

OPEN MARRIAGE by Dorica manda

Description : I don't really believe in open marriage, for those who believe that , I salute you because its not easy sharing your partner with someone else , I think when you suggest open marriage or Relationship to your partner its just nature trying to tell you to leave that partner .. Naledi almost lost her husband because of open marriage.

1

#NALEDI

I remember when I met Joshua my friend invited me for a high school after exam party there was some college boys there they would hit on ours that's how my Joshua came in the picture we started talking and we even forgot that we were even at a party he made me laugh like crazy. That night I left smiling I thanked my friend who took me to that party .

Weeks later I never heard from Joshua the most dumb thing is I never got his number . I searched on Facebook and there were a lot of Joshua's there when I got tired of searched than boom I received a friend request you don't know how excited I was I think I fasted the next day just to thank God for bringing my cutie back in my life .

We started talking and we later started dating we broke up when he left for college and I never dated anyone when he was done he started working while I was in my final year at the university.

We bumped into each other at the mall and we started talking again and we got back together .

Anyway fast forward we were two months old in marriage .

I have never loved any man like I loved Joshua my body knew him.like it belonged to him . my heart always skipped a beat every time I see him .

" the electrician will come over " he said " I don't know what if he comes during lunch time or you won't manage he just comes later maybe 5pm when we are both at home "

" 5pm was okay with me " I said with a smile

We left for work and I found my ladies chatting .

"Mrs mutale so glad you can join us " Tina said "it seems Mr mutale gave you a crazy night look at the way you are walking are we safe ?"

We laughed

" how is your open relationship " Martha asked Tina

" its great am enable to date who ever I want but I can still go back to Mike and be happy "

I had no idea Tina and mike had an open relationship.

" the good part about it is I still go back to mike and enjoy our relationship its like we have freedom if am not craving for him I go to someone else if I want him he makes time for me " she said while

sipping on her tea it sounded like she was having a time of her life in her relationship though I felt like it took their time for marriage they have been engaged for 1 year now and we got engaged after them and now we are married am thinking the open relationship is only good for people who are married not people dating .

" would you do it " Martha asked looking at me .

" I don't think so moreover I have never been with any other man apart from Joshua you know I got married as a virgin I kept it for my husband " I said " i doubt if Joshua would love that he is too perfect "

" one man please you need to taste the water girl you are missing out ask Joshua if you would do it " Tina said

I shrugged my shoulders

I didn't concentrate on work I kept on googling about open marriages and I went to YouTube just to look for people in open marriages.

I watched like 5 YouTube videos just to understand this all thing.

" you seem distracted after what Tina said

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about the open marriage thing " Martha said " girl don't even think about it you have a great marriage with Joshua we all envy the love you guys have for each other this open thing one of you might get hurt especially you Joshua is a man and its normal for men to flirt around but still come back to they significant other Joshua loves you don't destroy a good thing"

" but I never felt how other men are look its just an experiment if Joshua refuses I will try it " I said She just shook her head and walked out .

I went to sit next to Tina..

" what's up Mrs mutale " she asked her eyes fixed on the office computer .

" so how does this your open relationship work what if the other person falls in love with someone else " I asked

" it doesn't work like that you just tell your heart not to fall for anyone just be fixed on the things you want and that's sex nothing more " she said

"Oh ok" I said

" talk to Joshua I can introduce you to some guys I haven't slept with " she said

We knocked off and I went to the supermarket hubby wanted a great dinner his friends were coming over .

I got everything I needed and went home my husband was a doctor.

I cooked and I went to take a shower wore a long bodycon dress Joshua texted that they were 10minutes away I served the food and waited for them .

" can I borrow your wife for a day " Nathan commented while eating he was married with one child .

Than mike you know his story than Jonathan he was the cutie of the group he had alot of baby mamas for a cute guy .

" over my dead body am.not sharing " husbae said .

I giggled

When we finished I cleaned the kitchen while the boys watched soccer .

" hey the boys have gone " he said joining me in bed

" you ain't showering " I asked

He started kissing me but my mind was thinking about the open marriage thing .

" are you okay? if you are tired you can say " I said

" I am am sorry " I apologised we are taught never to deny your husband sex unless its that time of the month .

He got up showered and came backI starred at him.and wondered how it will be I have never seen another man naked apart from Joshua .

" now you are scaring me what's with the look? is something wrong my love " he asked

" what do you think about open marriage" " I asked " I was watching YouTube videos and I saw how many people do this and it seems to keep relationship stronger "

He looked at me .." Which relationship ? And why are you bringing it up ?wait a minute when a lady says I have been so you have been thinking about it meaning you want to give it a try " he said

" look baby its less stressful look at will smith and Jade they are happy " I said

"Which happy? the dude cried about the entanglement thing did you watch the video? Babe am not sharing you with any man " he said covering himself

2

#JOSHUA

Was my wife on something was she smoking weed.

I turned to face her and she was watching YouTube videos about this open nonsense .

I have had my fun now am married I love my wife and I would never cheat on her or be in an open marriage thing .

I slept and I wake up she was already up I had an afternoon shift .

" hey " i said

"Did you think about it " she asked

" I thought the weed you smoked had expired but now it seems you smoked it again am not doing it naledi am happy with you " I said

" I want to try new things I have only had you as my experience " she said putting her mug cup down " look babe it's for us to experiment if we don't like it we can even start having babies I know we said after a year and that's okay with me babe I want us to be able to enjoy life "

"Who has been feeding you with all these nonsense huh" I asked

" do you know mike and Tina are in a open relationship " she asked

" so Tina has been feeding you with this this rubbish " I snapped

" its not nonsense its a good idea " she said

Now I was convinced that she was on drugs I got up without saying anything .

When she left I went to see the guys since it was almost lunch time .

