



NGWEKAZI By Isiphile Mthumezi

Introduction

"Congratulations MaManci, you are carrying a baby girl." The traditional healer said as she tied the thick plaited wool on her waist to protect the unborn baby. She wasn't even showing yet

but being a nurse, she saw the changes in her own body. It was the first time the healer had said those words, the 'baby girl'.

Eversince Mdeyama became king. She has only congratulated the other wives who carried heirs. MaManci wasn't even meant to give birth or carry a baby, but it was happening. For the first time in years she was finally gonna give the man they all loved a human being, she herself was excited that she'll be carrying a princess amongst prince's.

Months later the royal family celebrated the pregnancy, people were in disbelief. Who wouldn't believe that MaManci, who even has a sister wife after her with as many kids as the first wife finally carried a baby? The whole journey was beautiful and very amusing, carrying a person who had the most powerful yet tiny kicks.

The day where the little girl came to the world finally came. It didn't help that she was born on Valentines day, but her smiling after being born was more than weird. Of course regulations and rules were followed at the Royal House until the baby was of right age to be seen by the entire family.

The big homestead of the Giqwa gathered in the tent that covered the whole front yard. It was the welcoming and naming of the first female to be born under this generation. Ayine the

older wife's son stood by the podium clapping his hands as though he had an understanding of what was happening.

MaManci whispered to the family elder the little one's name. She passed her to her father who was sitting on the throne. She was loveable as though she bathed with some portion everyday. She was really royalty.

Elder : "The Nkosazanas name is Ngwekazi.

She was named by her own mother

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as you can see the little girl is as dark as a berry. In our culture Ngwekazi means a beautiful dark skinned girl, a very peaceful one for that matter. So welcome to the Gqwa family Ngwekazi."

Everyone clapped and ululated as the traditional songs came on.

The King stepped out hearing her phone vibrate.

Mdeyama : " Kwedini."

"Kumkani, the KwaZulu-Natal drivers blocked our buses from crossing over. They said they don't want AmaMpondi tainting their beautiful land."

The Kings scowl deepened, he tucked her hand inside his pants frustrated. He wasn't a person who showed his anger easily, but being a tribalist. The mention of anything related to Zulu or the KZN province made his blood boil. To him they were just dumb people, who thought they were powerful. He closed his phone and went back inside joining his family with the biggest smile. Tomorrow was yet another day, this celebration was something he couldn't miss for the world.

Mdeyama made sure no child of his ever crossed the border to KZN, he rather would send them to Western Cape. No child of his studied outside the Province. They all didn't mind, as they grew up they knew their fathers fight was their fight. Even

Ngwekazi had that instilled in her, but how far can a parent control a child? As far as the child wants them to.

1

I watched my father pack the bottles neatly on the log, each had an equal space of 30 centimeters between them. He came back to me and handed me the gun. I looked at it closely, turning it around.

"Nkosazana, what's this?"

7 year old me bit my lower lip trying to remember, he told me the previous day what it was. Just that English can be tricky at times.

"It's a.. Ha.. Hang gun." he chuckled pinching my cheeks with a little shake of his head.

"It's a handgun, don't forget again okay? "

"Ewe tata(Yes)"

He stood behind me.

"Good now aim. I'll take you to the big city if you do."

I nodded closing one eye, I used the front sight to aim to the bottle I was gonna shoot. I pulled the trigger, the first bullet went through, I missed the second one. I shot all, he clapped his hands picking me up.

The mothers hated this, it was understandable with boys. Of course if life decides to be unfriendly and maybe a war strikes,

the boys will be able to go. But with me, they worried a great deal. I was their little girl after all.

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He gave me the blindfold and sat down smoking his pipe. I always wondered what was in there, he always looks relaxed and calm when he smokes that thing. Ayine helped tie the blindfold he purposely made it too tight. I elbowed his tummy, I

could hear him groan. I removed the blindfold and looked at him.

"Ngase ufe mpundu zakho(I wish you'd die, your ass)"

He tackled me, I fell buttocks first then my head. I knew Tata wouldn't involve himself, if anything he always walks away from any fights between the siblings. We are a lot so I don't blame him. He always says he'll finish off the one who cries first, so no matter how beat up you get never cry!

My brother sat on my stomach and tapped my cheeks, I screamed grabbing his hand and biting his finger.

"Ewww why does it taste salty?"

He smirked naughtily, I scrunched my nose in disgust. He is a ladies man,the thought of it made my stomach churn.

"Never bite a mans finger, you may never know where they've been." he stuck his tongue out pushing his fingers back inside my mouth.

"Ayine! Get off your sister, you can't even shoot properly."

He looked at uTata with his nose flared, he gave me a slight slap then got up. As much as his hands were shaky, my brother was a good fighter. At some points he picks fights just because he knows he'll win, Tata always says people will kill him because

he doesn't think. Being the son of iNkosi might be one thing that can get him even deeper in trouble.

I tied the blindfold myself and did what we went there for. I removed it and smiled winking at Ayine.

"You're still ugly no matter how good you are at shooting."

I laughed tapping my legs. "I'm a princess bhutiza, I know I'm beautiful. Don't even go there. Race you home."

We ran up the hill back home

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I always collapse whenever we reach the top and my poor brother carries me to home, sometime I pretend for a piggyback ride.

Our older brother parked his car in front of the house. He smiled looking at me.

Bhuti:" Minxi. "

I scrunched my nose, I hate that name.

Me:"But bhuti I'm going to University next month. Please quit the name."

He laughed hugging me tightly. He handed me his car keys and instructed me to open the boot. With my head hanging I pulled the door, my eyes fell on the leopard print covering a gift.

"Leopard print bhuti? Serious?"

He laughed shrugging, I took the gift which was heavier than I had expected.

"Do I open it now?"

He nodded I opened the front door and tore it apart. My eyes fell on the shiny black Dell laptop. I screamed jumping on him.

Me:"Thank you thank thank you so much bhuti, yhoo wow."

Bhuti:"If you dare fail, I'll take it back."

Me:"Mr Police, arrest me instead."

He hit the back of my head laughing. I took it and ran to the main room screaming. Our mothers and my siblings who were nearby ran to me.

They excitedly hugged the big brother and myself congratulating me. The following day I was leaving for Port

Elizabeth, to study Cardiothoracic Surgery. Which is a surgery that deals with organs on the chest, any disease related to the heart and lungs. It's a pretty interesting field if I may say so myself.

"Have you asked her what she wants to be Lunzulu?"
That would be MaDzanibe, our first Lady. Tatas first wife.

"I just went on with the Physician part, she's exactly the same as Ayine studying things that can't be pronounced."

MaNdlangisa:" It's good, amagqwirha akanoyazi uba athethe athini xano kwenzeka bafune umthi njize nge thakathment(The witches wouldn't know what to say when they're bewitching her) "

We all looked at her and burst into laughter. She was the youngest wife, the last one. The most paranoid human being I've ever met, she's a retired teacher because lady can give birth till forever comes. I like her paranoia, I honestly believe we all do. She's easily tricked, even Mdeyama knows. He no longer pays attention to anything she does or to her scare tactics. I think she vomits twice a day to get rid of dark spirits. Because God knows what's in the air we breathe.

We had dinner and celebrated as per norm, I was just excited about the whole idea of going to University. My dreams were coming together.

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After graduating I went home, to reconnect with my ancestors and to ask for light as I was pursuing a different journey. I went

to MaNdlangisas house and knocked, I could hear her humming in the kitchen.

Me : "Ma."

She stopped stirring and looked at me with smiling eyes, she was beautiful no lie. No wonder Tata fell for her.

MaNdlangisa: "Nkosazana."

Me: "Is your husband around?"

MaNdlangisa: "He was in the bedroom doing some paper work last I checked."

Me : "Okay uhm. Thank you."

MaNdlangisa: "Are you okay?"

Me: "Yeah I'm good I just wanna talk to him about work."

She nodded, I knew she could see right through me. I knocked in their bedroom and went in after instructed to.

Me: "Mdeyama."

Tata: "MaMvaba."

Me: "I found an internship."

Tata: "Serious? Where?"

Me: "At a Private hospital, the pay is good. It's in Port Shepston."

His face changed in a second.

Tata:"You're not going there, I'll pull a few strings somewhere else. Not in KZN."

Me : "Kodwa tata I wanna find it myself, to me it doesn't matter where it is."

Tata:"So my opinion about this doesn't matter?" i swallowed looking down. "I'll find you an internship elsewhere, now if that's all. Go get some air, you need it."

I blinked leaving the room. One way or another I'll find a job myself, wherever I want to add. Tata is just being dramatic.

2

I sadly looked at the email then pressed send, I didn't like turning down offers. I don't even know why I wanted KZN so bad, maybe the fact that no one wants me to go there made me more curious. I sighed and took off the gown, stress just doesn't look good on me. I geared up for the forest then tied my hair into 2 buns, I liked feeling cute. I went to the Firearms room and unlocked the door.

Me:"Which firearm... Hey."

I smiled taking the rifle and hanging it over my shoulder. I bumped on MamNcane on my way out.

MaNdlangisa:"Thixo uzosi dubula kengoku, ingqwathi ngeya ntoni? (God you will shoot us,what's the frown for?)"

Me:"Nothing I'm just mad, hurt, disappointed and I wish I'd shoot someone."

She held her chest dramatically.

MaNdlangisa:"What's wrong?"

Me:"Turned down another opportunity because my father doesn't want me going to KZN, i wanna work already. My hands itch to cut someone up."

MaNdlangisa:"Never say cut someone up Minxi, it's creepy. I still don't like you and guns."

I kissed her cheek and jogged to the spot. As the bullets flew out the gun the anger evaporated, it felt good having that anger leave my body.

"I should marry you, my kids will be protected." I startled almost releasing fire.

Me:" Zenzele, I could have shot you."

I hugged him, our cheeks brushed which led to him almost kissing me. I turned my face, he chuckled disappointedly.

Zen:"How are you?"

Me:"I'm fine, how are you?"

Zen:"I'm good, Ayine told me you'll be here. Your father called mine for a meeting but he's at the farm side so he's walking there,thought I'd tag along to see you."

Me:"That's cute, meeting for what?"

Zen:"I don't know, what worked you up?"

Me:"My dad doesn't want me going to KZN, and I'm out of options."

Zen:" I'm sure he has his reasons, have you asked him?"

Me:"It always gets him angry

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let's go home. I'm done."

Zen:"You shouldn't fight but talk in a way that'll make him tell you."

Me:"Yeah I guess."

We talked about other things, and him hitting on me. We have done the did once a while back, it was good but I don't love love and he loves love. So we had to cut ties, although I wanted him to take me home. The problem is uyakhetsa (he catches feelings).

Zen:"I'll find you something in Durban, including accommodation."

I smiled.

Me:"And I'm sure you want something in return."

He smirked. Man!

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At The Kraal..

Mdeyama and Lunzulu stood by the wood fencing together watching the cows eat.

Lunzulu:"They are really well fed, it's amazing how rich the community is now compared to 10 years back."

Mdeyama:"My brother also agrees, the other Xhosa chiefs are doing a good job under my reign. I like my reputation to stay as is."

Lunzulu:"We should start selling they are too many."

The King laughed a little .

Mdeyama:"With 14 Sons there's no way I'm selling them, soon you'll be getting married and you will need these cows."

Lunzulu:"We use money now."

Mdeyama:"Not everyone, so when are you getting married. You impregnated the girl and what now?"

Lunzulu:"I don't wanna marry her, she's fine but I don't think worthy of carrying the Giqwa surname let alone be married to royalty."

Mdeyama:"You sleeping with her without protection and leaving a Giqwa seed means just that. We can't have a bastard child."

Lunzulu sighed rubbing his hands together.

Lunzulu : "Anyways how's it going with the Association, are they still giving you trouble?"

Mdeyama:"Your uncle really did a number on us, I was fine with us operating in Eastern Cape. He wanted to expand, I was dumb enough to agree."

Lunzulu : "But there are buses and Taxis operating between provinces. Why is it so difficult with you?"

Mdeyama : "Before my father was crowned King, he was a driver between provinces. He used a wrong route and they had to gun him down, he survived by luck but my mother died she was in that Taxi as well. He was never the same again, that's something this family will never get over. "

Lunzulu:" Whoa and you only telling me this now. I thought Khulu was your mother. "

Mdeyama:"He remarried because there was me and my sister, and he needed someone to help him with becoming King. Back then being in the royal family wasn't as sweet as it is now, we all struggled almost the same as everyone else. Then the colonization wasn't helpful either. It became an unending war, to end it my brother made a deal with one of the most powerful family in KwaZulu-Natal, the Hadebes. For protection, he asked them to talk to the association and asked for protection. It came at a price, a price I'm tired of paying. "

Lunzulu:" Then pull the plug. "

The old man looked at him carefully considering what he was saying, he was tired off kissing buttocks. There had to be another way, the routes had money. But if it meant stopping the Taxis and buses from traveling then he would do it.

3

After going around the villages with MaManci I was tired and sleepy, we visited the next village for career guidance day at every High School there. The grade 12s often get confused and have expectations when it comes to higher education. We just talk about life after matric and the bursaries we offer for students. Not necessarily for those who have good grades but

those who can't afford fees at well, unfortunately we don't take children who didn't do well. We do offer matric repeats though for them because you never know someone's full potential unless you give them a second try.

We visited 5 schools today, the next day we'll be going to the next. I do different things with the mothers to create a bond with them. And maybe one day the ancestors might pick me to be Queen so I need to know my things.

We got home and our protector was busy around the yard. She looked at me and waved me over.

Me:"I'll see you inside mama."

MaManci:"I'm going to bath then sleep don't disturb me."

Me:"You're not cooking tonight?"

MaManci:"No you can eat wherever, bye."

I nodded blowing her a kiss.

Me : "Makhosi."

Zamisa:"Ntombentle emnyama, how are you today my love?"

This lady is the nicest shame, she's just different and lovely unless you step on her toes.

Me:" I'm good gogo how are you? "

Zamisa:"I'm good, so why are you angry at your father?"

I looked at her.

Me:"I'm not."

Zamisa:"Mhmm, being a princess doesn't mean you'll please everyone. Your path might be different from the one those before you have walked, your spirit animal is a leopard for a reason. You're a very dominant being mntanam, but in everything you do thread carefully and don't forget to stay protected at all times. "

God knows I don't like it when she just beats around the bushes.

Me:" Uhm gogo can you like explain that to me. "

Zamisa:" It's gonna reveal itself, good luck on your new job. "

She said that and walked away humming, I held my waist staring at her. What new job? I didn't pay much attention to it, besides my brain was too tired to think about what she said. I

went straight to the main house greeting the guards and everyone else. I had a quick shower, to my surprise MaNdlangisa walked in with a tray of food. I furrowed my eyebrows surprised.

Me:"Ma."

Her : "How are you?"

Me: "I'm good Mama how are you?"

Her: "I'm fine, so the Nkwali boy. Do you like him?"

I bit the sandwich squinting my eyes.

Me: "Did tata put you up to this?"

She tried acting surprised. This one can't hide secrets maybe MaDzanibe wouldn't have sold herself out.

Her: "He just wants to know where you're at in life, we've never caught you with a boy. And you've never introduced anyone to us. Are you still a virgin?"

I burst out in laughter.

Me: "Wow mama, I'm a virgin. Why are we there? At that question?"

I lied through my teeth.

Her: "Okay. Let me leave you to it, the maid will come take your dishes when you're done."

She smiled leaving, I chuckled shaking my head. An email notification came through.

The first thing I saw was the logo written Department Of Health. I opened the document, the first part was enough for

me to scan through it. All I could see was the invitation to Addington Hospital for my internship, without thinking twice I replied that I will be coming. The pay was gonna help me live and they had accommodation for us. All I needed was a way to get to Durban

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maybe I could forge one from Western Cape. That will throw dad off and the fact that it's far, they won't do random visits and all that. I had a week to get it ready and to go to the dreaded province. My heart was jumping for joy. Zamisa just popped up in my head, maybe this is the job she wanted me to do. If she approves, I'm in.

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At Qobos Home..

Mdeyama placed his cane in front of him then both his hands at the top as he stared at his agitated brother with a frown.

Qobo:"What I'm saying is you've made a big mistake bhuti, you shouldn't have pulled out. Not only do these people make sure we use whatever roads. They make our lives easier."

Mdeyama:"There are other ways, it's different from back then. The Association here is in charge of who travels there and who doesn't, we have an entire land on our hands which

means there's a lot we have going on in terms of making money. Now why do you want to be a slave, you have blue blood. We are the ones that should be begged, what legacy are you building for you children?"

He huffed..

Qobo:"This isn't about legacy!" the guard stepped forward in attempt to pull Qobo out of his own living room for shouting at the king, Mdeyama signaled him to stand back. "Bhuti this is about money, nothing more. I know these people killed our parents, they block our buses and taxis when they want to. But we make money."

The King stood up and fixed his blazer.

Mdeyama:"I'm gonna let you handle this business by yourself, I have a lot of things to take care of including my large family. If anything happens it's on you, I've pulled out already from that stupid corrupt association. You can call them and kiss their buttocks. Brother. "

He nodded lightly walking out leaving his brother more than the word agitated would describe how he was.

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At The Hadebe residence.

Zobuhle stood in front of her brothers pressing her phone chewing gum much to her brothers irritation.

Zo:" Sorry about that, I was talking to your other stupid sister. So what's going on?"

She asked sitting down.

Gatsha:"Your brother is dating a Masuku."

Surprisingly she didn't look surprised, Gatsha looked at both Bhungane and Maphikelela.

Gatsha:"You both knew! Do you understand what you've done! They will kill Ace."

Bhungane : "It didn't happen intentionally."

Gatsha : "Is that why I wasn't told? Even my twin brother hid this from me mhhm MP?"

He looked at Maphikelela in disbelief, he just shrugged.

Zo:"We knew you'd over react, besides we didn't plan it."

Gatsha:"Is it?"

He asked looking at his twin who just gave him a smile.

Bhungane:"We were in a tight corner, the girl needed a distraction. Her father was just curious and it happened that

she was smart enough to attract our baby brother. Zo calls it a meet cute kind of thing."

Gatsha:"Ubaba uzoni bulala yazi nina(My father will kill you) does Ace even know what he has gotten himself into?"

They all looked at each other, Gatsha sighed shaking his head. Of course he didn't know, he never knows anything. Bhunganes phone rang, he excused himself walking out.

MP:"On other news the Xhosa King didn't pay."

Zo:"Then burn one of his buses or some shit."

She said carelessly pressing her phone.

4

I laughed at Ayine as I walked up the driveway, no wonder the kids always ask about him. He has fitness thing for them, every after he plays music and exercise with them. He says it helps bring us together as siblings, at times we just play against other teams in soccer. I do goal keeping which I suck at by the way but it makes us happy because we do it together.

Me:"Let it rain, what are you doing?"

Ayine : "Don't call me that. Today we're trying connect with our inner souls."

Phelo:"I'm tired!"

He's the last born, one that never stops whining. I forget how old he is but he doesn't have both his front teeth. So my guess is 8 or something.

Me:"Where's your father?"

Ayine : "He went to Port Elizabeth with MaManci, you know he does not stop with his political ways."

Me:"Mhmm."

I tapped my bottle thinking, it wouldn't be much of a bad idea to leave while he's gone. I just needed to give the mothers the fake acceptance letter, they won't look deep into it. But Mdeyama is too smart. I walked away with a smile.

Ayine:"Hey why that face!?"

Me:"Nothing!? I'm going to work on my abs inside."

I waved at him, he furrowed his eyebrows probably trying to figure out what I'm up to. I printed the letter then signed it, I made copies and found the other moms.

MaNdlangisa:"Baby girl! Congratulations, I should make you steambread."

MaDzanibe:"I'll ask someone to slaughter a chicken, you'll cook it when you arrive in Bloemfontein."

I laughed.

Me:"You better start now, my helper is already packing my clothes."

MaNdlangisa:"Aren't you going to wait for your father? He will be disappointed."

Me:"I'm sure he'll visit, besides I'll come back. I'm just going to leave my stuff and check out the place."

MaDzanibe:"Are you going to fly there?"

Me:"Yes I can't travel that long."

They just smiled at me.

MaNdlangisa:"Ask your brother to take you to the sacred room, you'll need the ancestors with you on this journey."

Me:"Let me to that ma, my flight leaves tomorrow morning though. I hope no one will want to come with me, it'll make me nervous."

MaDzanibe:"Asoze kaloku bhabha, awukwazi uhamba wedwa (Never baby

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you'll never leave alone)"

We shall see.

Me : "Fine but by 7 am you guys must be ready."

They smiled nodding, I dismissed myself and found my brother. He instructed me to go change then we headed to the rondavel where we come to thank and ask from our ancestors. I placed the plate of fruits and coins in front of us then knelt down next to my brother, with dad away he looks into things because dad's brother stays a bit far.

Lunzulu:"BoNkosana, oMvubu, oQobo, Mdeyama, ntshingwa ay'khwazwa ikhwaza ngabayazo. This is your son Lunzulu, I'm here with my sister Ngwekazi your daughter. Your princess, today she wants to thank you for what you have done for her and ask for you to light her way. Please give her an ear.. "

I repeated our clan names and basically asked for them to guide me and protect me. Afterwards we stood outside with my brother staring down at me.

Lunzulu:" I'm proud of you, our own Cardiothoracic what whats."

He hugged me, I giggled.

Me:" Thank you bhutam."

All my bags were ready and packed inside my car, I set my alarm to 3 O'clock, they'll have to forgive me for what I'll do. I woke up when the alarm rang, I didn't even clean up well. I sent a message to the family group then I literally sneaked out.

Xhego:"Where are you going my princess ?"

Just as I was about to close the door my guard sneaked up on me.

Me:"To the river, Zamisa said I should just dip my feet it before today's journey."

He frowned.

Xhego:"Sorry for the questions but what journey?"

Me:"I'm kind of in a hurry Xhego and unfortunately I need to go alone, I'll be back before sunrise."

I did not even give him a chance to reply, if he wants to follow me he'll probably find the car not me. I will probably lose my blessings but I'm tired of this cage my father had built. At the end of the unlike men women were made to go as far as they can, most of the times men have trouble staying far from their homes. Then women can even move to America for their man. I checked my ticket on my phone then sighed leaning back and listening to music. The adrenaline felt so good, I just couldn't wait to get to Durban and start working.

Along the way the excitement would come then I'd feel guilty and almost turn around. But eventually I just drove off with the guilt heavy on me.

I arrived at King Shaka just after 10am, I inhaled the fresh air and looked around. I couldn't see much but the different breeze told me I'm in a different place, I smiled at people randomly. Some of them even smiled back. I pushed my bags to the shuttle that the lady who was sitting next to me in the plane told me about, it was convenient and cheap. Well the beauty took me, I was sold. I knew for sure where I'll be there's nothing like this.

After some driving the shuttle dropped me off in front of the Doctors Quarters Gate. I smiled admiring the not so good looking building, I didn't care. Being here was what made me happy.

"Nkosazana."

I turned around frowning, how did he know who I am? I wanted to be normal here like back in college. Well that was short lived though because someone recognized me, they told someone else then it circulated.

Me: "You know me?"

He chuckled.

Him: "No but I assume you're one of the interns, come in."

He helped me with my bags, I sighed. At least he didn't know me, oh he was just being polite.

Me:"My name is Ngwekazi. What's yours?"

He looked at my hand surprised then shook it.

Him:"Bhuti Siya, I'm a security guard slash care taker.
You're the girl with the complicated surname? "

He asked getting inside the building then to a small office
by the gate.

Me:"Uhm maybe.If it's Giqwa then yeah. "

Siya:"You're on the 5th floor, room 502. Let me know if your
neighbors are troubling you. This is your disk, you'll use for this
small gate. Then the remote for the big gate, visitors are
allowed, drinking as well. Don't be too noisy and let me know
if your visitor has a car so they can book a parking space.
There's a lot of hijacking."

Me : " I'll definitely do that, thank you bhuti. "

Siya:" You're very beautiful by the way, your beauty is so
charming and hypnotizing. It's like you were moulded, even
your eyes. I'm not hitting on you but I had to. "

I chuckled not knowing how to take it in

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compliments have a way of catching me off guard because they are always deep.

Me:" Thank you bhuti, I'll go see my room so I can know what I need. "

I smiled at him and went up using the lift. I liked my room, it was small with the ocean view, well a bit of it. One bedroom apartment with furniture, just what I needed. I turned on my phone, messages on the group chat came flooding in. They were really worried about me.

I smiled missing them already.

#WhatsappChats#

MaN-You even took the things we made, Ngwekazi!

(I laughed literally hearing her shout)

Mad-I'll find her myself, I even ironed an outfit I was going to wear when accompanying her.

Luhle-Who are we talking about?

MaN-Your sister, she left without telling us. After promising that she'll wait!

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I sighed and typed a message apologizing and promising them heaven and earth. Now to grocery shopping, I downloaded the Uber app and headed downstairs I needed to buy groceries.

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At King Shaka International Airport

MaManci and Mdeyama hopped off the plane trying to be unnoticed. The guards followed swiftly behind them, people didn't know who they were so drawing attention would be a bit over board.

MaManci checked the dozens of messages on Whatsapp, she stopped on her tracks and read through them.

MaManci:"Hayini."

She dialed Ngwekazis phone but it rang unanswered.

Mdeyama:"Sthando are you okay?"

Her:"No your daughter left for Bloemfontein she didn't even tell anyone."

Mdeyama:"What do you mean she left? Where were the guards? Her guards."

MaManci:"What if she was kidnapped? I'm worried."

Mdeyama:"Let's go to the car, we don't wanna make a spectacle of ourselves."

MaManci nodded and held his hand tightly. They got inside the car, Mdeyama called Zamisa.

Zamisa:"Kumkani."

Mdeyama:"I need you to find my daughter."

She hummed on the other side.

Zamisa:"She's where she should be."

Mdeyama:"You don't understand, I've done something that puts my entire family at risk. I don't need my only daughter out of sight."

Zamisa:"But the path she's walking is the one she's destined for, don't fight it my King."

He clenched his jaw as his nose flared with every loud breath he took. Knowing Zamisa, if Ngwekazi was in any danger she would have told him before it happened. He hung up and looked out the window as the houses blurred into his vision.

MaManci:"What did she say?"

Mdeyama : "Nothing helpful, I need all the hospital names in Bloemfontein. I'll find her."

He instructed his PA, he nodded getting busy with it.

The next day we were meeting up for Orientation, I played music and danced along while getting ready. I did a few exercises, I'll jog later on. I made myself lunch and headed out, it was just a 5 minutes walk from the apartment to the hospital. Upon my arrival I couldn't help but stand at the door and smile like an idiot. It was busy but that moment was mine and mine alone, as much as people bumped me it didn't matter. I walked slowly along the passages watching people who were coming in for different things. I wonder how it feels like working at such a big hospital, at least I'll get to experience the whole ordeal and maybe understand why some people who work in hospitals are always rude.

I greeted the people who were in the room we were meeting in, I took out my phone and bit my lip nervously. I was very early for the induction, a video call came through. I groaned seeing the multiple names on the screen.

Me: "Heey fam."

I smiled, they all stared at me clearly angry, I took a screenshot with me smiling like a retarded and then well they were bitter. They looked so much like Mdeyama.

Lunzulu: "What's your problem?"

Me: "I'm fine and you?"

Lunzulu:"Don't you dare, do you understand what you did to the moms?did adolescence catch up with you late?"

Me:"Guys I'm just spreading my wings nothing more."

Luhle:"That's nonsense, you're just being unruly qha. You could have at least waited for us to accompany you."

Me:"I'm sorry."

Ayine:"This meeting is not as spicy as I hoped it would shame."

Xola:"It's not like you were gonna say anything either way."

Ayine:"Why? We knew she has long been wanting to start her practicals but Tata held her back. She's grown, she should be married by now with 5 kids so let her be."

They all looked disgusted.

Lunzulu:"Minxi isn't getting married anytime soon."

I burst out in laughter, wow.

Me:"You guys do understand that I'm a woman eventually someone will wife me and I'll leave home."

Xola:"If you aren't chosen to be Queen."

Ayine:"Because bhuti is out I feel it in my bones."

We all laughed at him, he chuckled shaking his head.

Lunzulu:"Too bad I don't wanna be King, I might move to Cape Town. Unlike someone I'll make sure a cow is slaughtered when I move."

This chit chat was nice but I had to cut the call short because the induction was starting. We were just shown what to do, where we will be and everything else. I looked my roster and sighed, night shift shouldn't be that bad.

Guess I'll enjoy my jog early.

.....

At Blue Waters Hotel

Bhungane and Gatsha sat on the tables on the side of the ocean. People who were walking and cars passing by weren't that far from sight. Gatsha stood there with his brother besides him, they sipped whiskey quietly.

Gatsha:"Is he late or not coming?"

Bhungane : "He's coming

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the guys say he will be here soon."

"Sir the King is here."

A lady working there said, they sat on the table fixing their guns. Mdeyama and his PA sat opposite them.

Mdeyama:"BoNyana baRadebe(Sons of Radebe)"

Bhungane:"Hadebe."

Mdeyama : "Okay, why are my buses and Taxis under your care?"

Bhungane:"They belong to the association, as far as I'm concerned we decide when you enter or leave. For now you're still under our wing. You understand Kumkani?"

Mdeyama:"Why do you wanna start a war? Your people always say we're beneath them, why want our money?"

Gatsha:"Peasant money is always tasty, you should know this considering you have commoners paying you shit and bull."

Mdeyama chuckled shaking his head.

Mdeyama : "Listen it took us a very long time to be able to breathe them same air without shooting each other even though we deeply crave to, don't ruin that. Give me what's mine."

Bhungane : "Okay, you can either keep paying us or buy yourself out."

Mdeyama:"And I assume you'll let me operate either way."

He laughed.

Bhungane:"It's tricky, we'll see."

Mdeyama:"How much should I pay you?"

The brothers looked at each, Gatsha brushed his beard.

Gatsha:"10 meter."

The PA was the first one to cough, Mdeyama looked at the PA with a frown. He stood up then took slow strides to the windows. The ocean was so calm, unlike the anger brewing inside him. He didn't need this, not when his daughter is far away from him. 10 Million was just insane, he needed to do his calculations though, see how much he paid previously. Maybe the total was gonna come to that, as if he was gonna pay that. These boy were just bluffing, he thought. He squinted his eyes at a very familiar person jogging along the road. He couldn't see clearly but that person was definitely his daughter, he rubbed his eyes for a clear vision. In a blink people had already blocked his vision, she can't be in Durban! They'll find her.

7

The next night I started with my shift, I was happy about my mentor. She was a very driven woman who knew exactly what to do, working alongside with her was a blessing. Although she didn't take any nonsense, I was ready for the challenge though .

I was having my lunch in the cafeteria by myself when a white girl joined me. I remembered her from the orientation, she's been smiling at me even when we come across each other.

Her:"Hey Ngwekazi right?"

Me:"Yes that's correct, uhm you're Jamaica if I'm not mistaken."

Her : "Yeah you can call me Jam."

Me:"Why Jamaica?"

She chuckled pulling the chair.

Jam:"That's where I was conceived apparently, I have very weird parents. Would you like some coffee?"

Me:"No thanks, I'm good with water."

Jam:"Explains the fitness. Where do you stay?"

Me:"Doctors Quarters."

Jam:"Don't lie, I stay there too. 9th floor but it's a 2 bedroom cause I like staying with people."

I laughed.

Me:"I have enough of those back home so thanks."

Well seemed I made a friend, I needed the company. I was yawning none stop when I knocked off, I switched my

phone on. Messages from missed calls came through, I cleared my throat a couple of times before making the call.

Mdeyama:" Ngwekazi. "

Me:" Tata, how are you?"

Mdeyama:"Do you understand the consequences of what you have done?"

Me:"Tata I burnt incense for myself so I'm good."

Mdeyama:"That's not how things are done, what's the name of the hospital you're working for?"

Me:"Tata?"

I placed him on loudspeaker and minimized the call,I quickly hopped on google.

Mdeyama:"The name of the hospital you're working for."

Me:"I gave MaDzanibe and MaNdlangisa the copy you can go through it."

Mdeyama:"I'm not home, tell me."

How did I forget the name I typed on that letter? Jesus!

Me:"It's Pelenomi Academic Hospital."

Mdeyama:"Mhmm, jonga ke you need to come back home soon. A ritual must be performed for you before you can go to other nations. And it better be soon."

Me:"Look I just knocked off sthandwa sam I need to rest. I love you."

Mdeyama:"I love you too, take care of yourself. And I'm giving you 3 weeks to sort your life out."

Me:"Thank you tatam, bye."

I hung up and sighed throwing myself on the couch, Lord God. I can't keep this secret for a long time. I have to let them know, not yet though. I decided to shower then sleep

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I wanted to sign up at the gym either way. But it'll have to wait for when I wake up.

.....

At Garden Court...

Mdeyamas PA walked towards him.

Mdeyama:"Nyana what do you have for me?"

Nyana : "She's not at the Hospital kumkani."

The King looked at his wife who frowned frustratedly.

Mdeyama:"It's possible I saw her, can you get someone to check if she's in any of the hospitals near this place. Because she can't be working far if she stays here."

Nyana : "On it Kumkani." He bowed then walked away.

MaManci:"Are you going to punish her?"

Mdeyama:"She's my child, I'll discipline her. She's never done anything bad before."

MaManci:"But at least we know she's okay."

Mdeyama:"Mamakhe I need you to go back home, I've booked a flight for you already. I can't have you here when I'm brewing war."

His wife looked at him surprised and bothered me confusef.

MaManci:"What do you mean? What are you up to?"

Mdeyama:"I want what belongs to me, also I need to find your daughter before I take any steps. I need you to leave."

MaManci:"They know the royal home sthando, if they wanna attack they can attack our family."

Mdeyama:"I know but please do this thing for me."

She sighed nodding.

MaManci:"Fine I'll leave, just make sure my daughter is protected if she's here." Mdeyama rubbed her hand assuring her. At The Hadebes.

Ace sat down rocking himself back and forth with bleeding knuckles. Gatsha and Maphikelela looked at their baby brother who was still as agitated.

Gatsha:"You scared a Masuku egg Ace, what's wrong with you?"

He looked at them both confused, they knew the trouble he was in but kept him in the dark.

MP:"You almost beat her, now she's probably in her fathers arms saying shit about you." He still didn't say anything.

Gatsha : "Fix this shit you've created Zenzele, we're dealing with enemies as we speak we don't need more."

Ace:"I'm going to the gym, I'll see you guys when I see you."

He took the car keys and drove to his place near South Beach, he changed to his gym wear and jogged to the gym. He always had anger issues but he makes sure he doesn't talk much just so no one would provoke him. But it's always like they know that he's a ticking bomb, he's nerdy yes which is what might

have made him angry because people always mocked him for being a book worm.

He stopped on his track seeing a goddess, he fixed his glasses looking at the lady at the reception. He stood glued on the ground staring at her. He couldn't even see her clearly but he felt an attraction towards her. She turned around a bit, he caught a tiny glimpse of her beauty. He blinked in disbelief, she waved at the lady then walked away. Only when she was out of sight did his brain come back.

Ace: "Damn I should have asked for her name at least."

He ran to the reception.

Ace: "Who was the lady you were talking to?"

Girl: "Hello number 1, I'm fine. That was some beaut, she just joined." Ace: "When will she be coming in?"

Girl: "Uhm why are you so interested?" Ace stared at her with a scowl on his face which made her uncomfortable. "Well she said around 5 since we close at 8"

Ace: "PM or AM Nozi?"

Nozi: "PM."

He smiled nodding, there was really no need for him to stay with the Masuku girl. Whoever the beaut was, he was gonna get her.

At Aces Place

His phone rang, he sighed looking at it.

Ace:"Kay."

Kay:"Why aren't you talking to me?"

Ace : "You're an impulsive being Kuhle, something I don't need in my life. "

Kay:"Are you breaking up with me?"

Ace:"Yes, although we weren't really dating."

She laughed bitterly.

Kay:"You're not going to break up with me,this will end when I want it to."

Ace:" Okay."

He hung up and blocked her number, it was a new day. He was just looking forward to seeing his dark beaut, he smiled reading his books. He was a nerd after all, he could hardly concentrate because of excitement. He knew he'd catch up later on with his studies . The alarm rang, he got dressed for gym then started jogging there.

Meanwhile Kuhle received a call from a number saved as Pl.

Kay:"What do you have for me?"

PI:"He's inside the gym, I'm getting ready to go in as well."

Kay:"Okay, you better have something portable for me."

PI:"Don't worry, if it's a woman I'll know at first glance."

Kay:"Good."

The PI printed a membership card while getting dressed inside his car. He had all his merchandise, besides he was good at his game which made him get paid. So he could afford all the expensive machines he needed. He got out of his car and crossed the road innocently.

Meanwhile Ngwekazi also took the stairs to the gym, Ace was already sitting by the reception where he could see everyone coming in. He stood up slowly when he saw her, she looked very beautiful. He couldn't stop himself from walking towards where she was , she got on the Treadmill with headsets on. He also joined her on the next one, the PI lifted weights watching Ace. It was clear she liked the girl, he took out his phone and took pictures of them both. All he needed was to see her Membership card, with her name and surname it was gonna be easy to find her. The Treadmill stopped, she drank water the wiped sweat off her forehead. She removed one side of the headset giving Ace the opportunity to finally greet.

Ace:"Nkosazana."

She startled turning to him

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it was a thing calling people Nkosazana here it seemed.

Ngwekazi:"Hi."

He smiled liked an idiot looking at her, her eyes were very black but it was as though they had diamonds in them. She caught him off guard with her smile, she just had to be a lovely lady. He couldn't believe he was actually looking at her, he found himself speechless. Ngwekazi just smiled at him, she was patiently waiting for him to say something.

Ace : "My name is Zenzele."

Ngwekazi : "Ngwekazi."

He put his fist over his mouth clearing his throat.

Ace: "Can I be your gym partner?"

She looked at him for some time, he was cute and he looked well trained underneath his tight vest. It wouldn't be a bad idea having a gym partner, she likes company and not forgetting he's cute.

Ngwekazi: "Okay I guess it's not a bad idea, I am doing legs today so I don't know about you."

Ace: "Legs is fine by me, I love how you speak."

Ngwekazi : "If you good I'll teach you."

He chuckled following her.

The PI stood up slowly and followed them, he looked so smitten it wasn't even funny. From how Kuhle described him, there's no way he would have just approached people or a lady in this case . He did not like people let alone interact with them, he was way to introverted to be this way with a woman. He walked closer to them.

PI: "Good evening."

As he had predicted Ace didn't respond he looked away shyly.

Ngwekazi: "Hi."

