man looks yummy and all cute. "Now go eat Cebi" He says after fastening his shoe laces. "Okay" He runs to the kitchen Sidney makes his way towards me. He squeezed my waist "I missed you"

"Same here"

"You beautiful" i blush. "Thank you babe and why did you come this early?"

"I had no work babe"

"Oh!"

"Yeah" He presses his lips against mine i put my hands in his shoulders. We share a passionate kiss with ass grabbing. "Your flat bum is cute hey" i roll my eyes while he giggles. "Lets take him to school then come back to sleep. I'm tired babe"

"Lets go and please do get some sleep"

"Why are you wearing a doek today?"

I smile. "Nothing"

"What are we hiding in there?"

"Baby its nothing"

"Can i see that nothing?"

"No baby"

"Come on let me see" He says attempting to snatch my headwrap. "Kamo!"

"Let me see!"

"Kamo no!" I say giggling while he pulls my headwrap "What the fuck!!" He says staring at me "What?"

"Wow!! You look.. You look magnificent this is stunning babe" i smile. "God! You hiding such beauty? I love this hairstyle"

"Baby stop it"

"You hot babe you did your nails too?" he giggles "Do you like them?"

"I love you more"

"Sidney stop drooling on me"

"I cant help it I'm starting to think you doing black magic to me"

"In your dreams"

"Look at my pants"

"Cebi! Cebi needs to go to school" I giggle stupid him sneaks his hand to my privates . "Kamo stop it"

"I'll be done by the time he calls us"

"Mama im done!!!" He rolls his eyesi crack up in laughter.

41

Priscilla Ndlovu

She coughs up so badly so much my heart aches and bleeds heavy. This woman hasn't been the same since her daughter went AWOL years ago. As her daughter's best friend i have put it upon my stride to look after this woman I've been aiding her years her been sugar diabetic doesn't make the situation any better. She's been a mess for years now which i understand. There's nothing painful like your family member disappearing with no trace. The tons of questions of wondering wether they still alive or dead or eating or safe is what drives one to an early age. Portia disappeared for years and nobody knew the reasons behind her departure. What hurts the most is her mother dying of the unknown.

"Did you find her?"

I swallow hard then shift my eyes elsewhere.

"No mama i haven't been fortunate"

"They killed my daughter! I can feel it Priscilla. Portia is dead!" She cries yet again. I stand to go comfort her. "Mama Portia will return i promise"

"Priscilla have you been seaching in mortuaries?"

"I have mama and none of those have records on her"

"Ingane yami!!!" She cries hysterically a sting on my chests prevails. God knows I've tried i really did. "Sorry mama"

That's how our conversations have been throughout the years honestly its starting to weigh me down..

Milly

I'm snuggling on the couch scrolling down on the channels. I'm wearing my pink romper pajamas the coffee table is stuffed with food. Greasy food to be frank. I'm the kind who seeks comforts in food when disappointed or saddened but when i was dating Sidney. He would snuggle me till i snap out of it if not he would force me to play games with him or go jog with him or maybe go out. That guy was sweet loving and caring the only problem with him he wasn't Shalton and when furious i would do crazy stuff. By crazy stuff i mean the rough and painful sex the tantrum throwing his temper issues. Sidney was a rack in most times and i hated babysitting him instead of him babysitting me. I hated the endless whining of how life was unfair on him and how he hated Shalton for impregnating a lady he once loved blah blah i really cared less about this. I liked Shalton merely because of his fuckboy tactics sex with Shalton was heavenly. He would dick me down till i want nothing Shalton would fuck me anytime of any day. He was spontaneous too he knew what to say to have me squirting his touch alone is contagious. With Sidney it was just sex sex to proof we are a couple but other than that he wasn't Shalton maybe i wanted Shalton in Sidney not otherwise besides Sidney was a rebound one that made me fall in love with the idea of loving him but other than that...

"I've been calling you Millicent. "

But other than that i never loved Sidney.

"I want my car keys where are they?" She snaps."First drawer in the kitchen"

"Where is your mind at?"

"No where" A tear slides. "Hhaibo Milly yini?"

"Its nothing ma" I wipe my tears. Mama sits besides me. "Milly talk to me"

"Aren't you running late for work?"

"For you i dont mind what's going on?"

"I messed up mama"

"Messed up what? Sidney? Baby every relationship has its own expiry date. Did i ever tell you about my first love?" i sniff and look at I'm crying for Shalton that guy and i have two children had i not terminated.

"You loved him but the next day he woke up with someone else in bed" I say.

"Exactly. We all have turns and seasons to experience someone's touch and strokes. Instead of crying be grateful you had a chance to know them and to share certain memories with them afterwards move on"

"It's not easy mama"

"Why not? Moving on is easy especially when they didn't leave you carrying their child."

I swallow hard. "I need to go freshen up and go dress shopping for the wedding"

"Lets go there together i want one for myself"

"I want to visit a friend afterwards"

"What friend?"

"Ma please"

"Fine"

Sidney

Cebi's friends couldn't stop greeting us endlessly the young man was all chirpy as most kids were praising his fathers car and his father looking like a white person. Kids are excited by dumb things. Deliwe and myself are driving home with music playing. "What time are you going to your house?"

"I dont know"

"Come on baby"

"Maybe 2pm"

"I will drop you off then"

"Thank you" I glare at her creamy thighs. "So much yawning keng?"

"I'm sleepy"

"Didn't you sleep last night?"

"I lost my sleep in the middle of the night"

"Shame." I say parking inside the garage. I open the door for her. We walk inside the house. "I want to bath before sleeping are you keen?"

"You didn't have to ask babe" She says walking in front of me. "Can i undress you?"

"Sure" She smiles. I remove her dress then bra. I move to the underwear i spot stains on it. She looks at me "Periods?" i say with my brows narrowed. "I didn't know they resumed"

"They too light though aren't they supposed to be reddish instead of brown?"

She looks at me. "They start off as spotting then get heavier"

"Oh! Okay" Lets go bath. She faintly smile "What?"

"Nothing"

"It cant be nothing you look troubled"

"My periods are actually late" She says. I glare at her "Late? How?"

"They were supposed to have resumed two weeks back"

"But they here now babe"

"You dont get it dont you?"

"Get what?"

"A late period is an early sign of pregnancy" i choke on my saliva. "Pardon?"

She looks at me. "Can we get a pregnancy test?" i pop my eyes out. "Baby you being dramatic"

"i just wanna be sure babe"

"Fine i will go get it while you freshen up"

"Thank you"

I drive out of the house.

Deluwe

Come to think of it my periods are two weeks late. How did i miss that? But its nothing major Sidney can't make babies. I freshen up and slip into a loose baggy Tupac tshirt i wear sleepers too. Kamo walks in with a brown paper bag. "Here you go i got you neurofens for the periods pains i heard they help" i faintly smile.

"They haven't resumed just yet but thank you babe".

"Pleasure are we doing it now or later?"

"Now baby"

"Great" He looks at me. We do the damn thing lucky me they both negative.

Kamo looks at me then the pregnancy tests yet again. "What?"

"Nothing"

"Okay" I say standing up heading to the kitchen. I could use some chocolate ice-cream. I reach for a bowl and plate plenty of ice-cream "You gonna finish all of that?" i narrow my brows "Of course is there a problem Mr?" He narrows his brows. "Mmmm.. No"

"Better!" I say putting the tub back inside the freezer. To my surprise his still glancing at me.

"What? I'm not comfortable with the way you staring at me Kamo"

"How am i looking at you?"

"Like I'm acting creepy or strange or better yet I'm eating too much. You making me feel guiltily Kamo. "

"I didn't say that though. "

"Sidney come on just talk and stop glaring at me."

"Excuse me ngiyabuya"

"You haven't bathe"

"I'm coming baby."

"You running away from my questions and guess what?"

"What?"

"You won't see my nakedness for three good months honey"

"What? What did i do kante? Deliwe you bullying me and its unfair"

"Sengishilo danko!! " I say heading to the sitting room. Leaving him standing.

"Deliwe"

"What?"

"Baby you joking right?"

"By?"

"No nakedness for three months"

"Definitely isn't it you judging me"

"Modimo!!" I look at him while he glares at me from top to bottom.

"Actually baby that ice cream is very very little lets add more. Hows that?"

"Now you talking come along babe"

"Coming! But can i go smoke?"

"Dont take long"

"Fine"

He jogs outside. I decide on walking to our bedroom i cant help but to take yet another peep on my pregnancy tests okay there's no change. Both tests are still negative meaning Sidney isn't thinking his own stuffs. He walks in chewing a gum my bowl us empty now. "Ready to go home?"

"Ready to fetch Cebi?"

"Sure"

"I'm ready babe"

"Even though i was denied the cookie"

"Dont tell me you sulking because of that Kamo" He narrows his brows then smirks.

"You dont have a penis mama Cebi you know nothing about dick penis after being denied the cookie. Period pains are nothing compared to this pain" I

giggle "It's not funny "

I laugh again "Come here"

"No"

"You want me to chase you?"

"No!" He giggles. I walk to the bathroom to pee and wipe my vijay afterwards the blood is still brownish. Sidney drives me home then drives off to collect Cebi from school. He mentioned something about them having a boys only kind of a date meaning I'm not wanted. I walk into Mphikeleli and Carol kissing passionately there's some ass grabbing situation going on.

The time is six o'clock on the dot Sidney and Cebi will be here anytime soon. My father is glaring at me to my discomfort. I've noticed mama Caro is doing it too but I'm careless. Sindisiwa is here too She's wearing a simple black vested dress with a natural make-up look. Mama Caro is wearing a brown dress that hangs beautifully on her curvaceous body. My father said there's no way his dressing up just to talk to the "Boy who made her daughter a mother." It didn't end there he said a whole lot of things. Had it not been for mama Caro Mphikeleli would be wearing blue overalls on purpose. "Sindisiwa take another bottle of champagne" Mama Caro-

"Kanti I Christmas?" Dad-

"Mphazima stop it tuu!" Mama Caro-

Sindisiwa giggles she's been laughing at her father's hilarious remarks. "Caro I'm just asking. Shouldn't we offer guests juice?" Dad

"And choice assorted biscuits baba" Sindi-

"Exactly magcina" Dad

"Yazi niyabhora?" Mama Caro says wiping the dining table probably for the hundredth times. I forgot to brief you on what I'm wearing. A maroon sheath dress with a slit on the side. I also did my make-up which my father dissed saying "We not whites" to take such things so seriously. He even said we dug out our "Christmas clothes" just to talk and see the boy who made Cebi. It's been rough hey.

"It's Christmas baba for real. Look at our rice baba you would swear it was cooked by a chef"

Mama gives Sindiswa a deadly stare. "I've never seen that salad in my whole existing life" i find myself cracking in laughter they annoying me though. He text me saying his outside "They outside I'm coming"

"Its that time to sharpen your george baba and mama" Sindiswa says laughing.

"Animeni Sindiswa nobabakho yini kanti? Nidle uphuthu olosiwe?" i leave them to it. I spot him leaning against his car with Cebi standing besides him. His wearing a black turtle tee with a navy slim pants and crayson shoes. There's a necklace arond his neck making the whole look to be tantalizing and enchanting. Okay Cebi is dressed like him but the little man is wearing sneakers. There's a blazer on his arm they did their haircuts oh god! They look exceptionally good. I walk towards them. He opens his hands to embrace me "You look yummy" I whisper in his ears. "That slit baby is gonna do damage you look stunning" He pecks my neck. "You look good Cebi" He smiles "Thank you mama"

"Pleasure baby. Lets go inside"

"Let me take this out"

Sidney says opening the backseat door. He takes out flowers and bottle of wine if not brandy. "I hope your father is not a Christian and your mother not allergic to flowers"

"Poor people dont have allergies and my father has never sat foot in church since he was born." He giggles. "And what did you get me?" i smile. "I got you my joystick ride me all night" I smirk and he laughs. "Let's go inside Cebi etla" He says holding our hands i kiss his lips before we enter the house. "Do i look proper and respectful?"

"Honey you look great"

"How many cows does he want?" i giggle.

"Go inside and find out what from him"

"Sweet jesus I'm scared of your father"

"Dont be"

"Tell me you love me before i die?"

"I love you love you and love you"

"Better baby i love you too"

"Asingeni" Cebi says opening the door..

Mphikeleli

Mkhulumi walks in my soon to be wife and i stand to welcome our guest's. "Sanibonani bo Mphazima" Caro and Sindiswa smile "Greetings baba ka Cebi" The boyfriend looks at me i clear my throat and stretch out my hand. "Sawubona baba" He says i guess terrified. "Sawubona baba kaMkhulumi" I smirk.

"Welll baby this is my father Mother and little sister. Baba Mama and Sindiswa meet ubaba ka Cebi Sidney Mattews" Deliwe-

We do the little formalities and what's not. Women with loving hugs they shared hugs. "Mama these are for you" He hands Caro flowers. "Thank you son i love flowers and the last time i held them was on my grandmother's funeral that's like two decades ago" Caro-

I knew these flower will be used against me. Bloody witch is glaring at me "My apologies ma for that" Sidney -

"Its okay my boy Faith is blessed to have a partner like yourself. A man who buys flowers is for keeps" Caro

"Mama Deliwe can you stop with the embarrassment i will buy you flowers tomorrow" They all laugh at me

"Sthandwa sami i wasn't embarrassing you but praising the beauty of these flowers"

"But still i will get them." I say. "Baba i got you this i hope I'm not pressing on your cons" He says handing me a bottle of whiskey. "Thank you Sidney. Please come inside" We shake hands yet again. We sit on the table but not Mkhulumi who is watching cartoons. "Deliwe please dish up for him" We all dish up and eat we share laughter here and there. This Sidney boy is actually a good person his humble. I love his sense of humor and how he looks at my daughter. I know its too soon to say this but Deliwe is in safe hands.

"I would advice branching into property or better yet buying shares baba if not go commercial farming." Sidney -

"Definitely you have nothing to lose on those"

He adds. "I love the sound of that" I say thinking of the money that's stuffed inside a sports bag in my bedroom. I might consider what Sidney says. "So tell me are you in the corporate world or something?"

"No baba I'm an engineer but i have a good business background." I look at him. "Are you white or colored?"

"Biracial mom is pedi and my father is white"

"So when filling in forms what to do tick on the ethnicity box?" He cracks up in laughter.

"Mmmmm... That one is complicated honestly"

"Let me guess you tick on other?"

He laughs. "Sometimes"

"Poor you. So do your people believe in paying damages?" Deliwe looks at me "Baba."

"I'm just asking Liwe"

"I do believe in paying damages and lobola's. I'm white by skin but not by blood. "

"Meaning soon I'm getting my damages and lobola?"

"Baba!"

"I'm asking Deli nkosiyami"

"Yebo baba i dont mind doing that."

"I'm getting married soon you invited to my wedding. Actually i need you to see me some other alone i want us to discuss something that's not related to Cebi or Deliwe"

"No problem baba"

The ladies are glaring us. I know they were expecting me to be harsh and all that.I can't do that to someone else while i myself I'm still a boyfriend to someone else's daughter as old as i am.After all the boy is likable his aura is clean and inviting. But i will ask deeper questions when its just him and i. For now we gonna enjoy this moment. "Excuse me i need the loo" Deliwe says standing up. Caro looks at me. I whisper in her ear "What's wrong with her?"

What's with the frequent visits to the lavatory?" Caro looks at me. I think she's going there for 5th time.

"Eat we will talk in bed"

I look at st her. We eat and drink before we know it. Its 10pm.

2

Sidney

"Mme le papa Mphazima it was an honor to finally meet you thank you so much for the warm welcome and delicious food most importantly thank you for this beautiful gift" I say glaring at Deliwe.

"Thank you for honoring the invite Sidney looking forward to seeing more of you." The mother says hugging me again. "Travel safe Mattews" The father says shaking my hand I've noticed the sister is quiet and shy. "Bye Sindiswa" I say. She smiles "Pleasure meeting you Sballi and travel safe" "Thank you"

We say our goodbyes. We were forced to leave Cebi behind grandmother's orders. "Baby can we get alcohol somewhere nearby please" I glare at her. "I cant say no to that" She says busy on her phone.

"Because you want to scrutinize me all night long isn't it Catte?" I narrow my brows.

"Not a chance I'm tired. " She looks outside the window. I glare at her for a little while. "Baby"

"Mmmm.."

"Are you good?"

"Yes I'm fine just this make up feels heavy on my face. I want to remove it. "

"Are those the only reasons?"

"Yeah I'm fine babe trust me. "

"Okay i will run you a bubble bath when we get home how's that?"

"I love the idea of that "

"Are you thinking about tomorrow maybe?"

"Maybe that too?"

She looks at me. "Baby i will be right by your side trust me." I brush her creamy hairy thigh.

"I'm just scared your family might hate me"

"I once told you not to give a damn about whose hating you or loving you doing so will mean you deeming yourself lesser and that's an insult babe caring about people's perspectives on you. I love you that's should matter" She faintly smile then pecks my cheek.

"Dont worry about a thing everything will be alright sweetheart. Do you have period pains? "

"Not at all"

I brush her thighs again.I quickly get my beers i dont hesitant i start drinking.

"So who cooked?"

"Mom and i"

"That was delicious. I loved everything including your parents love.They young though how old is your father?"

"48"

"His fresh hey."

"He is" I glare on hersomething is off with this woman probably its the hormones that comes with menstruation.We park and go inside the house her first stop is the fridge. "Baby can i have ice cubes"

"For?"

"I fancy a ice cold orange juice"

"Fine" I give her the ice cubes. She puts so many ice cubes then the juice. I stare at her direction. "Imagine having this juice with a cheeseburger and ribs sweet Jesus!!"

I narrow my brows."Deliwe keng ka wena?"

"Meaning?"

"Babe we ate from your house"

"So that's reason enough not to crave other er meals?"

"Never mind i will go run you a bath. "

"I want to cuddle"

"Mmm... Okay" I lock the doors then gulp my beer. "Kamo"

"Yes"

"Why didn't you buy me flowers?"

"Hhaibo Deliwe"

"I'm asking" I heave a sigh. "Because i dont know your favorites"

"So there are types of flowers?"

I giggle then walk to the sitting room i switch on the television. "I love the red one's"

"Rose's ?"

"Yes"

"I will buy them babe"

"Okay" She says sitting on my lap planting kisses on my neck. "How do feel about the pregnancy test being negative?"

"Nothing"

"Really?"

"Really babe i feel nothing"

"Okay" i tilt my head to suck on her lips. We share a long passionate kiss.

"Lets go shower"

"Can i make love to you? With condoms obviously since you on your periods"

"No problem baby"

I carry her to our bedroom.

Carol

Leli and myself are cuddling in bed while munching on grapes and drinking champagne. We both naked and covered in sheets.

"I like that boy"

"That makes the two of us say Aah Mpangazitha" He opens his mouth i slide a grape inside his mouth a peck follows. "You said you will update me on what is happening with Deliwe" I stare at him. "What?"

"So our pillow talk will be us discussing Deli?"

"Come on Caro talk to me"

"Baby its none of our business"

"Uyabona ke?" I giggle while he isn't. "Caro talk"

"Fine.." I roll my eyes."One day i will remove those owl eyes i wonder what are you gonna roll"

"My tongue on your privates" I tease. He glares at me "We old Carol"

"Talk for yourself not me"

"You gonna roll it again?" I giggle. "No silly"

He rolls his eyes. "Back to Deliwe"

"I need a drink for this one"

"I will pour some for you" He pours me some. "Okay Leli i think she's pregnant"

"Again?"

"She's old enough"

"This Sidney boy really wants to finish my daughternumber two Caro?" i chuckle "Leli i used the word"I think" meaning it might not be true" He glares at me with a funny look painted on his face. "Hhayi this white boy is too much Caro" I laugh "Cebi is eight years old Leli"

"She's planning to go back to school next year now a baby again?"

"Leli it hasn't been finalized njena don't make a mountain out of this. Besides if she iswe have no choice but to supoort her through out the process so she can continue with her studies"

"This is wrong though"

"Its not wrong when you doing aerobics on me?"

"You have grown"

"Baby leave Deliwe alone besides that boy loves her" He glares at me "I need that tongue for real now this is trauma"

"So I'm your counseling honey?"

"Yes"

"Fine Leli but after this we sleeping. We have my family to go see"

"Your mother hated me Caro the though of her makes my ears sweat" I crack up in laughter. "Its gonna be worse with Sindiswa being mine"

"Dance to the drum i didn't ask you shove me stuffs"

"When those stuffs slipped you were quick to put them back inside" I gently punch him stupid him smirks. Such a charmer.

Deliwe

"Sidney its enough"

"Not yet pancake I'm not satisfied as yet" He says thrusting probably for the hundredth time. I succumb the deep strokes by the time his done i want nothing but to sleep. "Thank you baby" With that said he smooches my lips. God can he not dick me again this was our fourth round. My legs and thighs are complaining already. Not forgetting my cookie.

"Can i sleep now Sthandwa sami?"

"Of course mommy you can sleep I'm sorry for the appetite i could help it."

"Anything for my boo" I say laying on my side he scoops me up. "Pancake kao rata"

"Nami ngiyakuthanda" He presses his delicate lips on my neck we sleep. The following morning i walk outside the gate wearing my gown. Sindiswa is dropping off Cebi as asked.

"Sisi omdala"

"Baby wami thank you for bringing him"

"Mom has a car in the garage wash it and drive it" She says faintly smiling.

"Tired of being uber?" i say rubbing my eyes while yawning.

"Is that what i think it is Deliwe?"

"Ini?"

"Deliwe!!!!" She jumps on me hugging me. This girl can scream for days.

"Deliwe!!! CONGRATULATIONS!!! I LOVE UBABA KA CEBI" a few people who are passing by glares at us. "Sindiswa yini kanti? You attracting eyes!"

"I cant help it!! Did you see what's on your finger Deliwe? I cannot keep quiet!! Two weddings in a single year. Thungisani!!!!"

"Wedding what? Finger?" I say confused.

"Your stone duh!!" My stone? She unhooks herself from the hug she roughly pulls my hands. "THIS!!!!!"

"WHAT THE FUCK!!" i say with my eyes squinted when did he? Oh no! This guy is sneaky such a stone on my finger?

"I.. I didn't see it this is all new to me"

"CONGRATULATIONS!! HERE COMES THE BRIDE! HERE COMES THE BRIDE!!" She screams yet again.

"Tell me about it! What did he say or do?"

I'm so gonna kill him."The same way as these imaginary boyfriends does"
We giggle.

"Will talk to her thank you babe. "I say hugging her and pecking her lips of which nausated her. "You were gagging all night long for that ring now you kissing me ew Liwe!"

"I brushed njena"

"Hhay suka! Bye Cebzooo!!! God I'm so excited!!!"

"Bye Mamncane i love you"

"I love too handsome mncwah mncwah!!!" She says wiggling her cute bum.

"When mom calls asking about my whereabouts i slept here Deliwe please"

Let me put on my big sister shields and guards.

"Where are you going Sindiswa?"

"Out with friends"

"Their names?"

"Liwe I'm going to my boyfriend"

"He does have a name right?"

"Bye i love you too"

"Sindiswa igama!!"

"Thabo"

"Surname?"

"Zwane"

"From?"

"Yoooh Deliwe!"

"Talk or I'm calling ubaba"

"Vilakazi street"

"Sure play it safe"

"Just like you do"

"Yey wena!" She walks away laughing. "Lets go inside handsome" We join our hands heading inside. We find Sidney making breakfast wearing his black sweatpants he winks at me. "Morning baba"

"Morning buddy how are you?" With that said he picks him up and pecks his forehead.

"I'm doing great and how are you? "

"Now that i see my favorite boy I'm over the moon. I missed you Tyler "

"I missed you too and i cant wait to wear my clothes"

"I cant wait either... Good morning baby?"

"I'm used to being greeted last baby how are you?"

"Loving you more than I did yesterday"

"Stop it charmer boy what is this?" I show him the hand that has a ring.

"Come here baby i will explain. "

"Why do you call her baby? She's not a baby baba"

"To me she is a baby Cebi"

"Why?"

"Because she cries a lot like a baby" He smirks glaring at me. "Mama why do you cry like a baby?"

"Because his older than me"

"So you cry because daddy is older than you?"

"Yes Cebi"

"But mama you older than me and i never cry why does that make you cry?"

"Because daddy hurts me"

Sidney glares at me then Cebi who is glaring at him. It's his fault Cebi is concerned about the crying that he told him i do. "Daddy why do you hurt my mother?"

"I never hurt her Cebi mom is being dishonest" He glares at me "Then why does she cry?"

"Why dont you just eat cereals or Yoghurt? Hows that?" I giggle. "Fine but i still want to know why my mother cries like a baby if you not hurting her"

"Did you know questioning parents makes you a bad child?" I crack up while he smirks.

"Fine i will drop it but dont hurt my mother ever again baba"

"Or what Cebi?"

"I will punch you on the face then call cops on you. " We both exchange eyes.

"Can i have my cereals daddy"

"Yeah right.." I laugh. He makes him cereals we all go to the sitting room.Sidney and myself are sharing a sofa his feeding me.

Sidney

"You sneaky Kamo"

"I couldn't help it.Tell me you love it"

"I love you more" She smooch my lips. "And I'm looking forward to fucking you any time and any place till we turn grey haired"

"Not a chance babe"

"Thats a promise. " She smiles then pecks my nose. "Let me go bath and thank you for this stone it suits me baby"

"I'm waiting for you to give me a date"

"Can we wait for mama and baba first?"

"No problem baby"

"Let me go rinse my body"

"We coming"

"Sure" She stands up walking away. Cebi and myself quickly wash the dishes then go join Deliwe. We all shower and lotion. I dress Cebi in a white pink turtleneck t-shirts with a gray slim fit suits pants with white sneakers. I put a cute watch on his wrists then a denim jacket. I give him a thoroughly combing my colognes on his neck and wrists. "Wow young Sidney! You look good" The mother says glaring at him in awe. I glare on her pointy boobs which are not covered in a bra. "He looks so like me hey" Which is true. "I told you about your fashion sense i love it"

"Thank you baby. Need a hand there?"

"Not really baby. "

"Cebi don't stain your clothes."

"Yes sir!" I gaze at Deliwe as she squeeze herself in her black bodycon dress with a touch of mid-century style that hugs her body so beautifully. I didn't know such tight long dresses look this good on her. I make my way towards her and grab her butt cheeks "Baby not this again please"

"You look stunning and ravishing I'm tempted"

"Thank you and dress up please."

"This dress is showing my assets even the tiny butt and sizeable curves"

"Nobody is gonna get charmed by these but you now get dressed baby"

"Let me help you with the necklace and bracelet and the heels" She lets me massage her legs before putting on her glassy heels. "Cebi please bring me water"

"Okay baba" He stands up and I suck hard on Deliwe's lips while fingering her.

"Sidney we gonna stain my dress"

"Shhh.." I quickly go lock the door and I muff her till she squirts. Her buttocks are wiggling as I'm hitting it from behind. Her periods are played hide and seek they vanished to no trace. "Kamo.!!!" She calls out grabbing hard on the bed sheets and I cum and lay on her back. "Baba please open!"

"Coming Cebi" I say with a husky voice. "You don't get tired"

"Blame it on your black balls and whatever crap you ladies are using"

"I don't do that"

"Blame it on whatever I'm feeling when inside you." I quickly clean her up and roll her dress down. I wear my trunks and open the door for Cebi. "Why nikhiya kanti?" He says annoyed. Deliwe laughs and applies her make up. I wear a white turtleneck with a black slim fit suit pants with a Louis Vuitton belt and black cowboy shoes. They are my favorite and I wear my watch and carry my sling bag my cologne follows "Baby you look yummy"

"Come have me I'm game"

"There's a baby in here"

"Sometimes I forget forgive me" We all ready for the road we take a few snaps before driving to Muldersdrift West Rand. So many cars are here I'm certain most of them are journalists. But right now I care less. I park where it's convenient for me afterwards I open the door for Cebi. I pick

him up i move to Deliwe's side. I open for her. Few people give us stares.

"So many whites?"

"Dont mind them babe"

"Why do they look like journalists?"

"They are journalists lets go before they annoy us" She looks at me i know what she is thinking. We walk to the entrance with Cebi on my hands. The first familiar face i see is that of Tumi. "Guess who I'm seeing you all!! My half and his cute little family!!" She embraces Deliwe and smooches her lips.

"Hey Tumi"

"You look good!! Look at you dazzling in spring." She embraces her again. She moves to Cebi she kisses his lips nose and cheeks. My mother appears with Marcus holding her hand. What the fuck is going on with these oldies?

"Son..." Marcus-

"Dad" He looks at Deliwe and Cebi a smile form's on his face.

"Hello daughter" He says greeting Deliwe. "Greetings Mr Matthews"

"You must the be the beautiful lady who swept my son from his feet."

Marcus says holding Deliwe's hand to peck it. I clear my throat. "Mom and dad meet my girlfriend well fiancée Deliwe and my son Mcebisi Tyler" My father picks Cebi and playfully pulls his cheeks my mother stands there drinking from her glass while glaring at Deliwe in a very most uncomfortable manner. "Its a pleasure knowing you Deliwe and Cebi I'm the man who made him" He giggles and embraces Deliwe. "Greetings Mrs Matthew's" Deliwe says to my mother my mother turns a blind eye to that to my frustration.

"Mme mama Cebi is greeting you"

"Milly is here she looks good" Mom-

"Zelda!" Marcus warns her. Deliwe heaves a sigh then faces aside i intertwine our hands to comfort her. "Babe lets go inside dont mind my mother she's the jealous kind of a lover" Tumi says. "Lets go inside Deliwe and welcome to the family." Marcus.

"Thank you khulu kaCebi"

"Kubonga mina" Marcus says with a genuine smile. I glare at my mother with a sharp stare Tumi brushes my shoulder we walk inside attracting eyes. Damn its packed here.. "Our seats are at the front" Tumi-
"No problem" We make our way to the front in the crowd i spot Milly glaring at me then my family. I haven't spotted Shalton as yet and i care less about him but rather the shitty stunt my mother pulled.P

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Priscilla

I wasn't expecting to see Rhudzani after so many years. When i inboxed him on Facebook i thought he wasn't gonna respond but I'm surprised now that we seated opposite each other in a public place. He still looks like i remember him.

"Mandlovu" He says with his husky voice.

"Rhurhu how are you?"

"I'm very well thanks and how are you?"

"I'm good thanks"

"Awesome" He glares at me. "Still beautiful"

"Is that a compliment?"

"Maybe" We glare at each other i resort to sipping from my glass. "When Kamo told me about spotting you at some place i couldn't believe it."

"I couldn't believe it myself i last saw you guys years ago." I say analyzing him.

"Where is your friend Portia?"

"I dont know maybe you can tell me more like Sidney can tell me."

"Excuse me?"

"She vanished and nobody knows where she went"

"So you speculating Sidney might be responsible?."

"I dont know what to believe anymore i mean its possible he knows. He was sleeping with her after all"

"Priscilla where is this going?"

"I need your help Rhudzani in finding Portia most importantly i need Sidney's numbers so i can have a word with him. "

"Portia is none of my business Priscilla same applies with Kamo."

"Come on Rhudzani you knew bad people previously in your life surely you can link me with one to finding Portia. If not Kamo will be number one suspect of her disappearance given they had a thing. "

"What if she left with a man? "

"Then we will all go on with ourlives knowingly she is alive. Her mother desperately needs answers Kamo needs to tell me the little that he knows or else prison awaits him. "

"Had Kamo done something i would have known he knows nothing about her disappearance trust me"

"We talking of a gangster here Rhudzani a guy who used to sell drugs and dangerous weapons. Surely he knows something that you do not know." He looks at me then heaves.

"I wont promise you anything Priscilla but on getting Sidney's numbers I'm afraid you wont get those"

I look at him. "Any help will be highly helpful and appreciated" He glares at me my gut tells me Portia is late and i cant help but to think Kamo had a hand in her disappearance.

Deliwe

Such a small world. I happen to know the groom he once came to the brothel one time just to "Talk" he didn't want anything but to vent. He even paid more money for doing nothing i didn't know he was related to Kamo. Not that knowing would've done me justice.

My eyes meet his eyes its pretty obvious I've been the center of his attention. His not observing the whole ceremony but me. I shift my eyes to Cebi whose suddenly snoring softly on daddy's chest my eyes move back to his. He brushes my tigh. I've noticed he does that mostly when I'm trying to digest something he always lures me to spilling the beans by doing that gesture. His mother is looking at me so much that irks me.

"Are you Okay?" He whispers.

"I suppose so"

"We can always leave when you want us to"

"Its okay baby."

"Are you sure Deliwe?" I nod then brush my face. "Is that a ring?" Tumi whispers forcing me to smile. "Yes"

" Congratulations babe come next summer we will be gathered here to celebrate you and the lizard" I chuckle staring at the handsome "Lizard" he smiles at me then pecks sleeping Cebi. "This lizard treats me well"

"You doing good by him look at him he cant keep his eyes to himself but you. The cherry on top his glowing being a father looks good on him. Give him a second one" I giggle "I cant go that route again"

"Dont be a corward help a sister out. Can we rock this pregnancy ish together?"

"Tumi please I'm still enjoying the man to myself. Already Cebi is a treat a second one will replace me fully" We giggle. "I love the happy Kamo he brings me peace and joy"

"And the sad Kamo?"

"Can we not go there." I glare at Tumi then the bride and groom. "Gossiping about me?"

I blush then rest my head on his shoulder. I feel piercing eyes on me coming from behind us. I tilt my head to look a chocolate skin beauty lady is staring at me. "Thats her my ex" He whispers. I bite my lower lip. "She's not a threat"

"But she's a part of our future"

"Baby come on"

"That explains why your mother hates me my ex" He whispers. I bite my lower lip. "She's not a threat"

"But she's a part of our future"

"Baby come on"

"That explains why your mother hates me she will always be" Sidney's lover" and she will always be invited to all events " i say removing my head from his shoulder. He looks at me then brushes my thigh" Can we discuss this later? "

"I need a loo Kamo"

"Why are you angry?"

What the heck? What kind of a question is that? His bloody hot ex is here to top the cake his mother hates me and cannot hide it. Another thing i wont have a peaceful relationship with this girl appearing all the time in all family gatherings. I cant believe Kamo is asking me this dumb question. "Deliwe keng? This is not about her isn't it?"

I'm not doing this not here. "Tumi please show me the lavatory room"

"I will walk you" He says giving Cebi to Tumi. We both stand up with eyes cutting on us. He puts his hand on my waist as we walk. "You can go inside i will wait over there."

"Fine" He pecks my cheek then walks away. I release myself then rinse off my mouth and hands. I make my way to where Sidney promised i would find him to my surprise he isn't there. Instead a tall looking guy is standing there smoking. His back is turned on me only his behind tells me his handsome actually i love his neck tattoo. Okay he smells good too. He turns to face me. My heart nearly stops beating when i see who this is. Brown eyes cherry lips brushy brows mustaches and Chinese eyes. I know these features i know this person. He gave me Mcebisi I'm familiar with his touch. I once tasted his lips and seen his nakedness. I once loved him or maybe i still do. His name is Shalton his very good looking and has an athletics body. He still makes me weak and maybe...

Shalton

I throw away my cigarette butt i move my eyes from her head all the way to her toes. Her boobs are still good looking her eyes are still angelic. Her lips are still inviting her body is still sexy and enchanting. She's still that beautiful lady i once knew and adored. Still that tiny little girl whom I've made a woman. She's still Deliwe Mphazima but a little bit changed here and there she looks so...

"Faith" That comes out as a whisper. She looks at me then aside. "Hello beautiful and long time" I say smiling while walking towards her. I pull her in for a long tight hug. "Hello baby girl" I say pressing my lips on her neck. "Let loose and give me some love"

"Shalton dont.. Dont hold me i" She stutters.

"You look good and you smell good." I say breaking off the hug. She looks at me from head to toe. "Where is my baby?"

I smirk. "Your baby?"

"We were pregnant remember? Sadly life brought us apart"

"Shalton i should get going and i" I pull her hand leading her to my car with tinted windows. I brush her thigh "You were still telling me about our baby"

"Cebi is.. Well the baby is" I still make her weak i still have a hold of her. I still have a soft spot in her heart. She used to do this quite a lot previously and I'm so surprised she still does this after so many years. "Cebi? That's the baby's name?" She nods. I glare at her with a smirk on my face. Sidney thought he could avenge to me by using the mother of my kid? Deliwe will always have a soft spot for me regardless of how much I've hurt her but her heart will always be mine. I'm her first on everything. Poor Sidney thought he finally found true love but little does he know with Deliwe its even worse she was a whore. You can never ever wife a whore as sexy as she looks.

"Shalton open this door i want to go out. My boyfriend is looking for me"

"You mean my brother Sidney?" I narrow my brows "I know about you two its such a pity his using you baby girl. To settle a score of something that happened years ago"

"Shalton open the damn door"

"Fine" I lean over seductively with attempts to open the door but i stop along the way. I press my lips on her lips.

Sidney

Deliwe is nowhere nearby I've been waiting since twenty minutes ago. I'm now smoking to push away hilarious thoughts. "Hey they want you to say a thing or two at the pulpit" Tumi says glaring at me. "Where is Deliwe?"

"Didn't you leave together?"

"We did but i cant find her. I went to fetch my cigarettes in the car but when i got back there was no sign of her"

"Dont tell me you thinking what I'm thinking"

"I dont wanna go there Tumi hence I'm smoking"

"But its possible"

"And the thought of her disappearing with Shalton drives me crazy. "

I say pacing around. "Go deliver your speech i will look for her"

"Fine" I embrace my sister. I spot Deliwe appearing from a direction that is far away from the toilets. Tumi looks at me i breath heavily as i feel my palms sweating. Its not long before Shalton appears now i know where she disappeared too and so much can happen within that time phrase. I walk away pretending i didn't see her. God so help me.

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Deliwe

I shouldn't have gone to his car i shouldn't have allowed Shalton to hold me in that manner. I just shouldn't have allowed him to kiss me i just showed him he still has a hold on me. I tried fighting him off but it changes nothing i went to his car and that alone says a lot about me.

Sidney will kill me shall he learn i was with Shalton. I don't know what came over me to have made it easy for him to lure me in his car. What drives me crazy is my big loose mouth that blurted Cebi's name to the devil. I shouldn't have done that. I love Sidney now not Shalton okay maybe i like Shalton but my heart beats for Sidney more harder than it does with Shalton.

"Deliwe a minute"

I spare her a minute "You know i like you right?"

"Yes"

"And you also know i love my half isn't it?"

"Yes"

"As much as i love you i wont hesitate decapitating you shall you toy with my brothers heart. Kamo is a good guy his a lover and he doesn't deserves shitty vibes if you fuck him up you also fucking me up. And when I'm like that i don't think twice before rearranging a face. You too pretty to have maps all over your face. I'm watching you Deliwe"

Wait is she threatening me?

"I love him Tumi"

"Enough to screw up with the Shalton the dick?" I swallow hard. "I didn't do anything with him"

"Deliwe no nigga would settle with whore consider yourself blessed by wearing that stone in your finger no offense but nobody would choose you after the shattering past you come from."

"Oh! So he told you everything about me and my life?" I say blinking endlessly.

"Consider yourself warned" She walks in front of me leaving me with a aching heart. Sidney had no right in disclosing such information about me and my life especially to his family. Now Tumi will see me as a prostitute instead of Deliwe.

I find Mr Matthew's holding Cebi. I slowly sit on the chair with thoughts running wild in my head. I can feel Tumi's eyes piecing on my skin. I must admit its not comfortable at all.

I shift my eyes to the end of this tent. My eyes land on Shalton holding a baby girl there's a lady whose resting her head on his shoulder. I swallow hard then fiddle with my hands by the time Sidney finishes his speech my skull has cracked to tiny pieces that i can't glue back. He glares at me then his sister. I join my hand with his hand to my surprise he gently yanks it to press his cell phone. I glare at him then his mother who is glaring at us.

"Baby" I whisper in his ear. He glares at me with no emotion at all. "Are we fine?" He narrows his brows then presses his cell phone. "Baby" i say putting my hand on his thigh. "Stop doing that"
I swallow hard and press my own phone

"If you know what's best for you leave the Matthew's brothers alone. Walk away and never look back sweetheart. " A message reads. I swallow hard then glare at the Millicent girl who isn't glaring at me nor holding her cell-phone. "Who are you?" I text back. "Being associated with the Matthew's will

take you to an early grave. LEAVE AND DONT EVER LOOK THINK ABOUT YOUR SON. YOU DONT WANT HIS BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS" My hands tremble immediately forcing me to accidentally drop my cellphone. Sidney glares at me with his brows narrowed "I want to go home" I whisper.

"The wedding is not over yet"

"Sidney i want to go please. " He ignores me driving me crazy so much i feel my armpits sweating immediately. Someone is threatening me and stupid him wont pay attention.

People start socializing and congratulating the newly weds. Poor me is glued on my chair contemplating the text I've received. Sidney is nowhere in sight so is Tumi.

Someone clears their throat i look at their direction.

"Can we talk?" I nod and follow this Zelda woman. She looks at me from head to toe. "What is your name again?"

"Deliwe"

"Look girlie if you know what's best for you. You will leave my son the hell alone. I know a gold digger when i see one and what irks me is using a baby on your little monopoly game. Leave Sidney alone i can pay you to do that" I bite hard on my lower lipi think i found the culprit who sent me that message.

"Mrs Mattews i love your son"

"Rubbish! We both know you dont Delilah you just using him for your personal gains. Had you loved him like you claim you wouldn't have kept my grandson away from me for years Delilah"

"Deliwe"

"Same rubbish names pronouncing them correctly wouldn't make a difference." I swallow hard. "With all due respect may i be excused?"

"You are an excuse yourself leave my son alone. He doesn't love you. Give me your numbers i will give you money to back off" I glare at her. "I already have the first number of your ten digits can i have the nine remaining digits?"

"How about you pay your son to leave me ma?"

"Excuse me?"

"Things would be easier if you paid Sidney to leave me. Its not like his departure would harm me anyhow my son is this grown because of me. I did a great job in raising him all by myself. I dont need people i want them. Your son included" She chuckles. "So I'm right about you using him isnt it?"

"If me leaving your son would make up for all those wasted years of playing a deadbeat of a mother to him then sure thing. I will leave. After all mothers deserve to bond with their children isnt it?" She looks at me panting.

"Who are you calling a deadbeat? Dont insult me young lady i will ruin your life to shambles try me."

"Pleasure meeting you Zelda"

I turn to walk away i stumble upon Millicent whose drink collided on my dress. I dont want to argue with anyone its best i leave this place immediately.

Sidney

Deliwe loves sex I'm certain Shalton dicked her down in that short time frame while stupid me was patiently waiting for her like I've always did. The thought of her betraying me in that manner drives me insane but who i was i fooling? Shalton has always succeeded on making all girls praise the grounds he walks on..

"Kamohelo" A voice says behind me my eyes land on Sibusiso Langa. He stretches out his hand for a handshake i didn't notice he was here. "Buddha or should i say pastor Buddha the prisoner?" He chuckles "Call me anything you see fit even if its baby girl or pancake I'm game. Howzit my guy?" I chuckle and give him a brotherly love. "I'm great my guy and yourself?"

"That's not convincing though?"

"Don't do your thing on me please"

"Shut the front door. And who is this handsome little man?" He says glaring at Cebi.

"Cebi my boy"

"Okay where is the mother?"

"Somewhere around here"

"No problem see you soon"

"Leaving already?"

"Yeah I have another couple to wed in centurion"

"Oh! No problem Langa"

"Enjoy your evening Matthews"

"Like wise."

"Mcebisi bye boy"

He pats my shoulder then walks away. Millicent walks towards me. She glares on Cebi then me.

"Hello cutie" She says playfully pulling Cebi's cheeks.

"Hello boy boy aren't you the cutest baby ever?" Cebi rests his head on my shoulder.

Milly glares at me "Can I hold him? Such a cute little fella he looks so much like yourself"

She says brushing his hair what once was a smile turns into glassy eyes. "He could've been ours"

"Can we let bygones remain as bygones please"

"How come I couldn't give you a baby but her? I'm certain I was still in the picture when you conceived him. How old is he?"

"Milly I don't have time for this"

"How old is he? At least you owe me honest answers Sidney"

"His eight years old." She glares at me and blinks profusely. "His eight?"

"Milly give my son back please."

"I don't bite I'm just admiring the kid."

"We both know it has nothing to do with him but me"

"Get over it I'm so over you Kamohelo!"

"If so stop being all over my face its suffocating me lets be strangers"

"My replacement is not bad looking you have taste" She says changing the topic.

"He sure does have taste" Shalton says walking towards us. He pats my shoulder "Big bro Howzit" He looks at me then Cebi. "You must be Cebi the son?" He sips from his glass glaring at me "Baba where is my mama?"

"She's gonna join us shortly. "

"He calls you dad?" Shalton says. "Just like you heard him"

We look at each other "Can i hold him"

"Mcebisi woza we leaving. " Deliwe says appearing from nowhere taking Cebi.

"Can i have my handbag in your car. Cebi and myself are going home ." She says glaring at me with puffy eyes. Shalton glares on her then Cebi. I narrow my brows and swallow hard.

"I'm sorry about the dress" Milly says glaring at Deliwe. "Can we?" She says glaring at me. We turn to walk away.

"Drop me off at my house"

"I'm not your uber driver Deliwe. "

"You can always leave me waiting for one to pick me up Kamohelo since you saying it yourself that you're not one" She says with her voice trembling. I look at her then up the volume on the radio. I really can't stand her sight right now She's annoying me because i know what she did behind my back. I drop them off at her parents house. I dial my friends they tell me where they are. I drive there to clear off my mind.

Millicent

That boy is a replica of Sidney and that alone brings shivers down to my spine. Shalton glares at me with a smirk on his face. I walk past him heading to my car. "Milly where are you going?"

"A friends house"

"Which friend Millicent?"

"Ma enjoy the wedding and stop interrogating me"

"Hhayi ke ntombi kulungile" I roughly open my car when I'm fully settled i bang hard on the steering wheel. I bite hard on my inner lips. Who is this lady? I only knew one of Sidney's sluts and that was Portia how come i dont know this one? Kanti how many girls was Sidney screwing behind my back? Damn him.

I reach for my handbag i dial an old friend.

"Ma Zondi how are you?"

"I'm good thanks and yourself?"

"Very well thanks"

"Are you home?"

"No I'm in Kzn"

"Please call me shall you come back i need a little favor"

She keeps quiet "Did you hear me?"

"The last time you asked me that some terrible happened to innocent people Millicent"

I swallow hard. "Can we meet and discuss this face to face"

"What is it connected to?"

"Portia"

"Can we please let her be She has suffered enough already" I heave a sigh.

"Fine. Sorry"

I end the call if she wont help me someone will.

Mama Caro

I walk into Deliwe's bedroom. I find her crying. I sit besides her. With my motherly instincts i knew she was hiding in here crying. Its pretty obvious they had a little altercation with Sidney. Judging from how messy she was when she got in here.

"Liwe"

"Ma"

"What's wrong sisi?"

"Nothing ma"

"It cant be nothing while you crying"

" Its nothing major ma its just a little altercation with Kamo"

"What happened?"

"His mother hates me"

"Dont mind her what matters is how Kamo feels about you"

"He hates me too so is his twin sister"

"Baby worry less about his family but your little altercation"

"I want to sleep it off ma"

"Go fix things with Kamo its really wrong for you to go to bed without solving this. Doing that will make more room for your enemies to destroy you. Call him"

"I will can i sleep now?" I glare at her. "Anyone your dad and i are going out there's food in the pots eat and feed Cebi"

"Thank you ma" I kiss her cheek and walk out. This girl is pregnant.

Sidney

I'm drinking but i cant articulate where this alcohol is heading. My thoughts are all over the place. I have so many "I should've or i shouldn't have" kind of scenarios in my head. I didn't expect this day to end like this. Its like Shalton is winning yet again and stupid me is giving him the satisfaction. I raise the bottle yet again.

Rhudzani rubs my shoulder then sits besides me. "Penny for your thoughts?"

"Shit got real today"

"Wanna share the load? Is it about Priscilla?"

"Definitely not We had a little altercation with madam"

"What was is it about?"

"Its complicated Rhudzani"

"Complicated enough for you to drive here like a maniac?"

"I messed up"

"Dont tell me you laid your hands on her Kamo."

"Relax.. Its about her ex"

"What about the ex?"

"Yeah what about the ex?" Lefa says sitting besides me i glare at them then my beer.

"Kamo come on share the load"

"I feel threatened by my girlfriend's ex boyfriend"

"What the fuck?" Lefa says glaring at me. "What about the ex?"

"Deliwe loved that guy fucked up and i still believe she loves him still. So the catch is the nigga is back in the picture and ealier today they disappeared together for a quite some time and i couldn't help but to think of the worst-case scenario. "

"Surely they were rekindling" Lefa

"Shut up Lefa this is serious" Rhudzani-

"Rhu lets be honest wherever there's an ex involved trust me that ship is gonna sink. That relationship will never be peaceful it will be a bumpy road

filled with uncertainty worry insecurity and many more other's stuff. Ex's interfering with current life always invite trouble. I'm single for a reason. Like Chris Brown once said "These whores aren't loyal"

I sip on my glass then glare at Lefa. "Look Kamo Lefa might be correct but do you think your girl would screw things up with him?"

"Nigga was a first in everything Rhudzani. "

Lefa whistles "Take it from me Sidney whenever i go home i still dick my first love all in the name of finding closure. First lovers hold a special place in one's heart. Granted a key to a dark room trust me they will fuck and fuck and fuck yet again and good guys like yourself will find themselves raising kids who are not theirs because bad boys get all the good stuff and the good ones get all broken girls who are healing from wounds that were implemented by the fuck heads. " I swallow hard realizing how Lefa is describing me in all of this.

"So much can happen within twenty minutes" My guess exactly. It could've been better with them coming from somewhere nearby than the direction they came in. I really want to trust Deliwe around Shalton but i cant. I'm really trying but its hard. I mean she once confessed it in my arms eyes locked that she still thinks of the dude meaning his still a part of him and that alone wrecks me.

"Kamo go home and talk to her surely they did nothing. Tell her what you feel or think that girl is down for you" Rhu-

"Say what? Babe i think you gonna fuck your ex and im insecure about it? I should say that? " They both glare at me.

"You can only be insecure if the guy has a baby with her." Rhudzani says. I narrow my brows and glare at him i was expecting that from Lefa.

"I have a very bad experience with dating girls with children. Two of them had unfinished businesses with baby daddies as time went on niggas resurfaced and guess what? I was no longer baby but rather" Eish wena" the only safe baby mama to date is the one whose baby daddy passed on or the one who has no intentions on knowing his child all because his married and doesn't want to jinx his marriage over a childhood little fling. " Lefa adds. I heave a sigh then reach for my car keys and wallets." Gents let me go home thank you for confusing me even more "

" Come on Kamo dont be like that. I'm kidding not all baby mama's are red flags some are good and some aren't. "

" Thanks gents"

I walk to my car. I drive to my house as I walk in i feel a very deafening silence and melancholy. I lean on the table counter and text her. "Goodnight pancake i love you still and I'm sorry for how i acted earlier on. "

Deliwe

Cebi is peacefully sleeping besides me. Last night i hardly slept I've been turning and tossing all night long. Replaying my little demeanor that transpired at the wedding. I didn't like how Tumi spoke to me same with the mother and how Sidney treated me what tops the cake was the message i received. I know i wasn't much of a Saint myself yesterday i contributed to some of the affiliations that happened but i strongly believe i didn't deserve any of that treatment. I'm slowly starting to doubt my thing with Kamo i mean its so chaotic. I actually should've left when he confessed being related to Shalton i should've left things at nothing but another thing i would've been chasing pavements that lead nowhere this is just complicated.

I make my way to the bathroom luckily i have a bath cloth this side and toothbrushes. There won't be a need for me to go face Kamo. I freshen up and then change to a simple gray leggings and a black short-sleeved tshirt then

sleepers. My parents didn't come home last night same applies with Sindiswa. A knock comes to my doorstep as i wrap up with the cleaning it better not be Sidney I'm not up to entertain him. My eyes land on someone I wasn't expecting to see.

Florence

"Good morning can i come in?" She looks at me then steps aside. This girl is playing with fire by dating brother's. Most importantly Angie has grown a badly obsession with her just yesterday at the wedding she couldn't stop making remarks about Deliwe looking familiar.

" If you want to discuss me going to the brothel I'm afraid i can't and i won't Maflo" She walks in front of me. Mphikeleli did something remarkable with this house i love everything about it. Starting from the decor and paints his a man of taste explaining why most girls were wrestling each other for him. "Have a sit." I sit opposite her. "Can i get you a drink?"

"That wont be necessary Deliwe"

"What brings you here?"

"I saw you yesterday at my son's wedding"

"Your son's wedding?"

"The groom is my son and so is the father of your son Shalton" Her facial expression changes immediately. "Shalton is your son?"

"Yes" I glare on her. "Oh!"

"Catte look i know you probably trying to use Sidney to breaking Shalton or avenging what he did to you but young lady this game you playing is a very dangerous one. You gonna get hurt"

"I'm not playing any game"

"I saw you kissing Shalton in his car i even saw him cupping your boobs" She looks at me "It meant nothing"

"Catte both Sidney and Shalton are handsome but you don't wish to deal with both of them in different seasons. If given one choice to make Deliwe choose yourself and your son. This madness is not worth it. Do you really think your thing will work? Sleeping with both brothers? And including Mcebisi in your little game? You gonna break your son by entertaining this dust. Leave Shalton and Sidney alone. They both gonna use you to settle their scores "

She blinks again this time around her eyes are glassy. " You and Shalton can never ever be more comfortable with each other your thing was doomed from years ago. Step aside and focus on yourself and your crown. Your break through is not aligned with the Matthew's. You are stronger by yourself than supported by people with bitter motives. I might know you as Catte but right now I'm talking to Deliwe Faith Mphazima whose destiny is not aligned with men but God and her devotion to changing her life.. Do better than this I'm only here to warn you its for your safety. "

Her tears roll over. " I'm sorry my love i really am. Its coming from a clean heart. I can help you leave this place if needed be"

"Thank you i will be okay"

"Make use of my numbers if you need a friend"

"Mama ngilambile" I face the direction of the tiny voice. My eyes locate little baby Cebi such a handsome little man even though he takes after Sidney quite a lot. Its true when they say "You give birth to what you hate. " Shalton gave birth to his enemy Sidney. Had he loved Sidney this boy wouldn't be looking like Kamo. "I'm coming my baby i will fix you something shortly" Catte says sniffing. I stand up say my goodbyes then drive away before Mphikeleli sees me.

Sidney

Today i woke up feeling empty its even worse with Deliwe not picking up my calls nor responding to my messages. I just feel drained and exhausted. I

guess i should distract myself by going to church. I jump out of bed and go shower. I lotion and wear a simple formal outfits. I ring Deliwe again this time she answers okay Cebi answers. "Baba hello?"

"Hey boy you good?"

"Why didn't you fetch me yesterday? I wanted to play games with you" i feel a sting on my chests. "I'm sorry my boy so very much. Have you bathe?"

"No"

"Look freshen up I'm coming to fetch you. We going to church"

"Can i ask mama?"

"No problem my boy"

"I love you baba"

"I love you too Cebi" He ends the call leaving me feeling miserable for a little while. I fix myself something quick to eat my phone vibrates. I pick up "Please bring our stuffs along "

"Pancake morning" She keeps quiet. "Baby please talk to me"

"Hi Sidney"

"Babe come home please"

"What home Kamo?"

"Can we talk after church?"

"Bring Cebi's school uniforms"

"His spending a night with me i will prepare him myself"

"Then bring my stuff and leave his"

"Baby please don't do this please Pancake"

"He will be ready in ten minutes" I swallow hard. "Deliwe" She ends the call. I pour myself a glass of juice i gulp it then storm out. I drive to her house i call her to bring Cebi outside. They both appear i step out of the car to meet them halfway. I hold Cebi's hand while Faith has the other we cross the street with silence. I open the door for Cebi then close it afterwards.

"Rato laka" She looks at me with a puffy face.

"Kamo"

"I'm sorry"

"Enjoy church"

"Delive please"

"Kamo i dont want to talk at least not now"

"Fine. Take care"

"Bye" She glares at me so do i. "Can i hug you please" She stops walking. I pull her in for a hug i kiss her neck at it. "Baby i love you"

"I wish it was easier to believe that"

"Excuse me?"

"Baba asambe"

"Coming son." I say glaring at Liwe. "Dont forget to tuck him in bed early check his books and all that" She walks away leaving me facing the direction she took. I walk back to the car i drive to church. The service is great. I drive Cebi to a game store where there's a variety of things he can game on. "Your son is handsome" I look behind me my eyes land on Priscilla. "Thank you. But do you really have to follow me everywhere?"

"You just everywhere i go Sidney can i?"

"Sure"

"The one wearing pink is mine She's five years old" I glare at her baby. "She's Indian?"

"No shes very much black"

"No offense i thought she was Indian"

"No offense taken I'm used to getting that. How old is yours?"

"Eight years old"

"So you were busy during your days? Not only were you screwing Portia and Milly?" I chuckle. "I'm a very good looking guy Priscilla and besides my eyes can see potential at times"

She giggles. "Honey I'm done lets go"

"Pleasure meeting you Kamo we leaving.. Tessa!" The kid comes over they walk away. I text my mother i should go have a word with her about yesterday i didn't like what she did.

Zelda

Tumi and myself are busy cooking when my son and his kid walks in.

"Dumelang"

"Ra dumela papa le kae?" (Greetings my son and how are you?)

"Fine" He says glaring at me with his hand buried in his pocket while the other is holding the son. "Kaone is around you can take the boy to the sitting room"

"The boy has a name mme"

"Cebi go join your cousin in the sitting room you turn left then bingo! The sitting room." I say adding parsley on my salad. "I will walk him" Tumi says heading to Cebi. He looks at me then sits down. "Where is your trophy girlfriend?"

"What was that mama?"

"What was what?"

"Why were you rude at Deliwe?"

"I had no reason to be kind its not my duty. Anything to drink?"

"Ma she's my girlfriend and a mother to Cebi"

"Kamo everyone has their likes and dislike you cant force me into liking what you like. She's not my kind of coffee okay?"

"She loves me more than you do as my parent. I wish you could learn a thing or two from her instead of reducing her. She's a good and hands on mother to her son wherever she goes this little boys hand is always intertwined with hers something you failed to do with me and Tumi. I wont allow you to do that on her not in my presence ma. "

I glare at him. "I hate what you did yesterday i cant force you into liking what you do not like but being rude is something else ma. Milly and myself are over its about time you made peace with that. Don't ever disrespect Deliwe in that manner not when you are in people's marriages. The only person you should be hating is the one standing in front of the mirror not a good loving and present mother who knows everything about your son while you know nothing but his name and surname and ID number "

I blink endlessly and swallow a lump on my throat." They playing games what did i miss? "

" I'm out of here" Sidney says heading to the dining room "What happened?"

"Its about the girlfriend"

"He gave you a piece of his mind?"

"Something like that"

"You were harsh ma"

"I'm protecting my son"

"From what? Love?"

I glare at her. "Heart break. That girl is gonna hurt him"

"That's not our business though"

She says eating a carrot.

Mphikeleli

The Moloji family is gathered in the living room. I dont know what they gonna say about this. Its even worse Caro insisted i enter the house. It would've been better had i remained in the car me being here will irk her family honestly especially the mother. That woman hated me for deflowering Caro. Finding out Sindiswa is mine will make her hate me even more. This stubborn woman shouldn't have brought me here Kusile made it clear for me not to come here but Caro did what she does best "Pulling me by my sinuses" Love will turn us to lunatics some day

"Mme this is Mphikeleli Mphazima my soon to be husband" Mumbles fill up the room. "Mphikeleli is.."

"Whooa! Carol. Did you just use the husband phrase oin your sentence?" Her Uncle says. "Yes Rangwane"

"You have no shame dont you? Aren't you married Carol?" Mom says. "Mama i was married but not anymore"

"Heeee!!!! Modimo ramasedi" The mother says clapping her hands. "What is this Carol? You left a good home for this madness?"

"Mama Tony wasn't treating me well he was abusive and cheating on me"

"Didn't i teach you about submitting to your husband? Didn't i teach you about back mouthing your husband? Tony wouldn't have been like that had you been a good and respectful wife to him!" The mother says glaring at me. "Mme I'm not here to discuss my previous marriage but the new one."

"We have nothing to discuss Carol unless you want to discuss Anthony leaving prison!"

"Mama he wanted to rape my daughter i wasn't gonna submit to a dog!" They mumble

"What did you expect when you allowed your kid to wear shorts skirts in front of a man? Sindiswa brought this to herself."

Her uncle says. "Rangwane that hilarious that is obnoxious!"

"Caro lets go"

"Leli we need to get their blessings"

"Rubbish! We leaving now!" I say standing up after our little whispering conversation.

"We wont bless this madness Anthony is our son in law not this criminal" The mother says. I narrow my brows. "This criminal is Sindiswa's father and I'm gonna marry him with or without your blessings ma"

"You say what?" The mother stands heading to Carol. "I love him I've always had ma and I'm gonna marry him out of love unlike what you all did with Anthony"

The mother slaps Carol. "Over my dead body! Sindiswa is not his child but Anthony"

"Lets go sweetheart" I say helping her up.

"Shall you walk through that door consider yourself family less!!" The mother roars. "Its okay baby let's go home"

Milly

My mother and i are catching up on our favorite series on showmax. That's how are Sunday's are. "Lilly"

"Ma"

"Tell memy baby Who is that girl the one Sidney came with to the party?"

"Isn't it obvious?"

"The nerve of that boy! Do you think the baby is actually is?"

"They look a like ma its possible"

"Mmmm.. That girl was wearing a huge diamond ring did you see that?"

"This Mqhele guy is abusive and stupid Mahlomu is justifying this! Stupid girl!"

I say snapping. "Millicent are you okay?"

"Of course not. My ex is happily in love while I'm miserable!"

"Sorry my angel"

"Sidney was better off on my case than him playing happy family with that township rat!!"

"You sound like a jealous and plotting bitter ex! Milly don't lose yourself over this."

I look at her then glare at this big fat screen. My cell phone rings. "Hey Ma Zondi you back?"

"Yes lets meet in Jabulani mall"

"I'm coming" I jump from the sofa heading to my bedroom to change.

Deliwe

After cooking and listening to sad music i decided on visiting mama Dora. To my surprise i find the daughter in law and the grandchildren. It looks like they having a little family luncheon. I'm tempted to walk away but its too late.

"Ma where are your kuku's" A manly voice says from the end of the rooms.

"Sibusiso can you stop that rubbish i will slap you as tall as you are"

"I love you too Dora the explora baby please come lend me a hand"

"Coming honey!" The wife shouts back. I look at them with admiration. "Dont make babies in my house you two!"

"That baby would be blessed ma" The Sibusiso guy appears I've seen this guy before. But he wasn't this good looking this guy looks so American. His very very saucy and spicy. Look at his legs body and... I swallow hard when he walks past me "Greetings Deliwe Mphazima"

"Greetings"

"Sibusiso Langa" He stretches his hand then looks at me. I stretch mine out

"Pleasure meeting you"

"Likewise ma where are they?"

"Ini Sibusiso?"

"Di kuku" He smirks. He has beautiful teeth too? Oh Lord i find his eyes on me. There's a smirk on his face. The mother stands up leaving Buddha and myself in the room. His leaning by the wall with his hands buried inside his pockets. His brows are narrowed

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his eyes are cutting deep into my skin. "Stop drooling on me" I cough up badly. "I.. I didn't do that i just I"

"I invaded your mind Deliwe i saw everything you said or thought of me. I even went as far as invading your doubts." I look at him and swallow hard.

"Relax he really loves you and his the only man who will ever love you fully and truly. Shall things end know it was your decision and your free will but that guy loves you not the other one" A kid runs in sucking on their thumb. "Hey princess missing daddy already? I know sweetheart you can't go a while without this charm. I love you too" He says pecking the kid. I replay his statement. Ma Dora appears with the scones. They force me to eat with them a while later they all leave and i finally get a chance to talk to maDora.

"Ma I'm confused"

"Over what?"

"What you once told me about. Its like my heart is in two different places and so many voices are calling my name so loud making it hard for me to listen and answer to the correct one. I dont know what is going on with me ma"

"Which voice is the loudest of them all?"

"The one telling me i should give Shalton a benefit of doubt and that Sidney is too good be true especially after he disclosed my past to his sister. "

"Which voice is lesser louder?"

"The one telling me Kamo loves me and that i should apologize to him and try to be understanding of where he comes from."

"Do you know the difference between those two voices?"

"I suppose so"

"What is the difference?"

"The loud one is my brain analyzing the truth and the silent one is my heart deceiving itself" She giggles. "Wrong Deliwe" I widened my eyes I'm confused.

"There's no such thing as that my child."

"I dont follow ma"

"The loudest voice is never truthful but deceiving. It brings forth confusion fear worry doubts and uncertainties in our lives. If you pay a close attention to the message you've received from that loud voice its misleading you and redirecting you from your truth. It is denying you an opportunity to having what was meant for you that voice is stealing destorying and killing what you trying to build Faith. A loud voice in our ears is associated with the darkness that voice never fills our ears with fruitful things it always promotes negativity. Just yesterday you were having thoughts about separating with Kamo you know why? "

" No"

"Because Satan's voice is very loud my child and he can use our hearts desires to destroying us."

"And the soft voice?"

"That voice is associated with peace love prosperity happiness contentment elevation. That soft voice is God and your angels guiding you to your truth. Most people do not hear this voice you know why?"

"Because they think the loudest voice is always the right one?"

"Exactly Deliwe. The loud voice is misleading and deceiving the peaceful one is"

"Cultivating and truthful."

"Exactly. Shalton is not good for you my daughter and you know it. If you don't trust me i dare you to go home to go write 10 reasons to why you love Shalton and 10 reasons to why you should be together and also 10 beautiful things

that his ever done to show how much he loved you. Do the same with Sidney and bring those papers to me"

This is gonna be hard. "I will"

"Mama i forgot my cellphone" Buddha says.

"I will go look for it" The mother says. "Kamo is back" I glare at Buddha.

"There's a beautiful sexy lady with him. I saw them kissing"

I pop my eyes out and go look outside. Indeed his car is back and the lady? It better not be Milly. I go inside the yard.

Sidney

Cebi and myself are offloading our little stuff while the young man is telling me stories. I must say having a kid is a blessing in disguise like i once promised. Shall Deliwe and i separate my relationship with this guy is nowhere.

"Baba are we still gonna drive to the shops? You promised to buy me burgers"

"They gonna deliver our burgers in here do you want a beef patty or chicken patty?"

"I want all the meats"

"You need to watch your weight young man."

"Okay can i have a salad?" I giggle and tickle him. "I didn't mean you should eat rabbit food son one patty will be fine"

"Can i have the one you will eat?"

"I have a plan let's make us a mini picnic set up by the pool how's that?"

"I love that!! You are a cool dad"

"Lets go set up then"

"Yeey!!!" He jumps up and down leaving his clothes on the bed. I chuckle and follow him as we approach the sitting room. My eyes land on Deliwe. She glares at me so do i. "Mama you late we went to church and the shops now we going to have a boys only picnic"

"That sounds great Cebi"

He walks outside excited. "Where is your sexy lady?"

I glare at her shocked by that "Excuse me?"

"The sexy lady you came with"

"Buddha told you that?" She flaps her eyebrows. "Shes here isn't it?" I smirk.

"Sidney its not funny! I know all corners of this house i will search for her and I'm gonna burn her with water" She walks past me i pull her hand. "Pancake he fooled you there's no girl in here"

"You lying"

"Baby I'm serious that guy can be childish at times" I giggle and pull her in for a hug. She hugs me back.

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Deliwe

I'm seated on a camping chair watching my son running freely laughing his lung out as Sidney is playing with him. I've never seen Cebi this happy in my whole entire life my baby has always been caged and tamed just like a little moth inside a sealed bottle. Seeing him this happy really brings me joy and peace for its evident. He is finally being a child that he was supposed to have been without me having to force him to being an adult as little as he is. Sidney really saved my son he saved both of us from our misery and I'm grateful for that..

"Penny for your thoughts?" He says making his way towards me wearing his denims shorts. "Just admiring the view its beautiful"

"Indeed it is" He says sitting besides me glaring at Cebi as his playing freely on the lawn. "His growing each day"

"And his happier than ever" I add.

"Thats what's i love the most seeing this little boy chirpy and carefree"

"Yeah. I've always seen his smile but it wasn't something closer to this"

"True that. The Cebi I'm staring at right now isn't the Cebi I met a couple of years ago. I love this one" He says intertwining our hands.

"I thank God for the day I met you Kamo yes at first I cursed it but now I realize you've been a blessing in disguise. My blessing to be frank"

He looks at me. "I also thank God for creating such a beauty like yourself you might be tainted by the things you've been through but in my eyes I see purity and someone whose deserving of beautiful things" I clear my throat.

"Can we talk about what happened yesterday"

He says glaring at me. "No problem"

We both keep quiet for a little while.

"Firstly I want to apologize for the way my mother acted and treated you at the wedding it was inappropriate and very much obnoxious. I'm sorry babe"

"It's evident she doesn't like me and I don't see her hate for me subsiding anytime soon"

"Like I once told you babe the only validation and assurance you need is mine. If I have your back worry less about whose stabbing it. The only person you know in my family is me not anyone else but me and maybe him" He says giving me a strange look. "I thought Tumi liked me but yesterday she showed me a side of her that I didn't know existed"

"What happened?"

"You told her about my past Kamo and she used it against me of which I wasn't happy about. I thought our relationship affairs are ours not everyone's else's"

"What did she do or say?"

"She knows I was a prostitute and it hurts that you told her"

"I didn't tell her Faith"

"How does she know then if you didn't tell her?"

"Tumi has a way of finding out things. I didn't tell her trust me. I myself I was shocked when she told me she knew about our little situation of me not being a biological father to Cebi but she promised our secret was safe with her. Meaning she knows about Shalton and yourself. " I look at him." I didn't tell her but if she sounded a bit harsh I will talk to her about it and have her apologising "

" There's no need for that honestly because she was kinder telling me the truth"

"I see... Can i ask you something?"

"Yes"

"Is it safe to continue with this relationship?"

"Meaning?"

"I wont beat around the bush Catte i didn't like what happened at the wedding" i flap my eyelashes and let him continue. "I know you disappeared with Shalton for twenty minutes. "

"We didn't do anything Kamo. "

"I didn't ask you if you did anything or not Deliwe."

"But eventually you gonna ask that question"

He looks at me for a while then Cebi whose busy with his ball.

"That defense response tells me you did something wrong"

"I didn't do anything"

"You did Deliwe"

"Kamo i didn't do anything wrong i swear"

He chuckles. "Deliwe I'm a big guy i can take in the punches no matter how stinging they are. Just tell the truth because you've already shown me your guilt. Its written all over you just surrender and stop justifying it"

"It was a friendly meeting i did nothing i swear."

"Its Shalton you disappeared with Deliwe not anyone else but your ex one whom you were head over heels about"

"But still doesn't mean i didn't anything with him i swear" He looks at me with his lips pursed.

"I dont trust you in the presence of that person Deliwe and I'm certain you dont trust yourself around him as well. I mean you once confessed you still think of him and miss him meaning you still hold a certain feel for him."

"Sidney I'm here with you doesn't that count for something?"

"You might be here with me Faith while your heart is elsewhere. Maybe I'm jumping into conclusions but my gut tells me that disappearance wasn't friendly i wish you could stop lying but rather admit the truth no matter how bitter it will taste"

"Kamo you've already concluded i did something wrong more like you thinking of the worst of me. And I'm telling you i did nothing with him"

"What would you think or feel like had i disappeared with Millicent for twenty minutes without being in a spot where there's people roaming around but rather somewhere private?"

I swallow hard. Honestly i would've thought of the worst given they've been together for years and that they hold a history together. I would've thought he bent her down.

"Where did you go with him?"

"His car"

He looks at me. "For twenty minutes you were both inside the car?"

"We did nothing"

"I hate how you keep on saying the nothing word repeatedly Deliwe"

"That's because we did nothing"

"I'm not stupid okay?" Cebi looks at uswe both keep quiet. "He tried to kiss me but i pushed him back"

"Why did you go to his car begin with?"