" wifey did you bad " Jonathan said

" its all your fault your girlfriend was busy feeding my wife with nonsense " i said looking at mike

" what did she say " mike asked

" open relationship " I said

" why do you guys need that " Jonathan asked

" I don't know and I won't do it " I said

" but man come to think of it it's a good idea " mike said

I shook my head no.. " when I stood on that alter I promised my wife to never break my vows if she wants she can do it am not interested " I said

After having a long conversation with the boys they convinced me to do it but i will never do it I respect my wife too much if she wants to do it it okay but I made my promise when I wore that ring . I called Nathan atleast he was the mature married man he knows how it felt to be married .

" I wouldn't advice both of you to take that risk it would be the end of your married yes it can work for other how about you ? you need to think about what will happen after relationship or marriage isn't something people should play about with it yes it normal but respect your partner " he said

He was right you need to respect your partner I don't know if its there Zambia but I was okay with her alone . but come to think of it was our sex life boring ? How can it be boring when I married naledi she was a virgin how is that possible ?

" you have been sitting here for hours

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is everything okay " Mary asked she has been my childhood friend and we once dated but it never worked out and now we are great friends .

" just thinking " I said .. " I thought marriage was simple "

" whats going on" she asked sitting next to me we didn't have patients .

I took a deep breath .

" its okay you can talk to me " she said

Naledi what's an open marriage " I said

" wait what your wife watches too much movies is she okay " she asked laughing

" I think our sex life is boring " I said

She shook her head

" I think its something else your are good in bed any woman would love to have you " she said

" I don't really want think about that " I said

Why did my wife want to be in an open marriage though it didn't make any sense .

I went back home doing afternoon shift I mostly find my wife sleeping cause I knock off very late. this night I found her waiting for me .

" hey " I said removing my shoes .

She greeted me prepared my bath than ate my dinner I went back to the room and she was still up I knew something was up .

" shot " I said looking at her .

" have you decided " she asked than looked at me .." About the open marriage thing "

" okay its fine we can do it " I said just to get her off my back .

After I told her I went to sleep if she decides to go for it all the best to her I will not do it when I said my vows I meant every word I said.

That Friday we went on a double date with mike and Tina .

" I heard you are doing the open marriage " Tina said

I took a sip of my wine .how I hated that topic

" can I be excused " I said getting up .

I went to the bathroom and washed my face .

" its going to be alright Joshua" I said looking in the mirror .

I went back to the table and Naledi was all smiles .

She whispered if I was okay and I nodded .

We continued with the dinner and everyone was talking and I felt out of place .

" you look down what's the problem " mike asked as we waited for the ladies outside .

" this all stupid thing ain't sitting well with me " I said .. " I don't know what is wrong with Naledi we have been fine all these years and today she wants to tell me all those nonsense I know its happy wife happy life but on this case no man she is hurting me "

" talk to her am sure she will understand I should talk to Tina she should learn to keep some certain things a secret " he said

" it wasn't Tina fault Naledi is old enough to make her own decision you can't force a horse to drink water she knows what she wants " I said

The ladies walked out all smiles .

We went home and I just slept .

I didn't feel like talking to her I was broken have you have been broken by someone my own wife broke me .

3

#TINA

Little did Naledi know that Tina wanted to destroy her friend's marriage she wasn't happy in her open relationship with mike and so she aimed on destroying Naledi's marriage she knew her friend was naive and she would accept it .

Her and Mike have been dating since high school mike never wanted to commithe never wanted to get married cause of the way his father treated his mother and left them . he did love Tina but he didn't want to get married to her he knew committing to her will not be the thing .

Tina kept catching mike cheating and she was afraid of losing himshe suggested they just become in a open relationship at first it was all fun and she enjoyed sleeping with any guy she wanted but she noticed mike became worse months later Naledi and Joshua got married it broke but still she never wanted to leave mike .

" why did you tell Naledi that when are in a open relationship you want everyone to know didn't I tell yo to keep it a secret " he asked after dropping me off .

" babe they need to enjoy before those kids come along "I said

He looked at me .

" babe come on if they both agree then they wanted it to happen right "I asked

" learn to mind your own business " he said

I rolled my eyes and got inside .

Being a weekend I decided to go see my mother .

" when are you getting married that ring will even start having lust " mum said

" first we save for the wedding mom " I said

" kwisa uko Tina(where Tina) that man is just playing with you we can take back the plates he brought because that's too much 1year 6months sure " mum complained

" mum don't worry this year won't pass " I said

I knew it will pass because mike never talks about the marriage thing .

Monday came and I found mrs perfect already at the office .

I hated her for always having a perfect life its always great for her but look at me nothing goes my way.

" hey love how was your weekend " I asked

" its okay my love I went to see my mother in-law she is back in town for a week " she said

Her mother in-law loved her she was even the one who suggested they wait abit to start having kids atleast they enjoy marriage than kids after a year .

" how is she " I asked

" she is amazing " she said

" have you found someone or I hook you up " I asked

" I already did " she said

We continued walking and during lunch Naledi left with her husband.

I went back to work and I just wanted to talk to mike to see how far with this marriage thing .I

knocked off and went straight to his house .

I heard moaning and I just stood there And cried I didn't sign up for this .

I found were to sit and I waited for them to finish .

After an hour

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the girl left .

I walked in he kissed me .

I put my handbag on the sofa and folded my arms .

" am not in the mood for your drama or nagging you wanted this open thing " he said

" Mike atleast let us get married than we can continue this " I said

" here we go about the marriage drama you know am not cut out of this I even told you last time am not ready " he said getting his shirt

" than why did you put this nonsense on my finger " I yelled

" i don't know " he asked

I got my handbag and left .

Maybe I should have left when I had the time I love this guy to much .