PI : "I'm new here so I don't know where some things are, I wanna do aerobics."

He caught a glimpse of her card on top of the towel.

Ngwekazi : "It's down stairs just use those stairs."

PI: "Thank you."

He walked away writing what he had seen on his phone, he just went out the door because he had seen what he wanted to see. Once inside the car he called Kuhle.

Kay: "What do you have for me?"

PI:"She's a Dr at Addington Hospital, stays just across the hospital. She's a Xhosa Princess from Eastern Cape."

Kay:"Okay send me her information, ask your friends to keep an eye on her. You continue with Ace."

PI:"Alright."

.

Later that evening the duo walked across the road.

Ngwekazi:"Where do you stay?"

Ace:"By Shaka Marine."

Ngwekazi:"Where's that?"

Ace:"5 minutes away from here."

Ngwekazi : "At least that'll make me feel safe."

Ace:"Just take my number let me know when you're going to the gym. It is unsafe here."

He took out his phone and handed it to her, she wrote her numbers.

Ngwekazi:"Tomorrow neh?"

Ace:"Yeah sure."

She waved, a beautiful woman with a good heart what more could he ask for. His phone rang, he looked at the unknown number.

Ace:"Hey."

"I'm going to kill her."

Ace:"Kuhle."

Kay:"Right, bye."

She hung up, he stood on his tracks worriedly. If she really had a loose screw. He was in deep trouble.

9

At Garden Court

Mdeyama sat on the bed listening to his brother who was rather very frustrated.

Qobo:" I don't understand why you're there when you said you letting this be."

Mdeyama:"I realized this will go on forever and since you don't wanna do anything about it, I will."

Qoqo:"You're making a huge mistake don't say I didn't warn you. Those boys use muti, those kind of people are always ready to shoot anything on their way. Even if you bump them a bit they'll kill you."

Mdeyama:"They're not the only one protected, so in that case I'd like to see them try."

Qobo clicked her tongue and hjiung up. Nyana stepped closer to the King.

Nyana:"I've located the Princess my King."

Mdeyama:"Where is she?"

Nyana : "She's at work right now but she knocks off in the morning."

Mdeyama "Organize the guards to take her, be careful."

Nyana : "No problem sir."

.....

At Aces Place

He couldn't stop thinking about what Kuhle said to him, maybe she was bluffing. She probably wanted him to beg her or something. He has always been kept in the dark by his brothers, then when they decide to tell him things. It's like they're shouting at him or warning him in a crude way. He side picking up his phone and calling his sweet sister.

Ulu:"Hey baby."

Ace:"Sis how are you?"

Ulu:"I'm good, is everything okay?"

He sighed.

Ace:"I was in a relationship with Kuhlekonke Masuku, I'm sure our brothers have already told you. Now I met this lady, she's not my girlfriend. I haven't said anything to her to add, but now Kuhle said she'll kill her. Is she actually capable of doing that?"

Ulu:" Yep she is, you have to deal with that girl otherwise you'll never be with another person. "

He kept quiet thinking deeply about the statement.

Ace : " Basically the only way to get rid of her is to kill her?"

Ulu:" Yes but I'm not saying do it. "

Ace:"Okay sis, thank you very much. Bye."

He hung up and bit his lower lip thoughtfully. Maybe if he'd drift his thoughts to something else it would calm his anger, he logged on to his Instagram and searched for Ngwekazi. There weren't many so he found the one easily, he didn't even have more than 20 followers or posted anything on his account for that matter. Unfortunately her account was locked, he sighed contemplating whether he should inform his brothers or not. They'll probably take this lightly or advise him to get back with her. Well the only hope he had was that maybe Kuhle was bluffing to get his attention.

....

Outside the Doctors Quarters

The guards waited inside the car for Ngwekazi, she waved at the security guard with a smile. The gate opened, it was late at night so she had to be discreet. The police station wasn't far so she was relaxed. As soon as she stepped out the gate the driver started the car while two guards walked closely behind Ngwekazi. She frowned as she felt like someone was following her. She turned her head the guard grabbed her hand.

"Don't make a sound, your father wants to talk to you." tires screeched besides them. Without a chance to reply they

pushed her inside. There was way too much happening, her father was kidnapping her. On top how did he even know where she was?

Ngwekazi:"What's going on?"

Guard : "Your father summoned you."

She held her bag closer to her, she knew the guards but then this was just some movie shit for her. The car stopped at Garden Court. The two guards sat at the back, Mdeyama walked in and sat besides Ngwekazi. Her heart was beating right out of her chest

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eventually they were meant to find her but not days after starting. How good are the people that work for him, she already knew she wasn't going to her. It was the least of her worries though, she swallowing looking right ahead. Her father looked at her disappointedly.

Mdeyama : "Why?"

She looked at him confused. The car was moving, just that she had no idea where they were going.

Ngwekazi: "Tata?"

Mdeyama: "Tell me why?"

Ngwekazi : "I uhm...ahem..I'm sorry."

He sighed pinching his nose.

Mdeyama: "I have enemies here, they might go after you cause the media is familiar with you. I don't want you caught up in anything, I didn't want you here for a reason."

She kept quiet not sure if her response was gonna sound rude.

Mdeyama: "Why did you lie to me?"

She huffed.

Ngwekazi:"I just feel like you're controlling us, you made sure everyone does courses with money. We did exactly that, now it's this. I believe if your enemies are that resourceful they'll find me wherever I go. I actually like it here, I'm very happy please don't take it away from me. "

Mdeyama : " It's my responsibility to protect you, even if it means you staying at home. As we speak I have war brewing, listen to me this once. "

Ngwekazi : " But this is gonna ruin my career, tata please. "

He looked outside the window, she blinked back the tears that were forming but they fell still. The car stopped at a near by garage, it looked like a pit stop.

Mdeyama:" Jump off."

The door was already opened, they stepped out and headed inside the shops. He bought burgers and some snacks.

Ngwekazi looked at him confused, this wasn't just gonna be a short talk or trip it seems. We went back out and the car was different.

Ngwekazi:"Where are we going?"

Mdeyama : "Home."

Ngwekazi:"Kodwa tata-"

Mdeyama : "Ngwekazi."

He said sternly, she bit her lower lip getting inside the car. One hour into the drive his phone rang.

Mdeyama : "Yes... What?... We changed cars... Dammit!... Handle it, I have to take my daughter home."

He hung up.

Ngwekazi : "Everything okay."

Mdeyama : "There was a shooting directed to the car we used, the driver and the guard are no more."

Ngwekazi's heart panged, it could have been them. Maybe her father was right, this issue was deeper than he let out.

Mdeyama just knew that those boys had to be handled, they want a war he'll give them one in a silver platter.

10

After spending almost the whole night on the road we arrived home at dusk , well even though I'm back here at least I know that I can escape on my own if I have to. The yard was dead with only the guards walking around, they unlocked the main door and led me to my bedroom. It was obvious that we were gonna be accompanied to the toilet as well because my father is a very cautious and paranoid man. But whoever these people messing with daddy are, they're very brave. To step on

my dad's toes. I fell asleep immediately after getting undercovers, at least I was fed so my stomach didn't complain.

I woke up after midday, I scrolled through my phone not ready to face my family. I went through my DMs parking on one request.

'Hey it's Zenzele from the gym, please accept.' I remembered giving him my number the first day we met, I didn't expect his call but I assume he should have used them.

'Someone should go through their contact list and call instead of DMing girls, it's creepy '

I sent the message then scrolled through my timeline. 5 minutes didn't even pass my phone rang.

Me:"Hello."

"I can't believe I don't remember saving your numbers. It's Zenzele."

Me:"You're growing old champ, normally when people forget things it's either they're tired or their minds are occupied."

He chuckled a little like he was lazy to.

Zen:"Thank you for reminding me, are you still asleep. Our gym session is about to start."

Me:"I'm back home in Eastern Cape so I can't."

Zen:"Huh? How?"

Me:"My dad decided it's better if we're this side, we almost died yesterday someone shot the car we were in."

He kept quiet for a few seconds.

Zen:"You didn't get hurt?"

Me:"No I did not, but the people who were inside that car lost their lives all for us."

Zen:"That sucks was looking forward to spending time with you, I'm drawn to you. The feeling is so foreign yet it's the warmest thing I've ever experienced."

I bit my lower lip, the guys voice was so beautiful and charming.

I don't even have a picture of him shouting.

Me:" We're adults I'm sure we can come up with something. "

Zen:" We will make a plan. "

Me:" Lemme wake up before my parents freak, Whatsapp? "

Zen:"Uhm, tell me when you're free I'll call. I like hearing your voice and how your tone changes."

Me:"I won't fall for you Zen don't be sweet."

He laughed

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did he have to have such a beautiful laugh. I can imagine how he looked.

Zen: "Bye bye mama."

Dead, died. I died at that pet name. It didn't sound like the mamas or anything like that, it was deep the first ma was just deep then the last one not as deep.

Me: "Bye."

He hung up, why was my heart beating like crazy? I didn't even know his last name let alone what he does. We could be related for all we know.

The call on its own just gave me some energy, I emailed our boss and told him I'm feeling ill. I had to make my dad understand that I want to be in Durban.

.....

In Mdeyamas Bedroom

His phone rang on the bed.

Mdeyama : "Xhego."

Xhego : "It's done."

Mdeyama : "Good."

He hung up then got dressed, he was going to kill those little things one by one. They can mess with him but not his daughter. His phone rang.

Mdeyama:"Gogo."

Zamisa:"I've enhanced the protection around the yard but if anything is meant to happen it will. You have messed with fate."

Mdeyama : "What do you mean? Why do you go around in circles?"

He asked frustrated.

Zamisa:"My visions don't tell me exactly what's going to happen just visions I need to interpret . But you've lived your life, let the children live theirs. I'll come tomorrow to do the rituals for the guards and the boys."

Mdeyama:"Okay."

He hung up because he didn't want the conversation to drag any longer. The phone rang once more, he sighed looking at the caller ID.

Mdeyama:"Radebe."

Bhungane:"I'll find your home and I'll kill every breathing specie in there. Do you understand what you've done?"

Mdeyama:"I told you to not mess with me. You shot through my car, you little coward."

Bhungane:"I'm not a murderer, I solve every problem without killing because I have my own family." his voice broke but he kept it together, he was so pissed he could drive down to Eastern Cape. " My child is in hospital with burnt marks and death is knocking, I'm coming for you masimba nyoko(your mothers feaces). "

He hung up, Mdeyama just clicked his tongue without processing anything he was saying.

....

In Hospital

Bhungane held his wife close to his chest while Gatsha leaned against the wall. He wanted to say a lot but he was certain Mrs Hadebe had no idea what had transpired. He spotted Ace at a

distance and walked towards him, seeing his brother like that was depressing anyways.

Ace:"What happened?"

Gatsha:"We were attacked by some family, they claim we attacked them first."

Ace:"What will you do about it?"

Gatsha : "As soon as Bhungane knows what's happening and is sure his wife is good. We're heading to wherever that idiot is from."

Ace: "Eish."

His brother looked at him closely.

Gatsha : "Are you okay?"

Ace: "I think Kuhlekonke got people to kill a girl a like or love."

Gatsha : "A girl you like? When did that happen?.. Never mind, Is she okay?"

Ace : "Fortunately, they exchanged cars but I'm afraid she'll find her and kill her."

Gatsha: "We will deal with that later for now it's family first."

He squeezed his shoulder, Ace rubbed his forehead in frustration.

11

The entire family was gathered in the main living room, the kids weren't around though, it was the mothers and everyone else. I knew this was about me, I can't believe I was gonna have a family gathering. A whole entire me?

Me: "Molweni emini(Good afternoon)"

They mumbled their responses. I sat on the empty chair facing my father, the position was so unnecessary though. I looked at my toes avoiding eye contact.

Mdeyama : "The meeting isn't about you Ngwekazi stop acting like you're shy."

My mouth fell, I'm still gonna eat embarrassment till someone else does something drastic. My bet is on Ayine, he's gonna do something this week I'm sure of it.

Mdeyama: "Family, I've called you here because we're about to go to a war. I've trained each and every one in this room, if shit hits the fan I expect you all to be cooperative. Our guards are here to protect us, but we're also responsible for protecting each other. A family stepped on my toes, and I'm expecting anything. I just hope they don't find our home. I've managed to find us a temporary home that's 2 hours away from here. " everyone shifted uncomfortably, when the King speaks no one dares say anything unless he gives us the floor to. "This is why I

want my family close to me, it makes my life so much easier. " his eyes were on me. "The floor is yours."

MaDzanibe: "Sthandwa I know you've taught us how to shoot guns, but hayi I'm too old for that. Let the guards handle it."

MaManci: "I'm fine with whatever."

MaNdlangisa:"Hayi sisi uthetha into yoba angeke uthathe mpu udubule sesi hlaselwa? (You mean to tell me you'll never shoot when we're being attacked?)

MaDzanibe:" Angeke ndilwe noThixo, xakulu suku kum lulo sisi . (I won't fight God, if it's my day then so be it) "

MaNdlangisa clapped her hands.

MaNdlangisa:"It's fine we'll shoot on her behalf."

I scoffed, the drama this lady has.Infact all of them.

Lunzulu:"Who is attacking and why?"

I zoned out there, my mind drifted to my job. Being here made me feel like I was being ungrateful, there are so many people in serious need of jobs and just because I was lucky enough to be born under royalty my dad does as he pleases with me. My mind also drifted to Zenzele

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I missed him. I should probably call him first later on, but maybe he'll think I'm chasing after him. I hardly know the guy though, but it's not like I'm planning to marry him let alone date him. We're two people who know each other and are getting to know each other so I have every right to be curious.

"Minxi!" Luhle shouted.

Me:"Mhm."

Luhle:"Where's your mind at?"

MaManci:"Maybe she's planning on going overseas this time around."

Me:"Hah mama, I just miss work that's all."

Ayine:"So what do you think about this whole thing?"

I shrugged.

Me:"I don't know."

Zanoxolo, my other brother who's 26 scoffed. An ass this one, not forgetting a drunkard.

Zano:"Don't worry about her, I'm sure she'll shoot. She's the best in this family anyways."

They argued over that, and we were back to being normal.

....

On The Road.

Gatshas phone rang, he picked up.

Gatsha:"Zalo."

MP:"We've been on the road for hours, are these idiots of yours certain?"

Gatsha: "Whee Zalo uban odume ngeNkabi ezihamba phambili ekhaya? labantu bawazi unjengoba uMzantsi, utetemelani? (Brother who is famous for knowing the best hitmen at home? These people know the whole of South Africa as is. Why are you crying?)"

MP: "I'm tired we've been driving forever."

Gatsha: "We're almost there, have patience."

He hung up and lowered the window. They were all driving iVW Golfs, the legacies and the latest. The hitmen were driving in front with 2 cars with 5 of them in each car, then the 3rd one had 2 men then Gatsha. He fixed the gutter on his arm, it was for them to not be shot at even if they do they will not die.

They took a junction leading to a gravel road. After an hour the car in front came to a stop, they all jumped out and formed a circle.

Hitman: "The boys behind you will close this road incase it become tough. The nearest Police station is on this other side,

so they'll pass here before they rich the house. Then the rest are far away, but I have people in each and every police station that might be called for help. "

Zobuhle: " How far is the house now? "

Hitman:" 15 minutes we'll be there. "

Bhungane:" Let's go. "

They jumped inside the cars while the 2 cars behind them closed the road. They placed the bolt action rifles on top of their cars which were telescopic to get a view of whoever was coming besides it was a rocket launcher. But it was easy because there weren't any street lights, they were told to make a mess so whichever car comes, it was gonna receive the rockets and blow into smoke.

12

The cars rolled down the hills of the Tamancu, Bhunganes anger fueled even more as the lights shined from a a short distance.

One of the guards who watch just before the house called the other ones informing them of trespassers with NUZ registration numbers. They knew exactly that they meant business. Everyone knew how dangerous people from Umlazi were.

The Yard was quiet as everybody had gone to sleep. But as soon as word escalated the guards knocked on the Kings door who was in bed with MaDzanibe.

Guard:"Kumkani there are cars approaching."

Mdeyama:"Don't attack first but be armed, lead everyone to the secret room in the main house and tell the boys to be armed. Ngwekazi is also going to the secret room."

From the driveway to the houses was a fair distance, but a bullet travels very fast and very far.

.....

On the other hand Ace scrolled through Ngwekazi's timeline, she was a princess by the looks of things, it explained her beauty she was blessed with blue. She had an amazing smile he liked how she dressed up. The different Mbhaco designs were out of this world. She frowned looking at one of her pictures.

They had a location on top and a picture of herself standing in front of a Gate written "Komkhulu" the background was a leopard. He dialed Ngwekazi's number. She picked up after a few seconds.

Ngwekazi:"Zen."

He reprimanded himself from blushing, time was of the essence.

Ace:"Mama, are you by any chance related to the Xhosa King that is also in the Taxi business."

Ngwekazi:"Uuh... Why?"

Ace:"I'll answer honestly if you're family."

"Nkosazana! You need to vacate the room and come after me."

Ace stood on his feet hearing the voice in the background and the sound of the door banging. This was really not a coincidence

Ngwekazi:"What's going on! ?"

She shouted to whoever was outside.

"We're under attack."

Ace:"Ngwekazi you need to go hide somewhere safe please."

She wore her gun and took her handgun.

Ngwekazi:"Who the fuck are you?"

She unlocked her door and jogged behind the guard barefoot.

Ace:"I'll call you back stay safe please."

He hung up and scratched his head, he took his brother's car keys and ran to the garage. What was he going to do to help? Nothing, but he had to try. Definitely Uluthando had an idea how he'd reach his siblings and stop this whole madness before anyone gets hurt. If anything he felt like the war was his fault, his ex shot the royal car then they retaliated to the wrong people unfortunately. They should have done their own

research though instead of avenging, his nephew was fighting for his life and here he was being Judas Scariot.

He finally arrived in Durban North. He found his sister at the gate with a gown waiting for him already.

Ulu:"What's wrong with you?"

Ace:"AboBhungane are about to hurt a family of a woman I've fallen in love with. "

Ulu:"The Masukus, I thought you hated her."

He wasn't good with words especially now that he was panicking. He tried calming himself down.

Ace : "I met a woman

Kuhle shot at her car but they weren't there. Her father burnt down the house back home."

Her sister slapped her so hard his glasses almost fell off.
"What the hell?"

Ulu:"Ayakshisa yin amathanga wena slima? Ingquza awuy jwayele leyo ndllela yokuthi ulahla umndeni(Are thighs burning you idiot? Are you not that used to a Vagina to a point of turning against family?) these people burnt down our fathers house, I should be calling him right now so he can beat the pussywhipped ness out of your head. "

His sisters words hit him hard, he clenched his jaws at her bitter words. They always mocked him for being a late bloomer but hearing her use that against him at this moment hit him hard.

Ace : " But it was a misunderstanding and nit was my fault. "

Uluthando was nicer than all of them, but she didn't want her bomb ticked otherwise it would count down in nanoseconds.

Ulu: "Did you burn down our fathers house? Are you the one who shot through their car? These Mpondo idiots will know us. Ungaphindi ungvusela ushidi."

She clicked her tongue and walked away, he sat inside the car angrily. His father was the only person who would stop this madness, he understood him more than anyone else. But before he could call his father he wanted to talk to Kuhle.

Kay: " Baby boy, finally came to your senses."

He gritted his teeth trying hard to get his breathing back to normal.

Ace: "What do you want from me?"

She chuckled.

Kay: "To love and teach you a few things, I broke your virginity. I have a hold over you."

Ace: "Stop talking about that!"

She laughed.

Kay : "Why? I thought you had fun, I'll make you climax this time."

Obviously she was provoking her and he was letting him win. He placed the phone on his thigh and practiced breathing exercises.

Ace: "Come to my place."

Kay : "Now you're talking."

He hung up and called his father.

.....

Back at the royal home...

the first gunshot went off and the sound of a child crying pierced the mothers ears. They were still in the houses making sure that everyone was okay regardless of what the guards have said.

Outside the gate Bhungane yelled at the guards.

Bhungane: "Shoot this fuckin gate down! I want all these rats dead!"

His eyes had turned red with anger.

Hitmen2: "We can't get through."

Hitmen1:"I've heard they know their muti."

Bhungane : "What the f... Yey nina I paid you to kill these people!"

Gatsha:"Zalo calm down."

Hitmen:"3 bodies down, we might not get past the gate but grenades and bullets can."

In the secret room, Ngwekazi scanned the room for the kids.

There was one missing.

Ngwekazi:"Guys where Nzuki?"

Kid:"She was in Mamo Mncanes house."

She unlocked the metal door that led to the arms room, she took a rifle hanging the bullets over her shoulder after taking

off her gun. She ignored the vibration her phone was making on her waist, she made sure the doors were locked before running up the stairs carrying night goggles. She put the goggles on before pulled down the main switch since they were exposed . She turned shooting where the bullets were coming from, at the far end her brothers and father were doing the same with the mothers as well. She kept shooting till she caught a glimpse of someone falling she turned her head back to the person.

Ngwekazi:"Luhleee!!!! Noooo!!"

The guns kept blazing, I was infuriated I could shoot anything and anyone there. It was if my senses were heightened, it felt like I could sense the bullets before they even leave the guns. I knew there was no such thing except that my anger was in contributing. I gave whoever I passed the goggles, I knew the first person would go get more. Lunzulu came running carrying a rocket launcher, the bullets had already died down. We could see the red lights disappearing, he aimed at the car behind and by the love of our ancestors it got one of the cars. The lights came on, a few of our cars drove out the gate or what was the gate in full speed. I removed the goggles and turned to my brother who was lying there lifeless.

I let go of the guns feeling weak. I couldn't go go him or bring myself to seeing him. MaDzanibe came running dropping the gun, she fell on her knees. The change on her worried face confirmed it all.

MaDzanibe:"oh Mdeyama, Xhe, Qobo. Mntanam please don't hurt me like this. Please sthandwa sam."

I frowned as my lips vibrated. Mdeyama walkers slowly towards my brother and mother, he crouched with the gun still in his hand. He stared at him sadly then pinched his nose bridge.

- Nzuku! Bhabha please wake up! Don't do this to me. " that was Ayine, I couldn't even bring myself to look at what had happened. The sirens wailed from a distance, but it was already late. Too late, we had lost one of us.

I felt someone hug me as my body shook with my head hanging. My heart was in pieces.

- He's gone, my son is gone." MaDzanibe cried, I didn't even wanna look.

Lunzulu:"Come Minxi."

He picked me up, I felt so powerless and defeated. If I hadn't gone to Durban none of this would have happened

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my father would have definitely used a plane to come back but he used a car because he wanted to have a talk with me. Now here we are.

Me:" None of this was supposed to happen bhuti."

He covered me with the fleece blanket and let my head rest on his lap.

Lunzulu:"I know baby, I know."

Me : "I'll kill them all, each and every one of them."

He kept quiet and rubbed my back till I fell asleep. It was probably in the early hours of morning when we fell asleep. I woke up gasping, I rubbed my face realizing I was just dreaming. I touched my chest, my heart was heavy. I got off my bed and sat in front of the mirror staring at my reflection, I looked horrible. Then the memories came back, my brother head died.

.....

The previous night Ace finally managed to have his father help him reach his brothers. He knew he had a lot of explaining to do but that was the least of his worries. Hopefully he has managed to stop them before things got worse.

Gatsha was groaning in pain while Maphikelela was passed out because of the medicine the hitmen had given him since he got burnt. He wasn't that bad just his back was affected. He was lucky he made it out alive.

Gatsha:"Get this bullet out if me."

Bhungane:"The car is moving too fast, keep it in in case it does some damage."

He hissed.

Gatsha:"How are we being followed when we have rifles?"

Hitman:"We're in their territory, we can't make any moves here. I have called some men to clear the road for us. I know shit is happening at the border and the fucked up part is that it's near the police station."

Bhungane wrapped his t-shirt around Gatshas arm, he calmed down. They finally arrived at the border. The cops had closed the bridge, they were checking each passing car.

Bhungane : " Make a u-turn."

They didn't hesitate turning, the police noticed the removed plates and 3 cars turning around. They hopped on to theirs and did as the King had instructed.

On the other car Zobuhle called her connections in the military.

Zo:"We need an aircraft, we have guns and a man down....

Where the fuck is that?.... Okay fine."

She dialed Bhunganes.

Bhungane:"MaBhungane."

Zo:"We're going to lose these cops, I found us a military plane. He will send me directions."

Bhungane:"You're a lifesaver."

After an hour, they parked the cars at a river bank. The hitmen took the guns while Bhungane helped MP out of the car. They poured petrol on the cars and set them alight and crossed the river running as fast they could. The plane was at the spot.

Zo:"That's what I'm talking about!"

She screamed running to her 'friend' they hugged tightly while Bhungane gave the guy a deadly stare. He just smirked and kissed her forehead. The Police arrived at the scene a few minutes later, the dogs barked facing the river.

MaleCop:" We lost them."

He said afraid of what the King might say, shockingly he just hung up on him without saying a word

14

At Hadebe Household..

In the early hours of morning Mr Hadebe walked around his house looking at the progress the builders were making. He was pleased with how fast they were working, Bhungane was definitely behind the fast progress and he was pleased with how these boys turned out. Ace parked the car, he nervously closed the door fixing his glasses. His father looked at him sternly as we walked over, he was one who struggled a lot with people. He wondered how he angered that Masuku girl to a point of starting an unnecessary feud.

Ace:"Baba."

They shook hands briefly, he was the only son that didn't see the need to disrespect him at every chance he got. He loved him dearly but he wished he could stand up for himself without having to be provoked to a limit.

Hadebe:"Let's go in."

They went inside the house which wasn't burnt, the helper fixed them food.

Hadebe:"What happened?"

Ace:"I fell inlove, with a Xhosa girl. Kuhle hired people to shoot them down and the girls family is the one that burnt the other house. My brothers and Zobuhle went to Eastern Cape to avenge."

His father sighed, he knows these wars never end. With the possibilities of dead people, there was no way this would be easy.

Hadebe:" Let's wait for your siblings. For now we need to find a way to deal with that spoilt brat. "

Ace nodded. His thoughts went back to the lady he had tied and drugged in his bed. He didn't know what he was gonna do to her, it was good they met at the hotel. No one saw her driving to

her apartment, not that he cared if this was incriminating. All he wanted was the lady miles away from him.

His brothers finally arrived in the evening, they looked clean. Maphikelela couldn't walk properly while Gatsha had a cast on his arm. They looked at their father who was drinking whiskey while listening to the radio.

Gatsha: "Uyatetema uZenzele man (Zenzele is a cry baby)"

MP: "It's the poison he fed him, how can we help you old man?"

Hadebe: "The war you just started has to come to an end."

Gatsha: "Why?"

He poured himself a glass of whiskey from his father's bottle.

Hadebe: "Neither of you were on the wrong here, the least you could do is find a way to make peace. Bring back their taxis on the road."

Gatsha chuckled in disbelief.

"And because I'm in love with their daughter." Ace said walking in. They all turned to him.

All: "What?!"

Ace:"I'm in love, if you don't fix this I'll go there myself and apologize."

Bhungane:"Good luck with coming back alive."

He said with a scoff clearly mocking him.

Ace:"I don't care."

MP:"Uyahlanya wena masimba yihlo?"

He looked at him angrily, Aces veins popped. They were the reason Ngwekazi wasn't taking his calls. They probably killed her. The thought of that had him charging at MP, he punched his face. Maphikelela returned it with the same force

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Bhungane separated them.

Hadebe:"I'm leaving, I'm not gonna watch you kill each other."

Gatsha:"Hamba! You didn't even fight for our mother till she died. You cheating asshole killed her! Now your children will kill themselves and you won't do anything."

The entire room fell silent as Ace stopped trying to grab his brother. He looked at his father confused.

Ace : " What are you talking about? "

Knowing Gatsha, there was more.

.....

At Home...

Zamisa sprinkled water around the yard cleansing it while I sat in front of the yard watching everyone move. Lunzulu stood besides me and said nothing. We were also cleansed the night before, Luhle and Nzukis bodies were something I couldn't get off my mind. It was one thing I couldn't wrap my head around. We were all falling apart, but the men were holding on for us. This was gonna take a huge toll on Lunzulu, there was singing in the rondavel already where the moms slept for the entire week. I was tired of the endless condolences that I was receiving on my phone, I didn't even post it yet people are all over me. I don't like how people decide to post others lives

without acknowledging them. I decided to switch my phone off because Zenzele kept calling and calling. According to tradition my brother and niece were gonna be buried outside the yard, so were gonna have a night vigil with their picture then their bodies were gonna arrive the next day. The tent was already set up at the Royal burial site were our ancestors who died fighting for the family were buried, my brother was now an

ancestor. A fallen hero and a young angel, every time I promise myself not to cry a memory flashes and the tears fall. I missed him so much and I just wanted to get to a point of healing. I stood up from the chair to find my father, he was in the main house with tatomncinci Qobo. They were both given Clan names.

Mdeyama : "Nkosazana is everything okay?"

I shook my head and sat besides his throne.

Me: "No, I don't know what else is coming. I was hoping after this dies down we call a meeting with the Hadebes and move forward. Or we'll lose more people."

My father was surprised he couldn't respond.

Qobo: "I like that idea."

Mdeyama: "I don't know, they killed my son and my grand daughter."

Me: "And they can kill more they know where we live. God knows what else they can do."

A knock came through, Zamisa walked in and stared at my father. We all knew she was sent.

Zamisa: "You who blocks fate endures the pain, it's unfortunate that others suffer because you don't wanna listen."

I looked at them both confused, she turned to me and mirrored my expression. "Ngwekazi, aren't you supposed to be in Durban?"

What the!?! I hope whatever she was sprinkling outside didn't give her amnesia.

15

At The Hadebe Household...

Gatsha:"Hamba! You didn't even fight for our mother till she died. You cheating asshole killed her! Now your children will kill themselves and you won't do anything."

The entire room fell silent as Ace stopped trying to grab his brother. He looked at his father confused.

Ace : " What are you talking about? "

Knowing Gatsha, there was more.

Ace:" Baba what's happening? "

Bhungane:" Ave awumsunu Gatsha(You're an asshole)"

Gatsha:"Am I? He had to know, one way or the other."

Hadebe:"Your mother died of a heart attack."

Maphikelela scoffed.

MP:"From depression, I can't believe you're going with that shit knowing exactly that you left her breastfeeding Ulu. You weren't even there during her pregnancy with this nerd."

His brothers hearts broke, never has he voiced it out. The rest of the siblings always said everything they wanted to while MP gave him a cold stare.

MP:" Ma was depressed, she was always stressed because that lousy woman you call a wife didn't even have a decency to let you bring us food."

Hadebe:"Don't involve her in this, it was all me."

Bhungane:"Was it? If I remember clearly she accompanied you to this very house when you decided to move out. You didn't have balls enough to at least consider polygamy. 5 children later?"

Hadebe:"I don't know what to do for you to forgive."

MP:"Buyisa uMa(bring back ma)"

Ace listened to his brothers with his heart pounding, this whole time they were protecting him from the truth.

Bhungane:"Please leave, we'll sort this matter out ourselves."

Hadebe:"I don't know how to make you forgive me, but I'm really sorry. If I could bring back your mother I would."

They clenched their jaws as he looked at them, they had to take their mothers eyes and skin complexion. Her caramel skin was one thing he loved amongst everything else, she was beautiful. He walked away with his heart heavy. Ace looked at his brothers and walked away.

....

It was the day of the funeral and it couldn't be more sad. It was packed with the media airing the funeral, I knew people were going to say "His sister was crying so much." of course I had to, I lost 2 people.

We finally went to the site, the media was not allowed there. The funeral went better than I had hoped, there were guards who had to stay overnight and watch the graves. People believe that if you dig up a dead person's body right after the burial their organs and make strong muti, now that they were royalty the security had to be tight.

As people dispersed and others went to the yard to eat, I took my phone and car keys. I just needed to breathe, I parked besides a rental car just by the hill.

He got out of the car and walked towards me.

Me:"Hi."

Zen:"Hey."

He looked even scared to hug me. His lips trembled as his looked at me, I was in pain and looking at him hurt. I had make up on but it didn't hide much, in fact I wiped it off with the endless tears.

Zen:"I'm sorry, I'm so sorry."

Me:"I want the pain to stop."

He pulled me to his chest

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I rested my hands on his breasts and cried.

Me:"We need to stop this madness before this gets worse."

Zen:"We'll worry about that later, let it all out mama."

We probably stood there for a good 10 minutes. I let go looking at his wet T-shirt.

Me:"You look like a mess."

He chuckled, his eyes were also red.

Zen:"It's nothing, don't sweat it."

His phone vibrated, he sighed looking at the screen.

Zen:"Bhuti." he listened to whoever he was talking to with a deep scowl. "I'll book a plane ticket for tomorrow, bye."

He hung up and looked at me.

Zen:"My niece gave in, she passed on."

I stared at him unable to feel sad, I was a sad being as is.

Me:"I can't believe how bloody our families hands are."

Zen:"It's sad."

Me : "Thank you for being here."

Zen:"It's nothing, I've been longing to see your face.
Whenever you need me I'll be here."

Me:"Now I know, I need to go back home. I can't be gone
for long, we need to be given mourning pins."

He nodded and gave me one last hug.

....

The Next Day...

Ace started at his place before driving to his brothers house,
he dropped the bag and went to his bedroom.

Ace:" Hey."

She sprinkled water on her face, she choked opening her eyes
weakly. Her lips were chapped, she even had dark circles
around her eyes.

Ace:"It's unbelievable how you made me believe I was weak, I can't get over it."

Kuhle:"I can't believe you actually have balls."

She really didn't, this wasn't the Ace she went after. He did say that she was number one hence the nick name, he always wins. His father was probably looking for her, Ace was a smart ass so

he probably made a way for her to seem as if she was elsewhere.

Ace:"Drink up, I need your father to give me a cow for my virginity. But this cow will be all his Taxis and the routes, I'll sell them and ask for forgiveness from the lady you tried to kill."

He bit his lip smiling. He covered his mouth again and gave her a paper.

Ace:" Learn that statement off by heart, when I get back we'll shoot a video. If you do good, add some emotions. I'll cook you a nice meal. "

Tears fell from her eyes, she always thought she was a winner. But now she regretted being a spoilt brat who got everything she wanted.

16

At Aces House..

He sat down staring at his research with a heavy heart, he was gonna be done in 2 weeks and submit it to the professor. He wanted to be in Eastern Cape, now that he saw Ngwekazi. He wanted more of her, he has only 7 days to finish up his work and to get what he wanted from the Masukus. He has been sitting in the living room since he came back, thinking of what had happened between the two families. The Masukus signing over their Taxis was a smallest price to pay, he wanted a position. On second thoughts that would just sell him out. He sighed taking the schwarma he bought to his room he knew how she hated it. She opened her eyes startled, he looked at Ace who had his glasses removed. The smell of what he had bought filled the room.

Kuhle:"Let me go home please."

He took the paper besides her.

Ace:"You know all this off by heart?" She nodded. "If you do it perfectly I'll give you food okay?" she nodded once more. He took a black sheet and hung it behind his headboard. He hid every object in his room that would reflect in his eyes. He placed the laptop in front of her, then untied her with a gun pointed at her face. She rubbed her wrists.

Ace:"Start recording, no bullshit."

She pressed the recorder and sighed.

Kuhle:"Baba, I'm still alive. I'm not well taken care of and I might die of starvation.. It's been long, my throat is dry. My lips are tearing and bleeding as I'm speak to you. I need you to take all your taxis, remove trackers. I'll give you your next instruction when I know you've received this. If you don't follow instruction, I will die. "A tear fell from her eye, she stopped the recording and looked at Ace. He grabbed her and tied her hands again. He played the recording countless times trying to find loopholes but it was perfect. He took the schwarma and fed it to her, he was disgusted by the way she ate. She looked like a pig, a powerless pig that is. He took his latex gloves and wore them while loading the video to the CD. He placed it neatly inside an envelope he carelessly wrote Masuku on it.

Ace:"That food you just ate should last you for the whole day, don't shit on my bed."

He walked out with his backpack. He took a Taxi to Workshop where he met a homeless young boy eating take aways.

They walked in alongside while he had his face hidden with the hoodie.

Ace:" Go to the offices and give this to whoever you find, don't say anything run back to me after."

He stood behind the vendor tents hiding, in 5 minutes the boy came back panting. He handed him the R50 notes and walked to a different direction.

.....

At The Royal Home..

The King looked at Zamisa impatiently

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if only he had a gift where he'd speak to the ancestors himself he'll understand them better. Maybe something was wrong, why would they want to do this to him. After he has fought so much for this family.

Zamisa:"I am sorry my King but the bones still say the same thing."

He rubbed his forehead in frustration.

Mdeyama:"So what must be done now?"

Zamisa:"We can have a ceremony, the good luck she was supposed to get. I'll give her herbs to use everyday, I'll also strengthen her skin. We'll need a pure white goat, her mother can start preparing the traditional beer so that when the weekend comes we can do it. "

Mdeyama : " This is one thing I didn't want happening. I'll go break the news to her. "

.....

I laid on my side staring at my laptop, my life was such a standstill. No sexual relationship, no romantic relationship, lacked friends, not even in a relationship with alcohol or drugs. I might as well get married because this was just boring. Zens call came through, I smiled picking up.

Me: "Hey."

Zen: "You sound like you need a cuddle, do you need me to come over?"

I chuckled.

Me: "Don't be silly, I'm good just trying to come into terms with things."

Zen: "Are you?"

Me: "Nope, I can't wrap my head around it. So why didn't you come attack with your brothers."

Zen: "I wasn't told, they hide stuff from me."

Me: "Why?"

Zen: "Well their say I'm too soft and the last born so yeah."

He chuckled.

Me:"It's a good thing though, I need soft in my life everyone surrounding me is hardcore. So you're good as you are."

A knock came through. "I'll call you back someone is at the door."

Zen:"Please do call."

I hung up and unlocked the door, my father looked at me displeased. I was in track bottoms and a loose top with my hair in knots.

Mdeyama:"How are you feeling?"

He sat down on the chair while I sat on my bed facing him.

Me:"I'm fine, still adapting to it."

He nodded.

Mdeyama:"You needn't adapt, just take it as it comes. You'll heal at your own time."

Me:"I know, thank you. How are you tata?"

He smiled at me.

Mdeyama:"Seeing you getting better improves my wellbeing. Anyway I'm not here for that."

Me:"Oh?"

He sighed heavily, it took him a minute to finally open his mouth.

Mdeyama:"Did you resign from work?"

I looked at him confused.

Me:"uhm. No I didn't."

Mdeyama:"When you're ready book yourself a flight. I'll assign you 4 guards including Xhego to take care of you."