"Honestly i dont know"

"Wow! You dont know?"

"Baby I'm sorry i dont know what came over me to go to his car but i promise i didn't do anything sinister with him"

"But you let him touch you Deliwe there's no way he could've jumped to kissing you without you giving him a reason to doing it"

"Kamo come on i didn't give him a reason to that. He was just a jerk"

"A jerk you followed to his car?"

"Kamo I'm sorry i really am sorry"

He looks at me. "Why do you keep on allowing this guy to have a hold on you?"

I keep quiet "Did you tell him about Cebi?"

"His name slipped my mouth"

"Oh! Now i see why he kissed you" He stands up. "Cebi come"

"Kamo we still talking"

"I dont know what to say or think or better yet do Deliwe."

"I'm sorry Kamo i didn't mean to"

"You still love this guy"

"I dont"

"We both adults can we not fool each other? Because i know you went to his car out of love if not thrill or suspension"

"Kamo i didn't kiss him back"

"And that is supposed to make everything better?"

"Baby please"

"Yazini lets change the topic please"

"Kamo you can't just drop me like this. We need to talk and put this to rest"

"It wont rest Deliwe not when your heart is still betraying you. You had no right to disclose Cebi in that manner that boy hates me and right now you gave him something to use against me."

"But honestly babe his the father at some point he was gonna show up to fight us ngaye"

"And you think him coming back would benefit Cebi?"

"Thats not what i said"

"Everything i say right now is gonna be used against me in another fight"

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can we just change the topic?" I look at him with glassy eyes. "Come homework time boy" He says walking away with Cebi. I messed up big time..

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Mphikeleli

"Sthandwa sami dont tell me you still crying"

"I'm hurt Leli. I cant believe my mother would say that about my child"

"Dont let her get through to you."

"Its women like herself and rangwane who make victims frightened to sharing their truth about abuse"

"Ma Mphazima dont let them break you again.. They succeed at some point using uAnthony dont allow them break you once again. Its pretty obvious in their eyes you are something to toy around and use" She looks at me.

"I'm sorry i had to say this but your family doesn't have your best interests Caro. They married you off to Anthony to settle a debt now they want you to be stuck in an unhealthy relationship because of what?"

"They sure hate me Leli"

"Dont worry Leli and the girls love you so much we gonna get married without their blessings"

"I guess my aunt will vouche for me. I need to go visit her in Mamelodi"

"I will go with you if needed be but i wont get inside this time around"

"Thank you Leli."

"No thank you for giving me the opportunity to mending my wrongs"

"Its okay"

"No its not okay sugar. Had i not been selfish and troublesome i would've saved you from all that crap our daughter wouldn't have been at risk of having Anthony attempting to do stuff on her. Its actually my fault that everything turned out this way"

"Mphazima stop it its nobody's fault okay? I also had an opportunity to defying my parents but i didn't this is nobody's fault."

"But still i should've protected you"

"You here now and I'm protected."

"Uyathandw MaMphazima"

"Le nna rato laka"

"Let's go watch movies instead of crying in here"

"No i want to cuddle"

"For today i will try this cuddling thing without being naughty cos really i dont understand it at all" She giggles. "Cuddling is the cutest thing ever in a relationship."

"I guess for women"

"Exactly.. Leli"

"Yes"

"Are you gonna invite your sister?"

"Which sister?"

"Khosi"

"For peace sake i wont"

"Come on Leli give her a benefit of doubt. Be the bigger person here"

"She's the eldest Caro i wont be the bigger person while the bigger person is content with what's happening in our lives. If she wont mend our relationship as siblings then i wont do anything about it she's the one who did everyone wrong. Yourself too i wont be a bigger person my love not when she's the one at fault. She must apologize to me not the other way round "

" Leli you stubborn"

"I guess that's why you laying on this bed"

She looks at me "I'm serious maka Sindi I'm not forgiving someone who hasn't apologized to me. I'm no Jesus mina i wont say it is well in my soul with my soul isn't" She cracks in laughter.

"You're a bad person"

"So we gonna cuddle for how long?"

"An hour"

"I wont survive that"

"Why not?"

"Men dont cuddle"

"Today you will break history"

My phone beeps. "I heard you marrying Caro" Thats a message from Sarah.

"Who is that?" She says taking my phone she reads the message "And then?"

"Then what?"

"Why do you still have this number?"

I look at her "I'm blocking this fool" She does her magic "Dare talk to her ever again we will have trouble Mphikeleli"

"I haven't spoken to her since that time"

"You just reminded me i want to burn that bedding"

"Hhaibo Caro"

"Yini?" She stands up. "And the cuddling?"

"Stuff that"

"Shes no threat nje"

"I'm not backing down" I chuckle then dial Kusile.

Deliwe

I switch off the kitchen lights after wrapping up with the dishes. I make my way to the sitting room where Kamo is with his laptop. There's been tension after that little talk i dont even know what to say or do to clear the air.

"Are you gonna come to bed?"

He looks at me "Where else am i gonna sleep if not in our bedroom?"

"I was just asking babe not anything else"

"I will join you shortly after finishing this proposal"

"Fine"

I walk to the bedroom.. I remember what mama Dora told me about writing the qualities between both these people i jot it down. More points are on Sidney's side and less are on Shalton. The door swings open. He walks in then sits besides me.

"Going to school tomorrow?"

"No"

"Why not?"

"I dont have a class"

"I see. What is this?"

"Its a task i was given by mom Dora"

"What is it all about?"

"Well its something crazy"

"Can i read it?"

"Only if you wont fight me afterwards i hate it when we fight" He looks at me.

"Is it related to the Shalton thingy?"

"Something like that" He furrows his brows.

"I don't think you need this more than i do Faith"

"I need you Sidney i promise"

"No babe you need Shalton not me"

"That's not true"

"Do you need time to find yourself?"

"Where is this going Kamo?"

He looks at me. "Faith honestly speaking I don't want to hurt myself furthermore. Whenever Shalton is involved my heart always remains in stitches patches and shambles. He always wins against me and I'm afraid with this too he is winning again." I move closer to him with my hands shaking I hold his hands.

"Deliwe I love you big time but.. "

"I hate this tone Kamo. I hate where this is going. I've seen this episode in movies I've heard these lines in a song and trust me I know the damage it comes with and I'm not ready for it" He glares at me.

"I'm sorry for everything Kamo starting from going to his car to telling him about Cebi. I don't know what came over me. I just messed up big time and I'm sorry"

"What do you want Deliwe please be honest with me"

"I want you actually I need you. "

"It doesn't look like that"

"Trust me I mean it"

"I feel like I'm fighting a losing battle a battle that I'm certain I won't win."

"Kamo are you breaking up with me? Over a lame and meaningless Kiss that I didn't reciprocate?"

"I'm not breaking up with you"

"Then what are you doing?"

"I want to give you what you want Deliwe"

"Kamo what do you know about what I want and not want?"

"You confused Deliwe and I can't participate in your confusion. I will be the one left with a broken heart here."

"You really don't trust me do you?"

"I'm trying to trust you but you making it hard Deliwe"

"Kamo you exaggerating right now I didn't sleep with Shalton for Christ sake. He kissed me and I pushed him away!"

"Deliwe you love sex and I don't think you would think twice before doing it shall he stripe you naked"

"Because i was a prostitute you think i can't deny sex?"

"Thats not what i said"

"Then what are you saying?"

"I dont trust you around your baby daddy. Already you told him about Cebi whats next? My fertility?"

"I would never do that Kamo. Why are you creating all the worst case scenarios in your head? Kamo i would never ever do that to you. Yes i have history with your brother but your brother is not you its you i want Kamo."

He glares at me. "I'm scared Deliwe i really am. I've always lost at love and I feel like its slowly happening again"

"You wont lose me i want you as much as you want me. Nobody has ever treated me like you have Kamo and i would be a fool to let go of you. My future is with you and I'm not breaking up with you Kamo i will be all that you need. I will put myself back together and be whole just for you. Even those threatening messages I've been receiving wont prevent me from leaving you. Not even your mother buying me off will let me leave you i want you baby" He narrows his brows.

"What messages are you talking about?"

I blink "Whose threatening you?"

"I dont know"

"Come here we will discuss this further in bed"

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Deliwe

"How long have you been receiving those messages?"

"From yesterday at the wedding. I also had a visit from Mama Florence"

"Shaltons mother?"

"Yes"

"What did she want? "

"Warning me to stay away from you. Your mom also threatened me"

"Excuse me?"

"She wanted to pay me off to leave you"

"This is getting more complicated than it already is."

He says in a tone that implies "You ruining my life" And honestly i feel bad for bringing him so much stress and anxiety.

"Dealing with Shalton its a work and a half on its own now i have to deal with everyone this is just too much like really. "

"You dont have to carry the cross Sidney not further than this. I mean the baggage came with me. Everything is mess because of me. I mean your world has been upside down and all chaotic since i walked in it and you dont deserve any of this anxiety"

I utter these words with a huge lump on my throat and ounces of tears sliding out of my eyelids. Honestly i hate feeling like a burden on someone else's shoulders and right now Sidney is making me feel like that and i hate it honestly. I guess his right i should give him what he wants. I mean so many people are against me what's left to fight for?

"I don't even know where to begin with this battlefield how am i gonna tame all these people? "

"Dont bother yourself with this come morning it will be a thing of the past."

He heaves a sigh. "I will try to find the culprits babe dont sweat"

"Don't bother Sidney save your energy for important things. Good night"

"Sleeping already?"

"Yeah"

"Good night then"

"Sure" He wraps his hand on my waistline i gently remove it. "Faith"

"What?"

"Are you okay?"

"Yeah I'm fine"

"Why does it sound like you crying?"

"I'm grieving and mourning what was supposed to be our happily ever after"

"Pardon?"

"As much as this is taking much of your energy Kamo it's also taking mine as well and its safe to say we fighting a losing battle instead of surrendering." He sits on his butt switches on my side lamp. He glares at me "I will go sleep with my son"

"Deliwe what's going on?"

"I'm just realizing I'm dragging you down with me with my so chaotic life and past. You dont trust me your mother hates me your brother is the father of my child Your step mother is the woman who paid me for selling my body Your sister hates me and you not sure about me and our relationship the lists is endless. Everything is vexing on me and I'm tired of this happening to me Sidney. Its like I'm the bad polluted air that's suffocating everyone sucking the oxygen out them. I'm tired of feeling like a setback in people's lives. Its like i come with bad luck wherever i go. I'm tired of living a life consisting of confusion and rejection pain and chaos i just cant take it any more."

" Where is thid coming from? "

" I know you probably thinking and feeling like I'm playing the victim card right now but that's not true I'm hurting Kamo this is taking a toll on me too. If loving you and being with you comes with such chaos then i dont need it Kamo. "

" Deliwe we both know the reason that brought us here"

"I'm that reason and I'm tired of being the reason you are unhappy. I cant afford to give you more and more reasons to break down Kamo i dont deserve you not at all. "

"Deliwe i dont know what to say but i thought we were fixing things you even apologized and all. I dont remember saying you are burden to me. I feel like you twisting my words"

"I'm gona give you the space that you need come tomorrow everything will be tossed in a trash bag. "

I head for the door. "Deliwe"

" Kamo i dont need any of this commotion. I will be fine dont worry i will be fine. I've always been fine all by myself and my son this cross too? I will carry I'm familiar with the tune."

"Pancake i love you"

I walk out of our bedroom with a lump on my throat. Honestly I'm tired of feeling like this i know i messed up but i dont deserve any of this so does Kamo its best we go our separate ways.

Sidney

Its 6am i wake Cebi up without disturbing Deliwe. I bath the little champ lotion his body and then dress him up. I fix him a breakfast.

"Baba ukwatile?" (Are you angry?)

"No Cebi I'm not"

"Today you quiet"

"Sorry my boy i just have alot in my head"

"But i only see your hair not a lot of things"

I chuckle "Its a figure of speech son"

"Okay I'm done eating can we go?"

"Fine" I carry his bag pack and lunchbox. As always he does the talking sadly today I'm not participating as my head isn't here. I feel tiny hands shaking me profusely. "Baba!! I'm talking to you"

"Sorry boy you were saying?"

He looks at me. "Did i do anything wrong?"

"No baby you didn't do anything wrong"

"But you angry and you also ignoring me"

"I'm sorry my boy daddy is not doing well today. Sorry Cebi"

"What is going on?"

"Love affairs"

He looks at me with confusion "I love mommy so much Cebi and it hurts"

"Why does it hurt?"

"Because we not in our best hour currently there's just a lot going on everything is scattered all over we drifting son and it hurts"

"So you angry at my mom?"

"Of course not no baby. I'm angry at myself and the maybe the universe for forcing good people to changing to something they not. "

"Yoooh mina angazi baba." He says eating his banana "I'm sorry for ignoring you okay?"

"Its okay"

"Thanks for listening too you are a good friend"

"I love you baba and please dont be angry i hate it when you angry. "

"I love you too son i wont be angry not any more. Be a good boy at school okay? "

"I will" I pull over then walk him to class. I peck his lips then walk back to my car. I lit a cigarette puffing it while replaying what Deliwe said last night. We drifting and it really hurts. Maybe I've been harsh on her and I'm sorry if that's the case but i was also trying to voice out my feels and concerns i didn't intend on hurting her or making her feel inferior and insignificant. I meant no harm not at all. I guess its about time i went to my neglected house in Midrand after all Deliwe and Cebi are leaving a change of scenery will do me no harm.****

It takes me a while before i enter the house. This silence says alot about our current situation which makes me wonder how we got here. I mean we were happy just a couple of days ago but look today we are strangers who are sharing a room. When our parents warned us against dating i wish one should've listened.

Nomfundo rings me.

"Hi"

"Hi Kamo do you have a minute?"

"Sure"

"I just forwarded some documents to your email account please attend to them. Mr Sibanyoni's documents is top on the list please sign them and send them back"

"Sure i will look through them thanks"

"Hows the family?"

"They good thanks"

"Coolies

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AD

please dont forget. The Durban deal is very much important"

"I guess i will sign and start packing"

"What has changed?"

"So much has changed i need the money Nomfundo and its a great deal so yeah"

"I'm so proud of you right now i could even kill a lion for you"

"Thats hilarious thanks"

"Have a great day" We end the call.

Jabu

I open the cardboards then close them repeatedly. I move to the fridge i heave the longest sigh. "There's nothing" She says appearing from wherever wearing her pink gown. "What happened to the groceries i bought two weeks ago?"

"Hhaibo Jabu are you seriously asking that question? Where else would food go if not inside our stomach and the toilet?"

"Mama this is getting out of hand since when do we run out of food in the mid month? Gosh i dont have money!"

"Make a plan."

I look at her "What plan ma? The only plan that we should be making is you getting a job just like all women do. Get a domestically work ma."

"Are you hearing yourself? The whole me i must go out there to embarrass myself by cleaning after people's mess? Dont ridicule me Jabulile. The reason we have no groceries its because you eat alot"

"Don't give me that attitude i buy food in this house. I have every right to eat Khosi."

"It's not like you buy a stuffed trolley kind of groceries". I huff. "At least i bring something on the table mama unlike you who sits here all day wearing a pink gown and that doing drugs!!"

"Drugs? Drugs?"

"Vele! What do you think snuff is? Uyacika ma!"

"Yey dont take out your frustrations on me. I didn't send you to go ruin your marriage. Our life is this miserable because of you and your sliding legs that open for everyone and anything! If i were you i would sell that car change Mahlatse's school to go register him at Mcebisi's school. I would even cancel that medical aid and go queue at Bara."

" I will do no such thing! "

" If not then bring Mahlatse and Tsiamo's birth certificate i will be useful and go register them for social grant"

"Over my dead body! No child of mine is having their names registered for that rubbish"

"Pride will deplete you Jabu. Do it for Mahlatse the kid is suffering here unlike Tsiamo his still a cheeseboy at his father's place"

"I see tents every weekend but yours hasn't arrived why vele?"

"Ungazobheda nondindwa fusegi!" She shouts i get a hold of my handbag and storm outside. I enter my car then start the engine "Not this too!!" I say defeated. How am i gonna get to the doctor without petrol? Ben really did a number on me. I guess i should sell some of my stuff i really need money or maybe i should give that Florence lady a call. Right now I'm desperate yes I'm a teacher but I'm drowning in debts everything in this house requires my attention any refill forces me to dig deeper inside my torn pockets it really hurts cos soon i will have a baby mind you i have nothing on my savings account. I'm left with no choice but to sell my body.

Sidney

I find Deliwe kneeling in front of the toilet her face is buried inside it she's throwing up heavily. The caring man in me forces me to kneel besides her to give her a little back rub.

"Hey"

"Hi"

"Are you okay?"

"I feel horrible"

"Stomach bug?"

"I drank too much milk"

"Sorry need water?"

"I will throw up again"

"Let me get you ginger it helps with nausea"

"It tastes awful"

"Its gonna help pancake sorry okay? "

She nods.

I walk to the kitchen then back to the bathroom.

"Here have a bite" She looks at me then my hand. She looks puffy and sunken if not pale. "Have a bite"

"I will throw up"

"Just try it please"

She glares at me I draw my hand nearer. She deeps her face yet again and throw up. I profusely rub her back with worry written all over my face.

"Deliwe what's wrong?"

"I feel awful"

"Are you allergic to milk maybe?"

"I wouldn't know Kamo. I think I'm gonna die"
"That's rubbish You gonna be okay. "
"I feel hot"
"Now this is crazy dont die on me please"
She looks at me wanting to roll her eyes.
"Pancake just bath i will go get you meds"
"I hate pills"
"Syrups?"
"I hate medicine"
"But you not okay you need something."
"I will be fine"
"Dont be stubborn Catte"
"If i hear that name again I'm gonna vomit blood" I chuckle. "Its not funny"
"Sorry." We both glare on each other God knows i love this woman with everything in me.

"Cebi made it to school?"
"Yes"
"Thank you"
"Let me help you up"
"I'm not disabled Kamo"
"Do you really have to stubborn all the time?"
She looks at me "Just allow me to help you"
I help her up then undress her. "Bath tub or shower?"
"Shower"
"Fine" I help her to the shower. "Thank you"
"I will flush and clean this out on your behalf"
She keeps quiet.
"Did you drink orange juice?"
I say with my brows narrowed this mess is colorful and nauseating.
"You can now go Kamo"
"I've never seen such vomits i think you have bile. You need to clean your system"

"Kamo just leave already please"

"I'm worried about you Deliwe"

"You don't have too"

"You know i can not do that"

She keeps quiet. I undress to join her in the shower. Kind her she makes space for me.

Deliwe

My throat is painful that was a life threatening vomit. I feel his hand holding hugging me from my behind He rests his head on my shoulder.

"Are you okay?"

"I'm better now"

"We should see a doctor"

"I hate them"

"What if its a life threatening disease"

"Sidney can you stop already."

"Fine" He keeps quiet. "I miss you"

I miss him too. "I miss the best friend i once had" and i miss my crazy friend sledge boyfriend. "Cebi is sensing the tension pancake"

I keep quiet. "

"I'm sorry if i sounded regretful and mean last night. Sorry if i broke your heart and said things i wasn't supposed to have said. Maybe i went overboard just to prove a point. "

"I dont wanna talk about it."

"At least lend me your ears" He cups my boobs.

"I sincerely and completely apologize for making you feel that way i didn't mean to hurt you."

"But you did"

"And I'm humbly apologizing i can even go on my knees to show how sorry i am"

"Can we not talk about it"

"Are you leaving for good or taking a break?"

"Both"

"Excuse me?"

"I dont want your life to be complicated because of me I'm leaving Kamo for both of us. "

"Thats unfair you do realize that isn't it?"

"Didn't you initiate this?"

"I said a break not a permanent break up"

"To me its one and the same thing."

"Do you hate me that much to want to leave me permanently?"

"I can't duck your brother then your mother then your sister and lastly step mother. I have a lot on my plate as it is i would rather give the stamina to my child. The pitch of this is noise is too loud Kamo I'm sorry i hurt you and all but i also need a peace of mind so do you. "

" I thought you wanted to fix things Faith"

"What's the point?"

"So you giving up on us and our friendship?"

"So many people are against us and by not trusting me you making me realize. Hearsays and rumors will always win against me anything i do or say wont be treated with understanding or trust. Kamo as much as the problem was with me i feel like you also have a problem of your own. Which is trust issues if not insecurities. I guess we both need to put our wings to test before we can both fly. "

" I hear you and your right"

We bath then go dress up.

Mphikeleli

I'm busy trimming the lawn when a Ferrari parks outside my gate. I stand tall to glare who it is a tall blonde guy appears. "Greetings sir"

"Hi and how can i help you?"

"I was wondering if i could get Deliwe"

I look at him from head to toe.

"And who are you?"

"Deliwe's friend and yourself? "

"Her father What is your name?"

"Shalton" I glare at him. "Shalton Matthew's Cebi's father" I narrow my brows in confusion.

"Cebi's father?"

"Yes Deliwe's little boy is mine"

"You said what was your name again?"

"Shalton. Is Deliwe here?"

"Are you related to Sidney?"

"Kamo?"

"Yes"

"Well Kamo and i are siblings."

"Wait.. Wait.. You said Mcebisi is your son?"

"Yes"

"And Sidney is your brother?"

"Yes"

"Something doesn't add up here"

"To clear the confusion baba Sidney is not the guy you think he is. His a very dangerous and manipulative guy baba. Judging by the look on your face I'm certain he lied to you and your family. Mcebisi is my son and Deliwe is my girlfriend" Now this is crazy. Does this boy imply my daughter is sleeping with brothers and on top of that she lied about who Cebi's father is with the help of Kamo? No this doesn't make sense Kamo is a good and genuine guy. I think this boy is lying. "Look young man come inside"

"Thank you" He walks inside the house. I dial Deliwe immediately.

Dads call has saved me from this tension that's occupying this house. Honestly i miss my pancake i would do anything and give anything to have it back. This tension is just too much.

"Baba"

"Woza endlini" Okay that's strange dad doesn't use that tone with me. "Why?"

"Its important Deliwe hurry up"

"I'm coming sharp"

"Bye" I glare at my cell phone with my brows narrowed. What could be important? It better not be my biological mother resurfacing wanting me to bury or cover her on my funeral policy because most parents remember their kids when death is knocking on their doorstep God knows i care less about this skank.

I feel his eyes piercing my skin before i could return it. By the time i glare at him his eyes have a steep hole on my immaculate skin. Let me clear the air.

"That was my father apparently there's an emergency at home"

"I see.."

"I need to leave."

"Can i drop you off shortly after sending these?"

"No its okay Sid i will request. You can continue being busy i dont mind actually. " I throw him a faint yet genuine smile. Honestly his busy with his work surely he has a pile of it given the past two days things have been sour in this house I'm certain much of his time was wasted our little predicament.

I really cant afford him missing much on his work and besides my house is not far from here. Its a walkable distance i will request.

"Are you sure?"

"One hundred percent. "

"Fine i will see you out then"

With that said he tosses his laptop on the side he wears his push ins then wheels my luggage to the door we walk to the gate in silence. My shuttle is already waiting for me. We share a long stare till i decide on pulling him for a passionate kiss of which he reciprocates.

"See you in a while"

"See you soon."

I pull him for a hug yet again his good cologne penetrates my nostrils I'm certain i will walk away with his fragrance. My eyes are still closed as I'm still lost in the moment.

"The poor guy is waiting its rude to keep him standing"

"Yeah it is rude. Bye"

"Bye" We break the hug. "I will come by sometime to bid Cebi goodbye" I look at him surprised what does he mean by bidding goodbye?

"Bid Cebi Goodbye? What do you mean Kamo?"

"My sister time" The driver says impatient.

"Please give me a second bhuti. Sidney what's going on? Are you walking out of Cebi's life as well?"

"I'm going to Durban got a contract that side for three months and I'm not giving up on my son. "

"Oh! And you only telling me now?"

"Just decided now as i was signing the documents the pay is good. "

"Fine..." My armpits itch immediately i feel tears build up in my eyes. "Sorry bhuti by delaying you can we go now?"

"Sure"

"Bye" I say not looking at him with my voice trembling profusely. "Pancake"

"No its fine i understand"

He looks at me with his brows narrowed and his hands buried inside his trackpants pockets. His eyes are cutting deep into me. "We will talk" He turns to walkway..

I'm so not in the mood of whatever dad called me for already i have so much on my shoulders with Kamo leaving for Durban. Honestly I'm tired and drained. "Intswempu le kari I Ferrari ekasi! Ekini ninenyuku mosi my sister" (That's a dope pair of wheels a Ferrari in township? Damn girl your family is monied) The driver praises the car that i myself I'm in question for. No one owes this kind in my family well only Kamo has a car matching this one. I pay up then step inside the car. My heart immediately goes on ICU when i find the last person i would wish to see seated on my parents sofa's showing off his teeth. My knees instantly goes wobbly as i head to the couch not because I'm charmed by his presence but rather the realization of what his here to do his here to complicate my life yet again.

"Baba" That comes off in a soft tone.

"Liwe" He says glaring at me.

Shalton

She's always been a beauty One with a bequiling copper brown skin tone that's smooth as a moonstone and her conspicuous walnut-brown eyes not forgetting her film star smile and those kiss inspiring lips of hers. I still remember how most guys respected me and clapped for me when they saw me with her. Most guys wanted her mostly Sidney. He would talk about her time to time planning the kind of future he would attain with her. I guess i fell in love with the synopsis and perfected illustration that my brother had created for both him and her. I never noticed Deliwe till Sidney started nagging me about her when i saw her beauty i fell in love with it and wanted to try it out for myself bruising Sidney's ego but I'm not there.

She unhurried sits on the couch opposite her father and mother. I shift my eyes on the luggage she walked in wheeling I shift my eyes back to her.

"I thought you were gonna bring Mkhulumi's father with you"

"You didn't specify on what the meeting was all about baba."

"I won't drag this Liwe do you by any chance know this man?" She looks at me with dull eyes then back to her father.

"Baba why am here exactly?"

"I said do you know this man? Yes or no Faith. "

"Angimazi" I scoff.

"Deliwe this young man claims his your boyfriend and a father to Cebi and a brother to Kamohelo Which i find a bit confusing because i know Kamo as Cebi's father and your lover. Unless there's something you want to tell me Deliwe"

"Baba there's nothing to tell. I've shown you ubaba kaCebi and this man is nothing closer to that. I don't know him as a partner nor as the father of my son but rather umalume kaCebi ongunombokela kwesakhe." (But rather Cebi's cruel uncle)

What the fuck?

"Deliwe dont pull off that card you being deceitful right now and you know it"

"What is the truth Shalton?"

"I'm his father not Sidney stop playing pretense and tell the truth."

"Baba haven't i brought a man in this house and declared him as my child's father?"

"You did"

"She lied that was all a lie Mr Mphazima. She's doing all this to spite me. "

"To spite you for what? What is that you have that makes you deserving of my hate? Bhuti you are embarrassing yourself how can a woman you've never slept with be the mother of your child?" I scoff in frustration this slut is doing a reverse psychology on me and it's working. She's fucken deceitful and manipulative.

"Baba i have a son to collect from school i dont have time for this madness because this guy is gabbing nonsense. "

"I wish Kamo was here" The mother says.

"Lets do a DNA its gonna prove whose lying or being truthful"

"That will never happen my child is not some stupid biology experiment with a probability thesis. I know whom my vagina has been granting excess you prick you were never on the list. Why do you hate me this much brother in law so much for you to lie in this manner in front of my parents? Take rejection like a man and stop creating scenarios in your head!! "

What the heck is going on here? I give this girl a round of applause she's fucking killing it she deserves an oscar.

"Are you seriously denying me Deliwe? After all the things i did for you when your parents ditched you with your abusive aunt? Do you want me to remind you of the nights i drove here to pick you up whenever your aunt locked you outside like some township dog without a leash? Girlie i want my son not your whoring self! You hear me? "

" Young man your time is up now stand up before i lose my cool" The father says staring at me. "Deliwe i want my son do it willingly or through court"

"I've had of enough of this rubbish you hear me? You came in here lied to me about my daughter saying all sorts of bullshit. Now you have the balls to insult and threaten her in front of me? Boy i dont know who you are or where you come from or what you think you are but this girl is my daughter and i wont hesitate to kill pesticides that bothering her. I didn't go to prison for nothing i will fuck up you hear me pretty boy? "

" Mphazima myeke" The wife says pulling the husband away from me whose now holding me by clothes.

I tighten my jaw i glare at Deliwe then the father. "You want me to repeat what i just said?"

"I wasn't fighting sir but rather fighting for what's mine and that's my son. "
"Fuck off before i fuck you up I'm capable sonny. "
I bite hard on my lower lip while glaring at Deliwe.

Sidney

I was busy minding my laptop when Cebi's school on flooded me with excessive calls informing me there's been a little hiccup with the little man and that i shoud run to Bara hospital. They went as far as telling me the mother's cellphone has been ringing off hook. The first thing that came into my mind was his respiratory problem. I was forced to drop anything and everything i was doing to get there. As we speak I'm pacing up and down on the waiting area nobody has attended to me nor given me a brief up on what happened. All i know is my son is not okay and its frustrating me because i know nothing about his state.

"Sbali Kamo" A voice says behind me.

"Thank heavens Sindiswa!! My boy is admitted and nobody has said anything about his state please squeeze me in his ward"

"Come with me" He pulls my hand She talks to some Ghanaian Doctor who is kind enough to grant me entrance to his ward. I find my boy sitted on the bed with a oxygen machinery besides him. "Hey soldier you freaked me out" I squeeze him in a bear hug. There's an old lady seated on the vistors chair i suppose that's the Principal if not class teacher i will talk to her later right now my focus is on Tyler. "Doctor how is he?"

"He will live He is a strong little man"

"What happened? What got him here? "

"Cebi hello baby." The aunt embraces him. "He collapsed more like he suffered a suffocation of some sort i dont know what led to that but he is okay sir"

"Is it a asthmatic related case?"

"That too could've added. Does he suffer from a shortness breathing?"

"Yes his asthmatic"

"Does he take medicine?"

"Yes. I will write you a prescription for the medication you should get him. He will live sir it wasn't anything major but minor"

"Thank you so much doctor" He pats my shoulder. My twin walks in wearing her correctional service's uniform. She greets everyone "What happened? Where the hell is Deliwe?" She says frightened.

"Relax his okay"

"But still she ain't here! You scared me cute face" She says kissing Cebi's forehead.

"Excuse me are you the teacher?"

"Yes"

"Mind telling us what happened?"

"On Mondays they clean their classes one learner reported he complained about the density and odor of the detergent used saying it was too sharp and that it was making dizzy and."

"Why do you even allow kids to clean their classes?" Tumi

"Its a government school sisi"

"Government school my foot what if he drank he detergent what then miss government school? I'm so gonna fucked sue your arse" Tumi.

"Tumi calm down"

"Kamo he complained the least they should've done was let the kid go outside bloody arseholes!!" Sindiswa giggles. "Oh Sindiswa meet the crazy replica Tumi Deliwe's sister"

"Hey babe i will greet properly shall we get out here right now i want to curse and bite someone." The poor old lady vacates the ward honestly they were negligent. "I cant get a hold of Deliwe can i please have your father's numbers"

"Sure" She calls them out it rings "Mphazima hello"

"Hi Mr Phazima Cebi's father here can i please talk to Deliwe?"

"Hold on Kamo Deliwe"

"Hello" Her voice is trembling like she's been crying. "Pancake"

"Baby he stole Cebi! My son is not at school Shalton took him!!"

"Okay easy tiger I have our boy with me switch on your phone pancake "
"Are you sure Baby? His safe?" "

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Shalton

You know fucked up as a man when you realize her closet is emptied so much her favorite hair brush isn't there to remind you of her existence. Its funny how we men love deeply in the midst of melancholy and absence. Funny how we start understanding all the conversations had and all the pain they narrated to us without being emphatic and all comforting. I've always thought she was never gonna leave i mean she was deeply in love with me so much that she tolerated all the bullshit i gave her. She would lay besides me kiss me make love to me cook me breakfast love my kids and fix my uniform knowingly i was with another woman. I've always known she would be there waiting for me to come home with yet another lie to tell her about my whereabouts. It hurts that she's gone she didn't give me an address of where she was going she just packed all the memories in a suitcase then left. Now its kicking in that i wasn't the man i thought i was if i was Mathapelo Amber Matthew's would be here in our home...

"Shalton!! Shalton!!!! Where the hell are you? "

Deliwe

I wish my father could stop looking at me in this manner. I'm not okay for Christ's sake i thought my son was kidnapped by the bloody sperm donor

when i found his school premises dry quiet and locked. Somewhere in the back of my mind i thought he took him to spite me i mean i only know the guy as the man who turned me to a woman when i wasn't expecting it surely he has evolved to this dangerous person who wouldn't mind killing or kidnapping just because his capable.

So baba ka Sindiswa better not judge me nor give me that stare. Stupid me should've checked my cell phone before running to the police station. If i wasn't with my father i would still be reporting a crime that didn't happen. I was too close to opening a docket. As long as Sidney is involved my son is okay.

"You do realize you owe me the truth Deliwe?"

Gosh! Mphikeleli is he seriously considering going there? I dont want to go there God knows. "Was he telling the truth?"

"Baba I'm tired and hungry. Can we not go there at least not now"

"You do realize Cebi's life is on the line here?"

"Baba he walked out on us not in a single day did he turn his back to check up on his son. I'm talking of eight good years."

"So he wasn't making that up?" I look at him. "Deliwe why would you juggle between brothers?"

"Shalton used me baba he betrayed uSidney"

"You haven't answered my question"

"Baba i love uKamo"

"But his brother's nales'hlama"

"Kodwa he loves me more than that fool ever did baba"

"What happens when his parents find out about you sleeping with brothers? Isn't it his planning on marrying you? " I swallow hard. "Deliwe its your heart and integrity I'm concerned about. The Matthew's will see you as a skirt dropper nothing else but that. They wont respect you nor treat you with any. You slept with both brothers then made the other raise his brothers baby more

like an uncle became a father and the father an uncle. This is madness Faith.
"

"Baba i care less about Sidney's parents whether they going to love me or not anginandaba. They failed to love and support their own children so why would i care about them loving me? Doing that would only mean i think less about myself. I need my man not his parents. "

He glares at me with worry. That doesn't stop me from talking. " As for uShalton he took advantage of me and my suffering situation and that of Kamo baba. Uyinja loya mfana lbhova!! "

My mother appears she joins my father with the stare contest their stares wont stop me from talking. They can go on and cut me with them i careless.

" He slept with me for all the wrong reasons baba. He knew Sidney loved me and had me on his best interests but the dog in him got the better of him baba.

" Not me discussing my vagina with my father kids of today.

" What did he do exactly? "

I narrate the story Kamo once told me i added a few spices here and there to recruit my parents in hating him because that would mean they wont give his snobby arse the benefit a doubt even if his Cebi's biological father. I want them siding with me and my decision.

That fool deserves everything that I've done to him nothing compared to what he did to me. That bastard is the reason I'm called "Catte" i was whoring for his bloody sperm and stupid him had the nerve to come here and spew nonsense on my parents faces. When did he suddenly remember my adress? To think he is the reason Kamo and myself fought for days depriving me of a good steamy making out session as we speak Kamo is leaving for Durban all because of that fool and maybe myself i mean i entertained an enemy made him touch me and kiss me knowing his intentions with me were not pure but rather parasitic he sure deserved it.

" How he treated Cebi in this past eight years was proof of how he felt about me sadly my child had to suffer because of his stupid bet. "

"Uyasangana kanti he must go to hell. The next time he comes here i will give him a steambath a kettle will teach him never to prey on the brokenhearted he took your pain as his gain uyinja. Umnyise wena baba angeza lana. " Mama says annoyedDad looks at us both with a look i do not understand. " Caro a minute in private please"

"Now?"

"Yes"

"Alright" They both disappear leaving me to my thoughts.

Sidney

The doctor has discharged Cebi who is looking a bit drowsy. I think the pills are too blame.

"Pleasure meeting you Sindiswa bye" They share another hug. "Ebi i will see you at home yezwa? Uyakuthanda uncane yezwa?" He nods that Aunty pecks him. I give her a harmless hug she really helped me. "See you Sbali" She walks away. "So where are we going from here?"

"I need to get his medication"

"So we going to the pharmacy?"

"Yep"

"Cool bring his school bag." I hand it over We make our way to the parking lot. Tumi comes with me to get his medication. She glares at me.

"Can i come with you to drop him off"

"Why?"

"Duh! I want to see where my nephew stays seeing his grandparents wont hurt and besides i owe Deliwe an apology for what i did at the wedding of which i do not feel guilty for" I give her a deadly stare. "For real Kamo I'm not sorry okay i was telling her the truth"

"Why do you want to apologize if you not guilty?"

"I love you you're my twin so your happiness is my happiness. I want to apologize for you to continue smashing and glowing. Isn't it you mentioned what i did as one of her reasons to wanting to end things? So i will apologize but you know I'm not sorry right? " I scoff. " Whatever Tumi"

"Have you noticed you told me you loved me in ages?"

"Isn't that Vernon's duty?"

"Those words hit differently when whispered by blood." I pull her in for a hug then peck her cheeks. "I love you big sisi and thanks for pulling through. I really appreciate you and your support deep you know i love you more than i love my AM' s erections"

"Yucky!"

I chuckle. "Jannet"

"Yeah"

"Mind your arse mouth when we get there please"

"I will behave trust me"

"No vulgar Tumi"

"Fine"

We drive separately heading to Deliwe's house. Tumi is carrying the brown meds bag and his school bag deep you know i love you more than i love my AM' s erections"

"Yucky!"

I chuckle. "Jannet"

"Yeah"

"Mind your arse mouth when we get there please"

"I will behave trust me"

"No vulgar Tumi"

"Fine"

We drive separately heading to Deliwe's house. Tumi is carrying the brown meds bag and his school bag while I'm carrying the man himself. Cebi in my

arms. We are invited in by Deliwe parents whose glaring at Tumi and vice versa. "Please sit." She instructs. The mother and father walk in i notice their stares at me are strange and deep its like something just happened and i am at fault. "Matthew's Sawubona sisi" The father says.

Millicent

"Shalton!! Shalton!!! Where the hell are you?"

Gosh where is he? The call he gave me a couple of hours ago frightened me i couldn't help but think of the worst case scenario that could happen. I mean Mathapelo too left me with a confusing message when she called me wailing. I just wonder what happened its no coincidence for both of them to give me such strange calls.

I finally find him in bedroom that's looking a bit messy the are broken pieces of glasses on the floor. The wall if written in scribbles the windows are smashed and broken. So much is upside-down in here. " Shaltee what happened? What is going in here?" I say walking carefully making sure i dont suffer an injury because of these glasses. I sit besides him glaring at him as his face is buried inside his hands. "Shalton what happened? Where is Mathapelo?" He doesn't say anything but rather breathe heavily. "Shalton talk to me what happened? Why is this place looking like this? Where is Mathapelo? "

"She didn't tell you didn't she?"

"Tell me what?" He breaths heavily. "Shalton... What did you do?" Now I'm terrified judging by his facial expression. "She's gone"

"Why? What happened?" He looks at me. "Shalton talk!"

"She knows Millicent"

"Know what?"

"Everything the pregnancies and us us doing stuffs behind her back."

"How the hell did she find out? We were careful and negligent how does she know?"

"I dont know okay!" I stand up immediately.

"Shalton how did she know? Just spill the beans and stop wailing!"

"I have no clue She just dropped the bombshell last night." I heave the longest sigh ever this is bad.

"What else does she know?"

"Only that" I heave a breath of relief. "Better"

"I messed up i really messed up!"

"Stop acting like she meant the world to you you should be excited about her departure." He looks at me "Are you fucken kidding me right now? My wife is gone so are my kids then you give me that crappie shit?"

"What do you want me to do or say Shalton? Suck your dick while comforting you? Dude its all your fault everything turned out this way!"

"Cant you at least show some remorse or care Millicent?"

"Not when you made me kill my children our children Shalton. I wont sympathize with you not now and not ever"

"Fuck off!"

"I will fuck off but this loneliness and pity party wont fuck off its gonna swallow you just like it did with me"

"Why did you even come here Millicent if you careless?"

"I wanted to make sure you still alive and besides your wife called me crying. I thought maybe you were high again doing what you do best" He clicks his tongue then pushes me aside heading to the door. I heave a sigh this could actually work on my advantage. I can seduce this pig and have me a baby but i will need fertility enhancing pills. Knowing Shalton he can never say no to free vagina.

Deliwe

"Sawubona Mr Mphazima" Tumi says with a big smile on her face why is she here? To insult me maybe? "Unjani Kamo?" mama asks giving him a stare

that I'm not comfortable with dad also has it. I thought they understand why I lied they better not bring this up. "Ngiyaphila ma unjani" Kamo says in a very respectful tone melting my heart. "We good mfanawami usisi ubani?"

"Oh! Sorry this is my twin sister Boitumelo. Tumi this is Mrs Mphazima and Mr Mphazima Deliwe's parents"

"Greetings elders" Tumi says shy if not mistaken she can barely maintain eye contact with these people. "Pleasure meeting child. Deliwe bring drinks"

Mphikeleli instructs.. I go about the procedure I find myself stealing a moment eat one of Cebi's Yoghurts. It tastes great actually. "What's taking you so long?"

I jump accidentally dropping my Yoghurt container "You busy stuffing your face with the kid's Yoghurts while your guests are thirsty hhayi Deliwe"

"Sorry ma"

"Yini ama cravings?"

"I just wanted it ma nothing major"

"Get a pregnancy test done Deliwe another thing defrost meat. " She walks away with a tray. I roll my eyes if only she knew. We not making babies this side and besides I did a pregnancy test not long ago she's just exaggerating. But I don't blame her our black parents mistake everything for pregnancy you sleep during the day you pregnant. You wear a jersey you pregnant you eat a lot pregnancy you don't have appetite pregnancy headache vomiting pregnancy like they force you to be pregnant while you not. I find people all glitters and chirpy in the sitting room but it all ends when I walk in. They replace it with stares. "What?"

"Nothing" Fine I won't ask them anything.

"What's in that brown bag Kamo?" I manage to say. "Medication"

"What medication?"

"Cebi's medication" I narrow my brows confused. "He collapsed at school and woke up in hospital" He says glaring at me I move from where I was seated to go sit next to him. "What happened?"

"They mentioned something about a strong detergent affecting his breathing"

"What was Cebi doing with a detergent at school?" He glares at me "His okay now pancake"

"No Kamo first thing in the morning I'm going to his school. I'm struggling to understand how my child got in contact with a detergent he has asthma for Christ's sake."

He holds my hands then looks deep into my eyes. "His fine babe we will get him enrolled in another school. Dont fight them"

"He still has four month's to go before we can even enroll him to another school"

"Baby relax"

"I can't do that not when my baby woke up in hospital"

He heaves a sigh i turn to look around us. Everyone is glaring at us especially my parents.

"I will start with the pots."

"And Kamo will come with me outside" My father says standing up. Kamo glares at me. "Can i help you Deliwe?" Tumi says "Cool"

"And i will take this little man to your bedroom Deli" Mama Caro says. I know what my father wants to discuss with Kamo and trust me its gonna work on Kamo's nerves.

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Deliwe

We leaning on his car his ankles are crossed his one hand is buried inside his pockets while the other is holding his fifth cigarette smoking while staring into blank air space. I'm standing besides him facing the ground with my hand one resting over my shoulder while the other is inside my mouth I'm feasting on my nails. We both have allowed silence to get the better of us for the past few hours. "I think we need consider co-parenting" He utters while throwing away his cigarette butt and puffing out the last ounces of it that was hidden inside his mouth. He wants us to consider what? There's no way I'm promoting this.

"Taking this to court is gonna drag i think we need to be the bigger the guys here." I glare at him. This is rubbish he cant grant Shalton these rights he doesn't deserve any of it. "Failure to grant him what he wants will only brings us desputes and demeaning quarrels. I want this over and dealt with" He pulls another cigarette from his box i glare at him his had enough for a day unless its his lungs he wants to punish. "That boy has a liver though the balls to show up here after so many decades of playing dead. Shalton is loose canon honestly i thought he forgot this place. If he wasn't my Cebi's father i would've long dealt with him Nxaa" He clicks his tongue and smokes again the wind blows the smoke on my direction i do the craziest thing ever trying to brush and push off the smoke. He drops his eyes to glare at me with his tongue forming that tiny O hole that forms when gas is being passed out. "You quiet you good?" I nod. "Keng are you cold?" I nod again. The gentleman in him motivates him to give me his sweater. "Here"

"Thank you" I wear it. "You sure you okay?" He says with brows narrowed.

"I'm tired of standing" He dips his hands inside his pockets.

"Get inside back seat"

"Why not the front seat?"

"Backseat mama Cebi please" I dont argue i make myself comfortable while contemplating everything he just said about me sharing parenting rights with Shalton. That's bullshit i cannot do that my son is not a tavern. He cant just come in and out when it pleases him. That guy once left Cebi and I'm certain his gonna do it again this time around its gonna leave a scar in his life.

Already my son is inquisitive about many things he will not like this at all.. He knows Sidney as his father and its only fair it remains like that.. Shalton doesn't love my son and never will he ever..

I feel his lips on my neck his warm breathe snaps me out if it. "Penny for your thoughts?"

"Its nothing serious" He looks at me without breaking the stare "Talk to me sweetheart"

I look at him. "Come here" he makes me sit on top of him with my legs resting on either side of his waist. My tight above knee dress rolls itself up forcing my

thighs to be exposed. I lift my eyes only to be met by his brown eyes. "I'm listening motho waka" I flap my lashes. "I dont want to share parental rights with him he doesn't deserves anything at all Sidney"

He gently rests my head on his shoulder he brushes my back softly. He heaves a sigh that sends shivers down my spine. He plants a faint kiss on my neck "Baby lets be honest to ourselves his Cebi's father whether he left or not but DNA says the kid is his"

"Luckily him he had a chance to decide if he wanted to be a parent or not a chance to choose when he was gonna be ready to play the fatherly role unlike me. I was stuck with the baby permanently without a doubt if i was ready or not to be a parent" He rubs my back. "Sorry babe"

"Shalton is a dick he can't just show up now and claim my son! His doing this to spite you isn't it everything is a game to him? This too is a gimmicks stunt to him!!"

"Shhhhhh....its okay baby"

"Kamo i feel like you can fight him you are Cebi's father legally can't you do something to dispute it?" He heaves a sigh. "Baby please " I lift my teary face. "Sweetheart i feel like it's wrong of us to make decisions on Cebi's behalf. I hate Shalton filter but only Cebi can decide who his father is. Our part will be us supporting his decision."

"Kamo are you hearing yourself?" I glare at him.

"Deliwe lets give him what he wants for peace sake please." I fold my arms and look through the window. "This is harder on me than it is on you pancakes. Lets surrender" I heave a long sigh he gently caress my chin forcing me to glare at him. "Fighting him is a losing battle sweetheart" He brushes my exposed thighs. He sneaks his hand all the way to my forbidden fruits. He rubs my coochie from outside the panties. "Your father is right Deliwe if we want peace we need to face Shalton together as a team babe" I arch my back a little as his hand is teasing me. "I didn't know mama Caro wasn't your biological mother" I think i once told him or i didn't? "She's Sindiswa's mother mine abadoned me when i was 2"

"Your father told me"

"I was crossing fingers thinking shots will be fired" He chuckles then kisses me slowly. I put my hands on his shoulders i kiss him back. He sliightly shifts

my G-string on the side then plays with my clitoris. I moan softly inside his mouth we haven't made love in a while. "We wet mami"

"I've been famished for a while now"

"I'm sorry" He kisses me again then his hand more steep "Sidney.." That comes off as a belch. He takes off my dress i fiddle my hands on his pants "I will help you with that" He says with a smocky voice. He rolls his pants to his knees i slides his finger again. His wasting time i want him inside me i put it inside my sacred place. Fuck i missed him but his a bit discomforting today it feels like he gained a few inches. "Are you okay?" He ask with worry. "Its a bit hurting babe" Mind you his not fully insides.

"What hurts?"

"The penis"

"But you fully aroused pancake what could be wrong babe" He continues making his way gentle and careful.

"Its been days without getting it down" He resorts to squashing my boobs and rolling the tip of his tongue on my nipples. "I will try to be gentle then" His now deeper inside me i know i wanted the dick but it's so uncomfortable to have right now. I bite on my lip with my eyes closed. "Does it hurt?" I nod. "Baby come on don't tell me you are a virgin"

"Maybe this position is too penetrating for me"

"Okay" I glare at him with hope he will suggest something but what did i know? He has me going me up and down grinding his penis with tears rolling down my eyes. Surely he mistaken those as tears of pleasure. His done our foreheads are locked into each other. He pants

"You come in many flavors you fucken yummy woman. " He pecks my forehead. I sniff only then it triggers I've been crying.

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Deliwe is crying to my frustration I've been trying so hard to comfort her but she's not buying it. Now i feel like I've taken advantage of her i feel horrible. " Pancake please"

"I told you its painful"

"Baby sorry what do i do to prove I'm sorry?"

She ignores me. I have no choice but to drive her home with me. I will have to text Sindiswa to prepare Cebi on my behalf. In a split second I'm carrying her inside the house. "Must i run you a bath or hand myself in?" She lifts her bug eyes to glare at me. "I want to sleep"

"Without bathing?"

"I'm tired" I wont argue with her i carry her to our bedroom. I remove the continental pillows then peel off the blanket. I place her on the bed. "Remove the dress and bring me something loose"

"Tshirt?"

"Please" I remove the dress. " This too" She points out to her damp panties i take them off and give her a baggy tshirt. I sit by her legs with worry. "Baby are you okay?"

"In terms of what?"

"You freaking me out Deliwe"

"Can i have ice-cream or a fruit salad"

"Which one do you fancy the most?"

"Mmmmmm... Let me think?" I glare at her with my brows narrowed. "Both baby"

"Inside one bowl?" My eyes are popped out.

"Of course not separately I'm not a pig"

"But i didn't say you were" She looks at me i make my way to the kitchen i take out two bowls. I empty the fruit salad container bought at Woolworth. I walk to the bedroom. "Here you go"

"Do we have chocolate in this house?"

"Whoa!! What is wrong with you and cravings?"

"Never mind the chocolate thank you"

"Can i be excused?"

"Sure" I walk to the Cebi's room. I dial Tumiie "Dick head.."

"Hey do you have a minute? I need your advise."

"I can spare you a minute especially when it has something to do with killing Shalton Matthew's" God knows I've been talking myself out of doing that. Maybe i have a gentle spot for his little children i wouldn't have wished for them to grow up not knowing him. "Deliwe is acting up dude"

"Acting up how?"

"She wants to empty the fridges and cardboards She cries a lot Tumie like she's acting weird to my frustration"

I look around in case she comes looking for me. Tumi scoffs "What could be wrong with her?"

She laughs again. "Come on talk"

"Take her to a doctor Kamo she might be baking in there" I choke on my saliva "Baking? As in baby baking?"

"She's got me a little bit worried too when she kept on eating Cebi's Yoghurts when we were talking in the kitchen. She might be pregnant"

"Come to bed" I fix my eyes at the door. She's looking at me i move my eyes to her belly. I'm so fucken confused and scared. "Did you see a ghost?" She aks. "Em! Twin let's talk tomorrow i love you"

"I love you more daddy" That's not possible i cant make babies.. "Lets go sukuma" I follow her to the bedroom. We call Sindiswa for a little favor concerning Cebi she agrees. "Why are you looking at me like that Kamo?"

"Nothing"

"Better please hold me"

"Yeah sure"

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Priscilla

I wanted to come by sooner but i was caught up. I had so many files to go through at the office explaining why I'm only coming to check up on her at this hour. Her loud bad and worrying cough invites me from the passage heading to her shack. I breath deeply realizing how this woman has faith in me that i will someday bring her child back home even if its in a skeletal form she cares less but rather her being found. I know she will ask me tons of questions if maybe I've managed to put my skills to use on tracing her first born. The door handle turns. Her face appears she was probably sleeping and stupid me didn't respect that. "Mama"

"Ngena sisi" She makes a way for me. I walk in to go sit by the wooden chairs. My eyes move to the table i see two bowls of whater meal they had "Bobo"

was home" I heave a sigh. Bobo comes after Portia his smoking nyaope "Ma i thought i made myself clear not to be trusting of Bobo" She coughs and covers her mouth with her an elbow. "Cillia his my only living child" "But he once strangled you and had you at knife point" I say with worry. "Any news on the search for Portia?" I heave a sigh. I think its about time i told the truth. "No mama there's no trace of Portia" She looks aside defeated she's been praying and fasting but nothing has happened. "Kushuthi sengongcwaba izingubo zakhe" (That leaves me no choice but to bury her clothes) I swallow hard. "Mama" "Yebo" "There's something i haven't been honest about" "Yini leyo?" I glare at her. "The prophet was correct about Portia having a child" She furrows her brows "Angizwa?" "She was eight months pregnant when i last saw her" She covers her mouth. "And you kept that a secret Priscilla? Ngobani? " She roars. "Ma i had to because knowing you you would've sent me to conduct yet another search on a baby that i dont even know by names ma" "But you had no right to keep that a secret! Surely she died giving birth!!" "I've checked records on that but nothing popped" "Ungehlule a whole Detective is failing to find my child and her corpse!!" "Mama I'm trying but i think the father knows something maybe he abducted Portia or something" "Who was the father?" I look away. "I'm talking to you!" She coughs "Sidney Matthews"

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Deliwe

"Kamo" I call with my eyes closed. There's silence i reluctantly open my eyes to his side of the bed empty. I breath heavily i jump out of bed to go spit out

my excessive saliva. I decide on taking a bath of which i takes me hours to vacate. Footsteps fill up the hallway I feel his eyes piercing right through my skin before i could give him a look. I locate him leaning towards the wall with his legs crossed and his brows narrowed. He is carrying a brown pharmacy bag surely he needed medication for whatever that's troubling him. "Can you please put this to use" He walks closer handing me the paper bag. "What is this?"

"Pee on it" I furrow my brows. He also thinks I'm pregnant? Does he really think i dont know my body? "You joking right?"

"I'm afraid not" I look at him. "And you think i don't my body Kamo?"

"Deliwe this is not a matter of knowing your body or not knowing it you acting strange and i can't help but to conduct one. " I glare at him pissed.

"Kamo we did a pregnancy test and it was negative I'm not pregnant. You very much aware we wont be pregnant given you have a condition you really exaggerating right now.."

I wrap a towel around my wet body. His looking at me saying nothing.

"Actually I've already urinated the mandatory urine" He looks at me to my distraction. I snatch the damn thing then make my way to the toilet sit. I pee on it "Here you will analyze it yourself." I place it on the sink then walk past him. He already fixed the bed and what is in that paper bag? Not only is he buying four pregnancy tests but other things too.

"You gonna wear that we going out for an ultrasound scan" I look at him defeated. "Now I'm doing yet another pregnancy related test Kamo?" He leans against the wall glaring at me. "So this is the reason you left bed so early in the morning?"

"Its 12 o'clock Deliwe i left the house at 8 o'clock" His lying i peep on my phone. "You overslept adding more to my worries. We need answers" I huff.

"Its your money spend anyway you see fit" I say lotioning my body i wear the damn baggy dress or tshirt or whatever he bought me. The decency in him he bought me underwears. I fix myself quickly he reaches for wallet and keys "What do they say?"

"Negative" I glare at him "Then why in the hell are you dragging me for an ultrasound scan Sidney?"

"Let's go Faith" He walks in front of me God knows I'm livid right now. I follow him to the car where i find him smoking. I look at him then open the passenger door for myself. "Seat belt Faith" He says shutting his side of the door. I strap it onthen look outside the window. I feel his hand brushing my thigh "Can we not be strangers but lovers its still early for us to be mad at each other"
"I haven't eaten yet i would love wimpy breakfast if not a McDonald's toasted sandwich"

"Pancake there's a word missing on that statement" I ignore him he drives off playing music. He gets me both the wimpy breakfast and McDonald's toasted sandwich like I'm eating for four. I eat everything with him giving me long questionable stares. "I didn't think you would eat all of it"

"Is that a compliment?"

"Depending on your definition of compliment"

"Kamo just say whatever you want to say"

"I have nothing to say but i love you"

"Mxm" 45 minutes later we sitting across the table glaring at an old lady. "Can we start with the blood testing then lastly the scan" I glare at him. "Alright Mr Matthews. Please come sit here Mrs Matthew's" She does the whole testing procedure. "I will call you for the blood test results in after two days. Can we hoop to the scan" I stand up i lay on their stretcher bed with my tummy exposed. "Its gonna be a bit cold ma'am" She says greasing my belly she moves the scan on my tummy. "What does it say?" Kamo asked. "Its a bit confusing Mr Matthew's"

"How so?"

"There's nothing attached to her uterus"

"Meaning?"

"I'm afraid she's not pregnant whatever made you believe she was was nothing but a false alarm. "

Sidney looks at the screen for a little while i can't read his facial expression "So these weird mood changes and excessive food cravings were all for nothing?"

"Its normal for a woman to have pregnancy symptoms while they not. If the scan couldn't prove your judgment correct I'm afraid it was never there to

begin with unless you've been hoping for a baby for a while now that too could add to you believing your wife is pregnant while she isn't" He keeps quiet.

"But you can come back after two month's to get better results" The lady wipes off the gel from my belly.

"No thank you all is fine" He says avoiding eye contact with me. I swallow a lump on my throat then fix myself the drive back home is filled with silence. "I will drop you off in the house i have somewhere to go" I nod..

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Mphikeleli

He finally spots Kusile in the cramped park station midst. They smile at each other and share a brotherly love. "Mphangazitha" They shake hands.

Mphikeleli carries the luggage bag on his behalf. "Baba ngiyabonga ukusikhumbula"

"Ubala lolu" They continue smiling. Mphikeleli puts the luggage bag in the backseat of Carol's range rover car. He opens the door for Kusile whose eyes are wandering around. Its pretty obvious his never been to the big city of Johannesburg. "This place is busy umahlabathini is never this cramped" Mphikeleli scoffs "Hence they call it kwanyama kayipheli"

"I wouldn't survive this crowding." He giggles again.. "How are you doing though?"

"I'm very well thanks baba" His definitely lying his not doing fine. Especially with Carol's family refusing him the privilege of paying dowry for her childhood lover and her daughter dating brothers who have bad blood for each other. On the other hand there's Khosi

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his not doing fine. Especially with Carol's family refusing him the privilege of paying dowry for her childhood lover and her daughter dating brothers who have bad blood for each other. On the other hand there's Khosi he heard the rumors about the latest in their lives. He sure hates what her sister did to his daughter and himself but he doesn't wish her bad especially having her steal tinny things as a chilli sauce pilchards tin. There's just so much going on but Deliwe's situation takes a trophy

because his uncertain about Sidney being with Deliwe especially with him confessing Shalton has always done him bad on his women he cant help but to think Sidney is trying to avenge himself by using his daughter and his grandson to spite the rude brother the list's is endless "Mphazima where is your mind at?"

He must've not noticed Kusile has been talking to him while he was lost in his own world. "Eish baba its all over the place"

"Is everything okay at home?"

"Something like that i will brief you about everything after removing the dust on your throat." He faintly smiles and drives to kwaMaimai a so not beautiful looking place but a dumpy like environment that is loved by many and praised by many regardless of its unpleasant nature." Is this where you stay? "

" Cha we only here to buy food baba"

"I nearly boarded a taxi back to Mahlabathini"

They laugh and order. "How are the proceedings back home?" Kusile is the one minding the situation back home for Mphikeleli especially with the builders getting their arses sweating. "Those guys are committed and devoted to their work Mphazima i took pictures"

"Can i see?" He shows him his phone their food arrives. Indeed these people are doing the most most importantly Kusile is really of help to Mphikeleli he is so true to him and he appreciate it..

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Rhudzani and Lefa walk in finding me emptying my third bottle of beer.

Rhudzani called us here as for Sihle i dont know if he will come surely his bending Nomfundo wherever they are. "Kamo.." We share a brotherly love.

"Howzit my guy?" Lefa asks embracing me. We move past the formalities.

"You called us Rhu what's happening?" Lefa asks honestly my mind is

stucked somewhere in that consultation room. "Gents someone has been

snooping around on our past" Rhudzani says looking at me Sihle walks in

"Sorry gents I'm late i was caught up. The little one is demanding more of my time since you all know the mother recently gave birth" He sits down our eyes

lock. We haven't been the same after that Nelspruit hiccup. "What did i miss?"

Sihle says. Rhudzani heaves a sigh. "Gents can you all be honest today what

happened to Portia?" Sihle looks at me. "I wasn't there when something

happened Rhu" Lefa says backing out indeed he wasn't there. "Sidney Sihle what happened?"

"We don't know anything" Sihle says. I gulp my beer Rhudzani glares at me. "Sidney" I look aside. "Priscilla is a detective" I choke on my beer. "She's a what?"

"She's a detective Kamo"

"Priscilla as in Portia's best friend?" Sihle asks shaking. "Yeah my ex to be precise"

"Then we in deep shit" Sihle-

"Speak for yourself I did nothing wrong"

"But not in Millicent's eyes!!" Sihle-

"What happened to that girl?" Rhu-

"I don't know Rhudzani she just disappeared"

"You lying Kamo you beat her up and asked me to drive her to some dodgy place at night remember?"

"I only took her there to settle the bill of drugs that she had stole from Mexico's stuff. I wasn't gonna be Jesus and die for her fucken sins. She fucken stole and she needed to pay for whatever she stole be it with her body or life I cared less it wasn't my place to care after all. "

"Kamo so you saying you took Portia to Mexico the drug lord?" Lefa asks. "I had no choice"

"And your fucken choice involved me! The cherry on top was having your skank following us!! In her eyes we traded Portia into prostitution! Do you know how that will destroy my life?" I look at Sihle with zero care or remorse we didn't kill her but if she is dead she killed herself. "The poor girl kept on saying she knew nothing about the drugs but you Kamohelo gave her up to Mexico knowingly how dangerous that son of a bitch was. We killed Portia and you fucken dragged me in your mess" Sihle adds. Rhudzani looks at me "So you saying Mexico knows where Portia is or what happened to her? Meaning she might be dead or traded" Rhu-

We both nod. "And Millicent knows?" Lefa-

We nod again "This is fucked up!" Lefa says again. "But are you sure it was Portia who stole the drugs?" Rhu -

"Who else could it have been if not her?"

"And you trusted Millicent enough not to steal them and pin everything on Portia? Dont forget she knew about the two of you doing things behind her back" Lefa-

I swallow hard. "Sidney this will have you locked up trust me all roads are leading back to you. And by the look if things Priscilla is renowned for the best Detective ranking. "

"And i don't fucken care so be it"

"Are you hearing yourself? Wa reng ka Cebi le Deliwe?" Lefa-

Rhudzani keeps quiet for a while.. "So the point of this little meeting was for you to tell me about Portia the loose canon?"

"You used to fuck that Canon and spill your shit in her vagina" Sihle. "Wena the shut the fuck up"

"And if i dont what are you gonna do? Beat me up like you always did to Millicent?"

"I dont have time for this rubbish Sihle."

He scoffs. "I will go to the police station to tell this Priscilla lady what i know excuse me shall your name come up Kamo" Sihle-

"You will do no such thing Sphesihle" Lefa-

"What will stop me?"

"Pearl knowing about your little Nomfundo fucking little situation!!" Rhudzani -

"Or a bullet on your fucken skull you know I'm capable you dont wanna earn me as an enemy Sihle i will fuck you up badly" The gents glare at me.

53

Deliwe

After i was dropped off in the house like a bag of potatoes I've decided upon myself to do a spring cleaning i did his laundry as well that i will soon iron after collecting Cebi from school. I also want to cook him for him just to cheer him

up. What happened earlier broke his heart if not disappointed him he won't say it but i saw the twinge of pain in his eye's and face. He surely had hope we were expecting a baby of which i would be excited about had it happened. I mean all my kids would be Matthew's instead of different surnames. I really must do something for him even if its a body massage.

By the time I'm done with most chores my tongue is falling out of my mouth I'm tired and a nap would be highly appreciated at it this time sadly I'm a mother. I have a son to pick up from school but first i should check up on my man. "Baby"

"Hey" He says sounding down. "Where are you?"

"Catching up with friends"

"Alright i was just checking up on you"

"I'm okay pancakes thank you"

"Ngiyakuthanda sthandwa sami"

"Ka tseba rato laka" I'm smitten.. "So what time must i expect you to be home?"

"The latest will be six o'clock babe"

"Fine be a good boy"

"I promise mommy"

"I love you"

"I love you too now please fetch my son from school"

"I will babakhe"

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Mphikeleli

He leaves Kusile sitting on their table heading to his car to collect his box of cigarettes. Right on the spot his eyes land on a familiar face inside a wagon machine car. The lady looks at him so does he he leans on his car with his legs crossed glaring at this lady as she walks away shaking her booty heading to a direction different from his. Thoughts cloud his mind this woman dropped

their daughter on his doorstep she never looked back nor explained her reason's why. She just woke up on the wrong side of the bed and decided to ditch their child. The least he deserves is for this woman to explain herself or better yet to show remorse for putting their daughter in that kind of a position. Angie was happy on their last days he was responsible he was supporting his child and Angie. They loved each other why would Angie do him like that? It was easy to lie he never cared but deep down he knew he cared about Angie after all she was a mother to his child.

"Kuhlwile Mphazima lets going" Kusile says making his way towards Mphikeleli. "Sizogoduka maduzane baba" He says puffing. He needs to follow Angie or better yet he should wait for her just in front of her car. "Don't you need beers Baba?"

"I've already had a few Mphazima but i wont say no to more drinks"

"I will get you some lets go"

"You are very much kind Mphikeleli." He faintly smiles then buys the drinks and takes one for himself. "Excuse me baba I'm coming back"

"Again?"

"There's something i need to attend to"

"Wife calling you?"

"Something like that baba"

"Women and their clinginess." They both scoffed then sipped from their bottle.

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Angie is surprised to find Mphikeleli leaning against her car with his legs crossed and a cigarette on his hands. Her eyes lock with those of Mphikeleli she's very much aware of what he wants and she's not up for this conversation. She pulls on her "Bold and fearless" face then makes her way towards her car. She unlocks it then puts the take aways on her the passanger seat she can feel Mphikeleli's eyes cutting deeply on her skin she really wants to ignore him but its not easy. She swallows hard when she feels Mphikeleli's warm breathe sending chills on her body as his whispering in her ear "Hello Angela" Thats what Mphikeleli whispered. "Ufunani Mphikeleli?" "How about you greet me first then ask me questions later?" Mphikeleli managed to say to Angie's frustration she backed down after all Mphikeleli

has always had this disciplining instilling demeanor in him that was able to tame Angie down. "Hello Mphikeleli"

"How are you Angela Bhunu?"

She heaves a sigh and then turns around to face Mphikeleli whose still eye catchy and all tantalizing to look at. "I would be fine had you not handled me in this manner Mphikeleli let go of my hand. " He looks at her wrists then softly let it loose. There's a moment of a silence for a little while. "Ufunani Mphikeleli?"

"I wasn't aware you reside somewhere nearby Angie i thought you were in Eastern Cape"

"It wasn't your place after all to know a thing about my life Mphikeleli" Leli furrowed his brows and glared at Angie who then swallowed hard as their eyes locked. This woman is a replicate of their daughter He sees Faith in her than in me Mphikeleli thought of that as his eyes were locked with those of Angie.

"I dont have time for this stare contest Mphazima my husband will be here anytime soon"

"So you wont ask about our daughter Angela?"

"My what?"

"You heard me. "

"Mphikeleli i dont have a daughter let alone with you. Yazi you will serve a maximum sentence for lying on my name Mphikeleli i dont have a child" Mphikeleli glared at her "I need to go"

"Did i say i was done talking Angie?"

"I wasn't here to talk but to buy food"

"You haven't answered my question and you know i hate it when i sound like a broken record. " She swallowed hard.

"Fine i will spare you 5 minutes. "

"Look here's what's going to happen

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i dont have a child" Mphikeleli glared at her "I need to go"

"Did i say i was done talking Angie?"

"I wasn't here to talk but to buy food"

"You haven't answered my question and you know i hate it when i sound like a broken record. " She swallowed hard.

"Fine i will spare you 5 minutes. "

"Look here's what's going to happen we will arrange for a meeting you and i have so much to discuss starting from you stalking my family especially my daughter to why you left her. I will give you my contact info make use of it or your rich husband will know about this child that you ditched in a rubbish can you know how far i can go with my ridiculousness Angela dont play smart with me okay?" Angela swallows hard.

Kusile walks towards them his eyes move from his brother's son to the lady whose standing besides him. He knows Carol as the wife not this lady but he will keep this meeting a secret...

Carol

With Kusile Mphazima visiting them she decided on cooking a simple samp and beef stew recipe with two sides to serve as supper. She last thing she would rather do is serve take aways on a Zulu cultured man. She doesn't want to be seen as a lazy city wife who can barely boil an egg she wants to show off her wife material attributes. She even went as far as polishing the tiles and changing the curtains disguising herself as the incompetent wife is not on her to do list's. She's very much aware she's more than that.

By the time Kusile and Mphikeleli drive inside the premises she's downing her last glass of wine to calm herself down its way past supper time and this so unlike Mphikeleli to miss dinner time. Kusile appears with a broad smile painted on his face. "Makoti" She does that little shy girl bow "Baba ninjani?" She stretched her hand out. Kusile shakes it with care her eyes are on Mphikeleli who isn't glaring at her. "Siyaphila makoti ninjani nina?"

"Sivukile baba"

"Kuhle"

"Please come in" She led him to the sitting room. She makes her way back to kitchen to serve them drinks. "Thank you koti"

"Mami please dont dish up for us we had something along the way" Mphikeleli uttered making her more furious. She dedicated her all to making this meal him coming home late was a sting on its own but them refusing her food is too much torture. "Siyaxolisa Koti we will have our supper as breakfast" Kusile adds. "I will fix you a room baba" She says standing up heading to Sindiswa's room she spoke with her about the temporary arrangements she permitted her to make use of her space. "Mami" Mphikeleli uttered holding her waist leaving a faint kiss on her neck. "Are you mad at me?" She keeps quiet and carries on fixing the bedsheets. "Sthandwa sami ngiyaxolisa" He breaths sharply. "Mami come on I'm sorry for missing supper. Please talk to me." She can smell alcohol but she wont talk about it at least not now. She walks out "Your room is ready baba if you want to shower please use the door opposite your room" "Siyabonga Koti sesiyoxoxa kusasa" Kusile disappeared from the sitting room Mphikeleli followed him with the luggage bags. Caro walks to her bedroom with a bottle of wine. She long had her night bath she slips in her silk nightie. She pours herself a glass of wine then sits on the bed dialing Deliwe. "Mama" "Unjani sisi?"

"I'm fine mama and yourself?"

"I'm good too i miss Cebi"

Deliwe giggles. "I will bring him over tomorrow"

"I thought you were moving back home judging from the luggage bag that you came with yesterday "

"Plans changed ma"

"Boys houses are always homely i get it sisi. Anyway your grandfather is around please come over home to greet him. "

"I will mama"

"I love you sisi"

"I love you too mama"

"Good night"

"Night mama" By the time she hangs up Mphikeleli is leaning on the door glaring at her. "Mami you mad at me?" Caro glares at him. Mphikeleli walks to her he sits on the bed then places her legs on his lap he gives her a foot massage. "Sorry sthandwa sami"

"You should have told me not waste my groceries preparing you a meal that you were not going to eat."

"Mami ngiyaxolisa it slipped my mind."

"Mphazima you getting out of hand and i dont like it at all"

"What can i do to show you how sorry i am?"

They lock eyes. "Eat your food"

"But I'm full mama"

"Then you not forgiven."

Mphikeleli narrows his brows. "And you wont eat the dessert without eating supper"

"Oh!"

"I'm not joking Mphikeleli"

"Fine i accept the punishment. I saw someone today"

"Someone? Who is that?"

"Angie" She looks at him jaw dropping. "What? As in Deliwe's mom?"

"Yes."

"Oh! And?"

"We will meet soon to discuss everything"

"Everything as in?"

"The why's of her departure and why she hasn't reached out the past decades"

"Is she still good looking?" Now the wine is doing the talking. "Yes she's more appealing than ever before" Caro retracts her legs. "And now?" Mphikeleli asks with a smirk on his face.