I went home called one of the guys I used to hookup with just to forget about mike but when you are in love with someone what they do doesn't hurt you because you are madly In love with them .

Weeks later Naledi started seeing this guy from kitwe because she didn't want anyone from kabwe she respected her husband blah blah like I cared .

" you look sad " Martha asked

" am so sick and tired of all of you " I said snapping at Martha

" what did we do " she asked .. " we didn't ask you to wake up at the wrong side of the bed today don't take your anger on me "

I watched her I clicked my tongue .

I met Joshua and he looked different as if he was facing a lot of problems kabwe wasn't that big .

"Hey Tina " he said as he approached my way.

This guy was cute before I started dating mike I had a crush on Joshua and I have always wanted to have some fun with him you might not know with this open marriage thing I might just get a chance with him .

" hey Joshua " he gave me a hug .

" you look tired worried " I said .. " is everything okay ?"

He smiled his smile was a weak one something was definitely wrong and I hope it was leading to divorce .

" can we sit somewhere and talk " I asked him .. He looked at his watch .." It won't even take time "

" I have to meet up with my mom" he said with a straight face

" what time are you meeting her " I asked him

" in the next 30minutes " he answered .

It seemed he just didn't want to talk to me I looked at him trying to figure out what was wrong I knew what was wrong the open thing destroyed him big time I just hope it won't last for a year cause am going to buy my favorite wine and celebrate that little snake thinks I am happy am about to destroy her .

I watched him walk away he got his phone and called someone .

I left but I needed to hurt naledi were it hurts the most and that's her husband. I needed to find a way to get to her husband.

4

#JOSHUA

If I was told that my wife would want this I would laugh and just tell the person was drunk or something after my short conversations with Tina I waited for mum to show up and she did .. We

had her lunch and I went back home the hardest part is pretending that you are okay with your partner being in bed with someone else .

She walked in looking all happy she went to see her lover .

When she got back she tried to kiss me but I didn't want her to kiss me with those lips I don't know anyway I just felt disgusted with the kisses .

" have you eaten " she asked as she came back from the shower .

Little did she know I was broken I wanted her to come and tell me. " babe I was just joking "

I controlled my tears I think most of you would ask .." Joshua why did you agree it would hurt you to see your wife with someone else " the answer is simple I want to make my wife happy even though its hurting me . as the day goes by I was hurting even more I stopped touching my wife I blamed it on stress sometimes I would tell her that am just tired from work I wouldn't stand looking at her the thought of her having sex with another man broke me .

" you should have said no than drinking yourself to death" Nathan said

I took a sip of my brandy

" you know naledi she is stubborn she wouldn't have accepted " I said

" Joshua you are are my best friend and I wouldn't want to watch you hurt yourself like this its not worth it I know you are a good man you should have reminded your wife of the vows you made open marriages only work in movies nothing more in reality you should be stuck with your partner if you are bored with me act crazy I love psycho bae " he said .

I laughed

" like seriously women are complicated but have multiple personality why didn't she say babe let's do role play " he said

I shrugged my shoulder.

" my advice to you brother is talk to her if you guys want to end up like Tina and mike I feel sorry for you because those people ain't serious with life " he said

We chatted abit than left home .

Being home felt like back in school days when you are taken to a boarding school for the first time and you start making friends

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back in school days when you are taken to a boarding school for the first time and you start making friends and you would feel out of place that's how I felt in my own home I felt like a stranger my wife was like my roommate .

I went to take a shower than had my food she left some in the microwave I warmed it up and watched soccer .

I heard the car pull up and my wife walked in .
She tried kissing me but I refused .
"What's up " she asked putting her phone on the table
"Nothing " I said getting up .
" its not nothing babe " I said
I peeked her cheeks and walked away .
She followed me .
" are we okay " she asked
I nodded
She went to the bathroom to bath .
I cried myself to sleep .
When she was done I felt her cold hands caressing my body but we are on strike .
I removed her hand
"Have we argued" 'she asked
I shook my head no.
" than why are you being cold towards me " she asked
" naledi am just tired can we can do it tomorrow " I said trying to control my tears
"Since when have you even denied me for sex " she asked
" let's sleep I have work in the morning " I said I kissed her forehead
She got the blanket and covered herself .
I got up when I noticed she was fast asleep.
I took a seat and cried I know what you are think men don't cry we cry babe boo.
I never thought I would even share my wife how do people who marry men wives manage? Am a
jealous people .
I took a glass of whiskey and gulped it down I went to the bedroom she was fast asleep .
How come she can even have a peaceful sleep after having sex with someone outside her marriage
.
I got her phone and she didn't put any password .
I went through it I saw the man he was a dark chocolate man my wife had a type .
I read their conversation the man stayed in the copperbelt I checked their chats but nothing made
sense I went back to sleep but my heart was hurting from.all of this .
I woke up I think I only slept for 2hours or less.
I took a bath and made breakfast .
" you didn't wake me up " she said

" I wanted you to get enough beauty sleep " I said with a smile .
" what beauty sleep when I have work " she laughed
I handed her a plate of her food .
" babe are you okay you seem off " she asked
" am fine " I said
I got my car keys and left I always drop her off but today I wanted to be in my car and think .
I reached the hospital and started working.
" its not healthy " Nathan said
I took a deep breath
" Joshua you are hurting " he said
" you think I don't know " I asked him.
" talk to Naledi she ain't that stupid not to listen to you " he said
I just faced the other way if I was told this all open marriages nonsense would drain me than I can't do this .