He stood up and went out the door while I tried wrapping my head around what he said.

Me : "Oh snap."

17

The whole time I kept repeating "Yintsomi(It's a tale)" I couldn't believe uTata was letting me go to Durban. It was really a tale, I couldn't believe him or the words he said. So I needed to reconfirm. I bathed and dressed up warmly the weather wasn't friendly outside, I found him in my mothers house which meant it was her turn.

Ma:"Sthandwa sam how are you?"

Me:"I'm good mama, how are you?"

She smiled.

Ma:"I'm good smiling through difficulties, but I have faith all this is gonna come to an end soon."

Me:"Nothing really comes to an end hey we can only be hopeful."

She just looked at me and continued slicing her cucumber, I took one and headed to the living room where I knew my dad would be.

Mdeyama:"Sthando.. I need-" he looked up. "Ntomban it's you."

Me:"Yes, I just wanted to talk to you about what you said earlier. I'm very confused."

Mdeyama:"There's nothing confusing, this is the path you need to take. So there's nothing I can do to stop you. Instead I'm gonna support you and protect you."

It still felt like the first time he said it, Unbelievable. But at least this time around I jumped him and hugged him tightly, he let me snuggle which made me so emotional but I held back the tears.

Mdeyama:"I hope they allow weapons where you stay cause I'm not letting you leave unarmed."

Me:"I don't know, I need to check with the hospital first.
Enkosi tata I'll make you proud."

Mdeyama:"I know."

Ever so serious! He was supposed to give me a big ass smile.

But then it's my father the King we're talking about.

.....

In Aces Place

He dressed up while standing in front of a mirror, Kuhle was staring at him scared. He wasn't talking, the only time he'd talk was when he wanted her to do something. He wasn't updating her or even looking at her, in her mind he was going to get what he wants and let her go. He wore his disposable latex gloves and covered any skin he showed including his beard. He

went to the bathroom and poured water in it. He went back to the bedroom and removed her pair of jeans together with the underwear, he dressed her up in a bikini as she weakly tried to fight him off but he didn't even move an inch. He threw her over her shoulders and walked to bathroom while she tried to wiggle out of his embrace. She threw her inside the tub.

Kuhle:"Ace please.. I made all the videos you made me do please." He grabbed her hair and pushed her inside the water

as she gagged trying to free herself. She struggled but he wasn't even moving

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he was doing it for Ngwekazi, he was doing it for his niece. He was doing it for himself as well because this woman was making him a weakling. Her heart finally gave up, he pulled her up and checked her pulse which wasn't there. He opened the water and went to his room, he dressed up carelessly and packed everything from sheets to old heavy things in bin bags. He went outside for a big bin, he pushed it to his apartment where he packed looked around then picked up Kuhle throwing him inside the bin. A neighbor approached and smiled at him.

"Spring cleaning again Mthimkhulu, you should take me as a wife."

He just smiled at him politely.

He used the other staircases that led to the parking he looked around once more then threw the body inside the boot on top he placed the bags. He closed the car then headed back to the apartment. Ulu was standing at the door smoking.

Ulu:"Slima how are you?"

He kissed her cheek then let her in.

Ace:"You almost missed me, I'm going to donate a few stuff at the orphanage."

She rolled her eyes lighting another cigarette.

Ulu:"You're such a Saint, anyways you never gave me an update after what happened."

Ace:"I was trying to avoid everyone after Gatsha told us that moms death is Babas fault."

Her eyes widened, the way she inhaled made the little one curious.

Ace:"Oh fuck me. You also knew?"

Ulu:"Yeah well I overheard long time ago, they sat me down and explained it to me."

Ace:"Why wouldn't they tell me though?"

Ulu:"Zeke in case you haven't noticed, you're an angry being as is. You over react when provoked, you had us kissing Masukus

ass when you hurt her daughter. You are merciless we didn't wanna die."

Ace:"You're my siblings, I wouldn't kill you. Besides I'm not a murderer."

Ulu:"Doesn't make you less scary, so where's the Ndlunkulu?
The dark queen."

Ace:"Huh?"

She rolled her eyes.

Ulu:"The lady that had you driving after midnight? Calling Baba
to go to Mbumbulu. Don't tell me you did all that for nothing."

Ace:"I need to go you're free to stay. I have food in the fridge."

Ulu:"Ugh visit me soon okay?"

He walked her to the car making sure that she's really gone. He
went to the car and drove off. Night was already approaching
when he drove through the dusty road leading to Nanda dam. In
a few, he carried her easily then threw her inside. She watched
as her still warm body sunk. He didn't feel guilty or regret what
he had done. He drove his car away in full speed.

18

We all stepped out of the house , I stopped on my tracks when I
heard the sound of cars hooting from the gate. We all stood still
while they drove up. They parked next to the cars in front of
the house, I looked at the unfamiliar plates. On the windscreen
it was written Mdeyama like all the other Taxis owned by the
family . But those weren't ours. Tata couldn't have bought taxis.

Mdeyama:"What's going on?"

The drivers stepped out, one had a paper in his hand. We stood glued on the ground as the other one gave my father the papers.

Driver:"My name is Melusi, I was sent here to offer these Taxis in the name of peace. The perpetrator who has bought shame in this family isn't the one you attacked, but the real enemy would like peace to be restored because she didn't plan for so many lives to be lost. These are ownership papers, they have your details. "

My father reluctantly took the papers and read through, the guards had already surrounded them. I knew he wasn't buying any of this.

Mdeyama : " I don't want these Taxis. "

Melusi:" I was given clear instructions to not come back with them. And I know the King can't reject gifts from a good heart. Enjoy your day."

They walked away after waving goodbye.

Ayine:"I know this is all confusing but Ngwekazi has a flight to catch."

Mdeyama : "Yeah let's go."

He said still going through the papers. We all packed ourselves inside the Quantum, one guard has already left with the car that was carrying guns. To add they found me another apartment near the hospital, to accommodate the guns they wanted me to carry.

In the car we didn't talk about the Taxis at all, I assume no one wanted to ruin my moment for me. So instead we spoke about my embarrassments.

MaManci:"She was a bully when growing up."

Lunzulu:"I wouldn't say bully just that she has a strong personality."

He nudged me, he was mocking me.

Ayine:"She has never had a strong personality, Ngwekazi always picked a fight with us. You remember when she told us to circle her Zano? She was certain she'll defeat us."

Zano:"We whipped her badly, then she started sneaking up on us one by one."

Me:"That still doesn't make me a bully, I'm naturally a fighter. Why did you gang up on me anyways?"

Ayine:"Yeah right, you should have just be named Dalindyebo Junior."

Everyone laughed, I knelt on the chair and reached for his T-shirt pulling him.

Zano:"Look she's bullying the quiet one now."

Ayine:"Why didn't you give her a little sister guys! This isn't on."

I pinched his nose letting him go.

Zano:"No girl would survive Ngwekazis abuse it's good we're boys."

MaDzanibe:"We can adopt one."

Me:"What?! No I don't want a sister."

I sat back and sulked.

Lunzulu:"Really? That's what hurts you? The thought of not being the only girl anymore."

Ayine:"She has a weakness."

I wanted to tell him he sounds gay but dad would kill me. Finally the sad part came, we had to part ways. I hugged each and every one.

MaManci:"Go do your thing."

She smiled sadly after kissing my cheek

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I looked at dad.

Me:"Ndyabulela Mdeyama(Thank you)"

He pulled me in for a hug and kissed my forehead

Mdeyama:"Bye."

We waved at each other as I walked to the terminals.

.....

ZIZIPHO MASINGA

I stared at the paper, I lifted my hand at the invigilator.

Sir:"What's wrong?"

Me:"My paper is blank."

He took the paper and looked at it then at me.

Sir:"This paper isn't blank, question one is clear. Weren't you taught how to do an Itinerary or you're making me a fool?"

Me : "I know how to compile an itinerary sir but I can't see anything. Why don't you understand me?"

Sir : "If you don't want to write Masinga just say so. Being an A student once upon a time doesn't mean you'll get favors, that's what happens when you decide to date matriculants while in Grade 11."

He clicked his tongue then walked away, I rubbed my temples frustrated. I was stuck between walking out and failing or writing down everything we've learnt, I'm sure I'm not moving to Grade 12 next year. I couldn't write my Maths paper yesterday because the numbers were jumping around, fortunately the invigilator understood but Mlotshwa is naturally cruel. There's no making him understand that I really can't see the paper. I sighed then wrote down everything according to the scope we were given, I made a note at the front of the paper. I didn't even wait for my friends, I walked out of my class. Hands grabbed me before I could even get far.

"Hey hey are you okay?" That would be my boyfriend, Nkanyiso. I turned around slowly trying to not shed a single tear.

Me:"Yeah just needed water, the paper was hectic."

Nkanyiso:"You're done writing?"

I nodded, he grinned naughtily then pulled me to the staircases. We stand hidden from teachers, we can even undress and do our thing there but they'll never catch us.

He pinned me against the wall latching my lips on his, I allowed my leg to be lifted by him. I felt them brush against my thighs going up until a whistle disturb us.

"Eksee." A bunch of idiots passed by. I looked at him panting and definitely wanting more.

Nkanyiso: " Let's go to my house. "

I did not even think twice. We took our bags and headed behind the glasses. We removed the desk that hid the hole on the fence, he let me go through first then we made a run for it. I've been at his house a countless times, but that day we both fell asleep. I felt something on top of me, I opened my eyes feeling it move all the way up to my chest. With how it vibrated I knew it was a cat, I pinched Nkanyiso. He mumbled something. It stopped on my chest then looked at me directly, I couldn't hold the scream that escaped my mouth. It sounded like a banshee. Nkanyiso jumped up but the cat did not budge.

Nkanyiso : "Babe are you okay?"

Me: "There's a cat on top of me."

Nkanyiso : "Where?"

Me: "It's staring at me."

It's eyes made me urinate right there and then.

Nkanyiso: "Let's go home mfethu I'm sure sengi banjiwe laykhaya eish(I've been caught)'

Ace sat in the darkness buried in the depths of his own thoughts. He wondered if his action were futile or maybe they were gonna restore peace, in his head he had made up his mind. She was his future, she was the only girl for him. It didn't matter that she might be a few years older than her all that mattered was the longing he has never experienced before. Well he had always been too focused on his school work so much that he never paid any attention to that only to his body. Being a smart person he is, he knew how important it was for him to exercise. Especially because his work doesn't need much moving around. His phone rang, he looked at his father's call with anger. He took the phone and switched it off, they were burying Bhunganes child. He didn't want anything to make him angry, not more than he already was at the body that lies deep inside the Nanda river probably buried in soil. He opened the curtains and got ready for the service, he had nothing against funerals. But they didn't have to be such a drag, a whole week of people eating mourning people's food and filling the house is the last thing that should happen before a burial. Seeing her tombstone just brought this heavy cloud upon the family especially him being the sensitive . A knock came through, he sighed opening up. Zobuhle smiled at him sadly.

Zo:"Ukahle? (You're good?)"

She asked worried, he was after all the one who was most likely to commit suicide amongst them all so they made sure to always be there for the baby brother.

Ace:"I'm fine, I just want this day to end already."

Zo:"Don't tell me you're thinking about going back to your research?"

He chuckled picking fixing his shirt.

Ace:"I'm thinking of doing a topic on love."

She laughed clapping her hands

Zo:"I'd love to see that, your father has arrived so has the pastor. Let's go."

He smiled following after her. He wanted this whole thing to pass, he knew they were planning on avenging the Gwatyas but he was gonna give them the Taxis before they do anything. It would be inconsiderate of him to give it to them now.

.....

Ngwekazi

Xhego dropped me off behind other cars that were parked along the road. One guard opened the door for me, they attempted following me.

Me:"You can remain in the car it's a funeral."

Xhego:"Nkosazana, if I may ask. Are you allowed to be here?"

I smiled sarcastically.

Me:"With all due respect, I can't be telling you about what I do when I do it. Next thing I won't be going on dates because of you. Please let's create boundaries."

Xhego:"Of course MaMdeyama, yobe(sorry). I was just asking out of concern."

Me:"I know but don't worry about it. I trust our skills altogether."

He nodded stepping back

it seemed as if I was early. I sat at the back and blended in. It seemed as if the program had already started, I listened to them talk about their daughter who died prematurely. It brought back memories of my brother and niece's death, but I had to let it go. The men carried the coffin while the family walked behind it. Ace stopped on his track when he saw me, I smiled waving a bit. The shock on his face was priceless but he quickly smiled at gave me a nod. He walked towards me and leaned forward.

Ace:"Please don't go before we talk."

I nodded giving him a tiny smile. Moments later he sat next to me and said nothing. I smiled.

Me:"Hi."

He chuckled shaking his head.

Ace:"How did you find this place?"

Me:"It wasn't that hard."

He nodded staring at my eyes although he looked away when I stared back.

Ace:"I didn't think you'd come.. I... Wow.. You're something else."

His eyes were literally twinkling,it made my heart swell.

Me:"It's nothing really, I better go before they notice me. It was nice seeing you."

Ace : "I'll walk you out."

Me:"You don't have to but okay. "

Just before we could walk out of the tent his look alike stood in front of us, he stared at me for a long time. I felt hatred brew inside me but I kept a straight face looking back at him.

Brother : "Izijeje zifunan emzini kaBaba(What is a whore doing in my fathers house)"

I looked at Ace confused, by how he clenched his jaw it was obvious the word he uttered wasn't pleasing.

Me:"We'll talk Zenzele, it was nice seeing you."

Ace:"No I need make sure you're in the car safely?"

Me : "Don't worry about me, I don't want bullets shooting through the car. I'll see you."

I said with a smile, the brother looked ready to kill me. Not that I cared. I smiled walking out the gate as their talk seemed rather intense.

ZIZIPHO

Ma:"Zipho." Me:"Ma." Ma:"Come fast."

I sighed leaving the laundry with Simo. I found mom with the record book in her hand probably confused by something because she kept biting the tip of the pen anxiously.

Me:"Ma."

Ma:"Something isn't right, yesterday we sold 30 beers for R27 but here it says we sold only 26."

She gave me the book. I sighed seeing nothing.

Me:"There's nothing mama."

She turned her head if there was no neck it was definitely gonna fall off.

Ma:"How? I've just written numbers here trying to calculate. Whee Jesus, have you started with boys? Your attitude of late annoys me. What's wrong with you?"

Me:"Mhmm mama I don't need you shouting at me honestly, I wanna quit school."

She clapped her hands dramatically before resting them on her waist. Ma:"Over my dead body!"

Me:"Mama I haven't slept properly in weeks, you can't even see that I'm always tired and losing weight.I'm not going back to school finish and klaar!"

I yelled running out of the shebeen, she can miss me. I hate how she tries to justify her life using us, I'm done besides the headache I have is unbearable for school. I left the laundry and headed to our bedroom, I threw myself on my bed and dozed off immediately. "We dlozi lam(NgiHawukele)

We thongo lam (NgiHawukele)

Wethongo lami bo(NgiHawukele thongo lam)

Nam angizenzanga, ngenziwe abalele."

It was as though I was on top of the mountain with people besides me singing along while I led the song dancing.

20

At The Royal Home

Zamisa caught her breath finally stopping in front of the main house. She sighed again before getting inside the house making those deep groan like sounds.

One of the kids saw her and ran to the back of the house where the King was sharing traditional beer with his brother. They both stood up and rushed to the house. Zamisa already had her bones thrown on her grass mat. Mdeyama and Qobo knelt down looking at her confused.

Zamisa:"I wanna Dalindyebo only."

Her voice sounded like a mans voice, he knew that she wasn't herself but a messenger for the ancestors.

Mdeyama:"Makhosi."

Zamisa:"It's gonna spill, blood will spill. The truth will come out."

He furrowed his eyebrows confused.

Zamisa:"Mntanam you neglected your blood, the price you'll pay will be dear. It's gonna bring tears to your family, it's not going to rain but it's gonna pour."

Before Mdeyama could ask a question she shook her shoulders getting back to her normal self. She stared directly at Mdeyama trying to read him.

Zamisa:" What happened? "

Mdeyama:" I think one of the ancestors is angry at me."

She looked at the bones and nodded.

Zamisa:"That's correct, unfortunately I can't see why?"

Mdeyama : "How?"

Zamisa:"I don't know Kumkani yam."

They both sighed one in defeat the other in confusion.

.....

Zizipho

I woke up or more like jumped up drenched in my own sweat, I felt like crying immediately. It's always one thing or the other,I pulled my phone under the pillow.

Me:"2am really?!"

I sighed getting off the bed, I was hungry and thirsty. I boiled water pressing my phone expecting a text message from Nkanyiso but there wasn't any. I borrowed airtime and called him.

"Hhm." he responded with a sleepy voice.

Me: "Hey it's me."

Nkanyiso: "I saw, I was sleeping by the way?"

Me: "I was just checking up on you, you've been awfully scarce. I miss you?"

He clears his throat, by the movement on the background he's probably sitting up right and rubbing sleep off his eyes.

Nkanyiso: "I thought you'd take the hint, I can't do this anymore Zizipho. You're my type and everything but you're always having bad dreams, you shake in your sleep, you sing. It's freaky dude."

He didn't just call me did, wait what's happening now?

Me: "We're breaking up?"

Nkanyiso: "Just get some help dude, it's gonna do you good. Besides you're a high school drop out with no future."

I really thought the first statement was heart breaking but the last one is heart shattering.

Me:"I'm pregnant."

I blurt out which earns me a chuckle, that I didn't think it would come out of my mouth. His chuckle turns into laughter. Then the line goes dead, I mentally cuss at myself. What the hell is

wrong with me? The water long stopped boiling, just the look of the kettle makes me do mad. I bend on the kitchen counter and cry, this is really an hour of evil!

.....

NGWEKAZI

My wrist has been painful since morning and I've been anxious about God knows what. I haven't done any surgeries except watching and informing the big guns on how to perform and what to do. That's how they test us to see how much we know, I had a changed of mentors. My current one is a monster, she's a beautiful 30 something hear old Dr Moodley. She's pretty but her heart, hayi!

Moodley:"Gwatya go to operation room 2 right now there's a patient with a bullet an inch away from his heart."

Now it explains why my wrist was painful, this is total illuminati! Did it have to be something so big, this is a matter of life a death. I like those patients with minor heart problems, monitoring and telling them what to eat and what exercises

they should do is easier than pulling out a bullet in someone's artery. My guts turn immediately when I walk inside the OP, my hair stands as a nurse helps me dress up. Dr Moodley walks in while I stare at the scan.

Me:"The patient is losing blood, and this bullet is sitting directly on a vein if we remove ;It can cause the heart to stop immediately. At the same time if we don't remove it we'll lose the patient."

I wanted to be out of that room at that very second, my wrist wasn't giving me a break. My knock of time was near though, after this I'm gone. I hope no one will bother me with another patient. Dr Moodley looked at the the scan then sighed.

Moodley:" This is fucked up."

She whispered much to herself. I turned to the poor 20 year lady who was a caught up in a fight between 2 man. I walked towards her and touched her hand. The monitor beeped as her beats per second increased.

Moodley:"What happened? What did you do?"

Me:"I touched her hand."

She pushes me aside

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I can't even see what she's doing. The patient's body starts moving violently.

Moodley: "We're losing her, I need you out!"

She yells looking at me but my eyes are fixed on the patient. What did I do? "

I turn once she has stopped seizing, the words "Time of death." "Leave one of their mouths which makes me turn. I wanted to be at my place immediately, I didn't even want Xhego or any other guard. I take out the scrubs and shower then head out. I'm surprised when I see a black Mercedes parked outside with a Hadebe ZN registration. I stop on my tracks when Ace steps out of the front door, how many cars does this one have? Seeing him lifted my mood to be honest. My guards are probably hiding somewhere watching the poor guy.

Ace : "Mama."

Yeah he knows how to melt my heart.

Me: "Hi."

Ace: "Are you okay?"

Me : "I'm fine, how are you?"

Ace: "I'm good, you don't really look good."

I shrug.

Me:"It's just work, to what do I owe this pleasure?"

Ace:"I just thought I'd come get my future wife, give her a massage if need be."

I laughed, he didn't just call me his future wife.

Me:"For someone to be a future wife they have to be your girlfriend, and before they can be your girlfriend you need to ask them out."

The idiot just smiles.

Ace : "Asambe(Let's go)"

He opens the front door for me, he better keep this up if he thinks we'll get married. He drives to his place I assume cause he I remember he said he stays near Ushaka Marine. His apartment is beautiful, the fact that I can see the sea and the whole Ushaka Marine World is amazing.

Ace:"Feel at home."

I smile taking a tour, this guy has weird things from his sculptures to the darkness of the light and let's not mention that he has toys around his house. Who am I to judge? "

Me:" What do you do? "

Ace:" I'm an explorer scientist, I discover things. Anything, it can be a new kind of food, medicine, persuading a princess . I do things no one has ever than."

I chuckle turning around and bumping on his chest.

Ace:" Everyday I think of you, I can't even do my work properly because you're always on my mind. Ngyakuthanda Ngwekazi ngicela ubey ntombi yam, kumele (I love you Ngwekazi please be my girlfriend, you have to)"

Why did that sentence make me damp down there? It could be because this man is hot, Zenzele Hadebe is very very hot. He's a sight for sore eyes, I don't respond but I lean forward and stand on my tippy toes. He looks surprised at my actions but his eyes don't leave mine, I capture his lips into mine and I feel him release a heavy breath before he holds my waist pulling my little dress up. His tongue swips over my mouth and he suckles on my upper lip harder than the first time. A moan escapes my mouth accompanied by a deep groan,his manhood pressed hard against my stomach. I wanna undress him and devour him right this moment. But the dude just squeezes my buttocks before grabbing each butt cheeks. He other hand moves slowly down my as to my core, he cusses when it reaches the heat between my legs. He moves his hand to the front and rubs between my folds over my underwear, he shifts it to the side collecting all the moisture with his finger. I moan throwing my

head back which allows him to suck on my skin, he finger goes to my entrance and he gently pushes it in. My toes curl and my fingers dig shoulders, I'm panting.

Ace:"Let's make something to eat."

He pecks my lips and takes his hand out.

Me:"Huh?"

He smiles.

Ace : "Let's eat, you haven't agreed to be my girlfriend yet."

Me : "Heh?"

For real he lost me though, I just kissed him and let him touch my pie. That's private property! How dare he? But he has already left me, I wanna cry. We should really burn men.

21

A Month Later..

Masuku sighed looking at the empty fridge, he probably emptied it out and forgot to buy more beer. The soberness was gonna creep in faster than he wanted it to and driving wasn't gonna be a good plan, he didn't wanna drive on his own. He had lost ability to do anything on his own let alone breathe, he was certain the alcohol he had bought was gonna be enough but he regrets assuming . He sighed again leaning against the

fridge, the big house he had was now for nothing. His wife left with his youngest son after he failed to find their daughter or at least be sober enough to find her. His wife blamed him, especially after losing 10 of his Taxis and remaining with only 3. It was a total downgrade for them, he wasn't making the same money anymore and being demoted from management brought him more heartache. His drunkardness caused commotion in the Taxi rank. He took his phone in attempt to talk to his wife but a message caught his eye.

Masuku:"I have the decency to at least let you bury her, she's probably buried deep in the Nanda Dam soil. I told you to not track the Taxis but you didn't listen. Now you'll bury your daughter and hopefully you will learn to be a man of your words."

He held his chest as his heart pained, tears fell involuntary from his eyes. This wasn't part of the plan, all he wanted was to get his daughter back. Those trackers were one of a kind, they couldn't be traced easily. Who would be so sleek?

The poor old man's body shook vigorously as he cried loudly, he lost the apple of his eye all for what? He tried by all means to do as ordered but he lost, he lost big time. He picked up his phone and dialed his wife, he needed her more than anything.

MaMkhize:"Musa."

Masuku:"You have contacts for those people who find bodies under water?"

MaMkhize:"Forensic Pathologist and Medicolegal death investigators?"

Masuku:"Yes them, I received a message about our daughter. Can you please come back?"

The line went quiet only his sobs were audible to his wife, he was everything but not a man of tears. Hearing him cry made her see that he was telling the truth, Masuku was a man of control. He had a way of getting what he wanted without having to ask for it, he never begged her not even once. This was one hell of a moment after 20 years of marriage.

MaMkhize:"I'll come alone."

Masuku:"Ngiyabonga MaKhabazela kakhulu."

He hung up and buried his head between his legs. He was gonna find whoever did this, even if it took him years but he was gonna find him. He must work on making friends with big guns, make sure they owe him a favor because this was war. A war that will be remembered by not only the enemy but the entire country will know oMasuku.

.....

At The Royal Home...

Mdeyama stood in front of the 4 Taxis with his brother. He had them hidden in the garage for the whole month, he thought someone would come claim them or at least fight for them. Even at the association no one has spoken about losing their Taxis, maybe they were from another province. Besides Mdeyama has been too occupied with missing his daughter and training the little ones so much that the Taxi business was the last thing on his mind. Besides

Qobo was good at that department.

Qobo : "We can put these on the road, this is a lot of money."

Mdeyama: "yeah and Lizalise checked them, he said everything is good. There are no traces of blood and they are recorded under ours."

His brother smiled at hin.

Qobo: "Accept the gift mfo ka bawo, we have money to add them to the association here in Eastern Cape."

Mdeyama: "Okay, do whatever you think is best."

He smiled clapping his hands..

.....

At The Hadebes.

The loud sound of a Taxi approaching caught Ntwenhle and Bhungane's attention, they both stood outside waiting. Gatsha whistled with his arm out and windows rolled down. He stopped the Taxi right in front of them.

Gatsha: "Koti, Zalo."

Bhungane: "What the hell are you doing?"

Gatsha: "Making money, why?"

Bhungane: "You don't even know who's taxi this is."

He jumped out of the Taxi looking at his brother with a bored expression.

Gatsha: "I don't care I just wanted to say add this one but know that she's mine, I kind of love her."

Ntwenhle laughed shaking her head.

Ntwenhle: "I wonder when will you be sane."

Bhungane: "He needs a girlfriend lo, zalo I don't want this car. It's not gonna bring our child back."

Gatsha sighed.

Gatsha: "MaZondi, don't you wanna own a Taxi?"

She shook her head folding her arms.

Gatsha: "You're dickmatised."

Bhungane grabbed him with his clothes and pushed his back hard against the car.

Bhungane:"Fuseg hamba!"

He smirked and got inside the Taxi chuckling. He wasn't gonna miss a lifetime opportunity of a free Taxi.

.....

At Masukus House..

MaMkhize found her husband already dressed.

Her : "You want us to leave now?"

Masuku: "I don't know, I don't wanna witness whatever submerged from that forbidden river. Being there always makes me feel heavy."

For the first time his wife wanted nothing but to be strong for him. His face showed that he had been crying and he was still on te verge of crying.

Her: " Well we have to be there, maybe it's gonna make you want to avenge your daughter instead of drinking beer. My husband would be red by now, not from tears but from anger can I get him back?"

She looked at him dead in the eye, he slowly nodded even though his senses weren't fully back. She drove to the dam, the

whole place was packed with police and forensics. Masuku was a well known man, his downfall in the past months lost him some respect but not all.

Masuku:"How long have they been down there?"

Cop:" 5 hours straight, it's a mess down there. It seems like it's a burial site. "

Masuku:" All in all there's a possibility that my daughter might not be found? "

Cop:" No the guy there said the bodies found can't be more than 3 months old under water. And since you said your daughter has been missing for 2 months, you should have faith."

Masuku nodded and went back to his wife who was looking deep in the water.

Her : "Any luck?"

Masuku:"I think they need to first find her, do the tests to make sure it's her before we can be sure of anything."

Her:"If my daughter is in there, I want you to make sure you find each and every person she has ever had any kind of relationship with let alone interacted with even a hello . Kidnap them or do whatever, but I want the truth and one of them knows it."

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Ngwekazi

Being spoilt is addictive, in fact a person gets used to things very easily. That was me with Zenzele, I hadn't given him the boyfriend title not until we have sex. Imagine if he can't move, who will spend some of their life with such? Definitely not me. So I have kept him close, well I enjoy his company. He's very

nerdy, a perfectionist if I may add. The guy doesn't even leave a spoon in his sink, let's not forget that he sterilizes his cutlery because he doesn't trust the drawer they stay in. The very same drawer that he cleans every 2 days, it makes me happy because I love a clean place but I don't like cleaning. He hasn't visited my apartment yet, he drops me off because there are 2 bouncers always waiting outside my door. It creeps my neighbors out but at least it's the last room on the floor. I was looking at some scans while he was busy making food in the kitchen. I was happy to be knocking off in the evening because night shift tired me out. He came back with 2 plates and kissed me placing them on the coffee table.

Zen:"What are you busy with?"

Me:"I'm trying to figure out what's wrong with this heart, I keep thinking they need a pace maker."

He grabbed a cushion and shifted my laptop to give himself a view. I chuckled because he couldn't see a thing, he remembered his glasses and groaned putting them on.

Zen:"What makes you think they need a pace maker?"

Me:"Well mostly because this patient faints all the time from heart failure which might lead to death. The pace maker can correct all that, because it sends electric impulses to the heart muscle to maintain a rhythm and their heart rate."

He was biting his lip while I explained it.

Zen:" So why don't you pitch it? "

Me:" No one has done that surgery in the hospital, I did my research and I think I can do it. "

Zen:" You just think you can do it? "

I chuckled, he had such a sex appeal but he didn't seem to know.

Me : "I know I can do it but I'm just an intern."

He snaked his hand around my waist pulling me towards him.

Zen:"Show them what you're made of Nkosazana."

He stuck his lips onto mine giving me mind blowing kisses, today I was gonna be arrested for raping a man. I sat myself on his lap wrapping my arms around his neck. Our kisses have

always been churchy except for our first one of course. I grind my waist slowly dry humping him, the feel of his rod so close to my mound had me shivering. He cups my breasts massaging them slowly, my lips leave his and I go for his neck. He leans back on the couch and allows me to remove the T-shirt he had on, he squeezes my butt then presses me hard against his rod. The vein popping on his forehead shows he wants this as much as I do.

My tongue circles his nipple, I hear a soft cuss escape his mouth. I kneel between his legs, and grope his hard inside the pants. It's the first time I've touched it this way, it feels hot and it keeps pulsating. I use my free hand to lower the pants he had on, my eyes almost bulge out at the sight. It was so beautiful and curvy, I've never seen something like that before. And by God's grace it was circumcised, why do people like about Zulus and say they don't cut their foreskin? Such evilness. I lower my head on it lick the top part with my hand moving up and down slowly, the look of surprise and arousal on his face is one I would have loved to capture. I lick his tip again this time it stays inside my mind.

Zen:"Mhm sthandwa sam."

He moans grabbing my hair. I slowly insert it fixing my eyes on his. A loud knock on the door almost made me stop but he pushed me even deeper.

Zen:"Ngizo chama mama (I'm going to cum)"

My medium wants to jump him, I really like how he speaks his language. At times there's a barrier but we work through it. I go faster while massaging his balls, he groans even louder. I enjoy the gibberish he is saying, I suck in my cheeks to give him a tight squeeze while increasing the pace on my hand. He groans so loud I'm pretty sure whoever was knocking heard him.

His balls harden then he releases everything in my mouth, I continue sucking him clean. I look up to his lazy eyes and smile, he pulls me up and kisses me deeply.

Zen:"That tastes horrible."

He gets up leaving me panting. He opens the door. "Suwazi ingquza yini wena slima? (You know vagina you idiot?)"

Zen:"How can I help you?"

He steps aside and 2 identicals step in, they are definitely twins.

One:"Who's this?"

Zen:"My girlfriend her name is Ngwekazi?"

One:"I didn't ask for her name, why is she here?"

Zen:"Because I also stay here. Gatsha I'm pretty sure you didn't come here to pick a fight with me."

The one who hasn't been talking has his eyes fixed on me, I'm staring back. It's like some sort of competition and I won't lose.

Two:"Whee Ace usujola nama Mpondo(Ace you date Mpondos?)"

Zenzele settles on the couch and doesn't respond, the one who talks a lot walks towards us sniffing. They settle on the

other couches. The level of arousal wasn't gonna make me friendly, especially to the people that killed my family. They were both staring at me, it was so creepy.

Gatsha:"Sicela usdedele sisi(Please give us privacy)"

Zen:"I doubt you came here for something that deep."

Me:"I don't mind, it's almost my time to leave anyways."

The quiet one chuckled. I just looked at him packing.

Two:"We're burying your girlfriend this weekend so it would do you and us good if you go there."

I looked at him surprised

what was I? I looked back at Zenzele who had no emotions whatsoever.

Gatsha:"You'll need to say your goodbyes, you don't wanna be haunted do you?"

Me:"Hayi Thixo."

I exclaimed.

Zen:"I'm not going to the funeral I have somewhere to be. I need to accompany her home, so you can chill here or leave."

Gatsha:"Waze weyisa ngeMoto zabantu, you forget we give you our allowance mfano mncane. Be respectful or we're taking the car back, you'll have to hustle on your own."

That I didn't need to hear, but I heard. Zenzele stood up and took my bags. He handed them the his car keys, I was trying to make sense of what they said. Doesn't research pay?

Zen:" You can have the car back, and you can also have this apartment back. I'll pay you back your money if that's what you want. I'm sorry if I'm a baggage."

Two:"Gatsha."

Gatsha:"This one's has had his fries fried by this girl already. I'm sure sex messed him up good."

Two grabbed the keys from Gatsha and handed them back to Zenzele. I was still dumbfounded, why was this guy running his mouth so much. Zen took my hand and walked out leaving his brothers inside, he didn't say anything till we got to the car.

Me:" What just happened?"

Zen:" The girl they want me to go bury is the one who ordered a hit on your family. He's also the only woman I've been sexual

with, it happened once and I didn't even climax. Also I graduated but I'm doing my Doctorate now. This is my final year. "

Me:" Okay but why are they treating you like a kid? "

Zen:" I'm the last born, 22 I'll be turning 23. "

I almost melted on my chair, he's basically a child.

Me:"How do you look so grown? Why didn't you disclose your age? I feel like a sugar mama what the hell?"

I waa 26 years old! Yeses.

Zen:"Why does it matter how old we are? Shouldn't we decide based on what we feel?"

Me:"No! No we shouldn't?! Especially if someone isn't honest."

He parked outside my apartment, we could have walked but we're both lazy. And it's boring when the guards follow us on foot.

Zen:"Are we fighting right now?"

I gritted my teeth angrily. I turned my entire body and faced him.

Me:"I almost had sex with you."

Zen:"Would it be a bad thing? You're attracted to me sexually so why not react?"

I opened and closed my mouth, I was defeated. I'm not one to run out of words but he, he got me speechless. He played some Piano, all I could hear was the part where they say "xa ehleka kukhanya amazinyo akhe." I'll probably download the song I liked it. He didn't park under the street light so the darkness was just enough.

He brushed his hand on my thigh pushing his body towards me, we shared an intense eye contact which seemed to draw him even closer to me. It only hit me when he easily went up my thighs that I was still in his shirt. Our lips brushed, a breath escapes my lips. His tongue trailed my jawline, I closed my eyes throwing my head back. His teeth grazed gently on my neck, I opened my legs my coochie needed to breathe. His hand brushed my inner thighs, one finger pulled my underwear on the side then he slowly inserted his finger. His mouth finally left my neck, he bent down kissing my thighs with his finger still going in and out of me and thumb flicking on my clitoris.

Me : "Mhmm Bhungane."

He groaned at his clan name, unexpectedly he pulled out his hand and pulled my lower body closer to his face. He inhaled deeply, I could feel the warmth against my mound at that action. The thought of him being a kid long gone. With his thumb he once again pulled aside, the wetness of his tongue trailed the side of my folds. I thought he was inexperienced!

The tip of his tongue met with my clitoris, he flicked and sucked on making my entire body shake. The orgasm that was gonna come was gonna be a big one.

Me:"Le.. T. Go to.. The.. Uh. Oh fuck.. The ba."

He buried his tongue deep in my entrance his finger rubbing furiously on my clit. I grabbed the car, grabbed his head, grabbed my own head. My abdomen tightened, I screamed as a wave of orgasm hit me very very hard.

Zen:" Jump over. "

I threw my underwear away the jumped over, I could feel my own juices, he pushed the seats forward and joined me. I was laying like a chicken ready for him. I could feel him staring at my vagina, I lowered my hand and touched my clitoris while he stroked himself. I inserted my middle finger fighting to keep my eyes opened he grabbed my hand and licked my finger slowly. He tapped his manhood on my clit, then he moved to my entrance. With no head in, he roughly pushed in and covered my mouth with his lips before I could even scream.

Me:"Mhmm.. Zen."

Zen:"Mhmm umnandi fuck baby."

He pulled out and pushed himself back in as I gasped loudly. He pulled out again and slapped my pussy twice spitting on my entrance. The second time he went deeper and faster.

Me:"Ungachami mntu wam(Don't cum)"

Zen:"Nawe uyashisa kodwa mama. (But you're hot)"

He increased his pace then jumped out.

Zen : "Woza uzomunca ipipi baby(come suck my dick)"

I shook my head with tears threatening.

Me:"Come back inside."

He chucked pushing my leg towards the window. And fucking me senseless. Flashlights pentatrated the car.

"Hey what's going on?"

He didn't stop, I grabbed his buttocks pushing him deeper.

Zen:"I'm not pulling out."

Me:"Go faster."

"Hey open up it's the police."

One! Two! Baam. He groaned so loud I'm sure whoever was outside heard him, his body vibrated on top of mine and I lost all the ability to can.

Zen:"We're so busted."

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Zen:"We're so busted."

Me:"I know."

I tried catch my breath, I even wanna cuddle at that. We just fucked and it was fireeeee.

Me:"You sure you never fucked before?"

Zen:"I've been practicing."

He says handing me my underwear I , yes we were having a conversation with cops outside. This was the time where we needed to have some pillow talk while getting ready for another round.

We jump to the front, he unlocks the car then we both jump out.

- Hands in the air." I roll my eyes, I already had them up. They didn't need to say it again.

Zen:"Officers."

Officer1:"Public indecency is a serious offense mfana ka Hadebe."

Zen:"I apologize."

Officer2:"Are you by any chance related to the Bhungane Taxi owners?"

They light up his face.

Officer1:"We don't have to take the trip to jail now do we?"

Zen:"Let me call my brothers I have nothing on me now."

Me:"I have something in my apartment."

Zenzele just looks at me and dials his brothers, I understand why cops are corrupt. They get paid cents for the amount of work they do, it's the same with teachers. They tolerate children who are unruly, some with mental issues, others have well others are just normal kids. All I can say is educated people are products of teachers, they deserve at least 20 000 HYPERLINK "tel:20000" more to their salary. They cuff us and

throw us behind the van while enjoying smokes. I wonder where my body guards are, I know I told them to stay out of my business and make sure I'm safe but this level of business minding is A grade and I don't like it. Zen:"Is it weird that my penis still wants to be inside you, right here right now?"