"The audacity to tell me about your ex being hot as ever" Mphazima chuckles

"Mami you asked me though and i was being honest"

"Hhayi suka!" Mphazima giggles and slides his hand between Carol's creamy thighs. "But you more prettier sthandwa sami plus you have a hot body and a charming heart."

"I dont buy that"

"Mami you jealous and its sexy"

"There's nothing sexy here Mphikeleli you just..." Mphikeleli shuts her with a warm kiss Caro voluntary spread her legs apart for Mphazima to kiss her properly. "You were saying something" Leli says removing his t-shirts and briefs. "I missed you"

"That's not what you wanted to say mami" He says massaging his erect. "Leli faka"

"I thought i wasn't gonna have the dessert since i skipped supper"

"Leli please"

"Ngiyaxolisa yezwa?"

She nods. "Do you trust me in the presence of Angie?"

"If you fuck up Leli i will shoot you trust me"

"I wont mess up my old self would've kept this meeting a secret i love you maka Deliwe"

"I love you too" She grants as Leli slides in her.

54

Deliwe

She just tucked Cebi in bed she doesn't normally pray but today she felt the urge to go down on her knees maybe Sidney not being home at this hour frustrates her. He promised to be home before six but now its eleven o'clock on the dot no trace of Kamo is seen. She was really looking forward to having an intimate dinner with him sadly only Cebi was present.

She is very much hurt but she's avoiding snapping about it she's been in the cold for days now she really doesn't want to go that route again..

She kneels right in front of their bed she does a long breathe inthen a pause. She doesn't know where to begin with reciting a prayer. She long ended her relationship with God years ago. Their break up wasn't a clean one it was a mess. She recalls on her last prayer of insulting God and cursing his name

she boldly told him she didn't want him or any of the things associated to his Kingdom but today she wants to have a word with him as much as guilt is tripping her. Another long breath in prevails she closed her eyes and her eyes and put her hands together.

Prayer...

God its me Deliwe i know i insulted you and ridiculed your name. I'm very much aware of what i said to you on our last encounterment and i sincerely i want to apologize for that i was broken and weary i wasn't on my best senses. I needed you the most but you were never there i felt less significant to you it felt like my prayers were being pushed aside and ignored just like David felt on one of his prayers but today lord i want to humble myself and ask of you to be my Lord and savior once again i strongly believe this time around your grace will locate me and your mercy will rewrite my life and filter out what is decayed and unholy i need you Lord to be the alpha and omega in my life I'm tired of depending on my own understanding and making decisions on my own i need you to guide me to advice me and help me in most situations I've been doing things my way sadly they never worked out this time around i want to do things your way. Please be kind enough to hear and listen to this prayer because its from my deepest heart. I'm sorry once again Amen....

"Amen" Sidney said. She tilted her head to face him. She slowly get on her knees Kamo being the gentleman that he is he offered an extra hand. "I didn't hear your car driving in nor did i hear you walk in through the door"

"I didn't want to disturb your prayer session with the door"

"I see" She said removing pillows from the bed. "Can i go freshen up i will join you shortly"

"Sure" Sidney made his way to their en suite bathroom. Deliwe hoops under the bed sheets. Within five minutes Sidney's body lotion fragrance fills up the room. He wears his trunks and jumps on the bed after switching off the lights.

He moves closer to Deliwe whose sleeping on her side. He presses his cold body on Deliwe's his hands runs on her waists.

"Babe" He calls her resting his chin on her shoulder. "Are you sleeping?"

"I'm trying to"

"Can you spare me a minute?"

"Fine" He heaves a sigh he knows he owes this woman an apology for not being able to make it home in time while he promised. "I'm sorry honey i shouldn't have stood you up. I saw the candles on the table counter I'm sorry. I didn't know you had this in store"

"It's okay"

"No baby its not okay Firstly i ditched you here all by yourself then i came home after eight that's an insult i should've at least informed you i was gonna come home late"

"Like i said baby its okay"

"One thing I've learned about women I'm okay means the opposite. I'm willing to listen baby you can shout or scream at me or do anything you see fit just dont be passive about it" Deliwe heaves a sigh. "Its not your late coming I'm concerned about Kamohelo"

"What are you concerned about?"

"What happened ealier when we went for the ultrasound scan"

"Oh! That? Dont worry about it"

"I cannot not worry about it not when it hurts you"

"Pancake I'm fine trust me"

"Fine enough to get yourself drunk?"

"Baby i was expecting that dont sweat."

"Kamo i know your tone when you not okay and right now you not okay"

Sidney keeps quiet then drops his hand on Deliwe's tummy he massages gently around it. "Kamo talk to me"

"Mommy its complicated okay"

"What is complicated?"

"Faith i would love to have kids you having those pregnancy symptoms kinder gave me hope but when that scan came back negative its like I saw my dreams flashing before my eyes." Deliwe brushes Kamohelo's hand. "Dont get me wrong pancakes but i feel like i would be more content if i had my own

baby. I love Cebi so fucken much but he isn't mine meaning i could lose him to his biological father and i cant help but to feel incomplete without having a child that i strongly believe is mine"

"I understand babe hopefully in the future we will conceive Kamo just don't be hard on yourself. Like i once said i believe in your fluids. It might not be today but eventually you will baby. After all machines and all other hospitals utensils are handmade meaning they are faulty here and there they are never correct all the time sthandwa sami only God carries the final report not a human being" Sidney heaves a long breathe. "If that was the case pancake you would be pregnant by now we've been going raw since the first day we started sharing a bed"

Deliwe turns over to face Kamo she caresses the side of his face. "Like i said it might not happen today she caresses the side of his face. "Like i said it might not happen today patience is a virtue my love just don't throw in your towels at least not yet" Deliwe lowers Kamohelo's face she kisses him gentle without rushing it. She breaks the kiss before it could pick up she doesn't want to make love tonight. "I will try to practice this patience thing"

"Don't try do it"

"Alright mommy"

He smashes his lips on her forehead.

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Florence

She's tossing and turning endlessly. She hasn't had this nightmare in ages she even undergone cleansing to rid of this bad luck. This dream is a foreign yet surprising thing to her. Her eyes land on Marcus glaring at him. "What?" She manages to utter. "You were screaming in your sleep Flora what was that all about?"

"Me screaming? That's not true" Marcus is glaring at her she cant help but to wonder what Marcus heard because she recalls calling his name and begging him not to complicate her life by lying. Her biggest prayer right now is for

Marcus not to recall the name of the person she was calling out in her sleep.

"Stop glaring at me and sleep Marcus"

"Sure" Poor Marcus turns over to sleep on his side with his back turned against Florence. He heard everything and he wont let this rest not when Florence shouted "I wont risk Marcus knowing the truth leave and don't ever show up ever again Isaac" That made him curious..

Florence is the first person to wake up in the morning she has a mug on her hands. Marcus believes its coffee sadly it isn't. Her husband only grabs a cheese roll out of everything that she made with love to serve him breakfast.

"You leaving already?"

"I have clients Florence"

"At least eat the bacon and sausages Marcus"

"I will grab coffee along the way" He plants a faint kiss on her cheek. "See you later"

"Be home early Marcus i will cook. Shalton will be here"

He raises his hand to cut her off. He jogs outside she leans on the table and heaves a long sigh. When Marcus car drives off she jogs to the storeroom she goes through the box jotted "Archives" She takes what looks like a picture She brush it and weeps.. "I'm sorry Isaac i really am sorry. It was a mistake i didn't mean to hurt you but you couldn't stop torturing me and hunting me even when i told you to stop! I'm sorry things ended this way." She cries louder and harder. A few minutes later she cleans up and wears her pyjamas she changes the channel to Mnet Movies whereshe finds " Titanic " Playing she gulps her 95 years old wine. She wasn't expecting guests but it looks like she has one. Her sister walks in she pulls the snatches the bottle of wine out her hands. They sit in silence." Angie yintoni? "

" You wont believe whom i met yesterday"

Florence doesn't bother asking she has her own share of problems..

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Deliwe

When i wake up i find his side of the bed empty. As always he beat me to it with preparing Cebi for school. I quickly make the bed then go bath. I squeeze myself in a black sweatpant and dusty pink vest. I don't bother wearing a bra. I drag myself to the sitting room where i find Rhudzani and Lefa having the a conversation accompanied by laughter. By the time i want to turn back and walk away it's already late because they both staring at me.

"Morning mama Cebi" Thats Lefa the loudest nigga ever.

"Morning mufunwa wa Kamo" Rhudzani the responsible serious and deputy dad adds too. "Morning and how are you?"

"We doing great and thanks for accommodating us last night" I furrow my brows i dont remember accommodating anyone. "Pleasure i bet you not expecting me to prepare you breakfast right? "

"That will be highly appreciated my lady" Lefa says "I can help you" Lefa adds.

"Cool" We make our way to the kitchen he makes eggs with cheese of which i was told its "Omelets" i make toasted bread baked beans sausages while boiling water for coffee. "You look different from the last time i saw you" Lefa says busy on his pan "Meaning?"

"No offense but you added a few pounds"

I look at myself. "That size suits you"

"Thank you Lefa Where is Kamo?"

"He drove the mini him to school"

"Oh!" He looks at me. "Were you sleeping or dead?"

"Both" He giggles. Lefa is the sweetest amongst Sidney's friends but i wont make the mistake of considering him as my friend because i know he will hide his shenanigans from me then smile broadly in my presence like he knows nothing. When i walk back to the sitting room i find Sidney laughing with Rhudzani. He stands up when i appear "I will help you with that babe" He says gently taking the tray with mugs. "Thank you sweetheart"

"Pleasure" He pecks my neck. Lefa helps with setting the table we sit on the dinning table with these men laughing loudly. "Here Deliwe please taste my eggs" Lefa the chef says dont get it twisted his not a chef by profession. "And please rate them out of five"

"Cool" I dish up i use a fork to eat them they taste good i give him a five out of five. "I give you a clean Five"

"Thank you ma'am and i can please be the cook at your parents wedding?"
How does he know about that? I glare at Kamo who looks elsewhere. "I will talk to my mother and see where things go"

"Awesome can i also meet your sister Sindiswa?" I furrow my brows. "No way Lefa!"

"I want an injection contraceptives kind of injection nothing much" Rhudzani laughs so does Sidney "He means that kind of injection" I furrow my brows.

"Rhudzani is lying I'm a good guy you know me Deliwe"

"Not a chance actually I'm gonna reconsider this cooking offer"

"Fine i wont need the injection hows that?"

"How do you know my sister?"

"Facebook people you may know kind of list. " Lefa says. "My sister is off limits and besides my father is a 28 gang member"

They all mumble. "I guess your love for gangsters goes a long way you will have a gangster kind of family" Rhudzani and Sidney glare at Lefa he looks at them and eats his food. What does she mean by that? Maybe I'm overthinking.

"How are you doing this morning sweetheart?" Kamo whispers i glare at him then my food. "I'm good just tired and yourself?"

"I feel good babe apparently my Durban people called me postponing the whole project meaning you stuck with me for the next coming six months"

"That's good its actually good news." Deliwe says. "Dont mind Lefa his good at making up stories"

"What stories? Gangsters stories?"

He keeps quiet. "Excuse me i need an avocado"

"You just had one"

"And i want a second one Kamo just like you need more than just one round"
Sidney chokes on his drink its by luck they were whispering throughout their conversation.

Mphikeleli

Carol attempts to wake up but her body is failing her she hardly slept the previous night Mphikeleli is to blame and also the wine. They still in bed naked. "Morning sthandwa sami " Mphikeleli says slightly lifting Caro's one leg rubbing his dick on her moist privates."Morning Mphazima" Her voice is a bit scratchy "Still in bed by this time mami?"

"I'm tired and besides my head is throbbing"

"Mmmm... Am i to blame?"

"For the exhaustion yes"

"I will make it up to you for that one i will do all your house chores for today since i made you tired"

"You such a charmer Leli. " He smacks his lips Caro blushes.

"Can i make you tired one last time?"

"You already in Leli. "

"I didn't notice i will be quick okay? "

"Please Kusile is surely starving"

"Or snoring in bed he went overboard with the beers."

"But still we can't starve our guest that's rude and inappropriate Leli."

"Understood mami" He says thrusting.

"Am i supposed to put in some work too?"

" No be a chicken like the first day i undressed you"

"You pushing it" They giggle and make up. After the sharing of gametes Mphikeleli's cell phone rings. Caro looks at him so does he. "Its her isnt it?"

"I dont know maybe"

"Pick up" Mphikeleli reluctant picks up "Hello"

"Molo Leli do you have a minute?"

"Sure" He looks at Caro whose now sitting on her bums with a bed sheet covering her upper body "Can we meet today at 4pm"

"Where?"

"Let's try Protea Mall its convenient for you"

"Sure"

"Sharp" The line goes dead. Caro is staring at him in a the most uncomfortable way its obvious she doesn't trust him when it comes to his ex's not long ago she found him in bed with Sarah her biggest fear is finding him in bed with Angie. After all everyone praised her and gave her all the remarks of being the most beautiful woman in Protea Glen to make things worse his the woman who broke Leli's heart forcing her to pick up the pieces we all know how the tune goes with old flames their meeting is never a meeting but a mating discussion. "I will go attend to our guest"

"Sure" Caro says with worry..

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Sidney

He cant help but notice the weirdness in Deliwe.It feels like there's a stranger occupying her body. Just last night she refused to make love with him the same thing happened this morning. She makes back to back meetings to the lavatory she confuses weakened odors as strong one's. There's too much to count. Deliwe is acting strange and it worries him.

Rhudzani clears his throat snapping Kamo out of his thoughts. "Kamo can we gossip?" Rhudzani says with his bold voice. "Sure"

He raises his mug then puts it down. "Have you decided on the way forward?"

"I dont know where to resume with this mission Rhudzani"

"How about we visit Mexico?"

"Crossing paths with that guy will invite trouble for my family and i dont want that Rhudzani"

"Its answers we seek not a cocaine alliance Kamo. "

"But still you dont know Mexico like i do that guy is very dangerous. He might share the information for a deadly shady deal. In his world there's nothing for free his the you scratch my back i scratch yours kind of guy. "

"But trying wont hurt. Already Sihle is determined to sell you out clearing your name is the only thing you must be putting on your to do list. "

"Dont you think doing that will make me look guilty? Look Rhu i did nothing wrong only the cops will bring forth incriminating evidence against me if really i have a hand on her disappearance but other than that I'm not anything"

"Kamo your stubbornness wont take us anywhere on this one Sihle might be the evidence the cops needs. Don't forget he knows everything Kamo the abuse part will make a number one culprit" Sidney heaves a sigh before opening his mouth.

"Maybe Sihle will be long dead before that happens" They look at him with their eyes squinted "After all snitches gets stitches he fucks me i fuck him seven times the strokes he gave me. " They share stares they very much aware he means every word he says. "Being out of the game doesn't mean I've lost my touch as a player i still know my ways on the ground." Rhudzani swallows hard Lefa rests his chin on his hands that have formed a fist."Can we not get that far Kamo?" Lefa says concerned. "We prefer the happier version of you Sidney not the angry version of you.. Dont unleash that Sidney please especially now that you have a son and his mother. They dont deserve that Kamo" Lefa adds. "I will have to play pretense just to monitor how far she is with the case. God knows i hate whoring." Rhu says. "At least this time around you will be whoring for a good reason and besides these things dont have the same PH and odor change wont hurt" Lefa says "Then you want Sindiswa talking this rubbish?" Rhu-

"I will change for her come on dude."

"You crazy Lefa leave that girl alone"

"You don't have to do it Rhudzani i will handle it. Be a good husband to your rude wife i will handle my shit. Any way excuse me" He stands making his way to the kitchen where he finds Deliwe washing dishes. He runs his hands on her waist he pecks her neck. "Mommy"

"Daddy"

"Didn't you say you needed an avocado?"

"I did"

"And now why the dishes?"

"They frustrating me Kamo." He breaths down her neck sending chills on her body. He runs his hands to her pointy breasts he squeezes them seductively.

"What time are you planning on going home?"

"Six pm"

"You gonna sleep there?"

"Yes"

"So we gonna fetch Cebi then come back here?"

"Or go out together as a family."

"Mmmm... No problem he squeezes them seductively.

"What time are you planning on going home?"

"Six pm"

"You gonna sleep there?"

"Yes"

"So we gonna fetch Cebi then come back here?"

"Or go out together as a family."

"Mmmm... No problem i dont mind that"

"Do you think I'm fat babe?"

"Why?"

"I just feel heavy."

"No you not fat babe but you glowing. My vitamin D comes with glow" He nibbles her neck. "I wont attest to that"

"Talking of it why are you starving it lately?"

"I'm not hungry for it I'm full"

"But I'm hungry for you"

"Mastubate or something." She dips her spoon inside a bowl of mashed avocado."Tumi loved that when she was expecting Kaone" Sidney smiles.

"Avocado is yummy"

"Can i feed you my natural yummy avocado please?"

"I'm busy Kamo"

"Lets steal a moment just ten minutes please"

"The answer is still no"

"Baby why do you hate me this much?"

Deliwe ignores him.

"I miss my old girlfriend who use to let me in a anytime of the day. "

"Its true when they say unemployed men have a high sex appetite " Kamo cracked up "So now I'm unemployed?"

"Yes for six months and now you want to work my swollen Vijay"

Sidney narrows his brows.

"This sweatpants is tight its suffocating me" She looks at Sidney. "I think i need to change this"

"Yeah you do i will help you find something loose" They make their way to the bedroom Deliwe is pulled to the edge of the bed with her creamy thighs spread apart yet squeezed. Sidney dips his face on her moist cookie jar he gives her a lick from her vulva to her clit forcing a moan to escape Deliwe's mouth his other thumb is rubbing her clitoris to stimulate her even more. He sucks licks and bites her private forcing her to sing all the chords. He deep tongue fuck Deliwe whose back in now arched and her booty dangling on the air. She gives a notice before gashes of water prout from her genitals. Sidney lays her gently on the bed then takes out his erected medium long side facing dipstick he massages it then rubs her clitoris he retracts when Deliwe gets excited he taps it on her clit poor Deliwe belch in awe he slide it inside then pull out he repeats that for close to five minutes Deliwe's trembles a little

"Please Kamo"

"Please what?"

"Have me"

"Pardon?"

"Please fuck me daddy"

"Its no longer swollen?"

"Daddy please"

"Bon appetite mommy its all yours" He slides in with hopes to pull out again but Deliwe locks him with her legs Kamo thrusts. In a split second Deliwe is kneeling on the bed while Kamo is hitting it from the back they both belching and sweating. Kamo cums inside Deliwe he rests his head on her back. "Why are you hot? This cookie is the best I've ever had in the past weeks"

"Meaning?"

"I love how taste lately"

"How was i previously?"

"Good but now you HELLA HOT AND SCRUMPTIOUS. Its like you using something"

"I catch offense"

"Sorry babe but mommy what's in there?" He says playfully

"Maybe Cebi's sibling" She answers joking. "Damn! I would be the happiest creature ever i would spoil you rotten had my little sperm made a human being. I would even go with you those antenatal what's nots.. I will feed your every single craving" He smiles. "Mmmmm I'm jealous right now"

"You should be i love you Deliwe"

"I love you more"

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Sibusiso Langa

His sitting on the chair opposite his mother he looks troubled and bothered. His been having these dreams again but he doesn't know where to begin. His mother sips from her mug then shoots her eye on his direction "Sibusiso yini?" He heaves a heavy sigh then buries his face inside his hands. Dora is now concerned "Buddha?"

"Sthandwa sami"

"What's troubling you my son?"

"I've been having dreams ma"

"You meant revelations?"

"Yes"

"And?"

"I saw everything ma"

"By everything you mean what?"

"21 june"

They both glare at each other. "Cant you help her ma or better yet force her to come to church? This i cant handle mama its even worse she's pregnant. I cant be the one assigned for them. I just cant"

"Sibusiso if the message came to you then pass it to the people directed too"

"Its not easy ma i wont have to say anything at least not now."

"Then what happens?"

"Watch them die a silent death especially Deliwe. That girl has been through a lot her mother hates her she was a prostitute now this? See? I cant handle it ma.. Its even worse Nka confirmed one of the dreams"

"What did he say?"

"He spoke to her and she narrated everything to him you know how his gift works"

" This is bad but the baby will live right?"

" its protected"

"I pray she doesn't resort to that path again"

"I hate such assignments ma I'm a parent too i wouldn't handle what's yet to strike Deliwe and Sidney. Already the monster i tried so hard to tame in Sidney is visiting him bits by bits. Mina ngikhathele ma." He says in pain and worry. People dont understand how hard it is to be Sibusiso Langa they all fascinated by his gift and sermons but nobody knows about his draining it is for him especially when he is assigned to help the likes of Deliwe and Sidney. Their anxities becomes his and what's yet to happen will sure drain him.

"Gotta leave Sthandwa sami Nka has a soccer tournament at 12 o'clock i need to be there"

"Hows Khwezi though and the little one?"

"They doing great ma Lindokuhle is currently with us in the house to assist with the baby"

"The twins?"

"I've donated them to Bayede those are rascals" They giggle "Poor Zaine.. Vragga how is he? Nqobi is hiding him"

"His doing great ma they all fine.. Ma let me bounce"

"Bounce my boy i love you okay?"

"I love you more" They share a hug.. Sibusiso steps outside he fixed his eyes on their next door neighbors house he swallows hard. "Lord grant them the strength they gonna need it more than ever" He says before entering his car.

Angie

Her eyes wander around the restaurant that they both agreed upon trying to locate Mphikeleli. Honestly speaking she's been dragging this moment of facing her past she's been beating herself up to her stupidity or lack of backbone to allowing Mphikeleli to corner her and guilt tripping her into agreeing to this demeaning meeting. The truth is deep down she knows there's no valid reason behind her abandoning their child and failing to love her or want her as a part of her life. But as always she will figure something along the way to yap or justify her acts of cruelty or lack for love for her first born daughter.

Mphikeleli waves his hand for her to locate her. She swallows a huge lump down her throat before tucking her tummy. She makes her way to the gazetted table where Mphikeleli is pressing his phone that has a wallpaper picture of a beautiful woman. She knows its not Deliwe but rather a woman his involved with. As she sit his cologne penetrates her nostrils to her weakness. Mphikeleli glares at her as she sees herself to the chair opposite had he been a gentleman he would have at least showed her to the chair. "Hi" i said sitting down.

"I thought you were no longer coming" He said narrowing his brows. I guess that's how he's gonna greet this exquisite looking rich woman whose sitting before him. "I dont stay in a township obviously i will take me a while to leave my mansion to show up here" I said. "You should've suggested any of your beguiling yet expesinve restaurants i would've came and afforded to settle the bill Mrs Mansion"

He said putting his phone on the table. "Why do i sense a sarcasm in your statement?"

"So that's what you want to eat or drink?" He said glaring at me with his full brows narrowed.

A waiter comes over "Give me a green greek salad with Buffalo wings and your half done steak." I said to the waiter. Mphikeleli glares at me with a smirk on his face "What?"

"What happened to your morals Angie? Most importantly your" Please" phrase in a sentence?"

" But a little kindness wont hurt nor taint your mansion Mrs mansion" I huff then glare at Mphikeleli.

" Mphikeleli i didn't come here to nurse waiters just give me a sec dude! " He narrows his brows and chuckles sarcastically so.

" Can i please have your beef ribs chicken quarter with steak and your goodie burger the pineapple one"

"Thats all?" Waiter-

"And a Heineken beer please"

"Coming sir" The waiter walks always leaving the two in total silence. Angie clears her throat "Why am i here?"

"Deliwe"

"What about her?"

"Can we eat first then talk on full stomachs"

"I can multi-task now out with it. What about her? Does she need a liver or any financial aid?"

He chuckles "And you think your help would make her life better?"

"Probably"

"Angie i dont know what lemons life threw at you but you lost your humanity and adopted cruelty which is not attractive at all"

"What are you Leli? A psychologist maybe?"

He chuckles then shakes his head sideways. The order arrives. "Thank you" Leli says.

—

I don't know what happened to Angela Bhunu or should I say Angela Ngoyi? She was never like this but rather soft and fragile at heart. She was very generous and kindhearted towards others this woman dressed in Fabian

matching tshirt and pants isn't the woman i made Deliwe with. This is not the woman who named our daughter. "What about Deliwe?" She asks again "Why was she dropped off at my doorstep? Why did you abandon her Angie?"

"I had dreams to chase not a baby to breastfeed and wipe dried out mucous i had a life"

"So your dreams were that important so much that you left her at the door at 3am?"

"Mphikeleli why am i really here? What does she want? A customary ritual or some saving?"

I look at her disappointed "So you wont show remorse on what you did?" She eats her food i put my knife down to glare at her.

"Angela Bhunu what did i ever do to you for to hate me this much? Because if you did love me at some point you wouldn't have put Deliwe in that spot. Why did you even consider that gruesome act?"

"Didn't i tell you i wanted to abort her? Didn't i Mphikeleli?" i clench my jaw. "I never wanted that baby Mphikeleli but you forced me into keeping her. Knowing very well we didn't afford her. My sister had to buy her formula her nappies and clothes while you did nothing but forced me into keeping a child i never wanted to begin with!" I swallow hard." Thats cheesy coming from you Angie

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her nappies and clothes while you did nothing but forced me into keeping a child i never wanted to begin with!" I swallow hard." Thats cheesy coming from you Angie you saying you never wanted her but you sneaked out of your house on a raining night to get that penis even when i told you i had no rubbers you forced me into it now you saying this crap like i raped you? Yazi uyangidakelwa?

Ekubeni ubulifaka lingaphuma! This is rubbish not when you were putting it back when it slipped"

"But still Mphikeleli i didn't want Deliwe i told you i wanted terminate!"

"And who was supposed to pay for that abortion? Me?" She looks aside

"I don't want her in my life Mphikeleli i gave her up for a reason dont bring her back into my life. I've worked so hard for me to forget our sex moments and us trying to be parents to her. My life is peaceful keep her away from me. If it makes you happy tell her i died"

He chuckles. "So its true what they said?"

"True about what?"

"That you ditched my daughter to go spread your legs for a married rich man then killed his wife to play step mother on his child while yours was crying abuse and hunger?"

"What if its true Mphikeleli? So you wanted me to stay with you and raise your child while you had nothing to your name but your stupid feelings and that RDP you stayed in? You wanted me to choose poverty over riches? No Mphazima i made a choice and my choice was money not poverty. If love was the cure and remedy for everything Deliwe wouldn't have prostituted herself to survive that's serves as proof i was gonna die of hunger all in the name of "I love you Angie" i wasnt gonna eat love breath love and wear love.. I needed money not the R1000 you used to give me after a month!! "

" Then you say i wasn't doing shit for our daughter but your sister? You know what Angie? Go to hell! "

" I will and i will greet your domestic workers of parents when i get there " Mphikeleli roughly stands up livid." I only arranged for this meeting because i thought you had valid reasons to abandoning her but i was wrong. Anyway Deliwe hates you nor does she think of you in Carol she has a good mother one that would catch grenades for her. Thank you for being a surrogate mother may you never regret your decisions Angela "

Mphikeleli walks away livid. He bumps into someone who cries" Ouch Mr Mphazima " but to his fury he doesn't stop to see who he just bumped into..

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Angie remains on the table swallowing hard knowing Mphikeleli he would do anything to ruin things for her. Deep down she knows Derrick Ngoyi would do the unthinkable shall he learn she lied about everything starting from her little sobby story of having no family and being raped when she was young. The list goes on everyone doesn't know Florence is her sister they just think they knew each other through Marcus but that's not true Florence is the mastermind behind their relationship. The day this part of her is laid out for

everyone to see her world will come crumbling before her eyes. Shall anything come up front not only her will lose so much but her sister too and maybe Shalton. She really cant believe Deliwe is this much of a setback in her life.

"Mrs Ngoyi"

"Tumi..." She says flabbergasted she cant help but to wonder how long she's been around spur. She doesn't want anyone knowing about her past "What brings you here?"

"I came to buy my nephew lunch"

"Did you just come here now or?"

"I just got in here now"

"Better"

"Excuse me?"

"Nothing sweetheart i have to go"

"Sure" Tumi says already adding this meeting on her to do list. She cant help but to wonder what links Mrs Ngoyi to Deliwe's father i mean he was infuriated by this meeting surely there's a candy hi

57

Sidney

Deliwe is laying on her tummy with her head tilted on the side she's snoring softly. Kamo pecks her back before hooping into a cold shower. He towel dries himself then walks back to the bedroom with his penis dangling side ways as he walks. He grease his body with a lotion then covers up in a red nike sweatpants with a black V neck tshirt he decide against wearing sneakers but rather flops his not going to a beauty contest after all his just collecting his son from school. "Baby" He gently shakes Deliwe whose deep in slumber "Mmm" she says with her eyelids closed. "Its after school for our little champ I'm off to collect him then take him to the salon"

"Mmmmm" Okay i dont know what that means but she's not listening. "Baby"

He shakes her again "Kamo stop it I'm sleeping"

"Sorry mommy but did you hear what i said?"

"Yes and bye bye"

"I love you okay?"

"Me too" He leans over to capture her lips in a passionate heartfelt kiss. "I'll be right back" Deliwé closes her eyes again Kamo glares at her then makes his way out. His friends left i guess he spent much of his time in the bedroom. But he texts them to apologize they assure him they didn't catch any offense. His mother calls him he heaves a sigh before answering. She wants him to pay her a visit honestly he doesn't want to see Zelda but he will go there either way. Cebi runs towards the car with a broad smile on his face Kamo finds himself smiling ear to ear. "Baba kaCebi" The little man says suffocating him with kisses. "Hello daddy's little soldier how are you?" He links their foreheads "Baba uyazi ukuthi kufike bani namhlanje? Dad do you know who was here today?" Kamo furrows his brows it better not be Shalton. "No who was here Mcebisi?"

"Aunty Tumi" He smiles "Oh! She was here to do what boy?" He asks opening the passenger door for him "To give me a burger and fries for lunch i loved it" He glares at Cebi whose all glitters. "Did you say thank you my champ?"

"Yebo baba ngibongile. Ukuphi umamami? Yes i did where is my mother?"

"Umamakho ulele endlini. Your mom is sleeping in the house"

"Yooh umama kanti why athanda ukulala every day every day? Why does she sleep a countless times? " Kamo giggles "I dont know my boy"

"Is she sick baba?"

"No she's tired."

"Tired from what?"

"Tyler daddy doesn't know much but mom is not sick"

"But she vomits baba" Kamo glares at Cebi "Ugogo uthi ngizoba ubhuti omdala my gogo says i will be a big brother" Kamo furrows his brows "Would you like that?"

"Like what baba?"

"Being a big brother?"

"If mom and dad are happy about it then i will be happy too"

"You such a charmer boy" He tickles Cebi. "Are you hungry?"

"No" He flaps his eyebrows.

"Mom says your other Khulu is around"

"Khulu Kusile?"

"Yes"

"Wow!! Can i please go see him?"

"You will my boy your wishes are" Cebi cuts him short "Daddies wishes"

"Good boy!" He genuinely smiles.

Since Cebi is not hungry their first stop will be a salon. Then Zelda's house.

—

She embraces Cebi then pecks his cheeks. Her smile is genuine and that's so unlike her. "Where is the mother? I thought you were gonna bring her over"

"You both not friends mme even if i had told her she wasn't gonna come to give you a standing ovation for another gimmick stunt" Zelda swallows hard.

She glares at the Cebi and smile again "His a cute little boy" Changing the topic i see.

"You only realizing that today mme?"

"Kamo there's no need for you to be mean I'm trying here"

Kamo heaves a sigh.

"Cebi"

"Baba"

"Go watch cartoons boy i will join you shortly"

"There's no need for cartoons Cebi come give gogo a hand. We making cupcakes" Sidney blows his nose the mother glares at him then gently holds Cebi's hand heading to the kitchen.. "Aren't you gonna join us?" She says glaring at her handsome boy.

"I hate the stickiness of dough i will pass"

"Kamo please" A bell rings Sidney attends to it "Honey please open" The voice comes from the intercom Zelda shyly looks away. "Is that Marcus?"

Kamo asks with his brows furrowed so they now pet calling each other? Aren't they ex's or something? "Your father Kamohelo"

He rolls his eyes. Marcus makes his way in wearing his maroon suits his lips parts sideways when his eyes land on Kamo. He briefly embraces him

"Greetings son"

"Sure Marcus" They look at each other "Is that my grandson? Mcebisi come greet grandpa" He says smiling Cebi walks to his grandfather who is genuinely excited for this opportunity. Sidney steals a glare as Marcus plays with his son. He really wished for Marcus to love him this way not to buy him gifts and lavish him with money. He wanted his love his presence his validation and assurance. "You such a good looking little man Cebi just like your father" Cebi smiles. Zelda glares at Sidney "Is Deliwe around?" Marcus asks with a big smile "She's home"

"Why didn't you bring her over?"

"She's not feeling well and besides this is the last place she would rather be. "

"About the wedding saga we very much sorry Kamohelo especially your mother"

"Didn't you say you were baking Zelda?"

He changes the topic "Cebi come"

"Please give him an apron i will be outside" He walks out to have a smoke he feels a strong hand on his shoulder. Marcus is standing behind him with two whiskey glasses. "I've been meaning to call you son" He hands him the glass of whiskey. "I think you did well by not ringing me i wasn't gonna answer"

"Sidney at some point you need to snap out of this pity party that you throwing yourself. I fucked up son big time but holding back will hurt more than i did to you"

"So you expect me to forget everything I've been through because of you and Zelda?"

"I'm not saying forget but I'm saying heal from that experience before you go around bleeding on people who were not behind your scars

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but holding back will hurt more than i did to you"

"So you expect me to forget everything I've been through because of you and Zelda?"

"I'm not saying forget but I'm saying heal from that experience before you go around bleeding on people who were not behind your scars whatever you've always longed for in me its not too late to make it a success Rabbi. I need my son by side not against me. I cant fight competitor then my son i need tranquility and a place to call home Kamo. "

Sidney swallows hard "You left Deliwe pregnant with Cebi you kept the kid as a secret for years without raising him which is something i also did with you which I'm not proud of till this day but son dont you think you and i made the same mistakes? and the women in our lives forgave us and granted us second chances dont you think you should grant me one since someone else granted you one when you deserving of their apology? Kamo I'm not perfect so are you its really unfair of you to treat me like my mistakes while someone treated you better for the same mistake that I've made. Deliwe forgave you and loved you still after fucking up but here you are son failing to grant me the same privilege its been 18 good years begging you to forgive me Kamo. "

" Your narrative is different from mine Marcus"

"How is it different?"

"I lost myself in the process of doing things that you were meant to be doing for your kids unlike Cebi he always knew his father was destined to come back for him. Another thing he never saw me flaunting other kids on social media buying them expensive clothes and designer shoes while he was starving. But you made me go through agonizing things that a child my age wasn't fit for you bruised me and fucked me up Marcus beyond repair. I watched my twin sister being raped at some point and i had to fight for her and kill my uncle for her safety i was young and exposed to so many things Marcus nobody took me or her to therapy sessions like you did with your delicate snobbish kids whenever they had a simple knee injury. Tumi and myself were our own help our own family our own god our own everything Marcus. We needed you but you were never there instead you were busy changing tuxedo suits and rolex watches while we were being treated like dogs. We might have committed the same mistake but I've never made Cebi watch his mother being raped by anyone nor put him in a spot of killing someone but you made me observe that papa! " In a split second Sidney's eyes are teary.

Nobody knows about this omen that befell Tumi not even Zelda. This was the reason they killed their uncle. "Tumi was raped?"

He keeps quiet and wipes his tears. Marcus pulls him in for a hug "I didn't know Kamo sorry wont fix this that i know but thats all that i can say right now"

"I still go through things Marcus but you wont notice because Shaltons bullshit is always priority to you and us your twins we always on your toes because thats what you've rated us throughout our lives. I've got to go"

He breaks the hug "Kamo"

He glares at Marcus with no trace of tears in his eyes. "I love you a lot son and given the opportunity to be your father i would do anything and everything not to miss out on every milestone that you make. I also go through shit son and i have nobody to talk too. Having you as my friend would make my darkest world a brighter place i love you son more than you can ever imagine "

"I wish i was able to say those words without feeling a twinge of pain Marcus. Sometimes i wish it was easy to call you dad or my father without having any doubt or uncertainty. I do wish to love you but i cant!"

"We can try please"

"I'm not promising" He walks away heading to the kitchen where he finds Zelda and Mcebisi having fun he finds himself smiling. Marcus walks in with a smile on his face. "What did we miss?" He says glaring at Sidney theres a pinch of pain in his eyes. Sidney dropped him a bombshell about Tumi. If it were up to him he would dig up that uncle's corpse to kill it then bury it again. They eat whatever meal Zelda prepared he gives Kamo a container stuffed with cupcakes to give Deliwe. She also apologized for the vile treatment but she wants to apologize to Deliwe mostly. Kamo drives home Deliwe has been ringing him asking where they are..

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Carol

They laughing above their pitch when Mphikeleli walks in spitting fire with rage. He shoots to his bedroom and slams the door behind him. Kusile glares at Carol with worry maybe his not happy about their laughter moments maybe he crossed the line by being this comfortable with his wife but he meant no harm. He will apologize if really his the reason Mphikeleli is this demented. Carol looks at Kusile "I will be right back baba"

"Kulungile koti" She makes her way to the bedroom where she finds Mphikeleli standing by the window sill smoking. She walks on eggshells towards her lover. She doesn't say anything but rather wraps her hands around his waistline she rests her head on his back. "Sthandwa sami" She utters softly. "Are you okay?" Mphikeleli keeps quiet. "If its about me laughing like that in the presence of a man I'm very much sorry Leli i didn't intend on bruising your ego or anything of some sort it was harmless and.." He turns to face Caro he puts his hand on the side of her face. He captures her lips and sucks hard on them to Carol's suffocation. She can smell the alcohol that he tried to hide with whatever minty gum or sweet that she sniffing with a dash of nicotine now. "Leli.." She says slightly breaking the kiss but Leli doesn't barge. "Mphikeleli can we talk about it instead of freezing it out what happened baba ka Sindiswa?"

"Ever head of the north witch? I met one today."

He says remembering his rage yet again. Caro pulls him towards the bed. "By witch of the north you mean Deliwe's mother?"

"Can we not call her that uyinjakazi loya msunu!" Carol glares at him this tone is a bit harsh. "What happened Leli?"

"Mami angazi ukuthi ngiqale kephi with narrating this"

"Please start from the beginning"

Leli heaves a long sigh he buries his face in his hands. He narrates the whole story. What hurts Carol even worse is knowing about Deliwe selling her body. To think Khosi refused her the opportunity to help this girl she's been trying to put her in her wing but Khosi spat on her face repeatedly. And by the look of things this is the part that hurts Mphikeleli worse because he left her daughter money to avoid such things. Right now he doesn't know the person he's angry

at between himself Angie Deliwe and Khosi but his angry big time. "Come here sthandwa sami" Caro embraces Leli briefly..

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Sidney

He walks to a sparkling clean house it even smells heavenly. There's an aroma coming from the kitchen he melts immediately considering how blessed he is to have such a beautiful devoted and kindhearted woman as her. Cebi runs to his mother and embraces her "Easy Cebi that's daddy's treasure" I warn Deliwe smiles and pecks Cebi's lips "Sawubona sosha lami" She faintly smile. I make my way towards her i place the container of cupcakes on the table counter. I run my hands on her waist then peck her neck. "Evening mommy are we in trouble maybe?"

"What trouble baby?"

"Maybe we have a curfew and we missed it" She scoffs "No baby its okay i enjoyed the silence it was therapeutic. Where were you?"

"We went to check up on your sister wife and she asked we deliver these" I move my eyes to the container stuffed with cupcakes cupcake glares at me then cracks up in laughter "They yummy mommy she baked with Cebi"

"So you took my baby to your mistress house?"

"Yes"

"Nco! Thats cute. Actually that's thoughtful of her to bring me cupcakes i think I'm gonna love her" She smiles glaring at me. I click my tongue "The aim was to make you jealous pancake"

"And your aim was proven wrong Cebi my baby hlika" She says putting Cebi down. "Go change your uniform boy boy" She says. Cebi walks away i run my hands to her tummy i scribble abstract circles around her bellybutton "That feels good"

"What?"

"What you doing"

"How so?"

"I dont know but it warms my heart and my painful pelvis" I retract "Why did you stop?"

"Your pelvis is painful?"

"I'm gonna sound crazy baby but I'm having pregnancy symptoms quite heavily"

"Has the doctor called?"

"Not yet"

"Mmmmm.. That's bizarre cos Tumi and your mother think you are pregnant"

"What do you think babe? I mean they always say a man knows when his woman is nurturing a seed what do you think or feel when you fucking me?" I narrow my brows "I feel a delicious cookie" She rolls her eyes. "Be serious babe this is serious. I'm going back to school soon the possibility of being pregnant might make my chances slim"

"Baby relax we not pregnant surely your body is changing"

"Changing to accommodate a human being that we will see in nine months"

She moves to the pots. "Do you really feel pregnant Deliwe?"

"I dont know Kamo my body is suffering fatigue and it's crazy honestly. I'm not a heavy sleeper but lately i sleep alot" She looks at me. "Yoooh baby nna aketse retla bona as time goes on as for me I'm lost we will see with time. "

"I guess baby i need to have a word with my Sister surely she will bring me a solution if I'm not pregnant surely its cervical cancer symptoms" I glare at her with worry. "Cancer babe?"

"What am i gonna say baby or think? Sex is no longer comfortable as it used to be i crave it but it hurts and that's one of the cancerous pinpointers"

I frown. She giggles "Maybe I'm making a mountain out of it. Where did the cupcakes come from?"

"Your mother in law Mama Tumi"

"Oh!"

"She wants to see you"

"For eng? For what?"

"Something about apologizing for how she treated you"

"She's lying babe she wants to bribe me to leaving you. But since I'm a foodie i will eat these cupcakes and you gonna thank her on my behalf" I giggle

"What if they poisoned?"

"She's not capable she might be a drama queen but she would never do that"

She says chewing i narrow my brows then smash my lips on hers. "I'm cooking"

She moves away "Since you no longer leaving baby what happens to your ironed clothes?"

"Nothing babe but i will be traveling to Capetown soon just for three days"

"To do what?"

"My father has a vineyard that side so I need to go check on that department."

"A vineyard is where grapes are grown right?"

"Yes baby"

"So you telling me your father owns one? As in he brews wine?"

"Not just any but the most expensive one"

"So I'm dating a privileged daddy's cheeseboy?" She raises her brows "I'm nobody's cheeseboy but your boy"

"Baby you swimming in money but you never bought me a gift? Wow lover boy"

"You never told me what you like. If you remember correctly we were supposed to go out as a family but your lazy sexy self slept deeply." .

" I was tired"

"So tell me what do you like?"

"Apart from you i dont know. I've never received gifts in my entire life"

"How about i write a letter to your people and gift you with cows and blankets and my surname? I mean that ring cannot remain a decoration for more than four months lets work on being Mrs me and Mr me."

"I'm game and my grandfather is here"

"We overlapping your parents right?"

"Yes"

"Good one." Cebi appears. "Baba can i go play with Nkanyiso? I saw him at his gogo's house"

"Baby we leaving soon"

"Cant you go tomorrow?"

"No baby we need to go today already its late baby"

"Let him go play Dee"

"Fine babakhe" He walks outside with Cebi. He will drive them at eight.

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Marcus

He has a lipstick mark on his neck he smells of Zelda. He walks inside the house where he is met by red candles and an intimate picnic setup. There's soft music on the background he breaths deeply then walks to his bedroom where he finds rose petals scattered on the floor and on the bed. He heaves yet another huge sigh. He puts his laptop bag on the bed pedestal he feels tiny hands help him off his blazer. She plants faint kisses on his neck her hands run to his manhood. Marcus is a very fit man if you didn't know his age you would see a potential knight in armor that will save you from your damsel. He groans as Florence grabs his balls seductively "Welcome home honey" He doesn't say anything "I'm glad you heeded my plea Matthew's. Do you know what day it is?"

"No"

"Come on Marcus give it a thoroughly thinking"

"Florence I've been using my brain for the past eight hours I'm exhausted honestly."

Florence heaves a sigh accompanied by disappointment "Marcus its our anniversary"

"Oh!"

"I'm disappointed you forgot"

"My head is all over Florence. "

"You slept with her again isnt it?"

"Excuse me?"

"This is how you act whenever coming from Zelda and besides i see her stupid cheap lipstick mark on your neck. "

"So now we gonna quarrel over this?"

"Marcus I'm trying to save this marriage the least that you can do is meet me halfway"

"Save this marriage by keeping secrets from me?"

"What secrets now?"

"Dont make me a fool Florence!"

"Wow!" She says letting him loose. "The only thing that can save this marriage is for you to be lucid Florence"

"Lucid about what? I'm not the one cheating in this marriage but you are

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the only person whose supposed to be lucid is you Marcus!!"

He scoffs "What secret were you sharing with my friend?"

"What friend and what secret? I'm confused Marcus. "

"Dont act dumb I'm talking about Isaac!!!" Her eyes wander "What about Isaac?"

"Florence if you wont tell the truth willingly divorce papers will do the trick dont forget our wedding was accompanied by a prenuptial contract. You will walk through that door with your short hair and suitcase. You will leave this place naked like the very first day i sat my eyes on you the cherry on top i will cut off your children from my assets and put the twins in charge of everything! The ball is in your court move! " He roughly walks pasts her. He goes to shower.

—

Florence

He better be kidding me he cant do that to me. Or maybe i should just move to option B. Which is ending him. I cannot afford to get nothing out of this marriage if he wont meet me halfway on working on our marriage then i will kill him.. She makes her way to the kitchen she pours herself wine and gulp it.

She rings her sister "Angie"

"Flo yintoni?"

"This bastard made sure i wont get anything out of this marriage i need your help"

"I'm all ears"

"As a doctor you know substances that are poisonous and untraceable please suggest anything that i can inject on Marc's favorite bottle of wine"

"Florence you playing a very dangerous game especially with the twins being streetwise. They gonna kill you as we speak the daughter might be onto something we need to lay low. Play the stupid and blind wife before hitting your jackpot"

"You dont understand he wants the truth"

"About Issac?"

"Yes"

"That's fucked up. Make up a story or something"

"A story about what?"

"He was a dog and all that men are trash kind of talks. If you really need to get off the gutter pin everything on him"

"Are you hearing yourself? Are you that naive Angela? Are you really saying i should agree on cheating on him with his friend and conceiving Shalton in the process? I've worked hard to have him believing Shalton was his this truth will ruin everything" She hears footsteps. "I will see you tomorrow thank you Nkosana don't sweat about the sluts i will deal with them myself!" She ends the call a familiar fragrance penetrates her nostrils. "Hey momly dearest" Thats Shalton she jumps to embrace him "You scared me son"

"Scared you how?"

"Never mind. What brings you here?"

"I thought i should drop off this box as an anniversary gift"

"Ohw Shaltee thank you my boy"

"Pleasure where's pops?"

"His bathing"

"Mmmmm... His getting himself ready for this beguiling setup? He raises his brows and smiles naughty" Get lost before you spew nonsense "

" Fine let me bounce. I love you"

"I love you too"

He pecks his mother then walks away. Leaving Florence in a twinge of pain. Shalton is sure gonna hate her when the truth comes out..

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Sidney

Cebi can be a cry baby at times he was crying for me as i went to drop them off. But eventually he let things be. I'm now alone in the house cracking my skull about what Marcus said and many other things such as the Portia dilemma. But for now i want to marry Deliwe then deal with other things later. This house is boring without Cebi and his mother who believes she might be pregnant if not having cancer symptoms. There's just so much on the line. My phone snaps me put of my thoughts i answer. "Sid please open the gate we outside"

I end the call then make my way to the gate i press the remote controll for her to drive in. She parks her Benz i open the backseat door to pick up Kaone. I glare at Tumi "What's up?"

I say embracing her. "Its a long story Sid mind accomodating us for a week?"
"Sure come in"

"There's a bag in my booth please lend me your hand"

"No problem" I empty the booth then see them inside the house i lay my niece on the bed. Then their luggages her cheek is pink. I furrow my brows then gently pull her hand heading to the sitting room. "Hey what happened to your cheek?"

"Never mind it"

"You know i wont let this slide Boitumelo"

"You worry too much Kamo I've handled it"

"That son of a bitch did this to you?"

"His in hospital i kicked his nuts. He came home smelling strawberries or whatever fruity lotion he used. I'm done with his arse Kamo for good"

"Which hospital is he admitted to?"

She narrows her brows "Kaone still loves her father Kamo even though his a woman beater"

"Why dont you allow me to handle it?"

"Because I'm grown and strong i now can handle things myself Sidney i dont want you to save me all the time when I'm drowning i can swim now so please snap out of it"

"He laid his hands on you and its my duty to protect you and fight for you Tumi you are my sister not a brother"

"I've handled it. The only thing that you should be looking deeper into is how Millicent's mother and Deliwe's father know each other" He fixes his eyes on Tumi. "Excuse me?"

"Angela Ngoyi is secretly meeting Mr Mphazima i saw them arguing and it didn't look good. My gut tells me theres a history between the two. Did you cook?"

"Deliwe cooked" He says concerned. Could it be Angela is? No thoroughly research would be of help "Tumi.."

"Yah"

"Did you look deeper into it or"

"She had a baby about 27 years ago if not mistaken at Bara hospital" She gives me a look I'm not comfortable with "You can connect the dots dude" he remembers his conversation with Deliwe's father his palms sweat "Deliwe is.. Deliwe is that child right?"

"Bingo!! Your mind still works. You were boning both siblings congratulations farts face!!" She walks away with her food...

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Sidney

His head is all over the place his been tossing and turning all night long. He really doesn't believe any of this Deliwe can not be Millicent's sibling that will mean he slept with siblings. What confuses him the most is how Angela Ngoyi managed to move on with her life and live her happily ever after while she did what she did with Deliwe. If not mistaken Deliwe and Millicent are few months

apart how is it possible that she conceived them simultaneously? This doesn't make sense not at all. He wishes for some one to tell him this is all a dream he can't afford to have his world colliding with that of Millicent once again. How will Deliwe feel when this comes to her attention? "Uncle knock knock!!" Little Kaone says outside Sidney's door he didn't realize morning has arrived. He forces himself up then walks to the door Chirpy little birdie hugs her uncle dropping mr barney on the floor. "Morning princess" He pecks his tiny neck Kaone wraps her tiny hands around his neck "I missed you uncle" "I missed you too big girl! How's my little star doing?" He says glaring at her "I'm excited that I'm in your house where is your son?" "My son is not home my little shooting star" "Why is he not home?" "He went to visit his grandparents but we will go visit him is that fine with you?" "Yes.. Uncle why didn't you tell me you had a son?" He chuckles softly. "I'm sorry princess it slipped my mind" "I forgive you please make me pancakes my mother is snoring like a pig in bed" "Anything for uncle's princess" He links their foreheads. "But first let uncle wear a decent pair of pants okay?" "No problem i will give you privacy then" "You are a smart girl" He tickles her. Kaone steps outside he wears his sweatpants then assembles the bed. He dials Deliwe i pray she's awake failure to do that Cebi will miss school.

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Shalton

Amber requested a meeting at 9am at nearby coffee shop. Shalton is forced to leave Millicent in bed and to go freshen up. He wears a simple sweatpants and a hoody with sneakers. He sprinkles a cologne on his body forcing Millicent to wake up. "Hey going somewhere?"

"Yeah Mathapelo wants to meet"

"Oh!" She says not pleased with this conversation "Surely she wants to come back home where she belongs" Millicent hoops out of the blankets naked. She shakes her appealing booty heading to the bathroom. "Are you working today?" Millicent doesn't answer but rather feast on her nails. Shalton opens the door he kneels in front of her to kiss her lips. "I will be back soon dont miss me too much"

"Like there is something to miss"

"Come on Millicent dont tell me you angry"

"You dont get it dont you?"

"Millicent she's still my wife if she wants to come back home i cant deny her that. We talking about the mother of my kids" She scoffs.

"I hear you Shalton no need to explain yourself Daddy!" She wipes herself from the urine she jumps in the shower. "I know its hard on you Milly but it is what it is"

"I said it's okay! You can go on and do your stuff" Shalton glares at her with a twinge of worry. "I will leave your keys with the security"

"Can we not fight over this?"

"Whatever" She turns the tap to its maximum. Shalton leaves the house he spots Amber in shades a summer hat and a cute yellow dress. He lowers himself on the chair. He clears his throat "Babe" He says attempting to hold Mathapelo's hands that she retracts immediately. He feels a sting on his chest "I want you to sign these" She pushes the brown envelope in his direction she tops it with putting the ring on the table "Amber what is this?"

"You very much smart Shalton use your brain"

"You want to divorce me?"

"Not only do i want that i want a share of everything that you own even Millicent's one vagina lip i want half of everything"

"Rubbish! That will never happen Amber my assets are mine. I was the one waking up everyday to go work not you!"

"And whose fault was it?"

"If you want to move on go ahead and do it but you wont get any of mine"

"Shalton you owe me that much! I've been tolerating your nonsense for years and years I fell into depression because of you i even lost the pregnancy"

because of you! The least that you can do is to pay me for my resilience and sticking around when i wasn't supposed to have"

"Did i ask you to stay around and tolerate my nonsense? Forgiving me was your choice Amber i wont give you anything"

"Really Shalton?"

"I'm damn right"

"Have you forgotten you married me in community of property?"

"That can be fixed with a single phone call you wont get anything from me Amber not when you came with an addiction in this marriage"

Amber swallows hard "I will get what's mine wether you like it or not. And that slut of yours she deserves what's coming for her." She stands up leaving Shalton demented. He doesn't hesitate he calls a friend who knows people from higher levels of justice to temper with this in community of property rubbish..

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Amber/Mathapelo

She's burning with anger she didn't expect Shalton to do this to her. He owes her that much she's been on the receiving side of his worsts seasons she's been through hell because of him she's still in hell because of him. She cant afford to go back home empty handed like she was when she left home. Her mother made things clear no money no shelter. She has two kids and one was recently miscarried. She cant go home Shalton is her only solution. If he wont give her what she deserves willingly then she has no choice but to reach out to his cousin who can play dirty and rough up a person badly. She's willing to use her 15k to get him in Johannesburg. Why didn't she save up when that fool was giving her money? "Max"

"Amber"

"Are you free to talk?"

"Sure"

She heaves a sigh then starts talking.

"Don't kill him though please"

"Amber you will be filthy rich shall you kill his arse"

"Mawxell this call is recorded i cant risk going to prison i have babies" She uses her coloured accent the one she hasn't used in ages.

"He fucked you up Amber he deserves it"

"His a Matthew's his father is knows dangers people not forgetting his big brother Sidney they will retaliate just give him a warning"

"Fine" She heaves a long sigh she might hate him currently but doesn't mean she wants him dead. The kids love him and he also loves his kids he can't deny them a father. Her cousin has agreed on coming here for a week.

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Millicent

She's meeting her friends after so many months of not seeing them maybe their friendship was only sustained and governed by her decayed relationship with Sidney because thereafter phone calls went lesser and lesser.

Regardless of everything she's very much excited by this meeting. Pearl Sihle's wife is the first to arrive As always Kedi will be the last one to arrive. They share a brief hug accompanied by cheek kisses. Pearl praises her glow and her fit body if theres one thing that Millicent can keep up with its her gym sessions. She has a killer body she's a natural Minaj no silicons and stuff.

"You smell good stranger"

She smiles Pearl adds "Like a man though." Milly faintly smiles. "I love your hair" She compliments "I ordered online all the way from United States babe" Pearl says "That's great Do we order or wait on Mrs forever late?"

"A drink wont hurt" They say smiling they catch up on little details. "How have you been though with everything? Kamo moving on and stuffs like that?"

"Do you see eyes bags or wrinkles on my face or better yet blemishes?"

"Nop"

"There you have the answer. I'm very much good he wasn't my oxygen" She says sipping from her drink Pearl chuckles sarcastically. "And you convinced that's the truth Milly?"

"Pearl Sidney wasn't all that. He was just a rebound"

"A rebound you fought dirty for?"

"I was just trying to boost his confidence he never had any. All that was shown over pillow talks" She drops her eyes Pearl doesn't buy this. "Millicent you loved Kamo stop playing the i know my worth card. What you did on his side was proof. If really you never cared you wouldn't have sabotaged her and framed for those stolen drugs" She looks at Pearl who happens to know almost everything about her apart from one thing. "She deserved it she thought she was the it girl."

"Talking of her two months ago i think i saw her" Millicent chokes on her drink

"I beg your pardon? You saw what and whom?"

"If not mistaken i took a picture with her more like i stole a picture of her and j"

"Really? Let me see?" She says panicking this better not be true. "Here"

"Thats not her babe" She says with relief. "Really?"

"Yes she had a birth mark on her neck and that one doesn't have any"

"Oh! I guess my eyes were deceiving me"

"Of course surely she died eight years ago."

"Mara Millicent did you really have to do that?"

"Back then she was threat in my relationship so i had to deal with her"

"I see.. Have you seen your replacement as yet?"

"The Deliwe chick?"

"Yes i have she's plain and so not beautiful. I hate her gap teeths Sidney needs to fix that"

"Come on Milly she's not ugly that girl is pretty you just hate her thats all"

Their friend Kedi walks in "Am i late?"

"No babe" They both say and crack up in laughter..

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Deliwe

She's getting ready to go see the doctor she called Kamo to tag along he promised to be there in twenty minutes. The elders are gathered in the dining area while her and gathered in the sitting room having their sour mabele porridge that mama Carol prepared all in the name "What my husband wants we all gonna eat it" The fact that they were all lazy to prepare an English breakfast didn't make things any easier for themselves. Sindiswa is focusing on Deliwe instead of her leaking porridge bowl..

"Sindiswa yini?"

"So you wont say it Deliwe?"

"Say what?"

"That he scored" Deliwe glares at her then her plate "You suffering from what we call morning sicknesses ntomboh" She giggles "I heard you throwing up at 5am"

"Honestly the symptoms are there but the tests ultrasound says the opposite of what I'm feeling"

"Maybe its still early sisi but i see the bump mina"

"You lying you saying that because I've just said it" They laugh. "But really Dee nomama uyabona usemane uyazenzisa"

"What else can i do to get clarity Sindiswa medically so?"

"Blood tests"

"I'm going to the doctor for that one more like I'm collecting results"

"If not you will be another stats of " I didn't know i was pregnant till i had stomach cramps" We will have our very own miracle baby" Deliwe glares at Sindiswa recalling how she used to diss those people saying they were making this up and talking lies she said they were pretending not to know that they were pregnant but right now she's starting to see thing's differently. Her phone rings "Baby hi"

"I'm outside sweetheart"

"I'm coming honey"

"Alright" She glares at Sindiswa "Bye bear boo see you later"

"By mommy dearest come back with positive comments"

She faintly smiles and walks to the kitchen

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come back with positive comments"

She faintly smiles and walks to the kitchen where she says her goodbyes to the elders before heading outside where she finds Kamo chewing a gum with his hands buried inside his pockets. She runs her hands on his waist then captures his lips for a peck. "Hey babe"

"Hey you good?"

"I suppose honey how are you?"

"I'm fine" Kamo says avoiding eye contact. They get inside the car strap their seat belts. "You dont look okay babe" Kamo says as they waiting on the robots to open up their way. "I'm fine baby did you thank your mother for the cupcakes?"

"Yeah i did."

"Awesome" They dont talk much. In a split second they are holding-hands opposite their doctor who is looking at their result. Kamo's palm's are sweating.

"Let's see what we have here" The doctor says before pushing the piece of paper on their direction. "I'm sorry miss Mphazima but you not pregnant we didn't detect a pregnancy hormone from your blood sample I'm afraid you not pregnant " Sidney's unhooks his hand from Deliwe's to wipe his not visible sweat.

"But I'm experiencing heavy pregnancy symptoms doctor how do you explain that? "

"Not all symptoms are associated with pregnancy miss Mphazima. You might be suffering from hormonal imbalance or having cervical cancer symptoms or any underlying disorder or illness. Have you ever conducted a pap smear test before?"

"I haven't"

"Please reconsider you might be suffering a serious condition. " Sidney clears his throat

"So the blood test wouldn't have detected that underlying problem if really there was more to her symptoms than those of pregnancy?" The doctor swallows hard after Sidney's question.

"I will get tested doctor but i dont understand any of this it doesn't make sense. Cant we do the scan once again? I'm familiar with pregnancy symptoms and what I'm suffering is exactly that I've experienced with our first child."

"Do you enjoy sex miss Mphazima when intimate with your partner?" Deliwe glares at Kamo he better not catch offense.

"Sometimes but its accompanied by discomfort. " Kamo glaresat her. "Do you bleed after intimacy?"

"No but it hurts when i do it"

"A pap smear will be needed. Cervical cancer has the same symptoms as pregnancy unless you experiencing what we call a complicated Pregnancy which is a very rare condition but ."

"And what is that?" Kamo asks

"For starters we have a pregnancy complication known as Ectopic pregnancy where a baby is growing inside a fallopian tube instead of inside the womb"

"Is that kind of pregnancy not detectable?" Kamo asks. "No this one is dectectable but not Cryptic pregnancy"

"Can you please give us something concrete to work on? Could she be suffering from any of these? Please elaborate deeper" Kamo-

The doctor heaves a sigh. "Cryptic pregnancy is a seemingly mysterious pregnancy that goes unnoticed right up until labor begins. You can run tests and go for ultrasound tests but the results will always be the same the pregnancy wont be detected until she starts screaming cramps in a bath tub going into labor" We both swallow hard and glare at each other "A mysterious pregnancy is common on with other women but its a rare case scenario but it is normal"

"What causes it Doctor? Maybe i could be suffering that" I say panicking this could be dangerous in many aspects. "In most cases its hormonal imbalance be it hormonal birth controls or Hormonal changes contributed by stress or any other natural cause"

"In short we might be pregnant doctor?" Kamo asks the Doctor nods "Its likely Mr Matthews even though we cant prove it" Kamo stands up again gasping. "I'm certain you've heard of the classic" I didn't know i was pregnant " this could be another relevant experience"

Kamo glares at Deliwe "Is there anything we can do for the baby to be safe? Or let me say are we allowed maybe to adapt to a life of a pregnant woman? Like going to prenatal classes and buying those supplements?" Kamo inquires Deliwe is lost in thoughts. Another baby on board? Not just any human but one whose playing hide and seek with them. Are they gonna manage? Kamo helps her up with her handbag resting on her arm. They make their way to the parking lot with silence creeping around.

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Sidney

She's lost in thoughts surely she's contemplating this new normal. She's sniffing at it. As for me i dont know how i feel my feelings are all over the place I'm not sure on what to feel or think. I guess i should pullover and steps outside the car.

He walks to the passenger side he opens the door and gently reach for Deliwe's hand leading her out of the car. He pulls her in for a bunny hug right there Deliwe shudders in tears. She pours in more gashes of water poor Kamo squeeze her in more tightly. For a minute he feels his own tears build up. As complicated as this Cryptic thing is his been praying for this his been anticipating this day that was gonna change his title for good this woman who was selling her body to survive had to be one bearing him this manna the very same woman whose been through hell and back had to be trusted with his seed this is very emotional for him because when this woman came into his world

He was in bits he was in pieces. He was
Covered in silence and concrete people were walking by but no nobody could
hear his voice nor see the marks of tears that were drawn on his face. Nobody
knew what was underneath him not even his parents but this woman saw that
and she patched up the cracks and holes
Filling in the gaps with gold. She promised to never to give up on him no
matter how hard its gets. She built a home from the pieces of a broken man
that alone makes Kamo emotional because this woman has shown her
nothing but love faith on him. She once told him he was gonna have a child
regardless of what doctors said or thought she even went as far as saying
"Maybe you've been trying with the wrong one" and guess what? She was
right i will be a father because she loved me enough to stand by me when i
was wea
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Kusile

I cant believe such people exist. What kind of a family would gang up on their
daughter denying her an opportunity of better love and life? My brother's son
loves Carol with everything in him i dont understand the reason behind this
family hating him his a good and respectful individual he deserves their
blessings. In times like these Bhekumuzi is missed he can handle such
people. After all his a taxi owner as the saying goes and his all that..

Mphikeleli is burning with rage they still refusing to grant him blessings to
marry Carol. What irks him the most is that Carol's plan will pass over his. He

doesn't want to settle down the Home affairs way but rather the African way.. He wants a customary wedding not a civil one he believes in slaughtering and sprinkling of Inyongo. He wants a wife that is recognized by his ancestors his mother and father to be precisely. He doesn't want a "Wife" but "UNKOSIKAZI" this whole thing is starting to annoy him he gave himself a month to seal this but time has moved passed that his still a boyfriend at his age..

Kusile clears his throat distracting him from his thoughts and kicking the car wheels. "Lama koi koi ayadelela. These koisans are disrespectful" Kusile says Mphikeleli cracks up in laughter as livid as he is. "They were better off staying in caves walking around naked. Since they were exposed to clothes badelela kabi omadolo onina" Mphikeleli continues laughing "Babomncane they not Koisans but Tswana's"

"Kuyafana lento" Leli chuckles. "Let's get going." Leli says heading to the drivers side of the car "Weeh Mphikeleli" He stops to look at his father. "Babo" It still feels weird for him to refer to Kusile as his father because they are two years apart. "Nginesu lana i have an idea"

"What idea Babo?"

"Bhekumuzi "

"What about him Babo?"

"We need his help only him can knock sense on those koisans thick skull" Mphikeleli swallows hard he doesn't like that father of his. "Bhekumuzi? Othi uyadlala babo Please tell me you joking"

"Trust me he will fix this"

"I dont need his help Babo"

"Dont be stubborn if you want to marry your wife the African way this is your only opportunity to attaining that."

"That man hates me he will force me to lick his balls and i cant do that. "

Kusile heaves a sigh and dials Bheki who immediately answers "Kusile where in Joburg are you? I heard your wife saying you in Joburg visiting that stubborn boy" He glares at Mphikeleli whose glaring at him "I'm in Soweto Protea Glen extension 11"

"Lalela ngizokuthinta manje ngiyenza lapho."

"Sizolinda bafo" Mphikeleli is now smoking. "That was Bheki his coming"

"Coming where?"

"Your house and you gonna ask him nicely without letting your ego get in the way"

Mphikeleli huffs. They drive home where they find Carol peeling carrots.

Kusile walks to his room while Mphikeleli remains in the kitchen with his wife.

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Mphikeleli

He runs his hands on Carol's waist then pecks her cheeks. "How did it go?"

"It was demeaning and pointless going there." Carol looks at him. "We still have a plan B sthandwa sami"

"I don't want it to be our initial stage but the final one"

"Kodwa Leli we have no choice"

"Carol we have a choice and we gonna do things the right way."

"How when my family is doing this?"

"Bheki is coming over Kusile put me into begging him for his help"

"That arsehole?"

He looks at her and says nothing "Don't tell me he's gonna sleep here"

Mphikeleli shrugs. "Hhayi Leli! That pig cannot spend a night here not after the stunt he pulled on us back in Ndlovana"

"Mami can we just tolerate him for today?"

"Hhayi he's full of himself that one!"

Carol says irked "What are you cooking? Do you need a hand?"

"I think I do"

"On?"

"Hunt a cat and slaughter it we having it for supper The head and tail are Bhekumuzi's" Mphikeleli cracks up in laughter so does Carol. "That's hilarious maka Deliwe"

"He annoys me" They chuckle Leli captures her lips for a kiss. "Don't mind him he's a toothless dog like Kusile said we need him."

"He doesn't strike me as the visiting type but the moving in kind"
"I doubt he will stay long maybe his passing by"
"He better not turn my house into a brothel"
"Mami his married come on and besides his an hag unlike Kusile."
"I dread it"
"Is Deliwe back?"
"No surely she's with Kamo"
"Please call her any minute from now Cebi will be out from school"
"Cant you pick him up sthandwa sami? Deli is not her usual self lately. Please be a good father and good supportive grandpa?"
"But call her first so i can know if she fetched him or not"
"On it Mphazima"

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Priscilla

This guy seems to be everywhere i go I'm starting to think this is a sign he knows what happened to Portia his gonna be my bridge to finding the truth. Under normal circumstances i would pull aside and start questioning him sadly I'm in a rush I'm rushing to Bara. A new lead came up but it wont be of any help but on desperate times all help is appreciated. "Good day I'm detective Ndlovu and I'm looking for a medical director of which i believe is Dr Naidoo."

"Please come with me detective" The administrator said

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of which i believe is Dr Naidoo."

"Please come with me detective" The administrator said leading the way for me.

"Knock knock Dr Naidoo you have a visitor" They converse the Dr see's me in. I sit across the desk he fixed his glasses. "You must be the detective?"

"Yes"

"How can i help you?"

"I'm working on a crucial case and i would really appreciate it if you could give me permission on accessing your archives. There's a specific file that I'm looking for"

"What file is that?"

"Maternity file of about nine years ago"

"Mmmmm... I will get to it but that might take a while"

"I dont mind getting my hands on it i have all the time in the world"

"What is the patient's name maybe its gonna be easier that way"

A woman walks in she's also a doctor. Actually its Mrs Ngoyi she's a very well known person she's married to the minister of health. "Naidoo there's a little favor that you head joined in"

I guess my presence here is very much abstract she can see through me I'm invisible. Explaining why i wasn't greeted. "I will see you shortly Dr Ngoyi I'm still busy with the detective" The rude beautiful woman glares at me. "Whose being investigated?" She says looking at me i dont answer her not after she acted the way she did. "Your storage room Mr Naidoo?"

"You haven't given me a name"

"Portia Dube"

"On it" Its hours later when we get a hold of her file. I page through it something doesn't make sense at all about this case. Why was Portia admitted in Bara hospital instead of East cape? Like i once said she was eight months pregnant when i last saw her and we were in Eastern cape. But this file says otherwise unless Portia left Eastern Cape to give birth here but why didn't she visit her mother? This is getting more and more complicated "Her daughter died" I look at the doctor confused "Its written here" He points on the corner of the file. "She miscarried?"

"It was reported that the baby died in the wee hours of dawn"

"What was the cause of death?"

"Breathing difficulties" I look at him confused.

"Who was in charge of her delivery?"

"A former midwifery nurse. Its all in that file"

"Do you mind if i get occupiers of these?"

"Sure"

I make my way out i sit in my car glaring at this file with confusion. Why did Portia choose to give birth in such a far place than in her circumference? Why do i feel like someone was behind her back? Why do i feel like she was running away from someone? Something doesn't add up Sidney is surely behind this. Maybe he didn't want the kid maybe he paid someone to kill the baby but why kill Portia when he already killed the baby? I want this nurse found.

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Angie

I leave work early heading to my house i get my body soaked in water. When a bell rings i towel dry then tie a white rob. I walk down the stairs i haven't removed the charcoal masks on my face. Florence sees herself in then walks to the alcohol storage She shows up with two four cousins dry red-wine bottles. She gets a hold of a glass and lastly biltong sachets. She pours a glass and downs it then another one. "Flo yini?"

"I had a dream recently and i mentioned Isaac's name." She sounds scared. Angie sits on the sofa with her legs crossed glaring at her big sister "His concerned his actually looking deeper into it Angie and you know what's gonna happen! I cant depend on the brothel to survive. I need Marcus and his money. You should help me figure out something"

"You should see the witch doctor again Florence "

"I want to kill Marcus that's the only way i can get his money"

"You must be stupid to think like that Florence didn't you tell me you both signed a prenuptial contract? That will be vanity unlike Issac you wont benefit from Marc's death. The only thing you should be worried about right now is destroying all the cameras that are in your house after all the things you said last night you need not to be relaxed"

"I've handled that"

"Better. Why dont you stage a house robbery? That's the only way you can attain the money."

They both look at each other "That would be exceptionally great. I will get away with it why didn't i think of this? You smart Angie!"

Angie takes a bottle of wine and gulp it.

"Mphikeleli might help me achieve that he once did it once surely he still got it"

"The same Mphikeleli you made me let go saying he was stupid and dumb? Not forgetting the useless word?"

"Angie dont go there."

"Mphikeleli will not do this Florence"

"Since when have you become his advocate Angie?"