5

NALEDI

I was so tired I just wanted to get home get myself a feet massage from my husband when I got he wasn't home .
That was strange I always found him home when I got back from work especially if he was working morning shifts .
I waited for him I got really sleepy .
I went to bed .
When I wake up in the morning he wasn't next to me .
" where did you go Joshua " I asked myself as I got out of bed .
I walked to the kitchen made myself a cup of tea .
I went to take a shower and prepared for work.
" musa did you boss leave " I asked the gate man
" no ma'am I didn't even see his car " he said
I smiled and walked to get a taxi to drop me off at work .
" where is hubby " Tina asked
" he left early I didn't even see him " I said

I didn't want to tell my friend that my husband found someone better than me and he didn't sleep at home last night .

" you seem worried " Martha asked

"Am fine just need to finish this for the client " I said

" Naledi I know you we have been friends for 15years I know when something is bothering you you can lie to Tina but not me " she said

" nothing babes I think we drunk a lot last night

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I think we drunk a lot last night that's why am like this" I said

She nodded .

After work I went back home .

Joshua's car was parked outside.

I went inside and he was drinking while watching soccer.

"Hey " I said

"Hi" he said

He continued watching soccer Joshua drinks but not everyday these days he has a glass of whiskey in his hands.

I walked back and he was now holding a bottle .

" what happened to using a glass " I asked

He looked at the bottle than focused his eyes on the TV .

What was really wrong with my husband .

When I was done cooking I dished out for him .

"Babe your food is ready can I bring it here or you will eat at the dinning table " I asked .. He looked at me . " babe am talking to you "

He got up he was drunk .

" you " he said poking my nose .

" yes babe me " I said

He fell on the sofa .

When did he become like this ?/

Naledi didn't have an idea that her sleeping around with the other man was hurting her husband .

I covered him up and slept next to him . I didn't want him to be alone .

When I was up he was still sleeping . I checked the time and it was 4am .

I went to iron his clothes and mine for today's work day .

I cleaned the house made breakfast I checked the time and it was 5:50 am .

I took a bath and went to wake him up . I peeked his lips .
He opened his eyes .
"Morning honey " I said with a smile .
He smiled back and got up
" here I made this " I said handing him a cup of hot tea .. " I figured you really needed this "
He smiled .
" honey is something bothering you " I asked looking at him... " you are different and I don't know
what is really bothering you can you please talk to me "
Before he could say anything his phone rung .
He got up and answered it in the kitchen .
"If we are in a open marriage why was he acting weird " I asked myself
I went back to the bedroom and started dressing up .
He came later on and started preparing for work .
He didn't utter a word out ..
" can you drop me off " I asked
" sure are you done" he asked
" but you haven't had your breakfast yet " I said
" am not hungry " he said
" you didn't eat last night " I said
" you want to go or you what to start with your interrogation " he asked
I didnt respinse I got my handbag .
I found him waiting for me in his car busy on his phone .
" so how is your lover " he asked
" he is fine and yours " I asked
" she is fine will see her later at night " he said
" that's really nice " I said
We used to have a crazy fun conversation but my husband was just distant.
" babe are you sure you are okay " I asked ... " I hope she ain't pregnant "
He laughed .

" how did you even find me how did you even know I was here " I asked Tina when she walked in my house .

" I thought you are in Ndola " she asked me ... " so you are here and you can't call your cousin "

"Tina what do you want I know you " I asked

" you are having sex with Mrs mutale right " she asked

" that ain't your business " I said

" I need a favour you owe me " she said .

" owe you for what look Tina leave am expecting someone" I said

" for all the time I gave you a good time look I need you to make her fall in love with you than leave her " she said

I shook my head

" you fall in love with her than leave her its not like am asking for too much " she said

" I make her fall in love than what ?" I asked

" I will give you further instructions after " she said

I just agreed .

My girlfriend came back from the saloon she had no idea that I was sleeping with someone's wife .

We went out to dinner and I don't know what really happened I started thinking about Mrs mutale I don't know why I call her that but that's her husband's name .

" babe I have been talking to you like for 5minutes straight " she said

" sorry bae I have a headache and I just don't want to ruin our date " I said

I don't know why I lied but I think what Tina said got to me .

I took Ruth back home and I called Mrs mutale .

A man answered I guess it was her husband .

He politely told me that he will tell her to call me .

This open marriage for them was really working .

After two hours Mrs mutale called back .

I invited her the next day to my house I wanted to plan something special for her .

She agreed.

The next day I prepared a nice romantic picnic in the living room though cause it was raining outside.

I went even extra I got candles strawberries ice cream and I prepared a romantic dinner and I got some dessert.

" it smells nice in here " Mrs mutale said as she walked in .she wore a blue ripped jeans and a black T-shirt she had a beautiful wine glass shape .

I had switched off the lights I wanted the candles to do magic .

" woow this is beautiful " she said taking a seat .

" all for you " I said

" but we agreed no romantic stuff what changed " she asked

" Mrs mutale I know but can't we have just one night without you ruining it " I asked

" Naledi that's my name and moreover anyway never mind " she said

We had our dinner and started having wine naledi was a funny woman when she was drunk .

" so tell me your love story with your husband if its okay with you " I said

She laughed than took a sip of her wine .

" we started dating when i just finished my high school

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than broke up because I refused to have sex with him he got upset and things started becoming awkward a week later we broke up few years later we meet in Lusaka city we went on a date the boom got married " she said

" why did you refuse to have sex with him though " I asked

"I couldn't sleep with any man I meet I open my legs No I wanted to lose it to Mr right and I lost it to the right one " she said

" you lost it to your husband " I asked

" yes and I would have done it a thousand time he is the best thing that ever happened to me I know you would say why are you here if he is the best thing that ever happened to me I didn't want him to cheat on me or I cheat on him we both get hurt I think its better that we all have someone in our lives " she said

I took a sip of the wine and looked at her

" ask" she said getting some strawberries.