A moan involuntary escapes my mouth.

Me:"We'll go again once we're inside."

He smiled.

Zen:"What's your take on these?"

I raised my eyebrow.

Me:"Cuffs?" he nodded smirking. "I never thought about them, you want us to give them a try?" He nodded biting his lip.

Zen:"Come touch."

"We can hear you, you know?"

The police officers said from outside making us laugh. Finally the door opened, his brothers were looking at him smirking. Gatsha:"You've grown now my boy, I'm proud as your father." Two:"We're proud son, I see her hair is pointing at all directions. Kshuthi ulidlile mfanam ikhekhe."

They both laugh, I'm just disgusted by their behavior. They

uncuffed us.

Zen:"Thanks MP."

Gatsha:"What about me?"

Zen:"I know you probably said something before agreeing and the money wasn't yours."

Two laughed punching his twin on the arm.

Two:"That's correct brother."

Zen:"So should I give you the car keys now?"

Both:"No no.. Keep it."

It was so weird 2 grown ups speaking at the same time. It's a miracle they don't wear the same clothes, maybe if I bump on them some other day I won't even remember who is Gatsha

and who is Two. But I don't even care. They laughed going back to their car. Zen took my staff out from the car

only then did my bodyguards surface.

Zen:"Can I sleepover?"

Me:"No."

Zen:"Can you sleepover at my place?"

Me:"We'll just have one round then you'll leave."

Zen:"Are you using me for sex? Please say yes."

I laughed slapping his arm. I've never seen him this alive since we met.

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Zizipho

I looked at the pregnancy test in disbelief, there was no way.

No way in hell that I was pregnant, I inhaled taking the other way. Same two lines. I grabbed my head screaming, it can't be happening! When I wanted to trap Nkanyiso I didn't intend for me to actually get pregnant. But maybe this was gonna be a good opportunity to get back together with him. I wiped my tears and got out of the toilet clutching them tightly.

Ma:"Where are you going?"

Me:"I'll be back?"

Ma:"You better be back, tonight I'm getting drunk and it's your turn to watch the bar tonight."

Me:"Hah ma but I'll be tired by the time I come back."

Ma:"Until you find a job or go back to school, you'll work here to feed your own mouth."

I clicked my tongue and walked away, I first passed by his

house. Unfortunately it was locked, the following spot would be the tuckshop. His friends were there but he wasn't in sight.

Me:" Hellos. "

Them:" Sure MaZet. "

Me:" I'm looking for Nka have you seen him?"

Spha:"Ah no."

He scratched his head clearly lying, he came out from behind the tuckshop holding hands with a person I once called a friend. I breathed heavily with groans, my entire body started heating up at the sight. They did not even care that I was there.

Nka:"Zizopho, ufunan la(What do you want?)" Me:"Samkelisiwe neNgculaza ufunan kuNkanyiso(Samkelisiwe with HIV what do you want from Nkanyiso?) Lisiwe:" Is it? Don't get familiar I'll slap you. "

My hands shook as I walked towards them.

Me:" Nkanyiso you can't be doing this to me I'm pregnant. "

Nka:" I don't want you Zizopho, your pussy is flames but you're fat. Try getting deep inside your ass when bathing, and use cold water for your vagina. "

Everyone around burst into laughter

Me:"The same way you use soap for you hairy balls. Nama sende alengayo(with your hanging balls)" Lisiwe stepped forward just as I wanted.

Lisiwe:"Ungakhulumi kanjalo ngendoda yam(Don't talk like that about my man)"

Me:"Heheh you should be proud, the same mouth you kissed has been in my stinky vagina. Including the penis you definitely suck because you're good at that department, even the L. O teacher wants more."

She slapped me, I smiled then punched her right in the eye. I grabbed her neck and hit my forehead against hers, she grabbed my very painful breast squeezing it. At that point my groans got louder and manlier, I felt like I wasn't even in control of my own body. Still holding her neck I dug my teeth on her cheek shaking my hand, I could feel blood on my teeth. Someone tried to grab me from behind but I elbowed them and picked Lisiwe up throwing her on the ground. I sat on her stomach slapping her countless times. Finally someone or some people managed to pull me away from her.

Me:"I'll beat the bitchiness out of you, busy saying you're my friend when you're after my man."

I took out the pregnancy tests and threw them at Nkanyiso.

Me:"Deny this child now but you will pay once the baby is here, even for the humiliation."

I attempted walking away but my head started spinning. 3 steps down I fell.

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Zizipho

Water on my face! God probably decided to give me sprinkles because I sweat a lot. I blinked opening my eyes, my bed was rather uncomfortable. Nkanyiso was on my face I frowned and slap pushed his face getting up. The rocks were doing a number on my behind. Still feeling a bit dizzy I managed to get up, I didn't like the stares I was getting from people. I looked back at them. Not my bed obviously!

Me:"Yin? (What?)"

The ones who were scared looked away while some stared at me.

Nka:"Are you okay?"

Me:"Ngiyeke (Leave me alone)"

I walked home still feeling a bit off, I went straight to my room and almost dozed off but the smell of something being braaid woke me up. I went to the back of the house where the smell was coming from.

Me:"Simosihle Masinga!"

My big brother, somehow the only white sheep of this family was busy with meat. He had a few of his friends over and a cooler box next to him.

Simo: "Ndudle, look at you looking beautiful as ever."

I rolled my eyes hugging him tightly.

Me: "How are you, where many kids do you have now?"

I mocked him laughing. He had 2 from different baby mamas, last I heard there was a 3rd one hidden because the baby mama he stays with in Stanger believes she'll be the wife. So my brother is scared of her and she's John Cena Mnisi, John Cen's sister but from KZN. Lala came forward with a bottle of Hunters Dry, we're a family of drunkards. Except me and Lala drink occasionally, my brother drinks every day when he's home.

Simo: "I'm thinking of finding myself a good wife, but I'm not sure."

Lala: "Can you believe this is to welcome himself, I've never heard of such. Anyways ma needs you at the bar."

I groaned.

Me: "Make sure the meat is hot weh Simo and I'd like you to bring it to me."

Simo: "I'll hit you so bad."

He raised his hand attempting to slap me, I laughed heading to the shebeen.

Mama was already angry, I could see from the way she was banging people's order on the table. She looked at me frowning.

Ma:"Why is your cheek navy? And those fingerprints. Were you fighting?"

Me:"No."

Ma:"Okay don't finish my alcohol, and make sure you see the numbers on the notes please."

She walked away. I sat down and sold cramming whatever I sold. I couldn't see so writing it down would be useless. Lala bought me my food while I drank a few cans of Pine Twist, taking it slow. From the door I saw 2 Police Officers alongside was Samkelisiwe.

Me:"Jesus I'm going to prison."

I ducked going under the counter but they had already seen me. I innocently sat back on my chair.

Officer1:"Zizipho Masinga."

I smiled.

Me:"I didn't think cops like alcohol as well."

Officer1:"We are not here for that, you assaulted Miss Samkelisiwe Zondo."

Me:"We had a fair fight."

The other officer looked ready to laugh.

Officer1:"She wants to lay a charge against you, can you get someone to look after the bar while we take you in?"

Me:"No officer, this one slapped me first. I'm pregnant for crying out loud, I was protecting my baby. I think I should be the one laying a charge."

The 2 Police Officers looked at her.

Officer1:"But you didn't lay a charge."

Me:"I wanna lay 1 now, so if you're arresting me. Me and her will share a cell tonight, I'm sure my rights matter too."

The second one chuckled again.

Simo : "Ndudle what's going on?"

Lisiwe widened her eyes, she always came around because she had a crush on him. I'm sure he raised the dead butterflies, I used to protect her from him but I wouldn't mind now. He can fuck her up for all I care.

Me:"Lisiwe is reporting me for assault."

Simo:"Is there proof that you assaulted her? Or a warrant for her arrest."

I looked at him confused, how did he know these things?

Officer2:"We'll just give you a verbal warning, no fighting girly. Especially for someone with your condition."

They walked away while Lisiwe remained behind drooling at my brother.

Me : "Tsek wena! (Get out!)"

She clicked her tongue and purposely swayed her hips side to side to someone who was oblivious to her attempts.

Simo:"What's up?"

Me:"I don't wanna talk about it. Please!"

Simo:"You're lucky I have friends over

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I'll deal with you."

I sighed, damn I should give her another whoop for being a rat.

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Ngwekazi

Zen:"Come with me to the funeral please."

I stopped walking and gave him one glance, he looked serious. He always has a serious look on but now I can differentiate when he's being serious, or playful, or just being him. He has different levels of serious faces.

Me : "I'm not going, I didn't even know her. Sorry."

Zen: "Fine, so let's dress up and go on a date."

Me: "I actually wanna try Ice Skating. I dress up almost every month at home. Let's do our own dates. "

He chuckled kissing the back of my hand.

Zen: "I have never went there before but I'll give it a try."

I stood by the railing at the bridge as the surfers jumped in the deep blue water.

Me: "Okay it's a date then."

He stood behind me and kissed my neck.

Me: "This water is beautiful but scary you see?"

Zen: "Yes, actually it just explained something for me."

I turned looking up at him.

Me : "What's that?"

Zen:"You, Us. I mean I fall for you every single day. It's amazing, beautiful at that because I've never felt this way before. No one has ever stolen my heart. Not even a mere crush."

Me:"Is that why it's scary."

He shook his head.

Zen:"No that's not the reason. Actually that's the beauty of it all. It's scary because you're making me fall deeper for you by each and everything you do, how free you are, how I don't understand a single word you say at times. You white teeth that brighten up your smile, your melanated skin. You eyes, everything. The way you're purposely holding back on loving me. "

I blinked swallowing.

Me : " What makes you think I'm holding back?

Zen:" I'm not a neuro scientists, but I know that you don't wanna fall in love with me. Or you don't wanna admit it, the heart gets used to things easily it's just that humans build walls to avoid heart break. Mostly when you're always in control of things you tend to believe you should do the same with your heart, which is unfortunate because even with the mind we have. A heart has it's own mind, you can recite that you don't love someone as many times as possible till your brain believes it. But the heart doesn't believe all just because the brain said yes I believe ,

actually it reaches a point where you feel physical pain when you miss someone. Where your heart beats rapidly just by seeing your companion. Knowing that you'd rather be with that specific person whenever you're some where else. I don't know if science is messing up with me but right now right

here I need to actually tell me how you feel. Don't hold back, not with me please. "

A minute passed while I stared at the brown eyes that are forever hidden by glasses. The lips that have loved me many times than I can count, how his upper lips over laps the lower one but he looks amazing, even with the sharp English nose. The extra large ears that make him look extra goofy yet charming. His whole appeal is of a nerd, one I'd never even steal a glance at but here I am standing in front of him and I wouldn't mind if time would stand still. I wouldn't mind being here in his arms staring at each others eyes, the noise besides us dying down because in our world it's only us.

Me:"I do, I do love you." I chuckled covering my mouth, I turned around staring at his glistening eyes. "I love you."

He smiled placing his forehead against mine.His grip tightening on my waist while my hands rest on the sides of his face

Zen:"Thank you, thank you so much."

He leaned over and kissed me deeper than the ocean we're standing at. It's arousing but I don't wanna undress instead I wish this kiss could go on and on and on. Fuck it! I'm in love with this kid right here.

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I laughed so hard I almost fell on my knees, even the guy who was teaching him how to skate was with me, he currently was sitting on the ice flat crossing his arms like a kid.

Me:"Oh come on you're number nje mntu wam."

Zen:"You're making fun of me."

I bit my cheeks to stop myself from laughing, but him attempting to stand only to fall again was another comedy scene.

Me ::"You're a smart guy, this can't be that difficult."

Zen:"You're also not even perfect I'm going to wait on the benches. My butt is freezing to add."

He took off the boots walking only with his sorts, I skated to the exit then back singing.

Me:"We are the champions over the losers, we are the champions."

Zen:"Can we go have sex? This ice is turning me on."

I almost fell, he chuckled winking at me. The nerve! Well but that was enough to make me stop skating, we took back their boots then he carried me on his back. I nibbled on his neck.

Me:"You said you were turned on."

Zen:"Of course I am, especially now that you're licking me and your vagina is directly against my back hot as ever."

I giggled pulling his ear, he moved his head aside.

Me:"Let's go eat I'm hungry."

The plan was to have the most fun we can possibly have, he didn't even bring his car because we wanted to relax. So we were gonna Uber or walk home, we were safe with the guards blending in. I specified that they shouldn't wear outfits that screamed guards, they wore what they were comfortable with. And surprisingly they didn't wear the glasses. We decided to eat then go watch a movie.

Me:"I want this one."

Zen:"It's explicit."

Me : "More reason why we should watch it."

I bit my lip walking to the paying station he smirking holding my waist.

We settled comfortably at the back because my man has eyesight problems, his is far sighted. It was mostly couples. Zenzele wasn't even paying attention to the TV his eyes were fixed on me, I turned my head.

Me:"What?"

He leaned closer to my ear and whispered.

Zen:"We should go have sex."

I gasped looking at his shrunk eyes. God he looked so sexy, he cupped my face and kissed me deeply. My breath heaved, my clit was already dancing inside the jeans.

We found ourselves laid on the sand, my T-shirt and Sports Bra pulled down with his fingers. My hand was brushing his hand while he sucked on my boob and teasing my nipple with his tongue.

Me:"I better not get any sand on my ass."

He chuckled pulling down my jegging, curse them for being so damn tight. He took off his jacket and placed it underneath my butt which made me chuckle. I only managed to pull out one leg from my pants. Which we were gonna work with.

He inserted himself without a warning then flipped us over, I gasped feeling his whole thing inside me. I clenched my walls staring at his eyes that were glowing from the sky light. He

groaned staring back at me, the waves clashed simultaneously with our bodies. He buried his head on my neck, the sound from his mouth sounded marvelous. We were both trying very hard to muffle our sounds, we've done public sex before. I don't know what might happen this time around.

Me:"I'm so close baby don't move from that spot!"

I cried pushing my waist forward

he increased the pace thrusting hard at that ticklish spot. My orgasm activated immediately, I grabbed his shoulders. He knew what to do when my orgasm is close, he got up still ramming hard inside me and pressed the front of my waist down restraining me from moving. My lips quivered, thighs involuntary trembling. It felt as though something was crashing down. I groaned throwing my head, back, front, sideways, biting my hand. I screamed feeling a wave of desire hit me very hard. He continued till he reached his high.

Zen:"So amazing, you're so fuckin amazing."

He whispered breathless.

Me : "I want my bed."

He dressed up then helped me, he requested an Uber which arrived in 2 minutes. I was tired and done for, reaching an orgasm finishes every ounce of energy in me. But the minute

we got inside the lift I was all over him touching his manhood. Kissing his neck.

He picked me up playfully and spanked me, but he quickly put me down at the sight of 2 people in front of my door. I cleared my throat coming face to face with Ayine and Lunzulu staring directly at us. I was walking with semen inside me, I was

probably flustered and glowing from the love and the sex we're always having.

Lunzulu:"Wenzani kwedini? (What are you doing boy?)"

Zenzele looked down.

Me:"Bhuti hi."

Lunzulu:"We've been waiting here for hours and calling you, now you're popping up with boys carrying you over their shoulders and hitting your bum. Are you already having sex?"

Hitting my bum, really? Wow he's really respectful he can't even say spanking, did he think I'm a virgin? An almost 27 year old!

Me:" I'm not having sex bhuti. "

I lied through my teeth, his expression got even more angrier. I don't think he expected me to say yes I'm not a virgin. I haven't been one for years.

Ayine:" Why does he look familiar? What's your name? "

I swallowed which was probably loud enough then turned to Zenzele who mirrored my facial expression. Freaked out!

.....

Zizipho

OldMan:"Yiza, khawuleza(Come, hurry)"

Me:"What if I fall?"

OldMan:"Asoze, ndilapha nawe soze uwe ndikhona. Bamba isandla sam ndizoku welisa(Never, not when I'm here with you. Take my hand and I'll help you crossover)"

I looked at his hand which seemed as if it was moving away from me inch by inch. I looked besides me, there was water,there was a long in front of me. I tried jumping to it but fell inside the water instead, I gasped trying to swim. I knew well that I've never been a swimmer in my life but I still fought.

I fell my self lose breath, but the old Xhosa man pulled me out. The same time I woke up coughing. Lala was right next to me patting my back.

Lala:"Why are you wet? Why are you coughing up water?"

I looked at my drenched body and the water I had coughed up on the floor then at my sister who was waiting for an explanation I didn't even have.

26

Zizipho

Lala had to run to my mother and Simos bedroom because I couldn't stop crying, I felt like I was drowning. Even my body was tired as if I have been struggling with water, they came running. I looked at my mother and cried.

Me:"Mama something is happening to me, I don't know what it is."

Ma:"We should go seek help, what's happening is beyond my power."

Simo:"How long has it been happening ma?"

Ma:"Some time, I mean she has anger issues. Sometimes you talk to her and she doesn't hear you, kuningi(it's a lot)"

Simo:"So you think consulting will help her?"

Ma:"I don't know but I need options, I'll ask around."

Simo:"Me too."

Ma:"What did you dream about?"

I was calmer now, with a mug between my hands filled with sugar. I stared at it, it was as if the dream replayed in the water. I explained it to my mother, she stood up and paced around the room making mhhm sounds.

Lala:"I don't know much about dreams but I think it's some sort of calling. Especially because she once told me about a dream singing in a mountain, from what I've read those dreams are associated with an ancestor that lives within you. Or idlozi if I may say."

We all looked at her, she was smart that we knew. But we only knew that she was school smart, so for her to say something like this was surprising.

Simo:" Did you get this from your novels or?"

Lala:"Facebook there were posts there about dream interpretations,I always read them because they're interesting. I mean it's amazing how ancestors work from the other side, and how different it is from the Bible. Not that I have anything against the Bible, just that these 2 a beautifully unique. I hope you find help soon because you can lose your mind in the long run."

Simo:"And she has already lost her temper."

Mama still looked like she was trying to grasp the whole thing.

Lala:"I'll sleep here with you."

I nodded.

Simo:"Get some sleep, you'll be fine before you know it."

I nodded, I knew they were gonna everything in their power to help me. I wanted to understand what was happening more than anything.

.....

Ngwekazi

Me:"Uhm guys can I be the ones to talk to you, Zen has a test to write. We'll talk tomorrow okay?"

He nodded walking away.

Ayine:"See you around stunxa(idiot)"

I unlocked the door and let them in. Lunzulu stood inside looking around, Ayine was already in the fridge taking whatever he wanted to eat.

Ayine:"Nice to see that you have meat."

Lunzulu:"Who's that boy Ngwekazi?"

No more Minxi, eh I'm in big trouble!

Me:"He's my boyfriend."

Lunzulu:"What's his last name?"

Me:"Hadebe."

I mumbled.

Lunzulu:"Andikuva thetha uvakale(I can't hear you be audible)"

Me:"Hadebe Bhuti."

He laughed sitting down, even Ayine stopped fidgeting in the kitchen and jumped to the living room. They both sat down while I stood in the middle like a child.

Ayine:"Is this a different Hadebe or the same ones that killed our brother. You better not lie because we'll find him."

I kept quiet.

Lunzulu:"If you're dating that boy, it better be because you wanna avenge our blood. You can't be letting a snake have a piece of your cookie jar. You understand how valuable you are that is?!"

He shouted startling me, tears fell from my eyes.

Me:"He wasn't there bhuti, he's the one who called to wa-"

Lunzulu:"I'm going to call Tata, I can't even look at you right now. I'll book myself into a hotel."

He stood up, Ayine also stared at me standing up.

Ayine:"I'll make sure you don't see that ass hole again, or he's dead."

He was so angry, I've never seen my brother so angry, hurt yes but not this angry.

Lunzulu:"That's actually a great idea, we'll chaperone you. Fuck these guards didn't even say a word! I'll fire them all."

He stood up heading outside. The trouble I was in!

.....

Zizipho

After what seemed like eternity of trying to find someone who was gonna help me, my mother was helped out by one of the customers who tend to over share information. She just dug and didn't tell her what it was about. The lady who was gonna help us wasn't far from Ekukhanyeni, she was a village away. About 20 minutes. The heat seemed as if it was increasing the closer we get. I expected a freaky home with bones hanging from the gate and drums banging from the door. But this is just a beautiful home with a big house in the middle, a 6 corner next to it then at a further distance there's a small hut painted in white. An elderly woman, should be between 50 and 60 of

age. She smiles at us waving with a red cloth, I feel every hair on my body stans at her sight regardless of her warm smile.

Her:"Thokoza banta bami, I want this one alone you can wait inside the living room."

My eyes shoot open as I stare at my family, how did she even know that I'm the troubled soul here. Or maybe my face sold

me out, I sweat a lot that I know. I follow her to the hut. She stops and looks at me.

Her:" Take off your shoes. "

I do as she says, she hands me a cloth then instructed i cover my shoulders. The inside is bigger than the outside looks. There are grass mats on the floor with beautiful designs. She has muthi all over.

Her : "I've been waiting for you."

She hasn't stopped smiling since she saw me, and it was freaking me out. My throat dried.

Me:"How did you know?"

Her:"My ancestors showed me you, I'm Gogo uSakhe. Someone was trying to take something away from you but your ancestors are protecting you. Today I won't do much I'll just

give you a bucket that will collect all the evil spirit and dreams you always have. Someone is working you mntanam. "

She burns incense making sounds, she lives it burning the finds a metal bucket.

Sakhe:" You see it's empty right? "

She points it towards my direction and I nod. She takes the cloth covering my shoulder and close the bucket tying it

Sakhe:" You will walk home with this bucket, don't use the road. There's a path with a river, cross it barefoot. I'll find you when you need me, don't leave this bucket or open it till I instruct you to do so okay?"

I nod scared, this is some scary shit!

27

Zizipho

Gogo Sakhe left me in her hut, she said she was going to tell my family that they can leave I'll follow behind. She came back to me after a little while.

Sakhe:"You can leave, before you do. It's gonna get worse before it gets better. The journey you've just started isn't going to be easy, it's gonna come down like rain but eventually

you'll see the rainbow. Don't think about the time frame but about when it will be alright. Okay? "

I nodded still confused. I didn't even know what to ask. I took the bucket and started walking to where she was leading me to busy singing. She stood by the river bank and wished me a safe journey then hummed heading back home. After crossing the river the bucket's weight seemed to have increased. I had 2 more rivers 5 minutes apart, by the time I crossed the last one I could barely walk without taking a break after 4 steps. Finally I got home breathing heavily, I found a warm corner and placed it there. I was sweating and confused at the same time, I wrapped a towel around my body and joined my family in the living room.

Me:"Thank you for today guys, it means a lot to me."

Ma:"As long as you'll get the help you need it's fine, and this Nyanga must be genuine. She didn't even take any money."

Simo:"I'm also surprised, I thought she would charge us."

Lala:"Maybe it's the kind of healers that prefer payment once everything is done."

Me:"I just hope I get help, I wanna go back to school you know? And I can't wait to fully rest."

They all smiled while we had a chat, the Tavern was closed so we just bonded as a family. Which is something we haven't done in a while.

That night I slept like a child, I even woke up tired from over sleeping. Everything smelt horrible but at least I wasn't being haunted by unexplainable things.

Ma:"What's wrong with you?"

I was standing outside in my night dress feeling like falling.

Me:"Nothing ma."

I exhaled pushing myself up,I almost bumped her from the dizzy spelled but I soldiered on. I decided to go back to sleep hoping it will help me. This pregnancy wants to expose me at a time like this.

The same old man who saved me from drowning was standing in front of me shaking her head with tears streaming down his face.

Me:"Why are you crying?"

Him:"They will separate us, don't let them win."

I tried to walk towards him but he backed away. He had a short knobkerrie with black and white beads, I was unfamiliar with his attire.

Me:"Who are you?"

Him:"I'm your -"

I jumped from the bed feeling a heavy spirit drag me to the floor, I landed painfully on my butt wincing trying to get up. I laid my head on the bed sobbing, this was supposed to be over. Or was I being impatient?

.....

Ngwekazi

I came back from work to find my brothers sitting comfortably on the couch

they didn't leave yesterday and they made sure to stay here in my apartment. Just so they can watch my every move, it's one thing growing with a huge family. When you finally find your

own private space you clutch it and you don't wanna let go. Now having these 2 was frustrating me, I missed walking around in my thong and nothing else. Video calling my man while he's busy with whatever invention he has come across.

Me:"Good evening."

They both ignored me, I rolled my eyes and headed to my bedroom. I wore my gym attire then I took my shakes from the fridge.

Ayine:"Uyaphi? (Where are you going?)"

Me : "Oh so now you're talking to me? Let's be mature about this please."

I clicked my tongue and jogged out with my backpack with water and my after gym shake. I smiled seeing Zenzele on the treadmill. I passed by him looking at his screen, only 3 minutes since he started.

Me:"Hey."

Zen:"Hi."

Me:"I missed you."

Zen:"I know, I hope your brothers didn't follow you. "

I chuckled at that thought, you never know with those two.

Me:"I wouldn't be surprised."

We jogged for 15 more minutes then we headed over to the weights, it's upper body day and he's good in that department.

Zen:"How long do you think they'll be staying for? I miss cuddling with you."

Me:"I don't know, maybe they will take me back home with."

Zen:"But you'll come back right?"

Me:"I'll always come back."

Unexpectedly he grabbed my waist and pulled me towards him, he locked his lips on mine kissing me deeply. I moaned inside his mouth then pulled away.

Me : "I love you and I won't stay long, I'm really tired."

Zen: "I love you more mama."

He pecked my lips once last time, I smiled walking backwards till I reached the staircases then I walked back down. I found Lunzulu busy with pots. I frowned hearing a very familiar voice from the bedroom, as if they heard me. Mdeyama stepped out of the bedroom with Ayine smirking behind him. I was excited to see my father and even though I was on the wrong, it didn't stop me from running to him. He picked me up wrapping his arms tightly around me.

Mdeyama: "Go have a bath we'll be waiting here for you."

I wanted to take a long shower but it wasn't gonna help me in any way.

I finally joined them, my father looked at me. He was disappointed and hurt. Something I never wanted to see because of me.

Me: "I'm sorry tata."

Mdeyama: "What are you sorry for?"

Me:"For letting myself fall inlove with someone who's related with the enemy."

He scoffed.

Mdeyama:"Related? As long as he's a Hadebe he's an enemy. Do you think I'll accept this relationship of yours? Imagine what would happen if he would marry you, should the ancestors pick you to take the throne. A Hadebe will rule our people, a Zulu man will rule the Xhosas. It's not just about the surname now. It's about the tribes, now tell me how it will work?"

I looked at him blankly. I didn't think that far, does this man even understand what a good dick can do to a human being?

28

Zizipho

Fortunately no one came in to witness my dismay, I had no choice but to pick myself and bath then I made myself some food because my entire body felt weak.

Me:"Ma can you please give me R20 I wanna buy a powerade?"

"

She frowned taking it out of her waist. She gave me a R50 note.

Ma:"Bring me airtime we've ran out of our flash."

I nodded heading to the store. I wasn't surprised when I found Nkanyiso and his crew smoking there. When are the matric results coming out? His voice bores me, I know he'll pass and leave this place. Leave me in peace, it's one thing knowing he'll be back during holidays. Maybe by the time he comes back I'll be feeling less nauseas at his sight.

Nka:"Awu Karate Kid."

I frowned angrily looking at him. I chose to ignore him.

Me : "Hello my friend, Blue Powerade and R35 Vodacom."

Nkanyiso was already next to me which made me fume in anger. My scowl deepened as he chuckled.

Nka:"Why you're acting up,? we've seen each other naked."

Me:"Why are you talking to me?"

I took my things then turned to him folding my arms.

Nka:"Haw I didn't know that we're now strangers."

Me:"We're not strangers but we're enemies."

I clicked my tongue turning on my heels but he grabbed my hand.

Nka:"Othi ngik'shaye ngeFull House ngyazi uyazifela(Let me buy you Fat cakes with cheese and polony I know you love it."

Me:"Nkanyiso leave me alone or I'll file a restraining order against you. You denied your baby and humiliated me now you're acting fresh, gwan man."

I wish I knew how to run cause that was exactly what I would have done. I heard his footsteps behind me, if I had the energy I was gonna increase my pace. That bucket Gogo Sakhe made me carry drained all the energy I had. I drank the energy drink.

Nka:" Okay look I've been having bad dreams about you lately. And in all of them you're either crying or trying to kill me. I think it's how things ended between us so I want to apologize."

I turned my head in disbelief stopping on my tracks.

Me:"You wanna apologize?"

Nka:"Yes I'm sorry maMasinga. I really am."

I chuckled shaking my head.

Me:"So if it wasn't for these nightmares you wouldn't be apologizing. I don't wanna hear it Nka, go fuck your girl with one cheek and leave me alone."

I blinked back the tears, he tried touching me again this time around I turned with a fist and punched his nose clicking my tongue. He shouldn't test me at a time like this or those nightmares will come true.

I was glad the day went by fast, I was already tired. I expected myself to wake up from a bad dream during the course of the night. I was surprised when my body was being heated up by the sun. I made sure to hang a blanket over my light curtains because I don't like waking up because of the light.

My body was in so much pain, I slowly got up feeling like someone threw soil over me. My breath hitched in shock at my surroundings. I stood up looking at the sugar cane surrounding me.

Me:"I'm dreaming."

I said out loud convincing myself but dreams often look like those movies from the olden days or the cinema movies people decide to shoot with their camera. This was way too clear, I could hear cars drive by from a distance. I pinched myself and actually felt it, I shook my body

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slapped my face but I was still standing in the same place.

Me:"This isn't a dream." Ngwekazi

Me:"Tata I can't break up with him, it'll break hurt. I don't wanna hurt."

Mdeyama : "If you can't then I'm taking you back home with me."

I looked at the 2 Satans, I knew they wouldn't help me because they felt the same way as my father did but I wanted to see their expressions just to be sure. Maybe one day they'll need me and I'll remind them of this day.

Ayine:"Besides you'll find a decent guy back in Eastern Cape."

Lunzulu:"The Mthembus can do good, they're royalty plus they supply their people with food and jobs. They're good people."

Me:"But we aren't sure that I'll ever be throned. So why don't we just hope that I don't."

Mdeyama : "Do you want this boy of yours to die? I'll kill him Ngwekazi, don't tempt me."

His voice was more stern even his expression was more serious. Me:"Tata."

Mdeyama:"Try me mntanam, I know you told Xhego and the other guards to mind their business. I pay those people not you, I hired them to look after you and report back to me. I know all about your Shenanigans, I'll make sure they don't get you out of their sight."

I nodded biting my lower lip.

Me:" Okay tata what if I don't break up with him, what if I avenge Luhle?I don't care about the other Hadebes but this one's soul matters to me because he wasn't involved , can you

please let me do that. I'll kill each and every one of them tata, I promise."

He looked at my brothers who were smirking like they were seeing boobs for the first time. I hated them for putting me in this position, but my father programmed my heart to be warm and welcoming as it can be cold and ruthless. I don't even like those people, I wouldn't mind killing them. Just to spare my love.

Mdeyama:"Elaborate."

I leaned back smiling, I didn't have a plan except killing them. But with these 3 around, I knew we were gonna come up with a bomb one.

29

Zizipho

Ma:"Sssh ngane it's okay. "

Me:"It's not mama it's not okay."

She didn't even know how to console me, they just sat on the bed surrounding me. The dirty clothes on the floor haunted me, for 3 consecutive nights I've been waking up on the same spot. It's over 100 KM away from home which doesn't make sense how I get there, everyday I need to get a ride from whoever is passing the Sugarcane farm all the way to the main road. Then I

ask the drivers that operate in our village to drive me home, at least they know me but the looks they give me every morning. I know I'm officially being labeled as a crazy person or even a drunkard even though that's not the case . I'm pretty sure each and everyone has their own sickening theory about what's actually happening.

Lala:"I've Googled the place, it's a farm where mostly people from Eastern Cape worked at back in the days. They were killed and buried by white people. Mostly those who were against the working hours, those who had the power to bring them down, those who were smarter. It's a long list of why's . "

Simo:" But why would it target my siste? The Nyanga didn't say anything about teaching her how to be a Sangoma or a healer

but she gave a bucket that's been stuck in her room doing nothing. "

Ma:" I think we should find another healer. "

Simo:" Definitely."

Lala:" And the bucket? "

She shrugged. A knock came through we all looked at each other surprised, Simo went to get it. He came back with his eyes wide open and Gogo Sakhe behind him. I wiped my tears

sitting up right, I don't remember telling her where we lived. Maybe they did but I didn't.

Sakhe:"Sanibonani."

She went straight to the bucket and opened it.

Ma:"Wenzani(What are you doing?)"

Sakhe:"It's almost over, I feel it in my blood. We will have to start with the initiation. Idlozi lakho linamandla kakhulu (Your ancestor is too powerful)are you ready?"

Me:"What do you mean?"

Sakhe:"Tomorrow at 5pm I need you at my premises, you have a calling my child and it's time for you to accept that calling. You will be a powerful Nyanga."

I looked at my family, they were as stunned as I was.

Sakhe : "I'll see you tomorrow, don't be late. You must leave your bucket inside."

She waved off walking out of my bedroom.

Me:"Who told her where I live?"

Them:"No one."

I jumped off the bed and slowly walked to the bucket, I could feel them behind me. We stopped on top of it and frowned confused.

Simo : "A plant?"

There was black soil and a beautiful yellow plant that seemed like it was just starting to grow. How was this thing so heavy?

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Ngwekazi

I washed the blood off my hands

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I undressed then stepped inside the shower. It untied all the knots I had. I missed gym but I've been very tired and lazy lately. I was just happy the family went home although they made sure that my security is tight, they were literally on my ass. I didn't even wanna go to gym anymore. They took out the fun in it.

"Hey What's up?" Jamaica, the most persistent person I've met.

Me : " Hey boo how's it going?"

Jam: "All is good, so I'm inviting you to my beach party on Saturday. I'm turning 25."

She started twerking inside the hospital premises, I spanked her. She giggled stopping.

Me : "I don't know, I'll have guards on my ass. I don't want people looking at me funny."

Jam : "I'll spike their drinks don't worry."

She whispered making me giggle.

Me : "I'll see you tomorrow."

She hugged me heading towards a different direction. Well I've forgotten how much of a spark she actually is. I undressed and sat on my couch comfortably

A knock came through, I was about to chill on my couch naked but people don't respect that. I opened the door to my handsome boyfriend standing there, I jumped on him giggled. He held my buttocks pushing the door with door.

Me: "Hello nerd."

He chuckled.

Zen: "Oh yeah, how are you beautiful?"

Me: "I'm good baby how are you?"

Zen: "I've missed you, I hope they're really gone. I don't wanna be beaten."

I widened my eyes remembering that I'm the one who texted him. I have been very forgetful of late.

Me:"Let's order something I'm craving hot chicken with lots of sauce and a milkshake."

He took out his phone.

Zen:"Someone isn't minding their weight anymore."

I laid upside down.

Me:"I have this weird craving. I'll deal with my weight some other time."

He chuckled kissing me. It felt so bitter, especially with the plan I had up my sleeves.

.....

At The Masukus.

Masuku scratched his hand looking at Zenzele Hadebes name on the list. He has worked closely with them and Kuhle never complained about him, she was a girl inlove even in her room there were plenty of pictures of him.2 or 3 of them together.

He knew better than to look past people because of how they carried themselves out, if anything the Hadebes wouldn't mind getting him out of their way. It's not secret that he has been the most powerful Taxi owner in the East of Durban. They licked his

ass at any chance they got, and now that they got 4 more Taxis on top of the ones they had made them the most powerful.

MaMkhize stood behind him, he placed the whiskey in front of him.

MaMkhize:"How's it going?"

Masuku:"I wanna know where the Hadebes bought their latest Taxis, and I need Intel on their youngest."

MaMkhize:"The quiet one that's always wearing glasses?" He nodded paging through the information he had on him. "He doesn't even look like he can shoot a gun but if you believe he has information then dig. I'll find out how the other bastards got their Taxis."

She walked away talking someone on the phone.

30

Ngwekazi

The team was green, black and red,basically we were gonna look like stoners. Not that I minded though, I never tried weed and I had absolutely nothing against it. I felt like Rihanna in my denim bum shorts and a loose wool top with a black underneath. Zenzele decided to buy me white All Star Chuck Taylors with Bob Marley painted on them. I never turn down

anything he gets for me, I'm entitled like that. Jamaica showed looking pretty as hell, she giggled hugging me.

Jam : "You look amazing, and you did your hair?"

She touched my braids smiling.

Me: "your party is amazing, I didn't think you'd use an actual beach house but this is dope."

Jam: "Yeah and I'm also fuckin high, do you smoke weed, eat weed, inhale weed?"

I shook my head.

Me: "None of the above, I'd love some meat though."

She dragged me to the braaing stand, got a plate for me and filled it up. I didn't complain, I sauced it up and went around smiling at everyone she introduced me too. They were complimenting my looks mostly, I like being reminded it boosts

my self esteem. It's not easy being black, I wasn't just black but my skin was actually black but the looks I had.

Jam: "Try this."

Her cheeks were so red, they were actually complementing her eyes.

Me: "What are you on?"

She laughed handing me the cookie, I took a small bite watching her dance. She was horrible, moved her shoulders backwards and kept pushing her hair.

Jam:"I'm so fuckin high, I've been getting stoned the whole day. Good thing is tomorrow we're not working?"

Me:"That's amazing, as long as this shit doesn't make me look like you I'll be good."

I took another bite, she grabbed it and pushed the entire thing inside her mouth.

Jam:"That's enough for you lil kid,so where's your boyfriend?"

Me:"He said he was gonna come pick me up, he'll call."

Jam:"And let him come in, he's too shy."

Jamaica was overly friendly

dragging me to and from. We went to one of the guestrooms and change to our swim wear, I kept rubbing my face feeling my eyes get heavy. I stood at corner staring at her.

Me:"I'm so fucked up."

Jam:"I think you should text your man."

I nodded finding my phone, I told him that we will be inside the swimming pool.

Me : "White people don't steal right?"

She laughed, we just left our belongings there in her room.

Jam: "Everyone steals boo, but I have rich friends so don't worry."

She jumped inside the pool, I was too paranoid for that so I used the steps. Me: "My throat is dry can I have drink."

Jam: "Micky bring some champagne."

Who said I wanted alcohol? Not that I didn't gulp it like I'm insane when it came. It almost made me drown with the way I was drinking it. Me: "Fuck that was horrible."