"You wont drag him into this our lives are better of with the Mphazima's not being a part of it. Leave him out of it and find hungry nyaope township rats to do the trick." Florence glares at Angie worried "They will be negligent those one"

"Whatever you decide Mphikeleli is not doing this Florence"

"Why not? Give me a valid reason than the one you just gave me"

"I was having a very good recuperating bubble bath before you came in here"

"You still love him dont you Angie?"

"Oh! Please! I'm not the kind to bath only to wear yesterday's underwear. His my ex and thats it"

Florence giggle "Usamthanda Angie suxoka. "

(You still love him Angie stop lying.)

"Or tell him the truth Florence or better yet show Shalton where you buried his father " She puts the wine bottle on the table.

"Are you out of your mind? Shall i do that are you also going to tell Big daddy about Deliwe?"

"Dont compare me with you Florence We differ in so many ways. "

"We both birds of the same flock the only difference is how bloody our hands are."

"I'm not a murder Florence but you are"

"Cheesy coming from someone who ditched her daughter and attempted killing her all in the name of saving her dysfunctional marriage that has holds no harmony and joy."

"Florence get up"

"I was on my way out lil sis thanks for the idea. I will put it to use"

Angie clicks her tongue.

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Sidney

They still in each other's arms both sniffing. None of them is conversing with the other but rather sharing their sentiments. They both haunted by thoughts they both cant answer this dilemma is very much confusing and difficult to understand for the both of them. They wish to discuss it but they wont go further with this conversation because its putting them in a tight corner had it been a scientifically proven case maybe they would have discussed it politely and reached common grounds but this one is complicated. They might be pregnant and they might not be pregnant but with the symptoms they both monitored recently they think they pregnant all the attributes Deliwe has been showing are pining for a baby. Its even strange and weird to bring up a conversation like this. Do they celebrate or prepare for a baby? Or do they keep quiet and do nothing about it? This is one sticky situation ever..

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Deliwe

She's not crying out of regret or anything nearer to not wanting Sidney's baby. Deep down she knew unprotected sex comes with two consequences being "Sexually transmitted diseases" or "Unplanned pregnancy" She knew these outcomes were possible but she took the risk regardless. What's really making her weary and all teary are the disadvantages of this possible cryptic pregnancy.

She's crying because her baby might be exposed to great danger miscarriage is her biggest fear. She's fears her child might not grow fully and healthy like any other child she's fears the complications that will come out of this sticky situation. Most importantly she's crying because she cant prove that indeed she's nurturing a blessing that God has entrusted her with again. Crying because she can't celebrate fully and declare herself as pregnant while there isn't proof the symptoms are not enough to convince her. Under normal circumstances she will be crying for the baby to detach itself from her womb like she did at some point with Cebi on the early days of his arrival. But today its not the matter of fact she's crying for the safety of her child she's wishing for a normal and less stressful possible pregnancy. ***

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Sidney

His sitting on the edge on the bed glaring at sleeping Deliwe. He has a mountain of things in his mind starting from the woman who gave birth to Deliwe to the baby that might be existing and not existing then lastly the Portia dilemma. But Deliwe is top of the list he worries a lot about her than any other things seeing her this heart broken is hurting him deeply. Today was supposed to be a joyous day to them they both been hoping for the pregnancy to happen especially Deliwe who practiced her second name "Faith" Their day wasn't supposed to have ended with tears..

"I need a breather" He says to himself making his way to outside where he finds Cebi playing with Kaone. He leans against his car glaring at them. He pulls out a cigarette. "Hey" Tumi says brushing his shoulder while resting her head on it. "Hey"

"How are you?" He heaves a long sigh "I'm fine and you?"

Tumi glares at him "Dont give me that look please"

"What's going on Kamo?" He keeps quiet. "Kaone pass me the ball" Cebi-

"Come get it mr brown eyes!!" Kaone-

The kids giggle "You soul troubled Kamo you are in pain and its.." He cuts her short "We pregnant" Tumi glares at him "What? She's pregnant? As in pregnant to have a baby?" Kamo looks at her "Oh no!!! She's pregnant!!! Meaning you gonna be a father? For the first time? That's fucken great news Kamo!!!!!"

She jumps in joy embracing her brother who is not reciprocating it. "Why the long face while you've received such great news?"

"Its a complicated pregnancy" His cheeks turns pink immediately after saying that. "Complicated?"

"She's experiencing what we call a Cryptic pregnancy" He blinks pushing back a tear. "Crypt what? Please elaborate Kamo

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pushing back a tear. "Crypt what? Please elaborate Kamo you know I'm slow brained all thanks to you for taking my intelligence."

"My baby is not detectable Tumi"

"Detectable how? When you already know you're pregnant."

"Tumi our baby is a mystery. No scan can prove she's pregnant even blood tests everything comes back negative. But she has all the symptoms of a pregnant woman"

"Indeed she looks pregnant to me but i dont understand what you saying Kamo. Is the baby growing inside her tubes or something?"

"Its complicated okay?" A tear rolls down his cheek. Tumi wipes it "So the baby might be in danger?"

"What freaks me out the most is that i cant protect my child nor can i enjoy and celebrate it without having any doubt! Its a fucken driving me crazy Tumi to think I've been waiting to receive such news only to receive such rubbish!!"

"Kamo..." Tumi embraces his brother. "Why does God hate me? What the fuck did i do to him to give me such a huge arse cross to bear? Haven't i suffered and hurt enough huh?" The kids have stopped playing but glaring at Sidney. "Kamo calm down please"

"I can't Janet!! How can i do that while I'm dying a silent death? I'm in pain!!" He roars even more so much that Kaone and Cebi starts crying. "Kamo you scaring the kids"

"Please take them inside Tumi i will takeover from here" Deliwe says walking towards the twins. Her sleep ended immediately when Kamo shut down the door. Cebi runs to his mother so does Kaone. "Please Tumi"

"Cebi Kaone come with me. We going out for ice cream and burgers okay?"

Begging the kids is a challenging job eventually she wins and takes them away from this heart breaking point. Deliwe embraces Sidney "I'm sorry"

Deliwe whispers with a trembling voice "Why us? Why us all the fucken time? Why do bad things always happen to good people but never on the likes of Shalton Marcus and Angie huh? Why us? Why the broken all the fucken time?" He roars making Deliwe to close her lids as this cuts her deep "Baby its okay please dont do this please Kamo"

"Why does our child have to conceived this way? Hasn't this fucken God persecuted us for while now? Haven't we died a several deaths a couple of times? Why this burden on top of what we already have and suffering?" He cries louder..

"Baby if its the will of God then so be it"

"That's bullshit Deliwe! I wont let this be not when my first child is in danger i cant allow the God will Deliwe its my baby my only baby. I should be happy about it"

"Then be happy about it Kamohelo Matthew's" A voice says behind them as they embracing each other. A tall and soccer player walking guy makes his way towards them. "Buddha?" Kamo says-

"Hello Deliwe" They all look at Buddha. She blinks and greets him back. "Can i hug your girlfriend?" Buddha says glaring at Kamo. "Why?"

"Sometimes the Why in our questions is silence Kamo. So am i allowed to hug her?"

Kamo looks at Deliwe then Buddha "Sure" He shifts a bit far to smoke.

Buddha looks deep inside Deliwe's eyes while holding her hands.

He pulls her in for a long brief hug.

"Be strong Deliwe all storms cool down at the end of the day. You are pregnant and you need not to worry about the baby but rather the foundation of your family and your life. Your second name is Faith i dare you to practice and master that all is gonna be well."

He gently breaks the hug then walks to Sidney. He doesn't say anything to him but rather pulls him for a hug he leaves their house.

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Deliwe

Sidney drove out a couple of hours ago without informing me about his whereabouts. When i call him he was not picking up and the smart me took his silence as an alternative response to my questions i mean silence is an answer too.

Tumi and myself and our sleeping babies are settled on the couch watching a movie more like the movie is watching us. We both silent i can feel her eyes on me. She clears her throat "I will tuck him" She says walking away with her sleeping daughter She comes back for Cebi. Thereafter she disappears to the kitchen and shows up with an ice cream tub with two spoons she sits besides Deliwe and rests her head on her shoulder. "We can cry together if its gonna make you feel better stuff our faces with ice cream and gain a couple of pounds together if its gona help with numbing the pain"

She hands her a spoon. "I'm worried about him"

"Dont sweat his a big and responsible man Deliwe. A little time alone recuperates him he will be back before you know it"

"I wish he was able to find that recuperation in me i mean they always say a man's confident must be his woman i guess I'm not that." Tumi lifts her head up "Sweetheart dont do that to yourself."

"I feel like its me his running away from Tumi i feel like he can't stand me nor my sight you could've heard me beg him to stay and talk things through but he walked away instead"

"Bull shit! I could punch you for thinking like that Deliwe. Kamo is the kind to go for a drive when his head is clouded and polluted he will be back by morning. "

"A drive that involves rejecting me and my calls Tumi?."

"Deliwe i suck at this comforting thing but like I'm saying don't look deep into it. His surely trying to digest everything. We deal with situations differently as humans and driving off is one of his coping mechanism when cigarettes fail him. He will be here be you know it. "

" Tumi i know his your brother and that you will do anything and say anything to protect his name but rather now i want you to step out of that sister and brother kind of duty and be a woman whose dealing with a man whose capable of doing things that other men do especially when their women are not around. Right now i cant help but to feel like he is drifting away from me and that is scaring me honestly "

Tumi heaves a sigh" I get it Deliwe but seriously Kamo is not the kind to cheat. Relax this situation is driving him nuts"

"Please call him Surely he will pick up"

"He wont pick up"

"Please Tumi just try"

"Fine" Deliwe shoves two spoons of ice cream inside her mouth while brushing her tummy and lost in a world of her thoughts. Sidney left before she could share with him what their neighbor said. "Its ringing off hook just let him be he will be back. "

"Surely his having his third round wherever he is while I'm sitting here worried about him!" Tumi glares at her "Dont tell me you believe that?"

"Tumi I've already exhausted my mind by thinking of many things he would be up to or things that would've befallen him since he's been rejecting my calls from the past three hours while I need him here besides me comforting me and sharing the load with me." Tumi glares at her again. "I'm also involved in this sticky situation if there's a way of dealing with it or going around it is dealing with it together as a couple not as strangers Fuck Kamo is selfish and it's exasperating!!"

"Deliwe go sleep it off please "

"Or maybe I should just go home and switch off my cell phone for two damn weeks as a coping mechanism!" Tumi giggles. Deliwe shoots her a deadly stare. "Sorry"

"I'm giving him two more hours if he's not here I swear Tumi I'm leaving and he won't see his child"

"You exaggerating right now."

"I don't care" They share the ice cream. Deliwe glares at Tumi and wonders about her sudden visit Tumi is not the kind to leave her man unattended or alone. She clears her throat. "And you what is wrong on your side?"

"Meaning?"

"You not the kind to visit Tumi you prefer getting bored with Vernon"

She looks at me and digs from the ice cream tub. "Where do I start?"

"The beginning"

"He's in love with someone else I won't call it cheating because her name always pops up in our arguments I'm divorcing him Deliwe"

"You say what?"

"Yep! He's a donkey's arse hole"

"That's awful Tumi"

"I will be okay don't worry about me"

"I can not do that Tumi you don't deserve this. Besides being too loud and talkative or cursive. You are a very loving caring kindhearted and supportive being. He's a douchebag a whole scavenger how could he do you like that?"

"Men do you like that without a valid reason and between you and I never leave who hurt me or my twin breathing Vernon is negotiating with me and I

will grant him that" She looks at Tumi and recalls Sidney's words "She has her ways of doing things and finding out about things"

"Let's get a bottle of wine"

"You want Kamo to kill me?"

"For what?"

"Getting this little Hider drunk"

"He wont know unless a certain birdie is a sell out"

They both faintly smile Tumi is ready to cry but a little fake laughter will manage to push it back."Come here Tumi I'm sorry sweetheart. I'm joining you come morning"

"Deliwe fuck you" They both giggle while Deliwe is holding up Tumi in a bunny hug.

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Sidney

After my little situation back home i decided to go to my house in Midrand specifically my gym space where i was met by Millicent's G strings. Its been here since that time of our dating situation. Some of her stuff is still here and i will give it back because i want to make space for my family and I'm certain Deliwe won't be excited with finding another woman's things in her man's house. I'm sweating and panting i havent lifted weights in a while now. I quickly go shower then walk to my closet to dress up. I wear simple shorts with flops. I start removing Millicent's stuff's from the closet. Even one of her sole taped boxes that she once told me has poisonous substances from the lab. I decide on opening it for starters I'm met by irrelevant papers then a journal book. I open it on the first pages there's nothing exciting but rather what looks like dates. I move to the other pages my eyes land on something shocking. "I'm pregnant again and Shalton wants me to terminate yet again. This guy is turning a murder out of me i dont know how many babies am i supposed to terminate because of him and that hurts alot." I swallow hard and turn to the next pages "Shalton married Amber instead of me. His moving on with his life while I'm stuck with this handsome yet boring and exasperating

brother of his that I do not love nor enjoy his sex. Dating Sidney was supposed to break Shalton and have him claiming me but the shit head wont get jealous over it. I love him so very much and it hurts" I swallow hard yet again. She's been using me to hurt Shalton? She never loved me? The cherry on top is her terminating what if one of those kids was mine? Millicent is a psychopath she's a very sick girl. It's best i drive back home before i do the unthinkable..

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Deliwe is snuggling with Cebi in bed while brushing his hair. She cant sleep Sidney is heavily on her mind she's concerned about him and his

baby. "Mama"

"Sthandwa sami"

"Are you okay?"

She scoffs "Yes my boy mommy is okay"

She faintly smiles "Mama you not fine"

"Cebi I'm fine baby trust me"

"Alright" Cebi says pressing his mother's boobs "Cebi dont do that baby its a bit discomforting"

"Why mama?" Deliwe looks at Cebi.

"Mama"

"Yes Cebi"

"Does daddy love me?"

"Yes baby he loves you"

"Did i upset him mama?"

"No Cebi"

"Is daddy gonna kick us out of his house like gogo?"

"No Cebi why would you say that my baby? "

"Ubaba bekhala futhi ebekwatile"

(Dad was crying and he was angry)

"Daddy loves you nana he would never do that to you"

"Then why was he angry?"

"Because his heart was troubled"

"Troubled by what mama?"

"Life challenges my boy"

"I dont like seeing daddy looking like that it makes me fear him"

Deliwe looks at Cebi "Sorry baby it wont happen again. " She presses her lips on his forehead "Sleep Cebi its late"

"I'm not going to school tomorrow we are closed mama"

"Fine i will sing you a lullaby"

The door swings open Sidney walks in. He undresses remaining in his underwear. He lays behind Deliwethen runs his hand on Deliwe's waistline

"Mama sing"

"Daddy will sing for you" Sidney says Deliwe giggles. "Dont traumatize my baby please his gonna have nightmares"

"Come on baby i will sing like a mockingbird"

Deliwe laughs Sidney is a horrible singer

"No Kamo"

"I'm sleeping mama goodnight"

"Kissy my baby?" Cebi pecks Deliwe. "And I'm not getting a kiss Cebi?" Kamo says poor Cebi pecks his father as terrified as he is. Sidney notices but he brushes it off he will apologize in the morning. "Hey" He softly says grabbing Deliwe's boob. "Hey"

"Sorry about the missed calls"

"Its okay Tumi explained"

"Your reaction is scarring me why are you polite?"

"Some of us do not need stress and anxiety"

Kamo narrows his brows. "Your last message was anger filled this reaction wasn't expected from a scorned woman"

"Baby some of us are putting other individuals first before ourselves" Deliwe moves Kamo's hand from her waist to her belly.

"Can i apologize properly? With my tongue buried inside your vagina"

"There's a child in here"

"Can i finger you?"

"Sidney.."

"I want to apologize for how I've acted i should've stayed home and kissed you with every tear you dropped. "

"That's kind of you to say but i want to whip you for being a bad boy then you will apologize properly later"

"Whip me with those lips?"

They look at each other. "Your cheeks are chubby mommy"

"I guess I'm starting to show.

Deliwe captures Sidney's lips she sucks on them. Sidney parts her legs with his knees. "You wet baby"

"I can't help it your touch is infectious. It leaves me wanting more"

They glare at each other. "I thought sex wasn't exciting recently"

"Today I'm game"

"You are moody woman"

"And its your fault Kamo"

"How is it my fault?" Kamo says shifting Deliwe's panties on the side while rubbing his hard penis on her folds. "We pregnant baby"

"Are you sure mommy?"

"He confirmed it You gonna be a father again. "

"We pregnant for real? As in my sperm is growing in there?" Deliwe blushes and nods.

"Baby that's a bad joke not when i just cursed God"

"I'm not joking I'm pregnant baby"

"Wow!! Come here mommy" He says sliding inside Deliwe she yelps out a soft moan. "Dont make noise"

"Fine"

"I love you mamakhe"

"And i love you sperm donor"

"Dont call me that mommy"

"Oh!... Mmmm.. Ka.. Kamo!!"

"Shhh baby his gonna wake up"

"Sorry"

"So we having a baby? For real?" Deliwe giggles "Yes baby"

"I'm so gonna spoil you rotten thank you sugar"

"No thank you baby you made a woman and possible wife from a harlots.

Sthandwa sami you found me broken and empty you mended the pieces and made me whole. You became a ray of hope to me Kamo if given another

stroke to choose a lover yet again i would choose you. My world makes sense now that you are a part of it thank you for seeing gold out of dust"

"I should be the one thanking you sweetheart you love me and its crazy babe. Thank you for believing in me and sticking around when every wall was trembling and collapsing on the ground. Baby i love you more than every thing and now i love you more Sweetheart "

" Cebi and his sibling are blessed to have you as their daddy I'm jealous already of the love they both gonna get. "

He chuckles" Dont be jealous babe you getting the lollipop that's way too much love mommy"

"I'm jealous"

"I'm jealous you gonna experience all the movements and all the mood swings. I'm just jealous you are the one whose carrying her/him"

"You such a sweetheart"

"Only for you its kinder crazy how Angela ditched such a loving and beautiful woman that you are to raise a psychopath that is Millicent. "

"Angela?"

Sidney breaks the eye contact and ups his pace to distract Deliwe. He shouldn't have said it. The deliciousness of this cookie is forcing the truth out of him "Kamo what's going on here?"

"Baby I'm close to cumming"

"Cum and start talking Baba ka Tyler.

" Yooh!! "

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{Mphazima household}

Mphikeleli welcomes his father inside his premises after parking his Quantum. They haven't spoken much but it's safe to say there's no bad blood amongst

them. Bheki takes off his hat s per custom in Zulu culture wearing a hat inside another man's roof is a sign of disrespect and belittling hence he takes it off. They might not be best of friends with Mphikeleli but Bhekumuzi is very much capable of showing him respect because this is his territory a wiseman knows you can never fight someone in their hood. They make their way inside the sitting room where Carol and Sindiswa are sharing a couch and playing the last born and mother kind of coziness while watching Skeem saam Kusile is currently out of sight. "Saniboni ekhaya" They all jump to face the direction of the voices Bhekumuzi has a very husky and high pitched voice that demands you to stop whatever you doing to pay your attention to him and lend him your ears. Caro is the first one to stand up with her eyes colliding with the floor as an sign of respect "Ninjani makoti nomzukulu?" They respond to his question Carol disappears to the kitchen with Sindiswa tailing her. Kusile appears he greets Bheki Mphikeleli pours everyone something to drink. "I always drive past this street" Bheki says glaring at Leli "Next time stop by for a glass of water" Leli says Bheki glares at him with a smirk. "I love your lawn its peaceful and colorful" Bheki-

"Thank you Ndlangamandla" They glare at each other. "Your taste for furniture is costly i love it" Bheki-

"You know women with competing with each other this has Carol's name"

They giggle "Exactly like her mother back in kwaNdlovana" Bheki-

"Women love expensive things honestly" Kusile adds -

"Are you married now? I mean the last time we saw each other you said you were getting married" Bheki glares at Mphazima from his glass of whiskey

"Not yet but I'm working on it"

"The parents wont give him the blessings that's where the problem is" Kusile adds glaring at Mphikeleli. "Bathi inkinga ilaphi? Kubuhlungu kephi?" Bheki ask concerned. "They don't see me as a suitable candidate for their daughter."

"Bafuna ukuzibhebhela bona ingane yabo?"

(Do they want to have her to themselves?)

Kusile giggles "Bayasangana mabenqaba inganono izobenza bavume They are mad If they fail to grant you their blessings willingly a gun will force them to it" Bheki-

"That will make things worse" Leli-

"Mphikeleli like your name Persist on this. Who are you gonna cuddle with at night if you going to give them what they want? You are a Mphazima and we as the Mphazima we fight for what we believe in we don't stop fighting till the treasure is inside our sacks. Dont be a softie" Mphikeleli keeps quiet Bheki is right.

"No Mphazima bride will be a home affairs wife sifuna angene egqekeni aqhelwe ngenyongo yembuzi." With that said Bheki gulps his drink.

"Where is your sister Khosi?" Bheki inquires.

Khosi is a topic he would rather not touch. She brought him so much pain and so much anger he won't heal anytime soon. She was the only woman he has sacrificed so much for only to have her breaking him in the most unbearable and worse way. At some point she wanted to cry rape all in the name of cruelty. His life is better off without her. "Khosi is staying elsewhere with her daughter"

"I would love to see her surely she's all grown and unrecognizable"
Mphikeleli ignores his father.

Carol walks in with a bowl of water and a cloth. She places the things on the table she later brings them food. They thank her and dig in.

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Three days later

Deliwe

Sidney told me everything regarding the woman whom he suspected was my mother i had to ask my father to confirm it because it shocking to know she's been staying nearby but not in a single day did she ever come over to check up on me nor the dumpster she left me years ago. I know i said i didn't care about her nor showed any interest on her but what Sidney told me really broke my heart. The surrogate mother has been staying 45 minutes away from

where I've been staying since her abandonment the cherry on top is that God has been blessing her exceedingly knowingly she did me wrong and broke me first before anything else. I really don't understand why God chose to make her life sweeter than berries and made mine sour than lemons. Angela was supposed to suffer and struggle for everything she's put me through but no God decided otherwise. Honestly I'm angry at him for favouring her over me. Angela is well established in life she has a very flawless skin expensive designer clothes she drives expensive and trendy cars travels the world and donates to charities she's known as the minister's wife a surgeon not forgetting being Millicent's and Andy's mother like really? Where is Karma? Does that shit even exist? Sidney was right bad things are meant for the kindhearted and good things are meant for the unkind and cruel people. If only she knew I once fucked her so called husband and he tarnished her name saying she "Was cold in bed" Not that it will make my life any better kodwa Okusalayo!

He runs his hands on my waists I tilt my head to glare at him. I wish he didn't bring me here I tilt my head to glare at him. I wish he didn't bring me here I really can't undo nor erase what her mother once did to me.

"Penny for your thoughts?"

"Nothing much baby just trying to combine all the ingredients for this salad"

"I see.. Are you both okay?" He says running his fingers in circular on my bellybutton as I'm swamped with making the salad. He knows this thing makes me giddy he better it.

"Baby you asking me that question for the hundredth time" He scoffs.

"I can't help but wonder what my little hider is doing in there." I roll my eyes.

"Surely it's kicking my vagina hoping it's gonna burst open so he or she can't get out." He laughs "Baby that's hilarious" He smacks his lips on my neck I smile.

"I can't wait to get myself sloopy kisses every day. When do you think the baby is gonna come out?"

"I don't know baby but nine months it is"

"What month do you think we on now?"

"Sthandwa sami angazi i started showing you my nakedness four months ago
So you can do your probabilities"

"Surely we on two months."

"Or maybe three" I said sliding an apple slice inside my mouth. "Do you think
its gonna look like me or Cebi?"

"Why am i not on the list?"

"Pancake you not pretty adding you on the list will only mean I'm surrendering
that my baby will look like Fiona from Shrek" i turn to lightly punch him he
giggles. "That hurts mommy"

"Why did i get pregnant again?"

"Because you love dick baby. " He smirks.

I heave a sigh and roll my eyes. "I didn't sign up for this treatment sthandwa
sami"

He giggles."You beautiful Fiona"

"Sidney!!" He giggles and runs his hands to my butt cheeks he plants faint
neck kisses. "I love you"

"I love your penis not you"

"Then you surprised why you pregnant? Mmmm"

"Get out i want to be busy"

He places his hand on my belly and crutches in front of my not showing bump.

"Hey baby wa daddy do you wish for daddy to vacate the kitchen or you still
want to bond?"

I blush and brush his head such a charmer i have. "Baba come play with us."

Cebi shouts panting. "I'm coming my boy I'm still playing with your sibling"

"Come now and leave that absent baby alone" i crack up in laughter. "Cebi

that's harsh" Sidney kisses my tummy and stands up to kiss my cheek "His

jealous babe we are in trouble" He whispers in my ears. "I love you Kamo" i

say smitten. "I love you babe" He breaks the hug then jogs to Cebi. I look at

them flattered i brush my belly. I think i would love to see this Angela lady just

to tell her how I'm loved and appreciated elsewhere. Maybe by abadoning me

she thought i was gonna remain unloved and unwanted. I want to prove her

wrong. Sidney's mother walks in with freshly picked spring onion. "I will rinse

this off" She says heading to the sink. Rich people with hosting its not even a

birthday but we are here cooking up a storm and people are invited. Sidney's friends will be joining us the Millicent girl better not come.

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Jabulile

There's foam coming out from Mahlatse's mouth his eyes have turned colour. His having a seizer both Jabu belching and screaming his name begging him not to die on her. In a split second Mahlatse stops squivering and twitching everything goes straight to a standstill. Jabu carries her son to the car with hopes to drive him to the hospital. By the time she reaches Bara hospital she notice something strange on Mahlatse. He hasn't been moving throughout their drive. She firstly shakes him up but the little boy doesn't respond. She moves to placing her index fingers on the side of his neck to monitor his pulse to her surprise there's nothing felt. She moves to his wrists but no pulse is felt her heart is suddenly engulfed by palpitations she's sweating profusely. Her knees are going wobbly. There's a strange lighting cutting on her back and stomach.

"Mahlatse" She calls out again. "Excuse me sisi is everything okay that side?" A girl who resembles Deliwe a little appears sucking on a lollipop. "My son is.. My son is not breathing! My son is not opening his eyes!"

" Please allow me to check his pulse" The lady said throwing away her stick sweet running to the back seat of Jabu's car. She does the same monitoring then glares at Jabu with a lump sliding down her throat. "Is he okay?"

"Ma'am i will get our pathology team and.."

"Stop right there! Pathology team? Why the hell do i need a pathology team?" She knows very well what a pathology forensics does and Mahlatse's case is nothing aligned to the specialty of their needed services.

"Sisi please wait here"

Jabu remains holding Mahlatse's hand with tears sliding down her eyelids. It's not long before the forensics come to the station they cover Mahlatse in a foil. Jabu wails hysterically what could've kill her son? It cant be the hunger they have been experiencing since the new life changes began she was able to

prepare a meal for him each and every night even though it wasn't balanced but Mahlatse never went to bed on an empty stomach to such an extent of risking him being killed.

Her drive back home is accompanied by hollowness and anguish her vision has been clouded by tears since she left Bara hospital. She parks in front of their shabby shack finding her mother sniffing snuff by the veranda with a mug besides her. She doesn't bother conversing with her but rather heading inside the house to curl herself on her single bed hugging a pillow with tears running permanently on her face. Her mother stands in front of her with her hands on her waistline. "Wabihlika yini? Why are you crying?"

Jabu ignores her and yelps sorrowfully. "Hhayi Jabu yini? Are you hungry or something? I can go to my friend's corner to get us bread and eggs on credit." Jabu cries even worse. "Where is Mahlatse I can send him there David knows him he will give him the eggs on credit"

"Mahlatse is gone"

"Ben collected him for school holidays?"

"His dead my son is dead!" Khosi drops her mug in shock. Mahlatse didn't show signs of a dying person nor was he sick when she left to her newly housing cleaning job. He was strong and healthy like an ox what could've caused his death? This is very much confusing and difficult to understand that child wasn't sick not at all.

"Unamanga Jabu! Kanjani?"

65

{Amber}

She's heading to the airport to pick up her cousin Maxwell. She's wearing a very tight and elegant dress with a summer hat. She's leaning against her car when her cellphone beeps. Its a message from Shalton his demanding to see the kids. Mathapelo deletes it immediately after reading it. That's gonna happen in hell there's no way that moron will see her kids not after the things he said to her on their previously meeting. She tosses her cellphone inside her sling bag. Where is Max and what is taking him so long? She paid her nextdoor neighbour to mind her kids she seriously needs to leave. Someone clears their throat behind her she turns to face this "Someone" She very much aware that Maxwell and herself haven't met in decades but this tall guy with tattoos all over his body is definitely her cousin. This is Maxwell. She jumps on him embracing him

"Easy tiger dont strangle me I'm somebody's else's world." Max scoffs dropping his luggage to reciprocate the bear hug. "I missed you big foot!!" Amber adds. Max giggles "I missed you more short one! Look at you Mataps you all grown and all sexy!" Someone wearing shades clear their throats behind Maxwell only then it rings that Maxwell didnt come alone but he came with a plus one. A very slim and good looking lady. "Excuse me Amber meet my ladybug girl and babe meet my cousin Mathapelo" The lady peeks on her glasses and glares at Amber while chewing hard on her gum. Mathapelo is all smitten but her smile disappears when she learns the lady has a very stinking attitude. "Hi" is all the lady cousin got's to say. "Max can we check in elsewhere i cant stand these shoes anymore." With that said the Blondie babe walks away Amber glares at Maxwell whose shrugging his shoulder. "Who is she?"
"My wife"
"You married Max?"
"Definitely since seven years ago."
"You lie"
"I'm a father too i have a beautiful daughter she takes after you" Amber smiles. Her phone beeps again inside her sling bag. "So you wont be crashing at my place?"

"It looks like it my wife is a picky person"

"When did you become a softie?"

"Its a story for another day" They carry the bags to the booth. Amber cant help but to focus on the rude lady who has a big fat tattoo on her legs.

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{Deliwe}

Being in the kitchen with Sidney's mother is really uncomfortable this woman has shown me a part of her that i never liked or appreciated. Sharing the same oxygen with her is really suffocating me. A part of me tells me she wants to make peace but the other says otherwise. As a black Xhosa and Zulu blended tribe I'm very much aware that keeping your enemies closer is a bullshit move and act and this lady might be doing that right now shall i leave this place she might go all team "Millicent" and ask a cup of tea with my name. I really cant fake it I'm very much uncomfortable around her unlike the father and twin they are much better and more accomodating than her.

"My son looks happier than ever"

She says. How do i respond to that? I really dont know what to say maybe silence will do.

"You glowing too" She says smiling.

"I guess your son is doing his level best to treat me well"

"Or you pregnant sesi"

She smiles. I glare at her and say nothing she's not my friend after all to be confessing such things. She's better off playing the guessing game.

"Are you pregnant?"

"I wouldn't know ma"

"Your complexion and cheeks says it all sesi get tested." I glare at her. "I will mama" with that said i check out the oven. Tumi shouldn't have lured me to the kitchen honestly my father would kill me if he saw what I'm doing right now. Already the dude is not happy about me staying with Kamo full time he gave me a lecture two days ago about my hide and seek kinda tactics. Like an obedient daughter last night i slept home so as today. Mphikeleli is forcing me

to date like a teenager getting the dick during the day and going home before my curfew I'm pregnant for christ sake futhi ngithandiswa umsipha wenjabulo (I crave the lollipop) kodwa ke kulungile ngizothobela umthetho.

"Deliwe"

"Ma"

"I know you dont like me nor see me as a person whose deserving of your kindness and attention judging from how our story began. I was so unkind and so spiteful towards you. I never gave you a chance or a platform to explain yourself nor to be yourself i just slayed you like you were some dragon thats was yet to spit fire on my face. I was so rude and mean towards you and ngwanaka it was so wrong of me to act that way. " She was a vagina i didn't deserve any of it. The nerve to even mention Millicent's name was the topping of the cake.

" Ngwanaka " She pulls my hands gently and glares at me. "I'm sorry for everything i did I'm sorry for treating you like that. I wont justify it i was bitter and so skeptical about it. It wasn't my place to choose a lover for my son he chose you and i had to accept instead of bringing up his ex name. I'm sorry sesi"

I swallow hard."Its okay mama I've long forgiven you. Its water under the bridge"

"Can we start on a clean slate?"

"I would appreciate it big time"

"We really need to start afresh my dear because it's obvious you are here to stay."She genuinely smiles. "My brother confirmed that Kamo wants to pay lobola his drafting the letter on his behalf back home"

Such a sneaky handsome man. "You are going to be Mrs Matthews. I would like to meet your parents"

"My parents?"

"Yes. I know you Zulu people do things differently from us. I know there's a cow that needs to be bought as a penalty for Mcebisi"

Okay what is going on here? Is this woman the same woman I've met a couple of months ago? Why the sudden change of hearts?

"I'm talking about damages"

"Oh! I understand mama"

"We need to discuss that."

"I will arrange for you to meet them"

"Thank you sesi" She pulls me for a hug.

"Can i also get a hug?" Mr Matthews says entering the kitchen Zelda giggles and breaks our hug to peck her ex sledge current boyfriend. "I thought you weren't coming"

"I wouldn't miss this for anything how are you?" Mr Matthews asks. They catch up i walk outside to check up on my son Mcebisi. I actually want to call him out for referring to his sibling as "Absent baby" I find Sidney laughing with his friends they stop when i approach. Mcebisi is sitting on Lefa's lap. "Greetings" "Greetings mommy" Lefa says with a smirk. "Greetings mama Cebi"

Rhudzani-

"Hey sugar" Kamo says pulling me for a kiss this dude is clingy since he learnt his gonna be a father not that I'm complaining I'm enjoying this lovey dovey moment because after the baby is born his gonna treat me like a sibling not a lover. Talking of when the baby is born how am i gonna juggle between school and two babies? I cant take a gap year next year i really need to go back to school but anyway i have a mother now surely mommy Caro wont mind babysitting her second grandchild how i love her. "Missing me already?"

"No i miss my baby" Kamo sulks i giggle.

"I'm kidding babe i miss you so bad"

"I dont blame you sugar I'm the sweetest candy in a candy store." He licks his lower lip i glare at him with my brows narrowed. "Mama Cebi how far are you?" Lefa says forcing me to choke on my saliva am i obvious maybe? "With the cooking tender for your parents wedding. " He adds.

{Shalton}

His settled on the couch glaring at his childrens pictures he misses them so much. Deep down he wishes for Amber to grant her permission to see the kids. Millicent drags her sleepers to sit besides him she rests her legs on his lap then glares at him. "Are you okay?"

"I'm missing my kids"

Millicent rolls here yes that's all Shalton has been whining about the past few days he needs to suck it up. Life doesn't revolve around his kids and his ex girlfriend. "I'm going for a drive i want to see my mother. I haven't seen her in a while"

"No problem i want to see an old friend as well."

"I will see you later"

"Later it is" Shalton stands up he takes his wallets and car keys and drives out of the premises. Along the way he decides on passing by Killarney mall he needs something to eat and drink at spur. His heading to the entrance when he spots Mcebisi playing by the parking lot with a girl child. He cant believe Deliwe and Sidney's carelessness how could they leave his son like this? This is very much dangerous. He walks towards Mcebisi and kneels in front of him "Hey boy" Mcebisi glares at him dumbfounded of who is he. "Cebi its me daddy.. What are you doing here?" The kid looks at the girl child that he doesn't know from afar he thought it was Tumi's daughter Kaone but it's not.

"Cebi what are you doing here? Where is Deliwe?"

"His not Mcebisi" The girl child says pulling Mcebisi's hand. Mcebisi steps back Shalton is slowly getting confused by this whole situation.

"Mcebisi where is your mom? Why did she leave you here?" The boy looks behind him where a tall and slender lady is busy putting plastic bags in her booth.

"Mommy this guy is bothering and scaring Christopher." The girl child says. Shalton narrows his brows what is going on here? Why are they calling his son Christopher instead of Mcebisi's? Or maybe that's his second name? But why would this kid refer to this lady as" Mommy? " Where is Deliwe?

"Excuse me lady who are you and how do you know my son? Actually why are you calling him Chris instead of Mcebisi?"

"Excuse me?"

"Who are you?" The lady scoffs and holds both kids by their hands

"Christopher and Christina let's go" The lady drives away afterwards leaving Shalton with countless questions in his head.

66

{Mphikeleli}

Caro has gone to the eatery I'm left with Kusile in the house. I'm busy trimming down my lawn when a familiar car parks in front of my gate. I wait for the person to come out my eyes should've caught dust as they land on Florence Bhunu Angie's big sister. She looks at me from head to toe. "Molo Mphikeleli"

"What brings you here?"

"Awusemuncu"

"Florence what brings you here?"

"Relax i want us to discuss businesses"

She walks towards Mphikeleli shaking her sizeable buttocks. "Can i have a chair?"

"There's nothing to discuss with you"

"Rhaaa!! We have so much to discuss Mphikeleli even our past but for today i would rather focus on the now not the by gones." Mphikeleli clenched his jaw he glares at Florence for a little while. "Where is my niece? Such a beautiful girl she is"

"Why are you here Florence to annoy me?"

"I need you to rob my husband"

"Excuse me?"

"House robbery it is i will shut down all the cameras and leave all the doors opened"

"I'm not doing that rubbish!"

"Why not?"

"Because i dont fucken owe you shit!"

"Mphikeleli i did you a favor once and its high time you returned it"

"A favor of luring Angela to prostituting herself to rich men and having my daughter spat out on a freezing morning like she was mucus? Is that the favour you talking about?"

"You have a daughter today because of me Mphikeleli!"

"Which daughter are you talking about? The one you aborted or the one your sister left on my door step? Which one are you on about Florence?"

Mphikeleli is slowly getting livid. "Angela wanted her killed but i saved her and had her delivered at your doorstep alive not as a corpse Mphikeleli "

"So that deserves a what? A round of applause or my tongue inside your underwear? "

"You are a very ungrateful son of a bitch Mphikeleli"

"A son of a bitch that fucked you at some point?"

"Mphikeleli stop reminding me of bygones I'm only here because i need your help not for you to remind me of our dead baby okay?"

"So that's the reason you ruined my relationship with your sister? You were jealous right?"

"I'm not here to discuss that Mphikeleli!"

"Then fuck off and never set foot back here!"

They glare at each other. "I need your help please"

"Can you Bhunu sister's let me be Please!! I'm fed up of your while faces nauseating me fuck off!" Mphikeleli says walking past her. Florence stands up and slowly walks away with a pinch of pain in her heart. Mphikeleli has always been so mean towards her not even after she made all the sacrifices for him. She terminated a pregnancy that was Mphikeleli's they had a thing going in secret. Shalton was probably two years by then when Mphikeleli impregnated her not even Angela knew about their little thingy. After she terminated rumors started spreading around about Mphikeleli and Angela dating. As much as Florence was seeing Marcus by that time she was hurt about the news of

Mphikeleli dating her little sister hence she hated Mphikeleli and their little relationship. When Angela was declared pregnant her hate grew even more so much that she lured Angela into dating elder men just to hurt and bruise Mphikeleli's ego its such a pity her little sister fell on her spell It was unfortunate Deliwe was on the receiving end of her rage. It wasn't her she targeted but the father. If it was Deliwe she wanted to hurt she would have had her adopted without Mphikeleli knowing about her whereabouts. Deep down she wished to be Angela because she loved and cared for by Mphikeleli unlike her. Who had to deal with a man who kept on whining about his children saying he lost contact with their mother and they were only three years if not mistaken. Since she's a black woman who never wanted to taste imbuya ngothi (Hunger) she had to blind and bring this man confusion and less eagerness to wanting his children the traditional way. When she said "She worked hard for her to get here" She meant using muthi on Marcus Matthew's but that's a story for another day.

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{Khosi}

Seeing her daughter this broken is bringing her chest pains she's really in the dark of what happened to her grandchild. It all doesn't make sense Mahlatse was okay just hours earlier now this? Something is fishy here surely someone is bewitching them. After all not long ago she had a little altercation with the lady whose staying opposite their shack over littering surely that Ndebele speaking lady from Harare did something to her grandchild. She doesn't mind confronting her about it but Jabu needs her comforts. "Sisi" She says brushing her daughter's shoulder. "We need to arrange for his funeral"

"I can't do it ma its not supposed to be like this. I shouldn't be burying my son mama"

"Phephisa sisi

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i know its painful but we need to make arrangements. For starters i want to go see Mphikeleli."

"See him for what?"

"Mahlatse's ceremony needs to be performed there Jabu not here"

Jabu keeps quiet "I will call Deliwe to inform her about this"

"Leave it to me sisi i will arrange everything. I need to see the society ladies too"

"Ingane yami kodwa mama!!! Umfana wami ma!!" Jabu wails Khosi holds her daughter in a brief hug. A knock snaps them out of it. "Good day ma"

"Yebo sisi"

"Ngingamthola uJabu Mphazima?"

"Yebo sisi what is it in connection to?"

"Its about her son"

Jabu stands immediately to attend to this lady. "Please come in sisi what did you find? What killed my son?" The lady scans the shack before stepping inside. "I'm detective Priscilla Ndlovu sisi"

"I see that can you get straight to the point?"

Priscilla heaves a long sigh. "The autopsy results came back sisi and it turns out your son died from a rat poison" Jabu and her mother glare at each other "Kanjani?" Khosi asks.

"Eyithaphi uMahlatse?" Jabu adds.

"I dont have all the answers but the forensic team managed to find a rat poison from his blood samples" Jabu stands up and starts pacing around.

"Someone killed my son!!!" Jabu blurts out sobbing silently. "My condolences miss Mphazima"

"Mmmmm kwaze kwanzima" Khosi says trying to figure where could've the rat poison came from. "Do you by any chance have someone who might have all the reasons to kill the baby?"

"I think i have someone in mind" Khosi says standing up. The detective glares at her "And who could it be ma?"

"Our nextdoor neighbor"

"Why her?"

"She hated us and she's a witch"

"Please excuse me" Jabu says faintly heading outside. Khosi remains inside house blubbering things she believes could help in the case. The detective leaves the house right there she remembers she once set a trap on rats by

sprinkling ounces of rat poison on a hard cheese cube and place it just between the cardboard and fridge. Right there her breathing changes coming to realization Mahlatse could've ate that cube of cheese thinking it was in tempared with. If that's the case then she's in trouble because she never gave a caution on it.

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{Maxwell}

His wife is standing by the window gazing at the trees and whatever that she finds worth observing. She's deep in thoughts and Maxwell might have a clue of what she's thinking they've been fighting over it but the lady wont give up. Its bringing them tension but the lady careless...

"I'm off to see Amber so i can do what she asked of me"

"Bring me a moet when you come back"

"Dont do anything stupid"

"What do you think i am?"

"I know you woman"

"I could use a long steamy bath"

With that said the lady disappears to the bathroom. Max gets a hold of his wallets and cell phone. He tells Amber to request on his behalf its not long before his uber arrives to pick him up. He finds Amber rocking a baby. His focus is on the apartment that Amber is occupying. "He made you stay in a tin like this Mathapelo while you have two kids?"

"Hence I'm pleading with you to do what you yet to do."

"Son of a bitch"

"Max dont kill him please"

"I will try not to"

"His the father on my kids please"

"No worries give me his address"

"Sure" Amber jots it down. "He stays alone right?"

"Definitely"

"Fine let me get it over and done with"

"Please be careful"

"I will"

Max leaves the house.

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Millicent

She's suprised to see Shalton walking in side the house its barely been 10 minutes since he drive out and now he is back looking terrified if not mesmerized. He throws himself on the couch and covers his eyes he heaves a long sigh.

"Hey are you okay?"

"No. Something strange happened today"

"What happened?"

"I saw a kid who looks exactly like my son"

"By my son you mean Jason?"

Shalton blinks "Not Jason but my first born Millicent"

"I'm not following"

"I have a son in soweto"

"With?"

Shalton swallows hard because what his yet to say will sound ridiculous.

"Sidney's current girlfriend" Millicent immediately drops the glass she's been holding. "Sidney's son is mine biologically"

"Shut the front door Shalton that's total madness"

"I'm serious Millicent. Mcebisi is my kid and Deliwe is the mother"

"Meaning Sidney lied to everyone about Mcebisi?"

"Yeah"

"How come the baby looks like him?"

"I hated him so it happens for a kid to take after someone you do not like"

Millicent is finding this interestingly shocking. "The kid you saw what about him?"

"His a replica of Mcebisi more like a twin!" Millicent chokes on her saliva. "I think Deliwe gave birth to twins and one was probably stolen at birth or

something. That boy looks everything like my son!" Millicent is choking on her saliva.. "Are you okay Millicent?"

"Yeah.. I'm fine i think i need water" Millicent disappears to the kitchen her thoughts are running wild. Maybe just maybe she's exaggerating or looking deep into it surely its not linked to what she has kept a secret for eight years.

"I want to find her medical records" Shalton says opening the fridge "Whose medical records?"

"Deliwe"

"Give me her surname i can do it on your behalf with Dads help of course"

"Deliwe Faith Mphazima"

"When was the baby born?"

"What i know is that he was born in june 2014"

Millicent chokes on her saliva again.

"Are you sure you doing fine?"

"Yes i am"

"Actually i think i should go see Sidney and discuss this"

"NO!!!!"

"Excuse me?"

"I mean dont talk about it untill you certain pf everything you know Sidney will ruin the research and it might jinx things"

"But his resourceful he once a criminal surely finding such information will be much easier for him. I really want to know who that Christopher kid is and why he looks like Mcebisi"

"Dont tell Sidney please at least not now. Lets do the research by ourselves"

"Fine"

"Let me run i will see you later" Millicent pecks Shalton and drives away with her heart beating on her sleeve.

67

Not edited..

{Sidney}

My cousin Thabo Meso drove by with his family my uncle is also here. I haven't seen him in ages his aging well pecks of eating healthy and drinking sugar free drinks.

"Babe please hold him for a sec" i say handing over Cebi to his mother In anticipation to greet my cousin and uncle halfway as they walking to our direction. My uncles wife stretches her hands to embrace me.

"Aowa le nna ke Kamogelo motho ona? (No way is this Kamo?) Mrs Meso senior says with a genuine smile written all over her face.

" Dumelang mme"

"Ra dumela ngwana ka" They share a brief hug. Mr Meso clears his throat Kamo breaks the hug to shake his uncle's hand.

"Rangwane"

"Son how are you?"

"I'm very well thanks and yourself?"

"Now that you've decided to grow up and stopped fooling around with women I'm good and happy son." Thabo rolls his eyes his father loves having this conversation. He gave him one when they find out he had impregnated a girl he made sure he marries the lady since he saw it fit to deposit his sperms inside her pot hence his familiar with this outdated line.

Sidney holds back his laughter. " The boyfriend phase has to end at some point rangwane"

"Exactly Mattews where is your loud twin sister?"

"She's somewhere in the house making noise as always. " They chuckle.

"That's awesome. Did you know Thabo had a set of twins?"

Thabo rolls his eyes again. "Papa Sidney knows everything about my life even my side chicks."

With that said he glares on his wife. "Dont involve me on the last one Cuz you on your own. Good days Mrs Meso" Kamo says hugging Thabo's wife. "Long

time stranger." Thabo's wife says. They greet each other the parents walk towards the house Sidney and Thabo remain behind. "You good?"

"Yeah I'm cool."

"I see you settling down and I'm happy for you Sid"

"I'm happy for my self cuz thank you"

"No problem. So today I'm meeting the beautiful Mrs soon to be Matthew's?"

"Definitely she's dazzling by the way"

"Someone is a goner your cheeks turn blushy when you mention her." They chuckle. "I love her dude she's perfectly imperfect you feel me?"

"Whatever it is it sound hilarious. " They chuckle. "Are you expecting a call Meso? You've been staring at your phone"

"Oh! You know I'm gay so everywhere i go i have penises tailing me." Sidney narrows his brows confused. "Berita's brothers are coming."

"By Berita's brothers you mean those lunatics?"

"And Vragga"

"What the fuck? Those people are chaotic"

"I know right?"

"I guess i wont be sleeping home today"

"Deliwe will have to deal with you tomorrow morning because i know we wont be sleeping home today."

"Buddha coming?"

"No wife went to labor last night. You know how obsessed he is with baby deliveries. He never wants to miss out on that and besides his a ministry leader lately he avoids certain things. "

"Partying and boozing?"

"Yeah"

"I see.. Anyway lets go inside to meet the family"

"Sure thing"

**

{Millicent}

She parks in front of an orange extended RDP house with many flower pots on the veranda. She deeply exhales before leaving her car. She slowly walks towards the gate she pushes it. To her annoyance the gate makes the loudest noise forcing the house owner to peek on the window. Immediately after closing the gate the owner of the house steps outside livid. "What brings you here?"

"Can we talk please"

"Talk about what? You ruined my life Millicent!!"

"Ma Zondi please hear me out"

"Millicent fusegi!!! Get lost and don't ever set foot in here ever again!!"

"Ma Zondi i just need a few a questions to be answered please"

"I said get lost!" She says with agitation.

"Please spare me two minutes please"

"Look where i am and look at what I'm wearing its all your fault!! Now get lost!!"

"Mama please!" Millicent pleads. Ma Zondi is not having any of it. "Ma i want to know what you did with the re.."

Her question is cut short by a flower pot being thrown at her. "You ruined my life Millicent!! Get lost!!!"

"Mama i need your help please."

"You want to die in my grandmothers RDP Millicent? Leave before i make a scene!!!"

The woman screams with tears sliding down her eyes. Millicent really ruined this woman's life her anger says it all.

This little scenery sheds light on why Mrs zondi has been avoiding her all this time of attempting to reach out to her. As much as mama Zondi isn't happy about seeing her but she needs answers. Something is starting not to make sense and only her can put her haunting ghosts to rest. But talking to this lady now is gonna be vanity she isn't willing to hear her out. She turns to walk away.

"Millicent!!"

She looks back "Your past is gonna come back to haunt you just like it has started with me. You will feel the pain you've put innocent people into start repenting and praying for your life to be restored. People's tears come with a price

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i hope you ready to pay that price!!! " Ma Zondi says then steps inside her house leaving Millicent thinking things through..

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{Shalton}

His standing by the balcony trying to make a phone call to Sidney. Surely he might be of help to aiding him on tracking this Christopher kid's family. His gut feeling tells him something is fishy on this little predicament. If he remembers correctly Sidney once impregnated a girl back in his varsity years and it was a lady named Portia even though he was in the dark about it but there's a possibility this Christopher kid could be his because he looks more like him than with him.

Yes people have hinted they both look alike but that boy resembles Sidney more he knows his the only baby making machine in the family but that lady who mother's Christopher was never a part of the women he stripped naked. Surely she's Portia. Sadly he doesn't know Portia facially but her name and that was through Millicent. She recalls Millicent deleting messages coming from a Portia lady claiming she was pregnant with Sidney's child.

At some point he helped Millicent to clone Sidney's phone meaning most messages and calls forwarded to Sidney came to her first before they went to Sidney. She should delete the ones she didn't want Sidney to see. Surely this woman is Portia and if so he needs to inform his bronemy about it.

Damn Sidney is not taking his calls. He tries again but still it rings off hook. Suddenly someone clears their throat behind him the scent tells him its a man.

"Can we talk?"

He turns to face this person he doesn't know him and by the look of things this man is dangerous. "Who are you and how did you get in here?"

"Who i am is none of your business the only thing that i want from you. Is to sign this paper"

"I'm not signing up for anything!"

"Its such a pity because i wasn't hoping for a discussion or negotiation. Sign this paper willingly. Amber will have 50 percent of everything that you owe and you gonna make sure of it"

"Over my dead body all that i own is my mine and not hers. She's not gonna get anything out of this marriage"

"Shalton i hate hurting people but if you wont co operate i will be forced to hurt you and that will break my heart because i hate seeing people in pain and bleeding or better yet dead."

Shalton swallows hard. "I will do no such thing i wont give Amber anything"

"I guess your death will force her to inherent everything that you own" The guy pulls out a gun and points it to Shalton....

—

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{Deliwe}

Have you ever found yourself having one of those emotional moments that goes unexplained nor put into words? That moment where you feel like crying and being alone without an apparent reason? Some people call this moment as being moody or what not. But right now i feel like locking myself in a room and cry my lungs out. I'm not sad or anything but i feel like crying and being alone. I just dont know how to explain this and I'm very much aware it has nothing to do with my pregnancy hormones but rather something that i cant describe. ***

Everyone is having a time of their lives laughing and sharing jokes. I'm even seeing unfamiliar faces and people. Amongst the guest's I've heard there's a Vragga Vuyo Bayede and Lubanzi. Three of them are related and the other is mutual friend who has become a brother. Everyone is having fun but here i am feeling weavery and emotional. "Excuse me"

I manage to say forcing everyone to fix their eyes on me. "Pancake are you okay?"

"Yes I'm fine i just need the ladies room"

"Must i come with you?"

People mumble "I will manage" I faintly smile and rub his shoulder. I stand up to leave. I reach Sidney's bedroom and curl myself on the bed its not long before i let my tears roll. Its a tense belching i even have mucus coming out and hiccups have taken over. I dont know why am i overwhelmed I've been pregnant before but I've never felt this way before. Its not long before i hear the door open Cebi's cute face is the first thing that i see. "The little man was looking for you and i thought of..." My tears shut him up worry is written on his face.

"Pancakes what's going on?" I blink endlessly.

"Mama uyakhala?"

"No Cebi I'm not crying"

"You are mama" Sidney sits besides me and glares inside my eyes. "Pancake what's going on?" Both my men are staring at me. Surely in Sidney's head I'm being a cry baby Surely his blaming my little hide and seek playing baby.

"Is the baby okay?" i scoff. "Your baby is fine"

"Is my pancake fine too?"

I fix my eyes on Cebi "Come give mommy a squeeze bear hug Ty"

Sidney glares at me. "You want a hug?"

"His hug to be specific babe"

"Fine. Are you gonna be okay afterwards sweethearts?"

"Yes"

"I love you okay?"

"You show me everyday"

"Dont stress the baby and yourself i cant imagine what losing you would do to me"

"I will be okay dont sweat"

"Must i give you both privacy maybe?"

"Yes please"

"Fine" He smacks his lips on my forehead then walks out. "Hey baby" I say glaring at Cebi.

"Hello mamami"

"Unjani sthandwa sami?"

"I'm fine mama and stop crying" He says wiping my tears with his tiny hands.

"Ngiyakuthanda yezwa?" My baby nods. I squeeze him for a hug and cry again. "Kanti mama ukhalelani?"

"I just realized how much i love you and miss you Cebi."

"But I'm here mama you dont have to miss me"

"No way silly. Phela you and i are best of friends i miss you even when you are nearer"

"Hhaa mama" I giggle. "Am i a good mother now?"

"Yes mama even though you gonna have a new baby"

"Are you sad about it?"

"Maybe a little mama"

"Why?"

"Because the new baby will get more kisses and candies"

"Mommy loves you Cebi you will get more candies since you're the one with teeth"

He giggles. "Your baby doesn't have teeths mom?"

"Yes he or she doesn't have teeths"

"Then how is he gonna eat?"

"I dont know as well" They both giggle. "I love you mama"

"And i love you more my boy and i will always love you"

"You promise mama?"

"I promise handsome mom loves you more than anything in this world."

"Thank you mama"

"For what baby?"

"Loving me taking care of me and teaching me how to write my name and cleaning after my mess. Most importantly thank you for making me happy by not shouting at me and punishing me i love this mom not the one who was shouting at me all the time and not sleeping at home. I love you mama Cebi"
"Cebi..." She kisses him and rest his head on her fast beating heart. "I love you boyfriend."

"Mama can we go to the reef with Mahlatse and Tshiamo? At school i told Mahlatse you were gonna take us there"

"I will call their mother so you can go there"

"Thank you mama"

"Pleasure boy"

"Mama"

"Yes"

"How did you swallow the baby?" Deliwe giggles. "Only daddy will tell you how the baby got swallowed"

"Okay" Deliwe rings Jabu.

68

68(Not edited)

{Deliwe}

"Mama Tshiamo is not picking up baby."

"Is it fine if we go to his house?"

"I dont know where they stay baby"

"I do know mama"

"And how do you know where they stay?"

"Promise not to shout at me?"

Lord my son is slowly turning into a manipulator and guilt tripping species not forgetting an emotional blackmailer. Shall i promise i wont be allowed to say

my mind or to react differently on his statement. Why did i become a mother again? Why wasn't i warned against sex?

"I promise Tyler"

"I once went to Mahlatse's house mama its not far from my school"

"Really?"

"Yes mama. They staying in a small house now"

"I see... We will go there okay?"

He nods. I press my lips on his shampoo smelling hair. The door handle turns he walks in. Then makes his way towards the bed he lay down behind me and runs his hand to my bellybutton. "Hey"

"Hey babe"

"Are you okay?" I scoff.

"I'm okay baby"

"But you were crying is my sperm to blame? Or Zelda? " He says moving his index finger in circles on my bellybutton with his lips an inch closer to my neck. His warm breath says it all.

"Your weak sperm you meant?"

He chuckles. "Yes my weak sperm and surrogate mother"

"Not at all babe I'm just feeling overwhelmed it's nothing aligned to the mini you or your mother. "

"Breath of relief! Maybe you hungry"

"Not at all I'm full babe."

"Dont starve my little low count intruder"

I chuckle and tilt my head to face him his tipsy i can see it in his eye's.

"Why did you tell Cebi i swallowed a baby? You two gossip about me isn't it?"

He smirks. "He wanted to know why i always kiss your belly and talk to it."

"Now his asking me how i swallowed the baby and you gonna give him an explanation"

"Babe come on"

"No kamo you started this"

"Wena you hate me struu naas" He cross his fingers. "The i hate how much i love you kind of hate?"

"Yeah" He says with his voice shaking.

"What?" I say smiling.

"Give me your hand"

"Alright" He gently moves it to his dick print.

"I think its best we go outside"

"Baby"

"Kamo there's a baby in here"

"His not paying attention"

"There's no way you having me in front of him."

"His playing games"

"Baby we saving it for the night"

"I wont be around"

"Meaning?"

He scratches his hair i narrow my brows.

"Kamo what is going on?"

"Well i kinder want to go out with the gents"

"Meaning you wont be sleeping home?"

"I will be back by 10pm" I narrow my brows.

"I will have two drinks then"

I raise my brow. "Fine... I guess I'm not going"

He sulks and i crack up in laughter.

"There's no way I'm denying you a night out with your cousin and his hilarious talkative friends not forgetting your friends. You deserve your Me time babe"

"Are you serious babe? Are you gonna be okay without me?"

"I'm dead serious honey and besides my clit could use the break"

He rolls his eyes. "So you want me gone because you dont want your clit licked?"

I chuckle and peck his nose.

"Enjoy baby"

"You not answering my question babe"

"Baby how many times in a day do you get erected?"

"That's crazy pancake i dont keep counts."

"I will tell you. 4am you wake up with a boner and i tame it down till 7am. At 11 am you get another when we shower at 12 you get another when I'm bent over lotioning my legs at 2 pm you want a boner at 8pm you get another but i force you to go shower then the longest one resumes at 10 up to 1 am" He narrows his brows.

"Must i continue?"

"No I've had enough and you lying babe"

I giggle. "Check the time and tell me if I'm lying" He checks it. "Fine.... But its not my fault"

"Just get up baba ka Cebi we have guests outside"

"So i will walk around with this?"

"I didn't get a thank you baby for granting you permission to go have fun later on the night"

"I wanted to thank you but you shut me out"

"Kamo give my vagina a breather I'm still gonna push a baby out of it. Can it rest please?"

"Wish i had my own"

"Shaving it was gonna show you flames a blade cuttting your labia is not a good feeling."

He glares at me with his brows furrowed i giggle and peck his lips.. "I love you creepy woman"

"I love my babies more"

"What about me?"

I giggle. "Let me guess... Maybe i love you too"

He flaps his lashes and stares at me. "You hurting me"

"Phephisa sthandwa sami" I capture his lips.

—

{Mphikeleli}

They having a light conversation with his last born daughter who looks very much saddened and down. "Sindi"

"Baba"

"What's wrong sisi? You haven't been yourself since you walked in here what happened?"

Sindiswa blinks and heaves a huge sigh. She's hasn't been in her best of moods since the outcast befell her. She has never had a child dying in front of her since her training resumed. That boy's death really affected her maybe the mother's sobs cut her so deep as well. That woman wasn't having this the kind way she was shattered and gradually dying.

A knock comes through by the door. "I will be in my room" Sindiswa stands up. Mphikeleli attends to the door his jaw drops when he sees his sister. Surely guilt has her by the repels she's surely here to apologize for the way she treated me and my daughter. "Sawubona" She says softly with a trembling voice. That's so unlike her "Come in"

"Ngiyabonga" Mphikeleli makes a way for her. She sits on the sofa and starts fiddling with her hands with a tear rolling down her face. Mphikeleli decides on making her a quick and easy finger meal he place juice on the table. "Thank you"

Khosi says facing the floor. Mphikeleli sits on the couch opposite. "How can i help you Khosi?"

"I dont know where to begin Mphikeleli"

"The beginning is always the best place to start"

Khosi lifts her eyes to look at his brother.

"A dark cloud is looming arounds"

"Meaning?"

"We lost a child to death Mphikeleli"

"What child?"

"Jabulile's second born son passed on a few hours ago"

"What? That's awful. How is she doing?"

"She's a mess."

"That's bad. What happened to the boy?"

"He ate rat's poison"

"From where?" Mphikeleli asks with care and worry they might not be seeing eye to eye with his big sister but that doesn't mean he care less about their problems. "That's a million dollar question." Mphikeleli is now troubled by the news. "Can we please use this house for the funeral arrangements especially the coffins arrival place please Mphikeleli we cant do the funeral emcashweni ngiyakucela bhuti wami"

"I will have to talk to my partner and kids and see what they say about it"

"Kids?" Khosi inquires. "Yes i recently found out about her she's twenty five years old."

"Oka Caro?"

"Yes"

"I guess my suspicions were correct" They keep quiet for a little while.

"Meaning you knew she was pregnant?"

Khosi shyly nods. Mphikeleli heaves a low sigh this is not the perfect time for that conversation to be held.

"Do you have a funeral policy maybe?"

"Jabu does"

"I will assist where needed be"

"Thank you Mphazima we would really appreciate it"

"My condolences pour out Khosi"

"Siyabonga"

Mphikeleli puts it upon himself to drive Khosi where she stays he looks at the structure of the house its not a pleasant one but there's nothing he can do to fix that. He once tried lending a helping hand in saving his sister and it backfired maybe Khosi is the kind that needs some saving but rather their free will to break and hurt. But for the kids sake and that of Jabu's suffering situation he will assist with the funeral proceedings especially the ceremony being held at his house. Since its the only appropriate place for the inconvenience caused by the untimely death of Mahlatse...

{Deliwe}

Our house has been cramped with people coming in and out to pass their condolences. Jabu has been a mess since I'm the one whose busy running up and down buying groceries and refilling whatever that is missing or needed. My aunts society group have been pouring in to drop us buckets of cookies and tea necessities. But none of them stays behind to wash the dishes that becomes my chore. Mama Caro is not around apparently there's been a family emergency back in Rusternburg that she needed to attend to Sindiswa left with her. She can't function properly where a coffin is involved. Mama Caro left me with a simple instruction not to go at the ceremony since I'm nurturing a baby in my womb she says going there will only invite bad luck and unholy spirits to the baby hence i wont be going there.

Mkhulu Kusile and Bheki have been helping out as well with some of the chores and my handsome son has been crying since he heard that Mahlatse was going to heaven his father suggested on taking him with. Saying this environment will break him so its only me here and broken Jabulile and Tshiamo. Khosi comes during the day and leaves at night its more like I'm the one whose left with the burden of caring for Jabu of which i do not mind.. Tomorrow we burying Mahlatse and I'm busy minding everything and helping with the cooking on the other hand Kamo's baby is showing me flames now i feel pregnant the irritability and short temper is on another level. At some point my father threatened to slap me because i said something that kinder denoted disrespect and I've been apologising everyday to him because i was feeling awful about it..

My phone rings i pick up.

"Baby"

"Hey sweetheart how are you?"

"I'm okay baby and yourself?"

"We good this side"

"Awesome.. Hows Cebi?"

"His laying besides me watching cartoons."

"Has the crying subsided?"

"You know daddy's give the best hugs and kisses my little fella is doing fine."

"Thanks baby"

"How are the mood swings?"

"I'm not moody Kamo"

He says nothing. "I was calling to inform you about Shalton"

"What about him?"

"His in ICU"

"What? What happened?"

"No one knows but Amber told us he suffered multiple bullets."

"That's awful babe"

"Yeah it is. I wanna go check him out apparently Amber told me i was the last person he dialled on his phone. I dont know what it means but it is what it is"

"Are you gonna take Cebi with?"

"No.. Zelda wants them sleeping over at her place. So i will drive him there with Kaone"

"Please pack up warm clothes"

"I got this mommy and please dont burn my baby with those huge pots you stirring over there."

"This baby is taking my shine"

"Dont be jealous i will pop by to see you before i go to the hospital"

"No problem"

"Bye"

"Love you"

"Alright " He didn't say my "Me too" breath Deliwe dont nag about it but no ungiwayela kabi uSidney. "Why didn't you say you..." He cuts me mid sentence. "I love you babes"

I find myself melting. I feel eyes on me i turn my head to look behind me. Its Jabulile leaning towards the wall.

"Baby i have to go"

I end the call.. "What time is the hearse coming?" She says politely. "I think any time from now they will be coming in"

"I see... Is there anything i can do to help?"

"Yes"

"What is that?"

"We can eat ice cream and feed the little ones we carrying" She faintly smiles.

"I dont have appetite Deliwe"

"Then watch me eat it"

"Are you really pregnant?"

"I guess I'm not showing"

"Says who?"

"Me"

"In your candy dreams i see your bump lady"

"You lie Jabu" She faintly smiles and walks towards Deliwe for a tight squeeze. She sheds a tear Deliwe holds her tight. "Kuzophola Jabu phephisa sisi"

"I can't believe my baby is gone"

"I cant begin to imagine how you feel right now I'm sorry sisi"

"Maybe God is punishing me!!"

"Jabu stop it God will never punish us in this way. It is said in the book of life that his plans for us are pure and earnest he never wants to see us suffer nor cry because of sorrows. He wants us to be jolly and happy at all times. You not being punished for anything maybe his character in your story was destined to end here sisi you've been nothing but a good mother to your kid dont beat yourself up on it. "

Jabu cries even more and holds on tight on Deliwe.

{Amber}

Tears are rolling down her lids as she's sitting on the edge of the couch with a piece of paper in a black white stating she's gonna get half of everything that Shalton owes. Under normal circumstances this paper would've been her answered prayer her breakthrough of kissing poverty and hassles goodbye but with Shalton laying for the dead in hospital she's not happy about it but rather beset and feeling guilty.

She can pretend all she likes about saying she doesn't love and need Shalton anymore the truth is she's crazily and dangerously in love with him. No matter how much self convincing and motivation she can give to her innermost self the fact will always remain. She loves Shalton and her heart only beats for him regardless of the thorny roads and burning coals she's walked on just to be with him all the imperfections and backstabblings haven't lessened her love for Shalton. Yes it made her angry and sad but the love hasn't subsided nor filtered out its still there and everlasting. If Shalton dies his blood will be on her and her children wishes and longings of having their father will forever haunt her till death. She didn't want Shalton to end up in this position she begged for Max not to kill him. knowing Shalton could be reported dead any time from today breaks her soul and it suffocates her this was a very awful and unruly trade. Shaltons life for her riches can you imagine the distress?

She wipes her tears again.

"So that's all you gonna do every day?" Her cousin's wife says.

"Your husband ruined everything!"

"You made him leave our house for this mission dont pin shit on him."

"Why are you still here? Fuck off!!"

Amber roars Maxwell appears.

"Go to your room i will handle this" Max says to the wife who was rude when Amber offered them a place to stay for a little while she only agreed to come here a few days ago.

"I would rather go for a drive"

"You going nowhere!"

"Unless you gonna tie me up or put a leash on my neck and tie me like a dog Maxwell!"

"Stop being stubborn and sit your arse down!!!"

"Baby sit your weakling of a cousin and let me be"

"Get your arse back here!!" Maxwell roars. Portia walks outside Max breaths so hard.

"Amber I'm sorry about what happened to your husband."

"If he dies his blood is on you!"

"Amber come on we are in this together. You should be looking into the bigger picture not this barking up at the wrong tree"

"The instruction was simple scarce him off but you chose to be vile and vindictive and all barbaric! I hate you right now!!!"

"Mathapelo"

"Leave me alone! Actually get your stuff and fuck off!!!"

"Come on you cant shift the blame on me"

"Well i am!! I didn't shot the father of my kids with four bullets but you did!!

You did!!!! I hate you!!" Mathapelo roars Maxwell holds her up in a tight hug..

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{Florence}

She's crying her lungs out while brushing Shalton's hand. Her soul is troubled and weary there's a huge lump stuck on her throat. This is all her fault Shalton is in here because of her. Her past is catching up with her through her son. Isaac is surely behind this maybe she needs to apologize him and beg him to restore their son's life...

"Nwabisa please don't die my boy I beg of you. I can't lose you too. Losing your father was pure agony I can't lose you too please Nwabisa"

She swallows her saliva.

"At least hang in there till you hear the truth about who your biological father is wait for the truth to come up about the woman you had your first child with wait for me to confess who Angela is to me and to you. Please don't die my boy"

The door closing behind her gives her a fright. She looks behind her Marcus is leaning on the door with his hands buried inside his pockets and his eyes lowered to glare on her. She swallows hard and wipes the excessive amount of tears from her face.

"Marc" She says with a trembling voice.

"How long have you been standing there?"

Marcus keeps quiet and turns to walk outside. Florence lets go of Shalton's hand to follow Marcus.

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—
{Sidney}

Sidney is leaning against the car

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while Deliwe is standing in front of him with her back turned on him. His hugging her from behind while resting his head on her shoulder his hands brushing the belly. Cebi is inside the car playing games on his newly bought cell phone. Both Liwe and Kamo are quiet. Its one of those days where they have nothing to say to each other but rather sharing a cute little hug... Sidney heaves a sigh.

"Mommy"

"Daddy"

"Your silence is worrisome. "

Deliwe keeps quiet for a little while She left the house immediately after putting Jabu to bed. Seeing her cry like that really drained her to such an extent she become speechless.

"I'm scared Kamo"

"About?"

"Losing a baby"

She sniffs.. "Baby that's not going to happen actually keep that thought out of your mind. " Kamo says planting a kiss on Deliwe's neck.

"I cant help it babe" Deliwe lets out a few tear drops.

"My cousin's suffering situation just reminded me of my biggest fear in my life Kamo. Losing a person so dear to my heart especially a child that I've nurtured for nine months. I just couldn't survive burying a loved one."

"Mommy dont do this"

"Baby I'm scared I'm just scared Sidney. This hurts deeply! This pain surpasses that of being abandoned by your blood parents. I couldn't survive a life without Mcebisi and Mahlatse dying reminded me of my fear of waking up

to a phone call informing me my child or husband is dead. I just cant face tomorrow without you and Cebi"

"Pancake" Sidney turns her over and wipes her tears. "That's why we need to pray every day sweetheart for God to provide us with Shelter and protection from such. Yes we all gonna die but that can be delayed if we ask God to grant us more years of breathing."

"Must we pray now?" Deliwe says with a trembling voice.

"With Cebi yes my flower"

"Please dont leave me Sidney at least not before our babies are less depended on us die at 103 years old not in your 40tees."

Sidney chuckles. "I wont die baby at least not now. We have babies to make cities and countries to travel songs to sing and dances to dance not forgetting babysitting Mcebisi's children when we all grey and walking on a cane. Come lets go pray honey"

Deliwe sniffs. Kamo wipes her tears and plants a sloppy kiss on her lips. They enter the car and pray together as a family. Sidney later drives Cebi to his mother's house then makes his way to the hospital to check up on Cebi's biological father who happens to be his brother.

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{Marcus}

His livid and shaking. His entire body is itchy and sweaty God knows what he will do to this woman if she doesn't stop talking.

"Marc baby talk to me what did you hear?"

"Everything!"