" how about kids don't you have any or you are that kind who don't want kids " I asked

She laughed and looked at me ... " no my mother inlaw suggested we get on birth control and enjoy ourselves and when we are ready to have kids we can " she said

" you are loved hey some mother inlaw are monster " I said

" not mine she is amazing she loves me so much when we started dating again he used to take me home and one dayshe found me we talked that afternoon like I have known her all my life " she said

Talking to her made me realize that she is the woman I want to spend the rest of my life with I don't know why I had developed feelings for her but would she love me ? I doubt because she is in love with her husband .

That night I made sweet love to her in the morning I took her home .

" I have been calling you " Ruth was nagging

What's with girls and nagging??

I walked inside and ignored her .

"Marcus am talking to you now " she said

" I had a great night please let me remember the night in peace " I said

She looked at me try to understand what I just said .

" is there another woman " she said

" no " I said

She folded her arms and looked round

I chuckled

" if I find out there is another woman the three of us are going i die " she warned

7

#JOSHUA

I craved for her touch I wanted her to be next to me I wanted her to call me all those sweet names she called me I missed my wife everyday I wished I listened to everyone who told me to have told her the truth Naledi started spending more time with her lover she would leave on friday and come back on Sunday I never agreed to that kind yes we barely have anything to talk about but till she needed to respect our marriage .

I looked in the mirror most of my clothes stopped fitting I had lost a lot of weight because of thinking to much I barely eat I think about how my wife looks at that guy does he make her laugh if she kisses him like she used to kiss me .

I touched my lips as I started thinking about our wedding night she refused to spend it in any hotel she just wanted our first night as husband and wife to be together in our home.

I thought she was being paranoid or something .. When we started kissing she was nervous and when I started making love to her I didn't realize she was a virgin .

I was lucky yooh because when we were dating and she told me she was only have sex with her husband I thought she was high on something Naledi never gave me any signs of being a virgin she acted like she had sex before she would tell you things about sex and you would be shocked .

"Hey you " Tina said as she walked in .

I turned and she was smiling .

"Oh hey I didn't hear you walk in " i said . "are you here with mike"

She shook her head no .

" I bet you are hear to see Naledi she ain't around " I said looking at the mirror .

" I came to see you I have been really worried are you guys okay with Nana I have seen how you have lost a lot of weight let me take care of you if anything happened to you I would blame myself for not trying " she said

She went to the kitchen and started preparing food for me .

She told me to go shower and wait for her to be done .

I did what I was told and waited for my food to be ready .

When she was done I couldn't stop salivating the food smelled and looked delicious .

When I started eating oh my gosh this woman can Cook I think I bite my tongue twice

" woow you were really hungry my friend was starving you and that's not really good for someone " she said as I finished eating .

To be honest i don't really remember the last time I ate like that maybe the time my wife was my wife not a shared woman .

" thank you " I said with a smile .

" no problem I have left some food in the microwave

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if you want to eat just warm it up" she said

" thank you once again I really appreciate it " I said with a smile

She left after cleaning the kitchen my stomach really felt alive again i don't know why I stopped eating my wife's food oh wait I couldn't just eat it .

Sunday came and she was back . Tina came over again and prepared some food for me she was indeed a good person I wondered why mike never married her cause she deserved the best .

I just finished eating and I was in the kitchen cleaning up .

" hey you prepared some food for yourself I bought some pizza and wine " naledi said while leaning on the kitchen counter .

" have eaten my girlfriend was here" I said with a smile

I hated lying to her but she has broken me in pieces .

" you bring her here in our matrimonial home " she said

" I have no choice " I said ... " relax we don't even have sex in our bed we use the guest room "

" oh that's really good so we won't have our favorite wine " she asked ..."we can even watch some Netflix movies.

" no I have work tomorrow " I said

" but you are working night shift honey " she said with a low voice

" am just tired let me go rest you can still watch it alone" I said walking away .

I removed my clothes and got into the shower.

Abel chungu's song played in my heard as I took a shower it hurt sometimes being a man because you hide your emotions you can't cry because if you cry people will label you as being weak if you tell your friends you are hurting they will probably tell you be strong or man up I was hurting I cried in the shower till I had no tears Naledi broke me till my heart became like ashes if I told her would she had changed her mind ? Was I wrong to have kept quite?

I felt cold hands caressing me but I didn't want to do this ..I looked at her and smiled I got out of the shower and got a towel .

She looked at me with a shock on her face .

I loved when my wife got in the shower with me I enjoyed making love to her in the shower I wanted to turn and kiss her and tell her how much I missed her but my heart was already in ashes because of what she did to me .

I dried my body and wore my pajamas .

I crossed my eyes and she came next to me and kissed my lips .

They felt so good I kissed her back and. A thought of her being with someone else just passed my mind .

" don't stop please " she begged.

" I can't let's sleep " I said

"Why are doing this ? " she yelled ... " I thought we said we still make love to each other and you haven't touched me in months now I still have to do my wife duties you know am still your wife Joshua "

" let's just sleep " I said

" why are you so cold towards me " she asked

" naledi sleep " I said

" that's not my name am babe or honey " she said

I just laughed

" its not funny don't call me naledi " she yelled

" sleep you have work tomorrow " I said

She got out of bed she was pissed .

I didn't even know how I slept when I woke up she was already gone for work .

8

#TINA

They say when you see a lion busy roaming around that's your chance to kill it .

I don't know why I was getting these weird feelings about Joshua I was just thinking of him I wanted to take care of him .

I called to check up on him and he sounded sleepy .

Naledi walked in the office looking pissed or moody who cares.

" what's up mama " I asked

" nothing these periods are not doing me well " she said

" that's bad hey " I said

She smiled and continued her work .