"Ngwekazi! Someone's here for you!"

I looked around and smiled like an idiot when I saw my very shy boyfriend trying to get past people.

Jam: "He's so fuckin hot. Brothers?"

Me: "Yes, they look exactly like him but older."

Jam: "No shit."

He crouched in front of us, we probably looked like idiots smiling. He pinched my cheek playfully.

Zen: "Unqunele abelungu la?(You're naked for white people here?)"

Me:"Abajonganga tuu ke baby(They aren't even looking)"

Zen:"Abayazi indunu mabe njalo(They don't know ass if they're like that)" Jam:"You're so fuckin sexy."

He kept a straight face, if I wasn't high this was gonna be embarrassing. Me:"I'll see you on Monday."

We hugged tightly, Zen pulled me out of the pull. I led him upstairs where my clothes were at. Me:"Let's have a round here."

He was packing my clothes, I laid on my back spreading my legs. I wasn't really horny but playful. He laughed hanging my bag on his shoulder. Zen:"Let's go baby."

I touched my mound rubbing my hand up and down.

Me:"Just the tip baby."

He chuckled picking me up.

Me:"I wanna love you in every kind of way. I wanna please you no matter how long it takes.. Hey we should get married with that song." Zen:"You wanna get married to me."

Me:"Yeah I'm deeply and not even funny in love with you."

I kissed his neck pushing my hands inside his sweatpants, sweatpants should be labeled as man lingerie. That shit is a total turn on. Zen:"So if I'd ask you to marry me tomorrow you

would." Me:"Fuck yeah! I don't even see life without you man?"

He opened the front door putting me on the seat the buckled me up. I played WAP and started dancing with the seat belt tight around me.Me:"Baby I'm wet."

Zen:"Huh?!" Me:"The bikini, I didn't take it off."

He burst out in laughter opening the door for me. I was like a spider walking all over him, then I passed out the minute we got inside the elevator.

It felt as though everything I've eaten in the past year was on my throat, I gagged still deep in my sleep when I finally realized I might vomit I jumped up heading towards the wrong direction.

Me:"Not your place, not your place."

I finally ran to the correct direction, I knelt in front of the toilet vomiting my guts out. I sighed already crying, did my neck have to hurt? I washed my face but something scratched me. My eyes widened when they landed on my hand on the mirror.

Me:" Oh shit. Zenzeleee!"

I found him making food in the kitchen, the sun was so high up I didn't even wanna know the time.

Me:"Why is there a ring on my finger?"

Zen:"You don't like it do you, I brought it last minute this morning." I was so confused.

Me : "Whoa wait what's going on?"

Zen:"I want you to be my wife, don't you want that?"

I huffed in frustration. Me:"That's not how you propose."

He looked stunned.

Zen:"Okay but you wanna be my wife angithi?"

I looked at the ring then him then back at the ring then I laughed. Me:"You're unbelievable."

Zen:"So I should write your family a letter?" Me:"Yeah sure."

Zen:"By the way I think you're pregnant, your choice of food, memory loss, you sleep randomly. And your nipples are turning dark, also your eyes are too bright."

He pecked my lips and turned back to the stove. What the heaven?

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Zizipho

I cried hysterically looking at my mother.

Me:"Mama I don't wanna go."

Ma:"You have to, you need to get helpful ngane yam and Sakhe seems to know her thing. You didn't wake up at the place last night which is a good sign, her coming here might have been for a good course."

I nodded, Simo was already leaning against the car waiting for us. Lala was out and about probably doing her research for school, she wanted to be sure of what she wanted to do in University. She was still going to grade 10 mind you.

Me:" I'm pregnant mama."

She furrowed her eyebrows as though she didn't hear me clearly.

Ma:"You're pregnant? How?"

I didn't know what to say, I heard a click of her tongue then her footsteps. I didn't intend on making her angry, I guess I was going to go with my brother to uGobelas house now that she was mad. I got inside the car heavy hearted and sat down silently.

Simo:" Isn't mom coming?"

Me:"I don't think so."

He started the car.

Simo : "What happened?"

Me : "I just told her something I shouldn't have but should have.

Now I'm regretting it."

I felt his eyes on me, he was probably confused by what I was saying.

Simo: "What you said just made me thirsty. I hope it does not cost us much when you come back. Also aren't you curious about what will happen when you get there? Some people get swallowed by snakes and shit."

I chuckled.

Me: "I don't think that's true, I hope it's nothing hectic or time consuming. I don't wanna stay there for too long."

Simo: "Me too, I'm sad that by the time you get back I'll be back at work maybe. But I'll come back don't worry."

Me: "If you say so."

Gogo Sakhe was smiling as usual when we got there, a guy who had a red shawl over his body helped with my luggage.

Sakhe : "Mfana wami, I need you to bring a white goat for your sister. In 3 days time drop it off here."

Simo: "Uhm a goat, eish okay 3 days."

Sakhe:"Okay journey well, MaMasinga uzongthola la sahlangana khona ekuqaleni."

I nodded, I looked at my brother swallowing the lump that was foaming on my throat.

Simo:"It's gonna be okay baby girl, just think of this as a holiday. When you come back you'll be ready and fit."

Me:"I fear the unknown bhuti."

He hugged me, I wished he'd kiss me at the top of my head but hey his hug mattered as well and he was your typical black brother from emakhaya.

Simo:"All the best, don't hesitate to call me."

I nodded waving at him as his car drove off leaving trails of dust behind. I sighed heading to the small hut I consulted in the last time.

Sakhe:"I want inform your ancestors that you're here now, so that everything you do goes according to plan."

Me:"Gogo uhm I'm pregnant, will this affect the baby? "

She frowned in disapproval clearly.

Sakhe:"No don't worry nothing will happen to the baby. This is to heal not to damage, I'll minimize the work we do here for your sake."

She burnt the incense over my face introducing me to my ancestors, she handed me a shawl as well then a green wool for my waist.

Sakhe:" We wake up at 4am in the morning and thank our ancestors for another bright day. We fetch water

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clean, bath so that by 8 am when people come to consult they find this home clean. I hope you aren't lazy."

I was a bum, I hated waking up in the morning. And before we had taps in our yard, the walking distance was very short. Ma made sure we fetch plenty of water in a day to last us for at least the entire week, she had big bottles in the garage. So I've never went to the river to get water. I guess this whole thing was gonna be an experience for me maybe one I needed. I shared a room with 3 other Thwasas, one said she hadn't gotten any help and it's been 5 months. The other 2 were giving their well our gobela an applause . In the morning my roommates woke me, wow it was even dark outside. They were so fresh and I was dragging my feet, I blame it on the mats we

slept on. They should have told me to bring my mattress instead. I was met by a 2 big boiling pot by the fire.

Sakhe:"Akusheshwe woza(Hurry up come)"

She poured each one of us brown water from one of the pots, I gagged at the smell.

Sakhe:"Go vomit, I don't want any thing from the outside. Make sure you vomit properly."

I gagged again, well she shouldn't worry about me vomiting properly. Something was coming up anyway.

Me:"Why does it smell?"

Siphe : "It's natural herbs, they help get rid of bad spirits and evil. We're basically fighting with forces we can't see."

I nodded closing my eyes and taking huge gulps God it tasted horrible. After that we had to go sing while the others steamed.

I was yawning one way, the sun was rising which means it was probably 5 or so. Sakhe:" Buckets follow me."

Zama passed me my bucket, she was the one who said she was getting help alongside with Mandisa then Siphe was a troubled soul. I liked Siphe more. There was something about her.

They sang as we headed to the river, They stood by the bank while Sakhe got inside. I watched with my eyes wide open as she bathed with the water that was obviously freezing cold.

Sakhe:"Ngenan(Get inside)" Me:"Do we also bath?"

One glance was all it took for me to jump inside the water, damn! But this can't be worse than the dreams.

For 3 days we did what was instructed, I didn't even see my brother bring the goat till they slaughtered it for me and gave me it's skin as a wrist band. I couldn't stop smelling it, weirdly I loved the smell. My skin was also glowing from ukugqhuma(steaming) at least I can do it for a good 10 minutes without feeling like passing out.

My excitement was ruined, just when I was happy about my dreams not haunting me. I woke up with my hands heavy , I looked around me.

Me:"Not again."

The pain I was feeling from my hands made me not throw a fit about my surroundings. Slowly I brought them to my face watching in horror as blood came out from my nails, there weren't nails to begin with, only swelling and blood that wasn't pouring because of the soil but it was blood. I looked down at the deep whole that I have dug with my hands. There was nothing else I could do but to scream.

32

Ngwekazi

"How far are you with the plan?"

I sighed at the text message from Zanoxolo, I'm pretty sure they called a meeting for me when the 2 rats and my dad arrived home after meeting with me here and discussed what I did. This is probably part of the reasons why we're not allowed to use our phones during work hours, they're probably avoiding us receiving bad news then getting distracted. Apparently if it's meant to happen, it will happen as it's supposed to so we relax and check our phones later on.

I kept bumping people along the corridors, it was as though I was having some flashbacks. I could see a patient with his heart out in the open, and I knew exactly what to do to save him.

Jam: "Hey are you okay?"

Me : "Yes I'm good, what are you scrubbing in for?"

Jam: "Death, the patients has no arteries. I'm sad he won't leave. Dinner later?"

What better thing did I have, Zenzele was submitting his Thesis. The process was gonna be a long one, he said today they'll be

looking through him specifically. If his research is good, it's gonna be on a Life Science book. His legacy will be rich forever.

"Patient 356, Heart exposure. Needs surgery ASAP."

Jamaica and I both run to meet with the paramedics.

Me: "What happened?"

Paramedic: "Patient was stabbed by partner, I am not sure of the weapon used."

The patient could barely breathe. Everyone was just in shock, this was gonna be very tricky and difficult.

Jam: "How the fuck is he even alive?"

She whispered, and right then time seemed to have slowed down. Every sound went mute as my mind went back to the so called flashbacks I had, or were they visions?

.....

Zizipho

I look around afraid to get up

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the hole isn't that deep but only my head is out in the open.

"Ukahle ngane(Are you okay child?)"

I'm stunned at Gogo Sakhe.

Me:"How did you find me?"

Sakhe: "I'm your gobela for a reason."

I looked at her confused. How did she even get here from the Village. If I had a break between my tears I would ask more but all I needed was to get help.

"Hey what's going on there?"

Sakhe:"Please come help."

She yells at whoever was asking. A white man approached and looked at me with a frown.

Him:"Why are you two trespassing and digging in people's farms?"

Well that led to me in an interrogation room 2 hours later and my hands bandaged.

Miles:"You're a child you're probably get community service or something, did the old lady put you up to this?"

I shook my head, the medications were working on me. I even missed Gogo Sakhes mat right there.

Me:"I was sleeping, it wasn't the first waking up there. As I explained I'm a thwasa, I'm at an initiation school."

Miles : "Why specifically that farm? Those people are powerful and white. This doesn't look good, they can sue."

Me: "You can also sue them for the bodies buried there. There's a reason I went there and I need you to send whoever is in charge of digging, I'll be waiting here?"

Miles : "Bones? What bones?"

Me: "Human bones who knows? There might be new bodies."

He frowned getting up, he left me sitting there. I just confused, because I had no idea of the words that escaped my mouth. It was as though it was running. I ended up sleeping on the table because Miles wasn't coming back.

• Hey this isn't your mother's house!" Then he banged the table. Me: "What's up?"

Miles : "We're still investigating, so you're free to go home for now. I'll be on your behind Masinga."

I didn't have time for this person. Gogo Sakhe was also waiting outside.

Sakhe : "You'll head home now, once your hands have healed feel free to come back. I asked your brother to come pick you up?" Me: "What about you?"

Sakhe : "I have somewhere to be."

She looked distant, I wanted to ask her a few questions but I couldn't bring myself to actually asking. I spotted Simo's car from a distance. Simo: "Hey sis."

He hugged me tightly, I squeezed his waist with my eyes closed.

Me: "That was a short initiation wasn't it?"

Simo: "We don't know hey. I mean you waking up at that farm could have been for a good cause. They're investigating now, which is why you've been set free."

Me: "Yeah tell that to the shit that's coming on my ass, how will I even wipe?" Simo: "You'll make a place, I don't know?"

Me: "How's mom?"

He kept quiet ignoring me on purpose. It was rather quiet for a while at some point I thought I'd walk inside a surprise party. But instead my heart started banging hard against my chest painfully.

"Sizani! Sizani!! (Help! Help!!)" "The screams came from my room. Simo and I ran there bumping on ma who was running out with her hands on her head.

Simo: "Yini ma? (What is it ma?)"

With how she looked I doubt she was gonna talk so I ran to my room. I melted with shock as a big yellow and black snake squeezed the life out of Langelihle.

33

Zizipho

I melted with shock as a big yellow and black snake squeezed the life out of Langelihle.

Simo: "Jesus Christ, I'm sleeping. I'm sleeping, Wake up Simo."

He repeated probably to wake himself up from the night mare.

I was still on the same spot, slowly it let of her and turned its head to where I was standing. It's tongue protruded between its wide mouth, gosh I had to be dreaming. I felt the warmth of my pee between my thighs as the snake slightered closer to me.

- I'm yours, all those that have seen me can't live anymore. You're bare the pain of carrying me with you. You are my chosen one."

I blinked as it shrunk, it spoke to me but the words felt like they were in my mind. It went back to the corner, it was as though it was never there. I sat glued to the ground while Simo crawled to Langa who was shivering like her soul was leaving her body. Her eyes were wide open with her face swollen.

Simo: "Maa!"

Mama came running in, she looked at me then at her child on the floor. I was weeping the whole time, her body finally stopped shaking .

"let me in."The same voice as the one that was the snakes said, I closed my eyes passing out on the floor.

When I woke up, my mothers cries were the first thing I heard. It seemed as if I was on my bed. How could they let me sleep in this God forbidden room? After what happened here. The bucket was there. I looked inside and the yellow plant looked more beautiful that it previously was, all the thoughts of throwing it at the river or plucking it into pieces faded. I didn't even have the hands for it anyways. I slowly walked out of my room following my mother's cries, she was in the living room with a few of her drinking partners comforting her. Which made me wonder what story they whipped for them to be here? No one would come inside a house where a snake smothered a person to death .

Me:"Ma is Lala okay?"

She shook her head wiping her tears.

Ma:"She passed away."

I nodded finding an empty spot outside, I sat down shaking my head. I didn't wanna believe it, was it my fault? I'm the one who

brought that plant inside my mothers house and it took my sister away from me.

Simo:"Zizi mntaka ma(my mothers child)"

The tears blurred my vision as I looked up.

Me:"Kubuhlungu bhuti(It's painful brother)"

Simo:"I know ngane I know."

He sat down next to me. We couldn't even talk about the snake, there was something bigger happening and I had to know.

Me:"Let's go to Gogo Sakhes house I need answers."

Simo:"Take that bucket too. I'll be in the car."

I nodded standing up. Slowly I walked inside my bedroom, it felt like everything was gonna happen again. I bent down trying pick up the bucket but it almost broke my back. I changed positions till I perspired still with no changes. I sighed getting back to Simo.

Me:"It's not moving even an inch."

Simo:"Let's just go maybe she'll know what to do."

We drove in silence as the memories of my sister made its way back to my brain

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my heart clenched painfully. We finally arrived there.

Me:"Hello."

We shouted but no one could hear us, I angrily grabbed the gate screaming as. The chains yanked off the pole as my knees weakened from my sore hands.

Me:"They have fled Simo. What am I supposed to do?"

Simo:"I don't know sisi, we will find help."

I nodded heading back to the car.

"Masinga." a hoarse voice said from behind I turned to find Siphe looking lost.

Me:"Siphe, where's everyone?"

Siphe:"I found everyone gone, Sakhe sent me to get a few herbs then when I got back. Her, Zama and the others had left, Mandisa was picked up by her parents."

Me ::"What really happened?"

She shrugged.

Siphe ::"She probably wanted our powers or to give us bad spirits. It's what some bad Gobelias do, we're in for a long ride Zizipho. Things are still gonna be bad for us."

Me:"What are we going to do? I thought she was the best person. She was so nice."

She shrugged wiping her tears.

Simo:"What are you waiting for here?"

Siphe : "I don't know, my family didn't believe in all this calling thing but my sister made me come here. I know they won't pick me up, I don't even have a phone or money."

Simo:"Where do you stay?"

Siphe : "oPhongolo."

My brother whistled brushing his head.

Simo:"Get your bags we'll see how to help once we get home. Maybe the 2 of you can come up with a way to get help."

She nodded running back to the houses, I looked at Simo and smiled.

Me:"Thank you."

Simo : "Pleasure, I just hope she's not one of that old woman's people. With how I feel I can probably kill her."

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Ngwekazi

To my surprise the surgery went really well, now I was certain that I'll get the post that I wanted a permanent post. As much as I was shaken by the flashback I had. I wanted to go home and reconnect with my ancestors, maybe it has something to do with them. Xhego was the one who picked me up since my fiance was busy with work. I called Zamisa as soon as I arrived.

Zamisa:"Nkosazana."

Me:"Molo ma, how are you?"

Zamisa:"I'm good how's our Ngwekazi doing?"

Me:"I'm doing good too except that something weird happened at the hospital today. I had a vision of some sort, it didn't even take an hour for it to come true."

She went silent.

Zamisa:"That's weird, it could be a gift but the vision is somewhat disturbing. Probably the ancestors are trying to communicate with you but are struggling. You should come home."

I sighed, God knows how much I've missed out on work. I'll need to use my days off instead.

Me:" I'll fly over when I'm free. "

Zamisa:" Okay not a problem, light and blessings upon you my princess."

Me:"Nakuwe ngoku njalo(Same to you)"

I hung up and looked at the pregnancy test kit I took upon my arrival. I wiped my eyes.

Me:"Now this wasn't part of the plan."

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Ngwekazi

His phone rang unanswered, I threw it on the couch fuming with anger. Then I remembered I have to track my delivery. Geat at least someone does as I want them too, I took some money and his tip the waited by the door. My guards always scare them away.

Guy:"Your Hot Full Chicken and Cappy Juice"

Me:"Thank you."

I salivate at the smell, I didn't even have time to take a plate I sat down and devoured my delicious food. Pedro's is doing more than justice, my phone rang I rolled my eyes taking it. Good a man calls back, I said inside seeing his name.

Me:" Did you plan this?"

Zen:"Is everything okay?"

Me:"You told me I'm pregnant now I'm actually pregnant?"

Zen:"Uh can I come over?"

I closed my eyes calming myself down.

Me:"Do you understand how hard I've worked for this internship, this body? Do you know the things that will happen?"

He didn't say anything, I know he hates being shouted at but I needed him to shout back at least. I clicked my tongue and ended the call. Couple of minutes later he walked inside my door carrying McDonald's, that better be a McFeast.

Zen:" Sawubona MaMdeyama(Hello MaMdeyama)"

Didn't I melt seeing his smile, I died right there and then. He sat down and pulled me to his chest.

Zen:"Talk to me ngoduso yami(My fiance)"

I sighed taking out the tests from under the couch, he laughed.

Me:"I'm pregnant and it's stressing me out."

He moved my head away from his chest then kissed my forehead.

Zen:"You just keep adding to my happiness sthandwa sam,I've called a meeting with my brothers. I'm meeting them tonight? Are you ready for what might happen when they get there?"

Me : "I don't really care my main concern is this baby, I'm bringing an entire human being in my life. Everything will change, can't we abort and do a proper family planning?"

His eyes glistened, why does he have to be so sensitive?

Zen: "Suyahlanya yin?(Are you crazy?)"

My mouth fell

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he has never insulted me before. I didn't even have a calm back because he was really calm.

Me: "Don't say I'm crazy."

Zen: "It was a question not a statement, if you wanna die you can abort. Trust me you won't even have a corner to run."

He cleaned up the table and headed to the kitchen. Wow I'm still shocked.

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Zizipho

We buried my sister a few days back and it was clear she was no longer that, her absence was as loud as she was. At that moment I wished I had more sisters. Or maybe I had something else to do even if I had to give away my life for her to be safe. I hadn't slept since the day she passed on, Siphe suggested I get

sleeping pills which are helping. I have moved to the living room because my bedroom scares me, Siphe on the other hand says she has seen worse than a snake. Having her around has been good for all of us, we were weak and ready to break but she handled most things. Unfortunately she had to go home, I was too sleepy to accompany her. And the baby in my tummy was growing faster than it should. Simo wasn't coming back anymore so it was just me and my mother at home.

Ma:"I really don't like you sleeping on my couch Zizipho, you're fat and you sweat all over. This room smells and soon I'll have to fix torn couches, you don't even have money."

I sighed getting up, at least the pills might do a better job. I looked at the bucket, being in the same house with isn't different from being in the same room was it.

- You need accept that I'm yours my queen, you fighting it will make things to be far more worse than they are."

I looked at it wrapping itself around my legs slithering its way to my private parts.

Me:"Why are you doing this? I didn't want you?"

It hissed, it looked smaller than it did when it killed my sister.

"Your power drew me to you Mandlamnyama couldn't let you leave me. I'll be the only thing you live for, those bones you found will help us."

I woke up screaming and breathing heavily, my legs were the first thing I looked at. They were shaking.

Me:"What's happening to me?"

I grabbed a shirt and wiped the sweat off my face. If I wasn't so scared of death I would have committed suicide by now.

35

Ngwekazi

Jamaica should have been named South Africa or Mzantsi instead, that girl wants to do black people things and I really find it weird. She eats my Pap and Spinach that my boyfriend oh let me rephrase, my fiance cooks for me. Now she was in my apartment, for the first time ever. Begging me to let her come with.

Jam:"I'll do all the chores, I promise. I have my bag with me already."

Me : "Fine I'll let you come, but you don't need to do chores. It's gonna be so awkward, I can't believe you want me to do something like this to my family."

Jam: "Something like what?"

Me: "Like English speaking, you don't know Xhosa."

Jam: "I know Zulu aren't they like siblings?"

She was even making a duuh face, this girl will see things.

Me: "Book your ticket and pray they're not fully booked otherwise you'll follow behind."

She smiled reaching for her purse. I just got weak when she showed me her ticket, do friends like her really exist? Like the

kind that's always pushing for the bestie title. It's not even like I'm fighting with her.

Me: " You're unbelievable."

Jam: "And you look more beautiful, the scientists is hitting it right isn't he?"

As if he heard her, he stuck his head inside my bedroom smiling sheepishly. But it faded as fast as it did when he saw another human being except his inside, the man that wants to marry me has a hunanphobia. He should really meet my family, maybe they'll help deal with it.

I'm sure me laughing at him didn't make the situation easy.

Me:"Baby."

I opened my arms, he jumped at the opportunity burying his head on my neck.

Jam:"I'll be in the living room, be fast."

We ignored her. He broke the hug and kept his hands on my waist.

Zen:"You're sure I can't book in at a hotel, 4 days is a long time."

He removed his hands and unbuttoned my skirt, if it wasn't tight he would have just pulled it up.

Me:"No baby, I doubt there'll be time for me to disappear."

He turned me around pushing my face against the wardrobe then pulled my waist towards him.

Zen:"Okay but be ready in case my brothers stop ducking me I'll send a letter while you're home."

He slowly inserted himself, I bit my lip to muffle my moaning of appreciation.

Me:"Okay. Mhm baby."

He pulled out then pulled back in.

Zen:"Baby ngichame! (Should I cum?)"

He whispered on my ear after pulling me with my braids, they weren't even a week old Jesus!

Me : "Hayi baby yima kancinci(no baby wait a bit)"

He slowed down licking my shoulders, he shoved his hand inside my mouth pulled it out then rubbed it on my clit. My knees kissed and unknissed.

Zen:"Cum baby."

I grabbed the wardrobe handle tightly feeling the nicest urge to pee, I felt heat from my coochie all the way to my heart. A loud groan escaped my mouth as I squirted all over his rod.

Zen:"Oh shit yes."

He dried me out the continued drilling me, I helplessly stood there ready to fall asleep. He groaned loudly reaching his high

he pulled out as a trail of semen and my cum trailed down my thighs.

Me:"I wanna sleep."

I said while he tried to get me to undress.

Zen:"You're going home baby kaloku."

I laughed at the last part, saying kaloku doesn't mean you know Xhosa. Especially where it's not needed. But I wouldn't say that to him because he says he "Aces" everything.

Me:"You're so good baby."

He chuckled.

Zen:"You got yourself the best boo boo."

I laughed, he gently picked me up, we both jumped in the shower for 5 minutes.

Me:"Should I leave you my key?"

Zen:"If you're comfortable with that, so I can clean up here."

Me:"Okay."

He was gonna accompany us to the airport though. Jamaica smiled at us when we approached.

Jam:"He's that good? Dude I could hear you."

She whispered.

Me:"Shut up."

The man held my hand, as we walked to the lift. It opened and a lady struggling with a mattress smiled at us.

Her:"Hey neighbor, I'm moving in."

A. frowned.

Me:"Me?"

She pushed it out while we stared. I mean this was just too bubbly for us.

Her:"Yeah, I'm Mandisa you can call me Mands. You're so beautiful."

Me:"Uhm thanks?"

Mands:"See you."

She waved at me, the lift closed before we could witness more weird.

Me:"And I thought Jamaica was forward."

Surprisingly everyone laughed.

Jam:"So did I."

.....

At The Hadebes

The brothers gathered in the living room waiting for Zen to say what they were there for.

Zen : "I am getting married."

They all looked at him blankly.

Gatsha : "Last time we checked bujola neXhosa (you were dating a Xhosa)"

Bhungane: "The one who's family we tried to kill, in fact we killed her brother and a child. That was serious?"

The twins scoffed.

Gatsha: "Apparently, so bafo who would be lucky enough to be given our surname?"

Zen: "It's the Xhosa girl, her name is Ngwekazi."

Bhungane stood up with his hands fisted on the side.

Bhungane: "Uthin wena mfana? (What are you saying boy)"

Zenzele sighed calmly, he knew this would happen.

Zen: "I love her, I want to be with her forever . She's carrying my baby to add.

Maphikelela whistled shaking his head.

Bhungane: "Are you okay up here? Ngisho iskobho lesi sakho?"

He furiously pointed at his own head.

Gatsha: "Mom would wake up from her grave. You won't marry that girl."

Zen: "I will."

He said calmly.

MP:"Is it? So you asked for her hand in marriage and she agreed? Just like that? You mean to tell me that the doctor was dumb enough to say yes to your proposal? After we killed her family?"

He chuckled after his questions,Zenzele was definitely smoking something.

Gatsha:"That's actually a good question, this bitch will kill you slowly."

Bhungane:"Sebem qedile ngedliso lo(He's already been fed love potion.)"

Zenzele stood up slowly.

Zen:"I just needed your support, I'll ask dad. I'm sure his guilt will make him say yes. You know where to find me should you change your minds."

He stood up.

Bhungane:"If you wanna marry this girl I don't wanna be tied to you."

Zen:"What do you mean?"

Bhungane:"Give me my car keys, you'll see how you marry that girl of yours because you won't be receiving any allowance from us."

Zenzele handed him the keys.

Zen:"It's sad that you thought you're using money to make me change my mind. I love her and she'll be here soon doing her wifely duties."

He went back to the car and took his apartment keys and wallet, at least he had some cash to catch a Taxi back to Durban. His father has to agree otherwise, he'll have to do some very bad things to get them to. He loved thr girl, and he was gonna get her.

.....

At The Masukus.

Masuku counted the money and handed it to the private investigator.

Masuku:"So you're saying this girl and man were attacked by my daughter because of this little boy?"

PI:"Precise, your daughter was known for getting her way with things. So she got people to shoot through the royal car, the royal people retaliated."

Masuku : "That's your theory?"

PI:" They lost 2 guards I doubt they took it lying down. But that's the information I have for now. "

Masuku : " Keep digging, for now I'll have to take someone's life. The father or the daughter. "

He looked at their pictures leaning back on the couch.

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Zizipho

Peace differs with people, for some it's living in harmony with other people, for some it's having comfort, while for me it's not having bad dreams. I don't know if I should call it a downgrade or upgrade, now I've changed to seeing things in broad day light. I feel like I'm losing my mind at most, yesterday mom sent me to the shops. I walked there barefoot, left the money on the counter and came back. I didn't buy what I was sent for let alone say something. It's safe to say I'm losing my mind and I don't know what to do with it.

Ma: "Did you bath today?"

I nodded, I had been sitting on the grass leaning against the wall since morning and I can tell my mother is starting to worry. Some believe the death of my sister took a toll on me, but I know it's the bucket glued on the corner of my room. The voice that torments my head at every chance. She went inside the kitchen and came back with a bowl of Futurelife, I could smell it from a distance because I loved it. It was one of the few things I

loved, I even hated bathing, I knew I had an odor as well. But it didn't bother me.

Ma:"I found someone who will help you, but she'll be coming here."

I nodded licking my spoon.

Me:"When?"

Ma:"Tomorrow, you'll probably find her here tomorrow because you're going to the clinic in the morning."

Me:"Okay."

The Next morning she woke me up and accompanied me to the clinic just to make sure I got the safe then she went back home . Finally my turn came.

Nurse:"Still no kicks?"

I shook my head hearing the heart beat.

Nurse:"Hm?"

Me:"No."

Nurse:"Weird, he looks perfectly fine. Make sure you drink your medication and you eat well, you're underweight for the baby you're carrying. Your bp is also a concern. Are you still doing the exercises and resting?"

How can a fat person be underweight?she gave me my medication then I went straight home. From the side gate I could see that the Shebeen was closed, my mother was sitting in front of the house rocking herself back and forth.

Me:" Everything okay ma? "

Ma:"She's been in your room all morning, I don't know what she's doing there. "

Me:"You trust people with my staff? Mama they could take my child."

Ma:"What do you want from me Zizopho? You whimper the whole night; Sleep the whole day, cry every chance you get;Then you expect me to not do anything? Don't get familiar please."

The groan of a sangoma echoed way too close from where we stood, the lady showed up with her shoulders vibrating. She was shaking her head vigorously.

Her:" Hambisa ingane kibo ntombazane(Take the baby home girl) "

My jaw dropped.

Me:" Th... B.. The father doesn't want it. "

Her:"Ngisho lo(I'm talking to this one)"

She pointed at my mother, my eyes widened the same way as hers did.

Ma:"Wh- what?"

Her:"I can protect her, give her beads that should hold her for a while but she needs help from her ancestors. She needs an

introduction to her family, a ceremony then she'll be better although it might take time."

I furrowed my brows.

Me:"Ma?"

She was shaking her head, obviously refusing.

Ma:"Ngeke ngikwazi Makhosi, ngeke(I can't Makhosi, I can't)"

Makhosi:"Don't involve your child in things she doesn't need

this child will suffer even more because of you. Take her home."

She buried her face in her hands crying loudly, she didn't cry this way even during my sister's death.

Makhosi:"I'm going to occupy your room for a few days, fighting that snake. Hopefully by the time I leave your mother's mind would have changed. The snake is the only force I can fight, not the others. Excuse me."

She went back inside. I looked at my mother holding my belly, I was breathing heavily.

Me:"My blood pressure is always high, don't make it worse."

Ma:"I can't ngane yam, it's too risky."

Me:"Really mama? You're worried about risks, a damn snake killed my sister. Your daughter, you telling me our father is could end this whole thing!"

She stood abruptly and slapped me.

Ma:"Ungangi memezi(Don't scream at me) Simo and Langelihles father is dead, I don't know yours. He's a different fling from 18 years ago, he never bothered looking for you. I don't know where he is. Now you understand."

I teared up, her voice broke painfully as those words slapped me hard on my face.

Me:" I just want his name and surname."

She shook her head walking back inside.

.....

At The Royal Home..

Ayine:" Angatyeka ke lo mlungu(The white person is fuckable) "

I rolled my eyes, it was so like him and Zanixolo to see a sex toy . They've been drooling over my friend.

Me:" Just when I decide to have friends over, you want her to run away because of your dick. She doesn't like you like that. "

Ayine:" I think you're wrong I mean she smiles at me every chance she gets."

I laughed.

Me:"It's Jamaica, she's always high."

He looked at me.

Ayine:"Impossible, when does she smoke?"

Me:"She has cookies in a resealable plastic bag, she takes a bites every chance she gets. So don't mistaken that for liking you."

Ayine ::"Oh well I'll get high with her then."

He walked towards her smiling like an idiot, I rolled my eyes turning to the house

MaManci:"MaMdeyama."

Me:"Maa!!"

She didn't say anything after, typical black parent. She was baking muffins in her kitchen looking outside. She loves the

view of the back of the house, you can see rivers from a distance and hills. Then our fence

Me:"Mama."

MaManci:"Who's the father of the baby you're carrying?"

I gulped, she wasn't even looking at me.

Me:"Baby I'm carrying? "

She finally looked up with her eyebrows cocked.

MaManci:"Yes,are the many Xhosas in Durban? Because it's gonna be another war. We've had one less than a year ago."

Me:"You shouldn't worry I'm not pregnant."

She smiled

MaManci:"If you're smart you'll come clean, because eventually you'll have to tell me. I like my other grand kids but having one from you would be a whole new experience, an amazing one. You're my only Ngwekazi."

I sighed leaning against the back door.

Me:"I'm pregnant and engaged."

Her eyes shot open.

MaManci:"Oh wow. Who is the father?"

Me:"I feel sick can you excuse me?"

I opened the door fiddling with the handle, finally I breathed out as soon as I was out of her sight. If she can see it then the other mothers will see it, I know for a fact MaDzanibe has no chest for secrets.

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Ngwekazi

I knocked on her door, it felt 10x hotter than it was. Because of the walk I just did, Zamisa's house had to be located at a steep slope where I couldn't even use my car.

Zamisa: "Nkosazana, what brings you here?"

Me: "Cela amanzi ma (Water please)"

She chuckled getting some with her jug, she gave me a mug. I poured 2 glasses then gave them back.

Me: "Thank you, how are you doing though?"

Zamisa: "I'm good, your ancestors are just keeping me awake."

I chuckled.

Me: "Do you only deal with the Royal home cases? I mean like aren't the other people you help?"

Zamisa: "Only those that I see in my visions or end up here."

Me: "I see so why are we so special?"

She smiled at me.

Zamisa:"Well this is interesting. Mntanam being royalty isn't only about the benefits, you need a strong person to look after the family. To make sure the blue blood is protected, also it's

about the Village. The ancestors from the family are dominating than the other ancestors residing in that area. And not because of power but because they might have been the first people to reside in a specific place, also they're chosen by the gods and God himself to be protectors, and leaders of the community. Imagine what witches and wizard would do to a community that doesn't have a King that's powerful. "

Me:" It would probably perish or turn into hell. "

Zamisa : " Exactly, now my tired princess what is it that I can do for you? "

Me:" One last question before I get to that. Do you think there will ever be peace between the Zulu and Xhosa tribes. "

She shrugged.

Zamisa : " That's one thing I can't disclose, otherwise you'll do things you aren't supposed to. "

I nodded in understanding, although I still wanted to know. I knew she wouldn't say yes.

Me:" The visions I've been having, what do they mean?"

She sighed.

Zamisa:"That didn't mean anything, the ancestors just wanted your attention. You're a Ngwekazi and you need to come home

more often. Now aren't you afraid your father will kill that fiance of yours?"

Me:"How did you know about that?"

Zamisa:"A lot, I'll need to strengthen your home. I'm feeling uneasy, give me a ride please."

Me:"Okay I'll wait."

Zamisa was an interesting character who knew too much about her family history, apparently she started being the Royal Protector at 15. By then my father was still young, my Grand father really didn't trust a woman let alone a girl to do what was required of her. But as time went by, he grew fond of her even gave her unnecessary tasks. We got home which made me sad, I drove slow because I was enjoying her tales.

Mdeyama smiled at both me and Zamisa. He opened his one arm which I gladly stood under while he hung it over my shoulder. It feels good when Zen does it, but when my father does it. Damn now that's another thing.

Mdeyama:"Who did you bring?"

Me:"A surprise."

I pointed at Zamisa with both hands

Advertisement

she just chuckled.

Zamisa:"I need permission to strengthen the yard, I'll also need time to strengthen the family. I've been feeling uneasy."

Mdeyama:"Is there something that's gonna happen, should I be worried?"

Zamisa:"The ancestors haven't shown my anything Kumkani. I've been praying that it's also nothing."

Mdeyama:"Okay go ahead then."

She bowed respectfully then walked out, my father turned to me with a huge grin.

Mdeyama:"Let's go shooting, we have some catching up to do. You should also tell me what that idiotic boy is feeding you, you've gained weight."

That broke my heart, everyone has been saying the same thing and it genuinely hurts. Maybe this would be the perfect time to tell him about my pregnancy.

.....

Zizipho

I rubbed my painful tummy regretting leaving home, it seems to be bothering me more than it should. We were still 3 months away from giving birth yet it felt like a burden. It's a good thing

people are nice to pregnant people. The shoes were burning me, I took them off and walked barefoot. I didn't really care that people were staring at me, I needed to buy baby clothes. I could hear someone saying "Sisi" behind me. I wasn't going to stop although I felt like it was directed to me. I mean I've been embarrassed a couple of times because of a mere wave. That awkward moment when someone waves at you only to find out they're waving at someone behind you, that really hurts. Finally a guy stopped next to me, Jesu I've never seen such a handsome man. Kanti Durban really has beautiful people. I literally stopped and looked at him.

Him:"Hi."

Me:"Hi to me?"

He nodded still smiling, his extra teeth made his smile even more beautiful.

Him:"Yes, my name is Andile."

He gave me his hand which I gladly shook while staring deeply in his smiling eyes. Me:"I'm single.. Shit I mean Zizipho."

Andile:"You're Xhosa? Me:" No I'm Zulu actually, Zizipho Masinga. "

Andile:" awu maMbokweni, it's such a pleasure. I was wondering if I can buy you comfortable shoes. Morning shoes slippers whatever you call it. "

I smiled.At the mention of my clan name and of course his kindness. Me:" Really? "

Andile:"Ngyacela ndoni yamanzi(Please Dark beauty)"

Well that sold me, the guy led me to Mr Price and found me a pair of nice shoes. What I was expected was for him to ask for my number but he disappointed, what's it with guys and wanting to sleep with pregnant women? That's disturbing, well most guys except Andile.

He accompanied me to all the jobs I had to go to then went as far as offering me a ride home.

Me:"You've been too kind this is okay."

Andile:"MaMbokweni, Ngiku thandile(I have fallen in love with you)" Wake up nana, there's no way you just heard that.

Me:"Now?"

Andile:"Yebo, I'd like to be the second father then marry you soon."

Me:"Heh? This isn't those prank shows is it?"

He chuckled.