"Marcus can i explain"

"Fuck off!!" He pushes Florence aside and steps inside his car. Florence covers her mouth and starts pacing around the hospital parking lot.

Marcus speeds off to his house with plenty of questions running wild in his mind. He parks recklessly and walks to her alcohol cabinet he gets a hold of a

whisky bottle he careless about many things right now but the stupidly he fell for all these years. Florence is is a slut!!! He throws the whisky bottle against the wall he walks to the garage with a hockey stick he bashes everything that he sees. The piled up boxes included his cursing at it. One box falls and papers scatters around on the floor. What looks like a birth certificate appears he crouches to pick it up. He looks into it..

"Honey" The voice says behind him its pretty obvious Florence was tailing him. He slowly stands up with his knees wobbling he glares at Florence whose taking a few steps back..

"What is the meaning of this?"

He says between his teeth.

"Marc i... I.. I'm sorry"

"You what?"

"I can explain!" Marcus steps forward poor Florence is blocked by a wall. A huge slap lands on her cheeks forcing her vision to be blurry.

"You slept with Isaac? My blood cousin and friend? "

"It was a mistake"

"A mistake my foot!!!" A rain of slaps are thrown in.

"You made me raised him knowing he wasnt mine how could you?"

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Not edited

{Sidney}

If there's one thing people never tell us about visiting a certain somebody in hospital is the feeling of regrets and could've beens that lingers in. This place

is able to make you take blame of shit you know you nothing about. Everyone knows Shalton and i are were Tom and Jerry we never saw eye to eye on many things and he was to blame for all that. He ruined our little shaky relationship by going to propose a woman he knew i loved and wanted so badly leaving her pregnant was the hardest pill i had to swallow.

But now that he is lying on this bed standing on the verge of life and death. I cant help but to feel guilty for not taking his calls the truth was i blocked his call because i never wanted to find myself bickering with him but him laying here changes everything maybe he wanted to own up to his mistakes and seek forgiveness. Maybe he wanted me to help him from the person who shot him maybe he wanted to share a load with me after all he was on the peak of getting divorced maybe he needed a confident a shoulder to lean on but i wasn't there to aid him. To make things worse i could've worked hard on mending our relationship I'm the eldest after all and as a big brother maybe i should've sat down with him and cleared the air out we could've buried the hatchet and reached common grounds on the way forward regarding Cebi its his child after all...****

He heaves a long sigh and heads towards the door. He bumps chests with Angela and Millicent holding a bouquet of flowers and get well soon cards. Angela glares at him then aside.

"Hey" Millicent says.

"Sidney how are you?"

Deliwe's mother asks. "Good and yourself?"

"We hanging in there especially with Shalton in this state its hard to say we doing fine." Angela says. "I see.."

"Its a beautiful thing you came to check up on him it goes without saying Sidney you are a good boy" Millicent glares at Sidney with a glint of guilt and worry.

"Ma i will be inside"

"I will join you shortly sisi" Milli goes inside leaving Sidney with Angela.

"I've been meaning to ask Matthew's whose the lucky girl after my daughter?"

Angela smiles. Sidney heaves a sigh this woman is probably aware of the fact he is dating Deliwe.

"Your daughter"

Angela glares at Sidney with her eyes popped out. "Excuse me i dont follow"

"The lucky girl after your daughter is your daughter." Angela sarcastically laughs.

"I beg your pardon?"

"Cut the bullshit Angela Bhunu the are no camera's around here you dont have to wear a masquerade and pull off a stunt. I know who you are and what you are and where you come from. You can fool everyone but not me!"

"Sidney i dont know what you getting at young man but whatever it is it requires you to seek professional counseling with a shrink Surely your childhood trauma's are slowly kicking in forcing you to hallucinate over non existing thoughts. I have one daughter and that's Millicent "

" What about the one you had with Mphikeleli Mphazima back in soweto? "

" This is radical! I dont have time for this. "

" Maybe your husband would love hearing about your little past he is surely gonna enjoy this version of your story. Especially the part of her staying a few minutes away from your house yet you've never in a single day visited her or sent her a birthday gift like a normal would've done. "

Angie immediately frizz.

" Who told you this? I wont watch you destroy my life Kamohelo you hear me?

"

" Or what? You will have me wrapped up in plastics and ditched on some dumping site cos ditching and dumping is a language that you best understand."

"Yeyi wena mnqundu wakho! I dare you to do that Kamohelo!"

"You think I'm scared of you Angela?"

"You better be."

Kamo chuckles. "Your daughter Deliwe is getting married are you gonna attend her wedding? By the way she has a very handsome little boy who makes her happy and content and me of course not forgetting her father and mother who will kill for her. Deliwe is happier than ever hey.

What baffles me is how she cares less about you nor thinks of you. One time i had to force her into saying she longs for you but guess what she did at the end of her statement. She cracked up in laughter and said longing for you is a none aching and bleeding wound like your daughter doesn't give a shit about you doesn't that hurt though Angie? "

Angie blinks endlessly.

" I dont know what you talking about but whatever it is dont bring your unresolved childhood trauma's in my life and house. "

" Your past is gonna come for you and this unresolved childhood traumatized kid will assist karma on karming you."

"Sidney! You dont want to earn me as an enemy"

Sidney chuckles and walks away.

{Florence}

Her face and entire body is aching and numb she succumbed a few beatings from yours truly. Marcus has currently vacated the garage Meaning she has a couple of minutes before she could escape death its obvious she unleashed the dodgy and beastly Marcus who had contracted signed abd delivered out of torturing and instilling pain on people.

White people are not calm as most people think they are I'm not referring to the apartheid driven ones but the ones we all wish to settle down with. Marcus is that kind of a monster he is an angel to many but not on his victims he is a heartless piece of shit especially when his dealing with a backstabber. He has killed in his previous life and lured township boys to bomb ATM's

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AD

he got scored a lot of money on this and him having the white privileges he never went to jail for this crime but rather the township boys he had sent. What he did was to enjoy and invest the robbery money he bought a vinyard farm and built vineyard hotels back in capetown. With some of the money he invested in car dealerships then a logistics company that he owned with Isaac.

I know all this information because of Isaac's wet mouth. See why i had to pin my pregnancy on this guy? He had money lots of it and i wanted some of it to be shared with my son. Marcus made me a side for years before he could settle down with me all he did was to blubber about his twins of which he had lost contacts with he couldn't keep them out of his mouth hence i had to do what any african woman would do to have a man admiring them and whooshing her alone. I did that and when i found out i was pregnant for Isaac i pinned everything to Marcus he was a monied arse hole he deserved what i did. But when Shalton was born Isaac started being a pest he was whining and bickering about his child to such an extent he came to my house back in soweto at night threatening me he was going to tell Marcus everything if i didn't give him his child but i had worked so hard to lose everything and i wasn't gonna bend down without fighting. ***

I hear sounds of footsteps approaching i force myself to open the garage and limp outside he better not be carrying a gun i cant die now not with my son laying in hospital...

—

{Mphikeleli}

There's this fat woman whose busy wiggling her huge bums in front of me she even sings so loud off pitch when she sees me. Nkosiyami its a funeral not a dance your butts off show. Caro shouldn't have left these women are throwing themselves at me thinking I'm single. Kusile is suffering the same problem but with him he entertains them which is something i careless about but rather the car that is parked a few miles away from the compound. The owner hasn't rolled down their windows since they got here nor did he or she step out of the carsince they got here. I'm feeling uneasy about it given i was a troublesome kid back in my days it cpuld be anyone from my past..

Deliwe appears with a bucket of cookies my daughter has been at it for a while now.

"Faith"

"Baba"

"Please come here"

"Alright" She puts the bucket down then walk towards the stop nonsense wall.

"Ubhekeni baba?"

"Do you know that car?"

She glares at where I'm pointing.

"I think its Jabu's ex husband's car"

"Why would he park far?"

"I dont know baba"

"Something is dodgy about that car. Could it be its Cebi's father?"

"His in ICU baba he was shot" I glare at Deli.

"That's awful Deliwe"

"I know baba anyway let me go bath so i can prepare for the night vigil"

"No problem sisi" Deliwe walks away suddenly the door opens a tall slim and light skinned lady shows up making her way towards the tuck shop her face is

not visible she has shades on and a long weave on. She's not harmless..
Mphikeleli says to himself and walks inside the house...

—
{Priscilla}

New information has come up regarding the Portia dilemma I'm on my way to the hospital. The Mr Naidoo guy called saying he was having new findings for my case.. I drive there eating a donuts. I park and make my way inside..

"Detective Ndlovu how are you?"

"I'm very well thanks and how are you?"

"Good.. Well I've managed to get birth records for the entire year of 2014 you can make copies."

"Thank you mr Naidoo but can we jump to june. 2014the previous information stated the person i was inquiring about gave birth on june 21 to a baby girl while on the other form it said she gave birth on the 20th of July to a boy meaning there's some loop holes on this matter"

"If you dont mind me asking Detective who was in charge of the forms signed for the baby delivery?"

"It was a nurse Zondi or Zondo something"

The Naidoo heaves a long sigh and hands me the file i look at the file surprisingly Portia's name pops up but the information differs from the one she's seen on the previous papers. Priscilla narrows her brows.

"What does this mean?" She points to paper with birth records.

"It means the lady in search for gave birth through C section."

"I saw that but i meant this why is this scribbled off?"

"Let me see" The Naidoo guy tries to glare attentively on the paper. I heave a sigh and set him free "It says Portia had an emergency delivery of twins boys and that one had to stay in an incubator for at least 24 hours since he wasn't healthy than the other one given she gave birth at eight months."

"So your question was?"

"Why was this number of delivery filtered out from the previous paperwork? Why did Portia leave the hospital with a dead baby girl instead of her boys? I mean you just saw the paper she never delivered a baby girl but boys twins!"

With that said i start pacing around the room feasting on my lip.

" I dont know what happened Detective I'm flabbergasted as you are"

"Babies were switched at birth and you know what that means! I need to see this nurse what was her name again?"

"Nurse Fuzile Zondo"

"Can i have her information i know you still have her records."

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Sidney}

I called Amber I wanna pass by her house to check up on the kids and herself especially with this aftermath taking place. Surely she could use a familiar face comforting her.

I park my car outside her gate. I knock on her front door She opens for me and throws herself at me.

"Thank you for coming by I really appreciate it"

"It's okay how are you holding up?" I say hugging her back then pecking her cheek.

"Its hard Jami not a single minute goes by without me thinking about it. I'm floating Sidney and sadly there's no one who loves me enough to catch me when I fall."

"I'm here to catch you when you fall"

"Really?"

"I mean it"

She faintly smiles and breaks the hug.

"Please come in"

"Thank you" I make my way inside her house. She shows me a sofa I make myself comfortable. "Tea juice or coffee?"

"Water will be fine"

"Come on Sidney opt for something else"

She says walking to her white fridge.

"Juice will do"

"Great choice"

She giggles I look at her.

"You just missed my cousin and his wife they were here to pay me a visit."

"Bummer"

"Yeah... How's shalton doing today?"

"There's no improvement actually how are you doing with with everything going on?"

"For the sake of the kids i have to be strong"

"I see" She comes sits besides me resting her head on my shoulder. "Please enjoy"

"Thanks" We both keep quiet.

"Thank you for having my back"

"Pleasure"

"You are a good guy Sidney"

"A good guy you never chose" She lifts her head up and glares at me I shouldn't have said that..

"Sidney come on I was young"

"I see.. Anyway forget I said that"

I say fixing my eyes on her juice I take a sip. Amber takes the glass from me and puts it on the table. She leans over and cups my face with her eyes fixated on mine.

"You handsome you always have"

I swallowed hard. "Sometimes I find myself questioning why I never chose you instead of Shalton. Don't get me wrong I love Shalton but maybe I could've loved you more Kamo but I made a sloppy choice and got my heart tainted"

"Amber you too close"

"Sidney Im sorry I chose your brother over you can I show you how sorry I am?" She says moving her hand to my crotch brushing that area gently.

"Amber stop it"

"Come on I won't bite you but I will suck you" With that said she presses her lips on mine her warm tongue parts my lips. She attempts to slid her hand inside my pants but I stop her. I can't betray my pregnant girlfriend in this manner I was mad when I found out she allowed Shalton to kiss her while she was seeing me and this is gonna put me in trouble. I get on my feets and wipe my mouth.

"Bye"

"Kamo I'm sorry I just.. I don't know what came over me and I"

"Erase it it never happened." I leave her house feeling guilty. My cell phone where is it? It better not be inside her house

Deliwe}

I'm busy chopping a cabbage I'm feeling hot in this kitchen. My aunt walks through the door she's been scarce around here. You would swear she's trying to avoid someone or something knowing her. She would be here hands-on dictating to everyone what to do or not do or how the menu must look like.

"Mama Cebi sawubona"

"Yebo anti unjani?" I say wiping the excessive sweat from my forehead using the back of my head.

"Siyancenga" She says looking at me from head to toe.

"Is that a ring on your finger?" Konje I have this. "Yes anti"

She does that sarcastic look of undermining a person.

"Whose the lucky guy?"

"Baba ka Cebi"

"After so many years of dodging his responsibilities of raising his child chamthusu umlisa nendandatho yase jozi!"

(boom he shows up with a cheap ring?)

I heave a soft sigh.

"Does he even know how we struggled with raising Cebi?"

That "We" never existed this bitch can act for days she's in deed an aunt.

"His gonna fix all that"

"With what Deliwe?"

"Aunt Khosi I would really love to talk but these cabbages need to be chopped."

"Let me see your small street ring" I stretch my hand out.

"Ulobola nini? Naye waqala ngento ekugcinwa ngayo. In our culture it's lobola first then a ring later"

"That's what they did with baba ka Jabu when he married you?"

She glares at me hiding her glint of pain. She's the last person to criticize me no chicken was paid for nor did she get those plastic childhood toy rings. Then she has the decency to mock my man saying he bought me a ring at small street uyanya lona.

"Akufani" She says glaring at me once again. She moves her eyes on my belly.

"Umithi futhi? You pregnant again?"

I look aside.

"No wonder his bribing you with a ring his trying to cover up the shame. " She claps her hands.

"My baby is not a shame aunt nobody is trying to cover up anything."

"Anizisabi Deliwe the guy left you eight years ago only to come back to do you like this!"

Can someone please lend me a gun this woman is working on my nerves.

"Instead of fixing your life you busy allowing u Caster semenya the athlete to bash you with penis. Girls your age are driving cars they independent and married. Wena what do you have? Babies born out of wedlock"

Okay I guess she's still a bitch after all even when there's a funeral she puts it upon her stride to funeral me instead of her dead grandson. This woman is poking my clit and I will squirt on her face if she doesn't stop annoying me..

Luckily someone comes to save the dayby calling this pick to come outside. I text Kamo to bring Cebi over. Tomorrow morning we burying Mahlatse and I want him to be here for the service..

The funeral is finally done and dealt with Mahlatse had a dignified and peaceful funeral as much as we were all devastated by his sudden death but like Tupac once said life goes on. And as a sign of life going on. My heart broken son and I are visiting Sidney tonight after all there's no space to sleep in the house especially with Aubry Jabu deciding on last minutes to temporarily be in our house for three days just to comfort Jabu whose also leaving in three days time. So I left the house to make space with other individuals I miss my man as well. A little Nivea smelling body lotion won't hurt. We tuck Cebi in bed he goes to. Wash dishes and I go to nap I've just realized how exhausted I am.. **

—

Sidney}

Sidney finishes up with the dishes while replaying what happened between him and Amber he switches the lights off and double checks if all doors and windows are perfectly locked and sealed. He jogs to the bedroom he undresses and jumps on the bed. He lays behind Deliwe and scoops her up. He runs his thumb on her jaw line.

"Baby" He whispers in her ear. Deliwe doesn't respond she's fast asleep.

"Baby please wake up"

Deliwe shifts a few inches from him.

Sidney moves closer with his dick all bulged and twitching.

"Pancake" He says cupping her left boob while parting her legs with his knee.

" I'm tired"

"I will put it the work babe"

"My body is tired I need rest please"

"I'll be gentle pancake. "

"Sidney please."

Deliwe says in a sleepy soft voice Kamo peels off her butt cheek and massages her lips.

"I will be gentle" He begs.

"I'm mourning Kamo 10 days has not passed. "

"Come on babe I miss you. "

"Kamo stop it please"

"Mara baby Bona pipi yaka ejwang"

"Good night" Deliwe says breaking the little scoop Sidney gas formed.

"People are stingy with their vaginas I might as well give myself a hand job"

Kamo mouths in a sad tone..

He runs his hand on his hard dick dating back to the first sex they had with Deliwe. His loving the feeling his getting right now he increases the pace with his hand a soft moan escapes his mouth. He now plays the vivid moments of Deliwe giving him a mind blowing blow job in the shower. His eyes are shooting back to his head. He goes a bit harder his cum is nearing. He moan louder than previously

"Oh fuck! Yes baby!!" He mouths with his eyes tightly closed and his hand doing the magic under the blankets. In a split second he shots his seeds on his hand he heaves a long breath of relief and opens his eyes.

"What the fuck Deliwe?"

I say with a smoky voice as I find her eyes on me. "What was that?" Her tone is a bit harsh.

"I was helping myself" He mouths jettig his penis.

"That's hilarious Kamo it's surreal! "

"For who?"

"Fucking yourself in my presence like really?"

"It's not like you wanted to Help me Deliwe you shut me out now live with it. "

"That was ridiculous Kamo how could you do such a thing? "

"It was the best I've ever had in my whole existence."

I said peeling off the blanket hopping out of bed. To my surprise I feel something being at me it lands on my forehead.

"Ungijwayela kabi yazi? The best you've ever had? Uthini ngami Sidney? "

Her voice is raised.

I look at her and slip into my flops.

"Ngikhuluma nawe! What is the best you've ever had in a hand huh? Yazi awungiboni?"

"You making noise my son is sleeping Deliwe"

"To hell with that I might as well wake him up so he can see what the hand you fix him food with does behind doors!"

"I'm not doing this not with you just sleep before it's ugly Deliwe. Already you threw your lip balm at me and I hate it trust me."

I walk to my wardrobe I need a bed sheet.

"You won't walk away while I'm talking Kamohelo!!" She shouts.

"Mama Cebi don't start with this madness you denied me your pussy and I gave myself one that is on my hand I don't understand why you this worked out and this melodramatic woman Because I didn't cheat on you unless you preferred me going out there to seek the real one instead of my hand one right? "

She blows her nose and roughly stands up from the bed she slips in her sleepers.

"Yazi uyasanga Sidney umsangano lona?" I look at her and ignore her.

"Imagine! The best I've ever had esho isandla!!" She roughly takes her gown I think she wants to leave our bedroom.

"Deliwe I don't wanna fight okay? Just drop this madness and sleep. Shall my boy wake up you and I will have a serious problem. "

"So am I gonna sleep on blankets covered in your sperms?"

"Mama Cebi what do you want from me huh? Don't start a war you won't know how to end give me a breather Geez!! I can't believe we arguing over this I was horny and I helped myself I don't understand why you angry about it men cheat to get this feeling but I didn't instead I used the vagina that's on my hand to satisfy myself but here you are making a mountain out of it like really?"

She looks at me and clicks her tongue so loud. I give her a tense stare.

"I will punch the hormones out of your bloodstream and cut that tongue for you and decorate your face sweetheart you hear me?" She keeps quiet.

—

—

The following morning

I woke up to her side of the empty i walked to Cebi's room in search for her she surely sneaked out of our bed in the wee hours of the morning after our little fallout. She is not here I check the sitting room she isn't here. I walk back to our bedroom with my morning bulge pointing on the side. I find her smearing a body lotion on her body she just bathe. I glare at her.

"Morning"

She keeps quiet then stands up to wear a panty and bra. She pulls out her gown and lotions her face. "Deliwe I'm talking to you"

I say softly. "Hi" She mouths and pulls my bag a few clothes. I'm leaving today for Cape Town. I will be back in three days time. I pull her hand gently but she yanks it off. I let her be and go shower. I wear a simple white and navy outfit the shirt is a long sleeve slim cut and white in color my pants are navy. I moisturize my beards and my hair I grease myself with my cologne.

Deliwe walks in with a bag with my ironed clothes. She takes a few under garments and socks to put inside my bag she moves to my toiletries.

"Sweetheart" I say softly.

"What do you eat for breakfast?"

She asks politely. "Can I have coffee and toasted bread with eggs and cheese and my good morning kiss please" She ignores me again then opens her side of the wardrobe she pulls out a Jean and wears it I narrow my brows. She better be kidding me a Jean in her state?

"Are you by any chance trying to kill my baby?"

She keeps quiet and wears a t-shirt.

"I'm talking to you Deliwe!"

"At what expense?"

"You being childish right now Deliwe you can pull whatever stunt you want but don't pull one that involves putting my baby at risk of harm. "

She rolls her eyes.

"Take off that Jean that thing is too tight for a pregnant woman!"

"Kamo I've been pregnant before and I know what puts a baby in great danger and what I'm doing right now won't hurt your precious little human! It's a jegging and it's loose"

"But still take it off and wear a dress"

"Angifuni ke. "

"Askies wa reng?"

I shoot her a tense stare. She voluntarily takes off the jegging and wears a dress.

"Kanti yini ngawe Deliwe? Why are you acting up huh why are even fighting huh?"

She blinks endlessly.

"I hate this bickering and tension. I'm traveling in case you haven't noticed I can't travel such miles while a pregnant woman is angry at me and holding a grudge against me. I'm a father Delive your hate for me might invite danger on me loosen up already this mood is not good for my baby "

She looks at me and makes her way towards me she rests her head on my chest I envelope her in my arms. She starts sniffing. I sit on the tip of the bed and put her on my lap with her legs resting on either sides of me.

" Sorry baby don't cry okay?" She nods.

"Look at me princess"

She looks at me I wipe her tears and capture her lower lip I suck on it gently. She captures my upper lip and sucks hard on it. I run my hands to her bums and squeeze them. She runs her hands to the front of my pants she unbuttons my button then unzips my pants and slides her hand inside my trunks and starts playing with my rock hard penis. I rub my tongue against hers I take off her t-shirt and undo her bra I roll my tongue on her hard nipple I remove her dress and slide my fingers in there she's wet. I pleasure her with my fingers when she's fully wet I slide inside her and groan. She rides me up and down and sideways. I help her up her pace she looks at me with teary eyes.

"Oh! Baby!! Aaaah" She Belch.

"Sorry baby about last night" She says.

"MO nna ofiwa kuku sweetheart don't deny a man his pussy babe"

"Ngiyaxolisa sthandwa sami"

"Don't ever do that babe please. I should fuck you and deposit inside you not on my hands this shit is yummy baby."

"I promise to burst it open any time you want it"

"Can we never fight again unless we fight this way"

"I promise fuck me baby"

"I will fuck you mommy" I say flipping her over making her to give me a dodgy position. I slam her hard till she squirts.

72

72[Not edited]

{Millicent}

She is having her mugg n bean muffin and coffee when she is urgently called on the intercom to Come immediately in the intensive care unit to attend to a patient whose having complications with their pregnancy. The lady is carrying twins her belly is huge abnormally. She wears her scrubbing in uniform the masks and gloves follower. "What is wrong with her?"

She asks pregnant women are not her specialty she deals with other surgeries especially cardiovascular and bone related related matters not women who are delivering babies.

"Umbilical card around a baby's neck emergency C section should be implemented."

"How long has it been since this happened?"

They shrug their shoulders. She sedate the lady and gather all the needed apparatus to conduct the surgery. She looks at the monitor then the patient.

Her pulse is slowly dropping her breathing is decreasing bits by bits. The few nurses glare at her. This woman better not die on her hands it's still early to have a woman dying in front of her. She swallows hard and fixes the breathing mask on the patient she sterilized her tools and started cutting her lower belly carefully.

"Her pulse is dropping on the monitor! We losing the patient."

She says within her heart trying not show she's panicking. The lady is having twins she removes the first baby then moves to the second one her vision slightly goes blurry her hands suddenly starts to tremble and Squivers profusely. She's having a panic attack of some sort this has never happened before this experience is all new to her.

"Dr Ngoyi are you okay?" Her colleagues inquire taking the baby from her hands.

"Dr Ngoyi please step outside I will carry on with the surgery."

Her colleague adds. She wipes abstract invisible sweat from her forehead heading outside the theater to go lean against the wall catching some breath.

"Jiyane uzwile?"

"Heard what Mnguni?" The nurse stand in front of her ready to gossip.

"Do you remember that clumsy nurse who used to work here? The one who resigned after having surreal hallucinations about this hospital being haunted by ghost?"

"Zondi if not mistaken?"

"That one there's an investigation going on shlobo linked to one of the deliveries she once conducted back in the years. It's serious ntombi."

Millicent immediately listens attentively. They might be on to something that might put her in great jeopardy with the justice system or better yet Sidney killing her with both his hands will be that justice needed to be served for those who suffered because of her act.

"Apparently it involves a search about twin deliveries more like she swapped babies and you what that means" They add on their conversation while walking away.

Maybe I need to eliminate Zondi she's the only person who holds knowledge about my past having her alive might be similar to digging up my own grave..

{Sidney}

I hate it when I have to leave her and Cebi behind for work purposes. What I hate the most is the glint of pain in her eyes she always breaks when I have a bag dangling on my shoulder. Her tears haunt me honestly.

She's still holding me in a brief hug I think it's been close to 15 minutes of her doing this. My petrol. Is surely getting wasted my engine is running even now. This big baby doesn't want to let me go.

"Baby I will be back please don't do this"

"Don't go baby" She sniffs I glare at Cebi who is holding my packed up breakfast lunbox.

"Baby I need to work thle we have a baby coming remember? I can't have my balls spread on the sofa every day. I need to provide babe"

"Kubuhlungu babakhe"

"I know sugar I feel the pain too. But it's a necessary pain my love"

"Why do you drive me crazy though?"

"I guess I'm a recklessly driver babe"

"Baby don't go"

"Deli come on I told you about this a couple of days ago"

"But that doesn't mean it's supposed to hurt lesser"

"Baby I love you and I'm gonna come back"

"I love you ke"

"I love you all of you" Cebi walks towards me he rest his head on my leg and holds me tight.. Not him too.

"Bye bye babami see you when you come back. I love you"

"I love you more sfana saka look after mommy and your sibling ankere?"

"Yes"

"Give mommy 50 kisses a day for daddy's sake neh?"

"Why must I kiss her this much? Can't her baby give her 25 kisses and I give her 25 then both of us make it 50 kisses? I can't kiss her that much all by myself. "

Deliwe giggles I narrow my brows.

"Cebi your sibling is not yet born but already you being hard on her or him what kind of a big brother are you gonna make?"

"A good one. Mom taught me to share so we gonna share the kisses with your new baby"

Deliwe and I glare at each other young man is already jealous this is a bad sign.

"Fine give mommy 25 kisses a day how's that? "

"Why not five?"

"Five then Cebi I see you won't back down stubborn guy. " Sidney says playfully messing up Cebi's hair. Who is giggling. Deliwe glares at me and brushes her left cheek. I purse my lips and narrow my brows.

"Let me run Cebi. Baby can I go?" Deliwe faintly smiles no tears please I've seen a lot of those. I really can't accommodate more.

"Come back alive for my sake"

"Baby I'm not going to Iraq nor am I soldier come on"

"But still

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come on"

"But still I want you to come back home alive and healthy"

"I promise take care honey okay? "

"I will" I heave a sigh and place my hand on her belly.

"Invisible one daddy loves you too okay? Stop making your mom moody and abusive tame down the aggression and threats make her loving and sweet. I

miss her not pregnant version don't get me wrong I love you but your mom is breathing down on my neck lately! "

" Kamo.... "Deliwe warns with a smile painted on her face. I give her a sloppy kiss then peck her tummy and lastly Cebi. I get in my car and drive to the airport. I miss them already by the way I need to get back at my father. I've missed a few calls of his this morning when I was getting a morning glory.

—

{Sindiswa}

I don't know what dad did to my mother last night umunyu umfazi. She is not showing some teeth today and mind you it's Sunday her favorite day of the week all because they bond with hubby over metro fm music but today it's vice versa. She's angry and aggressive. As I speak my father and I are walking on egg shells. She even forced us to get up and prepare for church. Which is a foreign thing in this house.

"Sindi no Mphikeleli don't test drive me!! Kanti yini ngani?" She yalped.

"Mami Kanti senzeni?" My dad asks.

" I said we going to church all of three of us"

Dad and I look at each other.

"Sthandwa sami yini Kanti? Can we go discuss it in the bedroom"

"You wearing this shirt and pants I will look for a blazer to match this outfit.

Sindiswa call your sister tell her to prepare for church. I'm gonna drive to wherever she is sonke siya esontweni. Angifuni mahedeni kwami!!"

Dad chuckles and sings a maskandi song by gatsheni umfazi oyashana umthetho angeke agane.

My mother shoots him a deadly stare my poor father keeps quiet and glares at me.

" Let's go bath Sindi "

" Go first Mina I have to make a call to my sister"

"No problem baby? Try not to breath loud that too can repulse your mother"

"Mphikeleli no Sindiswa!!" We scatter in different directions. I sit on the bed and texts my supposedly date informing him we can't meet today since my mother decided to be Mrs God. He texts back chuckling. "I love your mom already can't wait to have her as my mother in law"

"She's a pain on the arse"

"Prepare for church stompie we will talk later"

I say my goodbyes and dial my beautiful pregnant sister. She picks up on the third ring.

"Hey babe"

"Morning sunshine and how are you?"

"I'm tired dude and why are you in a joyous mood?"

"I slept home on my bed and nobody made me dance like we were making love unlike some people with big bellies."

"Sindiswa ngimdala njalo you need to respect me"

I roll my eyes. "I love you that's all that matters."

"You sound happy for a broken hearted woman"

"Some break up come with joy and glow and besides I have a fine dude sliding in my dm"

"Who is that unlucky being?"

"We met through Facebook his funny and spontaneous. Conversations with him are not predictable and boring his so..." I feel a sting on my shoulder I look back it's mama.

"Mama!"

"I didn't say call your sister to discuss men Sindiswa but church!"

"Sorry mama"

"Deliwe bath I'm fetching you and Cebi and your baby daddy we going to church all of us." She shouts and walks out.

"Yini ngomamakho today?" Deliwe asks.

"She's bullying everyone in this house"

"Yoooh I'm even scared of her what did she dream Kanti?" We both laugh and say our goodbyes I will brief her about my newly bf in person. We all prepare for church mom wears a beautiful red dress that shows the beauty of her curves. Dad is wearing a cute outfit. He looks nothing like my dad but a charming business man as for me I'm wearing a black dress with a square maroon heal. We get inside the car and drive to Deliwe 's house.

—

{Mazondi/Nurse}

She's sitting on her veranda talking to her flowers she's even giggling above her pitch. Most people call her a lunatic because of this the actual truth is that she hasn't been fully sane for a couple of years now she's been struggling to cope and live with her guilt after what she did a couple of years ago. To think she was a God fearing woman she still doesn't understand how she managed to agree upon doing such an inhumane act those women didn't deserve what she put them through.

A black car parks in front of her house. She is not familiar with it it could be that wizard daughter of her late cousin. She could be here to kill her or infiltrate her just like she did with other people. She stands up and darts inside her house. She locks the doors and peeks on the curtain. She lady is tall she has short hair and a light completion than that of Millicent meaning this is not Millicent but a probably lost person.

"Ko ko!!!" The lady shouts from outside the gate. She opens a drawer and takes a wooden spoon.

"Get lost!!! Go away!!!" She shouts back.

"Mama I come in peace please step outside. Please ma wami!"

"Did you swallow your mother and earned me as one? Get lost I don't want trouble young lady leave!!"

"Ma please come outside I'm a detective and I'm here to ask you a few questions please ma wami"

"Did you say you were a detective?"

"Yes Ma"

Detective means a law enforcement officer and that is bad news. She can't go to jail for someone's else's mistake. She really can't go there.

"You have a wrong suspect young lady leave my house now!!"

"Mama please step outside"

"Angifuni! Angiyena umbulali Mina I know nothing about those kids! I know nothing I'm innocent!! I'm innocent isn't it?"

She says panting and sinking down to the floor crying..

73

73

Not edited.

[Deliwe]

Mom Carol is very bossy today she's so adamant about going church one would swear someone promised to make her Jesus's wife the way she is so eager. "Mcebisi needs to be raised in church knowing God as his lord and savior Deluwe." So she said when whining about us being bad examples to her grandchild. Mama is dramatic at times you would swear she's suffering from

cerebos kodwa lutho ubaba is handling that probably every night. I don't understand where the sudden bossiness comes from.

"Your mother though" Sindiswa whispers inside my ear as we driving to church.

"Tell me about it." I whisper back.

"Caro what happened Kanti in rustenburg?" Dad asks.

"Mama what happened vele?" Sindiswa adds.

"Let's say my grandmother shed some light light on my dim light and now I see I'm no longer blind like I was yesterday" I lift my eyes to glare at my mother.

"Meaning?" Dad asks.

"A family that doesn't pray is a play ground for Satan Mphazima" Mom says.

"But you pray my love when you pray you represent the entire family nje.

There's no need for us to go to church."

"Mphikeleli I'm not your God I can't fight battles that were meant to be fought by you. I can pray for you and the kids but I can never fight a battle that you as trusted warrior was meant to fight. A fight directed to you needs you personally to fight it. Nna I can only pray for you to have the strength and courage to face the Goliath that's standing in front of you. You all need to pray for yourselves and not hide under my wing but God's wing. "

We all glare at mama and keep quiet. My father plays music softly and steal glances on my mother.

" How are the morning sicknesses Deli? " Mom asks Sindiswa glares at me.

" I'm doing well mama I can't complain for now. "

"Are you taking your medication as prescribed?" She tilts her head to glare at me. "Yebo ma"

"Awesome. Sindiswa when are you bringing your boyfriend to your father?"

Sindiswa chokes on her saliva. I giggle silently. "What boyfriend ma?"

"The one you denoted you were gonna brief your sister about" My dad glares at me on the rear view mirror. "Ma..."

"After church we discussing this" My father says.

"Ma we coming to mama Dora's church?"

I ask as I see the car parking in front of it.

"Yes the son will be giving prophecies today."

"What son ma?" Sindiswa asks.

"His married Sindiswa and his a father of five if not mistaken"

"Ma come on I wasn't talking about that. I like one prophecy and that's Sibusiso Langa. I follow him on social media's only his church I will visit not these almost churches that tell you how much to give as a offering." Dad giggles.

"Just go inside Sindiswa and praise God." Mom says God knows today I'm not feeling this going to church thing..

____[Church sermon] ____
[Deliwe]

The piano is playing gently on the background bringing forth a reviving harmony. The pastor is pacing up and down on the pulpits something about this environment gives me goosebumps. I don't know if it's the piano or the presence of pastor Sibusiso Langa. This man is anointed mind you I came here late but already I'm getting goosebumps.

" God is instructing me to tell you to trust him with all your heart and to never lean in your own understanding. Because your own understanding only makes sense to you but not to him. God is saying acknowledge me in your ways and I will make your paths straight. "

Sibusiso glares at the congregation and wipes his sweat.

"God is saying put your trust in him for he knows you and he knows your destiny and only him will lead you to your destination. Bazalwane we can plan our tomorrow but only god have the keys to that tomorrow and only him can decide if we are deserving to be granted access or not. Without God by our side there's never gonna be peace and progress in our lives because we are walking by sight and not by faith! God wants us to walk by faith and not by sight. Deliwe Mphazima please come forward. "

Sibusiso says paging through his Bible.

I look at my mother and father.

" Deliwe sukuma" Mom whispers in my ears. My insides are tying knots I think I'm gonna pee on myself.

"Sisi Deliwe please come forward God wants to talk to you."

He says again lifting his eyes to where I am seated. I stand up as frightened as I am. My knees are wobbly and my thighs are slippery blame it on the sweat. I'm scared honestly. He meets me halfway and holds my hand.

"Sthandwa sami please borrow me your mic" Sibusiso says to his mother he glares at me.

"Sawubona"

"Yebo mfundisi unjani?"

I say with a trembling voice.

"Relax sisi just breath in and out."

I do just that. He hands me a mic and glares at me.

"God has a message for you"

I swallow hard.

"God is saying I must tell you to forgive yourself for all the bad things you've done to yourself unaware of what you were doing his saying forgive yourself for doubting yourself and your capabilities and tolerating less of what you are deserving because you deserve more. God is saying forgive yourself for ever being in places and spaces you knew very well he never wanted you to be at.

His saying forgive yourself for allowing people to treat you the way they treated you his saying forgive and let go. Most importantly his saying he never said the road was gonna be easy and bump less for you his saying you still gonna go through agonizing and anguished situations and experiences but don't go back to that place he saved you from.

His asking you to pray harder Deliwé to believe and trust in him with your entire heart. His begging you to walk by faith and not by sight. His saying teach yourself to say "Linamandla igama lakhe futhi lisusa uvalo" God is standing besides you and he has started mending things and putting in your circumference what is destined for you. Forgive your past and embrace your future like I said your past doesn't make sense to God but it does to you. God sees more on you than you do with yourself he loves you Faith and please trust him fully not lukewarm like. "

A tear escapes my eye. He looks at me holding my hands.

"Ma Mphazima thank you for listening to God's voice this morning his the one who whispered in your ear telling you to bring your entire family to church. This was destined to happen." The church claps their hands.

Buddha glares at me.

"Do you know the Yebo linamandla song by Benjamin Dube?"

I nody head I used to love that song. He gives me a mic.

"Bhuti Joe please play that song and this beautiful and gifted woman will sing that song God is gonna use her now."

Carol]

♪♪Yebo linamandla..

Yebo linamandla...

Yebo linamandla igama.♪♪

Witchcraft is dragging your daughter to church while she's against it only to find out in a churches pulpit that she is actually anointed and gifted with a voice that invites and shakes up the heavens and tortures hell. God and his angels are definitely. Amongst ourselves his moving in the midst of this place. Deliwe has a very beautiful voice people are crying and some are casting their demons out Deliwe has a very good voice. I even have goosebumps by just listening to her sing. I never expected this to think we were only coming to church to praise God then my very own pregnant daughter who was arguing with me against coming to church does this. I'm flabbergasted honestly. I'm finding it hard to believe what is going on here but my daughter is singing not just any kind of singing but the singing that leaves you with your hair rising and your armpits itching a little. She is God trust me.

"Mama what is happening?" Sindiswa whispers in my ear confused just like me.

"Is that my sister? As in mama ka Cebi?"

She adds.

"I'm shocked myself"

"Mama she sounds like Sindi Ntombela"

"She's very good." I add.

Mphikeleli gently pokes me. I lean over to match his lips so he can whisper in my ears.

"Is that our Deliwe?"

"That's her papa"

"Holy shit!!"

"Holy what?"

"Sorry Mami I forgot but what the fuc..." He cuts himself mid sentence.

"What the heck is this? My daughter sings like that?"

I nod like a retard.

"I'm proud of her I'm very much proud of my daughter"

"So am I"

We intertwine our hands and face the pulpit. Deliwe hands over the mic and walks down the stairs of the pulpit people clap for her and some shake her hands. A woman whose probably Khosi's age embraces her and kisses her cheeks then a lady with dreadlocks.

"Phew! That was powerful sis Deliwe. Indeed you are a vessel of God. That voice speaks for itself thank you so much. You have made God to descend to this place I can feel him in our midst." Pastor Sibusiso says. Deliwe joins us Mphikeleli hugs her tightly I do the same. Poor thing she's shy.

{Brandon}

My mother just had her bath she's looking fresher and more better than she was when she walked in here. She came here looking like a mess she was swollen and all blue on her face the robbers really did a number on her to

such an extent she kept on wincing in pain and struggling to sit down. It took a dozen of pills to numb the pain away.

"Don't you think we need to inform your father about what happened? Surely his stressed out"

"She made herself clear not tell dad"

"But Brandon he deserves to know. Surely his worried sick wherever he is mama is his wife" I glare at my wife.

"I suppose you right I will call dad. "

"Better. What would you like to eat for lunch? "

"I will pass"

"I will cook your favorite Brandon" My mother said walking down the stairs wearing a gown.

"Let's say lasagna roasted pork belly with oven baked vegetables as you like it." She adds with a faint smile painted on her face. I glare at my wife.

"I'm cool with that ma but i need to call Marcus and tell him you are here with me"

"Brandon we spoke about this."

"Ma come on his your husband. We can't keep the robbery away from him."

"I said don't tell him the last thing I want is your father going on a killing spree. You know stubborn your father is."

"But still Ma those crackheads need to pay for their crime. This can't go unfinished."

My mother heaves a sigh.

"I will tell him myself."

"Fine"

"Now must I go ahead with the cooking?"

"Yes Ma feel free" My wife says with a genuine smile.

"I'm going to the hospital to check up on Shalton "

"Please son." Mom says with a glint of pain.

I stand up peck my wife and drive out. Mom better call Marcus or I will beat her to it..

—

[Priscilla]

This woman holds a very interesting and crucial information she just attested to having a hand on this case voluntarily. I didn't even give her a pop up notification as what my visit was all about but she sang like mockingbird bird spilling all the beans without me digging my claws in so deep.

If I let her slip away from my hands I will be making a deadly mistake. Surely someone paid her to do this and I can't help but to point my fingers on Sidney's direction. His my main suspect for now I mean he was using Portia surely having a child with her was gonna ruin his relationship with that Michelle or whatever girl she was back in eastern cape.

"No wait!! Why didn't I think of this?"

I say to myself placing my index finger on my lower lip dwelling on my thoughts. As new possible information creeps in. Maybe just maybe Sidney knows nothing about this but the girlfriend. I mean she had all the right reasons to do thatbeing cheated on is not a light thing but a huge thing everyone knows a scorned woman can go as far places wherever betrayal and pain is involved. Maybe the girlfriend knows something about this..

—

[Sidney]

I just arrived in cape town I will be temporarily staying in my father's vineyard hotel till I go back home. Talking of my father he wants to know more about how am I gonna go about this lobola thing his white are knows nothing about African weddings but rather our ethnicity kind of wedding. As for me I hold little information about Pedi culture but not Zulu culture..

"Mr Matthew's welcome long time"

She says with a broad smile I haven't seen her in years.

"Hey how are you?"

"I'm good thanks yourself?"

"Awesome"

"Great.." She glares at me I look aside.

"We tried to make it look elegant and comfortable to your preference and we won't hesitate to change it shall you find a little problem with..."

I cut her mid sentence with my hand.

"It's dazzling thank you."

I put my luggages on the bed

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while she's standing by the door.

"You still handsome as always"

I clench my Jaw and keep quiet.

"So tell me did you marry her or it ended in tears?"

"Can you please excuse me I'm fond of silence and loneliness. Thank you"

I say glaring at her from where I'm standing. She sarcastically scoffs and walks outside. I heave a long sigh after she's gone.

I walk to the window to glare at the table mountain. My cell phone rings I pick up.

Its Sihle I glare at it and let it ring. He rings me again but I do the same thing.

"I just saw your son with another man in Sandton." He text me. That's definitely. Deliwe 's father and that's none of his business. I delete the message and put my phone inside my pockets.

—

[Angela]

I look at her as she makes her way towards her seat. She looks she looks beautiful. She looks nothing like I remember her I didn't know my daughter has grown to this woman. My husband tightens my hand I look at him and faintly smile.

"She's good ma did you hear that?"

My son says with a broad smile on his face.

"She's very good Bayanda"

I look at my husband I don't know if it's me but I see a certain glint on his face.

I can't describe it but it's something he hardly does on his face.

"Can we offer our tithe and go home"

"Baba the service is far from over"

"Bayanda is right Ngoyi"

"I have a couple of things to do at home"

"Come on Ngoyi" I say.

He heaves a long sigh. I look behind me I find Deliwe resting her head on the a certain woman's shoulder whose with Mphikeleli and a girl child whom I

believe is Deliwe's son then the kid who resembles Sidney of which I find strange because the last time I checked Deliwe has a child with Shalton meaning her child needs to look like Shalton not Sidney. Unless the baby was conceived through her whoring but how? I find my husband facing Deliwe's direction.

"Her child looks like uncle Sidney" My son says.

"Whose child?"

"The lady who sings Deliwe Mphazima"

I glare at Bayanda.

"I'm gonna follow her on insta or tiktok or better yet Facebook"

"No!!!" Both my husband and I say simultaneously. We both glare at each other.

"Why not?" Bayanda says saving us from the stare contest.

"You can't crush on a big lady like her" I say staring at my husband.

"Exactly my point honey" My husband says glaring at me I don't buy that.

—

[Deliwe]

I don't wanna talk about what happened in church. I'm confused myself but like Buddha prophesied I will do as instructed. Church is out the Langa's came to greet my family. They said we must be regulars at church Caro promised them what they wanted to hear saying we will be regulars.

"Bathathe sisi Faith the future mamfundisi" Sindiswa says my father and mother giggle as we walking towards our car.

"Mamfundisi pho?"

"Yes.. Your voice is perfect Liwe! It's marvelous. I didn't know you had such an angelic voice. You nearly made me to repent Liwe. It has that thing maarn."

"What thing Sindiswa?" Mom asks.

"The take Jesus as your lord and savior kind of vibes?" I add.
"Yes babe and I'm so gonna book you for my wedding. With that voice Liwe I swear my bf and I won't break up." Sindiswa says.
"Vele ikhona Sindiswa? So your mother wasn't making this up?" Dad says I press my lips hiding my laugh.
"No baba I'm saying in future"
"Sindiswa I will punch that boyfriend of yours you hear me?"
"Kodwa baba"
"No daughter of mine will be a statics of pregnancy before marriage" I narrow my brows.
"Excuse me baba?" Mom giggles.
"I meant no last born of mine will be pregnant not when she's not married"
"Are you sure she's your last born baba?" We all look at mom she shrugs.
"Ma usuthini?" Sindiswa asks.
"Exactly what are you saying my wife?" Dad adds.
"Guys I'm just asking nothing major."
"But your ask is questionable ma."
Mom giggles. "Let's go out I'm hungry."
"Caro.." Dad calls her but mom giggles.
"I'm joking sthandwa sami don't take it to heart"
"You nearly gave me a heart attack"
"Relax" They share a kiss Sindiswa and I roll our eyes...

To be continued..

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[Deliwe]

I'm staring at my mother and father when my eyes land on my biological mother and her family. She looks at me and walks past me like I'm an abstract I know she never loved me nor never wanted me in her life to begin with but being passed like this by the very same woman who carried you for nine months is slap on the face. A little sly or dry "Hello" would've been reciprocated.

I know I said I never cared about her being part of my life but guys let's be honest I can not care about her. She's my mother I'm certain some of my features come from her. Even an adopted rich kid will still long for poverty stricken mother maybe seeing Angela kinder carries a different perspective and feel than hearing about her from afar.

"Deliwe get in side we leaving"

Someone mouths I don't know if it's my sister or my mother.

"Deli asambe sisi" My father said leading me to the car Angela is staring at me as she's walking away. At this moment I care less about Big daddy it's my mother I care about and maybe my brother..

—

[Maxwell]

She's busy on her laptop I don't know what she's searching but I saw that she was on Facebook and a Deliwe Mphazima profile was being viewed. She immediately closed her laptop when my presence weighed her down. I put the glass of whiskey that she asked for on the table I carefully shift her papers

that are on the study table to make space for me to sit. She looks at me with a faint a smile.

"Thank you sthandwa Sami" She mouthed taking the glass of whiskey. I look at her.

"Searching for an old friend?"

"An old friend?" She asks confused.

"Deliwe Mphazima Facebook.." I say trying to shed some light.

"Oh! Yeah.. Yeah an old friend. We went to school together and I thought I should catch up you know?"

I furrow my brows and lean forward.

"Portia what are you up to?"

"Me?" She says putting her hand on her chest and painting a fake smile on her face.

"Nothing I'm just trying to reach out to an old friend nothing major sweetie"

I scan her face. I don't buy this.

"Eeh... What time are we fetching the kids from their grandparents?"

" I won't be able to fetch them I have a trip to embark on"

"Where are you going?"

"Taung."

"And I'm only being told now Mexico?"

I look at her.

"Oh! I see what is happening here!" She says agitated.

"Portia I only got a call this morning stop making a mountain out of this"

"You know what Max fuck you and fuck your fucken business! If possible fuck your business because it is that important to you than I am!!"

She shouts I massage my forehead and glare at her.

"You men are dogs!! All of you!!" She roars. I stand up to hold her but she pushes me away and walks to whatever room she went too. I heave a sigh. Maybe this Deliwe is family I don't know why she's been refusing to see her family. I mean her family is not related to her prick ex Sidney Meso..

—

[Mphikeleli]

She's here physically but not emotionally and mentally. I know seeing Angie kind of brought her a glint of pain after all she's her mother and it's normal to feel like this. Even if she did say she never wanted her but we can never unlove nor unknow or better yet change who are parents are and in her case it's worse because Angela has never shown the need or sense of agency in knowing her or building a relationship with her yet she went to love and mother a child that wasn't his while her own stayed a few minutes away from her.

I know how Deliwe feels right now and it's even worse because I can't give her the reasons that her mother gave to me a couple of weeks ago as to why she abandoned her no matter how much she hated her daughter I can never tell my daughter that your mother said "She hated you and wanted to kill you" that would break her more than her abandoning her.

Our food is placed on the table we decided on a local restaurant that is famous in Soweto Wandies place. Caro looks at me then Deliwe whose staring outside the window.

"Is she okay?" Caro whispers in my ear.

"She saw Angela for the first time in 26 years"

I whisper back.

"She was at church?"

"Apparently"

"The audacity of that woman! What was she even doing there? Bekazo thini kuGod?"

I look at my woman whose forehead is now greased.

"This child was happy before her ugly face appeared look now she's distracted and hurt. Islima somfazi nani nihamba nijola Mphikeleli"

I glare at her now how is this any of my fault? Ucaro naye une drama yakhe. Luckily we whispering. Sindiswa appears after disappearing for ten minutes to answer her phone.

"Mama" Cebi says shaking his mother whose face is resting on her hand.

"Mama ngiyakubiza"

"Sorry sthandwa sami you were saying?"

"I want to pee"

"Come I will show you the rest room" They both stand up.

"And drinks baba?" Sindiswa asks.

"Please get them sisi" She walks away.

"Why didn't you tell me that snake was there?"

"How was that gonna help Caro?"

"Are you seriously hearing yourself Mphikeleli?"

I glare at her.

"Ngwana a seyama Mphikeleli it's obvious that witch ruined her mood. You should've told me I would've dealt with her"

"She's not worth it"

"Ware sefane sa ga ge ke mang?"

(What is her surname again?)

I look at her and then Sindiswa who got us the drinks.

"Siyabonga Mphangazitha" Caro glares at me as I ignore her question. There's no way I'm allowing her to deal with this she's very much dramatic.

"Ngoyi.. Ke Ngoyi!" She says after locking her cell phone. Perks of having access to technology.

**

Deliwe sits down her cheeks are red and her eyes are puffy. Her light complexion is making it obvious that she was crying. Caro glares at me.

—

[Priscilla]

I was forced to leave Mazondi's house to quickly go attend to Portia's mother. I was called by the nyaope smoking brother telling me the mother was having

breathing difficulties. Like the daughter that I am to her I had to drop everything to come to her rescue. I drove to the hospital of which she was admitted at

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I find her seated on her bed looking skinnier I doubt Portia would manage to recognize her mother with her sudden transformation. Mama Portia was a very beautiful curveous and fit woman but after the Portia saga she lost herself and become a living corpse.

"Mama..." I say embracing her.

"My child"

"Mama what happened? I told you not to worry yourself and that I was gonna find your daughter or your grandchild at it. Mara mama why are you doing this?". I say fixing her pillow.

"My daughter I'm tired I'm tired of this matter. Portia is never coming back and so is her child."

She says with pain.

"Mama I'm gonna find your daughter be it in bones or a physical form don't give up not yet."

"Priscilla I want to die I can't take the pain anymore. Just let me die please"

"Mama you don't wanna die now not after what I found"

"I no longer care about your findings I'm tired Priscilla I want to rest. If Portia wanted to be found she would've appeared in my dreams telling me where she was buried or where her child was but she's a useless ancestor!!"

I saw hard this is taking a toll on her she has given up on finding her daughter and it hurts.

" Mama don't give up just yet. Yazini ma you leave me no choice but to take you with me"

"I'm tired of being your burden let me die"

I heave a sigh where the fuck are you Portia we need to find your kids!!

—

[Brandon]

I drive to fathers house. I'm met by Zelda's car on the driveway. I wonder what brings her over here. I make my way to the entrance I pass our helper chopping whatever she is chopping in the kitchen.

"Brad how are you son?"

"I'm good sisi Thandi is my father around?"

"He just drove out with miss Meso"

"Did they say where they were going?"

"They went to buy trash bags."

"Trash bags? For what?"

"They want to donate clothes to charity"

"I see... But why would miss Meso be hands on this? I mean this is my father's and mother's house. Meaning my mom should be the one doing the packing and whatever donating crap they planning on doing"

"My son I don't know anything nna I was told about the donation and trash bags only."

I look at her with my brows narrowed. My mother was robbed and injured close to death and my father cares less about her whereabouts and that's

strange what's more strange is the fact that Zelda is parading my mothers house like it's hers.

" Ma Thandi tell me.."

" Yes"

"How long has Sidney's mother been in here for this little project of theirs ?"

"She slept here last night and the day before yesterday."

"And my father was here with her throughtout?"

She nods son a of butch!

"Where is your mother? I haven't seen her in days Mr Matthew's told me she went to Eastern Cape ."

I look at her.

"Dad said that?"

"Yes"

Something doesn't make sense here.

"I see... I should get going"

"Brandon wait are you by any chance going to the hospital to see your brother?"

"Yes"

"Please take this with you it's gonna help Shalton recover. My pastor prayed for this oil. Just put it on his forehead hands and feet.. His gonna pull through. It's not muthi"

"I trust you ma I will do as instructed. Thank you"

"I will continue praying and fasting for him to pull through"

"I would really appreciate that." I give her a genuine smile and walk outside. I drive to the hospital with a train of thoughts in my head. Someone between my parents is telling lies their stories does not blend...

—

[Angela]

The drive to the house is silent. I'm replaying my little church moment staring from what the pastor said to Deliwe to how she sang and lastly how she was laughing with her newly family. The picture of her smile dissipating on my presence kind of caused me a sting. My daughter really doesn't need me she sure doesn't care about me just like I've been lying to myself saying I hated her and never wanted her. It was easy to fool my mind in believing my lies feeding it with lies was easy along the way I believed my own lies and I started acting on them and ignored my heart. But today I've realized how much I've been playing myself and my beliefs. Deliwe is my daughter she was supposed to have been excited by my presence but she wasn't she's content without me just like Sidney said...***

He packs the car on the driveway our son Bayanda gets out immediately. Only my husband and I remain inside. His quiet and so am I.

"That lady how do you know her?"

He says.

"What Lady?"

"Catte...."

"Who is that? I'm not following"

Honestly I don't know what his talking about.

"Stop playing mind games Angela"

" I'm not following Derrick I'm being honest"

"The lady who sang in church"

"Deliwe?"

He nods and I swallow hard.

"I know her from my township."

He looks at me. Wait he just called my daughter Catte and why is it that?

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[Zelda]

I glare at him as he drives us to the mall to buy trash bags. I really don't understand what's going on Marcus has been acting strange the past days. Him telling me to pack up a luggage and come spend two weeks with him in his house kinder spelt something he won't say with his mouth like where is Florence and why is she not home? He ups the volume and fixes his eyes on the road.

♪♪ Pray God you can cope
I'll stand outside
This woman's worth
This woman's world
Oh it's hard on a man
Now his part is over
Now starts the craft of the father
I know you've got a little life in you left
I know you've got a lotta strength left
I know you've got a little life in you left
I know you've got a lotta strength left
I should be cryin' but I just can't let it show
I should be hopin' but I can't stop thinkin'
All the things we should've said that are never said
All the things we should've done that we never did
All the things we should've given but I didn't
Oh darlin' make it go
Make it go away ♪♪

He looks at me and squeezes my hand.

"You good?" He mouths.

"Yeah are you?"

"With you by my side all is well" He faintly smiles.

"Marcus keng? What's going on?"

"Meaning?"

"Cut the crap already and talk about it."

"Talk about what Zelda?"

"What is going on in your house? Where is Florence and why are you donating her clothes to charity?"

"Zelda I'm driving"

"Pull over."

"Are you out of your mind?"

"Maybe I am Marcus and only you can revive my sanity"

"Remember this song?"

Peew! His changing the topic..

"I sang it to you."

"Marcus we not gonna discuss songs but what is happening! Why am I in your house and your wife not home!!"

"That's because we are done!!"

"Done? Just like that? No valid reason no nothing?"

"Zelda can you just...." A honking sound of a truck shuts the both of us quiet. Marcus quickly ducks it and pulls over on a free open space. My heart is beating on my sleeve.

"See what your big mouth just did?"

I look at him frightened. He opens the door to go check on his car. I remain in side enchanting a little thanks giving prayer. our kids nearly became orphans. Poor Kaone and Cebi were gonna remain gogo less.

—

[Deliwe]

Today I wanted to go spend a night at my parents house but with my sudden change of hearts mood I think I need sometime to myself In the house. At least Sidney is not around I won't have a horny man scrutinizing me all night long but rather I will be in stillness with my thoughts and my sound mind. My parents drop me off at the house.

"Nana please call if you need anything"

"I will mama"

"Don't forget to pray lala" She says.

I faintly smile.

"Stress is not okay for the baby you know that angithi?"

"Mama I'm fine please.." She massages my cheeks as she's cupping them and glaring at me.

"I'm here if you wanna talk Nana and I love you more than I love your father Liwe" Caro says my father rolls his eyes. For some weird reasons I feel a sting on my chest as she says that my mother never told me these words but her.

"I love you too mommy"

"If it were up to me you were gonna sleep home today in your father's house
Deliwe not here all by yourself"

"Ma I will be okay relax"

"Fine my baby" She hugs me for the hundredth time.

"Let's do lunch tomorrow we have so much to discuss" Sindiswa -

"No problem babe" She hugs me too my dad is the last person to embrace
me. I hold on tight on him right there I feel a Nile of tears forming in my eyes.

"Uyakuthanda ubaba yezwa?"

I nod.

"Uyisipho sami Deliwe engasiphiwa okhokho bami kanye nomdali. Don't ever
allow demeaning things and people to blind you from believing that you are
worthy to be loved and treated with dignity. If your father loves you periodically
to hell with those who love you seasonally. Ngiyakuthanda ntombi
yamaphazima"

A tear slide out fromy eye. My father breaks the hug and uses his thumbs to
wipe my tears.

"Don't cry okay?" I nod.

"Thula Sana lwami" I nod and faintly smile. He pecks my forehead and embraces Cebi.. They drive off after I've locked the gate and made my way inside the house.

"Mamami uyakhala?"

I giggle.

"No baby"

"Uyaphosisa mama ka Cebi"

I chuckle. "Langalami I'm not crying baby"

"You are iza ngikusule"

I look at his red colored simba chips hands.

"I'm okay baby"

"Mama woza. Have you forgotten utheni ubabami?" He says with his brows narrowed like someone I know.

"Fine Cebi" I lower myself my grown man wipes my tears embraces me and pecks my cheeks forehead and lips. Ngikhulisile bakithi to think I wanted to abort at some point.

"U right manje?"

"Ngi right sthandwa sami Ngiyabonga yezwa?"

He nods.

"Oh! Mama I forgot something"

"And what is that?"

"Kissing the baby that you swallowed"

I giggle.

"Fine big man!" I say smiling. He kisses the belly. This boy is imitating Kamo.

"What are we having for supper baby?"

"I'm not hungry mama I will only eat dessert"

"Fine do we have homeworks?"

"Schools are opening on Tuesday mama"

"Okay... Come give mommy another squeeze"

"I gave you hug mama"

"I want another one Tyler"

"Okay!" He says rolling his eyes. He hugs me.

"God is standing besides you and he has started mending things and putting in your circumference what is destined for you. Forgive your past and embrace your future

His saying forgive yourself for allowing people to treat you the way they treated you his saying forgive and let go."

The words of wisdom and encouragement that pastor Sibusiso Langa mouthed suddenly flashes. I don't know if seeing Angela was a part of God's plan in mending what is destined to be a part of my life. I mean he said God instructed that I should forgive those who ill treated me and my most ill

treaters in my life was my mother she played a huge role in my brokenness and hollowness. .

Her abandonment made a huge shift in everyone's life mostly mine. When she left me with dad my father was forced to participate in criminally acts so he can provide for me then his arrest happened. Then I was left in the hands of my abusive aunt then Shalton and Maflo who allowed me to prostitute myself knowing I was the mother of her grandmother.

Kahle kahle Satan used my mother in destroying me and distracting me from my destination. Meaning my mother was Eve and I was the curse and casket that Eve had to carry after she was cursed. Now I get it Buddha meant this.

—

[Derrick Ngoyi]

"You hiding something from me and I want to know what it is Angela. "

She glares at me.

"Just like you hiding something from me Derrick!!"

"I'm not hiding anything" I lie.

"The pastor said her name was Deliwe not catte Derrick!"

I need to protect myself right now.

"Angela don't play the reverse psychology on me! What is your story with Deliwe why are you preventing Bayanda from getting close to her?"

"For the same reasons as yours!"

I clenched my jaw. Angela is not biosexual there's no way she could've slept with Catte. She's hiding something from me and I'm gonna find out one way or another.

—

[Sindiswa]

My mother and father are busy arguing in their bedroom meaning the only time I have to disappear from this house is now. I'm really looking forward to having yet another date with Lefa the guy is fun to be around and luckily he came around when I was going through the most. My sister knew half of what my ex boyfriend was doing to me I didn't tell her about the beatings I was receiving but I told Lefa and he promised to never put me in that kind of situation and I believe him his genuine.

"Mama womthandazo"

He says with his not Zulu accent.

"I'm thinking of sleeping at your place"

"Mmmm... I love the holy spirit Hallelujah Amen!"

"Come on dude be serious"

"Must I fetch you?"

"I will request."

"Drive here then you have a car lady"

"I took it to a mechanic look meet me at Maponya mall"

"Definitely not making a mistake"

"Bye"

"Hello sexy" I giggle and end the call.

I carefully open and close the door. I find my Uber ride just outside my gate. I'm driven to my destination. I find Lefa leaning towards his car wearing a black sweat pant and v neck t-shirt with flops. He curves his lip to smile and

opens his arms wider and embraces me. I can't get used to his gigantic height
I feel like an ant in his presence..

"Hey gorgeous"

"Hey sjovi."
(Hi long one)

"Kopa kiss?"

"Angifuni." I say walking to the passengers side bloody childish gambino
spanks my arse.

"Ouch!!"

"I'm hitting it today angithi?" He smirks.

"In your dreams"

"I can't wait" I silently smile but that's too soon 90 day rule it is.

—

[Sidney]

She picks up on the third ring.

"Hello twin sis"

"Hey"

"What a sweet way of greeting your only handsome and funny twin brother"

"I have a splitting headache dude."

"Morning sicknesses?"

"Something like that are you good?"

"Yeah I'm good just missing my half. I haven't heard from you in a while now"

"Deliwe took my place ankere"

"Don't be bitter Tumi."

"Mxm!!"

"Did you take pills for the headache?"

"Yeah"

"You will be alright"

"Definitely. Where is your arse at?"

"Cape Town"

"Vineyard kind of business?"

"Yeah"

"Lerato still works there?"

I heave a soft sigh.

"Yep"

She giggles.

"Water still flowing or a bridge was built?"

"She was a one night stand Tumi nothing more"

"Keep fooling yourself I know you were one night standing her every night you went to her hotel room to fuck her."

"Can we change the topic?"

"Don't fuck up Sidney I have Deliwe's back. Fuck her heart up and I will fuck you up"

"Why are you telling me this?"

"Because I know the hidden whore that lives within you"

"I'm over that"

"Do you believe in your own lies?"

"Yeah I believe in myself and thank you for trusting me."

"Kamo I'm serious"

"Same here"

"Fine I trust you"

"That's all I needed to hear"

"How's the little one? Still playing ghost in her tummy?"

"Don't say that about my baby"

She giggles so do I.

"They doing fine and the hormones are kicking in. I'm at the receiving end of it"

"How many months do you think she is on?"

"If she got pregnant in Mpumalanga it has to be five or six months"

"Baby shower planning maybe?"

"No.. Can we not do that she doesn't want it either."

"No stress let me get back to business. I love you"

"I love you too"

She ends the call. I heave a sigh no Lerato formed against me shall prosper I love my woman. I have my eyes on her I'm only here for business nothing more.

—

[Caro]

"You will do no such thing Caroline! That woman will have you arrested"

"And you gonna bail me out simple!"

"Caro stop this madness"

"Mphikeleli that woman deserves everything that's coming her way and I will make sure she suffers dearly!"

"She's a ministers wife do you know what that means?"

"And I'm an ex con's wife too."

"We just came from church this is not a good thing to do"

"God wants this to be addressed Mphikeleli and I am going to make sure of that"

He glares at me with his hands buried inside his pockets and his eyes lowered. I look at him as well.

"Yini ngawe?"

"Yini ngami makwenze njani?"

"You acting strange why are you bossy and all cat woman on everyone?"

"That's because my nostrils can't tolerate the smell of nonsense"

I say taking off my heels and massaging my feet. I lift my eyes to Mphikeleli glaring at me to my discomfort.

"Yini?" I mouth.

"What's going on with you? Since you came back from your parents house you've been moody and acting all strange did you eat fried nkomanzi that side?"

"Mxm!"

"Carol don't give me that attitude"

"Wa rasa Mphikeleli"

"Askies? Uthini?"

I heave a sigh.

"Are you by any chance..." He doesn't finish his statement but rather looks at my tummy.

"You were not joking are you?"

I swallow hard.

"Carol don't tell me you.. You pregnant."

I stand up and walk past him I open my wardrobe and get a hold of a dress this one is too tight.

"Carol ngikhuluma nawe"

"I don't know"

"You don't know what?"

"Eish Mphikeleli just stop it please."

"Yini kanti ngawe?"

"Maybe I am pregnant I don't know okay"

"That's not happening Carol kanjani?"

"Mphikeleli where do you think the sperms go after depositing them in my vagina?"

"But you old to be pregnant that's ridiculous Carol. What are people going to say? Especially the girls sibadala for changing nappies and buying formulas. Kanti awujovi yini?"

"Uyangijova wena?"

He swallow hard.

"Lalela Mphazima if you care more about what people are going to say then goodluck on denying yourself the chance of being a present and hands on father unlike you did with the girls. Futhi if you haven't noticed you don't have an heir those girls are gonna get married and the Mphazima name will be extinct and forgotten. Being unhappy about is your choice not mine"

"I thought you were on pills and those stuffs imagine being a father to an infant at this age it doesn't make sense Carol. Sizohlekwa abantu. I careless about heirs and whatsoever but this is madness."

"What makes sense to us doesn't make sense to God that's what the pastor said. And since you are not a believer I will tell you a story ke mina about a woman named Sarah she conceived her first born child at the age of 90 and that was God's plan so Mphikeleli if God planned for us to have a child at this age that we are then who are we to argue with him or call him senseless? God knows what he is doing and having a child in our late 40s won't be starting with us. I know a woman who is 40 and has umancane ona 14 if I'm pregnant take responsibility and stop crying over split milk it's not like we gonna vacuum these sperms out of my womb. "

Mphikeleli sinks on the bed he doesn't want a baby at least not at this age.

" You happy about this isn't it? "

" Zip me here and stop sulking"

—

[Amber]

I'm holding Shalton's hand when Brandon walks in. He greets at me and looks at his brother.

"How is he holding up?"

"His not improving I'm afraid we will be forced to switch off the life support machine soon."

I say with pain and a glint of guilt.

"It's too early to be throwing in the towel his gonna pull through. Talking of that I have a oil that I want to put on his body it's gonna help him wake up"

"What oil is that Brandon?"

"Holy oil I got it from church"

"What church? The last time I checked you don't go the church."

"These questions won't take us anywhere I want my brother alive and I will do whatever it takes to have him pull through."

"I'm his wife it's my duty to permit you things."

"His wife Amber?"

"Yes"

"I see... A good wife that you are."

"Excuse me Brandon?"

"Amber I don't need your permission on doing what's best for my brother. Not when you never seeked permission from him to divorce him. Of which I find strange and questionable as to how he got shoot and landed on this bed just a few days after you threatened of divorcing him and claiming all that he owns."

I swallow hard.

" He told you that? He said I threatened him? "

" I would love my privacy with my brother. "

" You insinuating that I have a hand on his predicament? "

" Your words not mine out you go"

"Brandon! You have known me for years why would I want him dead? His the father of my kids."

"And your ticket out of poverty add that we all know he found you in the swamps he saved you from addiction and self harm. I dont want to have this conversation at least not now and not here"

I chuckle.

"Since when have you grown thick balls?"

"Get out Amber"

I look at him in disbelief. I take my bag and leave just at the entrance I spot Millicent holding flowers.. Our eyes lock she walks away with no remorse of what she did. Bloody skank!!

[Deliwe]

My son and I are cuddling in bed having a little chat. I'm glad Cebi is distracting me from my thoughts and not that Sidney is putting me at ease the man has gone AWOL on his phone. I left a couple of missed calls not even one was returned back. But I don't want to make a mountain out of my spirit is down as it is.

"Mama schools are closing soon for December holidays. Are we also gonna remain here and not go elsewhere for ours like we always did?"

I heave a soft sigh and continue brushing his curly hair.

"Mina mama I wanna visit it's boring here over the holidays."

"I will figure out where to go baby we can try Kruger national park or something"

"Some kids go to the village"

"You wanna visit a village?"

He nods. The only village we can go to is in Mahlabathini but I don't know how far they are with building the house.

"How about we visit mkhulu Kusile?"

"Awesome mama! Plus I miss the cows and goats!"

He says chirping I can't help but smile. I wonder what Sidney is up to his not the kind not to return calls and it's 8pm he can't and won't give me an excuse of saying he was working out or working. But I won't sweat about it I have a lot going on as it is.

"Mama"

"Mmmm"

"Yazi Mina ngizowenzani nomntana kithi?"

(Wanna know what I will do with my sibling?)

"Yes please"

"Okay... I will carry the baby on my back when going to play I will bring them sticksweets everyday when coming from school and I will beat all the kids who will bully my sibling phela Mina mama I'm strong like spider man"

I burst in laughter. My son knows what to say to keep me sane.

"You will make a good brother mosi"

"Yes mama I won't allow any one to pull their cheeks and hair without her permission. Boys at my school love bullying girls and kissing them without their permission. I won't allow any one mama to do that to my sibling uCebi uzobashaya ding dong!"

I die a fit of laughter even more.

" Your sibling will be blessed my baby to have you as a brother. I'm proud of you "

I press my lips on his shampoo smelling hair.

—

[Sindiswa]

They both settled in the sitting room with the lights off and a blanket covering them watching the Purple hearts movie on Netflix. Lefa has Sindiswa resting her head on his chest and he has his hands resting on Sindiswa's hips. They

both silent and focusing on the movie. Lefa pulls the ice cream bowl and shoves a spoonfull in his mouth.

"Cee" He says softly.

"Mmmm"

"Open your mouth your ice cream is melting"

Sindiswa slightly opens her mouth and Lefa dips the spoon inside her mouth while carefully cleaning the corners of her lips. Sindiswa goes back to resting her head on Lefa's chest. Lefa puts away the bowl and heaves a huge sigh. Sindiswa lifts her eyes to glare at him.

"Yini?"

(What?)

"Nex"

(Nothing)

"I don't buy that yini?"

"Watch your movie please"

"Express yourself or forever remain silent!"

Lefa chuckles.

"We not standing on the alter here exchanging sweet nothings vows in front of a priests inside a crowded hall."

"But okusalayo you know what I meant"

"Sindiswa watch your movie please."

"Fine! Sjovi"

She rolls her eyes.

"You can roll them till they fall out ma'am"

They look at each other Lefa's eyes have a sparkle in them and they have become smaller.

"Keng?"

"Nothing"

"Why are you looking at me like that?"

"How?"

"Please stop doing that Sindiswa the last thing I want is having you cursing all night long."

" Why would I be cursing?"

"My python would be slithering in your folds"

"And you think I don't want that or maybe I'm scared of it?"