" how is Joshua " I asked

" he is good I left him sleeping you know these doctors " I said

" working night shift " I asked

" yes " she said

I needed to attack I wanted to hit Naledi where it hurt .

I will start by taking her husband away and making him mine .

During lunch time I went to see him he just finished having his shower he wrapped a towel around his waist why was I thinking of doing dirty things to him already in my mind .

" hey " he said bringing me back to reality.

" my bad I was calling you but you never picked up so I was worried " I said

" I guess it was the time I was in the shower " he said

" that's okay let me prepare a quick meal for you before you leave " I said

" you will be late I will have some pizza Naledi got " he said

" pizza ? you are going to work do you want to faint " I said

He laughed

I called Martha to cover for me I lied to her that my brother wanted to see me .

I prepared him some food and I went back to the office .

I continued working though I was thinking of that waist yooh how did I end up with that good for nothing Mike when Joshua was around maybe because he was a one girl guy and I never paid attention to him .

" How is life " I asked Naledi

" fine just my husband acting weird these days " she said

" how strange anyway men are strange you just enjoy your side before your husband changes his mind and say he wants kids " I said

She looked at the files then at me .

" I wouldn't mind having a baby though " she said

" are you insane its not even yet a year and you want to change your mind

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mama once you become pregnant you will only have sex with your husband no man will touch you again look enjoy now " I said

" you are right hey " she said

She was so dumb

I called Marcus to make sure he was doing his job .. How I found out that my cousin was having sex with naledi she came to show me her friend's status she just had a baby and she wanted me to see it and I mistakingly pressed on Marcus 's status .

So now he is my partner in crime we have to put this two apart .

It was now or never .

" wait you are in love with her but I told you to make her love you dummy " I scolded

" I didn't know that I will fall hard for her " Marcus said .

" that's no Problem just make her love you back to an extent where she wants to leave her husband that's the idea here " I said

That's no problem " he said

The days went by and I was spending more and more time with Joshua

He never talked about his wife when we were together I never talked about mike either I just wanted some quality time with me and Joshua .

" mike is doing great things to you look at the way you are glowing " Martha said

" he is indeed doing some magic " naledi said with a wink .

" its not mike I met someone special he makes me feel like I was a woman again mike and I there is no future but with this man its marriage I see myself in a wedding dress" I said

They both screamed

" don't get us fired " I said

" do we know this guy " naledi asked all excited

" no you don't but you will soon meet him " I said

" we can't wait " they both said

I needed to make Joshua love me .

I went to see the man that helped me make mike propose to me this man was powerful .

I explained to him and he gave me some love charms to put in his food and some in my body lotion am suppose to mention his name and put in my lotion than he is mine .

That weekend I knew he was home alone Marcus informed me that he was with naledi .

" hey " I said with a smile

" I wasn't expecting you " he said

" I told you I was coming check your texts " I said

"My bad I didn't even check my phone " he said

I put my handbag and prepared his food when I was done. I added the powder to his food and I Gave him .

He started eating .

" you are a great cook " he said

" thank you where did Naledi say she went to " I asked

" she went to see her sister " he said

"Okay" I said with a smile

9

#NALEDI

Naledi noticed that her Husband has completely changed he never talked to her that much she would find pots with food her husband was never that kind who loved to Cook she actually has never seen Joshua Cook for her or himself even once .

His mother would tell naledi how Joshua hated cooking and she would wondered how he managed at school because you know universities you have to Cook for yourselves .

Joshua would leave for a week and come the next week sometimes he would disappear for a month .

Naledi became worried and when she would see him they were like roommates or hostel mates or something they had nothing to talk about .

" Mike please talk to your friend " I begged

" I will naledi don't cry " he said holding my hand .

" woow now you are having sex with my friend " Joshua yelled as he walked in while I was talking to Mike

" why would you think that " I asked wiping my tears ..." I just wanted someone to talk too "

" you are unbelievable " he said storming out .

Mike shrugged his shoulders I guess he was shocked like me I was really shocked why would Joshua think am sleeping with his friend?

I went back home and he wasn't there .

I heard a knock and went to get it.

" mummy " I said hugging her

" were you crying what did my son do " she asked .

" come in first your son didn't do anything I just have a terrible headache "I said

" did you take some painkillers " she asked

" I just did mummy what can I offer you " I asked

" a glass of juice " she said .

I got her a glass of juice and I called Joshua he didn't pick my calls so I sent a text that his mother was here .

We continued chatting and Joshua walked in .

He peeked his mum and took a seat next to her .

I excused myself and brought him a glass of whiskey .

He looked at me than smiled at his mother .

" are you guys okay " his mother asked

" yes mom why " I asked

"You are abit off as if you had a fight " she said

" we are fine mum " Joshua said while taking a sip of his whiskey

she left after having supper with us .

I walked in on Joshua packing his clothes .

" what's going on " I asked folding my arms

" are you blind " he asked with so much bitterness

I took a deep sign .

He walked out with his clothes And took them to the guest room .

" why are you moving to the guest room " I asked. . " Joshua it hasn't gotten to you moving out of our matrimonial room "

" naledi please " he said

I just let him be he packed everything and went to the guest room .

I stood there like a statue try to understand what just happened .

That night I couldn't sleep I got out of bed and went to drink water .

I checked his room.

Sponsored

he wasn't there

Where could he have gone to "I asked myself .

I waited for him till I fell asleep on the sofa .

He walked in I got up and sniffed himI don't know why I did that that was weird and we were in an open marriage .

Days passed and it was becoming really strange we barely talked he even stopped eating at home he stopped being my husband

And on the other hand Marcus became more and more obsessed with me he even broke things of with his girlfriend and he asked me to get married to him .

" like dude are you insane am married "

He would stalk me at work bring me flowers lunch and it was really strange.