Andile:"Please give me your number, I'm not letting you go."

Okay Schucks can come out now, I wasn't having fun anymore.

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ZIZIPHO

My armpits started itching, I groaned annoyed. I had just bathed which was hard cause I burnt incense as per instruction but my nerves were getting the best of me.

Me:"It's just a hello."

I told myself, Andile and I have been chatting and he's a good guy or makes himself out to be a good guy. He calls every morning, send endless voice notes on Whatsapp. I've even stopped hating them because he doesn't type, not even by chance. He's coming over to see me and I'm really nervous.

My phone rings, I jump on it.

Me:"Andile."

Andile : "MaMbokweni, nginga jabula uthi sunga phandle(I'd be happy if you'd tell me you're outside)"

Me: "You're about to get sad cause I'm still at home."

He chuckled.

Andile: "It's okay, I'm waiting here. I hope I'm in the right place."

Me: "I'm coming."

I hung up and fixed my dress one last time. Mama was attending to her customers which meant I could slide out easily.

He was waiting for me a few houses away. I jumped inside his Toyota Dakar. He looked at me in admiration.

Andile: "How are you?"

Me: "I'm good how are you?"

Andile: "I'm good, I want you to tell me something."

Me: "What?"

Andile: "What are you doing with your life? We talk everyday but I don't know that much about you."

Me : "Well for now I'm staying at home but I wanna go back to school next year. I dropped out in grade 11 because of health issues."

He nodded, I wasn't gonna tell him about what's been happening. He might run.

Andile:" Oh that's good, I'm not educated at all. I just own tractors, they get used a lot in my area. I also have a small farm where I plant crops, I'm not rich but I make enough for myself cause it's only me."

Me:"what do you mean it's only you?"

Andile:"I was the only child, my parents died so I have no one else. Which makes me want to have a number of children, 8."

I laughed.

Me:"8, I feel sorry for whoever will carry them for you."

Andile : "You should feel sorry for yourself in that case."

My eyes widened then I rolled them.

Me:"Shame so you don't have any kids?"

Andile:"Nope not yet."

A 29 year old with no kids? He must be infertile ngeke! Not in this world. Me:"Wow that's shocking, rare even."

Andile : "I know family planning. I'm kidding my pull out game is lit and I condomize. I have taken care of a baby that wasn't mine for 2 years though." I slapped his arm in shock.

Me:"Don't lie!"

Andile:"I promise, worse that girl hardly came around. Then when she did supposedly fell pregnant, explained something about how fast the sperm is at time you don't even feel the first one come out." Me : "And how did you find out?"

Andile : "It's funny actually, she was going for a check up and I thought I'd go pick her up only to find her with another man. I didn't react at that time, but I followed her more times than I should. The resemblance between that girl and the man was too much to miss, she came clean and we separated. "

Me:" Damn you had it rough. Yet there are man who deny their babies. " He doesn't reply but just stares at me.

Andile:" Did that happen to you? " I shrugged.

Me:" It's in the past I made peace with it. "

He nodded placing his hand on my neck massaging it gently.

NGWEKAZI

I was sitting in the shade searching wedding venues with a huge smile on my face. Places were beautiful, just that I was so undecided. I knew Zenzele will just tell me to pick whatever I want, otherwise we'll end up having a Cartoon character themed wedding. How did I fall for him? Beats me but I love my teddy bear, his softness turns me on.

"You're getting married nah?"

I pressed the lock button turning around.

Me:"What the fuck is wrong with you?"

He chuckled joining me with a bottle of Vodka and Dry lemon.

Ayine:"I wanted to see if you're not watching porn or something."

Me:"What if I was, worst of all what if we were sharing nudes?"

He scrunched his face in disgust.

Ayine:"I get your point, so what's the progress with the family? I'm doubting what you're up to though. My theory is, you're inlove so you'll all this up."

I clenched my jaw.

Me:"You mean to tell me I'd let my brothers death be in vein? Don't take me lightly Ayine."

He downed his drink then shrugged.

Ayine:"Whatever you wanna believe, anyways you're glowing. I'm not complaining though."

I pinch my nose, Ayine has always been my bestie. He sometimes has a chest and sometimes he doesn't, so if I'd tell him about my pregnancy he might or might not tell. Either way, it might work on my favor.

Me: I'm pregnant."

His eyes widen.

Ayine: "You're pregnant!?"

His eyes shoot open even more as he looks behind me.

"I actually want her to repeat that as well."

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NGWEKAZI

"I actually wanted her to repeat that."

My heart stopped beating, then I sighed out in relief turning around.

Me: "Bhuti, heey."

I said nervously.

Lunzulu: "Tell me I heard you wrong."

Ayine: "I have to go check out the farm, bye."

Lunzulu: "Hlala phantsi."

Ayine:"No thanks."

He was already drunk, I'm certain. He never says no to the big brother. Lunzulu stood in front of me with his arms folded and a stern look on his face.

Me:"Bhuti hi."

Lunzulu:"Stop greeting me and tell me what's going on, you're pregnant now?"

Okay he was getting heated up faster than I assumed he might.

Me:"It just happened bhuti, besides there's no harm in this pregnancy. Because Zenzele has nothing to do with this."

Lunzulu:"You'll tell uTata about this nonsense and see if he gets your points. Let's go."

He grabbed my arm forcing me to get up, just as we were about to get in a bunch of men well 3 to be precise walked up the driveway followed by the guards. Xhego came to my brother and whispered something in his ear, Lunzulu looked at me and somewhat laughed in disbelief.

Lunzulu:"Go to your room, I'll talk to you later."

I frowned confused, how old am I? I rolled my eyes. Jamaica was sleeping, I just sat down thoughtfully. Those people must be very important

.....

ZIZIPHO

I was sleeping peacefully in my room when Andile walked in, he smiled at me rubbing my legs. He stood nude above me and slowly directed his dick to my entrance.

Me:"Ahh."

I looked at him manhood creamed by my juices slowly move in and out of my mound. He lowered his head to my nipples, he sucked on them with his eyes closed. I moaned louder, his strokes remained slow, he buried his head on my neck groans involuntary escaping his lips while I clenched my walls. He was

so silent, I wanted him to talk. Say something to me, but he kept groaning. He looked directly at my eyes penetrating faster with his clenched jaws moving sideways. In a few humps

he spilled inside me. My eyes closed immediately before he could pull out, I gasped waking up. I looked around, I was in my room but given Andile wasn't here. He doesn't even know my room. I touched my vagina and the moisture was there, I was so horny I almost touched myself. I needed sex as soon as yesterday. Now I had dark thoughts about him. How will he sleep with a pregnant woman though? How will I even seduce him? I sighed rubbing my nose bridge. I take out my phone and

log on to Whatsapp. My thumb plays around his name, it's still before 7, he's definitely awake. Sometimes I wake up to Voice Notes or videos of him busy with his plantations. I send a Sawubona then exit.

Me: "God why am I so horny?"

I clamped my thighs together thinking it might be better but it caused pressure to my Clitoris which just fueled my arousal. I got off the bed, I had to bath maybe it was gonna make it better. My phone rings, I smile because I knew who it was.

Me: "Andile."

Andile: "Ndoni YaManzi, wavuka ukahle? (You're up early? Are you okay?)"

God why didn't you give me him as a baby daddy instead?

Me: "I was thinking about you."

Actually dreaming about you, but it's not like I would say such to him. He chuckled.

Andile: "Do you want me to come see you?"

Me: "Yes! I mean yes. I'd love that."

Andile : "Give me an hour."

Well that gave me enough time to bath, clean and cook porridge for my mother who was already away. Drunkards

really don't sleep, and she had to sign for deliveries. In over an hour Andile was already waiting for me, I felt like a child that could hop all the way to his car. I smiled getting inside. He had a Cadbury Top Deck chocolate, my new favorite.

Andile:"Are you good?"

Me:"Yes I'm good, can we go somewhere else? I'm sure people already know us and they'll definitely talk."

Andile:"I can show you my house or we can go to the beach."

Me:"Your house will do."

He looked taken but he still drove off. A sudden pain struck my lower abdomen. I screamed shocked.

Andile : "Are you okay?"

It struck again, I hissed rubbing my abdomen.

Me:"I don't know, it hurts."

Andile:"Hold on we're driving to the hospital."

I haven't been thinking about labor because it was way too early, but now that this is happening. I started to worry, a great deal.

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ZIZIPHO

I cried, screamed, meditated. Basically I was a ball of a thousand of emotions simultaneously. We finally arrived at the hospital and I was told I'll go to early birth. They told me the baby will be fine, they'll be put under intensive care to make sure the baby survives. I walked up and down clapping my hands to calm the baby, that was the only time by water broke. I screamed in agony, my back felt as though it was lit with fire.

Me:"Cela nikiphe leNgane! (Please take out this baby!)"

I begged bending forward, gripping the bed too tight. I hopped on the bed and punched it. The lady who was attending to me finally came and instructed me to lay on my back. She inserted her fingers inside my vagina, then screamed for assistance.

They closed the curtains while I laid there crying for dear life. After pushing and pushing, I felt something force its way out of my vagina. I screamed feeling it stretch me even further.

Nurse:"Jesus Christ."

The nurse exclaimed, I looked up weakly. This has to be one lively dream, my baby was slipping between her fingers..

She couldn't believe what she was seeing with her eyes.

....

In Durban...

Masuku wiped the sweat of his forehead as he ran on the sand, for the first few weeks he thought his joints would break. He had never experienced such pain and pleasure. Jogging was such a great activity and he was growing fonder of it each passing day. Besides keeping fit, he was finally level minded. No matter how angry he got, he could keep it together.

His phone rang, he pulled it out from his sweat pants.

Masuku:"Yebo."

Caller:"The girl is now dating the Hadebe boy, she recently left for home."

Masuku:"I need you to first watch her closely. Make sure you don't have anyone around you, find out who ordered a hit for my child between her and her father."

Caller:"Sure I'll do just that."

Masuku:"Is that the only information you have for me?"

Caller : "They have 4 new Taxis, I've searched their purchase papers but they don't check out. It's like they were just dropped off and it happen over a month after yours were stolen."

Masuku scoffed with a huge grin on his face.

Masuku:"Then it's obvious they know where the rest of my Taxis are, we'll take all their shit Taxis once I'm done with their so called King and Princess."

Caller : "I'll keep you updated boss."

Masuku hung up and smiled, he's finally gonna make someone pay for the rock bottom he hit after the death of his little girl. He sped up punching the air as if he was a boxer.

NGWEKAZI

I felt so suffocated with all 3 mothers in one room, they were all staring at me waiting for an explanation of some sort.

MaDzanibe:"You didn't tell us you're engaged Minxi."

I looked down, oh that's what this is about. I looked up as fast as I looked down. Me:"How did you find out?"

MaManci:"Don't you know your in laws, they're currently with your father's asking for a date to come negotiate. They should have sent a written letter instead."

MaNdlangisa:"Who are these people anyway?"

Me : "Can we wait for the meeting to be over instead?"

I'm certain panic was written all over my face, I really shouldn't have went to Durban. I should have listened to my father, I'd

probably be in Port Elizabeth being called Bhabha every where I turned to by Xhosa man. Now how do I explain this?

MaNdlangisa:"No I'm sure you know who would come here for such, now tell us."

Me:"I promise tata can explain better."

I wasn't throwing him in the mud but I knew if I were to open my mouth I'd throw my self in cement while trying to get myself out of the mud I'm in.

One of the kids knocks on my room requesting us to go to the Throne room. I jump up first, they all look at me as if I'm naked. My father is on his chair alone, it seems as if my in laws have left. Which is good because the drama that's about to happen isn't one I want them to witness. Lunzulu, Ayine and Zanoxolo follow after us. Mdeyamas eyes are fixed on me, I looked sideways.

Mdeyama:"The people who were belong to the Hadebe family, they're from Durban." He's silent for a second. "They're the same people who killed 2 people in this family. They were here to ask for Ngwekazis hand in marriage."

Gasps and Yhos! Echoe the entire room, I wanted to cry so bad. It's a good time to tell them about my pregnancy, so the shock can happen then we can deal with the next step tomorrow.

MaManci:" Ngwekazi. "

Her voice breaks, she was one of the few that were okay with me leaving. And I know she's heart broken because she gave birth to me.

MaNdlangisa:"Andivanga kahle mna tata(I didn't hear you clearly tata)"

Mdeyama:"Ngwekazi has been fed some poison by that boy, I want you to tell me what I should do with her. Zamisa is on the way with some herbs, I'm sure we'll clean her system from whatever shit she's been fed."

Did he say shit? This is far more serious that I thought.

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NGWEKAZI

Me:"Tata?"

He looked at me, cocked eyebrow and flared nose.

Mdeyama:"Nkosazana."

Me : "Why would you think I was bewitched?"

Mdeyama:"Do you want me to remind you of what happened in Durban?"

I scoffed which seemed to fuel his anger.

Me:"Tata I know a lot has happened, and I know that this is a big deal because it's not what you had in mind for me. I love you all very much, I'd never do anything that would put my family's life in danger. Mdeyama, I'm certain you'd love to have peace with the Zulus. It can't be easy knowing there can be a war at any time should you step on their toes. Besides that, the love I have for Zenzele is not enhanced by some dark magic or anything like that . I love him, and funny enough I've loved him for a very long time but I just didn't wanna accept that that I love him. And me loving him doesn't mean I've forgotten our

arrangement, you're my father. I'll always be more loyal to you than I can be to any man out there."

He shifted on his seat as if moved by my speech, it wasn't really a speech but me expressing myself.

Mdeyama : " I'll cleanse you anyway, I don't want any Hadebe spirits roaming around. "

MaManci: " You're gonna allow her to marry into that family, they'll kill her. "

MaDzanibe looks ready to cry, I don't blame her. Her son did die because of the family I'm marrying into..

Me: "If it helps in any way, Zenzele has never been part of the business. He actually warned me about the shooting that took place here at home. "

MaNdlangisa: "It doesn't matter, you're betraying the family. "

Lunzulu: "Can I say something?" he raised his hand, they all look at him obviously granting him permission. "Let's let Ngwekazi do whatever it is she wants to do with that family. The more we fight it the more she'll fight us

if she believes it's true love then we'll let her be. If it's not then she'll not last, she's royal blood I doubt they can play with her like that. For peace sake let's let them be. "

My eyes welled, I wanted to jump and hug him like a lunatic but this is a serious room. Being in it is heavy. My father was

pinching his lower lip definitely thinking deeply about this entire case

Mdeyama:" It's probably why Zamisa called you here, the negotiations will be this coming Saturday. You should ask for your leave to be extended because they might leave with you."

There's also that? I sucked at being in the kitchen, I can cook for my stomach. My family also eats my food because they love me, otherwise I don't see myself fit. Maybe they should give me gun and ask me to shoot at something instead. Not that I argued with them. I'm just happy that this will happen, I'll finally marry the love of my life.

.....

ZIZIPHO

How can a mere human beings skin be as soft as melted plastic, it looked as though she was melting. I sat up right watching them struggle to put her down. They finally did, I've never seen such horror in people's eyes. One of them had a phone

out recording the scene while the other 2 looked at my baby stunned. I could hardly make out what was happening with the body.

Me:"What is that thing?"

One of them looked at me.

Nurse:"We've never seen anything like this before."

Me:"Why does my baby look like that?"

Nurse:"Sedate her, we have to check her inside to see if there aren't any parts left."

Me:"Please explain to me."

I begged feeling weak, one of them injected me. The last thing I saw was what was supposed to be my baby.

When I finally gained conscious, all that took place hit me very hard. I opened my eyes to my mother standing besides me with a baby bag and teary eyes.

Me:"Mama."

Ma:"I'm sorry ngane yam."

Me:"I don't know what I saw mama. Maybe they froze him or manage to put him back together, don't you think?"

She shook her head looking down.

Me:"I need to know who my father is ma, can't you see what's happening?"

Ma:"I'll look for him first , hopefully he is still alive."

NGWEKAZI

Sometimes people refuse to things for you because they're afraid of the outcomes, or maybe they don't want to let go. A part of me feels like my family just agreed because they knew I would leave home and not look back. It's a perspective of me I was certain. Apart from it all I was glad they made sure the negotiations turned out well. I was a Hadebe wife, all they needed was for me to do a few wifely duties then be introduced to the ancestors. Unfortunately I had very limited time with them because my leave was almost over, my heart was beating very fast as I sat in the car with Qobos 2 daughters. Nolizwe and Zusiphe.

Zu:"Stop breathing so fast you'll faint."

I rolled my eyes.

Me:"This is so nerve wrecking because they don't like me I know."

Noli:"And their home is huge, see the number of people. How will you even cook for them?"

Zu:"They shouldn't be making you do this, you're a princess."

Me:"In Eastern Cape baby girl."

Noli: "Jesus Christ are those twins? I wouldn't mind being played by those two."

The Giqwa family is very vocal, we're all loudmouths. I fail to understand how we cope with each other at times because apparently only opposites attracts. This was a miracle on its own. I heard that Zusiphes boyfriend has been trying to Lobolo but Qobos daughter doesn't come cheap, so the guy is working his butt off to make sure he has all the money for the princess. Nolizwi does voluntary work in the clinic, lucky for her she's family so she gets paid for handing out pills. She's lazy and aspires to be a house wife.

Our family is singing loudly while I'm under a gazebo held by guys from our area. As much as I'll probably be burnt by fire here, I had to make a grand entrance. My Umbhaco is red and black in color, the front is just above my feet. They made a beautiful tail that attaches from my shoulders then slides like a meter behind if not 5. Noli tries to look outside the gazebo again but someone pushes her back. Finally I'm glad they caught her, she looked all embarrassed. This was supposed to be not this big but what can I say? Did I mention Jamaica said she'll come with to help? Yeah well she's under the gazebo ready to be uKotana as well. The song from inside the Zulu premises becomes even louder the closer they get. We're just waiting to be welcomed in, a smile creeps on my face as my

Zulu man comes into view with his brothers besides him. They wanted nothing to do with the negotiations but they did agree to the wedding, I have been praying they didn't poison the food.

Noli:"Lord God."

Zu:"Mhhhm fara why didn't you tell me Zulus are so well built."

I ignore them staring at my man, I just wanted the ceremony to be over so that I can run my hands on those abs. His thighs tighten with every step he takes, my vagina throbs even more. Did he stay indoors, the negotiations were just a month ago. And I saw him 2 weeks back, he didn't look this hot. I breathe heavily as they closer, he hit the stick he had on his shield staring directly at me singing with a tiny smile on his lips.

I stepped forward as he approached, I didn't know what their protocol was. I just wanted to get at least a kiss or feel his skin against mine.

Zen:"Ndoni Yamanzi, Ntombi emnyama ngathi ilanga lishona. Umuhle okweDayimani elimnyama. Giqwa

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Jikijwa, Mvaba, Meqo, Ncundwana, Nkosana, Mdeyama, Xhe, Bhaxa, Qhrama, Nonesi, Qobo, Ntshinga ayikhwazwa ikhwazwa ngabayaziyo."

Did I not die? Last I checked he only knew that I was Mdeyama and Qobo because I told him my grandfather named his children after their great great fathers, they used clan names. I tear fell of my eyes, he recited even the ones I forget.

Zen:" Ngiyazi thanda izithakazelo zakho mama ngoba zangi lethela wena(I love your clan names because they brought me you)"

He whistles, the Zulus do the same. My father and brother must be so annoyed right now, I quickly sent the thought to the back of my head.

Zen:" Ngidinga okukodwa kuwena, wegqe lomugqa(I need one thing from you, jump this line) "

He draws a line on the ground and I laugh. Whoever has my phone better be recording and posting this on my statuses on all my networks.

Zen:"Wegqa ke usuwu Mthimkhulu, Bhungane, mashiya amahle ngathi awe nyamazane, Mahlub ikazi, Ngele ngele.

43

NGWEKAZI

There was no way I wasn't gonna jump the line, Zenzele looked at me in disbelief. Like he didn't know I would jump.

Zen:"If I were to go to hell, at least I know I had spent my life with an angel."

I smiled hooking his hand on mine. Both our families sang in unison as we headed to the tent.

Me:"Who did the deco?"

Zen:"Uluthando, she's the only one who actually did something."

Me:"It's look amazing."

This was one hell of a fancy tent with air conditioners, everyone had a table of their own accommodating 10 people. Then the family sat in front of us, the stage was high and located in the middle. In front of us was a space large enough to accommodate whoever was gonna perform. She outdid herself, not to mention how she mixed both Zulu and Xhosa themes on the tables. I wonder if she does this for a living, with the number of people on my Instagram she might score herself a few gigs. So I had asked Ayine to be the program director and he was happy to do so, hopefully he doesn't throw any of his

horny innuendos towards Jamaica. She always turns into a marshmallow around my brother and he loves every second of it, I just hope they haven't had sex. That's disgusting.

Ayine:"Good morning everyone, it's such an exciting moment for me seeing the Princess of Xhosa marrying this young man right here. It's been a rough journey for them. And now that we've opened in prayer, the first item is from the husband to their wife. A very special surprise that is."

He sat down on his chair while I looked at Zen who smiled with his eyebrow cocked, the sound of a guitar filled the entire tent and a few ladies screamed while the guys whistled.

- Kukhal' is'ginci sakh' enhlizwen' yami

Um' usumamatheka ngivele ng'zule

Ndibon' ubuhle bakho

Ikhanda l'zule

Kodwa k'vele kuthi "hu"

Uma ng'cabanga ng'thand' intomb' entle kangaka. "

I looked at Zenzele as Mduduzi got closer to us and climbed the podium.

Me:" Zenzele. "

Mduduzi:" Sendicabangile

Bona ngiyosebenza

Wangenz' umuntu

Ungibona mna nd'yak'thanda

Wangenz' umuntu

Ungibona mna nd'yak'thanda "

I palmed my mouth crying, Zusiphe passes me a tissue. I could feel Zenzeles eyes on me as Mduduzi sang so beautifully looking at us both.

Mduduzi:" Congratulations Mr and Mrs Hadebe, I love the love you two have for each other. If anything this is the kind of love this song portrays."

Everyone sang as he joined them on the the table with the people who were accompanying.

Zen : "You are my heart."

He said teary, I gasped trying to stop my own tears. He pulled me to his chest, I smiled as Ayine pouted playfully.

Ayine:"I don't even know who fed who love potion here because the two of you seem to be crazy in love. Anyways another round of a applause to Mduduzi, at least we'll say we saw a celebrity face to face."

Everyone chuckled.

Ayine:"Anyway now we're gonna ask the first parent from my sisters side to come to forward, and that will be King Mdeyama Giqwa because his wives will fight over who goes first so we chose to let him speak. Clap your hand for my dad please."

Guys my father is a very very intimidating man, he oozes with power from the way he walks. His cane swung to the front swiftly then he finally stood in front of the mic. He looked at me and smiled beautifully.

Mdeyama:" Mntanam I know you know that I didn't wanna be here. I'm not gonna lie in front of God and everyone here. I didn't like my son in law I still don't

but I love my daughter more than anything. Seeing her happy makes me very happy, and I can see just how this young man makes my daughter happy. Now I'm not worried about my daughter at all, if anything I'm happy she's the woman she is. I'm sure Ngwekazi will never be abused or used, my daughter is a born fighter. If you beat her once, she'll do it twice. Ask your MC he knows, he has received his own beatings. "

We all laughed.

Me : " Not anymore tata, he's a big boy now."

I mock Ayine whose eyes widened in surprise.

Mdeyama:" Anyways Zenzele. Treat my daughter like the princess she is, she's your wife not your slave. Your other half,

when we say other half we mean you do half the chores so does she. You're the man and I'm sure she respects that, but Ngwekazi is a princess who deserves to be treated like one. I expect to find my daughter with her make up intact and nails long because at your house there'll be a dish washer and laundry machine, both washer and dryer. I know she's respectful so I'm not gonna be worried. Minxi I love you sthandwa sam, and your home will always be home should you feel the need to go back. Also. "

Bang! I closed my eyes at the sound, matter of fact I blinked. When I opened them Ayine was running to my father who seemed to be falling down in slow-motion.

....

ZIZIPHO

I didn't blame my mother for watching the show she was watching, a Xhosa Princess was getting married to a Zulu guy. It was like something from the movie.

Me: "Wow this is love."

Ma: "Mhmm."

I rolled my eyes bored, she's been acting weird since I got back. I kind of got jealous when the King spoke, it wasn't a speech

because he had no piece of paper in his hand. It was all from the heart, he really loved her daughter. Something I would have

loved to have but can now wish for my future daughter. He wasn't done with his speech when a bullet flew through his chest.

Me: "Hawe ma."

My mother screamed almost rolling with the couch, was this still a reality show the cameras moved to the people I guess for the Kings protection.

Me: "What just happened?"

I looked at my mother who was gasping with tears flowing down her cheeks, it was as if she was having an attack or something.

Me: "Ma."

Ma: "Yo..your.... Father."

Me: "Huh."

She lifted her finger pointing at the TV.

Ma: "Shot."

She was whizzing painfully, that was a concern but what the hell did she just say to me?

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Mara this page deserves a couple of shares don't you think?

44

NGWEKAZI

What could I have possibly done to God for him to burden me with such pain? I knew my father wasn't going to live forever, and they do say you live by the sword you die by the sword.

That part I really understand, but I fail to understand how did God just decide that it'll be on the most important day of my life, when he's speaking beautiful words to me. How did he come to that conclusion?

I sat flat down looking at him dead, he decided to wear a suit for some reason, a white shirt and a white blazer with a black collar. He looked really good but now he had blood all over him and he was priceless. At that moment it felt as if I was the only one feeling the pain of my father's death, like my numerous siblings weren't being held back by the guards, like MaDzanibe didn't faint at the sight of his husband, like MaManci wasn't hushing MaNdlangisa while she was also breaking to pieces.

I crawled to his cold body that Ayine was tightly clinging too but Lunzulus strong arms held me back.

Lunzulu:"Ngwekazi look at me baby girl."

Me:"I just want my dad."

Lunzulu:"Please don't do this to yourself."

I looked at him, I could see him shatter at my stare. He probably felt sorry for me, like everyone else in this room.

The Police arrived before the forensics and asked that we clear the crime scene. That's what my wedding turned to, a crime scene.

I was sitting outside with Jamaica and my sisters consoling me. Uluthando gave me a glass of water, I had stopped crying but the tears flowed time from time to time.

Me:"Where's Zenzele?"

Ulu:"He left with his brothers and guards, they're gonna find the person who did it."

As much as part of me wanted to say it's time I didn't wanna say anything I might regret, if it was them. I was gonna find out and kill them include the one I'm marrying into.

Zu:" Can you show us her room, so she can wear something else?"

Ulu:" Yeah I'll give her my trackside cause I doubt she brought any pants."

Zu:"That would do."

Me : "I don't wanna be here."

Noli:"Dress up, then we'll go."

. MaManci knocked on the slightly opened door then walked in.

She looked at me hee only daughter, the only thing that tied her to Mdeyama with sad eyes. I kne

MaManci:"We'll head home, Qobo will make sure that they deliver the body. We have to deliver the sad news to the village, although I'm certain they're aware already."

Me:"We'll bury my father when we've found the people who murdered him."

MaManci:"We're all angry and sad ntombi, but right now we should be mourning. We'll do what we need to do after the funeral."

I nodded zipping the jacket.

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ZIZIPHO

I poured water on my mother's face but she kept still

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she was still breathing which meant she was alive. I called Andile but her line was busy, then I screamed. One of the neighbors brought his car so we can drive her to the hospital. All the she sayed came back to my mind, if Langa was still

around she was gonna go over the internet searching for whoever my mother said to be my father. I didn't even see the name I just had to search the show then take it from there.

Me:"Hi is my mother okay?"

The nurse who rushed to us gave me a tiny smile.

Nurse:"She suffered a stroke but she will live, they're still making sure that everything is fine then we'll take it from there. She will be fine, don't worry."

I nodded, I didn't even bring money to go back home. With Andile being unavailable I have to wait for him to communicate.

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Inside The Hadebes Taxi

Zobuhle rubbed Aces shoulder comforting him, he has been frowning the whole trip. Only he and God knew what he had in

mind, with the vein on his forehead and clenched jaw it wasn't sweet. Zo smiled at that, it showed his brother wasn't a sissy after all. As for her she was always where her brothers are, she was the only woman in that Taxi. And not forgetting the reason one of the hitman were found, to her it wasn't just about helping her in laws but having them owe her family a favor was good enough. Regardless of them being in the same Taxi, she's the one that found the culprit.

Although Lonzulu was certain that she might have a hand in this, I mean it didn't make sense how easy it was to find her.

Gatsha:"We call her the Sniffer."

He said breaking Lonzulu and Zanos thought. They looked at him confused.

Gatsha:"My sister, if there's anything she's good at finding. It has to be a hitman, it's like she studied them."

Zano:"As in this isn't the first time?"

Gatsha: "Nope, some powerful families have asked for her help. She turns down some but help some, it's a dangerous job but she's a danger magnet. I don't know how she does it, she has always been a weirdo but she's worse as she grows."

Zo:"I can here you Gatsha, you know that right?"

Gatsha:"See, she sniffs."

He chuckled but the brothers just stared at him with a straight face. They had just lost their father, not forgetting that the guy they have under their seats was sent by someone. Their minds were filled with ways to make him talk.

45

The Hadebes offered their slaughter room to the Giqwa brothers. It was located far away from their homestead, crossing the border with a human being wasn't a good idea anyways..

Gatsha:"Do you think we should give them space?"

MP:"No we must know what we're dealing with."

Gatsha nodded standing far from the culprit. Zanoxolo joined them, he had to make sure no one was doing anything that might implicate them in future. Although his brother said the place looked like a human slaughter house with no cameras, he had to make sure.

Lunzulu cut the guys pants off including his underwears. His manhood was entirely exposed with the angle of the chair, Lunzulu fixed his gloves as Ayine splashed water on the guys face. He coughed with wide eyes, if he wasn't tied he was gonna jump up but he just couldn't.

Gatsha rubbed his upper lip staring closely as Lunzulu took a knife.

Lunzulu:"Hi I'm the son of the man you just killed, I'm gonna hurt you badly. But if you decide to tell me what I want, I will hurt you a little okay?"

The guy stared at him with a look of anger, you could see he was a hired hitman. If he had a chance he would've killed them, he craved blood. He looked at his exposed parts and panicked, he had been tortured before but no one has ever touched his dick. He didn't even understand why he was so hard.

Hitman:"Are you gay?"

Lunzulu:"Why? You wanna fuck?"

He smirked clearly provoking the guy who was trying to provoke him.

Hitman : "I don't have answers for you."

Lunzuly:"Who sent you to kill my dad?"

He pushed his dick aside with his boot then stepped on his balls earning a groan from him. Gatsha and MP shifted uncomfortably.

Hitman:"No one sent me."

Lunzulu:"If that's how you wanna play it."

He grabbed his penis with one hand grazing the knife through the top part roughly. The hitman gritted his teeth in pain.

Lunzulu:"I haven't started. Don't cry yet."

Just below the head he slowly started cutting it.

Lunzulu:"The nice thing is that we gave you horse pills, right now you're horny. You don't want to be but you are, you shouldn't be horny but it's happening because the mind is weaker than science. It can be manipulated. Now since you're horny, it's making it easy for me to cut through each and every vein your dick has. You won't die but it's gonna hurt like shit. "

The hitman started breathing heavily as blood jumped out of his dick, he was in pain and taking it like a man wasn't working. Masuku was probably enjoying expensive food with alcohol at the comfort of his home while he was having his dick cut

loyalty is shit when you're not being rich like the person you're helping.

Hitman:"I'll talk! "

He screamed but Lunzulu didn't stop.

Lunzulu : "Yes."

Hitman : "It was Masuku."

He stopped cutting and turned to look at Gatsha and Maphikela who looked super surprised.

Ayine:"Any chance you know who that is?"

Gatsha:"We actually do. He was a chairman at the rank but he couldn't keep it together after his daughter died."

Lunzulu : "What is his relation with us"

Gatsha shrugged, he couldn't sell Ace out. He was gonna have to tell them himself should it come to that.

Ayine:"Any chance that one of you is carrying a gun?"

MP took it out and gave it to Ayine who cocked an eyebrow.

MP:"I'm a Taxi driver."

Ayine smiled then turned aiming at the hitman.

Hitman:"I thought you were gonna spare my life."

Ayine:"No, we just said you won't hurt that much."

he aimed at his head getting a shot that went right through his head, he went behind him picking up the bullet then the cases. He handed the gun back to MP.

Ayine:"I'll bury this with my dad, you'll be at the funeral right?"

Gatsha:" Sure yeah, why not? "

Ayine:" Okay, I don't know what to do with his body."

Linzulu:" I know."

They all looked at him.

.....

At The Masukus

Masuku watched the news again with his wife sitting besides him, he turned around and smiled kissing her lips.

MaMkhize:" Thank you for doing this baba, at least that family will know not to mess with us. "

Masuku:"Yes I just haven't heard from our hitmen, it's been 12 hours already."

MaMkhize:"And we should go to bed it's late. Those guys will reach out to you when it's possible, their lives are tricky you know that."

She stood up fixing her gown, Masuku smiled turning off the TV. He followed her to the bedroom. He just wanted to be buried between her legs as some form of celebration.

The next morning they were woken up by a persistent door bell, Masuku went to the main door and opened only to find nothing. How did they even get inside the house? He looked down at the gift box set at the door step. He knew it's not a

gift. He slowly opened the box wondering if it was a bomb. He widened his eyes on the head and a penis that were in there.

"Coming for your everything dick head."

He gagged disgusted, it wasn't the head that was the problem. But the thought of them cutting a person's penis just didn't settle well with him.

MaMkhize:"Everything okay?"

Masuku:"They killed one of my hitmen and this is something I don't want you to see."

He closed the box calling his Nyanga, he had to strengthen himself.

46

ZIZIPHO

Andile:"What's on your mind?"

I shrugged staring into space.

Me:"I don't know, I just can't seem to get everything in my life in order.

Andile:"Most people need ceremonies when they've been experiencing something like you have."

I looked at him, I wish he was there to witness what happened the last time I attempted to get rid of bad luck in my life. I got tricked.

Me : "My mother doesn't seem to be the one who can help me, I need my father."

Andile: "Then why don't you go see his family?"

I shook my head.

Me: "Not without my mother, I mean maybe ma wasn't even sure. The man is dead, he won't even be able to speak for himself let alone defend himself if my mother is lying. I am not ready for such humiliation."

He nodded pulling me closer, he wanted sex by the looks of things. I have been starving him a lot since my mother went to

the hospital. I haven't even allowed him to kiss me yet I stay at his house. I allow him to caress my boobs while kissing my neck, with how he isn't rushing I can tell he wants me to be super aroused and not turn him down. If only he knew I wasn't gonna do it anyways.

After a long time I finally had him inside me, panting and gritting his teeth while groaning. He seemed to be enjoying it more than usual.

Andile:"Mhm uyenzi inkomo yam yamnandi kanje? (What did you do to my pussy for it to be this good?)"

I moaned not knowing what to say, I'm not the one who talks when we have sex he always does.

Soon after he ejaculated I started experiencing hectic abdominal pains. They reminded me of the time I was giving birth.

Me:" I need to go home for a while, reopen the shebeen and hire a person."

Andile:"would you mind if I fetch you once you lock up. I love having you here and so does my dick."

I faked a chuckle, I kept feeling so uneasy like I heard bad news.

Me : "You know that sometimes I might lock up late especially on weekends."

Andile:"I do cause drunkards don't wanna go home,which is part of the reasons why I must pick you up. To make sure they do."

I nodded, he was gonna convince me till I say yes anyways.

Me:"It's fine, let me get ready."

I boiled water then bathed quickly. I found my house dead quiet. I needed to call my brother, maybe he was gonna help me feel better.

His phone rang unanswered, I tried again after a few minutes. He finally picked up there was commotion and crying in the background.

Me : "Bhuti."

"Hello sisi we've been involved in an accident, your brother just left with the ambulance."

Me: "Wh..which hospital?"

"Stanger Hospital KwaDukuza. I'm heading there as well cause he collided with my husband."

I pinched my nose bridge.

Me : "Okay thank you."

I took some money from moms secret place

I have been flat broke for as long as I remember. With the business down, my home was soon gonna become something I didn't know. With tears streaming down my face I managed to write a post for a job, I'm certain the packer found another job because I have been ignoring his calls. And mom was the cashier. So I needed 2 people, hopefully I'll find them soon.

The taxi seemed to be slower than I needed it to be, these people are always fast just not when I needed them to.

I called my brothers phone again and the lady answered again, I found her with puffy eyes. The woman was shivering.

Me:"Hi I'm Zizipho."

She bent down crying hysterically, she looked at me and tried covering her mouth with her shaky hands.

Her:"It was so horrible. I don't know how I survived."

Me:"Are they okay?"

She shook her head grabbing my hand. She grabbed a nurse who was passing by.

Her:"You're the one who helped me right?"

The nurse shook her head and pointed at another nurse. The lady jogged with me suite behind her, it didn't matter that I couldn't run to save my life at that moment.

Nurse:"Mrs Mkhwanazi."

Her:"This is the patients relative, I panicked during the accident and took her brothers phone."

Nurse : "You did good thank you, uhm what's your relation with the gentleman."

Me:"He's my brother."

Nurse : "Is there maybe an older person who can come here?" I shook my head wiping my tears.

Me:"Just tell me what's going on, he's the only person I have."
She sighed exhaling.

Nurse:"Uhm it's the Doctor who will talk to you, let me see if I can find him. Can you wait?"

Me:"I can't is he dead?"

She kept quiet for a good 5
seconds. Nurse : "Let me get the
Doctor." Me:"He's dead isn't he?"

She looked down and nodded slowly.

Me:"Okay you can call the Doctor."

At that moment I didn't know if I should feel anything, what was I supposed to do? I mean when God created what did he have in mind for me. Pain after pain after pain, I literally had no one in my life. Nothing at all, I felt disappointed more than anything. At God at most, he has decided to take so much more from me I wouldn't mind if he'd take me as well. I stood

up and went out to get some air, I kept walking and walking. I could hear sounds but they weren't audible enough to decipher. I heard the faint music banging from a car the very same car screeched its tires. I felt my body hit the ground then roll, the heat radiated from my entire body. I closed my eyes as pain became too much to bare, not the pain from what had possibly happened but the pain of what I call my life.

47

At The Royal Home

The brothers stayed decent for the duration of the week while awaiting the funeral, it wasn't easy. Especially now that they knew who was responsible.

The most painful part of it all was the body viewing, seeing him lying there cold and absolutely still. That wasn't the Mdeyama they knew, that person lying there was a vessel of a soul they once so loved. No one hurted more than the other although they grieved differently, they all lost someone they loved. Zenzele longed to see Ngwekazi, let alone to touch her. Yes she was in mourning but they were married now, they haven't gone to home affairs to officiate but the ancestors knew her as their own.