"Whoa! Is that a challenge?"

"I didn't say so I was just asking"

Lefa swallow hard.

"Your movie is boring these people are busy talking none stop. I don't see them stripping naked and having a decent adult talk!"

"Changing the topic?"

Lefa glares at Sindiswa. This girl is tempting her not that he doesn't like it.

"Besides they having a decent talk"

"A decent talk involves a woman screaming and belching saying fuck me baby and I'm sorry or better yet I will never do it again. Not these society talks"

Sindiswa giggles.

"Not everyone is naughty like you Mr Marema"

"Watch your lousy movie"

They both glare at each other Sindiswa goes back to her comfortable position. Lefa slightly moves his hand away from Sindiswa's hip running it to her warm thighs. Sindiswa swallows hard and clings on Lefa's chest. Lefa slightly sneaks his hand to Sindiswa's coochie he massages it with the panty on.

"How many minutes left before we finish the movie?" Lefa asks with a husky voice.

"I think 30 minutes" Sindiswa says with a shaking voice.

"I can't wait that long babe I'm throbbing as it is"

"Please be patient"

They look at each other.

—

[Portia]

She's sitting on the bed with the lights off having a train of thoughts in her head. She's never been the kind to believe in karma and she's not about to start now.

She believes in revenge and she sure finds it sweeter than berries and she somehow feels like time has arrived for her to have the taste of this sweet sugar that she's denied herself for a long time.

What Sidney put her through was unforgiving and gruesome to put a woman who had just lost their child at birth.

Him ignoring me throughout my pregnancy days was an awful experience.

That arse hole made me feel like I was a fly that was flying its way chasing a freshly slaughtered cow. He never cared about me and my absence. Instead he framed me and accused me for something that I never did.

He insisted I was guilty even when I told him I knew nothing about what had happened because I was in Soweto crying myself a river mourning a child that he chose not to want nor care about when the drugs incident happened and for that I want him to feel the same pain that he has put me through.

I know this embarkment of seeking revenge might need me to dig up two graves one for my enemy and one for myself I care less about the outcomes of me not coming out alive from this all I yearn for is to watch him go crazy not losing himself and his pride as a man not knowing what strike him. If there's one way to break a man is through his family and Delive and their little cute Cebi boy will be my best axe to cut down the tree and dig up its roots so it won't grow ever again.**

She deeply breathes..

—

[Lefa]

My ancestors are surely proud of me for sticking this long to watching and finishing a movie while I have a woman besides me I'm not too kind to watch a movie for one hour thirty minutes my kind of movie watching resumes at 08:00 and ends at 08:10 I don't stick that long actually I happen to know the ending of the movie without even watching long it's obvious these things end with a happily ever after and I celebrate on their behalf see?

"Let's go to bed" I say switching off the television and peeling off the blanket. She looks at me.

"Keng?"

"I need to calm down a bit the movie was sad"

I narrow my brows.

"So I must cuddle with you and comfort you babe?"

"Maybe"

"Alright"

I bring her closer to me I lift her chin up. Our eyes lock for a little while I capture her lower lip and suck on it gently she sucks on my upper lip. We exchange lips as the minutes pass without breaking the kiss.

I make her to sit on top on me facing me with her legs resting on either sides of my body. Immediately her weight lands on my lap I slashed my tongue inside her mouth she reciprocate that and makes hers to duel with mine.

It's getting a Hella hot in here my bulge is expanding profusely surely it's making her uncomfortable or better yet more horny as it's twinging not far from her soft arse. She cradles my face with her soft and skinny hands. I break the kiss.

"Are you on birth control?"

"Yes"

"Alright" I say running my lips on the side of her neck nibbling her and sniffing her freshly bathe aroma. The t-shirt she was wearing after bathing has rippled all the way to her tummy I remove it and suck hard on her lips my finger is invading her soaking wet pundeda. I rub her swollen clit and squeeze her arse in my hand forcing a moan to escape her lips. I would love to give her a foreplay but right I'm hard and ready to burst I'm gonna eat her and cover up for that foreplay. I roll my sweatpants a little so my cock can slide out I rub it on her clit before I slam inside her forcing her to hold on tight on my neck. I thrust and grab her arse helping her to bounce up and down on my cock..

—

[Sidney]

She left me a tons of missed call knowing my girlfriend she's probably livid wherever she is and cursing fire. Phela Deliwe ke Dragon these days she's easily irritable. Last night I slept early I was exhausted and all sleepy nje. I was having a very strange feel I kept on dozing off like a pregnant lady. I was sleeping in my sleep am I making sense? Its rings twice on the third ring she answers.

"Hello.." It's a plan and cold one she's angry and I'm in deep shift of which I deserve. Phela I didn't call her nor spoke to her since I got here and besides network has been poking the tip of my penis with a knife that's how bad it was.

"Sunshine how are you?"

"Fine" God she's cold.

"Baby o kwatile? Are you angry"

"No ke thabile Kamo. No I'm happy"

Sarcasm I see.

"I miss you"

"Okay"

"Ke sorry baby I slept early last night and network was bad askies rato laka.
Please don't be angry?"

She breaths heavily.

"Butternut?"

"Mmmm..."

"Please forgive your man his missing you mommy and most importantly his crazy about you."

I find myself blushing while jetting my morning erected penis on the side.

"I no longer love that man of mine the one that I love like crazily wouldn't survive three hours of not speaking to me"

"My hazelnut I'm sorry sweetheart. You know being mad at me will hurt the baby too?"

"Why do you like blackmailing me with your kid Kamo?"

I chuckle.

"Mxm!"

"Baby sorry."

"Fine"

"I'm forgiven?"

"I can't stay mad at you for that long and besides it's not healthy for my spirituality to harbor anger and grudges."

"Spirituality?"

"Yes.. I'm a woman whose seeking the kingdom of God before seeking the materialistic things that his capable of giving me."

I sit on my butt.

"Hello and how are you can I please speak to mama Cebi"

"Kamo stop it"

"Baby what is going on? Are you okay?"

"I'm perfectly fine"

"What just said was not close to that."

She giggles.

"Did you go to church maybe?"

"Yes and sang like an angel on the pulpit."

"You lie"

"Baby we need God on our side more than we need our own understanding I feel like we need his help and support more than we need the future that we've planned and discussed by ourselves. Like baby let's step out of our routine let's pray more often and go to church more. Our routine doesn't allow us to live in his anointing it shifts us away from what he wants us to have. "

I blink profusely something is wrong with my girlfriend.

" Is this Khwezi Langa I'm speaking to? "

" Baby stop it please I'm serious here"

"Mommy you preaching?"

"No"

"You are giving me strange feels some people call it goosebumps. I don't recognize this voice but the message is loud and clear and for some odd reasons you've been singing the prayer line for quite some time now."

"That's because we need God as our foundation anything that was built and created in his foundation will never ever be destroyed by a storm that wasn't there when it was formed baby."

I'm jaw dropping.

"Honey you are making my skin to cringe"

"Sthandwa sami we need to be an it couple that gets their fighting tools from God our house and our family must be covered in his blood if God is within our circumference nothing deadly and devilish can ever destroy what was marked by God."

"Preach baby I'm loving this new version of my girl. A woman who finds her weapons in the house of the lord is a woman who is unbreakable. I love you Deliwe"

"And I love you more Kamo"

"I miss you sweetheart"

"We all miss you honey"

"You made me feel somehow babe you sounded like an angel that was passing a message like a she knew a storm was coming to sweep off from our ground."

"Maybe there is a storm that is coming and the only way we can survive it is through prayer and belief in his name."

"I still feel like you are not my Catte"

"Kamo don't call me that" I chuckle.

"Good morning by the way"

"Morning handsome"

Second one coming♥♥

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[Millicent]

I don't normally practice my African traditional whatsoever beliefs but right now I'm stranded. I need help as in yesterday I feel like all the walls are caving in me it's like all the bushes are burning out and scattering all over leaving no place for me to hide. Ngesizulu kuthiwa:

"Amahlathi nama thafa okucasha aphelile ngisele obala okweselesele.
Nelanga lingishonele"

Meaning all hiding places are no more I'm naked and exposed as the frog. I don't know what really happened for me to turn out this way. I was never this vile in my previous life I've never believed in hurting others. I was a lover a peace maker not a hater and destroyer. I don't need anyone to pity me or to feel on my shoulders but I strongly believe I lost myself elsewhere and that I never instilled hurt on other people willingly. It's like someone or something motivated me into being this person not that it was a decision that I made willingly but it's too late to turn back the hands of time I need to dance to the drum and find a way out from this situation at hand.

"Your name is?"

"Millicent Ngoyi"

"Did you bring your candles?"

"Yes"

"Sit over there we will start with prayer before the reading"

I nod and go sit by the chair. She brings a couple of stuffs and glares at me.

"Can I have your candles"

I hand them over.

"Let's go this side"

She says leading me to an outside room that I believe is where she conducts her work in. She closes the door and kneels down.

"Come we gonna pray now"

I roll my navy long dress and kneel on the floor. She joins our hand.

"Close your eyes"

I do as said.

"Mvelincangi msungili wakho konke. Uwena obonayo uwena owaziyo futhi uwena uzophetha lomsebenzi. Yehlisela amehlo wakho nezindlebe zakho ubuke isimo salengane uzwe ukukhala kwakhe unguyise wakhe uwena omdala. Ngisebenzise ukudlulisa umlayezo wakhe oqhamuka kuwena obheke kuyena amen."

Lord

You are the creator of all.

Only your eye sees beyond our human eye only you knows holds knowledge of all and only you gives the final report. May you direct your eyes on her direction may your ears hear her cries.

You are a father to this lady is she is one of your creation. Use me lord as a vessel to pass down her message that comes from above delivered to her in the name our lord and savior amen..

The lady glares at me and switches the candle that refuses to be set alight. She tries again with her eyes fixed on me.

"Millicent why is your candle refusing to be set alight?"

She says glaring at me. How am I supposed to know and explain that? It's her duty to tell me.

"I don't know"

"Are you a believer?"

I believe in myself nothing else but me.

"I'm confused"

"Who do you believe in?"

"Myself"

She looks at me.

"Sisi your candle is not shedding any light meaning God is not besides you"

"I didn't come for him but my problems and how I can fix them"

"Millicent you are filled with darkness there's no light in you. Everything that's associated with you consists this cloud of darkness and unpleasant aura. You have signed a deal with the devil and sadly God has left your side and there's nothing that he can do to save you because you gave the devil the upper hand and will to use you against your true self"

I swallow hard I'm not following any of this.

"The Bible says there are two doors one that is filled with light and life and one that is covered in darkness and death. The other door is scribbled God and the other Satan when you open the one scribbled God you find beauty and light while the one scribbled Satan you find hate and darkness and wena Millicent you chose the one that has the darkness side of the door"

"Look this is not making any sense im not a Satanism of you going there."

"You have separated yourself from the light and the help of God you have sacrificed your body and soul to the devil Millicent and he is using you to push his missions."

I stand on my knees this is rubbish.

"I won't listen to this it's rubbish! "

"That's because I'm shaking hell and torturing your foreign God who is only taking and destroying from your life but never replacing and fixing things Millicent. You've given Satan the power to use your body to destroy people you allowed anger and revenge into bringing you closer to the enemy just like Eve you heeded a wrong calling and bowed to a wrong selfish and blood thirsty God who is making you tired and drained and unhappy all the time. Your God is hurting people doing evil things to everyone and even to yourself Millicent. You not happy yet you've been devoted and destroying to get a squeeze in.. "

I head to the door.

" What you did to those kids and their parents is catching up with you. You have no place to hide Millicent and sadly Satan is not gonna fight for you but leave you exposed to death. "

I step outside with my hands shaking the lady follows me.

"You have a mark my child written on your forehead.. Pain is not supposed to change you and make you what you not pain is supposed to grow and shape you and lead you to your true self and destiny."

"Ngiyeke! You are a fake seer and prophet!"

"That pain wasn't supposed to be channeled into hate and anger you were supposed to heal and challenge yourself to being a better person that whats pain was trying to convince you as. You made a mistake by choosing to hold in hate and anger in your heart instead of letting things go. Darkness has consumed you and sadly no one is coming to save you uzikhethela indlela yakho! "

I slam the door and drive off speeding Kedibone lied about this Dora Landa woman saying she was best ever that woman was lying nothing that she said was the truth! I'm no Satan's agent actually I'm gonna tarnish her so called fake prophet disguise i won't rank her good on social media. I'm gonna expose her isikhohlakali sika gogo..

—

—

[Angela]

Bayanda is the only one doing the talking at the table both Derrick and I are quiet. There's a gigantic Goliath in our house and none of us is willing to defeat it. Millicent did not sleep home.

"I've found her on Facebook" Bayanda says with joy.

"You found who?" Derrick asks.

"Ma Delza aka the vocalist"

Both my husband and I lift our eyes to glare at Bayanda then the "YOU DID WHAT" kind of question pops up again.

"Bayanda what did we say to you? Didn't I warn you against it?" Derrick mouths spitting out fire.

"Pops it's not a big deal come on we just friends on facebook nothing major"

"Bayanda you gonna unfriend that lady!!!" Derrick shouts.

"Not a chance pops I wanna feature her on my song that I wanna drop off next month and besides I've just shared her video on the net as anonymous she has 5k views already and it's still morning 7am to be frank"

Derrick beats the table annoyed and stands up.

"How could you do such a thing Bayanda?"

"Don't yell at him it was a harmless gesture Derrick"

"A harmless gesture Angela? That girl is a whore!"

"You won't talk about her like that Derrick!"

"She is a whore a prostitute that I don't want coming closer to my son!!"

"And how do you know she is whore?"

"Because my friend slept with her!!"

"You the mean the friend that is you Derrick? You slept with my daug...." I cut myself mid sentence. Bayanda glares at both of us especially me.

"What did you just say Angela?"

"Bayanda go to school"

"Did you say she is" Bayanda utters carefully.

"I SAID GO TO SCHOOOL!!!!!!" I roar and my son walks out leaving Derrick and I.

"What did you say she was Angela?"

"Phuma kimi wena!" I say turning my back to walk away.

"I'm talking to you you slut!!"

"I slut unyoko owafeba ukuthi kuzalwe wena!!"

(A slut is your mother who whored for you to be born)

I roar.

"What did you just call my mother Angie?"

"Exactly what you called me Derrick!"

"What is catte to you and how do you know her Angela?"

I look at this fool with my hands folded.

"The same way as you know her. Angithi nawe you know her from my sister's brothel and nami ke I know her from my vagina! We both know her through her nakedness"

"What are you implying?"

"Isizulu sithi malibili amaxoki othandweni and you are and I are both beautiful liars DERRICK!!"

I shudder Derrick looks at me confused.

"You mean she is is your.."

"My daughter? Yes!! She is my baby!!"

I say walking up the stairs.

"You have a sister too? Florence is your sister?"

"Ubucinga ntoni wena?"

He chuckles.

"Deliwe is my sister mama?"

The voice says from behind me it's a shaky voice and that Is Bayanda.

"I know I wasn't supposed to have heard that nor known about it because both my parents are conniving and manipulative rich arseholes!!!" Bayanda roars and walks away. Derrick looks at me with anger in his eyes it's not like his gonna do anything to me. He is a liar and a backstabber just like myself. I guess that's the reason we are married siyafanelana..

—

[Mphikeleli]

I've been tossing all night long cracking my skull open. This can't be true I really pray she is not pregnant. Nkosiyami sibatadala and besides we are mkhulu and gogo imagine use rocking our newly born baby and our grand child on the other. No maarn akwenzi. I know that cheese boy of a pastor said what makes sense to God doesn't make sense to us but whatever sense is involved on this Carol's matter is not sense fulfilled at all. We are quarter to fifty years old bakithi. Bazohlekisa ngami oKusile noBhekumuzi shall this be true. Naye nje uCaro mdala She is 45 years old and I'm 48 can you imagine the disgrace? Heir or not this is madness and besides we will be taking Deliwe's shine by doing so. Yazini this things is stressing me out...

Futhi let me wake up and go bath I'm taking her to the doctor.

"Uyaphi?" She says pulling me closer to closer as I attempt to shuffle out of the blankets.

"I wanna get to the bottom of this situation you trying to put me through"

"What situation?"

I glare at her with my brows furrowed. She ships her hand inside my trunks.

"Buya.. Senze fast so we can go about our day-to-day activities you need to go check out that place before someone beats you to it. It's a good business venture after all. Buya"

"My penis and I are not in the mood get up we going to see the doctor"

I slide out of bed erected and I careless about making the combos communicate. I'm in this mess because of it.

"So uzongigovela Mphikeleli?"

"Angithi uyamitha wena umdala you fasting till further notice"

She giggles and claps her hands In disbelief.

"Othi uyadlala Mphazima"

"Not a chance get up so we can go get a scan"

"There's no need for us to go there Mphikeleli"

"Caroline get up and put me at ease. I hardly slept last night. I've been tossing and turning all I saw and heard in my sleep were babies and their annoying sobs get up"

She giggles I furrow my brows.

"Carol it's not funny"

"It is baba wama girls look at your face it's pale and you sweating"

"Eish sukuma tuu"

Honesty I'm frightened I'm very scared just like I was when someone's daughter told me she was suspecting she was pregnant. One can never get used to this thing.

"Sthandwa relax maybe it's nothing serious."

"Nothing serious after you gave me that philosophy? Sukuma Caro."

She stands up pulls her gown to and walks towards our wardrobe. She opens it then a drawer.

"Like I said we don't need to go to the doctor I can always test myself in here"
She gives me a box of something written "Home pregnancy test"

I swallow hard and looks at her.

"And how do we do it?"

"I need to pee on it and then my results will appear."

"Is it accurate?"

"This is the same thing the doctor will use Mphikeleli"

"Yooh.. Umuntu bekachuna Ini Mara? What was I doing?"

She giggles and wraps her hands around my waist.

"Why are you relaxed Caro and not scared just like myself? Mfethu kubuhlungu ukumithiswa!"

She burst even more.

"Asambe ke siyoyenza" she walks in front of me heading to our restroom. She stretches out her hand I give her the box.

"One line means not pregnant and two means pregnant"

"That one is simple it's gonna be a single line. I know oMphazima won't allow me to be turned into a laughing stock. Nabo bayazi nje ukuthi ngiyindoda enesithunzi"

"Let's wait and see ndoda enesithunzi"

"Sure."

I lean on the wall while she pees on the stick. We both have our mouths covered in our hands as we waiting for the results. The stop watch beeps meaning we can check our results.

"Are you gonna look first or I should?" I ask.

"Go on"

"Fine" I open the box ngenziwani kodwa emhlabeni kasimakade? Yini Lena nkosiyami?

"Ithini?"

"Iyasangana lento! Umbhedo we going to see the doctor"

"Mphikeleli what does it say?"

"Yoo Carol awume!" I leave the bathroom and go outside to smoke..
Nginginelwe amanzi endlini laa!

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{Sidney}

I just had my lunch when my cell phone rings its Rhu calling I haven't seen that guy in a while.

"Rhu my guy what's up?"

"Yeyi wena why are you ignoring my calls? I've been calling since morning"

"Dude Capetown is giving me network difficulties. I'm not ignoring you my guy.
Howzit?"

"Did you check your social media?"

"You of all people should know I don't entertain that. What's up?"

"Dude your girl is trending"

"What do you mean by that?"

"Sidney just check your social platforms"

"Is she trending for good stuff maybe?"

"Just pop in my guy."

I end the call with a train of thoughts running wild in my head. The only thing my girl would trend for is the prostitution part and that information being leaked could come up with a storm and I'm scared for her and my unborn child. I quickly create a fake account just to take a peep on what's going on.

—

—

{Deliwe}

I have so many missed calls from Tumi and poor me was deep in sleep. Let me get back to her.

"Tumie hi"

I said still yawning.

"Babe are you okay?"

"Yeah I'm okay I was just sleeping in case you think I was ignoring your calls."

"Where are you?"

"Your brother's house why asking?"

"Have you gone out today or checked your social media?"

"No why asking?"

"Look babe do me a favor and stay far away from the street's and your social platforms. I'm on my way to your house."

Okay what is going on now? Why should I not check my social media platforms? Some is spicy here.

"Deliwe did you hear me?"

"Yeah I got you"

"Fine. Where is Ebi?"

"Playing outside"

"Fine baby I'm on my way"

"Okay." I say surprised by the way she is so eager to getting here and me staying out of my social media pages not like I'm a regular but now that she warned me against it I'm somehow curious about what is going on over there.

—

[Priscilla]

I decide on skipping my lunch break to drive to Mazondi's house. Unlike any other day today I'm lucky because she's outside her yard more like she's coming from the tuckshop to buy bread and spinach leaves. Meaning I stand a chance to summon her to lending me her ears of which I'm suspecting will be a challenge. She looks stubborn if not mentally disoriented.

"Ma Zondi how are you?"

I call out and the poor lady panicked accidentally spilling the few remains of her disco pops snacks.

" I'm sorry I gave you a fright ma but can I have a minute with you it's urgent."

"Who are you?" She asks confused and a bit terrified. It looks like she doesn't recall my face.

"My name is Priscilla Ndlovu and I'm here to help you mama I believe you hold a very important information that I desperately need ma."

She looks at me from head to toe.

"Who sent you here?"

"No one ma I came here all by myself."

"Are you the lady who came here yesterday saying she was a detective?"

I swallow hard.

"Yes ma"

"I told you what I know I know nothing about those kids. Stay away from me!"

She says walking to her gate.

"Ma Zondi please give me the information I know you not guilty and that you never wanted to cause any harm on those kids but a serpents voice whispered into your ears and made you do whatever that happened. Let me help you in protecting your name please ma"

She looks at me and heaves a sigh.

"I don't have teabags but come in"

Breath of relief.

"Thank you ma."

"Hold this for me my hand is giving me trouble"

"Sure ma" I said stretching out my hand to carry her little stuff.

We get inside her house the lights are on and looks clean.

"Hlala lapho" She commands with her back facing the door closing it. I make my self comfortable on the chair. She boils water and takes out a saucer and tea stuffs.

"Like I said I don't have teabags"

"Umbhubhudlo ulungile ma ngakhula ugogo engenzela wona."

A little gesture of humor kindness and openness makes it easy for people to open up to you. As expected she is giving me the look.

"What did you say your name was again?"

"Priscilla Ndlovu"

"How old is Priscilla?"

"I'm 36 mama"

"Back in the years before I become a nurse I was a domestic worker"

I lean forward to lend her my ears.

"There was a man whom I've loved so dearly he was a gardener and I was a tea lady. We both got along very well"

She faintly smiles. I did not come here for witty love stories but I will listen.

"His surname was Mphazima he was married but he loved me too"

"And what happened ma?"

She scoffs and opens a cupboard taking out mugs.

"Like any other woman and man who loved each other we made love not once but a countless times in madame's house."

God Ogogo with their stories.

"I got pregnant for him"

"Okay and?"

"I kept the baby from him because jealousy got the better of me each time he would tell me stories about his wife and his son he was so happy with them to

such an extent I felt like my baby was never gonna be wanted and loved. So I gave birth and I.."

She looks at me.

" I gave up my child. "

I look at her confused.

" She would be your age had I not left her in front of a Baptist churches doorstep. "

I guess messing with people's kids is her given talent.

" Surely you asking yourself why I'm telling you this story"

Of course but I careless.

"I made a mistake not once but twice Priscilla. And I feel like it's about time I handled a baby case differently"

I nod. She gives me rama buttered bread with tea. I look at my cup.

"It was my last teabag."

"We can share it ma"

"You so kind young lady."

I get that a lot.

"Thank you"

"What did you say you were here for again? I forgot please remind me"

I look at her she reminds me of my grandmother.

—

{Sidney}

I'm pacing up and down in my room

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AD

I have so many names in my head for possible people who are capable of doing such I just don't understand why they chose to focus on the bad instead of the good of the video. The video was about a church girl who sings like an angel not a lady who was a prostitute who happens to be a baby mama to one of the "MATTHEW'S BROTHERS WHO RAN AWAY FROM RESPONSIBILITY"

I care less about being dragged on that comment as a useless father but I care more about who the culprit is. Because God and my ancestors knows

what I will do to them shall I find them I won't be lenient with them already I'm smelling their blood from afar and I'm so gonna rinse my hands with it.

A knock comes to the door.

"Fuck off!!" I shout loud for the person to hear I immediately book myself a flight ticket. Someone else will handle what I was supposed to do when I came here I will text them to heed the calling.

"Kamo it's me Lerato please open"

"I said piss off"

"It's important okay!"

I storm to the door I open. To my surprise she's showing me the front of her coat she is naked and maybe sexy.

"With the heat going on social media you could use this to de-stress"

"Lerato what are you? What are you doing?"

I say still focused on her perky boobs and perfectly shaved vagina.

"Can I come in?"

"Sure.. I mean no"

"Come on Sidney I know you love it more when you stressed out. Come fuck me like a bitch I am come" She pushes me aside and walks inside my room. I stand by the door mesmerized. I hear something vibrating inside my pockets I pull it out. I look at the screen and answer.

"Cupcake"

"Everyone knows they know Kamo. They calling me names!"

Fuck she is a mess and she needs me.

"Baby listen I'm on my way home okay? Please calm yourself down do it for the baby okay?"

She's sniffing and maybe nodding her head wherever she is.

"I'm coming honey I love you okay?"

"I love you too"

"I'm gonna hang up right now is it okay with you?"

"Yes" She's sniffing. I end the call and roughly open the wardrobe doors taking my stuff.

"So you gonna ignore this?"

"Fuck off Lerato I have serious problems not an itch. Cover up you look bad with those silver strips and cellulite"

I had to say it just to scare her off.

"Silver strips le di cellulite ke mmao! " She roughly pushes me aside. Like I give a fuck.

—

{Caroline}

Sindiswa's call made me have my first ever morning sickness after years. I can't believe Angela would stoop this low to breaking my daughter this has her name written on it and I won't let it slide. I know how to handle bitter sluts like herself I never dated a gangster for fun.

I find grumpy Mphikeleli watching soccer more like the soccer game is watching him. His been moody since we took two more pregnancy tests and paid a doctor a visit. I take my car keys and wallets luckily I'm wearing a high-

waisted Adidas legging with it matching sweater. I wear these when going for my yoga classes.

"Uyaphi?"

"Gym"

"Arent you pregnant to be doing that?"

Sathane hayi manje suka endleleni yami.

" Ngiyabuya" I say walking to the door. I remember I'm wearing flops I need sneakers. I quickly jog to the bedroom I search for my sneakers.

"Carol I asked you a question"

"Now that it's you doing the talking you expecting answers from me? After ignoring me for the past hours? Hhayi Mphikeleli nawe get your answers from the furniture or maybe the hand."

I say heading for the door the devils cousin blocks my way.

"Sit down"

"Mphikeleli come on"

"You not going to the gym angithi umithi wena? Or ukhohliwe?"

"I'm only 6 six weeks pregnant Mphikeleli stop exaggerating"

"I said you going nowhere!"

"Yoooh Mphikeleli!! Wawu kuphi abantu befa eMarikana?"

He squints his eyes.

"Askies? Uthini?"

He says with a stern voice. I keep quiet.

"Carol! I'm talking to you utheni?"

"Ngiyaxolisa sthandwa sami but can I please go ngizobuya manje. I need to handle something urgently. "

He looks at me with his brows narrowed. I move closer to him to bribe him with a kiss that he doesn't reciprocate.

"Be back by 6 o'clock if not you will be pushing that baby out today at 7pm"

"I promise kissy?" I say looking at him putting my hands on his shoulders anticipating a kiss. He comes closer and puts his hands on my round and firm booty. He gently kisses me.

"I love you"

"I thought I was no longer loved since I chose to be pregnant at old age"

He chuckles.

"I would be a fool to allow that Mami"

I blush and I hate it ngoba he is making me lose ounces of my anger.

"So I'm not getting my I love you too?"

"You know nje ukuthi ngiyakuthanda nami"

I say biting my lower lip while he squeezes my bums.

"Honey let me go please"

"Usheshe ubuye please"

"I will baba ka six weeks"

He smirks and spans my butt as I jog outside. I pray she's at work nkosiyami. I want Deliwe's entire family to trend if needed be. No one can hurt one of my girls and get away with it. Nginguphuma silwe mina ask Mphikeleli if you don't trust me.

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[Priscilla]

"Did Sidney pay you to do what you did?"

"Who is that?"

" This man" I show her a picture. She looks at it closely.

"I've never seen this face before it's all new to me"

"Mama please try to remember surely you know this guy. Don't protect him if his the one he needs to pay for his sins. Please work with me not against me I'm on your side."

"I don't know him Priscilla! I just told you it was a woman I worked with and her parents are very rich and corrupt I'm tired of this. You need to leave Priscilla I don't want trouble. My life is a mess as it is leave me alone if you won't arrest me."

I heave a long sigh.

" One last question before I leave ma"

"I said I don't want to talk go young lady you've already overstayed your visit"

She says looking uneasy and terrified.

"And her do you know her?". I show her Portia's picture.

"Of course I know her she gave birth to twins boys and the white lady gave birth to a baby girl it was the teenager who had a still born a boy child. Go Priscilla!"

She says pacing up and down. I look at her with worry.

"The teenager what was her name?"

"I SAID LEAVE!!! You digging up my grave! She's going to kill me"

I slowly stand up with my eyes fixed on her. She opens the door for me and walks me to her gate.

She locks it and turns her back on me to walk away.

"About your daughter do you need help on finding her?"

She stops walking to look at me.

"It's the least I can do to thank you for your kindness if you don't mind. I can take you to a safe place where no one will cause you harm please"

"Are you willing to do that for me?"

" Yes Ma surely it's torture living your life without knowing where your child is."

She heaves a long sigh.

" I will pack up then come inside."

I follow her inside I think she's suffering from dissociative identity disorder if not bipolar her sudden change of moods is frustrating honestly. One minute she's chirpy the next she's gloomy and overwhelmed then protective of herself. It's too much honestly I fear for her life explaining my why's of not wanting to leave her all by herself in this place. Besides she's a good asset to this case.

—

[Sidney]

" Baba ka Cebi! "

My son says running towards me I drop my bag on the floor to pick him up and swing him around.

" Hey soldier how are you? "

I say pressing his head over my shoulder carefully brushing his hair.

"Where did you go babami? I was missing you"

"I was at work my boy how have you been? I've been missing you boy."

I kiss his hair he wraps his hands around my neck.

"Cebi you adding pounds boy the last time I picked you up you were light weight."

He giggles.

"Are you saying I'm fat daddy?"

I chuckle.

"No baby I'm saying you glowing and growing and I'm a proud dad son"

I playfully mess his hair.

"Hey you back?"

"Hey half I'm back. How's everything going?" I ask side hugging her.

"We hanging in there now that you are here I should get going I left Kaone with her father and I should go home before they worry about me. "

She says that statement shying away from me.

"You back with him?"

"Its complicated Kamo the girl was lying about this pregnancy thing."

"You haven't answered my question"

She looks at me with her brows narrowed.

"Tumie.."

"Kamo can we not go there just drop it please."

"After all its not my heart they messing with but yours. Where's Deliwe?"

"Like really Kamo?"

"Real on what Tumi?"

"It's not my heart they messing with and blah blah? Like really dude?"

"Sorry just not thinking straight."

"She's sleeping she cried a lot but she will be okay"

"Thank you for popping in It doesn't go unnoticed."

"Your pain is my pain I care Sidney" She hugs me again and pecks my cheek and that of Cebi.

"Got to bounce I love you guys a lot"

"We love you too half"

I faintly smile footsteps echoes on the passage. My pearl appears rubbing her eyes. She is wearing a wooly baggy jersey with a bum short and socks. She has a headwrap on her head. She looks at me and faintly smiles.

"Hey.." She says walking towards me.

"Hello gorgeous how are you?"

I say wrapping my one hand around her waist pecking her lips.

"I'm okay and when did you get here?"

"Just now look at her yours eyes mommy."

I say with a soft voice pecking her neck.

"Bye family"

"Bye Tumi thank you so much"

Deliwe says breaking free from me to embrace my sister.

"Having you over really helped I appreciate you Tumi. You the best sister in law ever I couldn't have asked for more."

They smile and peck each other's cheeks and hug again. I look at them in admiration. I'm a very happy man I'm blessed honestly. The women I love so dearly have each other's backs I like it.

" Bye sweetheart and don't mind them okay?"

She nods and walks Tumi out.

Cebi looks at me and giggles covering his mouth.

" What young blood? "

" Are you going to leave that by the door? "

" Leave what? " I say with my brows narrowed he points to my bag.

" The lion is gonna roar daddy"

He says in a whisper we both giggle.

"Thank you for the bailing me out son."

He giggles. I walk to the door

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AD

hoping to take my bag but my lady Catte picks it up before I could. I look in her eyes.

"Cupcake I was about to pick it up and I."

She puts her finger on my lips to silence me she straps it over her shoulder and wraps her hand on my waist side hugging me with her head resting on my shoulder.

"Let's go put it where it's supposed to be."

She says politely.

—

We all climb the bed all three of us we watching a comedy movie on my laptop. I'm the big spoon on Deliwe and she's a big spoon on Cebi. I run my hand on her stomach and start scribbling around her belly button. She puts her hand on top of mine. She is a bit tense what's happening is taking a toll on her she may not say it but I feel it.

"Are you okay baby?" I whisper in her ear.

"Yeah are you?"

She's not okay I know Deliwe.

"Apple butter you don't have to pretend with me. Talk to me baby tell me how you feel share the load please. "

She heaves a soft sigh and squeezes my hand.

"I'm a good listener baby you can even cry on my chest. Do anything cupcake I'm willing to catch you when you fall."

A warm fluid lands on my hand I move closer to her and press my lips on the side of her neck.

" I'm here baby you don't have to fight this and suffer on your own. I'm your man apple butter talk to daddy"

"I don't know where to begin"

"The beginning is always a good start."

She heaves a soft sigh.

"It's gonna blow off babe such things only last a day or three then it's written off on history. I care less about the paparazzi and hearsays. I proposed to you knowing you were once that kind of a person at some point in your life. Baby I'm here to stay you don't have to worry about me or my feelings. Deliwe nna I love you woman fucked up and I'm not scared to shout on roof tops declaring my love for you baby I'm not shy about you. Baby girl you are my favorite chapter in a book. "

She sniffs.

" Hey I don't know much about guns but I
I've been shot by you and I don't know when I'm gon' die but I hope that I'm
gon' die by you
And I don't know much about fighting but I
I know I will fight for you Deliwe"

I swallow hard and fondle her breasts in my hands.

"And just when I ball up my fist I realize

I'm laying right next to you. Honey we ain't got nothing but love And darling you got enough for the both of us."

She clears her throat and starts singing softly.

"Make love to me
When my days look low
Pull me in close and don't let me go
Make love to me
So when the world's at war
Let our love heal us all help me let down my guard
Make love to me me me."

She sings softly with breaks in between I kiss her neck inhaling her scent.

" Beyonce.. " She says softly.

" Yes baby that song speaks to us. If you can't talk about it then let's make love only then you will put

your guard down. "

I said that pulling her ear gently with my lips while fondling her swollen and tender boobs.

"Ngiyabonga sthandwa sami"

"For?"

"For always cheering for me even when a thousands of people are doing a thumbs down on me and throwing sticks and stones on me. Sometimes I wonder how you do it Kamo loving me so effortlessly each and every day. Baby I've been nothing but a piece of work kuwena but not in a single day have you complained or threw in the towel. Kamo you love me so much and it hurts sthandwa sami. "

I run my hand to her waist.

" I'm not a regular at church apple butter but I know a bible verse on 1 Corinthians 13:7 it says:
Love never gives up on people. It never stops trusting never loses hope and never quits and that babe is the kind of love I have for you."

She tilts her head to look at me her eyes are glistening with tears.

" Ngiyabonga ukuthandwa kangaka sthandwa sami. Unkulunkulu ungiophe into yami ngawe."

I chuckle and capture her lips and gently suck on them.

" Nenzani Nina? " Cebi says we both chuckle and end the kiss.

"Sorry Cebi" He faces the laptop. I lean over on Deliwe's ears and whisper.

"Which into yakho baby?"

She giggles.

"Not that side facing ugly thing of yours Mr Matthews."

I giggle.

"Ugly thing? That's not what you say when it's buried between your legs making you whimper like a wet puppy"

"Kamo!". She says gently biting my hand the one she's resting her head on.

"You don't want me to make love to you when the world's at war?"

I say moving her hand to my pants fronts.

"Ow my word baby! Just stop it."

"You mean the stop it you like it kind of stop?"

She giggles.

81

81

[Priscilla]

My husband is grumpy and all gloomy I'm so not having any of this with him. I'm tired honestly.

"So you turning our house into some interrogation room or a charity event like really Priscilla? First it was that creepy woman and now her? What exactly are you? Afrikatikuni?"

"I'm tired please can we not do this the lady needs protection nothing more and besides she's very crucial and assertively to the case. Can we not fight over her"

"Priscilla this is getting out of hand woman I can't even fart in my house without bumping into living ghost! I want them out come morning"

"What part of they assertiveness did you not grasp? I can't let go of her if she dies there's no case I need her more than she needs me."

"This case is driving you crazy woman instead you haven't noticed. You've been feeding me and the kids take aways for a week now you've even neglected my bedroom needs for a two full weeks Priscilla. This case some how became your new husband and I'm the side nigga! "

" Yoh.. I'm tired of this bickering a kid was separated from its mother that's top priority. An erection doesn't lose much on memories but a kid and a mother does so suck it up. Switch off the lights when you done whining like a baby! "

I turn my back on my husband and rest my head on the pillow.

" Men cheat for these same reasons then you call us trash "

" If you are a natural born whore you you will whore mfethu and if it makes you ease the reaction then go whore. It's your penis you will be using not mine futhi kogula wena"

He looks at me mesmerized I have Sidney to reach out to not to entertain his huge cock. He has a pussy on his hands he can fuck it while mine is under go slow. I need to solve this case as in yesterday so I can move on to the next.

[Deliwe]

The time was 11pm. My feet's were resting on his shoulders his face was buried on my pair of lips his hands gently pressing down my waist on the bed. His slippery tongue scribbling (O) on my clit was sending chills all over my body my eyes were rolling back and my lower lip was quivering in pleasure. I

found myself squeezing my breasts and rubbing my hard nipples. He was doing the most down there. He made me raise my arse and brought my cookie closer to his face giving me the best lick his ever given me I found myself putting my hand on the back of his head drawing him nearer to my sensitive organ. He was pushing his tongue in and out and deep inside my hole I didn't want him to stop. He was driving me crazy. He laid me back and got on top of me to kiss me. His two fingers were busy deejaying on my privates I flinched in pleasure.

"Hello my beautiful whore?"

He said inside my ear his warm breath drove me crazy.

"Oh my word baby!!"

"You taste sweet mommy"

I slashed my tongue inside his mouth and moaned inside his mouth. I was enjoying his fingers within my folds. He broke the kiss.

"Make love to me baby" I managed to say.

"Not so fast baby"

He said leaving traces of kisses on my neck.

"Kamo..." I belch with defeat.

"How bad do you want it?" His voice was soft smocky and seductive it was turning me on.

"So bad I want it and I want you baby"

He put his one hand on my neck and looked at me.

"You want it?"

"Yes.. I want it daddy"

He kissed me while fingering me. He pulled back a little.

"How do you want it my apple butter?"

"Passionate and slow"

"What my lady wants she shall get it"

—

[Mphikeleli]

She moves closer to me protruding her big bums out. With intentions of teasing my joystick it usually works but today it's not gonna bail her out from what she did yesterday. Had it not been for Sindiswa calling me shit would've been real.

"Yeka ukungi nunusela ngezingqa Carol."

(Stop seducing me)

"I'm not doing that come on.. That's how I sleep Mphikeleli."

"What were you thinking vele attacking Angela?"

"I didn't attack her come on! How many times am I supposed to tell you that I handled her not attacked her?"

"Carol yini ngawe? Umithi uHulk or uThor? Cos woman you are too much with your aggression. Why did you attack her at her work place? Are you even sure she is the person behind what happened to our daughter? "

"So you labeling my baby Mphikeleli?"

"I'm not doing this with you."

"That's because you are turning into a marshmallow baba ka Sindiswa! The Mphikeleli I knew and fell in love with would be out there emptying dustbins and barking at every one searching for the culprits who is behind our eldest daughters predicament. But your balls have been watery you can't stand the heat.

Actually yini ngawe Mphikeleli? I went to fight for our daughter which is something you were supposed to be doing! That slut hates Deliwe and she confessed it on your face I don't understand why you've become team "Angela" over night! Uyanyanyisa nje nawe! Rhha! "

" Uzoya e labor ward ngempama uyezwa? Masingajwayelani kabi Carol angiyona ijwayelani super store. As much as I love fucking you but I would love fucking you up even more masophaphiswa isisu esikhulu! What you did was a losers move! Attacking people like really? "

(I will take you an early labor with just a slap. Let's not get over familiar with each other I'm not jwayelani super store)

She clicks her tongue and moves far away from me.

" Angela is a ministers wife she could get you arrested and locked up for good uzobhantinta nalesisu sakho esikuphaphisayo. Think with your head not your hormones Carol! "

" Okusalayo you are a softie Mphikeleli! Kanti why did you go to prison if you won't act and think like an ex con? Slap me all you want I will slaughter your throat ke mina your teachings! "

She jumps out of the bed.

" Yeyi wena mapakisha akukhulunywa kanjalo nendoda yomzulu come back here! "

(You don't use that tone with a Zulu man)

" Phuma kimi.. You busy vouching for your childhood slut but not your daughter whose surely crying and unhappy wherever she is.. Yini usamfuna? "

I get up from the bed and walk towards her. I look at her and swallow hard she looks at me.

" You wanted to slap me? "

" I would never do that how can you think of that? Carol ngifelani Kanti? Ngangikuphi abantu bephiwa abafazi abathobayo? "

" Ubusejele ubucula" Sengikhumbula ikhaya labazali bami" That's were you were leading that song! "

(You were in prison singing sad songs)

I narrow my brows and chuckle.

This is not funny I don't know why I'm laughing but yooh! I was punished here this woman doesn't love me at all.

[Sidney]

Today I want to treat my family for starters I want Faith to do her hair I can't stand this hair look I want her to do her nails and slay like a queen that she is. We all going to the salon today but first let me do something for her to eat. She is kaak exhausted after last night that was the aim after all she is stingy at times so when an opportunity avails its self I need to do the most of it so I won't suffer hunger. She is snoring softly and looking cute as always. I put the tray of English breakfast on the bed pedestal.

"Cupcake" I shake her gently.

"Whore ya Kamo tsoga Kamo misses you. "

She turns to face the other direction I move to that side.

"Whore yaka tsoga!"

"I'm sleeping dude."

She says annoyed.

"This whore won't wake up geez! She sleeps like a dead person!"

I say that out loud getting hold of her hand to unlock her phone. She opens her eyes and sits on her bums she glares at me with her brows narrowed.

"What did you call me baba ka Cebi?"

I press my lips against each other blocking a laugh from coming out.

"When sfebe saka?"

I narrow my brows.

"Sidney ngizokukhaba yezwa?"

I chuckle

"Jwang? Show me please"

She rolls her eyes.

"Roll them till they fall off honey so you won't see me when I cheat on you."

I smirk and she throws a pillow on me.

"Ouch baby!"

"Serves you well."

"I made you breakfast rato laka"

"Really? Sthandwa sami? Ngiyabonga yezwa? " She smiles.

"Pleasure my sexy she devil"

The look again I chuckle.

"Kopa kiss?"

"For eng?"

"Haibo baby for my good boyfriending demeanor and making breakfast maybe? " I say pressing her phone.

"Kanti where are the nudes baby?"

She looks at me.

"Kamo"

"Mommy"

"Is that my phone?"

"Yes why asking?"

"What are you doing with it?"

"I don't know" I narrow my brows.

"You better not be recording me"

"Me? No way baby I would never ever do that to my trending whore. Gosh!! No! It's nudes I'm looking for some men get them but not Kamo. Why vele?"

She narrows her brows.

" Why window shop when you own it?"

I squint my eyes she bites on her sausage seductively.

I press my lips against each other and glare at her. I move to where she sitting
I lift her chin up forcing our eyes to come in contact.

"Did I tell you hot?"

"My vagina is swollen Mr man. Sausage?"

I bite hard on my lower lip and put my hand at the back of her head I smash
my lips against hers.

"Baby... No."

She says pushing me away gently.

"I won't fuck you just wanna kiss you"

I say that moving my hand to her pot.

"Kamo.. Baby come on."

"I will be quick"

"Morning baba wami ontswempu nomama wami omuhle"

Mara morena Jesu! Why does this kid hate me this much Mara? Does he always have to be a dick dropper? Is it because he ain't my sperm? Hence the punishment? Mcebisi thoughtbut I still love him more than yesterday at it.

"Morning little replica you good ntwana yami?"

"Ngi grand ta Sidney"

I narrow my brows.

"Ye wena Ty whose teaching you these things? "

Cebi laughs.

"Uncle Lefa"

"You never seeing that guy ever again his corrupting you"

"Mamncane will take me to him if you won't take me. Hello baby"

He says brushing Deliwe's tummy what does he mean by Mamncane will take me there? Is this boy trying to tell us something? Kodwa angikho lapho.

"Baby wrap up there we going out"

"No way Kamo"

"Yes way Faith.. No woman of mine will live in fear over paparazzi let them talk I care less. Actually give them something that will have them drooling over you. Baby o stoko Sama nnete"

She giggles.

"I love you mlungushi wami"

I stick my tongue out..

82

Not edited

SIDNEY}

Her nails are digging deep on my skin I'm pumping her hard and she's moaning sexy inside my ears making me more horny. I have her pinned on the wall with our shower water pouring over our heads. My heaven is approaching and I'm upping the pace.

"Oh Sidney!! Ooh!!" She belch and sucks on my neck so hard.

"Oh! Fuck apple butter! Fuck mommy!"

I groan as my balls go stiff and I start jetting while squeezing her arse so tightly and aggressively.

"Ouch Kamo!" She hails.

"Sorry baby" I say joining my forehead with hers with my eyes closed.

"Thank you baby" I capture her cold lips. I gently slide my coated penis out of her oven I put her down and quickly bath. We go lotion and dress up. She opts for a bodycon black dress with flops. She's not wearing a bra her nipples are standing firm on the dress. I go stand by the mirror looking at my outfit.

"You look eye candy baby you don't need a mirror to know that"

"Thank you sweetheart" She smiles I get a hold of my cologne I sprinkle it on one side of my neck.

"Apple butter"

"Daddy"

"What is this?" I say pointing at my neck.

"What baby?"

She asks walking towards me.

"Cupcake come on you gave me a hickey like really?"

She covers her mouth.

"Mara Faith!"

"Askies it wasn't intentional"

"It looks like a mosquitoes bite"

She chuckles.

"Sorry baby"

"Come here I'm giving you one as well. I can't go around with a mosquitoes bite alone if I have one everyone in this house is having one"

"Hayi Kamo!"

"Hayi eng? When you gave me one? Woza mfethu"

"I'm not playing Kamo wiiybo!"

"We shall see about that" I say playfully pulling her and sucking on her neck hard.

"Aaaah Kamo! Uyangilimaza!"

She says giggling.

"I will limaza you for real mama ka Cebi."

"Usile wena mlungish"

"Fuck you Deliwe"

"It's takes two to tango"

"Are you challenging me mosadi?"

"I will tell Cebi he will beat you up. I swear"

"That's never gonna happen his on my side and wena you have no one on yours but your little Fihliwe"

She furrows her brows.

I gave her a bigger love bite.

"Kamo Mara! Yini ngawe? Mine is bigger!"

I burst in laughter.

"You don't love me wena struu naas!" She crosses her fingers and looks at her reflection.

I run my hands on her waist my baby is showing.

"Yini?"

"Nothing"

"Come on Khuluma"

I narrow my brows.

"Yini Kamo?"

"Mommy your bump is visible"

"Serious?"

I nod. She looks at me.

"I'm wearing a baggy dress then"

"No I love this one it's cute"

"Cute? You gonna say that because you not the one walking around with an unprotected sex proof."

I burst in laughter.

"Its not you didn't participate on that your fuck me Kamo I want you. Is a result of that."

She rolls her eyes.

"To think you hated me when I was still trying to propose you and get what's in the panty mara faith ungihluphile shame."

She rolls her eyes.

"I think it's my turn now to play the hard to get game"

"Play it after your Fihliwe is out of my womb."

"Don't call my baby Fihliwe Deliwe"

She giggles.

"We should you a beat so you can rap that was a rhyme. Fihliwe Deluwe it's all about the Liwes"

"That's ridiculous"

We giggle and carry whatever we gonna need.

—

[Priscilla]

After last night's conversation with my husband I decided on spoiling him on some English breakfast with his favorite coffee in bed. He is still mad at me but he chose to smile instead and appreciate my little efforts.

"Thank you"

"Pleasure.. About last night I'm sorry. I was out of order I shouldn't have said half of the things I've said"

He looks at me.

"Like really I'm sorry."

"The only way I can grant you an apology for what you did is you promising to be hands on the house and do your wife duties as instructed by elders. I'm a man Priscilla who loves his home cooked meals and the fragrance of his wife PH's don't turn me into something I'm not. I know you love your work and that you dedicated to it but I would love the same attitude to this marriage of ours. That's all I need Priscilla is that too much to ask for? "

I swallow hard.

" No"

"Then please do the right thing and I want those women out of my home. The kids are not comfortable especially with the new the one. She looks crazy"

"I will find a way forward thank you"

"I love you maNdlovu"

"I love you too Gatsheni" I smile.
Since it's my off day a little treat won't hurt..

—
—

[Mphikeleli]

I look at her with my brows narrowed.

"We need a bigger house."

"For what?"

"Two babies will be joining us soon. Meaning we need two nursery rooms"

"Unless you want it for Deliwe Mina I'm okay with sharing the bed with my child."

I heave a sigh and look at her.

"Yini?" She asks.

"Lutho"

"So you won't ask for forgiveness for you said yesterday Mphikeleli?"

"Why should I apologize? You are the one who owes me one"

"I gave you one this morning."

"When was that?"

"I gave you a morning glory Mphikeleli"

I giggle.

"Wena you apologize with sex while Mina I should apologize with words?
Kanjani Carol?"

"Stress is not good for the baby Mphikeleli "

"And it is good for me right?"

"Give me back my sex only then I will apologize with words"

I narrow my brows.

"Yeah give it back"

"Now I understand why taverns open at 10 am"

"Askies?"

"Lutho mama"

"What did you say about taverns?"

"Konje a baby comes after how many months?"

"Nine"

"Yooh"

She looks at me.

"Kushuthi ngisazodakwa mosi"

"I hear you njalo"

A knock comes on our door.

"Are you expecting someone?" She asks.

"Yes"

"And who is that?"

"Police" She squints her eyes.

"Police? Why them?"

"Angithi wena uyashana? Ungu Arnold Schwarzenegger aka uRambo. They here to deliver your orange jumpsuit so you can go to Paris"

She swallow hard.

"You joking right?"

"I'm not I told you she was gonna call cops on you"

"Mphikeleli do something please. I won't survive that place"

"You should've thought of that before attacking someone"

She stands on her feet. The knock comes again
I go attend to it.

"I come in peace is your wife around?"

"Hello and how are you Angela"

"Can I speak to your wife"

"Come in" I make a way for her.

—

—

[Deliwe]

People are looking at us as we parading the mall. I can see a few taking pictures of us honestly I care less because my man is holding me like my life depends on his embrace. I'm honestly walking tall with zero fucks in me.

"Are you okay?"

I nod. He smiles and pecks my neck he rests his hand on my waist side hugging me. We walk to exclusive hair.

"Baba this is not where we did our hair last time"

Cebi says the barber looks at them.

"You right soldier we went to legends previously."

We greet the people inside the salon.

"Hey sisi Mbali can you please make my fiance more prettier than she already is. Do her nails and hair if possible please"

Kamo says making me blush..

"No problem please sit on those chairs we wanna finish with these people"

We do as instructed. Kamo sits on the first chair and I take the second one and Cebi cuts his hair. As I'm sitting I feel a very recuperating and peaceful slumber creep in. I put my hand on the armrest and rest my head on it. While doing that I spot a few girls drooling over my man when I look at them they fix their gaze elsewhere. I look at Kamo who is busy on his phone. I clear my throat.

"Babe"

He looks at me..

"Are you calling me apple butter?"

"Yes baby can we swap seats?"

He narrows his brows.

"Why?"

"I want yours baby this one is uncomfortable. I think I'm going to fall"

He looks at me and stands up. We swap the seats I want to prevent the ladies from glaring at my man. The ladies look at each other and softly giggles Kamo looks at the ladies and then me. He scoffs and shook his head.

"What?" I ask him.

"Nothing babe" He says that with a smirk.

He gently pulls my chair closer to his he puts his arm around my shoulders I rest my head on his chest.

He pecks my forehead and continues typing on whatsApp.

"Are you okay Mami?"

"I'm tired I want me some sleep"

He looks at me.

"Did I make you tired?"

"And numb baby"

He chuckles.

"Sorry I will be gentle next time."

I look at him so does he we both chuckle. People glare at us.

"At least we next sweetheart hang in there"

"I will try" Kamo brushes my tummy with his loose hand I spot a few people exchanging eyes. He stops typing on whatsapp and switches to a camera.

"Let's get a good angle"

"Acute is always the best"

"You love getting things from the corners aren't you? Even in bed you want acute"

"Sthandwa sami this is not the place to have that conversation" He giggles and moves the camera. When he finds a better angle he captures my lips and sucks on them he takes pictures while at it.

"Mama hhayi" We break the kiss.

"Cebi this is my wife okay? Don't be jealous"

People giggle but not the ladies who were drooling over my man.

"Deliwe please come on board"

The hairdresser says.

"You are a celebrity baby"

"Tell me about it"

I stand up. A tall dark beautiful lady walks in wearing a demin dungaree with a red shirt sleeve t-shirt.

"Sidney Meso.."

She says with a broad smile greeting my man.

"Hello Priscilla how are you?"

"Now that I see you I'm the happiest woman alive I've been meaning to call you.. There's something I would like us to talk about"

Why am I getting livid with this? I hide my anger.

"Is it important?"

"Very important"

Sidney looks at me.

"I'll be outside babe."

I nod burning with anger.

They both walk outside I look at them through the glass door. I'm angry about this and I won't let it slide.

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[Sidney]

I look at Priscilla she looks at me.

"You said you wanted to discuss something important and what is that?"

"Kamo I don't know how to put this but you know Portia went missing a couple of years ago right?"

"And how is that any of my business maybe? "

"Kamo something awful happened before Portia went missing of which I believe you deserve to know if really you hold no knowledge about it. Portia was pregnant Sidney."

"Priscilla I don't know nor understand why you telling me about Portia and her pregnancies and her going missing. Portia and I happened when when we were still young and naive it wasn't something that serious that would've led to us settling down or having kids. We just had fun and it ended there. I'm not in a position to be bombed about her like she was a part of my life that was dear to me you knew it was fun and nothing more. "

She heaves a sigh and looks at me.

"Sidney you not following this you not seeing the bigger picture of it."

"That's because it's irrelevant for me to understand Priscilla. If you wondering about what happened to her I don't know anything and I don't have a hand in her disappearance."

"Maybe you don't have a hand in her disappearance but you do on her babies disappearance. I mean you just said it was fun related maybe her falling pregnant along the way of your supposedly fun relationship frustrated you Kamo to such an extent that you and your girlfriend tempered with her babies. "

I chuckle.

" Why would I do that? Come on that doesn't make sense! For Christ sake I never knew she was pregnant why would I temper with another man's children? "

" That's because those kids were yours Kamo and you wanted nothing linking you to Portia. You never wanted to build with her hence you hired Mazondi with your girlfriend to have your sons switched at birth. Portia was pregnant for you Sidney"

I look at her confused what is she talking about?

"Excuse me?"

"Look you have children out there twins. Boys they were separated at birth by a woman and maybe yourself of which I believe the person who did that was gloomy and beset about Portia."

I chuckle. Deliwe and Cebi walk past us.

"I need to go this is rubbish"

"Sidney you need to help me find your kids your twins." I ignore her and run after Deliwe. Priscilla is crazy right? There's no such thing as this.

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[Deliwe]

I've never been this angry in my whole living life I really can't believe Kamo. Maybe I'm exaggerating but what happened back there was pure disrespect what kind of a partner would spend plus or minus an hour with another woman in the presence of their girlfriend? Already I'm trending for the wrong reasons then he does this. What would people say:

"Baby daddy cheating and flirting with other women in her presence poor catte the slut"

Uyanginyanyisa uSidney for real I could slap him so hard in the face for doing this to me his embarrassing me kodwa akaboni yena. I lean against his car tapping my feet's. I'm waiting for his white arse to get here.

"Cebi"

"Mama"

"Please wait here my angel I'm fetching the car keys"

"Okay mama" As I'm about to walk to wherever he is the cat drags him.

"Baby what was that? What the heck happened out there?"

"Ukhuluma nami Kamo?"

He glares at me.

"And now?"

"And now yani? And now yani Kamohelo?"

I raise my voice.

"What the heck is wrong with you Deliwe?"

He asks holding my hand.

"You flirting with whores in my presence! That is wrong with me"

"Gosh you gotta be kidding me! Are you hearing yourself right now?"

"Mxm!" I yank my hand and walk towards the car.

"Cebi where's mommy's phone?" I ask my boy.

"Here mama"

"We gonna request back to the house uyezwa?"

"Deliwe don't test me okay? What the heck is wrong with you? No son of mine is riding in an Uber not over some gimmick stunt!"

His insulting me.

"Fine daddy flirty stay with your son I will take an Uber then happy now? "

He snatches my phone and unlocks the car. Cebi is looking terrified.

"Get inside the car Deliwe"

"Angifuni"

I fold my hands and tap my feet.

"Deliwe I won't repeat myself!"

He says between his teeth.

"Mama nobaba ningalwi"
(Don't fight mommy and daddy)

"Tyler baby get inside the car okay?"

Sidney says crouching in front of Cebi.

"Wozani Nani"

(Come in as well)

"You heard the baby get inside Deliwe"

I look at Sidney livid apparently his angry over what I do not know his anger is ridiculous and absurd. I wish I can slap him and give him a proper reason to have red cheeks hhayi lomsangano awenzayo ungijwayela Kabi lona. I open the back seat door and sit there staring outside the window. Sidney drives to a direction that I'm not familiar with.

"Where are you taking us? We don't stay this side"

"Shut up Deliwe!"

"Don't use that tone on me Kamo wiiybo! Umfana! " He shots me a deadly stare Cebi starts to hail. Sidney parks in front of a house Tumi comes out and my son is left behind. He drives us to our house we not speaking to each other.

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[Sidney]

Immediately we get home I sprint to the bedroom. Deliwe is annoying me honestly I don't fucken know where her problem is. I have so much on my mind and her crazy hormones is the least of my worries and problems. She

better not come here I don't wanna beat her up cos her nagging and stupidity is heading on that direction . She opens the door.

"Who is she?"

"That was the first question you were supposed to have asked before you pulled some gimmick stunt in front of our boy. Kahle kahle yini ngawe?"

"Kamo ngithi ubani loyana! Is she slut you were with in Cape Town?"

I chuckle and stand up.

"What is funny Sidney? So you flirting with your whores in my present Kamo?"

"Can you shut the fuck up cos you gabbing rubbish Deliwe. I'm not cheating on you woman!"

"I must what? Shut the what Kamo? "

I look at her and ignore her. Twins? Me? How though? Why didn't Portia tell me about the pregnancy? This shit is fucked up.

"I'm talking to you!!!" She screams.

"Deliwe can you stop this madness motho wamodimo I'm not fucking that girl. I don't understand why you doing this! I'm not in the mood!"

"You make me pregnant then show me your true colors Kamo like really?"

I'm not entertaining her not when I'm not in a good space for such. I take my car keys and wallets then drive out. She's still barking behind me but I will come back when less progesterone and lactation hormone driven I will end up smashing her head against the wall. I drive out of the yard I spot Mrs Langa standing by her veranda I greet her and drive away. I need to See Sihle maybe just maybe he saw one of the twins that Priscilla told me about. But how? Actually I'm going to catch up with the gents maybe they going to shed some light on this..

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[Carol]

I laugh my lungs out I don't know who and what this surrogate mother thinks she is but in my house I do the talking and she will do the listening.

"I'm her mother not you!" I yawn yet again.

"You mean a womb donor? Stop degrading mothers wena by calling yourself one. Ungumama ngakuphi uhlanze Ingane yakho njengomtshokozo? " (how are you a mother when you spew your child like she was vomits?)

"Carolite or whatever you call yourself don't get too familiar with me okay? Do every thing but not getting on my nerves. I'm only respecting you because you remind me of my late grandmother it would be a huge slap on the face to disrespect and elderly andilwi nezalukazi mna. The fact that I'm not fighting you back it doesn't mean I'm scared of you I came here to warn you against what you did try it again I'm gonna get you arrested. "

I giggle.

" You called me a what? Caro what? See bleaching your skin has damaged you even your brain thinks about your cheap congolese bleaching cream while we not even discussing that. About your gogo surely she was a hot thing because people who look like me are rare to find honey we are dynamites we are dynamites if you don't trust me ask your ex boyfriend "

" Can you two stop already Kanti yini ngani? How old are you again? niyangidakwa serious!"

Mphikeleli mouths his been reprimanding them for a while now but both women were not putting their guard down they both ghetto and stubborn. Angela could've married and stayed in the surbarbs for a while but she is township breed woman she knows how to be ghetto too. This cursing of theirs is proof she's familiar with how things are done here. While on the other hand Carol is ghetto and dangerous when she says she's gonna do something believe her cos definitely she is gonna do it. She hates bickering she prefers throwing in fists or breaking bottles if there's war.

Mphikeleli is glaring at both women as they arguing honestly he wanted to leave the both of them and go get himself drunk but after weighing both their

personalities he decided against it. Deliwe takes after Angela with her stubbornness.

"Nicedile ukurasa?"

(Are you done making noise?)

The women keep quiet and glare at Mphikeleli.

"Angikhulumi namabonda angithi?"

(I'm not talking to walls right?)

Carol looks aside.

"Fine since you won't be doing the talking then I will do it. Angela you gonna back off from my daughter like you said a couple of months ago. You said you hated her and never wanted her now set back lady and play ghost like you've been doing since twenty five years ago. "

" Mphikeleli she's my daug... " Mphikeleli raises his hand forcing Angela to keep quiet.

" I wasn't done talking. " Angela keeps quiet.

" Only Deliwe will decided if she wants you as a cut and paste in her life or not but if akafuni uzomyeka sisi siyezwana? " Angela keeps quiet.

" And wena Caro you will stop this nonsense of going around fighting people whether they wrong or right thats not your fight to fight. Eyakho ise bedroom on top of me not in public places. Failure to do that I won't bail you on top of that you will remain husband less. No wife of mine will be a hooligan. "

" Kodwa leli I was"

"Ubani othe I'm done talking?" Carol keeps quiet and looks aside.

"No wife of mine will be hooligan under my watch if you want to be a wrestler do it ungathandani nami uyezwa Caro?"

She keeps quiet.

"Another thing handle this matter like grown ups not as two teenagers who are catfighting each other over a crush who doesn't love any of them. If you both gonna be a part of Deliwe's life you will treat and handle each other with respect. Be it a womb donor or step up mother this nonsense is annoying and nauseating ngazuthi nibanga indoda yini? "

Both women look at Leli.

"Cabanga sengibanga indoda nalento?" Caro says.

"Like I never left you something to munch on. He was mine before you sisi keep that in mind" Angela-

"Manje owami ke uvuka phakathi kwalawa amathanga thanda kanjani?"

"Animeni Nina Kanti yini?"

They both click their tongues. Mphikeleli looks at them with miff labantu sebalwela Mina.

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[Sidney]

The gents and I are gathered in a pub having drinks they all glaring at me. I'm far in thoughts Sihle hasn't arrived as yet and his the only person I wanted to see urgently.

"I'm coming my phone is ringing" Lefa says standing up leaving Rhudzani and I.

"What's eating you Kamo"

"Just had a little argument with Deliwe and your ex is to blame Ndoda"

"What ex?"

"Priscilla she just told me Portia was pregnant and that she delivered twins Rhu"

"And who was responsible?" I look at him he covers his mouth.

"Kamo you joking?"

"No dude apparently I have twins out there that were swapped at birth."

He whistles.

"Then if Portia was pregnant with your twins how did you impregnate Deliwe because you were in Eastern cape tm during the Portia times."

"Can you keep secrets?"

"Sure"

"Mcebisi is not mine biologically but Shalton I took custody of him because Shalton was a dick. Dude was absent since his mother's pregnancy so yeah that's my little story with Cebi."

"So you are an uncle to him?"

"Sure"

"Sidney Rhu ninjani bafethu. Traffic had me my balls" Sihle says sitting down after giving us a brotherly love.

"You good?"

We assure him we good.

"You told me you saw my son in Sandton with a man"

"Yeah I saw Cebi with some white dude in Sandton there was a baby girl too."

Rhudzani glares at me I return it.

"By white guy you mean a Marcus kind of white guy?"

"Yeah. I thought it was a family member who took him out for a walk or outing. Better yet I thought Deliwe was cheating on you."

I bang the table and stand up.

"So she was telling me the truth?"

"And it looks like one of the truth is In front of you" Rhu says.

"But how Rhudzani? I need to see Priscilla!!"

"What is going on here?" Sihle and Lefa ask.

"Gents I need to bounce it was a pleasure seeing you"

"I'm coming with you Kamo"

"No Rhu I got this I want you to track Portia down. Maybe the bitch never died after all"

I walked outside heading to my car. If there's a kid who looks like Cebi then it means Cebi is a twin of which it doesn't make sense because I never slept with Deliwe back in the years but Portia actually what is happening here?

"Priscilla hello.."

"Can we meet it's Sidney.. It's important"

"I can't hear you clearly"

"It's me Sidney please let's meet somewhere you gonna feel safe"

"I'm in a club."

"Where is that? I'm coming"

"I will send you the location."

"Thank you dear" I end the call lord why am I tempted to steal my son's DNA and that of Deliwe so I can get clarity. I mean I once said "I see my younger self in Cebi" days before I dated the mother and I used to say "Something about Cebi draws me closer to him" I mean I understood the kid better than the mother did Deliwe was harsh on him and I was gentle. He was finding peace in me not her no Kamo! No! You allowing the alcohol to play mind games with you. Cebi is Shaltons kid you and Shalton are blood related so it's likely for a kid to look like you while you don't father him but..... ****

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[Mazondi]

Sometimes in life our self decisions don't only hurt those that we only intended to hurt the pain escalates to those who were not even considered when an impact was implemented. So many hearts bleed and suffer from just one stupid decision that was only targeted for just one person. I honestly never intended on hurting anyone but with the information that was used against me to participating in such a gruesome and infiltrating thing I had no option to join the wolves on skinning innocent individuals I cared more about myself and my integrity than the pain of those who were going to be on the receiving end of my action. I was the kind that got employed through opening their legs and when that information was to be used against me I had no choice but to exchange the children. I wasn't going to be labeled after my decision making so I thought..

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[Portia]

There's a scripture in the Bible that says "Children will suffer for the sins of their parents" Meaning what you do today will surely haunt your child or your generation will be the one settling your debt. Just like Eve who was cursed in the book of genesis for eating a fruit from one of the forbidden trees she gave birth to Cain and Abel Cain had to carry the curse that was casted on his mother By killing his flesh and blood Abel out of jealousy. Meaning Eve's curse was passed down to on her womb and her next coming generation. On this case it's such a pity Mcebisi is a product of Sidney's bone meaning he will settle the score just like Abel. If there's one thing i know about pain and betrayal it's changes people the good one's die forever and bad ones are tamed. On this case I'm the good one who died forever after what I was forced into by yours truly. If flames should be ignited then so be it he played his own part and I will do mine..

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[Sidney]

"Priscilla you too drunk you not hearing anything in saying!"

He said on a high pitched tone the music was too loud if he wanted Priscilla to hear him that was the only way she was gonna hear her out.

"Let's go outside!"

Priscilla shouted back. Sidney stood on his feet's and walked outside. They finally found a less noisy place and glared at each other.

"You said you wanted to talk about what?"

"I want to know everything about the twins and Portia. I want to know the names of the women who gave birth on that night or day."

Priscilla burps.

"Why don't you make things easier for both of us Sidney by questioning your ex girlfriend she surely holds knowledge of this. My source mentioned she is a daughter of the most prominent and corrupt leader so you can start there."

"You mean Millicent Ngoyi?"

"You were sleeping with her right? Now go interrogate her"

Sidney swallow hard as thoughts cloud his mind.

"You said my kids were boys twin right?"

"Yes born on the 21st of June 2014 Bara hospital"

Sidney furrows his brows as the date of birth rings a bell.

"Did you just say 21 June 2014?"

"Yes.."

"I see.. I need names of the women can you help on that?"

"Names are useless without contact details and addresses."

"But an address is always included on a file please get me a file on Deliwe Faith Mphazima"

What am I doing? Why am I so adamant about Deluwe being involved somehow on this?

"That should be your girlfriend right? The catte girl the trending one?"

"I see you also into trends and nets."

She chuckles.

"Why would you want your girlfriend investigated Kamo?"

"Opps don't mind that I'm tipsy self"

I faintly chuckle.

"I'll pretend I didn't hear that one."

"Thank you Priscilla I will conduct my very own research"

"Don't do anything stupid I still need to investigate Millicent myself. I want her alive Sidney"

"Sure thing"

"That should be all?"

"Yeah"

"I should get going then" She said patting my shoulder and walking away. I drove to Tumi's house I'm gonna sleep there and besides Cebi is there..

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[Deliwe]

When all options runs out and seems not to work nor provide you peace of mind and stillness. The best resort is going down on your knees even when it means crying instead of saying words. Today I'm having one of those Old version of Deliwe kind of moments. I'm feeling empty and out powered I feel like I'm carrying a Goliath over my shoulders and I'm crossing it over to the other side of mesa's and pediments. I feel so hollow and so broken. I was told to power my out on God and today it feels like I want to have that heartfelt moment with him..

I'm down on my knees and resting my hands on my bed. My eyes are closed and tears are rolling down my eyes I feel so exhausted and so receiving of whatever lemons are being thrown on my direction. It's worse when Kamo is a part of those who are throwing sticks and stones at me.. ****

I know that I'm not worthy

I know that I've lost my ways and
done so many horrible things in my previous life.
If you can use a failure then
I've failed so many times and I've made so many mistakes but now I want to
get it right and I need you to help me lord. My heart is on my sleeve I'm
cringing in pain and losing the power to do things the way I see it fit. I'm not
strong lord the sticks and stones are breaking me and I have nowhere to turn
to

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the sticks and stones are breaking me and I have nowhere to turn to but you.
Lord take every part of me take all that I'll ever be take control of my life my
hopes my goals my dreams and my well-being. Lord I surrender totally
because you are my destiny.
My broken and troubled heart is my offering lord your one touch will change
my life
Lay me at the throne so I can gaze upon your glory Touch me lord and make
me whole again.
I surrender all you are my destiny.....

Amen...

I said my prayer with tears streaming down. I slept all by myself all night long.
The following morning I wake up having a splitting headache and nausea my
stomach is having cramps too. I make myself a simple toasted bread with
avocado and down it with juice. I take a mango fruit and go sit down by the
sofa attempting to call Sidney. He doesn't return my calls I let him be and long
in my Facebook people are admiring our yesterday pictures. There's this
person whose name is popping up on my notifications it's a Bayanda person
who reacted on all my pictures. I check his profile it's Angela's son the one I
saw at church. I text him a simple "Hi Bayanda thank you for stalking me"

When I'm done I toss my cell phone on the side.

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[Millicent]

I'm reading a novel by the canteen since its lunch time when my friend walks in running. She sits on the chair opposite me.. I lift my eyes to look at her.

"Chomie"

She's panting it's pretty obvious she was running.

"Kedi." I close my book and look at her.

"Millicent you won't believe what I saw with my two eyes just yesterday at the airport."

I lean over.

"What happened? What did you see?"

"I need water friend or maybe alcohol"

"This is a hospital Kedibone obviously you won't find alcohol here."

"It's high time you stored alcohol in your fridges some patients like myself needs it.. More of it."