"But why would he pack his things " Martha asked

I shrugged my shoulders

" maybe you guys argued over something " she said

" mama not even an argument I don't know why he started acting weird .

" do you think he is falling for the other woman " she asked

" maybe " I said

" why haven't you fallen for that one who has been stalking you " she asked ... " why is Tina acting strange these days imagine yesterday she was busy talking marriage with one man like this "

" I have no idea how about mike " I asked

"They broke up " she said

After all theses years they break up .I went back home and found my gateman pacing up and down .

"Why are you pacing is everything okay" I asked

" madam I can't keep this to myself I know it ain't in my place to do this but I just have too " he said

" okay am listening " I said

" madam that your friend who is light skinned always comes here she cooks for Sir wash for him and sometimes they mwah mwah each other on the mouth " he said

"Tina" I asked him

He nodded

Tina has been coming here no wonder she has been acting strange but wait I will deal with her .

10

#TINA

Can I shout can I dance can I tell you guys that's am in love this man makes me forget that I was once with one stupid man who never used to tressure me he only cared about his useless pressure am now with a nice handsome man .

So I went back to see baba and he gave me some charms that when Joshua sees naledi he wouldn't stand her and one that makes her smell like feaces only him can smell the feaces not others .

" you should get your own place babe " I said

" I don't think I want to give up on that house " he said

" than chase her out of the house after all its yours " I asked .. " she can find somewhere else to stay look naledi cheated on you first it hurts being in an open relationship or marriage theses people take advantage of us " .

I heard a knock and went to get it .

" what is this I hear " mike asked .

" what did you hear boss " I said sarcastically

"Tina set the man free look he loves his wife stop feeding him with lies I will not stop being his friend because of you " he said

Before I could say something naledi walked in my compound she looked mad .

"Babes what's wrong " I asked

The next thing I felt was a slap .

" you good for nothing desperate bitch so its you who has been sleeping with my Husband " she asked

" you are lucky my mother raised me right " I said ... " she didn't raise a ghetto girlwho likes fighting I Will act like a lady who was taught how to behave "

" you can't just fight back you whore husband snatcher " she yelled

At this point the neighboura being noisey were listening

" I can fight you but I don't what you to wake up with a disfigured face " I said

She slapped me again and now we started fighting .

Mike managed separate us Joshua came outside and I stood behind him .

" you good for nothing desperate idiot " she yelled

" naledi leave " Joshua ordered

" are you kidding me Joshua " she said

"Naledi I said leave " Joshua yelled

" they ain't worth it let's got " mike said

We went back inside I swear naledi did magic on my body she was fighting as if we were in WWE .

" she did you bad hun " he said

" I did a number on her everytime she remembers those marks I left on her she will never forget " I said

My body was in pain she will never forget " I said

My body was in pain naledi wasn't fair how could she come to my house and beat me like this.

" you need to divorce her " I said

He looked at me shocked

" why are you looking at me like you have seen a ghost " I asked

" divorce? Not nowokay I Will think about you but am not assuming you of anything have been with her for a year and I can't just divorce her what will people think of me of us? Look give me time to think about it okay " he said

I smiled

" didn't the charm work ?

I thought baba said it will make him forget naledi and marry me .

" why didn't it work "

That stupid baba he just wanted my money .

He didn't spend the night at my place because he had work .

I was going to find a way to get them divorced .

But how ?

I finally had an idea .

I searched the internet on how to make fake divorce papers thank God for the person who created the internet cause I managed to make fake divorce papers to them it will be real .

I went to work and got the papers .

It had Joshua's name and naledi's name it was fake but in there mind it will be real .

I did a catwalk with the papers in my hand .

Naledi looked at me and clicked her tongue .

Martha walked in minutes later .

" Tina what you did is low key bad we have Been friends since high school how can you do that to your friend " Martha said

" why do you always take her side she is no saint she cheated on her husband her husband never had a girlfriend she went running to the first man she met " I said ... " I don't blame her she used to keep her virginity so that Joshua would love her but hey the bitch has always been a slut even when she was a virgin" I said

" whatever you are doing you will never be happy " she said

" are you cursing ? Look I didn't tell her to consider the open marriage she is dumb " I said .

" I now get it you came up with that open marriage you have always been jealous of Naledi what a shame " she said

I rolled my eyes .

" I pray to God that you are forgiven cause you are just evil " she said walking away .

I walked to Naledi's desk and gave her the papers .

" what are those " she asked

" are you blind can't you read " I asked her .
She read the papers and looked at me .
" so he gave you these why didn't he bring them " she asked
" he doesn't want to look at you he is tired of you " I said
I walked away.

11

#NALEDI

So Joshua really wants to divorce mebut why didn't he bring them ?
Is Tina good for him?
What about our for better or worse ?
Why didn't he talk to me before bringing these papers?
What happened?
Where did I go wrong ?
Those questions kept running in my mind I didn't really know what to do what happened to us?
" Naledi are you okay " Martha asked
I showed her the papers .
" it hasn't gotten to this can't you guys just talk about this " she asked ... " am sure Tina forced him to do this cause you guys loved each other "
" its my fault I neglected him dispuete having a girlfriend he wanted me to be hi wife " I complained
" girlfriend you mean you knew about Tina and Joshua dating " she asked ... " because what I know is Joshua never had a girlfriend when you had you side dude "
" what are you talking about " I asked because I didn't understand what she was saying .
" Joshua never dated anyone Tina said he left because he couldn't stand another man being with you " she said
" but why didn't he mention it " I asked her
"That's Joshua's question my love " she said rubbing my shoulder .
I walked back to my desk .
Why didn't he talk to me about the all issue.
I called mike to talk to him I needed answers.
After work I got on a taxi and we met at pizza hut.
" sorry for keeping you waiting " I said
" its okay I understand how are you doing " he asked
" am getting better I was handed divorce papers today " I said

"Wait why " he asked

" I don't know your ex brought them." I said

" I wouldn't be surprised its like she Is happy with this all thing " he said

" I think so mike did Joshua have a girlfriend when we decided to have the open marriage " I asked

" no he never had one " he said

" why " I asked taking a bite of my pizza .