As the in laws they didn't seat far from the front, Zenzele was led by the helpers to the seat next to Ngwekazi. He was her

husband so he had to have a designated seat, his brothers were right behind the family alongside other in laws from Ngwekazi's brothers that stay far from home. He gritted his teeth staring at the love of his life crying uncontrollably, he couldn't understand the pain she felt. Ngwekazi was her father's girl, the apple of his eye. This lady loved no man more than she loved her father. He wanted to know what was going on in her mind, what was she thinking? What did she need him to do? He touched his hand

hoping he doesn't retract it, she let him be even though she didn't return the gesture which Zen didn't even mind.

Ngwekazi blamed herself dearly, if she didn't marry to the family her father resented she was gonna be no wedding, if it wasn't a wedding, her father would still be alive. Even if he was to die the same way, at least it wouldn't have been at the day that was supposed to be the most important and happiest in her life.

All she craved to do was to stick a fork in whoever murdered her father, pull it out then stick it up the ass and force them to eat shit. She was gonna do it. The relevant people spoke while Ngwekazi turned to Zenzele.

Ngwekazi: "Who killed my father?"

His eyes widened, this just wasn't the time.

Zen:"Baby can we do this after the funeral?"

He couldn't just say he didn't, especially because her eyes were so hypnotized. He tried but he didn't win.

Ngwekazi:"Tell me now, I know you know. Unless you want the cold shoulder like some people in this family."

Zen:"It was Masuku. A Taxi owner from Durban, he was the chairman of the association."

She frowned confused, her father never mentioned a Masuku.

His only rival was the Hadebes.

Ngwekazi:"How does he know my dad?"

Zen:"I don't know, I just know it was him."

He was shaking in his boots, but he had no choice but to cover up. If she were to find out that her father died because of his affair with Kuhle. She would lose her.

Ngwekazi:"Once this whole thing is done

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I'll find him."

Hopefully by then Ace would have already found him.

After the funeral he gathered with his brothers who were already leaving.

Zen:"MP can you do me a favor."

MP:"Yes."

Zen:"Please find Masuku before the Giqwas do, otherwise I'll die."

Bhungane folded his arms staring at him.

Ulu:"You know they'll probably kill you right? I'm sure having us here wasn't easy now this?"

Zen:"I know my flaws, let's not dwell on them I just need you to help me out on this one. I can even pay you."

Zo:"Where do you get money? Last time I checked we had cut you off."

Gatsha:"You thought he'd be broke, a guy who knows computers and every new shit out there. If he isn't using our money I'd be surprised."

Zenzele looked at him with a bored look.

Zen:"I was doing research on human behavior, feelings to be precise. So I got paid and once the textbook is out I'll be richer. Can we terminate this conversation now? I need to see my wife."

Gatsha chuckled.

Gatsha:"We'll see you around brother."

They shoulder bumped him while the ladies hugged him.

Inside the house Ngwekazi threw herself inside Ayines room and punched him on the face.

Ayine:"What the?"

Ngwekazi:"You hid relevant information to me? About my dad."

Ayine:"Ngwekazi you're pregnant, we just buried uTata for Gods sake I don't want bad luck."

Ngwekazi:"Don't worry he'll understand, he's the one who taught me. So you sided with strangers now?"

Ayine:"Not but we decided as brothers to keep it between us."

She scoffed shaking her head, this is what Ayine feared. The rage she had.

Ngwekazi:"Unbelievable! You trust them now? Is that it?"

Ayine:"No we have everything under control, we just didn't want to do things while awaiting Mdeyamas burial Minxi."

She wasn't coming down, even the pet name wasn't working.

Ngwekazi:"Listen, by the end of tomorrow that man better be held captive alongside his family. Including insects, okay?"

Ayine:"Haibo Ngwekazi."

Ngwekazi:"Ndithe Okay!!"

Ayine:"Sure yhu."

She smiled walking out.

....

ZIZIPHO

I had to go back home and work, once my brothers body is delivered I'll have to make sure that the household doesn't fall apart. I kept my head high and made all the arrangements I needed to make, luckily he had his policies that the younger baby mama knew about. So she was also home helping around a lot. I looked at her smiling.

Ziningi:"What?"

Me:"You would have been an amazing sister in law, I'm happy you have a child with him. That means I won't lose you at any point in time."

She smiled remorsefully and full of pity. I knew she was worried about all the bad that was happening to me, but I was immune to the pain I mean there was nothing else I could change or do except to cry. And crying isn't for me, my phone rang. It was my

mother's hospital, I hope they didn't bare bad news. That would be the nail to my already nailed coffin.

Me:"Hello Mrs Mbatha."

Caller : "Miss Masinga I'm calling with regards to Nokuthula Masinga."

Me:"Is everything okay?"

Caller : "Yes, your mother is awake but her situation isn't changing. You know government hospitals cater for everyone.

So that means you should come take her, we don't have space for her anymore."

I palmed my forehead, yes I was gonna die of either migraines or a stroke or something along those lines.

Me:" Does it have to be today? "

Caller : " No tomorrow is fine. "

Me:" Thanks that means a lot to me. "

She hung up I held onto the table feeling weak.

Ziningi:"Are you okay?"

Me:"Tomorrow I have to fetch my mother from the hospital will you be able to handle the arrangements?"

Ziningi:"Yes don't worry I will."

Me:"Thanks."

Commotion from outside, I took a sjambok and ran to the front. A face I've seen in my mother's pictures was screaming at my source of income.

Me:"Yey! Don't shout!"

She stopped and looked at me.

Her : "Wakhula Zizipho(You've grown)"

Me:"Can I help you?"

Her:"You don't remember your aunt, I heard above my nephew from my neighbors. Why are people drinking while we're mourning?"

Me:"We are, they're not. Please don't disturb my customers. Ignore this lady!"

With what And life has thrown at me, I didn't owe no one any respect. Especially strangers.

48

Zizipho

The biggest mistake I made was disrespecting my aunt, now she was sitting on the couch folding her arms like a baby who

just got scolded. It bored me to death because I wasn't even going to apologize, there was a lot happening in my mind.

Aunt:"Wee Zipho."

I rolled my eyes before going to her.

Me:"Aunty."

Aunty:"Where's my sister?"

Me:"She fell sick she's in hospital."

She faked a scream, so unnecessary.

Aunty:"What bad luck has clouded this family? You do know that you're next? In whatever is happening, it's gonna come for you."

I sighed, she was annoying me.

Me ::"What do you mean?"

Aunty:"You are bewitched, don't worry I know a good Sangoma in Port Shepston. He cleansed me because I didn't last in relationships now I'm married, he will cleanse the darkness off of you."

I folded my arms.

Me:"Oh so you trust him?"

Aunty : "I'm married, to the counselor. Don't judge me based on my appearance I'm very mina ngane ka sisi. Don't worry, he's the best. He will tell you your problems and solve them."

Me: "Whatever."

I turned around, 2 people tried helping me already. The first one gave me a snake, the second one got rid of the snake but there's shit happening in my life. And if I'm not with Andile for a night or 2 he fucks me in my dreams. I know it's a demon, I just got tired I'm tired of seeking help and getting half of it.

The next morning Aunty was to prepare my mother's room while Ziningi went on with the funeral preparations. Andile called while I was on my way to the hospital.

Me: "Andile."

Andile: "Sthandwa sam unjani?"

Me: "I'm still breathing, although you haven't checked on me of late."

Andile: "I thought it'd be bad luck, where are you?"

Me: "In a Taxi to Stanger hospital."

Andile: "And you're gonna take another one back home?"

Me: "Yes they called for me yesterday, saying I should come get my mother cause the hospitals are full."

Andile : "I'll take you home

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please wait for me I'll meet you there soon."

Me: "Okay."

Andile: "I love you."

Me: "I love you too."

Seeing my mother in that state, helpless with no bottle of alcohol in her hand or her mouth open shouting at someone for something just confirmed the dark cloud I had over my head. It was getting heavier by the time. She had life in her but looked lifeless, the side of her face wasn't moving it was as though they injected her with something that killed that side. I wheeled her out after Andile told me that he was waiting for me outside. I did breathing exercises, I couldn't break down. I had gone though this week strong, I wasn't going to lose all that now.

Andile: "Hey let me help you."

Me: "Thank you for coming."

He smiled helping my mother inside the car, I sat besides him staring out the window. Thankfully he respected my silence and drove us. The house was filled with people who were there to eat our food and pretend that they feel our pain.

Aunty:" My God my poor sister, if she recovers from this I'll know that God is alive." I looked at her shocked.

Me:"What do you mean?"

Aunty:"Nothing, you'll misunderstand me. Forget I said anything." Me:"So does your Sangoma offer still stand?"

She smiled holding her hands staring at me like a child.

Aunty:"Everything will work out."

I smiled faintly. Let's hope she won't sacrifice me, I don't trust people with rich husbands.

NGWEKAZI

The tears have turned to nothing but hate, I was longing for vengeance so much I half forgot that I was carrying a life inside of me. My brothers have managed to find Masuku, they were gonna bring him here. I just wanted to get this over and done with. My brother threw himself inside my room.

Me:"Come in." I placed my father's picture back on my bedside.

Ayine:"Minxi I don't think you need to do this."

Me:"Why not?"

Ayine:"That guy is a lunatic, he said things that I don't know if I should tell you or not." Me:"But you'll tell me either way."

He wiped the corners of his mouth.

Ayine:"Your husband's ex, Kuhlekonke Masuku. Ring a bell?"

I nodded.

Ayine:"That's her father, we managed to get his wife then he sang like a nightingale. Apparently she shot through the car you and dad were in back when you ran off to Durban. But we got the wrong information and attacked the Hadebes. She was his lover, a very jealous one hence she wanted you dead. She couldn't take the rejection. A little while later she died. "

Me:" Now the father thinks we did it? That's why they killed uTata? "

Ayine:" Yes he mentioned that the 4 Taxis we have are his, so are the ones that the Hadebes have. He lost 10 taxis weeks after the whole thing happened. "

Me:" Where are the other 2?"

He shrugged.

Me:" The information you have is incomplete, who killed the girl? "

Ayine:" That's what we're trying to find. "

49

NGWEKAZI

We stood outside the shack staring at each other, I was vibrating with anger.

Lunzulu:"He's here now, what are you gonna do?"

I bit my finger nail.

Me:"There's a link, I'm trying to find it."

Lunzulu : "Like a mediator?"

I tilted my head sideways.

Me:"Something like that, I mean someone who would want us dead or someone who wanted to restore peace between the 2 families."

Lunzulu:"That would be you."

I laughed shaking my head.

Me:"Me? Well I wouldn't, I haven't killed anyone if I may say so myself well in a long time I haven't."

Lunzulu:"I'm telling you though , we've never wanted peace between us and the Hadebes. And I'm certain so did those light skinned boys."

I rolled my eyes at him.

Me:"No they wouldn't, my husband maybe but not them."

He looked at me like he was making me realize something.

Me:"No."

He shrugged.

Lunzulu : "From what I've seen, your husband would do anything to be with you. He's obsessed with you, and he's not even part of the industry. So why not steal and gift the families?"

Me:"Zenzele can't even kill a fly. I doubt he can hold a gun."

Lunzulu:"Then someone did it for him , he seems close to the shorter sister."

Me:"Uluthando?"

Lunzulu:"How do I fuckin know or care , let's just kill this guy and find out who killed his daughter."

Me:"I'm going back to Durban tomorrow, I need to sort things out."

I went inside the shack and asked Xhego to untie Masuku. He tried punching me but I grabbed his arm and kicked his balls. I twisted his arm while he bent down groaning

Me:"Tell your ancestors you had your ass kicked by a pregnant woman."

I kicked his face with my boot then stomped it with the heel countless times. I heard the gun shot that went straight through my father's chest I stomped him harder, my father's body falling on the podium, the blood, the screams, the news that followed after. I screamed stomping him over and over again.

Ayine:"Let go Minxi he's dead."

He picked me up while I screamed still wanting to do more damaged. His face looked crushed, bloody, it was as if he never had any bones. His body flinched, I took out my gun and shot him.

Ayine:"It's okay baby."

I threw myself at him hanging tightly on his shoulders. He kept brushing my back while hushing me. One load was off my shoulders, while the other one settled in even better. Who killed Masukus daughter, who had motive? Whoever it was had to be part of the Hadebe family. But not my Ace.

.....

ZIZIPHO

"Ndihamba neThongo.

Ndilawulwa sisinyanya.

Vuleka ndlela ndigoduke.

Igazi lam liyalila."

I felt myself being pulled out of something that felt like sleep, I smelt impepho before anything. I was definitely not on my bed, or in my room.

The song sounded louder than it did in my sleep. I gasped for air unable to breathe.

" Uxolo sana lwam Ina sela(Sorry my baby here drink)"

They balanced me with their body and helped me drink water, I almost finished the whole jug. Finally I gained my consciousness looking at my surroundings. There was a Sangoma there, dressed differently from the ones I've been with.

Me:" Where am I? "

Her:"KwaXhosa, come let me help you with those feet they're getting better than when you arrived here."

Me:"Arrived? I didn't arrive here. "

She smiled pouring boiling brown water in a small dish, she knelt on the grass mat and smiled looking at me..

Her:"One ancestor that was the closest to you was informed about you

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brutal of him to make you walk all this way but a King has their own way of doing things especially when they have departed to the other side."

I need someone to come and help me understand what the lady was talking about because I wasn't. She dampened the towel and slowly dabbed it on my feet. I frowned looking at them swollen with horrible sores that had scabs.

Me:" Why do they look like that? "

Her:" You walked from KZN, you're in Eastern Cape. It's what I'm explaining mos, you got a few rides here and there otherwise you walked till your feet bled. I'm exciting to be working with you honestly."

Me:"You said something about an ancestor, Simo wasn't a king. I don't remember my mother mentioning anything like that."

Her:"Who is Simo? Whoever he is I'm not talking about him."

I sighed frustrated.

Me:"What am I doing here?"

Her:"To meet your real family, to get healed, to become who you were supposed to be."

I chuckled in disbelief.

Me:"You also want something from me don't you? I've lost my entire family. And by the looks of things I've also missed my brothers funeral. Nothing can heal me from that, as far as I'm concerned you might turn me into a zombie."

She chuckled applying ointment on my feet, it was so soothing my Lord.

Her:" I'm not that type of iNyanga, I help people. My powers are as pure as a virgin,I don't blame you for not trusting people. From what I saw in my vision, you're strong to be still alive."

Me:"Vision?"

Her:"Yes,you have a powerful ancestor. I had to be more than prepared. I just can't seem to reach him. But I know how we can, later today we'll go."

Me : "Go where? With what feet?"

Her:"Don't worry. Now that you're awake, your body will heal very fast. Let me make some bread for you so you can rest."

She headed out before I could ask more questions, it's like she spoke in riddles. None of the information she gave me

registered in my brain, she came back with bread and margarine with tea. I sat upright and shoved it down my throat. I was yet to understand how I felt about being here, and knowing I missed my brothers funeral. I'll definitely have no

choice but to kill this lady should she not help me. Later that day we walked to the river while she carried her things.

Her:"They call me Zamisa, I'm the protector of this Kingdom. I'm also a teacher for young people like you. You're a rare breed, something I have never seen even when my grand parents were alive. Whatever you're being is powerful, that's why many have tried stopping you. They half succeeded, so we have to work with the half that's left. And make sure it overpowers the lost half. We have arrived. "

I gasped feeling deja vu, I remembered this place from somewhere. I climbed down the bank of the river and stood on the rock.

Me : " I know this place. "

I whispered.

Zamisa:" How do you know it? "

I opened my mouth looking around, my mind trying to remember.

Me:"I dreamt about it, a while ago. There was a man standing there." I pointed a bit far. "He was not saying anything just crying."

Zamisa:"Mandlezizwe."

Me:"Pardon."

Zamisa:"That was your ancestor, Mandlezizwe . He now resides in you, he was a sensitive yet angry soul. I've brought you here to help reconnect with him. He has been distanced from you, but you being this close to home will bring him closer. Come here."

I was gonna warm up to this one and her method, I think I almost like her. She did miraculously heal my feet and gave me 6 slices of bread.

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A Month Later

ZIZIPHO

Being here feels more like a job than getting help. I can feel the difference though regardless, it's like a burden is being lifted off ton by ton. I also managed to make peace with not going to my brothers funeral, it was sad but I trust Ziningi did a good job.

We've done 3 things already, she explained that I have visions hence I always dream. That there's a high possibility that I'll be a traveling iNyanga, most people's ancestors will communicate with me when their children are in trouble and I'll have to directly attend to them, she did the cleansing ceremony as well which meant I was pure enough to start with my divinations. So far I just dream about the past which is common in training. Now she was teaching me about healing herbs, we had to travel a fair distance to get to them.

Me:"Gogo."

Zamisa:"Mkhulu."

Me:"What will happen to me after the ceremony? I don't have a family, I doubt my aunt will pay for the things I will need. She did suggest seeing someone but I have a bad feeling about her."

Zamisa:"Don't pull it out just cut it so it can grow again."she referring to the plant we were gonna use for herbs." Don't worry, your family will oull through for you as soon as they find out about your existence."

Me:"My family?"

We've never spoken much about my family besides the day I woke up and she started speaking in riddles.

Zamisa:"Yes from your fathers side."

I chuckled.

Me:"How do you even know them?"

Zamisa:"You see the royal family that I always tell you about? The one I always visit?"

Me:"Yes I do."

Zamisa:"They're your family, your father was King but he passed almost 2 months back."

Me:"Wait. The man that was shot at her daughter's wedding was my father?"

She nodded looking at me with pity, I chuckled in disbelief. My mother did say but she fell ill before she could give me any relevant information.

Me:"Wow I hope someone has answers for me since he doesn't have any."

Zamisa:"You'll get all the closure you need Nkosazana."

I was still digesting the whole thing, I know I have to meet then at some point during my training. But did I really want to?

...

NGWEKAZI

I sat down and played the video on my tablet, not only did it take long but it took something deep in me to actually watch it. I sighed watching it for the umpteenth time but still there was nothing I could take home.

Me:"I'm not seeing anything."

Ayine:"Yes because you were not meant to, this flat has way too many people staying in it for an hour to pass without anyone passing by. I spoke to his neighbor apparently he did some cleaning a few days before Kuhle was declared dead."

Me : "Okay what does that mean?"

Ayine:"Zano pulled up a footage from the neighborhood flat

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whatever he was cleaning he threw inside his car. It was big enough to be a human being."

I wiped my mouth.

Me:"His brothers car right?"

Ayine:"Yes."

I stood up brushing my belly, it was visible finally. I was super excited regardless of being an investigator.

Me:"I need that car, I think it's under his name I'll call the car company and check where he went that day. Then I'll run some DNA checks on the car."

Ayine:"We have to leave tonight."

I sighed out loudly.

Me:"What do you mean?"

Ayine:"It's the Coronation in a few days time we need to be there for preparations."

Me : "It's not like we'll be the ones who will be crowned. We can go on the last day."

Ayine:"It doesn't work like that, I'm going to my hotel room. I'll pick you up."

I opened for him downstairs, Zen and I still stayed in different apartments. But we found another beautiful one that we can both afford, we're yet to have a house. Well that's what he knows, I don't think we'll reach another level past the one

we're already in. The door opened just as I was taking off my uniform.

Zen:"Mama."

I turned around smiling.

Me:"Hey."

Zen:"You're leaving already?"

Me:"Yeah my brother was here, he forced me to leave."

He chuckled pulling me with my waist, he sat on the bed then me on top of him. He kissed my neck while touching my coochie.

Zen:"You're coming to the book launch right?"

Me:"You'll have to be at the coronation, will come back together."

Our lips locked, he pulled the thong aside his fingers slid into my entrance I moaned softly kneeling, I accessed his pants pulling them down. I fail to understand why he wore track bottoms to work. I bit my lower lip sliding down while he buried his head between my breasts.

Me:"If I were to find out that you killed your ex and later my dead died because of that, you know I'll kill your entire family right?"

He stopped kissing me and just stared at my eyes while I moved my waist.

Zen:"Good thing I didn't."

He flipped me over and pulled out, his head went to my crotch eating me passionately. Well I might let him live because of this.

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NGWEKAZI

Zen:"I love you okay?"

He hugs me tightly then kisses my lips, he didn't look like someone who I had scared successfully. Could he really not have been involved?he crouches in front of me and kisses my tummy. I smile rubbing his head.

Zen:"I'll follow you tomorrow okay? Take care of mommy, don't make her ill or miss daddy a lot okay?I love you.

I chuckled shaking my head, he looked up with a smile and cute eyes under the glasses.

Zen:" Have you thought of a name yet? "

I shook my head, I was really blank.

Me:"No it'll depend on how I feel the moment I hold the baby, what I'll see when I look at our own Mthimkhulu."

He gets up as I say that and just smiles looking down at me.

Zen:"I know how you feel. I just have to make sure everything is as I want it to be then come with you."

Last I check I didn't ask him to come in the first place but I'm happy he decided to. Hopefully he won't catch on anything we do with my brothers. Otherwise it'll all be in vein.

He kisses me one last time then Ayine and I head to the airport.

The yard is busy as we are driven inside.

Me:"We didn't even get 5 months to mourn, the pecks right?"

Ayine:"It's about the village not us, too many things have been on hold."

Me:"So you think Lunzulu will be King?"

I ask as the car stops and people exit the houses and huts.

Ayine : "Stop gossiping, it's entirely up to the ancestors."

Me:"Mhm."

The mothers are all over me as soon as I get out.

MaDzanibe:"Iyaku thanda indoda mntanam, nomntana.
Umhle man utum tum(your man loves you my child,and the baby. You're beautiful hey plumpy)"

I just smile blinking cutely.

MaManci:"I'm glad you look this good, taking care of yourself."

She brushes the side of my face, I always feel sad for my mother.

MaNdlangisa: "I hope they don't fire you at work. You come home a lot beautiful girl."

And there she goes being concerned.

Me: "Don't worry ma, I do give warnings."

MaNdlangisa: "Good, how's the sicknesses. You should have ginger biscuits since you travel a lot. Besides traveling they help with nausea, I'll give you then you'll buy more yourself back eThekwini. You look really beautiful."

Me: "I need to rest for now mama, please ask someone to bring them."

I really felt tired, work has been hectic the endless studies we do about surgeries, common side effects

all that jargon. Not forgetting the investigations I was taking care of with my brothers.

Later that night Zano knocked in my room.

Zano: "Hey what's up?"

I shrugged.

Me: "No idea, I mean we haven't gotten justice for Mdeyama so I'm not feeling anything yet."

He sighed sitting on my bed.

Zano:"The person who did this is smart, very smart. You got Masuku the one who actually killed dad, the person who ignited that in him doesn't matter. All they're doing right now

us consume your time, stress you out and exhaust our options. Why aren't you letting it go? "

Me:" I can't Zano, especially now that we think my in laws did it. I don't wanna stay in a marriage knowing that there's a possibility they're murderers. At least maybe if their names didn't come up i would, I need to know for the sake of my sanity. "

He nodded as if he understood me.

The next day I had to drive to pick up Zenzele from the airport, he smiled hugging me then my bump.

Zen:" I missed you last night. "

Me:" I missed you too, how did you travel? "

Zen:" Good I guess, you look rested today hey."

He massaged my scalp while driving, it was only the 2 of us in my car then Xhego and 2 more guards behind us.

Me:"I slept a lot, only woke up to eat then now ke to come get you. How's the family?"

Zen:"They're good, I wanted us to visit Mbumbulu after my launch. Just to be closer to my ancestors, it's been a while since I've been home.

Me:" We will go then. "

The nice thing about him is he didn't talk a lot so I knew he wasn't lonely just listening. He went to the farms with my brothers, they only came late in the evening looking like they were playing in mud.

Me:"Where did you boys play?"

Lunzulu:"Easy sis."

Me:"Do you want mommy to prepare you a bath?"

I ask Zenzele while brushing his arms, he cocks his eyebrows looking at my brothers and they laugh.

Ayine:"Being married is nice we get it."

We went to our bedroom he bathed while I took out clean clothes for him. A scream from outside disturbed all of us.

Zen:"I heard someone scream, are you okay?"

Me:"I'll be back stay right here."

I tucked a gun on my waist then ran out while he stared at me wide eyed. Instead of burglars, we found Zamisa kneeling while shaking her head. With veins popping on her neck. We waited for her to finish while we knelt down. When she was done she looked at each and every one of us.

Zamisa : "No one will be crowned King."

We gasped and asked why's amongst each other.

Zamisa : "There's unfinished business in this family."

Seemed like it wasn't her talking but her ancestor.

Lunzulu: "We need someone to lead."

Zamisa: "Qobo will be regent, none of you has hearts pure enough to lead KwaXhosa. None."

So many children and none of them were good enough to be crowned? Our ancestors are way to picky, I didn't belong to them anymore at least hey.

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NGWEKAZI

We were all gathered in the main house's dining table, this was a huge disaster. I knew for a fact that I won't be crowned but for none of my brothers to not be crowned. I mean we all did

come back from our important jobs for this, only to find out that none of us will be King. What type of witchcraft is this?

Ayine:"So now what happens? We clear the main house for Qobo and his family?"

MaDzanibe:"Yes, we don't know how long they'll stay here for neither do we know if it will be temporary or permanent."

Zano:"It better be temporary."

He said scoffing.

MaManci:"We need to ask Zamisa to cleanse everyone in this family, it's impossible for ancestors to not see anyone fit to be crowned King."

Lunzulu:"We should, besides Qobo will kiss everyone's ass with this kingdom. We know how he is."

Me:"I'm fine with the cleansing I'll do it after some time, I need to do a few things."

All the mothers looked at me, it's funny how strong they've been. I guess it helps that they're together, sharing the same pain.

MaNdlangisa:"You can't postpone cleansing, if the family is doing it then you also have to do it."

I shrugged.

Me:"I just can't, especially since I need to go back to work tomorrow. I've been asking for leave way too much they might give me problems when I need to go to the maternity leave. Besides I'm a Hadebe now, married."

I showed them my ring, some laughed.

MaManci:" Whatever you want, kakade you're hard headed. "

I just smiled at her.

They told Zamisa their requests while I went to my room, Lunzulu met with ne before I could get inside.

Me:" Bhuti."

Lunzulu:"Are you okay? I'm not feeling you."

Me:"I'm fine, don't worry. I'm just tired."

He shook his head.

Lunzulu:"You've let this whole vengeance thing go right?"

I smiled.

Me:"Yes enjoying my honeymoon phase now, don't worry."

He nodded although he didn't look a bit impressed by what I was saying. Not my problem. Time to pack and head back to Durban.

....

ZIZIPHO

I grabbed my head screaming loudly, I was pulling my hair while groaning deeply. I kept rolling on the ground my beads falling off as I did that.

I felt someone hold me then they made me inhale something which calmed me down.

Me: "Nqanda impi. (Stop the war)"

I kept reciting and reciting the same words till I stopped and looked at Zamisa who was watching me.

Zamisa: "What did he say?"

I shook my head.

Me: "Just those words, nothing else."

She nodded.

Zamisa: "Try to communicate with your ancestors

call upon your clan names. They will lead you to where you are needed."

I nodded gathering my things.

Me: "I'm going to the river."

I tied my grass mat on my waist then took my bones with me, I walked fast while humming.

When I got there I laid my things near the river and said my clan names just as Zamisa taught me.

I asked that they show me the way, I have been having these problems for a week now. I looked at the bones confused, there was a splash on the water. When I looked down I saw a face smiling at me, a very handsome man. Then there were other people who looked like him, 2 were females, 1 brother was his exact copy while the other 2 looked a lot like him. You could tell they were siblings but what was their purpose? Or her purpose.

....

MAPHIKELA

He was on his phone while his companion kept shouting at him, he has mastered blocking her annoying voice. He still wondered how he did that, because that voice was too loud and squeaky to miss. It woke up the beds even those animals that stay

undergrounds, beavers? Yes those. She hit the phone, it felt down. MP looked at her with a straight face his hand still held out

Londy:"Listen to me when I'm talking dammit!"

MP:"Ngake ngaku shaya Londy(Have I hit you before?)"

Londy:"What does that have to do with anything?"

MP:"Uyafuna ngikushaye(do you want me to hit you)" she blinked looking at his hard face, she knew better than to say another word. "That was the last time you force me to listen to your bullshit, the last time you shout at me, the very last time you hit my phone. I will make you pee in your pants, uphapha kabi wena."

He clicked his tongue and started the car.

Londy:"I'm sorry."

MP:"Get out of my car."

Her mouth fell, they were an hour away from home and it was raining.

Londy:"Mthimkhulu."

MP:"Phuma ngingaze ngiku hudule(Get out before I drag you)"

She still looked at him surprised, he was serious but a little remorse?

He opened the door for her from the inside. She got out of the car with tears streaming down her face.

Londy:"Maphikela don't leave me, rain give me allergies."

He kept quiet and drove off in full speed. How did he even impregnate that psycho? Well both his baby mamas weren't sane, that was the problem with him. Every girl he sleeps with is normal at first. When he starts fucking them, that's when they lose it. Something was definitely wrong with his dick.

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Maphikela stormed inside the house, Gatsha was on his phone but he turned to look at his fuming brother. He knew exactly what had him so worked up but he wasn't gonna involve himself, he has done it before and the end results are never the same. Which annoys Gatsha because none of the people he has been with nag as much as MP's baby mama's and Exs.

His phone rang, he sighed drinking whiskey and pouring another glass then he sat down.

MP:"MaHadebe... Okay sweetheart.. I wasn't being mean I just didn't feel good. I love you too, I'll come now."

He looked at the phone and chuckled.

MP:"If I don't kill Londy now I'll never kill her."

Gatsha chuckled.

Gatsha:"Yeah right, she pulled the Thando card on you again didn't she?"

MP:"Yes. I don't know why she thinks she can involve my child."

Gatsha:"Because you let her, you're so strict on everyone in your life but uhlulwa yingane. Thando will be manipulative just like Londy if you keep rubbing her back every time she gets involved in your business. She's a child, draw the line."

MP:"What do you mean draw the line? I don't want my daughter to resent me."

Gatsha:"She's only 4, she can make calls and tell you that her mother is crying. Makes you drive all the way to eMlazi to apologize, then you tell me she'll resent you. Soon none of us will want her near our kids cause you're spoiling her too much. If I didn't know better I'd say Londy gave you love portion. "

He clicked his tongue and left his brother there. Gatsha was the nicest which was surprising when he got agitated.

MP sighed brushing his head, he stood up and took the other car keys. He had to be in Mlazi.

Minutes later he pulled up in Londys house, he got out with the kiddies meal and headed towards the house. Londys sister opened wearing a thin shirt that exposed her nipples. She wasn't thick as Londy but he'd hit that, definitely. She blushed at how he stared at her breasts, he went down to the very

short short she had on. Creamy thighs, he could already picture them with his semen all over. His dick hardened just at the thought, she was fit girl and beautiful. He cleared his throat.

MP:"Sawubona Lindo."

Lindo:"Sbali unjani?"

He chuckled.

MP:"I'm not anymore."

She raised her eyebrow biting her lip seductively, catching on to him finally.

Lindo:"So you're for grabs."

MP:"You wanna grab something on me?"

She burst out in laughter shouting for Londy.

She looked at Maphikela angrily.

MP:"I'm here to see Thandolubanzi."

Londy:"No I don't trust your animalistic behavior around her."

MP:"What did you just say?"

Londy:"You heard me."

He chuckled placing the food inside by the door

he grabbed Londy by the waist tightly. She hissed painfully then he dragged her to the car. He pushed her against it and held both sides digging his fingers in as Londy's nose flared angrily.

Londy:" You're hurting me."

MP:"Have you forgotten what I've done for you, your little sister? I don't like doing this but you're forcing my hand. I'll beat you up Londiwe, so so bad you'll have a real reason to act bitchy with me." he tightened his hands even more. "You will

never involve my daughter in whatever happens between us otherwise I'll cut off these beautiful legs one by one, maybe decapitate your sister. I don't know but I'm losing patience with you, stop testing me it's not funny. Do you understand?"

She nodded tearfully. He smiled then pinched her cheeks playfully.

MP:" I'll communicate with your sister until you're sane, give my daughter her meal. "

He winked getting inside the car. Hoping this time around she'll actually listen and stay away.

....

ZIZIPHO.

Me:"Gogo, how was it at the royal home?"

I always ask and listen to her stories, I know they're a huge family with like 15 or 20 kids. Which are my siblings, each of them different in their own way yet they're the same. She doesn't hold back on the bad, she tells me almost everything to a point where I feel like I now know them personally.

Zamisa:"They're good, but there won't be a coronation just the introduction of the regent."

Me:"Ow okay, anyways I wanted to ask you something."

Zamisa:"Okay."

Me : "I went to the river yesterday, I saw this man who looked somewhat familiar. Now I can't seem to stop thinking about him. I feel like i should find him."

She smiled.

Zamisa:"You are something else, I guess it's something you should take care of while you're still here learning. Ask your ancestors to guide you, to show you what to do. Burn impepho drink your herbs till you see the light. Because you won't rest until you know what's going on. "

I nodded, somehow I felt so connected to that man even more than I was with Andile but maybe it's because I wasn't called to help him. I wonder how he is wherever he is, weirdly I hardly think of him. Hah I need prayers.

At Uluthandos....

Ulu handed Zenzele the food then sat down with her feet on the couch balancing her head on the knee.

Ulu:"So what's up?"

Ace:"Just stressed about my appointment later today."

He removed his glasses wiping his eyes.

Ulu : "I thought the glasses helped , can you even see me?"

She mocked making her brother scoff.

Ace:"Don't be dumb, it gets blurry especially my left eye. So they might need to upgrade my view."

Ulu : "Are you good though, you look underfed sexually. And you don't look like someone who's launching a whole entire thesis."

Ace:"I'm excited about that just stressed, Ngwekazi just can't seem to drop this whole vengeance thing. I can't seem to distract her, I know she's close to getting me. I can feel it."

Ulu:"Take her away, you never had a honeymoon so take her somewhere she's never been. She's always in Durban working, wifing, undercover detective."

He drank his juice and stood up with his dishes.

Ace:"I'll see, listen I need to get going. Don't want my wife to murder me should anything go wrong."

Ulu : " You're so young, why did you even get married?"

Ace : "Why wait?"

She rolled her eyes opening the door for him. They hugged.

Ace:"I'll call you."

A few minutes later he parked inside the Doctor, he was sent to the room immediately.

Ace:"Mntungwa."

They shook hands.

Khumalo:"Bhungane, right on time."

Ace : "Aren't I always?"

He laid down as the Doctor checked his eyes.

Ace:"Do you see any soul in there?"

He joked but the Doctor could sense the seriousness in his voice.

Khumalo:"Is everything okay son?"

He handed him his prescription glasses then waited for his response. Zenzele sighed.

Ace : "I did something, a while ago. It's bad but I did it for my wife, now it ended gruesomely. I don't know how to stop it."

Khumalo: "Honesty, if you can't do anything else about it then tell her. Maybe if she sees your sincerity she might be forgiving, if she loves you for real then she will forgive you. Don't push, don't rush her just wait for her to forgive you willingly. Unless she doesn't love, she might divorce you, leave or kill you. Women are brutal. "

Ace : " I'll consider telling her. I guess. Thanks for these glasses I see better. "

...

NGWEKAZI

Me: " It's a professional function, I don't need church chairs. Just do everything I said and leave me alone. "

I yelled ending the line, I should give birth. Now is about the right time for me to do that. People just tend to piss me off or frustrate me. Here I am trying to impress my in laws with lunch tomorrow after the launch but people decided to bring me a wrong set of chairs. I had a vision

still have it and it better come true. I should probably lash out on Twitter or something, if I had time. I needed to sleep anyways, I threw myself on the couch trying to ignore the hunger. As if Zen felt me he walked in with a new set of eyes, I

wanna have his babies he's too cute , oh I've done that already. I guess I want them to look exactly like him, maybe be a little talkative than he is. He smiles at me then sits on the couch pulling my face to his. He kisses me passionately making me pant, I probably need some nice things now.

Zen : "MaMdeyama."

He whispers his forehead still glued on mine.

Me: "Mthimkhulu."

He pecks my lips then rubs my belly, the bubbles have become more stronger. The baby is growing way to fast.

Zen: "You look stressed."

Me: "And hungry, I actually want warm Cornflakes with honey."

Zen: "Coming right up."

He heads to the kitchen while I make myself comfortable, the deco person finally sends me the correct chairs. If I could go to Mbumbulu at this instance I would, just to make sure they did

everything as I specified them too. Tomorrow is a big day, they can't ruin it for me.

Me:"Are you excited about tomorrow?"

Zen:"Well I'm happy I won't be the one talking most, I'll just be brief."

I laughed ed, I knew his speech was gonna be for like 2 seconds. Short and very very brief. He comes back with my food and puts my feet on his lap massaging them. He leans forward and smells them.

Zen:" They stink. "

Me:" I just came from work tshini, I'm lazy to bath."

He gives me a naughty smile, if earlier he had done that I'd be charmed but I'm busy with food now. He can charm me later.

Zen:"I can help, no funny business."

Me:"Tell that to the bulge filling your pants."

He throws his head back in a groan which makes me laugh.

Me:"You're such a horny head."

Zen:"This thing knows you too well, just by seeing you nje mxm. Let me go shower."

Me:"Thanks for the massage daddy."

He pulls down my top on the shoulder then trails his tongue, my breath hitches and I tilt my head. Okay I might want him again.

Zen:"Be right back, hope you'll want some of me when I do."

Me:"Go die!"

I got bored the minute the water started running. My phone vibrated underneath me I groaned finding it. I looked at the number.

Me:"I thought I said don't call."

Caller:"I just want to make sure you remember the instructions."

Me:" I won't overdose don't worry, I just wanna rest a bit."

Caller:"If you say so, because one overdose may lead to you being unconscious or dead."

Me:"I understand."

Caller ::"Why did you need so many any-"

I hung up and continued with my food. People just wanna bore me.

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ZIZIPHO

We've been on the road for close to 6 hours now, I've been staring outside and sleeping from time to time. I found it very hard to believe that I actually walked this entire trip. There were mountains, rivers, farms. I wondered how I even made it without dying. I guess God and my ancestors came through for me big time. My anxiety keeps increasing each minute, I don't know why I'm going where I'm going, I don't even know what awaits me where ever I was going but I know it's for a good course. Zamisa decided to come with me since I'm not done with training, a lot of bad spirits can try to take over and I can be easily distracted. She was gonna guide me and definitely help whoever I was gonna help. I kept having road visions, house visions and the very same man I kept dreaming about. I hope I can be able to help them.