"Cut the crap what did you see yesterday at the airport?"

"Give it a guess chomie"

"I suck on those spill the beans already. Lunch will be over soon"

"Chomie yimi loya nama suitcase I'm minding my business Chomie uyangizwa?"

I look at her.

"Yeah and?"

"Chomie ngithe ngisathi ngimile waiting for my maxi taxi to go home. Thlaa u Portia chomie with long nails long lashes nama weave awavala izibunu. Girl she's alive! And she is slaying."

"Whoa! What do you mean by she's alive Kedi?"

"Portia is in town girl and you know what that means. She's here for you"

I swallow hard.

"Me? For what?"

"Millicent you sabotaged the poor girl ukhohliwe with the drugs saga? She knows it was you and kuzoshuba chomie"

I blink endlessly.

"I'm not the one who sent her to Mexico"

"But it was you who framed him all in the name of getting her away from Sidney. On top of that you cloned Sidney phone and deleted messages."

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[Millicent]

"It's bygones I doubt a normal person would act on something that happened in 90 donkey years."

I said sipping from my bottle of 100% juice.

"Millicent do you know the capabilities of a demented and viciously person who was charged for crime they never did? Portia wasn't stupid after all."

"I appreciate you telling me about such information but its irrelevant to me ngoba I'm not the tree to bark on but the fool who impregnated her and never looked back to the swamps she was left in. If Portia wants to scream at someone for the aftermath she suffered then it's simple that someone is Sidney Kamo the whore who was cheating on me with her."

With that said I took my stuff and left the canteen heading to the restroom. I looked at my reflection on the mirror what did I do?..

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[Sidney]

Cebi and myself just had a shower I'm combing his hair while lost in thoughts.

" Baba"

"Mmmm.."

"Are you angry?"

"No Cebi boy"

"Then why were you arguing with my mother yesterday?"

"We were not arguing Cebi"

"But mama was angry"

"Adults talk like that at times Cebi"

"I don't like it when you talk like that"

I keep quiet.

"Baba"

"Yes Cebi"

"Do you still love my mother?"

Why this question? I heave a faint sigh and kneel in front of Cebi.

"Yes or no?"

"Of course I love mommy"

"Then why did you not bring her here to sleep with us in aunty Tumi's house?"

He asks looking deep into my eyes.

"Baba you promised to love us remember?"

I swallow hard.

"Please take me home to my mother"

Cebi says shifting away from me. I look at him as he dresses up. I'm tongue tied I don't know what to say honestly. I'm flabbergasted by Cebi's questions am I really doing something wrong unaware? I quickly dress up and follow Mcebisi to wherever his going. Tumi blocks my way.

"Can we talk bro"

"About?"

"The shitty stunt you pulling Kamo."

I look at her.

"Why was Deliwe not told about your whereabouts?"

"She ran to you I see"

"You see what cock head? What the heck are you doing Kamo? Are you for real dude like seriously?"

"Tumi stay out of my business please"

"I'm afraid I can't give you that. You promised to be with her come spring and summer Kamo. Do you know how broken that lady is back in soweto?"

"I needed my space okay?"

"To lick that slut's you were spotted flirting with in front of Deliwe?"

"Deliwe is being ridiculous! She's putting things into your head I wasn't flirting."

"Kamo cut the bull and go home or better yet take her calls. Like what the fuck is wrong with you? Since when does silent treatment do the trick with Deliwe? In case you have forgotten Kamo not all women are made like Millicent someone women can not succumb the punches and ill treatment if you continue like this she will leave your arse and I will cheer on her. "

She stands up.

" So you won't ask me what happened? "

" If I was deserving of the update you would've told me of which you didn't so I don't fucken care. All I care about is that woman you ignoring since yesterday now the time is 6pm but you haven't said anything to her and yeah you love her isn't it? "

I look at her and swallow hard. Cebi stands in front of me.

" I want my mother"

I look at him.

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[Deliwe]

Boredom will be the death of me with the help of these thoughts that are clouding my mind. My mother owns a few small businesses I suppose lending her a hand would come in handy. I don't care about the cutting stares I will get. The time away could come in handy..

"Mama"

"Deliwe how are you?"

"I'm okay mama I'm thinking of popping by at work to lend you a hand."

"Are you low on cash Deliwe?"

"No mama I just need the distraction"

"Fine baby Woza. I'm at the eatery"

"I'm coming"

"See you then."

I end the call and request to Dube. I find her wiping tables we share a hug and start wiping the tables together. She looks at me.

"How are you holding up with all the vile things people had to say on social media?"

"It's gonna blow off ma. How's dad?"

"Your father is hot and cold his just himself my baby"

I narrow my brows and glare at her.

"Seems like I'm not the only one whose having trouble in paradise"

Mom Caro glares at me.

"Is it bad sisi?"

"When he sleeps out then it's pretty bad ma"

She stops wiping the table and pulls my hands to nearest table.

"Wanna talk about it?"

"Nah ma it's nothing I won't manage. I'm a big girl."

I faintly smile.

"Talking about something helps Deliwe"

"Mama don't worry I will be okay relax"

She looks at me.

"What did he do or what did you do? Is it related to the rumors?"

"No mama we had a little altercation yesterday so he didn't sleep home and my calls were not reciprocated."

"That's awful sisi"

"Excuse me can I get your attention?"

A lady says by the door.. Both mama and I turn to glare at her damn some people are living large.

She looks pretty.

"A little birdie told me your meals are mouth watering do you mind proofing them right maybe?"

She says smiling.

"Yeah sure.." Mom says walking away. She looks at me.

"You must be Deliwe Mphazima"

I look at her brows narrowed.

"Don't worry babe I'm not a gossip hey. I just happened to find interest in you.. I like how you ignored the rumors and chose to slay. You pretty."

She looks at me and smiles again.

"Portia Dube"

She says stretching her hand out I shake hers.

"How about we try the meals together? I will pay."

"I'm actually here to help my mother out"

"You lie! That fine lady is your mother? Now I see where the beauty comes from you sucked on the hottest woman's boob.."

I return a smile.

"But really Delive I find you interesting babe You so cool You so cool calm and collected. I love you ladybug please join me"

She shows me a chair I pull it and sit down.

"Pleasure meeting you Portia"

"Likewise. Do you mind exchanging numbers with me? I could use the company from what I'm seeing. You not much of an outing person like myself so maybe just maybe a friendship could be born out of this table"

"I could use a friend hey with my suffocating life and the chaos around it. I need some saving."

She giggles.

"Let's do drinks"

"I will pass Portia"

"Why babe? Are we pregnant maybe?"

"Yeah I'm expecting"

"Owh! That's sweet Deliwe. Sidney really loves you lady baby number two on board"

"Yeah he does."

"It's crazy how it took social media for us to collide."

"I know right?"

Mama comes with her food.

"Mama Deli please dish up for yourself and Deliwe I will pay."

Mama Caro glares at Portia without a smile..

"I'm not starving thanks but no thanks."

Portia looks at Caro.

—

Its crazy how I enjoyed myself with Portia yet it was our first encounter meeting even though I was forced to drink a bottle of wine because I wanted it and seeing Portia gulping hers like it was water made me to salivate to such an extent I ordered one more like Portia ordered one I told her Sidney won't know about this I mean what he doesn't know won't kill him. I didn't notice the time was 11oclock till I walked inside the gate.

My legs are kinder wobbly but I won't let it show.. I can't afford having a fight with Sidney his back I see how car.. I open the door it's dark in here. I carefully tip toe to the passage.

"Ubuyaphi Deliwe"

A voice mouths from this darkness filled room. Forcing me to stand still and listen to my galloping heart. I keep quiet footsteps echoes.

"Must be a tape recorder and repeat myself huh?"

I swallow hard.

"Deliwe I'm talking to you! Dare lie about your parents otlonyela! Where were you?"

He says switching on the lights. I look at him why is he angry? Akaphole lona he didn't sleep home last night uyaphuma nje kimi. I turn to walk away but my arm is pulled back.

" Did I say I was done talking? "

" Why are you barking Kamo? It's not like you told me about your whereabouts last night. Ngiyeke!"

"Deliwe don't give me that shitty attitude where the fuck where you at? Did you see the fucken time?"

I look at him and say nothing.

"Woman I'm talking to you!! "

"Don't yell at me Kamo! You don't have the right to do that not when you didn't sleep home last night!"

"Deliwe!" He says tightening his grip on my hand.

"You hurting me Kamo"

"Why am I smelling alcohol from your breath?"

"Angazi how am I supposed to know? Ikhala lakho hayi elami"

"Deliwe don't give me that shitgy attitude I will slap you I dare you to use that tone again!"

"Fine Kamo slap me isn't it you have the balls to slap me but not the balls to face me when shit is going south between us! If slapping me will make you the happiest and the most accountable man in the world then do it Kamo!!"

"Dont shout at me"

"I will shout its my mouth and I have every right to say anything that I want to say be it my pitch is louder than usual I don't care! You didn't sleep home nigga! Not only did you do that you were ignoring my calls giving me a whole silent treatment like I'm a corpse! like a coward that you are I dare you to slap me Kamo! "

He looks at me.

" Lalela ke bhuti. If you no longer want me tell me instead of resorting to a bitchy move of playing hide and seek with me say it out loud ukuthi Deliwé pack up and fuck off and that your pussy is no longer serving me what I want because its pretty obvious this lady of yours is worth the risk of our collapsing relationship. "

" Can you shut up! Shut up Deliwé "

" We Sidney Mina I love you enough to let you go when you feel like you are unhappy with me. I'm actually used to being alone and unwanted by those that I want so dearly mungasangifuni mfana wabantu say it. Being rejected and unwanted won't be something new to me. Ngiyijwayele leyonto!! "

"You drunk Deliwe!"

"What are you going to do about it? Slap me like you threatened or ghost me again? If you won't do anything suka endleni yami.. I want to sleep"

To be continued ***

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[Sidney]

"If you won't do anything about it suka endleleni yami I want to sleep!!"

She mouthed staring into my eyes. I let her hand loose and head to the door.

"Go on Simba! Do what you do best! Running away from the mess that you started! Go on and run Simba! Run!! Run baba ka Cebi just fucken run!! "

She roars at me and throws her shoe on my direction. I look at her then the door handle I'm undecided right now.

" Do you remember when you loved me once Kamo? You used to hold me up when I was breaking down! But all you do lately is to turn away from me like you hate me do you hate me Kamo?"

That statement is accompanied by a sob. I look at her and clench my jaw.

" Kamo we never used to go bed angry nor were we giving each other the cold shoulder! What happened Sidney? I miss that I miss us. I miss being the one close enough to hear you when you breath. If you don't miss that it's okay Sidney here. Take this heart heal it or break it it's all up to you!! " She says sinking down by the wall hailing.

I take it upon myself to head on her direction I crouch in front of her and lift her chin up to face me. She glares at me with her glistening eyes.

" I'm sorry apple butter"

That is accompanied by guilt because two people actually told me I'm neglecting her and her feelings. What sucks is that my son told me too can you picture the miff in that scenario?

"I'm sorry okay? Ke sorry baby I really am sorry."

She cradles my face and gaze into my eyes.

"I miss you Kamo I can still be that place you run to instead of the place you running away from."

She says with pain I wipe her tears with my thumb I capture her lip to kiss her. I can taste her tears if not mucus fuck that.

"Did I just taste your mucus?"

She chuckled softly.

"I don't know both wastes are salty"

"Shit mommy!"

She faintly smiles I look in her eyes and kiss her forehead.

"Let's take you to bed I'm sorry okay?"

She nods I pick her up and unwrap her on the bed.

"I'll be in my car I want to smoke"

"I want to shower"

"And confess where you were with whom till this late Deliwe and why my baby was stuffed with Alcohol at such a tender age"

She giggles.

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[Priscilla]

The house is dead silent and I'm busy on my laptop going through my notes when Zondi walks into the sitting room.

"Going somewhere?"

I ask with my eyes fixate on the electronic screen. She heads to the door attempting to open the door she hasn't said anything to me.

"Mazondi are you okay? Where are you going?"

"To shut the baby quiet she's making noise I can barely sleep."

"What baby Mazondi? What are you on about? Have you seen the time?"

"I need to give her a bottle or a pacifier to shut her up. She is too loud she's gonna wake your children."

"Mama it's late at night and there's no crying baby please come sit down." I say standing up.

"You don't understand that baby is loud with her sobs it's disturbing me. We need to go silence her please."

I heave a sigh and get a hold of my car keys and wallets.

"Let's go"

"Did you get her a blanket?"

I nod. This woman is not okay upstairs there's no baby crying here. I drive us to whatever directions she's giving me.

"She's running to that direction we need to run after her hurry up!"

I look at her with worry I so need to find her daughter for real.

"She's still running Priscilla"

"Mama are you aware of where we are?"

"I don't care just follow that little girl before a car knocks her down"

"Lord we in Soweto protea Glen."

"She's standing by the gate pull over! Pull over!"

I look at our surroundings. This is someone's house and there's a man whose smoking outside.

"She's pointing at this house Priscilla she's pointing at this house"

"What about this house? Can we go home

Sponsored

AD

I've had enough of this lunacy mama"

"She's crying silently she's looking inside that house Priscilla. Open the door"

"Hell no! I'm not doing anything like that"

"Open the door! I owe her that for christ sake"

"Owe who what?"

"The baby who died she speaks to me!"

I giggle.

"You are crazy crazy with capital C! I'm driving back home!!" She does the craziest stunt ever.

She opens the door while a car is moving she hops outs and run towards the house shouting.

"Child!! Wait!! Wait!! Why are you pointing this house? Child!!" She shouts so much the owners of the house step outside to glare at her so are the neighbors.

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[Mphikeleli]

"Child wait!!!"

A crazy woman is shouting outside my house. Mind you it's 11:30pm. I don't understand what is going on here.

"Hayibi yini Lena? Abathakathi abasamlindi u12 Sebe vele basebenze ngo 11!!!"

(What is the meaning of this? Witches no longer wait for 12 o'clock for them to start working they just resume as early as 11)

Carol says clapping her hands. I attempt to head by the gate.

" Mphikeleli! Hhayi! Where are you going? "

" I want this woman out of my sight"

"Don't go near her she's a witch. Mphikeleli I'm still young to be a widow come back here!!"

She says between her teeth. I fasten my gown belt properly and head to the gate a lady whose wearing pajamas steps out of the car and runs towards the woman.

"Mazondi! Let's go you attracting eyes!!" lady-

"The child is standing by this gate she wants to inside but she can't! We need to help her!!"

"Yeyi!! Muntu we Nkosi there's no child here you making noise. Get lost please!" I manage to say.

"The child needs to come in please"

Carol laughs from afar

"Sisi take your sick mother and vamosi please! Le eniyenzayo ubuthakathi phela!"

Carol says.

"Mazondi let's go please! I'm sorry elders my mother is not mentally stable please don't mind her"

"Where is the teenager? Where is the teenager? She give birth in 2014 on... Let me see... 20 21 22 yes 21 June! Please I need to see her please!!"

This is beyond my powers. I glare at the sick lady

"Mazondi just stop it okay!! Stop it!! You disturbing people's peace!!!"

The Mazondi lady sits down and keeps quiet. We all look at her.

"Let your will be done lord as it is in heaven Amen."

She says and stands up.

"Where are we? Why is it cold Priscilla?"

The lady looks at me.

"Ngiyaxolisa bhuti wami like I said she is not stable. It won't happen again"

"Kulungile sisters"

The lady turns to walk away. The old unstable woman glares at me.

"Do I know you?"

"Of course." I answer

"From?"

"from my gate shouting ridiculous things."

She looks at me.

" I will remember where I know you from"

"Please don't remember because that will mean coming back to my gate to shout crazy and bizarre things. Please don't remember"

I say heading back to my house. I peek on the window if they gone. Luckily they are. Carol looks at me and tremendously laughs to my annoyance.

"Maybe ubona u three weeks sthandwa sami"

"Uyanya logogo umbona umfakile yini?"

She dies yet another fit of laughter. I look at her.

"Maybe uyaboniswa lomuntu" Caro says.

"Uboniswa imizi yabantu right?"

"Leli yini Kanti"

"I was in the middle of something serious before she came"

"We can continue"

She says walking towards me.

"I'm no longer interested."

"Manje singifela lomuntu wakho?"

"Umuntu wami lehlanya? Cela ukungasukelwa please"

Carol laughs even more.

"I was with Deliwe today"

"And?"

"It's mother and daughter business Mphikeleli"

"Confidentiality only exists in hospitals not in my house."

"It's a pity this house is a hospital ward ke ngoba there's a maternity ward and the psychiatric ward"

She laughs yet again. I roll my eyes and open the fridge.

"Did you tell her about the wedding?"

"I didn't get time a stray fake girl captured her attention.. A ridiculous and awkward friendship was formed she left before I could talk to her"

"What friendship are you on about?"

"A plastic girl who couldn't resist giving her compliments every now and then. I know a snake when I see one"

I look at her.

"That girl is up to something baby"

"Delive is a harmless specimen why would someone be interested on plotting against her?"

"The sluts you men get etections for could be the reason. Maybe Sidney gave her something she wasn't able to live without and now my daughter has to be jumping castle heading to Sidney's underwear."

"Carol come on maybe you looking into deep surely there's nothing obnoxious being planned out"

"Mphikeleli I know what I know and right now I'm telling you that girl is bad company ku Deliwe. She's up to something no stranger would just be kind to such an extent of taking you out with them. She is up to something ngiyakutshela"

"Let's go to bed before my head bursts with these plenty theories of yours truly detective Carol Mphazima"

"Had I been a detective you would be wearing an orange uniform ngokwakho for giving people babies they never negotiated for. I never said I wanted to be pregnant at this age but you did me and that's a crime"

"Uqalile Uyasangana."

"Vele mosi"

"Carol are you ever gonna grow up sthandwa sami? Let's talk like adults."

"Mxm!!!" She says walking to our bedroom with a container of grapes. Who is that woman?

To be continued.....

Open

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Not edited.

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PRISCILLA NDLOVU

She's pacing up and down in her sitting room she can't believe the absurdity and bizarrely act that was caused by Mazondi. She knew Mazondi wasn't showing signs of a normal being but what she pulled out there was enough reason to consider putting her in a psychiatrist's position she can't experience such ever again. She's so infuriated by her hallucination. She finally sits on the sofa and heaves a long distressed sigh.

"You do realize I wasn't making that up Priscilla?"

The voice mouths coming from the passage.
She lifts her eyes to glare at Hlengiwe Zondi.

"Whatever I said or did when I lost myself wasn't a hallucination but a reality that is only shed when a certain spirit is calling for my help."

"I don't have time for this come morning you going to a psychiatrist ward. You not safe for the community and for yourself."

Priscilla says standing up.

"When I was young I use to hear voices in my head my parents made me believe I wasn't complete upstairs. They said I was crazy and that I wasn't deserving to be treated like a normal person. Throughout my life Priscilla I've been getting and receiving the same judgments as yours and guess what? I don't expect you to see the normality in me cos I'm used to be slayed and called names. "

" Go to bed. "

" Maybe that's why I did most of the things that I did hurting people and acting like a crazy being in the process of that. Fell pregnant for a married man gave my daughter away and swapped babies at birth. Maybe I did all that to proof people like yourself that I was capable of doing most of the things that proved I wasn't mentally stable like you all declared me as. "

" So what is your point of relevancy in all of this Mazondi? "

" I wish for once Priscilla a person could treat me like a normal person and listen attentively to what I'm saying. I'm tired of being confused of something and someone I am not. I'm not a bad person but you people make me believe I am and that a maniac a whole crazy person. "

" Maybe that's what you are woman you switched babies at birth and caused so many people pain out of your lunacy and selfishness. To pop the pimple you gave away your daughter for what? Because the man was married and undeserving to know about his child? What if he would've loved and wanted that child you were selfish to bring to his attention?"

" Priscilla don't judge me. As a detective you should be wondering why I mentioned the date 21 June 2014 isn't that relevant to your case? Isn't that what you wanted to discover about the people who were involved on the babies swapping dilemma? Maybe I am crazy but I'm not stupid and danderheaded like yours truly who is using expensive and big English words to reduce me to a minimum of a poor thinking capacity individual. If I was a detective I would be asking questions from that family about their daughter

who gave birth to a still born surely that girl is the one who given one of the twins Mrs smarty Pants!!! "

Mazondi mouths and walks away leaving Priscilla stunned and inquisitive...

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[Sidney]

Deliwe is freshing up and I'm staring at my laptop screen. I used to have a back up of my old database information. So far I've managed to retrieve that Portia was reaching out to me her last message was "You must be proud of your hate it won Kamo." it's such a pity all these messages were not received by me but they are marked as read. Somehow Lefa's once opinion on what could've happened back in the days when Portia was confronted about drugs is somehow vividly becoming a truth that I missed out on

He once said

"What if Portia knew nothing about the drugs but rather Millicent. I mean you were cheating on her with Portia surely she knew and she did everything in her powers to sabotage and frame Portia. What if Millicent was the culprit you were looking for"

These were Lefa's words and somehow Priscilla mentioned a woman being involved on my kids disappearance meaning Millicent knew about my pregnant side fling and she was on taps with her to such an extent she used her father's and mother's privileges or connections to hindering and tempering

with my chances of being a parent maybe Deluwe was right too. When she said "What if I've been doing the right things with a wrong person?"

These words are ringing vividly on my head.

"What are you doing?"

She says cradling my neck.

"Ehm... It's nothing serious babe."

"These are old messages what's up?"

"I needed clarity on something Apple butter but it can wait. Come let's tuck you in bed."

I said closing my laptop and pulling her hand to bed. She jumps in and I do the same. A moment of silence passes between us.

"I'm sorry for the way I acted yesterday and this morning giving you the cold shoulder was uncalled for. I was a dick babe."

She keeps quiet.

"And I'm sorry for threatening to lay my hand on you I shouldn't have said that babe."

I say intertwining our hands and giving it a squeeze at it.

"Can I ask you a question Kamo"

"Sure"

"What is the craziest thing you capable of doing when infuriated and livid Kamo?"

"Huh?"

I say with my brows narrowed she can't know that.

"I want to know what you capable of doing to a woman who presses hard on your toes Kamo. There was a truth and assurity in your tone when you said you were going to slap me You meant it Kamo"

"Don't you need pain killers for the wine you drank?"

She looks at me.

"Dont do that Kamo"

I look at her.

"Have you ever laid your hand on a woman Kamo? Am I safe when you angry?"

"Mommy why are you asking this question?"

"Kamo I deserve to know"

"It's inappropriate Faith."

"I want to know what I will be dealing with shall I utter the I do's Kamo. Your twin sister once said something that caught my attention about your angry version. She said she loves your happy version than your angry version. She said your angry version was scary. "

" You still drunk apple butter how's the baby? "

She narrows her brows.

" So who did you go out with? Sindiswa? That's more like her. I've never met your friends I would maybe say speculate on a possible one. "

She glares at me her look is intimidating.

" Changing the topic like really Kamo? "

"Pancake I didn't hurt you okay? Can we not have this topic."

"That's because you are a woman beater right? Maybe you haven't done it today but in future you might consider"

"Want to cuddle?"

She scoffs sarcastically and switches off the lights.

"Good night"

"So that's how our pillow talk ends?"

"Were we having any Sidney?"

"Deliwe can you stop being like that please."

"And are going to stop treating me like a stupid and naive little girl who believes all red colors only portray love but not blood? Kamo I'm not stupid okay?"

"I didn't say you were stupid Deliwe why are we even having this topic?"

"Lala ndoda and run away from your demons like you always do."

She turns her back on me and moves away from me.

"Like really Deliwe we are this couple now?"

"You have the answer to that angithi wena you don't know what you want Kamo? One minute you are Dj Sbu the next you are Mzekezeke like you one confused being. You wanna talk but you don't want to talk and poor Deliwe has to lower herself and submit to that bullshit like really? "

" Hormones and wine"

"See what I'm meant by you treating me like a stupid girl? My tummy is pregnant but not my mouth and my reasoning and judgment. I think tomorrow Cebi and I are going back home."

"Deliwe that's a drastically movement and thought. You can't do that."

"Well I'm going to do it Kamo and it's not up for discussion"

"If so leave alone and leave my son behind"

"In case you don't know Kamo where I go my son goes"

"Cebi is going nowhere"

She turns to face me.

"Are you hearing yourself? Instead of us reaching common grounds with our conversation where I go my son goes"

"Cebi is going nowhere"

She turns to face me.

"Are you hearing yourself? Instead of us reaching common grounds with our conversation you cool with me leaving like really Kamo? Kanti yini ngawe vele? Usuyangicika Kamo when did you become this amateurish and helplessness individual? "

I look at her and heave a sigh. She looks at me and shakes her head sideways.

" Kamo you look just like the man I fell in love with you wear the same shoe size as him you sleep in his side of the bed you drive a car that is similar to his but I don't know who are you gotta be someone else Sidney a whole stranger whose occupying the same space with me. Ngempela ukumithiswa kuyakucitha? "

(Is being impregnated a curse in a blessing?)

I look at her.

" I thought as much. "

She turns her back on me. I move closer to her and run my hand on her waist she yanks it. I press my lips on her neck and fondle her boob.

" Just let me be please you have a mouth in your penis but not a mouth of your mouth suka kimi! "

She rolls herself with a blanket making sure my hand cannot reach her soft skin.

"Can I at least snuggle with my baby?"

"Wait for nine months to do that. Okwamanje akekho."

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[Deliwe]

Today I'm the first one to wake up and prepare Cebi for school I was forced to it. I had a nightmarish dream that I do not want to talk about. I'm helping Cebi to dress up while my baby is talking none stop.

" Mama "

" Mmmm.. "

" Umuhle" I giggle.

"Ngiyabonga sosha Lami"

"You surpass all mothers with your beauty."

I laugh louder.

"Kahle Cebi that's a lie my boy the are pretty women out there"

"But they not you mama"

I narrow my brows.

"When did you become this smart young blood? Are you dating Cebi?"

He sheepishly smiles.

"I'm young mama"

"You lying"

"I'm not dating"

"Well that's a good thing because I was going to break that skinny little girl's legs for dating my son! Cebi is only mine and mine alone."

I said playfully poking his nose Cebi giggles.

"Ready for breakfast son?"

He mouths from the door I glare at him.

"Morning daddy"

"Morning boy how are you?"

"I'm good"

"Awesome.. Morning mama ka Cebi"

"Morning"

I say coldly. He walks to Cebi and helps him with his shoe laces while glaring at me.

"Daddy is driving you to school with mommy"

"Awesome"

We make him eat his breakfast and drive him to school.

"Can we talk later on the day I have somewhere to go now"

"Sure." I said not interested he leans over to peck my lips and walks out.. It's 1:30pm when I decide on going to Cebi's schools to pick him up. I find his friends playing soccer they run to me with excitement.

"Mama Cebi how are you?"

"I'm okay my baby and how are you?"

"We good. Are you here for Cebi?"

"Yes"

"Cebi was collected from school his gone home already"

"Really?"

"Yes"

"Okay thank you sweethearts." I say walking away I ring Sidney.

"Pancake"

"I know you hate talking to me lately but you should've at least called and told me you were gonna pick Cebi from school unlike having me waste my time going there to his absence."

"What are you talking about babe?"

"Kamo I'm talking about Cebi you picked him already and silly me I walked to a vacant classroom with no sign of him."

"Baby I didn't pick Cebi from school I'm still caught up in Rhudzani's house. Cebi is not with me maybe your dad or mother picked him up"

"I will check with them then"

"I love you"

"Hayi suka" I say ending the call walking to my house.

To be continued*****

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Not edited.

[Mcebisi]

An auntie came to my school to pick me up saying she was sent by my mother and father to collect me from school at first I didn't believe her because my mother has told me time and time again that I shouldn't speak to strangers nor entertain them or better yet eat their candies or receive gifts from them

because they were going to steal me or do bad things to me hence I wasn't agreeing to leaving with her but when this auntie showed me a picture of herself and my mother in a restaurant I believed her when she said mom sent her to collect me and that I was going to be safe with her. So far I can say she is good and nice aunt She bought me food plenty of it and made me choose the kind of clothes I liked in the store. As we speak she's driving us to:

"Aunty where are we going?"

"Cape Town sweetheart. "

Capetown is far from my home I remember my father once said it was far and he was going to ride a plane to get there. Why would this aunty take me to a faraway place?.

"But my home is in soweto aunty I can't go to Capetown it's far from my home.
"

She looks at me through the mirror and faintly smiles.

"Don't worry sweetheart Aunty Portia will not hurt you she's going to be gentle and careful with you I'm going to bite and blow bite and blow handsome just like a rat feasting on your nails dearest Mcebisi."

Portia smiles Cebi glares at her.

"Why would you bite and blow me aunty like a rat? I'm not a rats food you can't bite me. "

"It's called a figure of speech honey. I wonder if daddy is going to come in time to save you little Cebi"

"Save me from what?"

"From the big rat that wants to bite you"

Portia giggles Cebi glares at her confused.

"Drowning in the central beach Mcebisi. You going to drown boy boy and I will make sure you sink in the waters. I don't like you just like I don't like your mother and father."

Cebi widen his brown cute eyes.

"Drowning will get me killed it's wrong of you to hate me I'm a child and I did you no harm aunty."

"Relax little one I will be kind okay? I won't take you in far depths of the waters you just going to wait for a wave to push you off the shore and send you to where sharks lurks around."

Portia devilishly laughs Cebi starts blinking profusely in fear.

" Please don't hurt me please take me to my house. I don't want to go to cape town aunty please. Please I'm sorry if I made you angry. Please hurt me I'm scared of sharks and big waters please"

"Ncooh Nana you so cute just like daddy the fucker! Look at you little one I could've been your mother had your evildoer of a father decided to treat me like he does with your pregnant mother whose going to loose her baby all because I'm capable of ruining her just like your father ruined me apple pie. "

"I want to go home"

"That's not happening Cebi sorry okay?"

Cebi looks outside the window as the car drives off.

—

[Mama Dora]

"You look troubled son"

"Its time ma"

"For what?"

"The vision."

"Is it going to be bad Sibusiso?"

"Very bad ma and sadly I can't prevent it from happening it was destined to happen its a part of her destiny"

"Can't we pray for her to have strength to withstand everything?"

"Mama this is her battle we can't fight this for her. Like I once told her she needs God by her side not me or you. The only thing I'm worried about is how far the shores are going to place her. She's pregnant mama don't forget that"

"But you said the baby was going to be okay"

"The baby will be okay mama but not the mother"

"I'm not following."

Buddha heaves a long sigh and leans forward.

"Ma if you remember clearly uDeliwe once said she was suicidal and smoking bad things before she had the boy she even highlighted she was a heavy drinker too but all those factors changed when she had uCebi. It's like uCebi

was her motivation and reason to live. So nawe you can sum up everything and get the answer of what I mean. "

" She might give birth and never love the baby kanjani though? Cos she loves uSidney and besides uCebi will be a part of her life"

Buddha glares at his mother with worry there's more and he can't say it. Instead he buries his face inside his hands.

"Baba can I talk to you?"

Nkanyiso says walking towards his father.

"Sure ntwana yami zikhiphani?"

"I had a dream"

"Nka I told you it's not a dream my but a vision son"

"Sorry babami I had a vision. "

"It's okay soldier. What's going on?"

He said putting his dearest on his lap.

"I saw a girl child yesterday"

"Where?"

"At Mcebisi's house"

Buddha narrows his brows granting Nka a go ahead.

"She said she was looking for her mother and that her mother was Deliwe"

Dora and Buddha glare at each other.

"What did she say she wanted from Deliwe?"

"She said she wanted a name and a place to call home. She said some children her age have homes and they are able to pay their families visits in their warm homes she even said their parents remember them and spends time with them in their graves but yena she has non of these things. "

"When you saw her where were you Nka?"

"At the hospital some place called Bara and she even said something mean baba about Mcebisi"

"Something like what bhunjalami?"

"She said if it were up to her she was going to lure Mcebisi to a grave and him killed so that he won't continue taking her place on her mother. She said she hated Mcebisi because each time she hears her mother's voice she is always admiring Mcebisi and loving her but not her. "

" Thank you my boy I will pass the message okay? "

" Baba"

"Mmmm..."

"Why is this girl saying Mcebisi's mother is not Mcebisi's mother but hers?"

"That's because Mcebisi has two mothers"

"I see.. Can I go play games?"

"Definitely" He says pecking his forehead. Nka runs away Buddha heaves a sigh

"See what I meant by the time has come? I know all this information ma I see the kid too."

"Poor Deliwe I'm somehow reminded the Bayede and Tsandzile case with their late son Sethu. These kids are angry maarn so much violence?"

"Tell me about it.."

—

[Sidney]

"Baba ngiyakucela tell me the truth where is my son? Uphi uCebi? Mcebisi! Mcebisi!!"

She belch in agony while sinking on the floor The mother tries to embrace her but she is not having any of it. The father is pacing up and down in the sitting room. I'm settled on the couch defeated and out powered. I don't know what to say defeated and out powered. I don't know what to say or what to think or who to blame I don't know where to search or how to react I just feel chained and decapitated. I hardly said a word since I walked in here I've been glued on this sofa dying a silent death. My mind is clouded and I'm not aware of what to do next.

"Ingane yami! Ingane yami!! Ingane yami they stole my baby!! They kidnapped my baby Mcebisi!!."

I glare at her this sight is not good to watch at all.

"Deliwe sisi." The said.

"Angela I suspect her!" The mother said.

"We not sure of that Carol." The father said.

"I'm giving the police that statement that witch would do anything to hurt Deliwe. I wouldn't be surprised if she had a hand on this"

"Carol can you shut up okay? This is not the perfect time! We need to find Mcebisi not point our fingers at people." The father roars.

"Excuse me" I manage to say standing up. They all look at me Deliwe included.

"Where are you going?" She asks with her voice trembling because she's still crying.

"To find my son"

"I'm coming with you" The father adds.

"I will manage ntate Mphazima"

"Kamo.." Deliwe says glaring at me with her glassy eyes. I look at her she returns it. Its a long stare contest.

"Please find him please."

"I will try and please try to get some sleep"

She faintly nods.

I make my way outside Immediately I gey inside my car I punch the steering wheel repeatedly I later bash my forehead on it while roaring I've never been this clueless and that frustrates me I always have solutions and answers but not today and it's fucking with my mood.

Someone took my boy and I can't help but to think of Millicent when I try to crack my thick skull all fingers point to her direction. She once did me wrong and maybe this too has her name on it that slut would do anything to see me bowed head just like she prevented me from knowing about Portia and her pregnancy she even cloned my cellphone this to she can orchestrate and get away with it isn't it she always does? But sadly today I'm putting an end on that rubbish of her getting the satisfaction of doing shitty stuffs. Tumi calls sometimes I forget she has a magnifying glass to my feelings.

"I have a palpitation what is going on?"

"Cebi is missing"

"Tell me you shitting joking Kamo! Kwang and ke mang?"

"I'm blank half" I say dropping my first tear.

"Kamo who did you recently upset?"

"Tumi so much shit is going on I didn't tell you the truth that day. The day I slept at your house its a lot half and I'm finding it hard to contemplate"

"Where are you?"

"In my car"

"Look let's meet somewhere so we can join our heads"

"I need to be alone for this one please"

"Kamo I understand you angry and hurt but wanyela! You and I made a ought we live together we kill together and we die together. Don't break our vow if you going to war I'm gettingy fat arse over there"

"This one is mine alone please"

"I'm your candy dreams wanyela Joe"

She ends the call. I heave a sigh and dial Priscilla this is to distract her.

"Someone kidnapped my son and I want you to use your resources to help me with finding the culprit. I can't wait for 24hours to report my son missing I know this is not how it works but I'm begging you. Maybe that way the other twin might be found. Make sure Priscilla you find him by morning other than that I will do your part in finding my son all by myself. "

" Kamo don't take the law into your own hands don't take any drastic actions okay?"

I keep quiet and search iny tool box.

" Which son? Your twin or? "

" My son with Deliwe. "

" I will try but who do you have in mind?"

" It's your duty to find the culprit. My duty is to ensure my partner is doing well in the midst of this storm. While I'm snuggling my pregnant girl sniff the dog and bring my boy first thing in the morning Priscilla "

" Don't do any stupid Sidney that tone tells a different story from you snuggling with your girlfriend. "

" I'm home with my girlfriend and not planning on doing something stupid hence I called you to find my son not vice-versa. I won't do anything stupid I have a baby coming soon"

"Fine" I end the call and glare on my reflection on the reaver view mirror stay home and don't do anything stupid in my white arse. Nobody tells me what to do I hate instructions. I start the engine of the car and drive off speeding.

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Portia]

Mcebisi is turning red minute by minute and I don't care if there's one thing i care about is killing him and having his head delivered on Sidneys door step he deserves it after the shit he put me through. I know two Graves are be digged but I know two of them belong to Mcebisi and his father my mother never raised a fool. Sidney will pay greatly for doing to me what he did and this puppy here is my first revenge to him.

"You are a mean aunty I hate you!!"

Cebi roars.

"I'm no time the drug will kick in honey it's going to knock you out"

He cries his been doing that for the past hours.

"My daddy is going to hurt you shall you feed me to the sharks."

I loud my lungs out.

"How cute little squirrel thinks daddy will be a hero little does he know super heros only exists on marvel. Look nana your father is no here so is your mother both your parents are two idiotic bunch of lunatics they don't love you Cebi if they did why don't you have guards huh? I mean your dad is a rich motherfucker and your mother is renowned popular prostitute. With their big heads joined they wpyluld afford you a better school than that rubbish like why are you attending a government school? Those fools all they care about is sex! Sex and sex explaining why the whore is pregnant while the first born is in some pigsty school. "

"You using vulgar and it's inappropriate mean and ugly giraffe aunty I could draw you with my eyes closed usingy left hand SCRIBBLE FACE!!!"

"And I'm so fucken going to use it baby and as for you see this giraffe is going to chop.you just like your mother chops spinach leaves."

He cries. I laugh my lungs out...

To be continued.

Not edited.

[Millicent]

Its 8am my body is ice cold. My forehead is numb and throbbing my nose is broken he bashed my face on the bath. Last night I didn't sleep a wink till now how was I going to sleep. In a bath tub stuffed with ice rocks and a numb body? Not forgetting the infuriated and blood thirsty Kamohelo who is holding a gun and shooting me a deadly stare?

He somehow blames me for his missing bastard child i don't understand why he thinks I kidnapped Shaltons kid mind you i don't even know the school he attends but here I am being crucified and punished for a crime that I do not know. The guy is determined to have me killed like he never gone to a whole psychiatrist ward all because he loved me like crazy but here I am today standing in front of his enraged self.

"So you still against telling the truth Millicent?"

"What truth Kamo? I told you what I know and what I do not know. Please let me go I beg of you"

I manage to say with my lips trembling he looks at me with his intimidating eyes. He throws the cigarette butt on the floor he stands up from the toilet

seat and rolls his sleeves up he sits on the edge of the bathtub and stokes my hair while glaring at me.

" The aim wasn't to hurt you nor kill you but you leave me no choice sweetheart "

He says pulling my hair while licking his lower lip.

I squint my eyes.

"Kamo please don't hurt me I don't know anything please trust me."

He pulls my hair harder forcing me to tilt my head on the side he leans over just closer to my lips and his eyes fixated on mine.

" Who is the other woman you gave my son to? "

He says with a husky voice sending shivers down my spine.

" Kamo you hurting me"

"Millicent you know I can do more just hurting you just work with me if you really you want to live but with a disability of some sort now talk! What did you do with my twins Millicent? Don't you dare lie to me I'm pissed as it is more

lies will drive me to krugerdrops and I hate that you know what happens when I'm in Kruger now talk. "

He says sniffing my lavender bathing gel.

"I don't know anything I've been telling you the same thing for the past hours I don't know your son's whereabouts. I know nothing okay? Just let me go Kamo! I didn't know Portia was pregnant either till now. Sidney I'm innocent in all this I don't know anything I cross my heart and hope to die. I don't know anything please don't hurt me any further I've suffered so much torture since last night please Kamo. Ngimsulwa angazi lutho. "

He chuckles.

"You don't know anything or you just choosing not to remember huh Millicent which is which?"

"Kamo please don't hurt me I don't know anything please trust me."

"You think I'm stupid huh? You think I don't know about what you cloning my phone Millicent? Framing Portia for the drugs she never took and her giving birth without me knowing and you temparing with my kids? You think I know nothing about the woman you paid a huge ransom to separate my twins? You think I'm stupid Millicent huh? "

He says tightening his grip around my jaw harder so much that I belch in agony due to the stringing sensation on my cheeks.

"Look at me Millicent when I talk to you! "

Why am I finding this sexy? I'm turned on honestly.

"Sidney don't hurt me please I know nothing about Portia and I know nothing about the Mcebisi being kidnapped. I may be anything and everything but I would never hurt a child please Kamo"

"Millicent you have two minutes to start telling the truth or I'm going to kill you and i mean it"

He let's go of me and glares at me as he walks towards the sink.

"I'm sorry Kamo"

"Sorry for eng?"

"For your child being kidnapped"

"I see."

He says getting a hold of a towel throwing it at me.

"Get up I have eight horny guys who are waiting for you to quench their sex hunger they going to switch positions with you. They won't use condoms just raw sex and they on nyaope maybe that will make you remember the events of 21 June 2014. You have two minutes to dress up"

Now I'm struggling to breath he can't do that to me.

"Kamo you can't do that please. Baby it's me Milly you can't allow that to happen to me Kamo you can't do that. "

"I can do that and I'm going to do that and maybe I will do more than just that Millicent till it clicks in that thick skull of yours that my family is not your play ground so are my feelings and everything connected to me Millicent what you did is unforgivable and I'm not a forgiving type you fuck me up I fuck you up simple. "

" Kamo please I'm sorry"

"I don't need your damn sorry Millicent I want my sons and I want my son Mcebisi! If you can't and won't give me that then sparing your life and sanity is pointless to me. Get up and get your fat arse a dressed up we leaving."

"Sidney siyaphi? Where are you taking me?"

"To a trip where you will get a variety of dicks isn't it you love dick? Explaining why you've been fucking my brother behind my back for years to such an extent he gave you babies along the way and you being the smart pant that you are you terminated them and failed to conceive mine making me believe I was unable to conceive. You are whore Millicent and today i will treat you as one. "

"Rather have me rough like you always did Sidney beat me up like you occasionally did I can handle you not strangers please."

A tear slides down from my eye lids.

"Like I find you appetizing get up and stop bickering."

He storms to the door but he stops mid way to glare at me.

" Another thing you going to pay for swapping my kids at birth. I'm so gonna make you suffer for both our sake pray I find Cebi alive and untouched any Mark on his body will come with a punishment for you pray Portia is not the one who stole my son to avenge your shit I'm going to fuck you up Millicent nobody is going to come save you once I start dealing with you. You on your own"

The last words they ring a bell. That liar of a woman once said the exact words she said I wad going to die but I dont think Sidney would kill me nor do I think the death she was talking about was going to be implemented by Sidney. Can I not die please.

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[Priscilla]

I have no choice but to pull in this favor for Sidney. He must be worried sick about his son as a parent myself I had no choice but to speed up the process for him. I think it's about time I went to see Millicent before it's too late cos already I've dragged my feet for quite some time now and hearing Mazondi call me incompetent and unprofessional kind off hit home I can't risk Sidney taking the matter to his own hands.

I mean any demented parent would lose it shall they learn their ex is the reason their world is turned upside down but for now. I need to see Deliwe Mphazima and ask a couple of questions about people she might be suspecting for her child's abduction.

"You good Ndlovu?"

Thamisanqa Khuzwayo a close friend of mine that I asked to help me with this case mouths.

"It's fucked up Thami this case is taking a toll on me"

I say pushing my hair back. He looks at me.

"I can conduct the questioning all by myself if you are not fit for it."

"I'd love that but I have to do this buddy take care of the twins dilemma and I will handle this one"

"No stress be okay Ndoda"

"Sure Khondlo" I said getting on my feets getting a hold of my important stuff..

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[Mphikeleli]

She finally leaves her room and drags her feets to the sitting room yawning while wearing her pajamas. Her eyes are puffy and swollen it's pretty obvious she hardly slept. She sits besides me and rests her head on my shoulder I gently pull her to my chest and wrap my arms around her my t-shirt is accumulating soakiness due to her tears I let her be.

"I will make you warm milk sisi" The sister says.

A knock comes to the door.

"Sindiswa"

"Baba.."

"Please attend to the door"

Echoes of her shoes fill up the passage heading to the door. I hear voices I'm not familiar with from afar.

"Baba"

"Yes" I say glaring by the passage it's a white man and a tall slender and woman.

"Bathi they here to see Liwe"

Sindiswa says softly.

"Please come in" I say politely.

"Thank you Mr Mphazima" The lady says the man bows his head instead I look at him they sit on the couch opposite us.

"Good day Mr Mphazima I'm Marcus Matthews and your daughter happens to be the mother of my grandchild Mcebisi we here to check in with her and ask if our help is needed in conducting the search for the little guy."

Yini ngathi ngiyamazi lomlungu? I think I know this face this Marcus guy rings a bell.

" This is Sidney's mother Zelda. We are the parents"

He says glaring at me I return it.

"Ngiyabazi baba" That comes off as a whisper from Deliwe attempting to raise her head.

"You welcome I'm the father Mphikeleli"

Marcus glares at me and I return it our eyes are conversing.

"Greetings ma and Mr Matthews" Deliwe says with a shaky voice.

"Come here ngwana ka"

Sidney's mother says pulling Deliwe in for a hug. Marcus and myself are busy having a stare contest. I know him and he just proved me right.

"Your house is beautiful I love it especially your furniture taste."

"You reckon?" I say responding to Marcus.

Carol appears she was dressing up.

"Sanibonani" She says softly glaring at our guests.

"These are Sidney's parent's Marcus Matthews and Zelda."

I say to clear the air.

"Pleasure meeting you I'm the mother Carol Mphazima. Pleasure meeting you" She says stretching out her hand for a handshake.

"It's a pleasure Mrs Mphazima even though we meeting under such awful circumstances."

Zelda says faintly smiling.

"What are we going to say sisi maybe it was God's plan. Sindi!" She shouts politely.

"Ma"

"Hhayi baby offer our guest's drinks please"

"I'm on it ma"

Carol faintly smile.

"Have you contacted the police as yet Mr Mphazima?" Marcus-

"We have they told us to report him missing after 24 hours"

"Bloody South African law enforcement they useless just like their government" Marcus-

Zelda glares at him trying to reprimand him.

"And Sidney where is he?" Zelda-

"He left yesterday mama saying he was going to find Cebi" Deliwe-

"I see.." Sindiswa brings in the refreshments it's a simple cheese and ham sandwich with lettuce they going to down it with a fruit punch juice. She puts everything on the table.

"She's the last born Sindiswa" I say

"She looks like the mothers mostly"

They giggle a little bit that doesn't hurt. A knock comes to the door.

"Sindiswa" I say trying to plead her to attend to the door.

"I will get it baba surely ubaba ka Cebi"

Deliwe says standing up my poor baby..

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[Deliwe]

Umuntu usehlane yazi ngiyalingwa? What is this slut doing here? I fold my arms and close the door behind me and look at her deep in her eyes.

"What do you want here huh?" I say rudely.

"Hello sisi you must be Deliwe Mphazima"

She says stretching her hand out I look at it and tap my foot.

"I know who you are I saw you at the salon. If you want Sidney his not around you just missed him."

"I'm not here for him but you Deliwe I'm detective Ndlovu. My name is Priscilla I'm handling your son's case."

I chuckle.

"Can I come in so we can discuss the case?"

"How many rounds of convincing did he give you for you to speed up the case? Yesterday we were kicked out of the police station like spatum then boom you are here before 24 hours ready to ask me questions about my son! Kahle kahle sisi ungifunani huh?"

She glares at me.

" I know Sidney and I'm not sleeping with him Deliwe I'm here for professional reasons not anything outside that. I'm a married woman and I love my husband and I respect the vows I've made. I'm here to help you in finding your son not clear things up for things I do not know. Without a waste of time do you mind briefing me a little about your relationship with your son? "

" I love my son. "

" I get it but I want to know the background of it since it's obvious I will talk to you standing outside like I'm here to pass on a contagious virus."

She's a comedian too I see.

" Mcebisi is my baby our background is a very good one. If you are a mother you will definitely know I would do anything for that boy to be happy and well taken care of my son is my everyday motivation to hoping for hoping better days and wanting to do more for him because I love him and I will choose him any given day. Is that response enough to bring him home now? "

She looks at me.

" When was Mcebisi born? "

" How is that going to help right now? "

" Deliwé work with me come on"

"21 June 2014 Bara hospital the time was 7am."

She looks at me.

"21 June 2014?"

"Yes"

"How old were you when you had him?"

"I was 18 if mistaken"

She looks at me and slowly nods.

"Who are you suspecting for his kidnapping?"

"I have no one in mind honestly. I'm not the kind to go around instigating fights and provoking people to such an extent I get to inherit them as my enemies I don't have any suspect"

"Actually we have two sisi"

I look behind me it's mama. She walks towards us and looks at the lady

"I know you"

Mama says

"You are a daughter of that sick lady isn't it?"

Priscilla ignores her and writes down.

"Mama you said you had two suspects in mind do you mind giving me clarity on that?"

"Angela Ngoyi and a strangely lady who recently came to my daughter pretending to be interested in having her as a friend."

I look at mama she better be kidding me Portia? No way.

"The other suspect mama who is she?"

"She said her names were Portia Dube and that she was new in town. Like detective she was so good to be true she even madey daughter drink alcohol look at her isn't she showing that there is a bun in the oven? But that lady made her drink if Angela knows nothing Portia knows everything.. I've once dated a player and women like Portia are always the bitter ex's who are blood thirsty and seeking revenge to their lost partners.. That girl is either sleeping with Sidney or was sleeping with Sidney. That should be all. "

To be continued.....

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[Priscilla]

"Thank you mama"

"Pleasure find that scumbag and bring my grandson back home alive detective."

"I will mama I promise"

I swallow hard after saying that undetermined and impossible truth. She looks at me and I return it.

"How is your mother?"

I swallow hard and glare at Deliwe.

"She will live mama and Deliwe I will try all in my powers to find your son"

She looks at me.

"I thought guests were inside why are you.."

The man from the previous night mouths cutting himself mid sentence after landing his eyes on me.

"You." He says.

"What brings you here?"

"I'm a detective and I'm the one whose handling Mcebisi's case"

He looks at me and I return it.

"Your name?"

"Priscilla Ndlovu"

"Mphikeleli Mphazima her father"

Mphazima.... This surname.

"Pleasure I should get going"

They look at me as I walk away I get inside my car and bury my face inside my hands and heave a sigh that is accompanied by pain and remorse if not guilt. Deliwe just proved it she is not Mcebisi's mother but Portia who is somehow alive and being selfish towards the woman who raised her child while hers died years ago.

Portia is going about this whole thing the wrong way Deliwe knows nothing and she is a victim in all of this. Mazondi is actually not crazy she was being truthful throughout about being haunted by the kid she is what we call a medium she can speak and hear the dead but silly me I confused it for madness that night we came here it wasn't a coincidence that was to show Deliwe is the teenager who is alleged to have lost her child at birth of which her child was given to Portia and Portia's to Deliwe Nca Nca ncah Millicent Ngoyi you must be proud of yourself.

"Khuzwayo hello?"

"Ndlovu how is it going?"

"We have some serious digging to do the suspect is Portia Dube. She is the kidnapper I want her found and I want her reported as a most wanted no boarder must grant her permission for departure I trust your capabilities Khuzwayo. Pull this one for me I owe you one "

" Consider it done "

" Thank you. "

I end the call and drive away dammit Portia!!!

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[Tumi]

" Rhu come on tell me where he is! "

I snap in frustration.

" Tumi I don't know he didn't say anything to me about his whereabouts. "

"Come on guys think harder this guy is your friend and you know his whores if he got any you know his chilling spots just tell me the damn thing. I need to find him and find Cebi. We talking about Sidney here not a baby girl who is fragile at heart! Help me find my brother please!"

"I tried calling him since last night but there was no reach Tumi" Lefa-

"Damn you Kamo! I can't even trace him that moron is up to no good I know it and I can fucken feel it"

I say. They look at me as I'm pacing around like a mad man.

"Wait... The last time you saw him what did he tell you? Did he tell you about something that I didn't know about maybe? Something that could've led to Cebi being on the receiving end of his recent disputes? Who did he upset just give me a name?"

They exchange eyes.

"Guys come on! Just snap out of it already! Stop giving me that shitty look and give me something that I can work with Rhudzani talk I know you know everything just spit it out that's all I ask."

Rhudzani heaves a long sigh.

"Promise not to throw a tantrum Tumi"

"I won't just talk"

"He just found it he has twins with Portia and that they were swapped at birth."
Rhu-

I narrow my brows what the fuck.

"Go on I'm all ears"

"He suspects Mcebisi is one of the twins and the other is still a mystery" Sthe-

"He confessed that Cebi wasn't his but rather Deliwe's but with the new realization he suspects Mcebisi could be his" Rhu-

"Bull shit! That's not possible Deliwe was seeing Shalton and Cebi is Deliwe's child"

"Tumi don't be in denial I mean look at it why did Sidney stalk Deliwe and Cebi for years if there wasn't a specific reason for that? Maybe it was nature calling him to be reunited with his child." Lefa-

"You all sick! This is madness."

I say walking outside I get inside my car and replay what they just said. Suddenly I recall one certain conversation I had with Sidney

"Half I see myself in that boy

Sponsored

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I get inside my car and replay what they just said. Suddenly I recall one certain conversation I had with Sidney

"Half I see myself in that boy he is a younger version of me. He does all the things that I do he mimics me in everything the cherry on top is that we both have a respiratory problem.. Cebi is mine half that boy is my son believe me"

A knock on my window snaps me out of my thoughts.

"Rhu"

"I think I have an idea of where he could be"

"Where?"

"Millicent's house"

"Thank you"

"I'm right behind you"

"Thank you"

He walks away and I drive away.. If Sidney is really Cebi's father then where is Deliwe's child with Shalton? No man this thing is bizarre like how possible is that??

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[Portia]

I'm in a happy mood today I can't believe I have Sidney's balls in my hands. The guy is yet to dance to my tune. My husband walks towards me.

"Hey"

"Hey baby how are you?"

"I'm okay and yourself?"

"Very good life is good marriage is good and our babies are good. Like everything is good baby!"

I say smashing my lips against his he looks at me with his brows narrowed.

"What?"

"You acting strange Portia what happened while I was away?"

"I went shopping I did my hair my nails and drank my favorite bottle of wine. Oh! I also gave myself orgasms a lot of them"

"I see"

I broadly smile

"I'm thinking of taking the kids to the beach and have a little family picnic what do you think?"

"That's awesome honey I would love that"

"But first I want to get rid of most garbage that hounders in the storage it's long overdue babe. "

"No baby don't attend to it now or today but rather next week I have something more exciting than watching you get your hands dirty"

He giggles I pull him closer for a quickie but his forever buzzing cell phone rings.

"I have to take this"

"Sure thing" He walks away in a split second. I hear his car driving outside the driveway. I heave a sigh and quickly jog to the storage I find my goat laying there by the corner with marks of tears and a greasy face I kick his foot shaking him to wake up.

"Daddy!" He jumps opening his eyes his face turns into a frown when his eyes land on mine.

"Where is my daddy?"

"Dead"

"You lying! My father is a soldier and soldiers don't die like weak people"

"Mmmm... His arrogancy and pride runs in your veins. Like father like son!"

I say untying him. I put a bowl of cereals and juice in front of him.

"I don't want your food it's ugly and bitter it's going to make me vomit because it's yucky and dirty!!"

I clench my jaw and blow my nose.

"Do you see dogs around here? Do you see your mother here? Don't annoy me young man you going to eat that before I slap you all the way to that shitty place you call your home!"

I click my tongue.

"Slap me I will bite you and I'm going to scream and call 10111 on you witch!!"

He roars and glares at me in the most uncomfortable way something about his eyes resembles the anger that Sidney used to carry in him. I remember how

awful and discomfoting our making up session was going to be when his eyes turned to these one that I'm looking at. I feared that version of Sidney he would squeeze a glass in his hands by the time he calms down the glass would be in shambles and scattered tinny pieces.

"Mcebisi please eat your food or you will die of hunger"

"I want to die of hunger instead of eating your food"

"Where is the little and innocent boy I picked from school hours ago huh?"

He looks at me and narrows his brows.

"Can you keep secrets mean aunty?"

I look at him.

"My father and mother do not know that I beat up kids at school especially mean and disrespectful kids like you who go around hurting others. I beat them up and leave them bleeding and I threaten them not to tell on me other than that I will kill them!"

I swallow hard why is this child like this? Why is he exactly like the father? Sidney had this tendency of being a saint in everyone's eyes but a monster behind curtains and right here I'm looking at a younger version of that monster that I once stripped naked for.

"I'm not scared of you Mcebisi maybe your mates are but I'm not!"

"You sweating"

I look at this child.

"That's because it's hot"

"You blinking a lot you scared giraffe"

"Eat your food and stop gabbing rubbish"

"You can't look at me"

"What is wrong with you Kid? Are you sick in the head?"

"Are you sick in the head Portia?"

This bloody swine! This kid is is.. Aaaaah! Fuck!!!

I stand up and lock him inside I'm going to hide th

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[Deliwe]

Its 9 pm I just had a serious prayer asking God to protect my baby and not to allow weapon formed against him to prosper mostly I asked him to cover him with his undefeated and holy blood. I even prayed for Sidney whose been silent since yesterday. His phone is not going through and I must admit I'm worried sick about him. The door swings open it's mama I roll my eyes without her noticing. She sits by my legs and puts a glass of water on the bed pedestal she takes my pregnancy supplements and counts them as prescribed she looks at me and draws her hand closer to my mouth.

"Khamisa"

I look at her.

"Deliwe I won't argue with you pull whatever stunt you want to pull but not this one"

I look at her and slightly open my mouth she carefully shoves the pills inside my mouth and helps me drink water to down my pills. When I'm done she cleans the corners of my lips.

"I know you hurt about what I said about Sidney"

"Mama you painted him like a cheat"

"That's because men like him and your father are good at hiding their true colors Deliwe. Sidney loves you that I won't deny but at the end of the day his a man and he sometimes acts and thinks like a man."

"But mama you were not supposed to say that."

"Deliwe I was trying to make you see the bigger picture not the one that you have expanded on your wall. Portia is probably any of that remarks that I made maybe Sidney is not sleeping with her now but they once shown each other their nakedness and instead of her taking out her frustration to the cause of her pain she's barking at the wrong tree Deliwe that girl is not a princess nor is she a Saint she is damaged and up to no good sisi. As your mother I won't sit around and watch you favor people who are determined on bringing you down. Finding Mcebisi is priority not this topic we having. "

I look at mama. I'm not happy with the" She's sleeping with Sidney line" Hence the conversation at hand I'm jealous okay.

"If I offended you I'm sorry baby but I wanted you to open your eyes to the reality of life. Yes the man might love you and worship the grounds that you walk on but that doesn't mean he only gets erected to your own nakedness only Deliwe. You not knowing about it doesn't mean it's not happening I'm a raising a strong woman here not a Cinderella princess who thinks every story has to end with a happily ever after. Portia is a slut not your friend admit it"

She says standing up.

"Mama I thought you were apologizing nje?"

"Ubani?"

"Hayibo!" I say faintly smiling.

"I'm not sorry sisi and I'm never sorry your father knows it."

I giggle so does she.

"Ngiyakuthanda mama"

"Na ke rata wena Deliwe"

I smile and embrace her. My phone rings.

"Maybe it's Sidney"

"You not going nowhere" I furrow my brows. I stretch my hand out to answer my phone. Mom walks out.

"Baby"

"I'm outside come"

He says sounding tired.

"Let me cover up"

"Okay" I end the call and pull my gown. I slide on my morning shoes and head for the door.

"Uyaphi?"

That's my father.

"Sidney is outside"

He nods and walks to his bedroom. I step outside and walk towards him. I throw myself in his arms he runs his hands to my bum cheeks.

"Are you okay?" He asks.

"Are you okay honey?"

He rests his chin on the side of my neck.

"I want to fuck you"

"Sorry?"

"I want to fuck you Deliwe"

"Baby I asked if you were okay and you haven't said anything."

"Apple butter my son is missing and that makes me not okay because I feel like a failure and a stupid. Can we not talk about this?"

I look at him and plant a sloppy kiss on his neck.

"Sorry"

"Now can we drive home so I can fuck you till morning?"

I don't like this tone.

"Not make love?"

"No I want to fuck you"

"Sidney..."

He looks at me and pulls my hand to the car he opens the door for me and drives off. I'm stealing glances at him as he drives us home I somehow don't see my Kamo but a shadow of him. It's like his here physically but not emotionally and mentally to be honest I'm not sure if I want to be here with him or with my parents. I've been hearing people saying they prefer a happier version of him than the sad one I don't know if they meant something that is heartfelt or something that is somehow dangerous or wrong but whatever it is I'm yet to find out. I squeeze his thigh to remind him I'm here and I care. He looks at me there's no smile in his face but rather a tight face and his eyes reflecting something that I cannot read between.

"We will find him baby I have faith"

"I will kill the person who took my child and I'm going to kill their family too"

I squint my eyes and glare at him his joking.

"No baby daddy of mine is killing anyone baby this one and Cebi deserve a present father not an absent father who killed someone and earned himself an orange uniform"

I faintly smile. He looks at me then the mirror.

"You are hurt Kamo"

" I hate it it frustrates me and drives me crazy"

"Baby we going to find our baby I trust Priscilla I prayed about it. I even prayed for you baby"

"I don't need prayers Deliwe at least not now.. I just need a pistol with 10 bullets and maybe a 5lt of acid and or gasoline and a box of matchsticks that's all I need not your prayers and that man who always allows the devil to win against us by bringing us such agony time and time again. If your God was a good God non of these discomfoting things would be happening to begin with. Like I don't fucken understand why his fucken will always involves such feels but never happiness and prosperity or stillness. Each time bad things happen IT'S GOD'S Will like what the fuck nigga? "

I clench my jaw and look outside the window I don't want to fight. We park in front of our house I text mama and obviously she's not happy with my decision but she tells me to be safe.

" Let's go"

"I think I'm hungry" I say honestly I didn't eat. He looks at me.

"Why didn't you tell me Deliwe? Why are you telling me now?" He snaps.

"I'm sorry Kamo"

"Geez!" He says walking to the drivers side. I feel tears build up in my eyes his losing his temper on me and it hurts.

"It's fine I will eat ice cream" I say with a trembling voice. He looks at me.

"I'm sorry I snapped"

"I was at fault"

"That's rubbish baby you pregnant and such things are never planned. I'm sorry let's go get you something to eat okay?"

I look at him with glistening eyes this thing is affecting the both of us. We drive to KFC I eat and he requests a take away we drive home.. He goes to shower and I sit on the bed and scrolling down my son's pictures I start crying Sidney walks in he lotions and climbs the bed. I rest my head on his chest and cry he doesn't say anything but rather holds me.

"You can fuck me" That comes of a whisper I'm doing this for him. He wants it after all.

"I won't be gentle are you okay with it?"

"I'm pregnant Sidney"

"I won't hurt the baby I promise"

"Fine"

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[Florence]

Shalton is glaring at me his back to life.

"What are you looking at?" He asks.

"Nothing" I say tossing my cell phone aside.

"Mommy talk to me what is going on?"

I can't tell him Cebi is reported missing.

"It's nothing son need water or more pillows or anything?"

"Please bring me a blanket"

"Alright" I stood up and walked away minutes later I came back to Shalton glaring at the screen of my phone.

"What are you..." He cuts me short by raising his hand.

"Sidney's son is missing and you said nothing to me?"

"Your son Shalton correct that"

"Sidney is a father but I'm a dad mama meaning he is more affected by this than me. I need to see him"

He said standing up.

"Shalton you wounded sit down!"

"I need to see Sidney mama it's important"

"That's not happening. "

"Just like it never happened with me raising my child mama?"

"Excuse me?"

"No you are excused Florence!"

"Young man don't give me that attitude! I will slap you all the way to that supporting machine!!"

"Slap me all you want ma it's important"

"That's not happening. "

"Just like it never happened with me raising my child mama?"

"Excuse me?"

"No you are excused Florence!"

"Young man don't give me that attitude! I will slap you all the way to that supporting machine!!"

"Slap me all you want ma but for once I'm going to do the right thing mama and you won't stop me like you always stopped me from doing things that I wanted to do! "

" You mean marrying a stupid kasi girl just because you had impregnated her? You were young Shalton there was no way I was going to allow that! You never loved her remember? "

" Maybe I was going to learn mama. All you ever cared about was turning me against Sidney and making me to compete with him. You always wanted me to do surpass him all the damn time! Forgetting he was my brother and that he was running his own marathon something that I was supposed to be doing ma! "

" Uthetha ikaka ngoku! "

" I never wanted to compete with Sidney mama I never wanted to be a doctor I never wanted to go to expensive schools wear designer clothes and speak fancy English words i never wanted to be raised on this huge and lonely screaming corridors I wanted to be a simple kasi boy that you loved cared for appreciated and supported mama. I never wanted to be used against my siblings ma I never wanted you to use me to break Kamo and his family.. I wanted the most simple things in life mama but you madey life complicated because each time I debated you always threatened me! "

I look at him his eyes are red.

" Ma if you remember very well I was a good at art. I loved playing diski in the township like all the other kids I loved and enjoyed eating pap with mogudu with my hands I love bashes I loved all those things that you used to judge Kamo about. Mama I loved the life that Kamo was living it was real and true mama not this.. This rubbish this pretense. "

I swallow hard.

" For once I'm going to do one damn thing right mama and you won't stop me. I will help him find Mcebisi and his twin thereafter I will let him live his life and I will go out there to find the child that I abandoned on the pavements of soweto"

"Shalton!"

He limps to the door. I throw myself on his bed. I did what I did for us to have a home and something we can call our own..

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[Sidney]

Being here is suffocating me everything reminds me of him. Every corridor of this house smells just like him I can hear echoes of his laughter and voice from every corner. It feels like he is going to appear and ambush me with his kisses and bomber me with his never ending hilarious and cute stories I just miss my son and the thought of him being exposed to death causes me sleepless nights and agony. What irks me the most is not knowing the fool who took him my head is all over and it's cutting deep. Without Tyler nearby it feels like I'm decapitated and drowning in deep waters it's like someone

stuffed rubbers inside my nostrils to suffocate me. I really can't breathe and think clearly. I want my boy here besides me.

"Baby come to bed"

I puff my cigarette and look at the street light. I'm outside sitting on the bonnet of my car.

"Kamo please it's 3am. Come inside babe please."

"I'm not sleepy Deliwe go on and sleep"

"It's windy out here and you not wearing anything warm"

She walks to stand between my legs I look at her and puff.

"Kamo please"

"I want to be alone Deliwe I left you in bed for a reason"

"But you not alone I'm around baby"

She looks at me with worry.

"Baby please"

"I guess we both going to sit here till morning"

"Can I hold you?"

I look at her.

"I will get you a gown inside"

She takes steps walking away.

"Deliwe Woza Lana"

She shyly walks towards me she looks at me with worry.

"Did I hurt you?"

"Where?"

"Hours ago when I was making out with you."

She looks at me then away.

"Did I?"

"Can we not talk about it Kamo it's done and dealt with."

"So I did hurt you?"

"Do you need that gown maybe?"

"We still talking"

" I don't like this topic we having Kamo"

"It's simple Deluwe did I hurt you or not?"

"Then why are you raising your voice at me a Kamo? I'm here there's no need for you to bark like I'm across the road"

"See why I wanted to be alone?"

"Oh! Fine Kamo! Be alone have your space!!"

She says with a trembling voice.

"I'm trying for christ sake!"

"That's where the problem is nobody asked you to try Deliwe!"

In a split second my cheek is stinging She slapped me.

"Oh! Really Kamohelo? That's your best response huh? Uyinja! Msunu wakho!!"

"What did you call me Deliwe?"

"Fuck you I hate you!!"

She roars.

"I thought you were leaving"

"Uthini Kamo?"

"I don't have time for this!"

I say stepping down from the bonnet.

"First you have me like you having an animal Sidney then you treat me like this when you done? It's like I'm a used up condom to you and now you flashing me down the toilet because you done using me huh Kamo?"

"Deliwe you allowed me to have you stop acting like I forced myself on you you were enjoying it just like I was enjoying it."

"Kamo you so stupid! I can't believe this madness! I did that because I wanted you to enlighten up I did that because you are a mess Sidney I didn't enjoy any of that agonizing and brutal experience you just gave me on that bed! I did that because I love you and i promised I will be besides you no matter the season we facing Kamo I did not enjoy that! The best term to describe that is molestation Kamo!! And you saying I enjoyed it? Fucked you!! "

She mouths punching my chest.

"Yazini I'm done with you! I've been tolerating you for the past days and now I'm tired Kamo!!"

"Deliwe"

"Futseki!!!" She storms away I follow her to our bedroom. I find her dressing up I hold her hand.

"Baby"

"Ngiyeke wena!!"

"I'm sorry"

She ignores me and gets a hold of her phone.

"Take me home now if not my father will gladly assist on that department"

"Baby I'm sorry I just.. I just"

I break down..

"Ukhaliswa ubunja Sidney! You think you the only person whose affected by Cebi missing little do you know how I'm breaking down inside Kamo. You know less about how my heart is aching I carried that boy for nine months and I'm a drowning Sidney and I have no one saving me but you won't understand because it's easy for you to throw in the punches and stupid broken and naive Delive has to take in the punches as always because life has always been a bitch to her everything toxic and unhealthy had to be reciprocated by her! Angithi she is strong and she doesn't break!!! "

She breaks down. I walk towards her and embrace her.

" Ngikhathele Kamo I'm tired of feeling like this all the damn time! Kanti Mina ngoneni? Where did I go wrong? Was I wrong for being attached to my mother's womb huh Kamo? "

To be continued.....

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[Deliwe]

I wake up to his side of the bed empty I have a throbbing headache and my throat is sore. Last night I cried myself a river and Sidney kept on apolozing honestly I need sometime away from him before I lose my baby. Already I'm having light pains I'm blaming it on the stress though.

"Morning sunshine"

I look at him then aside.

"I made you breakfast I didn't put the eggs. Since they leave you suffering nausea. I toasted your bread with butter I didn't add the bacon since you

complained about it having too much fats. I made you rooibos tea baby is there anything you who would like? "

I faintly smile without him noticing.

" I got it an avocado.. Two of them right? "

I look at him with my lips pressed.

" I'm coming sunshine. "

" Kamo"

"Yes mommy"

"Thank you I really appreciate it. " He faintly smiles and puts the tray on the bed pedestal.

"You mean that?"

I nod. He smiles.

"Do you want salt on your avocado?"

I giggle softly and brush my tummy.

"Baby it's okay I prefer it this way. It looks delicious and perfect. "

I assure him.

"No it's not baby usually Cebi helps me with this his the one who tells me what to add at times"

His face changes I look at him with worry.

"He will be back soon I pray for him every minute even within my heart. He will be home okay?"

He looks at me and walks towards the bed he sits besides me and holds my hand. We both remain silent. In a split second my hand is wet I look at him. His crying we might be dealing with whatever we dealing with but I still care about him and I love him still.

" Sidney "

" I want my son Deliwe"

"I want him too"

"You won't understand my eagerness Deliwe I want him more his mine and I've lost him once I can't lose him again! ."

I look at him what does he mean by that? But never mind its surely nothing to look deeper into.

"I know baby I know what you going through I'm feeling the same pain mine is doubled up from yours . He stayed in here for nine months Kamo and he sucked on these for years I know how you feel baby I feel it too"

"There's something that I need to tell you"

"What is it? I'm listening"

He looks at me.

"Let's feed you first. "

"Talk to me Kamo what is going on?"

"Your phone is ringing"

He says to me.

"Please pass it over"

He gives it to me it's an unsaved number. With my son missing any call is attended to. Maybe this a call that will save my baby.

"Deliwe hello"

"Hello Deliwe it's me Shalton."

I look at Sidney.

"How can I help you?"

"Is Sidney next to you?"

"Yes why asking?"

"Look please give him your phone I urgently I want to talk to him it's important Deliwe"

I look at Sidney and slightly remove the phone from my ears.

"Hold on... Kamo"

"Mmmm.."

"It's yours someone wants to talk to you."

"Who is that?"

God he hates him I don't know how his going to react to this.

"Shalton"

He looks at me with his facial expression changed.

"He said it's urgent please hear him out"

He heaves a long sigh and answers.

"Alright" I pass over the phone.

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[Priscilla]

"Priscilla"

"Khuzwayo"

"We received a call from O R TAMBO"

I get on my feets

"And?"

"This woman book a ticket with the boy."

"Show me the picture"

He zooms it this person looks like Portia but I see so many artificial changes.
Like the nose and lips but the beauty spot that is on her neck cheek says it all.

"That's her Khubeka"

"Portia?"

"Yes.. That's her look at that boy whose wearing a black cap with shades that's Mcebisi."

"Or maybe the other twin"

"Can we call this one Mcebisi what destination was the plane ticket booked for?"

"My source said Capetown"

"Bingo! We got her"

"Not too fast."

"I have hope we need to update the family"

"Not too soon"

I need water i make my way to the kitchen to get me water. My phone rings its an unknown number.

"Detective Ndlovu hello"

"He.. He.. Hello"

A squicky voice says i think it's a kid. I hate such calls it's surely a wrong number.

"Hello how can I help you?"

"Is thi..this is a police station?"

"Yes how can we help you?"

"I saw a picture of my brother Christopher by the robots saying he was missing"

"Who is Christopher?"

Khuzwayo looks at me.

"The boy whose on the picture I saw the paper and I called the numbers on that paper. Christopher is not missing his just in hospital again. His a regular there. "

"Baby what is your name?"

"My name is Christiana"

"What is your surname?"

"It's..."

"Christiana what are you doing!!"

"Daddy I'm sorry!!"

Before I know it I hear slaps and the line goes dead.

"I need to track down this number that was a lead!!"

"On it!"

I pace around the office. My husband texts me saying Mazondi is missing.

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[Sidney]

"Hi"

"Hey Sid I'm sorry I called your girl.. I was in dire straights I've been trying to reach you with no luck."

"Yeah and?"

"Can we meet in twenty minutes"

"Where?"

"Let's do Sandton or midrand your house?"

"I'm coming"

"Please"

"No problem" I give Deliwe her phone. My guy whose holding Millicent hostage texts me.

"She's ready to talk come hear her out"

"Fuck" I say out loud Deliwe looks at me.

"What did he say?"

"I need to go see him"

"Can you drop me off by house? I'm not feeling well"

"Is it morning sickness?"

"I don't know I feel a bit disoriented"

"I will pack your breakfast"

"Thank you" I jog to the kitchen and dial my guy.

"Jomo"

"Bra Sidney she's willing to talk"

"I'm coming. Is she okay though?"

"She will live ten round is small water."

I look around me.

"Did you guys use the rubbers I gave you?"

"Yeah"

"Look I'm coming after confessing give her the powder that I gave you yesterday. It's going to wipe out her memory and get her admitted to the psychiatrist ward okay?"

"No stress phangisa"

I end the call and text Shalton to make it 30 minutes instead of twenty. He responds. I pack the lunchbox and walk to the bedroom I find Deliwe brushing her tummy.

"Hey are you okay?"

"I don't know Kamo"

"Sweetheart look at me" I look at him.

"Stop stressing I will find Cebi okay?"

She nods.

"Look I will drop you off at your moms and if not feeling well call me I will drop anything to take you to the doctor okay?"

"Yes."

"About yesterday I'm sorry baby I"

"Mmmm..... Kamo.."

"Baby are you okay?"

"Please hurry up I need to go home. I think the baby is...Mmmmmm.." She says starting to fanning herself.

"Baby what's going on?"

"Please call my mother"

"I'm taking you home baby"

She nods.. She slowly walks towards the car I take everything that is needed and useful I drive to her house then drive off to where Millicent is.

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[Millicent]

She jumps in relief when she sees Kamo walk in. Her face has marks of tears her night here was gruesome and soul breaking. She was aware Kamo said he was going to teach her a lesson but this one was truly something else it was awful.. Kamo left her with hungry lions who took turns on her she was crying and begging but these guys heard none of it. She's broken within soul and nothing will ever make the pain subside.

"Kamo please.. Kamo please let me go I beg of you"

"5 minutes is all that you have Millicent"

"I did it"

"You did what?"

"I knew she was pregnant Kamo and that you were starting to fall in love with her instead of her being your side chick."

He looks at me

"One night you were drunk you were sleeping and she sent you a pregnancy stick saying she was pregnant.. I deleted the message from you and i cloned your phone. I was receiving your messages and calls each time she reached out I deleted the messages. One time she sent a message on the 16th of

June saying she was going to Soweto and that she was planning on giving birth at Bara.

So I left Eastern Cape and traveled to Joburg so I can stalk her. So one time I busted a nurse and my father making out in the offices I recorded them and saved the video for later since I knew Portia was planning on giving birth at Bara. So on the 20 of June Portia went to labor the nurse who had sex with my father was the one assigned to deliver to her babies so I used the video against her. "

" So you were communicating with Portia throughout her pregnancy? "

" Not really Kamo but she used to leave you messages no matter how silent and distant you were she kept on texting you and sharing the babies milestones. "

He tightens his jaw.

" I was granted permission to the ward she was delivering in. She gave birth to twins boys one had a respiratory problem and the other was declared to be suffering from a disease that I don't remember. But the other twin had a weak immune system so I heard two women had recently lost their children to death

so I took one child and gave her to the other woman and a young lady whom I believe was 18 years old. Both women didn't know their children had died nor did they know the gender because they were said to have collapsed immediately after pushing so I gave each one of them babies and I took the

teenagers kid and gave it to Portia. Mazondi declared the baby dead she attended the paper work and all that so I'm guilty I did it Kamo "

He claps his hands for me.

" Are you proud of yourself Millicent after narrating that story? "

" I'm not and I'm sorry "

" Millicent you are evil are you aware of the pain you've caused three innocent women huh? "

" I was young and confused"

"Or young with a burnt fuse"

"Kamo I'm sorry"

"After giving her a dead child like it wasn't enough torture you sabotaged her and made me believe she was behind the drugs isn't it?"

"That was the only way to get her off from our backs Kamo. "

"Uyahlanya Millicent how could you do such a thing? And what was the price? You never loved me why did you go such miles to hurting people huh?"

"I loved how you loved me"

"Does that even make sense huh?"

"It does"

He chuckles and roughly holds my face tightening his grip around my cheeks.

"The women give me their names"

"You sleeping with one"

That comes off as a whisper.

He looks at me.

"She was Faith Mphazima and the other was Chantel Erasmus"

He giggles.

"Clap hands for the heavyweight champ yourself. You are a very good devoted fighter Millicent! With these skills you should be earning so much money cos you are a soldier you are heartless!!"

"Sidney please"

"How did you feel sleeping with me everyday while you knew such information huh Millicent?"

"Kamo please I never intended to hurt you it was a moment of weakness and a slippery of a hand"

"Millicent normally I kill people who betray me but wena your conscience is going to do the trick you will go crazy Millicent! Boys give her that powder and make sure she finishes it. "

"Kamo no!!!"

"Goodbye"

"Kamo please!! Don't leave me here with these people please!!"

"Help yourselves boys whatever you decide with her maybe it end with her in a dark and hopeless place. Be it prison a grave or a mental institution do anything you see fit. I have an Erasmus to find."

He walks away leaving me crying and frightened.

"Woza mapakisha"

The one whose been doing sinister stuffs to me says.

"Please let me go my father is a minister he will pay you shall you let me go"

"Liar!" He says pulling my leg I scream as I come to realization of what is yet to happen again.

Why did I put myself in this mess? I should have let go from the go.

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[Sidney]

"Sorry I'm late you good dwang?"

"I'm good Kamo I'm just glad to came"

We share a brotherly embrace. I sit opposite him and glare at him.

"I know we not best of friends Sidney but I have something important to tell you"

"I'm all ears"

"Before I got shot I saw a kid at Killarney mall who resembled your boy Cebi. I asked who he was and I was told he was Christopher instead or Mcebisi. I saw the number plate of the woman who had him. She's white if not colored I strongly believe Mcebisi is a twin "

" And you right Shalton I just found out some scary shit from a detective that I have twins boys and it turns out your boy is my boy biologically and your child with her died at birth"

He squint his eyes.

"What are you saying Kamo?"

"Portia my ex was pregnant for me and Millicent kept it a secret"

"Whoa! You mean to say Mcebisi is your child biologically? Meaning you not infertile?"

"Yeah"

"Then how does Mcebisi end up with Deliwe? And you ending up with her? Like how is this so convenient and relatable?"

"I guess it was destiny Shalton. After all destiny is defined as a future scenario that is not determined by our decisions and choices destiny is something that was bound to happen with or without us putting in the hard work or the sweat. Destiny is ordained and noble Shalton."

He looks at me jaw dropping.

" Remember the first day I laid my eyes on her? "

" You told me she was the rib that was made out of your ribcage and that she was your Eve "

I chuckle.

" You remember that? "

" Yeah.. Kamo you really loved her and saw so much in her things that no normal eye could see."

" But you still went to her and did what you did Shalton"

"Losers move I guess I was a dick"

"A very huge one at it"

We look at each other.

"I'm sorry Kamo for everything I'm sorry I made both of you to go through such pain. Mcebisi would've been your first born with her but I tainted that perfectly painted picture. I allowed a third party to whisper in my ear just like a serpent whispered in Eve's ears when telling her to eat the forbidden fruit. I messed up Kamo and I'm sincerely sorry"

"Since you and Eve share one thing in common tell me was the apple worth a bite?"

We both burst in laughter.

"Kamo come on"

"I'm not talking about my woman's fruit dude I know that one is worth every betrayal and punishment."

"Can we go find Christopher before you start telling me information I'm not supposed to be hearing"

"You weak dude. Come here!" I say pulling him for a brotherly love.

"I got you Salton and it's buried in history. Let's go find your nephew dude"

"Thank you Sid"

"Not yet easy tiger."

We walk outside side hugging each other. Just opposite my car my eyes land on my tail.

"I didn't know you two are now dating"

She says walking towards us.

"Can Delive not know about this I don't want to die. She's a catte after all"

We crack up in laughter.

"You crazy Sid. Hey 50c bullets didn't kill your arse? You are a legend dick head!"

Tumi says to Shalton.

"This little family reunion is dope and cute and all that shit but I want a family reunion with Portia Dube in Cape Town. I got plane tickets we bouncing Kamo now"

"She's in cape Town with Cebi?"

"Yes and she's torturing him I'm going to blow off her brain Sidney forgive me."

"And what do I do to help?" Shalton-

"Find Christopher Erasmus."

"No problem be safe wherever you going"

"Cheers" I say giving him a brotherly love.

To be continued...

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[SPONSORED]

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[Sidney]

"How did you find her?"

"By now you should know I have eyes and ears everywhere Kamo"

She mouths swirling the steering wheel.

"I'm joking your father gave me the information"

I look at her shocked.

"Marcus?"

"Yes he cares Kamo yesterday he went to Deliwe's house"

She looks at me

"I wasn't expecting that it's so unlike him"

"He cares Sid. And Deliwe how is she? Is she hanging in there or chasing pavements?"

"Honestly she's handling this better than I expected I'm the one whose tossing and turning all night"

She looks at me.

"Does she know the latest?"

I heave a sigh.

"I haven't been able to get proper words to say to her when explaining this whole thing. I'm scared Tumi"

"Eventually it's going to come out"

"I think its not my place to tell her but the detective"

"I feel for Delz she's been through a lot man. She deserves happiness and peace of mind"

We both keep quiet.

"Be on her side Kamo not against her please after Cebi her sanity is you."

"I will try"

We step out of the car and walk to the departure terminals.

"Do you think she knows about Cebi?" I ask as we waiting for our flight.

"She wouldn't have abducted him had she been in the dark about t him."

"Can we not kill her"

"Why not?"

She looks at me with mesmerize.

"I wouldn't live with myself knowing I killed the mother of my child she would rather go to jail or something"

"Deliwe is Cebi's mother Kamo she nurtured him since birth not Portia who hid the pregnancy from us."

"She didn't she's been reaching out but Millicent prevented me from retrieving messages"

"Can we drop this conversation it feels we betraying Deliwe right now"

She stands up

"You look good by the way in your black bikers outfits"

She sticks her tongue out. I miss Deliwe.

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[Marcus]

Zelda is resting her head on my shoulder while scrolling down on her phone looking at Cebi's pictures she's shedding tears too.

"I pray he comes back alive"

" Tumi will bring her alive along Sidneys help"

"How do you know Marcus? I'm talking about my grandchild here."

I heave a sigh I don't want her knowing about everything that I do. Especially the dark side of it.

"I contacted a friend to trace down Mcebisi and turns out his in Cape town with a Portia Dube I gave Tumi all the details."

"So you condoning this whole thing of having Tumi doing dangerous and deadly things? Why didn't you give the detective the information?"

"For them to scare the target with their sirens? My daughter has this I trust her Kamo is too broken to be dealing with such"

"Like really Marcus?"

"Marcus can we talk" A voice behind us mouths. I tilt my head to look it's Florence.

"In private Zelda"

She adds.

"Alright" Zelda stands up ready to leave

"Zelda sit down"

"Excusee me Marcus?"

"If there's anything you need to say Florence say it in front of her she's in my life now and I'm not about to build our relationship on secrets"

Florence claps her hands in disappointment.

"It's important Marcus"

"And It changes nothing"

"Marcus I will excuse you it's okay"

Florence glares at Zelda.

"You enjoying this isn't it Zelda?" Flo-

"I'll be upstairs when you done" She pecks Marcus on his neck and she cat walks away.

"Talk"

"Isaac was responsible for my pregnancy"

"Okay I already know that. But I don't know when you planning on telling Shalton I'm his uncle"

"Marcus can you please not do that Shalton is family. His your cousins child making him your child too"

He looks at me.

"Besides you owe his father his part of the shares on your vineyard business all I'm asking for is for you to treat him like your own just like you've been for years"

"You want me to love and father your son while you couldn't practice the same thing with my twins. You hated my children Florence and used your Xhosa evil ingredients to turn me against my children. "

"Marcus that's not true I never did any of that. You did that by yourself Marcus. The only thing I've done and take blame for was cheating on you and I'm sorry please don't punish Shalton for my sins please"

"And what wrongs are those mama?" Shalton says walking towards us.

We exchange eyes.

"Son how are you?" I mouth trying to clear the air.

"Greetings dad.. Mama I'm listening what are you two talking about?"

"It's.. It's something complicated" Florence stutters.

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[Carol]

I'm sitting on the bed glaring on sleeping Deliwe brushing her back at it.
Mphikeleli walks in and sits besides me.

"Is she okay sthandwa sami?"

"I would like to think so honey"

"Kanti what is wrong?"

"She had stomach cramps but the doctor said nothing of use"

He heaves a sigh and holds my hand

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AD

brushing her back at it. Mphikeleli walks in and sits besides me.

"Is she okay sthandwa sami?"

"I would like to think so honey"

"Kanti what is wrong?"

"She had stomach cramps but the doctor said nothing of use"

He heaves a sigh and holds my hand he gives it a squeeze.

"Sthandwa sami it's complicated nje ngapha uCebi going missing and ngapha is this existing and not existing pregnancy kuningi. "

"Sorry sthandwa sami kuzophola come here."

He pulls me in for a hug.

" Don't stress about it we will be okay uCebi will be home In a day or two I promise"

I sniff.

"I'm worried ngo Deliwe baba"

"She will be okay don't stress this one mamakhe"

He says brushing my tummy and kissing my lips passionately. Deliwe stirs on the bed but she doesn't open her eyes. We break the kiss.

"Let's go to the garden to water your plants or you want a foot massage?"

"I want to cuddle on a picnic set up"

"I will get us a blanket and pillows is that okay?"

"I love you Ndlangamandla"

He smiles and kisses my pointy and sweaty nose

"I love you more"

Deliwe wakes up and sprints to the toilet. I follow her she's throwing up her intestines.

"Baby are you okay?"

I say kneeling behind her brushing her back.

"I feel sick ma"

"It's going to be okay sisi"

"How am I going to be okay mama with everything going south?"

"Sisi the pastor once advised you have faith Deliwe and for you to sing that song all the time."

"I don't have the strength ma"

I rest my chin on her back.

"It's only a morning sickness Deliwe soon you will be expecting a little one. When I was pregnant with Sindiswa I had more morning sicknesses episodes nearing my labor surely you will deliver soon"

She looks at me.

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[Shalton]

"Mama I asked you a question"

She looks at me and fiddles with her hands I look at Marcus.

"Dad what's going on here? Please talk to me"

"It's not my place son to tell you what you asking of."

Why am I finding discomfort on this?

"Mama what is going on?"

"I'm sorry Shalton"

"Sorry about?"

She starts sniffing.

"I cheated on your father"

"Okay and?"

She looks at me

"I'm sorry"

Why is she busy saying sorry? What is she sorry about? Unless she.. No way.

"I hope you not apologetic for what I think this is ma"

"Shalton.."

"Dad is this what I think it is?"

"Son" Dad-

"Can you two talk and stop beating around the bush! What is going on here?"

"His not your father!!" Mom shouts I look at her then dad.

"What did you just say Florence?"

"Marcus is not your father but he is your uncle"

I scoff.

"I'm out"

"Baby"

"Shalton I'm sorry" Dad says I jog toy car.

"Shalton please wait up"

"Piss off!"

"Can we talk please"

"Go to hell!!"

I step inside my car and speed off. My phone is ringing somewhere I need to find it.

[Mphikeleli]

That crazy lady is here again but today she's not crazy but rather normal just like everyone else.

"Excuse me"

She says from outside the gate glaring at me as I'm laying a blanket on the lawn. I leave everything there and walk to her.

"Can I have a minute with you it's important please"

I open the gate and see her in.

"My name is Hlengiwe Zondi"

"Mphikeleli Mphazima"

She looks at me and stretches out her hand. A car pulls up just by my gate a tall girl comes out.

She looks terrified if not angry.

"Sawubona baba Mphazima can I please have that woman" The lady says.

"She's asking for you Mazondi"

"It's a moment of truth my son"

"Mazondi come and stop disturbing people's peace" The lady says stepping inside my yard. Deliwe walks out with a container of grapes behind her there's Carol.

"That's her.." mazondi-

"Her who?" I ask.

"Priscilla and Mphikeleli can we all go inside and have a serious conversation"

"Mazondi don't do this at least not now" Priscilla -

"What exactly is going on here?"

"Did you find my son Priscilla?" Deliwe mouths looking at the lady Mazondi walks towards Deliwe she stretches her hand out. Deliwe looks at it and holds it.

"Sawubona nurse Zondi"

"You remember me?"

"I can't forget a woman who delivered my first baby"

They look at each other

"I came here to speak to you Deliwe"

"About what nurse?"

"Your son something awful happened that night"

"I'm lost"

"Let's go inside Deliwe"

They walk inside the house the Priscilla lady looks at me then Carol.

"I need to go inside" Priscilla says. She walks inside we follow them.

"Deliwe that night you delivered a child something bad happened sisi."

"And what was that?"

"On the 21 of June 2014 I helped three women to deliver their babies. In that three two women lost their kids at birth and one woman had a safe delivery she gave birth to twins boys. You and that woman you were both in the same ward on that day. So what happened was the twins were swapped at birth meaning you left with one of the twins and the other woman also left with the other twin. "

"Whoa! Where is this going nurse Zondi?" Deliwe-

"A woman named Portia was the one who delivered twins but out of my cruelty I swapped her twins and gave them to both the women who lost their kids and I made her mourn a child that wasn't hers but yours Deliwe"

She immediately stands up.

"Askies uthini?"

"Deliwe Mcebisi is not your child and I'm sorry"

Deliwe laughs.

"Nurse Zondi this is utter rubbish!! You came all the way from wherever you came from to gabb this nonsense?"

"Deliwe your child died at birth it was a girl. Mcebisi is not your child he has a twin out brother out there."

Deliwe laughs again.

"And that is rubbish!! That boy is my son I gave birth to Mcebisi stop making up stories. If you bored nurse Zondi step outside and blow off the clouds and stop gabbing nonsense! My son is missing and that is important to me not this

rubbish you speaking now. Baba get this crazy woman out here or else ngizombulala for playing April fool with me on October !! "

Deliwe says walking away.

"The Portia lady what was her surname?" Carol-

"Portia Dube" Deliwe looks at Carol then the detective

"I think that's the reason she recently met u Deliwe" The detective adds.

"Can you repeat what you just said?" Deliwe says with a stern voice.

"The boy you raising is not your child Deliwe but Portia and... And" The detective stutters.

"Portia and who? Carol asks.

" Portia and Sidney Kamo Matthews"

I immediately stand on my feet.

"The boy has a twin and his name is Christopher Sidney fathers Cebi he just found out recently that he and Portia had twins it was by coincidence that you raised one of the twin and dated Sidney" Detective-

"I knew it!! I knew it! That girl was too good to be true! She came to steal Cebi!" Carol-

Deliwe sits down defeated.

To be continued

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[Tumi]

"The security system is tight Kamo we won't manage"

"I saw that too we need cops for this one"

"I hate cops"

"It's a pity you're one of them"

"I'm not a cop dummy I'm a warder"

"It sounds the same to me"

"Shut up I think that's her"

"Who?"

I don't answer him but glare at the red BMW series that is driving out. The number plate says it all.

"We're tailing her"

"And we won't harm her."

"Excuse me Kamo?"

"She's Cebi's mother Tumi"

"Are you hearing yourself? This bitch kidnapped your son and you here getting all touchy touchy over this? Are you okay upstairs?"

"I'm not having this conversation with you"

"We're so having this conversation Kamo"

"I can't have her blood on my hands Tumi you don't understand so zip it!"

"Fuck you Kamohelo!!"

He looks at me and attempts to say something but I play music on full blast to silence him. I tail Portia.

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[Portia]

I park my car on the parking lot and make my way inside the Canal Walk shopping center I buy a few things for the house and that spoilt brat whose currently residing in my house. I hear something vibrating inside my handbag I slide my iPhone out and look at the caller ID.

"Hey friendship"

"Where is my son Portia?"

"What are you talking about friend?"

"Don't play pretense with me I know what you did and I want my son back Portia!"

"And what happens if I refuse to bring him back Deliwe? What are you gonna do about it? Crawl back to prostituting yourself or what? Tell me sweetheart!"

"Portia you have made your statement and I've read it attentively but whatever message you're trying to send you're delivering it to the wrong person my son has nothing to do with your shenanigans with Sidney! If it's Kamo's penis you're after get it without tainting my son and I. This is no way to go about this Portia. Letha Ingane yami"

I giggle.

"Ncoooh Catte you sound sweet babe. Cute little puppy is negotiating for baby dearest."

"Portia angidlali bring my son!!"

"In what state? Dead or alive?"

"Portia uyinja!! How could you do such a thing?"

"I bark louder than a lion would roar honey I can do this and I'm going to do it! I want to teach your little pink baby daddy a lesson that he will never ever forget for treating me like a condom he just splashed his sperms inside and

flushed down the toilet! People are to be loved and things are to be used and today I will teach him that. I'm sorry if doing that will break your little heart
Delive but it needs to happen"

"Portia! Don't you dare hurt my baby! I thought you were a good person I thought you wanted to be my friend but little did I know you were a conniving bitch"

" And thanks to your stupidly and naively ways you made my mission easier by singing out the information I didn't sweat to obtain. Thank you sweetheart!"

"Portia please"

"It's not personal honey"

I end the call and block her. I take a few steps heading to the wine place.

"Portia!" A voice calls behind me.

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[Sidney]

"Portia please wait up"

I mouth..

Tumi glares at me.

"Do I know you maybe?"

I look at Tumi.

"What the fuck Sidney?" Tumi says between her teeth.

I ignore and walk towards Portia.

"Portia can we sit down and discuss"

"Discuss what? Dude I don't even know you"

"Can you cut the crap. I know you have my son let's sit down and discuss this like grown ups"

"Now I think I know you.."

"Can you stop playing this game I want my son Portia bring him back"

"Mmmm... Now this is getting exciting first your catte slut calls me asking me to bring Mcebisi now you? Kahle kahle what is wrong with you?"

I look at her mesmerized how possible is what she is saying? Deliwe doesn't know Portia.

"Deliwe called you?"

"She didn't tell you?"

"How do you know each other?"

She giggles.

"She didn't tell you?"

"Tell me what?"

"Deliwe and I are very close friends and she happens to know everything about you and your past"

What the hell? How come I don't know about this?

"Or you want pictures to prove that?"

I look at her.

"Portia come on can we be civil about this bring my son please!!"

"I told you I don't know your child"

"Yeyi wena plastic surgery you going to bring back that child or else I will rip off those silicone arse!!"

"Tumi please stop it!!"

"Please ini Sidney? You leveling with this bitch? She abducted Cebi you moron!"

"You're attracting eyes"

"And I care less!!"

She looks at Portia.

"And wena stop pulling some house wives gimmick stunts bring that boy!"

Tumi says annoyed. Portia looks at her

"I don't have time for madness."

"Madness? Bitch I will show you madness you hear me?"

She says storming on Portia's direction pulling her weave at it. Cameras are on standby on most people Tumi is holding Portia's weave on her hand.

"Bring my nephew or I will fuck you up just like my brother fucked you!!"

"Tumi can you stop it okay? You ruining things!"

"Ska nyela wena I know what I came here for Sidney unlike you whose here to lick her clitoris and maybe give her quads don't test me oska ntwaela! Where is Cebi plastic minaj?"

"Where is security?" Portia says

"I'm security" She says.

Portia looks at me and I return the stare. Tumi walks away I take the weave from her hand and pass it to Portia.

"Please bring back my son Portia please"

"I don't have him"

"Come on"

"Eish!!" Portia says storming away I follow her.

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Deliwe

Its 7pm when I get a hold of my hoody jersey. I get a hold of my mothers car keys. My father stands up to look at me.

"Ngiyabuya" I say softly.

"Deliwe uyaphi?"

"I need a breather"

"It's late at night Deliwe you in no good state drive"

"I won't commit suicide Mphikeleli!! I'm not that stupid okay?"

"Don't use that tone on me Deliwe!!"

He roars back. I look at him and ignore him I walk to the door.

"Deliwe Mphazima I'm talking to you!!"

"Mphikeleli myeke she needs the air. Being in this house is suffocating her"
Caro -

"What if she crashes what then huh?"

"Baba please calm down"

"Deliwe get your arse back here"

"Mphikeleli myeke!"

I walk outside and climb on the car I lock it and rest my head on the steering wheel a tear rolls down my eye when events of today flashes before my eyes. I shudder and punch the steering wheel endlessly. I scream my lungs out till salty water and mucus runs to my lips. I can't bear this cross it's weighing down on me. This burden is way too much for one person to carry I don't understand why the will of God hurts this much I'm tired and drained the only thing that is in my mind is for me to disappear. I can't get past all the sadness and I'm scared of what this pain is doing to me.

"Delive please come inside please baby?"

My mother says outside crying. I look at her and sniff.

"Nana don't leave the house looking like this please"

I ignore her and drive off speeding leaving her screaming. I get a hold of my phone I dial Sidney he doesn't pick up. I dial him again but he doesn't pick up. I turn connect my phone to the aux and play a song that understands how I feel right now..

♪♪I'm only 18
And I feel like I'm dying
I'm getting sad too soon
I hope I make it cause I'm trying

I've loved and I've lost
And realized that it's all my fault
Wish someone loved me enough
To catch me when I fall
Hmm

And I know it's kinda selfish but
It's not my choice to leave
'Cause I wish I could stay
But it's more of a need
For me to go away

I'm tired of the world
Hating on me 🎵🎵

My phone beeps I look at it it's Jabu my cousin. I ignore it she rings me again I ignore it. A message beeps.

"Just saw you speeding off in a range rover please don't hurt yourself and today I was planning on coming to your house I heard about Cebi going missing and I'm sorry but please don't do anything stupid"

After reading it I delete the message and look on my reflection on the mirror this is me. This is the only reflection of Deliwe that I'm familiar with Deliwe was never happy but like this the past weeks and months have been lies Deliwe is not a happy being she is a mess that comes with a curse in people's lives.. Before I know it I hear big bang a strange hearing frequency fills up my ears it's like I'm walking under a tunnel my ears are blocked and stuffed my eyes are feeling heavy and slowly closing. I see a little girl running around wearing a white dress running on a veld. She is calling me to a direction that I do not know wherever we're going to I see strange things.

"Woza ngapha mama" The kid says holding my hand suddenly everything goes silent and darkness is all I see....

To be continued....

(Thank you Zandi for editing❤️)



Open

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95 [Sponsored]

[Carol]

It's exactly 9pm when Sindiswa walks in the house I jump thinking it's Deliwe. I heave a long sigh trying to compose my frustration. These children will be the death of me if it's not Deliwe acting out of anger it's Sindiswa coming back at this time!

"Ubuyaphi wena? Iskhathi sokubuya lesi Sindiswa? Sowuyaziphatha wena? Kukwakho la?"

"I was.. I was with a friend ma"

"Dare fall pregnant Sindiswa Mphazima I will deliver that baby with a punch!! I swear ngane ka Mphikeleli"

I roar in frustration. Sindiswa looks at me.

"Get out of my sight before I do something I'll regret"

She walks away. Leaving me pacing around in the sitting room. I'm worried about Deliwe. I may not have given birth to her but my motherly instincts tell me something bad happened to her suddenly I feel something coming up on my throat I quickly rush to the bathroom and as soon as I step inside I vomit on the toilet. When I'm done I rinse my mouth and kneel down on the floor and I start praying like a mad woman!

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[Angela]

I haven't been myself for a couple of days lately but I force myself to work it keeps me distracted from many things. I'm biting an apple when a paramedics team jogs in with a patient on a stretcher bed I get on my feet and run towards them.

"What do we have here?"

"She was involved in a car accident her pulse is faint"

I don't wait for him to finish his statement I rush her in for help.

"Doctor Ngoyi we need to take her to intensive care!" My colleague says turning the stretcher bed right there I see a familiar face.

"No! No! No! This can't be happening this can't be happening"

My colleagues looks at me.

"Doctor Ngoyi is everything okay?"

"Save her please"

I say holding her hand running to the ward with her. I find a nurse and give her my phone to dial a Mphikeleli. I quickly attend to Deliwe as hard as it is.

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[Mphikeleli]

My spirit is down and I'm worried about Deliwe it's 10pm now and there is no sign of trace of her. We've been calling her with no luck.

"Mphazima come to bed"

"For Ini Carol?"

"Sthandwa sami please"

"You shouldn't have stopped me from stopping her to leave the house angry! What if she had a car accident? Huh Caroline? What if she was highjacked or kidnapped? What if that woman that took Mcebisi came for her too? Huh?"

"Baba I meant no harm. She needed air to calm down"

"Air? How much air does she need kuze kube ileskhathi? The worst part akaphenduli i phone! Where is she now?"

She looks at me.

"I'm the head of this house Carol sometimes you need to know your place as a woman! When I say no I mean just that! What are you going to do if my daughter is laying in a freezer in a mortuary without? Will she still be getting air?"

"Leli don't speak like that please I meant no harm"

"Just shut up already!!"

I say walking past her. My phone rings on the couch. I rush to it I exhale deeply before answering

"Ufunani?"

"Good day am I speaking to a Mphikeleli Mphazima person? I was sent by Doctor Ngoyi to give you a call. A lady named Deliwe Mphazima was brought in to our faculty she was involved in a car accident it's not looking good. "

"Whoa!! Uthi u Deliwe wenzeni?"

Carol walks towards me immediately.

"Please come to Bara hospital sir and look for doctor Ngoyi. "

I drop my cellphone and sink on the sofa

"Baba what happened? Where is Deliwe?"

I look at her.

"Mphikeleli!!! Mphikeleli talk what happened to Deliwe?"

She starts crying Sindiswa walks in teary too.

"She was involved In a car accident!"

"Baba!!!" They both say in unison crying

"I need to go to the hospital now"

"Is she alive?" Sindi -

"I will hear at the hospital"

They both start crying I get on my feet to get my car keys.

"I'm coming with you" Carol-

"Same here"

They both say.

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[Tumi]

Kamo is settled on the couch with his legs stretched out I'm sitting on a chair glaring at him. We booked into a hotel.

"She wants us to meet now"

I look at him with zero fucks.

"Please come with me"

I look at him and then my phone.

"Tumi I'm not planning on leaving Deliwe or sustaining a relationship with Portia. I love Deliwe and I would never ever betray her like that. I just want to get Cebi without shedding blood especially his mother's blood try to understand"

"Do you think you will still have her by your side when this is all over? I mean Kamo you didn't tell her you were coming here you not taking her calls you get all smitten in the presence of Portia like dude what are you hoping for?"

"Tumi by now you should know me I did what I had to do to buy Cebi time to keep him alive because I don't know what Portia is capable of if she can kidnap Cebi that means she can do far worse than that I had to talk to her calmly and make her believe I'm not angry at her so she doesn't harm my son she put up a persona but in her eyes I could see that all this stems from pain being hurt being abandoned by me and it's only I that can fix that and I can only do that while calm had I retaliated maybe by now we'd have gotten a call to come collect my son's body. I will call Deliwe before I sleep but for now can we please go get Cebi please"

"And you trust that slut?"

"Tumi I have this under control her giving me her numbers says a lot. She has a soft spot for me and I want to use that to my advantage. I want to beat her at her own game she's playing a very dangerous game because it involves my son!"

"And you think I buy that?"

"Tumi you don't understand sometimes you need to play a player on their game and that's exactly what I'm trying to do!"

I know my brother and he is lying right now

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there's no such thing as playing a player on their own game. He's catching feelings.

"I will update Deliwe about her sudden title on Cebi"

I say standing up he jumps up and takes my cellphone

"Give it back"

"Don't stress my girlfriend over rubbish Tumi."

"Your what?"

He looks at me

"Now you realize you have one huh? After you've been ignoring her calls like really Kamo?"

"Tumi can we stop this bickering okay? I love Deliwe how many times am I supposed to tell you?"

"You lying Sidney. Why don't you just break up with her instead of making her your yo-yo? One minute you're head over heels with her the next she is a piece of toilet paper with your butt waste! Keng Kamo?"

"Tumi that's not true! I'm telling you it's all a game Tumi geez!!"

"If I had known this trip was going to revive your old flame I would have not bothered considering coming here Sidney! Coming here was a waste!"

I walk to my luggage I start putting back my stuff.

"Tumi what are you doing?"

"Giving you all the best of luck in pursuing your relationship with Portia. Maybe you going to need this bed to giving her many more babies Kamo I'm out"

"Tsamaya Tumi I don't need this stress you bringing me I'm tired of assuring you that we're still on the same page. I know what I'm doing woman!"

"Ka Tsamaya vele"

"Tsamaya!"

We look at each other. His phone rings.

"I'm on my way"

He says taking his pistol hiding it on his arm band. He puts a blazer on and walks out..

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[Priscilla]

He calls me.

"Where are you?"

"Just landed I booked into the same hotel as you"

"Hotel number?"

"Room 104"

"I'm coming"

"I told her Sidney"

"Told her what?"

" About your twins with Portia"

"How did she take it?"

"Not easy at all"

"Can we finish this so I can go home?"

"No problem I will send in a cover"

"She suggested we meet in a park I don't know why but she did. I will forward you the location"

"I will record everything then"

"No sirens please"

"Don't worry I will be In her house with a search warrant while you do your part of which I'm still against Sidney"

"I have no choice I promised his mother to bring him safe and alive"

"Come get the bullet proof"

He ends the call. I sit on the bed and look at Thami who is looking at me as I take off my blouse.

"Nice tits"

"I know"

I wear a bullet proof vest and a joggers outfits. I tie my hair in a bun and wear a cap.

"Do you trust Sidney with this one?"

"It's his child Thami he won't fumble well at least I hope."

"Priscilla have you forgotten who the big fish is here? I feel like we're using the guy for our own mission what happens if he gets caught up in the cross fire?"

"You worry too much it's not like we knew the husband was the drug lord we've been trying to pin down it's just by luck our worlds collided"

"She's your friend Priscilla"

"One who played dead for years while her mother has been going in and out of hospital taking all sorts of pills just to see tomorrow all in the name of being worried about her. On this one I'm not siding with anyone."

"And Mazondi do we arrest her too? I mean she's also involved in this"

"Can we cross that bridge when we get there"

"Priscilla don't tell me you starting to feel for her she played a part in this"

"She's not mentally stable you know prison doesn't favor her kind"

"Priscilla everyone whose involved on this has one place to go and that's prison favoritism won't work on this case think of the people who were affected by this even that Millicent Ngoyi girl has to go to prison her playing hide and seek won't save her not even Mazondi"

I look at him.

"You don't understand Mazondi has multiple personality disorder"

He looks at me a knock saves me from the third degree. Sidney walks in he greets us and sits down.

"And that gun?"

"It's legal I have a license. So who is coming with?"

"Khuzwayo will be on standby.. He will be jogging around the park that will be his disguise."

"Are you sure about doing this Kamo?"

"I have no choice I need this over and done with. Already I'm having so many things going wrong back home. Deliwe and I have been strangers and I hate how this has been stressing me out and I can't imagine the amount of stress she is going through especially while pregnant"

"Sorry Kamo let's try to fix this"

"Here" Khuzwayo throws condoms at Sidney

"He's taken Khuzwayo"

"Maybe she wants to be fucked down ex's never break up"

"I'm afraid not on this round Khuzwayo" Sidney says fixing his wire.

"No worries but please keep it"

I look at his abs and his torso he has a sexy body honestly some women are lucky.

"Tell me when you are done so I can put on my shirt"

Sidney says Thami bursts in laughter. I'm so embarrassed right now.

To be continued....

Edited by Zandile♥

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Not edited.

[SIDNEY]

On our way to Cape Town I had this anger and hate towards Portia for kidnapping my son our son although she doesn't know that yet but as soon as I saw her at the shopping center something in me shifted I can't really put my finger on it as to what it is is it guilt? Is it love? Is it shame? I love Deliwe with every fiber of my being but after seeing Portia something changed she is also much of a victim as Deliwe is. I can't imagine the pain she went through

thinking I've abandoned her with my kids she tried reaching out but Millicent was just too smart and hid that from me Portia doesn't even know that I didn't know about her pregnancy.

Portia being Cebi's mother changes a lot even though Cebi was raised by Deliwe I don't think it'll be that easy to just hand him over to her biological mother and I don't think Portia would want to let go of Cebi after finding out the truth that he is hers even though she's going to jail for kidnapping she'll not spend much time in prison she will come out and claim her kids back. This is some fucked up situation!! I hope we all come out stronger out of this mess especially Deliwe she's been through so much and she doesn't need this!!

"Are you ready Kamo?" The Khuzwayo detective mouths distracting me from my thoughts.

"Sure thing"

He looks at me.

"Ehm.. Sidney right?" I nod.

"I know this is easier said than done especially with the suspect being the mother of your child. I know you building a train of thoughts in your head wondering if you doing the right thing by doing this I know you don't need advises right now but I want to tell you to put your child into consideration with whatever choice you make. Mcebisi must be priority on this one deal with Portia and Deliwe later. Don't allow matters of the heart to blind you from doing one thing right and that is putting your son first. "

I look at him.

" I don't know the heat stored in your shoes but please Sidney help us on helping Cebi."

He pats my shoulder and I heave the longest sigh.

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[Portia]

Its been so many years since I lost my only earth given child to death. Having lost my daughter at birth has been nothing but a devastating and painful experience that I've ever had to endure in my entire life. The sad truth about losing a child is that you're not just losing the person they were but the years of hopes the dreams and the future that lays ahead.

When your child dies you don't only lose their physical form but you lose yourself in the midst of that storm. Losing a child feels unnatural you carry a weight of injustice and guilt all your entire life but people like Sidney HD no knowledge of this cross they make women to carry all by themselves without being there to catch them when fall.

If I were to narrate everything that happened in that hospital you wouldn't view me the same way as you did before you knew the stories behind my blemishes and scars. I know a child's is not fault but trust me emptiness and profound sadness can make one do crazy things.

The people who kill themselves are not fools try having a one on one conversation with pain and tell me if you would survive the emotional challenges. Pain changes people if you were good you become bad and vile.

Would you be normal if you lost your womb along side your baby who wasn't viewed nor seen as a blessing by their father but rather a curse in a blessing? Would you be normal if the root of your pain and hollowness was just miles away if you were good you become bad and vile.

Would you be normal if you lost your womb along side your baby who wasn't viewed nor seen as a blessing by their father but rather a curse in a blessing? Would you be normal if the root of your pain and hollowness was just miles away living their life large while yours wasn't lively? No one would be sane not at all.

Sidney ruined my life and he was never sorry nor did he show me a remorse of depriving me my birth right. I deserved to be a mother not a woman who was donated to for her to have that tittle. All I have as proof that I once was fertile is a pregnancy test and a bloody blanket that Star was wrapped in before she died. That's all I have as a reminder of who and what I once was.

(Phone ringing)

The audacity of this guy.

"What do you want?" I say passively - aggressively sniffing back my tears.

"I'm calling to inform you I'm at the park where are you?"

"Change of plans I'm no longer coming"

"Portia come on you promised"

"You of all people should know that promises are meant to be broken Sidney"

"Portia I beg of you to keep your word if not set my son free and direct your anger to me"

"Listen Kamo you took away what was dear to me something that I held on to and called my sanity when my world was crumbling. You took away my little Star and I'm going to do to you what you did to me eight years ago when our baby died!!"

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[Detective Khuzwayo]

His jogging towards their undercover car to listen attentively on what Portia is saying. They are recording this conversation.

" Portia I know you angry I know you mad at me. I was a dick baby and I admit I did you wrong but please don't hurt Cebi instead let him go sweetheart.

Hurting him will only break Deliwe not me the kid is not mine biologically trust me"

There's a moment of silence.

"You making a fool out of me Sidney! There's no such thing as Mcebisi not being your child. He is your fucken replica!" Portia-

"Posh sweetheart let's meet I have so much to tell you. Just come meet up I know you still love me I saw the spark in your eyes and I know our daughter is giving us a sign baby I left Deliwe for you please."

Portia giggles. "Well.. Well.. Well.. Your little charm will not work its magic on me this time around. It has expired and lost its effect Sidney you once tried it on me and I ended up pregnant without you besides me. Your charm led to me being traded to a drug lord mind you I had recently lost your child but you cared less of which is something that I'm feeling right now no care!! Sidney I'm killing your child in 10 minutes. I would be kind enough to give you his body to bury unlike with your daughter "

The line goes dead.

" Drive to that house drive now!!! " I say banging hard on the drivers seat. The driver does as instructed.

To be continued.....

[Not edited]

[Priscilla]

Dear God.

I know you never made a mistake by assigning me for this job. I know your plans are always accurate and timid right now I pray you shield and protect me and my accomplices with your wings cover us in your holy blood. Let no weapon formed against us prosper. Amen!!

I look at the law enforcements who were assigned to me by the cape Town police station. There's was no way we were going to tackle this without back up. Cape Town is a city of drug lords one can never make faulty decisions at the cost of their life. I'm still finding it hard to believe that I'm here to arrest my childhood friend for kidnapping her child.

It's really ridiculous and bizarre to think the cause of this predicament is nothing but a man who couldn't keep it inside its zipper. I don't think men are aware of the repercussion of their whoring and how it affects other individuals let's face reality Sidney is the root of this problem had he not played them simultaneously none of this would be happening.

These women wouldn't have lost themselves in the brittle of the stars both Millicent and Portia are victims here and Sidney is the culprit. At times I wish there was a law act that prohibits such doings cheating is a serious crime in my world. So many things fall apart once this act is involved in a set up.

This is another Senzo Meyiwa case had he not been a cheat he would still be alive. See what I mean by the price that people get to pay for whoring? But I'm not there.

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[Mphikeleli]

As a parent you feel responsible for your child's health and safety. You feel responsible for their every movements and needs sometimes you shepherd them and herd them like a flock of sheep's. We always know how to cool down their temperature when fever kicks in we know when they hungry or need a nappy change.

We just know so much about our kids and we can prevent certain things from happening. It cuts so deep finding myself in this unfamiliar environment and alien world glaring at my child fighting for her life and laying on her death bed. I somehow wish I was the one laying there not her.

My baby has been through so much she doesn't deserve any more pain I just feel guilty for not being able to prevent this from happening. I know I shouldn't have allowed her to drive in that state but I had faith in her it's unfortunate it landed her here.

"Doctor please give us something that we can work and hold on unto. At least give us a good lie about her not dying please doctor. " Carol-

"Mama we still running tests we can't give you answers as yet"

"Can we go see her at least" Caro -

"No visitors are allowed mama at least not now." Dr-

My eyes locate Angela standing by the glass door looking from outside to the ward Deliwe is in. I stand up and head to her direction.

"What brings you here Angela?"

She looks at me with puffy eyes.

"I'm sorry our baby is in this state it's just.. It's not a good view to look at." She bursts into tears crocodile tears to be frank.

"Surely you're jolly and all chirpy Angie I mean our little regret is fighting for her life. Surely you praying for her to die isn't it Mrs Ngoyi?"

"Excuse me Mphikeleli?"

I look at her.

"You've always wanted to see her in this state Angela. Fighting for her life! Why don't you just climb on top of these benches and scream yes! She's

finally laying on her death bed why don't you say it out loud huh? Instead of playing pretense busy shedding your vinegar tears!"

"Mphikeleli I.. I.. I don't wish her that she's my blood my daughter. I could never ever wish death to a baby that I carried in my womb for nine months!"

I chuckle.

" Mayefa Angela? You only recognizing her now that she is in ICU? Where were you all these years Angela when my daughter was being poured over by heavy rains being domesticated by family members? Ubukuphi mama ka Deliwe?"

"I love my daughter Mphikeleli"

That comes as a sob.

"Fuck your timely love Angela!! Fuck you too!! Take your love and go shove it in your fat numnum!!"

I roar forcing people to look at us mostly Angela.

" Oops!! Sorry I shouldn't said that out loud I forgot Deliwe Is your little deep dark secret that you want nobody to know about I'm sorry "

I say sarcastically. She drops off more tears but I'm not touched instead I dart to the doctor.

"Dr listen I don't want that woman anywhere near my daughter she will kill my daughter

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she will kill my daughter she will finish her off she's capable and dangerous. I don't want her anywhere near Deliwe you hear me?"

"Mphikeleli I would never do such a thing please"

"Your crocodile tears don't touch me!!"

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[Portia]

His eyes are glistening and portraying a glint of fear and sadness. His tiny hands are trembling and shaking vigorously it goes without saying that he knows what awaits him. To say I don't sympathize and worry about him would be a big fat lie the mother in me feels for this child but the hate and anger that beams and resides within me surpasses that tiny soft motherly voice that whispers against harming this little boy but rather embracing him and wiping his tears and telling him everything is going to be alright.

As a woman who has lost a child i don't want to harm this boy doing that would only break the mother because a child is so attached to the womb of

their mother but the heartbroken angry empty and vengeful woman within me wants to pass on the anguish I've been wearing as a garment for years to someone else. That mourning woman wants someone who will understand her pain by going through it and suffocating in the midst of it. After all what ends and numbs drunkenness is drinking the alcohol again. Meaning to release pain you should instill pain and right now it's exactly what I'm going to do.

"Aunty Portia is that a knife?" He says squivering in fear.

"I'm not your Aunty and yes it's a knife"

"What are you going to do with it?"

"Can you shut up kid!!!"

"Please don't cut me with the knife I'm going to bleed"

I look at him and puff my cigarette.

"I'm afraid Mcebisi this knife is going to slaughter your throat and gashes of blood will spill on these floors."

"No!! Don't kill me please!!!"

I look at him and blink constantly.

"I'm sorry Aunty if I upset you I will make it up to you please don't hurt me"

He negotiates my phone rings its Sidney. I look at it and then Cebi.

"Do you love stories?"

"Yes..my mother tells me nice stories "

"Can I tell you a nicer story than the one your sluttish mother told you?"

He looks at me with teary eyes he nods.

"Once upon a time there was a little girl her name was Star. Star had dreams hopes and yearnings to live and to be loved by her parents. Sadly her dreams never came through Star died two hours after she was born and she..." I stop narrating the story when I hear noise outside I think someone is using an intercom outside to pass on a message. I look at Cebi.

"Can you hear that noise?"

He nods. "Who do you think it is?"

"I don't know aunty"

"Shhhhhh!!!" I say glaring at him.

"Portia Dube step outside! We know you holding a baby boy hostage in there and we plead with you to free him."

I look at Cebi with my eyes squinted..

"Did you hear that Mcebisi?"

He nods again.

"Mmmm... These are police Mcebisi someone called the police and that is your damn father!!"

He looks at me scared.

"Hheee!! He called Police on me? Sidney called cops on me? Mmmm... I see.. He doesn't love you Mcebisi!!" I say paving around.

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[Sidney]

What the hell is Portia thinking exactly? Does she really think I will fold my arms and watch her kill my son? Mcebisi has nothing to do with this if there's a person she should be barking at and bashing that is me not my son. Why is Cebi being crucified for my sins? This is abruptly getting out of hand and I'm scared of the odds of everything. Deliwé will never ever forgive me shall any harm prevail on our baby. What scares the shit out of me is losing our second baby in the midst of this storm..

[Phone ringing]

Thank God Portia is calling me. I do the longest breath in before answering.

"Baby hello is my son okay?" This sweet talking is suffocating me I wish it can end already.

"Mmmm... so you betrayed me once again Kamo huh?"

"What did I do now? I'm not following"

"Stop playing pretense with me Sidney! You know what you did moron!!"

I clench my jaw and pace around outside her gate.. Priscilla and Khuzwayo are staring at me.

"Why is my house surrounded by police? Did you call cops on me Sidney?"

"Honey I didn't do that please come outside so we can talk."

She giggles. "Come outside so we can talk my arse!! You think I'm stupid wena huh?"

This is getting harder by day.

"No you not stupid" I'm now speechless honestly.

"Just know you killed your son by being a stupid enough Sidney to double cross me with the cop. I thought you were on my side"

"Listen woman I'm now feed up of your little threats and licking your fucken toes okay? If you want to kill my son go ahead Portia slit his throat pull a trigger on his skull do whatever shit you want to do stop singing about it but let me warn you sweetheart shall I find his blood stains anywhere be it on the floor or your hands. I swear Portia I'm going to fuck you up more than I did the last time and you know how far I can fuck up a person. I dare you to harm Cebi but what I will do to your children along their grandmother would make a headline bring it on Portia. You don't scare me. "

Priscilla and Khuzwayo are giving me the " What are you doing " kind of facial expression and I careless right now. I've been licking this woman for a while now and I'm feed up!

"That's how much you love your son Sidney so much to have his head delivered on a silver platter?"

"Portia I said do what you need to do and I will do what I need to do!!" I end the call and walk towards the gate.

"Sidney what was that?"

"Priscilla shut the fuck up okay? I gave you a chance to bring me my son and you did nothing now don't fucken interfere with my plans. I hate police for a reason and that is the exact reason I hate you. "

I say taking risks of jumping the gate. If there a way to save my son is through taking risks.

"Why did you tell her that and what are you doing? "

"I'm tired of pretending okay? If she wants to kill her son then so be it but I won't allow her to get away with murder not one that involves my son and what I'm doing is called moving to Plan B!!"

[Sidney]

There comes a time in life when one has to jump hurdles leap fences penetrates walls and take risks for those who are dear to our hearts love holds no barriers and no bridge will ever prevent me from being a rainbow in my son's darkest cloud. Life has taught me surrendering is more horrible than resistance in times like this the only choice I have on the table is pressing on even though I don't come out alive but my son will sure have to come out alive.

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[Portia]

Things are getting out of hand I never wanted this situation to expand to such a huge scenery. I didn't expect cops to be dancing on my space and raiding my parade. All I wanted to achieve with this act was to get Sidney apologizing and sorry and showing a little empathy and remorse of what he put me through. Losing your first child and your womb simultaneously was the worst agony I had to carry for my entire life. I would've understood had I lost the only I would have been able to let go of the past and move on but on this case it was worse I lost my womb and a chance of moving on with harmony he never apologized and that's all I ever yearned for I wouldn't be doing this had he man up and took responsibility and accountability for his actions. I wouldn't be bleeding on this kid Deliwe's child to be precisely. Look how terrified he is. Let me call him...

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[Carol]

"Sindiswa please get your father a bottle of water please" I mouth comforting Mphikeleli as we both sharing a bench. Sindiswa disappears.

"I'm scared of losing my daughter to death I would never survive without her Carol"

"Shhhh my love nothing is going to happen to our baby I promise"

"How do you know? Did you see how lifeless she was lying on that bed? I can't Carol!"

I tightly wrap my arms around him and draw him to my swollen boobs embracing him.

"Kuzolunga Mphazima she will be okay and the baby too"

Someone clears their throat behind us I tilt my head to have a look.

"Sawubona mama"

"Mfundisi how are you?"

"I'm very well thanks and how are you?"

Sibusiso asks glaring at us with pity.

"It's not easy to say Pastor"

"That was so thoughtful of me to ask I'm sorry. Can I go see her?"

"That's if the doctor will allow you Pastor"

"Let me go try my luck." He mouths heading to Deliwe's ward more like to the glass door to stare at her. Sindiswa appears with the bottle of water.

"Mama nobaba please go home I will stay please"

I look at Mphikeleli and then my daughter.

"You both need the rest I will remain please go. I will be fine mama"

"Thank you my baby I will leave my jacket and fleece blankets okay?" She nods I embrace her and kiss her lips. Mphikeleli hugs her.

"Keep us posted Sindiswa"

"I will mama be safe okay?"

We nod Pastor Buddha walks towards us.

"You can also leave Sindiswa I will stay"

"No its okay Pastor I will remain behind"

"Then we can both stay there's no fault in that"

[Sidney]

I haven't seen Portia in years I'm not aware as to how far maniacal and lunatic she can go when demented and stepped on the toes of which it is her current demeanor capabilities and limitations are a mystery to me. Maybe she's capable of killing my son and maybe she isn't but whatever the odds are I'm giving back Deliwe's son alive. I owe her that much and I made a vow to bring him home alive I can't disappoint her yet again because we in this mess because of me my karma to be precise. I know Portia deserves to know about Cebi but now is not a right time.
Looks like she's calling me...

Phone conversation *

"Tell those cops to get their arses back to wherever they came from Kamo

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this is between you and i not them and their sirens" She mouths.

"If this is between you and i then why is my son on the receiving end of it?"

I mouth searching the rooms her house is very huge and confusing I don't know where to turn and where not to turn. But what I'm looking for right now is a storage or basement room every criminal or chancer knows pretty much a storage or basement is the best disguising and hiding place to conceal your dirt in. In this case I'm certain my son is held hostage in there.

"I knew taking him away was going to get me your attention and that you were going to force yourself into remembering the chords of our song"

" Portia let go of my son you don't want to get yourself in deep shit than you already swimming in. Keep Cebi out of this and face me just like you faced me when we were fucking."

"I can't do that and I won't do that not after the shit you put me through. Here's what's going to happen Kamo you going to tell your little blue wearing uniform friends to vacate my premises. You and I are going to have a heart to heart adult conversations without sirens and intercoms. If you really love your son you will think twice before double crossing me again. I will give you directions to where we are immediately your friends drives off"

" Only a coward takes out their frustrations on powerless people who knows nothing about their pain if you really considered yourself as bold and courageous as you think Portia you would've directed your anger to me not to Cebi and not my fiancée. You were going to be bleeding on me Portia the only cause of your pain or whatever sentiment you hold not my son. "

I mouth using the sensor to detect any noises. The house is quiet meaning Portia is somewhere outside but with the way her house is designed the entrance to wherever she's it is somewhere inside the house sadly I can't crack it that's how huge and confusing this house is.

"I'm done talking do as instructed Sidney only that way you will get your son"

I heave a sigh and look around or maybe the storage is built somewhere underground? I suppose I should go there.

"I will do just that"

"Good boy you have 10 minutes to do that" I softly scoff and end the call dialing Priscilla..

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[Priscilla]

"I heard what she said Kamo and it's not happening I've sent in a back up. Keep on distracting her on the phone. We trying to retrieve her spatial data as we speak."

I say glaring on the screen while glaring at the buffering system.

"She ended the call. Can't you find anything I could quickly use? This house is huge and confusing I've searched almost all the rooms but I can't find them"

"Bingo!!" Khuzwayo mouths putting his hands behind his head. I look at him.

"What Khuzwayo?"

"She's not in a basement Sidney" Thami-

"Where is she?" Sidney -

"There's a secret door if not passage in her sitting room use the sensor to locate it. It's going to take you to wherever she is but don't do anything stupid distract her be it declaring and professing your love or being sorry whatever it takes just do it. I'm right behind you "Thami-

" I got it" Sidney -

"Sidney don't go there it's now our duty as police officers to handle this. Your part is done" I add.

"I want my son Priscilla"

"It's our duty to bring him that's why we are here. You can't do this without us we pledged to serve our community not vice-versa" I add.

"Priscilla this is not the right time to be bombing me about pledges I have 10 minutes to save my son that's all that matters" He mouths and cuts the call. I look at Khuzwayo.

"Thami we going to look unprofessional shall he handle this himself"

"His already in there Detective besides his working on our side all we need to do is to cover him that's all" He says fixing his gun heading to the gate to unlock it I don't know how but he did.

"I'm a Khuzwayo don't ask how I did that"

He smirks. I shake my head sideways and follow him inside the house. I can't believe I'm here to arrest my childhood friend Lord so help me.

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Not edited.

[Sidney]

Portia has Cebi at gun point and I don't want to upset her by doing anything she might be against. One wrong move will result to her killing Cebi at the cost of my charges and right now that's the last thing I wish for my child I have no choice but to drop my gun as she instructed just to have her giving me the benefit of doubt.

"Portia let him go please" He begs. Portia glares at him with red eyes.

"That's not happening! I gave you a simple task get the cops out of here but you did not listen and stick to the instruction Sidney! For that you going to lose him and the sad part you going to watch everything as it unfolds." With that said Portia clogs her gun and points it on Cebi's head.

"Portia let go of my son you traumatizing a kid here and it is wrong!" Sidney says between his teeth Portia glares at him and aggressively holds Cebi.

"There's a scripture in the Bible that says kids will pay the price of their parents transgressions and sins this young man over here happens to be the sheep that is to be sacrificed and slaughtered."

"You do not want to have his blood on your hands Portia it's going to eat you up till you die! Let him go please. "

"I'm afraid that won't happen Sidney. The number one rule of vengeance states that if you are going to fight fire by fire dig up two graves one for yourself and one for your opponents and I've done just that."

Kamo glares at Portia then Cebi.

"You can't kill Tyler Portia no matter how demented you are you can't fault the baby at the cost of my sins and besides there's more to this hate you harboring for me I'm not at fault for everything that has ever happened to you Portia. For both our sakes leave him out of this and grant us an opportunity to talk. "

Portia giggles.

"You not at fault Sidney? Like really?"
Sidney glared at Portia.

"Let me narrate a little story about how you and I met and how our tune sounded like on that string of guitar.

"Once upon a tale I loved you like crazy. There was nothing I wouldn't have done for you. I gave you my body my soul and my heart I gave you the best of me Sidney but what did you do huh? You betrayed me and left me covered in scars and broken beyond fixation after you were done using me and sucking the sugar out of me. You tossed me aside like I was a burnt pancake that was

yet to be tossed inside a bin. Sidney you used me and broke me more than my father ever did you were twice the monster that my father was to me. "

" Portia I never used you we were both young and exploring. You knew I wanted fun not commitment i told me you a several times I was with someone else and that you should be on birth control of which you granted me it was sucure and implemented. I never used you but you wanted me as much as I wanted you. We knew our little situationship was doomed and unholy and that it was never going to work out. "

" Maybe we knew that and had an agreement Kamo but I never knew our situationship was going to result to a whole human being residing inside my stomach and my womb being destroyed in the process of that. I never agreed on being pregnant with your child never agreed to having your baby die on me on birth and you neglecting your responsibility and having me die a silent death on my own while it was you who went on and botched our agreement Sidney! You shouldn't have impregnated me knowing that you were not going to be able to make it far with me. Sidney you ruined my life and I'm so going to fuck up yours. "

Portia says clogging her gun aggressively.

" Portia I dare you to put that gun down! "

Sidney says between his teeth.

" I lost my baby I lost my womb and I lost my sanity and whose fault was it? You! Not only did you fuck me and left me pregnant and wombless but you

framed me for a drug theft that I knew nothing about sold me to a drug lord who abused me for months before he decided I was fit to be his wife! All of this was happening to me and wena you were all happy and at peace while my own world was haunted and chaotic.

Do you know how it broke me interviewing different women everyday begging them to donate their ovaries and womb for this incapable woman that you turned me into forcefully? Sidney do you know the pain you've caused me? The sleep less nights I've had because I was feeling suffocated by everything that was suddenly my reality over night?

What annoys me is that you never ever apologized for what you put me through and did to me instead you went to make love to another woman and gave her a life that I was denied by you and your sperm. Sidney you destroyed me and I'm sorry I'm yet going to do the same thing to you"

Portia says pulling the trigger. Sidney immediately jumps on Portias direction he pushes Cebi aside and dives for the bullets of which do not land him piercing his skin. Instead they sway and deflect on the other angles both her and Portia are wrestling each other for the gun.

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[Tumi]

I just received the most upsetting and shattering announcement from Sindiswa who is Deliwe's kid sister. She was involved in a car accident and

she is hospitalized and fighting for her life. I have no choice but to go there since my brother is emotionally unavailable for Deliwe and all fixated on Portia and their so called kids. I will leave Sidney a message about my departure and what motivated it.

It's long before I land in at O. R Tambo. I find him waiting for me by his car he has his hand buried inside his pockets he looks so far in thoughts and I won't ask about it because I think I know what is going on and none of us wants to discuss it. It's best that way after all.

"Hi" I say politely he looks at me then my belly. He moves closer with attempts to touch it but I step back with my eyes fixed on his. He clenches his jaw and gets a hold of my luggage putting it on his booth. He later opens the door for me I step in and strap the seat belts.

"You good?" I ask while staring outside the window.

"Are you really asking me that Tumi?" I look at him.

"The question is loud and clear"

"I would rather not participate in this hilarious and sarcastic game you playing" He mouths and plays his music so loud. I steal a glance at him

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I step in and strap the seat belts.

"You good?" I ask while staring outside the window.

"Are you really asking me that Tumi?" I look at him.

"The question is loud and clear"

"I would rather not participate in this hilarious and sarcastic game you playing" He mouths and plays his music so loud. I steal a glance at him so does he.

"I can't do this anymore Tumi I can't continue with this lie maybe you enjoying this facade but I dont" I swallow hard and bite hard on my lower lip.

"I want my baby and I won't have your husband raising my child." I squint my eyes.

"Please..."

"Don't please me I want my baby and that's final"

"I'm married so are you"

"That doesn't mean I won't my child surviving on another man's sweat not when I'm alive and capable"

"We've discussed this and had an agreement don't switch up on me please"

"I want my baby and there's no backing down" He says fixing his eyes on the road I swallow hard. Shall Sidney know the truth behind my little altercation with Vernom he will be disappointed in me. I painted my husband like I wasnt a sinner myself yet I was half as guilty as he was.

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[Priscilla]

Khuzwayo and myself we making our way to the basement when echoes of gunshots vividly engulfs our ears. The first thing comes to my mind is Cebi I can't help but to feel disoriented and less pleased with this scenario that I'm creating in my head. I've heard everything that Portia was mouthing and her statement was that she was going to harm Cebi of which I've heard gunshots. Meaning her plan has pulled through and it was successful.

"We need to go there"

I mouth jogging there leaving Khuzwayo behind me. Before I could enter I'm met by loud voices.

"Cebi run!!!"

" Sidney let go of me!!" Portia shouts.

"Not a chance!! Cebi kick that gun away from her reach please my boy. !" Sidney shouts.

"Give me that gun you little rascal!!" Portia mouths panting.

"Cebi listen to daddy take that gun and throw it away!!" Sidney -

"Give me that gun little kid now!!!! I promise I won't hurt you!"

"Mcebisi take the gun away shall this woman get a hold of the gun she's going to kill you and i. Listen to daddy soldier keep the gun far from her reach please! " Sidney -

"Cebi give me the gun please boy"

I hear them negotiating by the sound of things these people were wrestling over a gun and by the look of things the gun is positioned somewhere next to Cebi and both of them are begging him for it and my guess tells me young Cebi is baffled and doesn't know what to do or who to listen given the gun is the most dangerous thing to hold. My fingers are crossed but I'm walking inside to put an end to this.

I look at Khuzwayo signaling for him to back me up as I slightly open the door with the tip of my foot.

"Cebi give daddy the gun" Sidney says with worry.

"Cebi give me the gun I'm still your mothers friend remember? I bought you candies and ice cream on that day remember?" Portia says.

"Cebi give daddy the gun! Cebi no!! Cebi!! Don't do that Mcebisi!!!!"

Sidney mouths in a split second I hear yet another thunder of bullets. When the noise cools down I walk inside finding young Mcebisi holding a gun and standing like a statue. I kneel in front of him. "Nana give me the gun please" Cebi looks at me without saying anything his eyes are fixed on one exact direction. I tilt my head to have a look on what Cebi is glaring at. I nearly suffer a heart attack when my eyes land on a pool of blood spreading all over the floor my hands immediately becomes slippery and squivers profusely and my intestines ties knots. My body is stiff and my heart is beating on my sleeve I look at the distraught and distracted baby whose eyes are still fixed on that direction I swallow hard. "Mcebisi it's okay boy give me the gun please. It's over now my boy"

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[Sidney]

How do I begin to describe what I'm feeling currently? How I even explain this? All I know is that my son pulled a trigger on his mother and I don't want to say anything further than this. Doing that will only mean I'm labelling and giving my son a tittle that isn't his what fucks me up the most is that my son will live with this memory for his entire life and the thought of that makes me angry numb gloomy and shattered and whatever agonizing and anguished

feel you can think of. I wish he listened to me when I told him to kick it away but the stubbornness in him decided otherwise.

"Mcebisi boy give me the gun it's all over now. Please give it here" The Khuzwayo cop adds. The other cops are aiding me up and introspecting if I have any injury. I can't look at my son honestly I feel bad for everything. "Matthew's are you okay?" A cop asks I ignore him and walk towards to my son I kneel in front of him and hold his hands. He sinks down and rests his head on my shoulder bone he starts crying. I brush his back and tightly squeeze him while my eyes are fixed on Portia's body on the ground. What am I going to tell Deliwe? Will my son ever be the same again? I don't know.

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[Priscilla]

The basement area is marked we now have the paramedics team. What's left now is to report this to the station and probably Portia's family of which is going to be hard on both myself and her mother. I can't imagine the devastation that her mother is going to suffer after learning about such. On the other hand I'm worried about Mcebisi. This shooting dilemma will haunt him his entire life and sadly there's nothing we can do. "We should arrange for them to fly back to gauteng" Khuzwayo says standing besides me glaring at Sidney and Cebi who are having a little moment. "I'm worried about the kid" "Don't tell me about it it's going to be worse shall we loss Portia to death" "I can't imagine how hard this is on Sidney his surely losing it" "His definitely drowning in worry I pray she makes it alive for the kids sake" "Yeah"

We both keep quiet a few hours of silence past between us.

"I should go check up on them"

I mouth Khuzwayo pats my shoulder. I stand in front them. "Sidney how are you.." his tense eye contact sends me to silence. Sidney stands up and

carries his son outside. I heave a silent sigh and continue with whatever I'm supposed to be doing..

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[Sindiswa]

Tumi walks in a fast paced motion she embraces me so tight and retracts from the hug.

"Hey are you doing?" She mouths looking at me I swallow hard and blink profusely pushing back my tears.

"It's okay sweetheart she will be okay don't worry okay? Deliwe is a fighter she's got this. Did you eat?" I look at her and nod. That's not true I'm not hungry I can't eat with my sister laying on her death bed and my nephew missing. I know what the police said about Cebi being swapped at birth but to me his my sister's child and my nephew. I care less about DNA.

"You need something to eat" Tumi says looking through the glass. "I will eat but not today"

"What did the doctor say about her state? Is she going to live? Is the baby safe and unharmed?"

"They said we should wait for a mana from above they said nothing about the baby."

"And what is that supposed to mean? Waiting for a mana to happen? "

"They doing all in their powers to save her and the rest is dependent on God's final report."

She looks at me.

"She will pull through"

She says with defeat. "Does Sidney know about this?" I ask. "I don't think so his been too occupied with Cebi's missing and I think he would be here had he known about this. "

"I see" I say glaring at the monitor machine from outside the glass.

"What happened really?"

"Those who saw the thing say she collided with a tree and she smashed her head hard on the windscreen"

"That's bad

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what did they say about her skull? Did she suffer an concussion?"

"We still waiting for the x ray results"

"I see" She says brushing her tummy I look at her.

"Are you okay Tumi?"

"My nephew is missing and my sister in law is fighting for her life in hospital of course I'm not okay Sindiswa"

Why don't I buy that line? But it's none of my business.

"I'll get us sandwiches and something to drink" She mouths.

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[Sidney]

I'm laying on the bed with Cebi I haven't checked my phone and I haven't checked with Tumi. My focus is on my distraught son my mind is racing all over and I think it's going to burst in minute from now. Not knowing if Portia is dead or alive keeps me on my toes I can't risk having my son carry this heavy cross of killing his mother at 8 years old such memories have their own way of coming out and I'm scared of that. I still get flashes about what I did to my uncle till this day the acknowledgement of killing a person never fades away you wear it throughout your life and having my son on the verge of experiencing that scares the shit out of me. I wish there was a way of keeping this somewhere in a dark closet where light is a very foreign thing I pray Portia makes it. I can't afford having her blood on Cebi. Yes I don't like her for what she put my son through but having her killed by Cebi is one thing I do not wish for.

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[Priscilla]

The time is 10:30pm and I'm in hospital leaning towards the wall glaring at Portia who has her hand cuffed on the side of bed. She has a breathing mask on and her blood flow and circulation looks promising. The doctor hasn't given me a report as yet but since I'm a cop I was allowed to be in here. I have so many questions for this lady starting from why she left home and never returned to why she put a kid in that position. The last time I checked Portia was God fearing woman and she loved kids with her entire life I don't understand why she would put Cebi in that position.

My cell phone vibrating inside my pockets cuts my little over thinking moment short. I pick up.

"Detective Ndlovu hello?"

There's silence on the other side of the line.

"Hello" I mouth.

"Hello is this detective Ndlovu?"

"Yes and who am I speaking to?"

"You speaking to Mrs Erasmus."

Who is Erasmus again?

"Yes Mrs Erasmus how can I help you?"

"A little birdie told me you were conducting a search about twins boys who were separated at birth and that they were born in Bara hospital and that a woman is suspected to have left the hospital with one of the twins and.." I cut her mid sentence.

"Yes Mrs Erasmus is there a chance you are the woman who left with one of the twins?"

"As crazy as it is I think I am that woman. Besides a Shalton Matthews recently came to my house to share this with me and he showed me the flyer of a boy who looks just like my son Christopher he mentioned he was Mcebisi Tyler and that he was abducted. At first I saw my son Christopher but later I realized the kids are one and that they are twins. I would love to meet you detective so we can discuss this "

I heave a low sigh of relief.

" Definitely can we do it tomorrow the latest? "

" Any time is the time detective "

" Thank you maam" I say with a smile. I hear someone clearing their throat behind me. I tilt my head to find Portia glaring at me.

"You are awake?"

"Who are you and what do you want?"

"I'm detective Ndlovu and I happen to be your childhood friend Priscilla" She furrows her brows and looks at me with her face frowned it goes without saying she's in pain.

"Priscilla Ndlovu? I don't know any Priscilla Ndlovu"

"Fort University Eastern cape?"

"No I don't know you" She says massaging her bandaged head while glaring at me.

"I know Priscilla Mkhwananzi not Ndlovu"

"I married a Ndlovu Portia Dube. Anyway how are you feeling?"

"Are you going to arrest me given you are a detective?"

"I'm afraid yes abducting a kid is not light thing that can be ignored you going down for this one what you did was inhumane and obnoxiously ridiculous no matter your reasons"

She swallow hard and looks sideways.

"I need my lawyer"

"And you will get your lawyer"

To be continued.....