....

MAPHIKELA

Lindo slowly brushed his crotch over his pants, it got hard the more she touched him. He was laying on his back with his hands underneath his head watching how far she was gonna go, or how she was gonna go far. He wanted to be the one to lure her, but she showed up in the early hours of morning

freezing cold and complaining about the she devil Londy was. She jumped on MP's arms and hugged him which led to a

kiss, he suggested getting her warm. And sharing a house with Gatsha meant he had to stay out of the living room. Which wasn't a fuss, it was their first time well if it leads to that so it had to be comfortable.

She crawled between his legs and removed the top of her pajamas, Maphikela removed his hands underneath his head and balanced on the bed with his elbows. Those were beautiful set of titties, those thin tops she wears don't do her justice. She leaned forward and kissed his lips then neck then his bare upper body. He lowered the pants gulping at the sight of his manhood. Now she was trying to be a big girl, Maphikela sat on his butt and pulled her to his crotch. She gasped surprising looking at his beautiful eyes, feeling him hard underneath her body.

MP: "You're done being a big girl?"

Lindo: "Uhm aah."

He latched his lips on her boobs flicking the nipple with his tongue, he pushed his hand underneath the shorts from behind. He pulled the nipple between his teeth, feeling her dampness down there then he turned her around trailing her body with kisses. She was finally fully naked and looking at that flesh he was gonna go down on her. He laid on his back.

MP: "Come here."

She got on top of him.

MP:"You here."

He pointed on his face but she leaned forward to kiss him he stopped her.

MP:"Not those lips, your other lips."

Her eyes widened in shock but she still crouched on his face, his breath fanned her before the tongue settled on her clit. Her knees weakened but she held on to the headboard, Maphikela locked her in his arms and kissed her other lips deeply. Lindos moans and squirms filled the entire room

her body shuddered. Knowing what was coming MP pulled her further down flicking and pressing down on her clit. Her moans became screams and cried, then the juices came. She screamed throughout the ordeal till her body calmed down.

He turned her to her back then inserted the condom, she still felt dizzy and a bit embarrassed looking at his wet face. He smirked inserting her with one leg up and laying sideways.

....

NGWEKAZI

I had to leave my husband mingling with his people, I did a bit of that too but I had to go to Mbumbulu to check on how

things were. I found the food and everything ready, I specified that they leave the food in the pan chafing dishes. To keep it from getting cold, Zothando arrived before everyone else. Me and her don't like each other at all. She's a murderer you can tell, her beauty just doesn't faze me. Zo:"Makoti."

She was definitely mocking me. Me:"Sisi."

Zo:"So when are you getting married again? I mean you're not really married." I smiled.

Me:"As long as I'm Hadebe at Home affairs the rest we'll fix later, carrying this cargo is my priority for now."

I smiled even more reaching for my biltong in my bag.

Zo:"There's just something off about you, I'll find it and I'll make sure you live remembering that I know. Apart from that, you outdid yourself, this looks good. I'll go change."

I kept quiet looking at her, this night won't end with her breathing either way. Once I was sure no one was around I handled specifically the meat, I preferred pork but they didn't because of the Mutis they used. For dessert I touched a few, I quickly went to change to a body hugging gray dress. Zenzele was still in his car, he got out seeing me approach.

Zen:"Let me capture this moment my love, you look absolutely stunning." I blushed and let me be my camera man as usual.

Me:"Let's go everyone is already waiting."

Zen:"Has Hadebe arrived? He said he was coming."

As if on cue his car drove in, it roars deeply so you can never miss it. Even if you want. We all gathered around the table and listened to the speeches. Zime and myself dished up for our in-laws, I gave Ace his plate.

Ace:" Baby can you give me pork, last time meat didn't treat me well."

I clenched my jaws angrily but masked it with a smile.

Me:"Okay." I gave him a another plate then sat down.

Me:"You know your book will be studied by generations and generations of this family."

Zen:"A book is a legacy, no matter how good or bad the sales go but it's a legacy for yourself and your children."

A knock disturbed us, whoever it was was already inside. We all turned to the door, my eyes almost popped right out of my head.

Me:"Zamisa."

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At Mbumbulu

The room suddenly feels cold and confined, for Ngwekazi. There's no good reason for Zamisa's visit, and that little assistant of her whose face I can't see clearly with the white soil on her face. I clench my jaws with my eyes fixed on Zamisa.

Some are waiting for the ladies dressed weirdly with beads walking barefoot to explain who they are and why they are here.

Maphikela stares at Zizipho the whole time, he doesn't see her clearly but there's something that makes him want to go to her and get to know her better. It's not just the thickness covered with the cloths and beads it's her aura. Weirdly she's staring directly back at him, even with the feather hanging over her forehead he could see her eyes on her. He frowned turning his head still looking at her.

She removed her eyes off him and looked around the table gathering what to say. Her eyes stayed on one person, she hadn't clicked much on her mind but seeing her reminded her of the tragic look she had when her.. Their father died. It was sister, she looked more beautiful in person. Her skin looked hand painted to perfection with the most shining eyes I've seen, I couldn't miss the resentment she carried in her heart.

She was once a pure soul but the need for revenge has her carrying this heavy dark cloud.

Zamisa:"Good afternoon, we come from Eastern Cape. I'm Gogo Zamisa this is my Thwasa, Mandlezizwe."

Maphikela stands up first, surprising everyone considering he tends to be the most quiet.

MP:"Nice meeting you, what brings you this far? How did you know where we live? '

Zizopho:"It's intuition, and like most things that speak with a quiet voice, if we listen the potential is life-changing. It's a gift from my ancestors and God."

They're back to staring at each other.

Bhungane:"How do we even know you're genuine?"

She shrugged.

Zizopho:"One of your sister is about to have a seizure in less than a minute." Both sisters frown looking at each. "I'd advise you to take her to the hospital, all of you. I need to have a word with the Princess please."

They remained where they were, Zothando made a gagging sound. They all turned to her then to Zizopho. Gatsha ran to her sister

Bhungane stood up angrily moving the table.

Bhungane:" You witch, what did you do to her? "

Zizipho:" Opened your eyes, but unfortunately I can't make people fall sick I just have a gift of seeing things before they happen. This was way too close, I've never seen it happen myself before. Everything before happened like weeks apart I'm really getting good."

The brothers ran out with Zothando. Ngwekazi still remained glued to her seat with her hands gripping the table. Ace was besides her staring at the two.

Ngwekazi:" Zenzele go. I'll pack up everything. "

Zizipho went over to her she knelt down and bowed her head.

Zizipho:"The King sent me a message, you don't know how overwhelmed I got when I saw him. I knew it was a dream deep down, you know you know when it's a dream and weirdly you never say please be a dream but you always say please be real. The same way you say please be a dream when it's a nightmare, I wanted to be mad at him. Punch him, stab him and do everything else but I decided not to. He didn't have any idea that I existed so I can't really put the blame on him, or my mother. But I can be a sister, Ngwekazi and Zenzele both of you don't know me. I'm a the late Kings Bastard child, he has asked that you two make peace so there can be peace between the

family as well. The secrets you carry are useless. Ngwekazi lets anger control you while Zenzele lets the love he has for Ngwekazi control him. Since day one. "

They looked at each other

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trying to understand where Zizipho was getting at or what she talking about.

Zamisa:" It's funny, fate that is. Mdeyama made sure that you never come to Durban. But now on the other world they have formed an alliance to bring peace between the two families.

Nomzamo is proud of who you've become, she's proud of the love you have for your wife. All she wants is peace between the two of you, it's unsettling. "

Zen:" My mother?""

He asked with teary eyes, Ngwekazi's eyes also welled up looking at his man. Yeah she wanted to kill him minutes ago but she didn't so she'll cry for him if she wants to.

Zen:"What does she want me to do? Can I meet her?"

Zamisa:"She'll come when she needs to, in any form. Right now the two of you should clear your chests especially with the life you're bringing."

Ngwekazi's eyes went to Zizipho, only now the words she said settled in.

Ngwekazi: "Are you my father's daughter?"

Zizipho: "According to everything that's been happening, except for a DNA test."

Ngwekazi: "How?"

She was heart broken, she enjoys being the only girl. The only sister, now this one shows up grown up as she is. It's gonna take a lot in her.

Zen: "Can you guys give us some privacy please."

They both nodded going back outside, Zen touched Ngwekazi's face turning it to his.

Zen: "I need you to listen to what I'm about to say emotionally, I trust you know those people since you weren't surprised. And they came here for a reason, I've noticed a drift in us since we got married. I'd like to believe that was because you're grieving, until I realized it's not. Ngwekazi I'm the reason this whole massacre started. Kuhle wanted you dead, she shot through your car then told me to my face she'll kill you. She would have, hadn't I taken care of her. I did that because I wanted you to live in peace, the war between our 2 families was gonna go on and on and on till we all left with pieces probably all dead. So I took 10 of Masukus Taxi to make peace between the 2 families

4 came to yours, I gave 4 to Mines, the rest went to the guy who helped me out with painting the.. The same thing that happened when my family attacked yours or when yours attacked happened again because the bullet ended up being taken by the wrong person. "

Ngwekazi was shocked, he knew she was gonna get angry. Probably kill him too but she tried to find anger deep within she just couldn't, she sniveled trying to hold her tears but they poured.

Ngwekazi:" I'm hurt more than anything, I need time apart from you. Just to get myself in order, I'm feeling way too emotional. I'm going to my apartment."

Zen:"Please don't drive, I'll ask someone, or uber. But don't drive."

She nodded turning to the door, she stopped on her tracks.

Ngwekazi:"You should tell your siblings to take the anti venom injection at the hospital."

He didn't wanna ask a lot of questions, he didn't wanna know what his wife's capable of although he already knew. He just nodded.

5 Months Later....

Ngwekazi

I exhaled loudly pushing the pram out the door, I gripped it smiling. I inhaled the fresh smell, it felt like the ocean was nearby. The breeze was refreshing, like my life was. I felt like I had just become a whole new being. Burdens are very heavy to carry, especially if they include hate and anger. They change who you are, and your whole perspective about people and life at large. Carrying anger can make you see almost every one as an enemy. It didn't just start when my dad died, it started the minute I walked inside that gym. The minute I let Zenzele walk me home, it began when my brother and nephew died. Then like beer it brewed more and more, I almost became destructive. Self destructive. I'm just glad that deep in my heart I loved Zenzele, imagine wasting your time being with an enemy for the sake of vengeance. I'd probably be falling into depression as we speak. His family still has a hard time forgiving me, I did try to kill each and every one of them so they're justified. They do however talk to me, I still am their sister in law and a mother to their niece.

Zen: "What are you thinking about?"

He startles me, I yelp holding my chest.

Me: "Where did you even come from? Geez!"

He kisses my lips then bends over to Peace who is asleep.

Zen:"You've been standing here for a good minute, I assumed you needed a hand."

He takes the baby bag from my hand and pushes the pram to the car,we use one car because well we just enjoy each others company. There's another one back home, on my name but we use that one for long distance travel and that's very rare.

Me:" I hope you didn't leave anything at the house."

Zen:"Don't worry your beautiful face, so what are your thoughts on the ceremony?"

I shrug.

Me:"I still haven't accepted her as my sister, also can't believe Mdeyama would cheat when he already had 3 wives. But we have to accept for the sake of peace."

Zen:"My poor child's name, we could have named her Xolo."

Me:"English sounds better."

Zizipho was introduced a week after we met

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Zamisa said it was important we do it. The mothers didn't take it well but for her initiation to go well we had to do a ceremony

for her. Qobo and Lunzulu handled the costs and everything else, then she went back to school. I don't like her, she took my position of being the only girl and it doesn't help that she looks like me like a lot it's creepy. Just that she's thicker and shorter.

We found Maphikela at the airport, I frowned surprised.

Me:"I thought he hated Xhosas more than any member of your family."

I say with my mouth not fully opened.

Zen:"Till Zizipho happened, he has been asking questions. I didn't even think he'd come."

Me:"He better behave."

MP:"MaGiqwa, zalo."

They shoulder bump, he picks up his niece and holds her to her chest.

Me:"I didn't know you were coming with."

MP:"Yeah I have to represent the family you know? Can't send my brother away all on his own now can I?"

He smiles, weird. I just nod, 2 hours later we're driving inside the palace. It's shocking how Qobo has managed to take good care of the village, he's still regent as far as the ancestors are

concerned. Hopefully soon there'll be a crowned King, it doesn't make sense for the whole Xhosa nation to be without a king.

There's commotion in the yard, pretty certain cows slaughtered were more than one. They've built her small hut that she will use when she comes back already. It's tiny but I'm sure she'll be good, she also has a bedroom in the main house so she should be fine. I don't want to lie I'm excited about the whole thing and I certainly hope it goes well. As always seeing the family is exciting, MP and Zen are having a good time with my brothers.

MP:"Sbali."

I turn to him smiling. He looks nervous which makes me want to laugh.

Me:"Are you okay? You look like you're not breathing."

He chuckles scratching his head.

MP:"I did a background check on your sister, it's a thing me and my brothers do when we really like a girl. It's crazy I know."

Me:"So it was done on me too?"

He looks bored by my question.

MP:"Obviously anyways, I found that when she came here her mother was ill. When I got there she was staying with her brothers baby mama. I decided to get her the best care, she still

can't walk but she can do most things. I was thinking of having her come down here, Zizipho might like that right? "

My hands are on my waist the whole time, I'm smiling like an idiot. He is so smitten yet he has never even said a word to my sister.

Me : " Yeah I'll talk to MaDzanibe. I'm sure it won't be much of a big deal. "

MP: " Thank you. Ngzomphatha kahle uSis wakho(I'll take care of your sister). "

He's smiling even more, ndicela iCamera bethuna! Nantsi iFilm.

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ZIZIPHO

Having a family feels like a dream come true, it's like having a sense of belonging. It feels a void that you didn't even know was there, and I have a huge family. I can't even count them even if I wanted to, well maybe in the long run I can be able to. The drums were beating loudly as I danced in the middle with the audience clapping along and cheering, it felt like I was someone else. Like someone was controlling me, I knew exactly what was happening. Mandlezizwe had taken over, I hope no one was scared. I'm glad this ceremony was private, when I opened my eyes they came across my mother who was on a

wheelchair. My heart stopped for a second, I was certain she was dead. I gasped running to her.

Me:"MaMasinga it's you."

She smiled as I touched her face, my hands were probably hard and scratchy but that was the least of my worries. The side of her face was still immobile but she could move half her body well.

Ma:"I missed you, I didn't know where you were. Maphikela brought me here."

I slowly looked around, I saw someone like him and assumed it was his twin but now that I've taken a longer look it's Maphikela. He was looking at us with a straight face.

Me:"He brought you here?"

Ma:"Yes, he took me to the hospital. Got me a new wheelchair and he buys us food."

My eyes become teary, she doesn't sound good when talks but the fact that I can hear her and she's alive is enough for me. I slowly stood up and headed to where Maphikela was standing, I chuckled at how he acted. He kept looking every where else, I didn't pass him out as someone who's shy.

Me:"Sawubona."

He smiled.

MP:"Sawubona Nkosazana."

Me:"Mom told me what you did, if you weren't my brother in law I'd probably be mad. How can I repay you?"

MP:"Marry me."

He blurted out, his own eyes widening at his statement.
I laughed.

Me:"I'm broke, probably going back school next year so money is out of line."

MP:"Marriage isn't."

I squinted my eyes trying to catch a hit of humor but there was none.

Me:"Marriage? We'll see."

....

Honestly, I haven't managed to be that close to my family as yet. They're nice people just that we hardly know each other, I was supposed to be given body guards but Bhut Lunzulu argued that no one knows that I'm a princess yet and with my plan of going back to school it wasn't gonna be a good idea for them to attract attention to me.

I walked behind my mother, the house had changed a lot. There weren't people drinking beer, the grass was longer, you could tell they haven't painted since I left. Coming back here brought back so many memories I didn't want.

Lunzulu:"They've packed everything in your room including the groceries

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you'll be okay?"

Me:"Yes I will be fine bhuti."

Lunzulu:"Don't be afraid to ask me for anything, I've sent you money to do your learners. We'll talk about other things in time."

Me:"Like me moving home?"

He chuckled.

Lunzulu:"We both know your assigned to treat the people of the Eastern Cape. I'll see you around, don't be scarce please."

He hugged and kissed my forehead. I closed my eyes hugging him back, I lost a brother but gained more brothers than I would have imagined.

I sat on the couch and looked at my mother.

Me:" I was hoping for a welcome party but this will do. "

She smiled at me. Just as the sun was about to set a knock came through, my eyes widened when I saw Andile standing at the door.

Me:"Andile."

Andile:"Sthandwa sam."

I didn't feel that, or him for that matter. What he said didn't do anything to my heart. Ma was sleeping, I stood up.

Me:"Let's go outside, how did you know I'm back?"

Andile:"I didn't, I have been parking outside your house every day. Where have you been?"

He opened his door, so I assumed I should get in as well. He started the car.

Me:"I can't leave my mother alone."

Andile:"I'll drive you back, I just wanna talk."

He didn't look happy, he was frowning deeply which scared me.

Me:"I was at initiation school, didn't you talk to anyone at home."

Andile:"No, I didn't know you had a calling. You never told me."

Me:"That's because I also didn't know, I told you of all the things that were happening."

Andile : "I don't buy that shit."

Me:"It's not shit it's who I am, I don't appreciate you insulting me."

He chuckled increasing the speed, we were heading towards his home. He hit the brakes making me collide with the dashboard, my nose bridge made a sound. I felt warm fluids on my lips, I

was definitely bleeding. He got out of the car while my head was still spinning.

He opened my door and pulled me out.

Andile:"Uyang febela mase uqamba amanga ngama dlozi, awumazi noyihlo kodwa ukhuluma ngobizo sfebe ndini(you cheat on me then you lie about ancestors,you don't even know your father but you talking about a calling you hoe.)"

He tied a rope on my wrists tightly then on the toe bar.

Me:" Andile! "

I tried running towards the car to get in but he drove off making me fall on my face in a loud thud. He still kept driving while my body turned, I screamed in agony as my back kept being hit my the gravel road and my clothes peeled off. I felt my skin pill off

as well. I closed my eyes as the hit overtook my entire body, I begged my ancestors and God to pull through for me. I didn't wanna die, at least not now.

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NGWEKAZI

Nurse:"She can do everything on her own, her mother is finally responding well to the treatment since she can see that her daughter is getting better."

Me:"Thank you so much Sno. It means a lot to me, I'll call her when I get time."

Nurse:"Alright Nkosazana."

Zenzele licked my neck cupping my breasts. He sucked my skin pressing his hard on my back.

Zen:"Morning my love."

I placed the phone wherever I placed it, my eyes were shut.

Me:"Hello."

He lowered his hands, he used one to open my thighs then the other went inside my entrance. I bit my lip throwing my head back, it's been long since we had sex let alone be together like we were. Our honeymoon was long overdue and I'm happy it came at this time, I called my Therapist before we left we

talked about the fears I heard. From the way she talked I regained my strength and fixed my crown. I had my dad's blood flowing over me, I have lived fearlessly but love made me human a woman not some machine that dealt with work and

learning how to kill. It was this time that I got to learn a lot, now I understand that love is like glue that keeps families together.

Zen: "You're good."

I shook my head, I was so much in pain on my privates and it was swollen. As wet as I was he had problems thrusting it. He stopped touching me then came back a few seconds later. He picked me up and sat me on the table, he spread my legs. I felt something cold on my clit then he smeared it all over my vag, if I thought I was aroused at first I might have been kidding. The lube was doing things, he replaced his hands with his manhood.

Zen: "You're my forever you know that?"

Me: "Mhmm yes baby. Right there."

He chuckled pulling me closer, he buried his head on my neck. Hearing him groan so close, feeling his breath on my neck, how he kept biting me, the soft moans that escaped his mouth. I wouldn't trade it for anyone else.

...

ZIZIPHO

I was getting better, it was miraculous except that our nurse was too much. She wanted me to be like a baby, worried too much. She made it too obvious that she was hired by my family.

I had a lot to talk to with my ancestors, how could they allow me to be hurt like this. I thought me taking the journey I took meant things were going to change, but with what happened to him. Fractured neck and broken leg, then he went to jail soon to go to prison. I was happy with how this whole case was handled. I didn't understand why he did all that, Andile never showed any signs of having a temper or even bipolar. He was just a normal guy.

Speaking of guy, Maphikela. Mr Maphikela Hadebe

a man of few words but they speak a lot. He's a very wonderful man. He has been taking too much care of me, I did lose weight working with Zamisa. And well my feet were another thing. I was officially iNyanga, I helped people get better from any sickness, fight evil that might happen in future since I get visions. I pray to the one above ;God, I burn impepho light my candles and ask my ancestors of a task in front of me. God is like the calmingness of it all, it's like he blows hot coffee and make it bearable to drink. I've seen my father once more, he looked lighter in spirit. Sitting alongside my forefathers and

their wives . I always forget their faces when I wake up, but remember Mdeyamas. It was nice for him to take care of me the way he was, he didn't have to. But I liked having him around.

I texted Ngwekazi a picture of me and that I felt better, I had a scar at the back of my head. It wasn't a full developed scar but the healing process was fast. I had to cut my hair clean, I liked how I looked. The back was a bit slower since the rocks scrapped through my skin. I find it hard to believe that I survived.

Ziningi:"So you're afraid to let the guy take you out because of the idiot in jail? Baby girl do you love that guy?"

I turned surprised.

Me:"Hell no, and come to think of it. It's been a while since I stopped loving him."

Ziningi:"You can't really tell me you don't like Maphikela, he has a twin right? They have a reputation."

Me:"What kind of reputation?"

Ziningi:"Don't think like that geez, they're just a known family. With drama, like every other known family. It's like they do it to be more known."

I squinted looking at her, my phone rang. A smile crept on my face.

Me:"Hello."

Maphikela:"MaGiqwa, tell me how you feel today?"

Me:"Nothing hectic or bad, I'm good. How about you?"

Maphikela:"Feeling incomplete. On a scale of 1 to 10 how good are you to go around?"

Me:"Very good."

He chuckled.

Maphikela:"Can I pick you up at 2? I'll bring you back no later than 6pm. I know you're a kid."

Me : "I'm not a kid."

He laughed.

Maphikela:"Pick you up at 2."

I nodded then he hung up.

Ziningi:"Jolist, I tell you. So you're leaving, man will kill you ngane yam."

Me:"Leave me alone, I want to experience something. If I die I die."

We both laughed , till Mandlezizwe decided to visit me. I saw a series of events that will happen in future. I shook my head groaning, talk about timing. When he stopped I was kneeling on the floor sweating.

Ziningi:" Are you okay? "

I shook my head.

Me:"Even if I wanted to I wouldn't."

How do you tell a man you hardly know, haven't kissed, or had sex that he's supposed to marry you? I'm really a joke in this country.

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ZIZIPHO

I'm nervous, I am shaking to my tits. It's like I need to ask him for money or something big. It is bigger than that though, and I doubt I can do it at least not today. What is he even going to do with a 19 year old? My head just becomes heavy by that though. I sigh opening the door. He stares at me the way he normally does.

Me:"hey."

MP:"Good evening muhle, how are you?"

Me:"I'm better."

He cocked his eyebrows as if trying to read me.

MP:"You're not usually hyped up about seeing me but you look like you have the world's weight on your shoulders."

I chuckled nervously.

Me:"It's nothing, how's the family? Your father."

He looked at me then back at the road, being silent for a few minutes.

MP:"The family is good, my dad. I think he is fine, he should be. Is there something happening?"

Me:"Not that I know of yet."

I looked outside the window, I knew well that they needed to get back into good terms with their father. Their anger towards him was even weighing me down, I'm usually fine when he comes home to see me but today he was heavy. With an aura I couldn't really pin point, he phone rang between his thighs, he looked at it clenching his jaws. He declined the call switching off his phone in the process, he better not be cheating. I can't deal with another man who won't treat me like I want and need to be treated. I need to be treated like royalty otherwise I'll tell my family so the guards can deal with whoever has hurt me, I'd deal with them on my own but I don't wanna make it a habit to fight my battles using my gift.

Me:"What if you received an important call?"

MP:"Huh?"

Me:"Why are you switching off your phone?"

MP:"My baby mama and her sister are being a nuisance."

Me:"You have a kid?"

What have we been talking about this whole time? I'm so lost, I hardly know him come to think of it.

MP:"I have 2."

I let out a dramatic scream.

Me:"2!Jesus so that's 2 baby mamas that will be on my neck for things I don't know. Whyyyy?"

He laughed.

Me:"This is not funny."

MP:"It's not, except that you just declared us a couple with that statement."

A gate slid open, the flats looked amazing, from the gate to the big parking lot, the way the paint was.

Me : "I was just joking shame don't be forward."

MP:"Yeah sure, come let's go."

He took my hand and walked to the elevator with me.

MP:"I don't know how special this will make you feel, but I hope it makes you extra special."

He stands on the side letting me in, I take around the atmosphere. There are stairs going up, then other going down. We're in what looks like a kitchen from where we entered but it's on the right along the passage down there's the living room with couches. There's a few of tress ar the far end.

Me:"You're nervous?"

He chuckled resting his hand on my waist. There's a tiny setup on the floor with covered food. He helps me sit down then he joins me. He spoke while opening the dishes.

MP:"I remembered you once said you like beef and steamed bread, over the phone. So I got it here with a food sides. Before you ask no I didn't cook, my little sister did. I have trust issues with food made my people."

Me:"Generally or is it something that started after a certain dinner."

He chuckled passing me my plate, he has won my heart over this guy.

MP:"Generally, I'm picky yet I like home cooked food. I can't even cook to save my life, I bother every body at least my twin can."

Me:"You should get a wife."

I joked, he didn't laugh. I looked up he grimaced, I blushed unintentionally.

MP:"If I ask you to marry me would you say no?"

I laughed, God works in mysterious ways. Did our ancestors do something for this man to talk marriage this soon.

Me : "What do you have to offer?"

MP:"For now everything. In terms of my love, my attention my money all of it if need be, my loyalty, my body, a house that we'll buy should you say yes. Everything, then the sex once we're official."

I laughed with wet eyes, he said it freely. Like it just came to his mind as he spoke.

Me:" I've been sexually deprived for some time. As long as I won't run after getting married. "

He chuckled shaking his head.

MP:" When do you think of getting married? I know you have goals, I won't stop you from achieving them. Your mother can even move in with us it's fine, I need you. "

He touched my chin with both his fingers and pulled me forward kissing me. I closed my eyes taking in the smell of his perfume this close, the breath he sucked in when I allowed him to kiss me. MP:" need you. "

The kiss deepened, my eyes widened. MP:" Relax, please."

He pecked my lips and headed to the door, he was wearing white socks, his jeans hanging slightly low. He had taken off the belt so the white underwear underneath couldn't be missed, the t-shirt fitted him perfectly made his tiny ass sexier. He opened the door. "I've been calling you."

I couldn't hear Maphikela's response but on the other side was definitely a woman, one that sounded angry.

"You're with Lindo, you still fucking my sister Hadebe?"

Hadebe? Eh okay nice. He got pushed aside, a lady walked in. She looked good in her sneakers and very short shorts, beautiful yellow thighs and tight body. Wish to be her.

Her : "Hi." Me: "Hey."

She looked at Maphikela like she was in disbelief.

Her:" You look cozy, I hope this is new cause if it isn't he's already sick. My little sister has HIV and this one has been fucking her, guess what? I'm her baby mama, this ass slept with my baby sis and I'm sure he's infected. I'm pretty sure he pees puss, if you already got. Better check your pussy out baby girl. "

I looked at Maphikela with no care of what this girl was saying, I wanted him to do something. Get her out of here, put her on the leash or something.

MP:"Londiwe hamba kini(Go home)"

Londiwe:"I can't believe you've moved on again Bhungane, Why do you keep doing this to me? "

Eeh bipolar much? When did she start crying. There should have been chips here, it's not nice snacking on meat. I can't struggle to chew or swallow and struggle watching a film.

MP:" Leave or I'll call security. "

He gently pushed her but she slapped his hand away.

Londiwe:"I hope she doesn't stink down there with those huge thighs, iKivi kuya bhujwa nawe uyabona(Dark inner thighs are present you can also see)"

I slowly stood up with my hands on my waist.

Me:"If you're used to fighting his girlfriends then this is the last time you're doing that. Know people you disrespect otherwise

it'll get you in trouble one day. Imagine being struck by lightning possibly getting disabled, how would you explain that you swore at me and I retaliated with witchcraft. Don't test me, you won't even get to mark that test. "

They both looked taken back, then she clicked her tongue and walked out chuckling. Maphikela locked, he stood facing the door for a minute then turned around.

Me:" Don't even explain. "

He sighed from being saved from a lot of trouble. In future he'll be in deep,I wasn't in the mood for an argument.

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ZIZIPHO

Dates? We've went out on plenty of them. Throughout we were just having fun, enjoying each others company. Learning each other, understanding each other, loving each other, fighting each other . It was one beautiful journey, a journey I'd walk over and over again. He helped me find a school in Durban, I was currently doing my grade 11 full time, I just decided to go back to school, wear uniform. When he really asked to marry me, Maphikela Hadebe, I asked if he was ready to be mocked for having a wife in high school. He looked at me like I grew horns, I rolled my eyes realizing how stupid that sounded. I myself would marry him even if he were in High School and I

working, he'd be my ben 10. We did the marriage Certificates, asking to keep my surname. He threw a fit about it, I decided to be Zizipho Giqwa-Hadebe. Mandlezizwe.

And here we are today eating lunch or something bigger than that, there were many people. Our close family and some of his colleagues and a few of my classmates. We didn't want a huge ceremony, we were yet to have that I said in my heart.

Going back to school and being a wife, also a daughter to my mother was kind of tricky. Making me go up and down and freaking out about my dress made me lose weight a little. I

didn't like losing it but I felt good, I could feel that right after this I'll gain my weight back.

MP:"Umuhle(You're beautiful) ."

I looked back at me smiling.

Me:"Ngiyabonga(Thank you)"

MP:"Ngyakuthanda futhi(I love you)"

Ugh I died, thank you God, thank you my ancestors.

Me:"you look so handsome."

He was wearing black jeans with a tight black vest, he wore amashoba on his upper arm, then covered his chest and back with with animal skin. My dress was also black in color, with

pearls from the boob cube all the way to the beginning of the tail just below my knees, I was wearing sandals just for comfort. The Mqhele on his neatly cut hair showed more of his complexion. I've been drooling, we haven't done other things except touching and kissing like it's the last time. I'm excited in every part of my body right now. After he paid lobola I did my wifely duties over the weekend, because of school. They were so nice about it, like they've never been enemies of my family.

He keeps looking at my head, I fell in love with the head cloth immediately when I saw it. It was just saying hey.

MP:"I think it's time we get out of here."

Me:"I think so too."

Gatsha was already staring at us with a big annoying grin, he came to us.

Gatsha:"You two can't stop touching each other, I'll send you out."

There's music playing, people are laughing and eating.

MP:"I've eaten but I'm not full."

He bites his lips staring at me, I really think us drinking alcohol was a bad idea. We literally staring at each other, wanting to rip each others clothes off.

Gatsha:"Guys you saw how our couple was dancing, they probably just need to sleep. So everyone please eat as much as you can

drink and get drunk, take some home with you if you want to. The dj is all yours."

Mr Brown ft Zanda Zakuza Thandolwam boomed from the speaker as my husband and I danced ourselves out. We finally stumbled in the parking lot laughing, a Mercedes G63 Mensory beautiful with blue lights luminating inside. There was enough space between us and the driver, he poured me a glass of champaign.

MP:"To us."

Me:"To Us."

He kissed me, we laughed along the way. We finally got to the hotel,I just couldn't wait to breathe. I removed the head cloth.

MP:"Let me help with that."

His hands touched my dress, he gently pulled it down brushing my back with the pad of his fingers. His breath was hitting so close I expected his lips on my skin anytime. I closed my eyes clamping my thighs hard together, my clit felt like it was sore but a beautiful kind of swore, I was afraid of what awaits me with a swollen bud ready for release. He turned me around

dropping the dress to the ground. I removed my bra while he stared at me removing his own clothes. The bulge under his underwear made my eyes pop out, I've never seen it this close.

Me:"I.. Uhm... Need to bath fast."

He shook his head dropping his underwear, his manhood pointed at me. I gulped totally forgetting I was taking off my underwear, I snapped out of it standing completely naked in front of him.

MP:"I can't let you do that now."

He says against my lips pushing me to the bed, I'm breathing heavily when he settles me on top of the bed grabbing my ass and helping me drag myself upwards. I keep feeling his meat

tease my entrance, I don't remember opening this wide before, he presses against me, against my clit. My breath hitches, I'm gonna cry.

MP:"Baby I need to release now."

He groans against my ear.

His hand touches my coochie, he circles it on my coochie inhaling deeply against my ear it does something to my body, it shuddered. He pushed a finger in his palm still circling my clit.

MP:"Baby ngzoshona la."

He hisses getting up and stroking his manhood, slowly he penetrates. My upper body involuntary jerks up.

Me:"Shit Baby."

He circles his waist burying his head on my back.

MP: "Baby I can't hold it, I'm gonna be very brief I'm sorry."

Sex addict. A week before our first date he had sex with Londiwes sister, he promised that he used condoms and that we can test month to month. We did test then 2 months ago I started the injection, one that wouldn't mess up with me having a child again.

Me:"Hm baby hold it."

He jumped out the stroked it staring at my lazy eyes, he slowly guided back in clenching his jaws with his eyes just. He pulled one leg upwards then banged me, I was staring at him, his face, he looked beautiful. He licked his thumb then pressed it on my clit, the little pressure made my toes curl then he kept moving his finger at that same spot first with a slow pace, then a bearable one, then he went so fast my mind froze for a good minute. I screamed like I was dying then clenched my jaws a wave of an orgasm, my mouth formed an o from both surprise and pleasure. He stroked faster then dropped on top of me. We

both breathed heavily, he rod was still kicking inside of me. I wss still gathering my brains.

Me:"Wow."

MP:"I love you."

He said with his eyes slightly closed. I was sober from that orgasm, he's not gonna stop with just one round. Not after the goodies he gave me.

I leaned forward kissing him deeply, I clenched my vagina walls against his rod that rested inside me. He gasped then moved slowly.

We could have went all night but we're human beings, and we eat a lot.

Me:"What would you say if I told you we're married because of our ancestors."

MP:"Uhm I know it is I mean baby this has to be blessed by them."

He rubs his thumb and the corner of my lips then licks it. I smile.

Me:"Not like that, for a more reason a deeper reason. Maybe you being King of amaXhosa. I am the chosen one."

He stopped eating and scowled confused.

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In Mbumbulu

Gatsha rubbed his beard looking at his brother confused.

Gatsha:"So this isn't just about love. Because your wife, she can whip something fast."

MP:"Unfortunately some of us are lovable and deserving baby brother."

Gatsha:"Don't you think we should also consult I mean we can't take one for it."

Gatsha : "Why am I the only one talking? Aren't you guys hearing what he's saying."

Ulu:"I just see two dramatic boys falling for Xhosa women. They must have some hold over you too."

MP:"Who invited these 2 to the meeting? They talk too much and they're unmarried I doubt they'll relate."

Gatsha:"I'm also unmarried."

Maphikela looked at his brother, he was frustrated as is and they were making it worse.

MP:"Shut up.

Zo:" I didn't even say anything, and trust me I have a lot to say. "

MP:" Good teach your sister to shut up. "

Ulu:" You're so mean Maphikela. "

He looked at her with a cocked brow.

MP:" You should be used to it by now. "

Ace:" There's no use for this meeting, except informing us. You love Zizipho and we know you'll do whatever you guys need to do. You have my support, and mostly because I wanna see how this unfolds. You need to learn cliques bhuti, Xhosas don't compromise." MP:" And I do? "

Ace:" Ah you just lost it, you'll be King. Shame I wonder how many people will be dying in that village. "

He turned to punch him but he ducked laughing, yeah he was pissed which made it more funny for the young brother. They started bickering while Bhungane kept rubbing his thumb on his lips buried deep in thoughts. Bhungane:" I dreamt of mama. "

They all kept quiet and looked at him.

Bhungane:"I am still trying to understand it, she was sitting with Xhosa people. Everyone that had died in this family, I even saw the brother we killed at Ngwekazis home."

Ulu:"It's clear that they've joined forces. Obviously zalo you'll have to accept the throne."

Ace:"You better not be having some type of thoughts, you'll not even set foot in the Kingdom. Phike will only be King because he'll marry the Queen, the Throne isn't the Hadebes sister. Sorry neh?" Gatsha laughed.

Gatsha : "I love chaos especially the kind with blood. But we're not fighting that war anymore baby sis okay? Sorry man."

She rolled her eyes leaning back.

MP:"Guess meeting is adjourned."

Bhungane:"I think we should go buy meat and do a young get together." Zo and Ulu laughed.

Ulu:"Athi young get together, bhuti what do you know about young?" He chuckled shaking his head.

Bhungane:"Call Ngwekazi and Zizipho

they can bring the kids back and come have some meat."

Zothando rolled her eyes annoyed, at least they all didn't like each other so there was no use for pretense they were clear with where they all are.

ZIZIPHO

I stood at the window thinking of a lot of things, how my sister said she didn't understand why I were to take over the Throne but eventually did. I liked the fact that she was honest about

not liking me at first, but I'm glad we're good now. Also thinking of the announcement that was made 2 weeks ago back in the Eastern Cape. How I was given tasks so early, having to learn of the history of my family from way back. Understanding how our family makes money. It was a lot, we even considered home schooling for me just so I can be able to work and be the Queen also help people with my gift.

We discussed it with MP and he was fine with me schooling from home.

He hugged me from behind kissing the side of my neck.

MP:"You're good." Me:"Not really."

He turned me around and kissed my nose. MP:"What's up?"

Me:"My life was like hectic, now a lot is happening and it's happening at once. I don't know if it's too much, I don't even see myself finishing school and being everything I'm supposed to be." He smiled at me.

MP:"I think school really doesn't matter my love, unless you make it to. You can drop out and make what you have bigger

and better, you can also finish your matric. And when you're used to everything apply at UNISA for something you like."

I groaned.

Me : "And get pregnant have little kids running all over."

MP: "You know it, and it's not like you'll be at the Kingdom everyday. You have counselors, your fathers brother. Baby can you please stop worrying?"

Me: "Sure of course, let's have sex."

I unbuttoned my shirt wiggling my eyebrows. I love him. And I'm excited that I'll be growing with him, building with him, having kids together. As long as no one else dies.

.....**The End**.....