" your vows that was his answer all the time when asked " he said

" but he never said anything " I said

Mike shrugged his shoulders

"Enough about me how are you doing still doing the open relationship as well " I asked

" I never even wanted to be in an open relationship yes I cheated on her a number of times I wasn't ready for a commitment I wasn't ready for a commitment and she was ready my mother went through hell just to raise us " he said

" but you ain't your father mike your father's mistake shouldn't stop you from finding happiness and who to settle with I know its really hard for you to accept it but just try " I said

He took a deep breath

" don't blame yourself your father is a different person " I said with a smile .

" thank you Naledi even your husband told me the same thing but hearing it from you sounds better " he said

I laughed.

" do not worry Joshua loves you and you will see everything is going to be alright " he said

We walked out of pizza hut and he gave me a tight hug .

" now I see you you are now chasing my friends " i said

" it's not what you think we just gave each other a friendly hug " mike said

he shook his head and walked away .. I ran to him and tried touching his hand but he touched me .

" Joshua " I called

" what Naledi " he asked

" why didn't you tell me you didn't have a girlfriend " I asked

" what would you have done huh? Naledi when you get married your Husband becomes your Best friend you tell him everything if you thought I didn't fuck you well you could have told me if you wanted us to do role play that wasn't a problem but you bring that open marriage thing you broke me and I don't think I would ever forgive you " he said

" Joshua we can talk about it" I said tears streaming down my face .

"Have a nice life " he said

He got in his car and drove off .

I know people saw me and wondered what happened but I couldn't control them I felt a hand on my shoulder I turned and it was mike .

" let me get you out of here " he said

He took me home and left .

I cried that night I didn't see the signs that he was hurting I now remembered the beer drinking.

Lord please bring back my husband .

The next morning I woke up with a terrible headache .

"You look awful did you sign he needs them " Tina said

" why can't he come here " I said

" just sign he is fade up with you " she said

I just laughed.

"Just sign so that we leave happily" she said .

12

#JOSHUA

I don't really know what was wrong with me my heart would start beating fast I would miss Tina very much I would only want her by my side I wouldn't think of anyone else apart from her.

I don't know why I couldn't stand Naledi's site every time she was near me I hated her even more she smelled really badI don't know if she didn't bath or what it was really strange .

Tina walked in with some papers and handed them to me..

" what are these" i asked as I got them .

I read through them and there were divorce papers and Naledi has signed her part .

Its like our marriage was over I got a pen and signed as well.

Tina kissed me .

She walked away and came back without the papers this time around .

"You look disturbed" she asked as she took a seat next to me .

" I found Naledi hugging mike " I said

" I wouldn't be surprised both of them are desperate and they want to get back at us " she said

" why would they get back at us we love each other right " I asked

" yes babe anyway dinner is ready " she said

I got up and ate .

We went to sleep .

I dreamt that someone was chasing me and was holding a doll in their hands

" come back here you are mine " the woman shouted
" who are you ? Leave me alone " I said
" am not going to leave you alone you are mine " she shouted again.
When I opened my eyes I was sweating my legs felt so tired .
What just happened who was the woman ?
I went back to sleep though it was abit scary .
I woke up and ate my breakfast than left for work and I did take a bath so don't worry lol.
I got a call from mum that she needed to see me it was agent .
I met her after I was done with my shift .
She parked her car outside the hospital .
I got in her car you can see from her face that she was angry .
" why do I get a call from Naledi telling me that you guys just signed your divorce papers are you mad " she yelled
" mum can't you first hear my side " I said
" what side is there

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can't you first hear my side " I said
" what side is there you both need to work this nonsense out I had to drive from Lusaka to here for you people " she said
" mummy calm down " I said
" calm down were" she said ... " marriage is not like monopoly Joshua I never taught you to be a weak man now anything that goes wrong in your marriage you run away "
" mum I didn't run away our marriage was already broken " I said
"What happened what caused the divorce" she asked in a calm voice .
" Naledi suggested we have an open marriage but I refused mum still she insisted and I gave her the go ahead " I said
"What is open marriage" she asked with a straight
I cleared my throat
" Joshua I don't have time for games you ain't my only child " she said
I swallowed hard I think you could hear that awkward sound .
She hit my shoulder .
" its were you have mutilpe partners but still married " I said
She laughed
I looked at her and wondered why she was laughing .

" why do you watch too much telemundo huh" she asked

" it's not telemundo mum " I said

" I have never seen a stupid boy before am even surprised that you came out of my womb Joshua that's stupid " she said

" I never agreed to it mum " I said

" but you let another man touch your wife Joshua being a man you should have put your foot down you should have said No if she refused you should have told her to pack her clothes and find someone who was interested in an open marriage just because you love someone doesn't mean you have to accept everything they say certain things leave us heart broken and we can't fix it " she said

" we are done I have moved on with my life " I said

" moved on with your bestfriend's girl "she asked

" she makes me happy "I said

" that's what happens when you are sleeping between her legs " I said

" its not that she makes me happy " I said

She shook her head .

"Mum she is different and I know you love Naledi but am over her " I said

" what is wrong with you why are you sweating " she asked

I have just confessed my feeling to her about Tina and she is talking about sweating .

" iwe why are you sweating like that "she asked

And my shirt was wet .

Every time I mentioned Naledi's name I sweat like crazy .

" I think I need to go get some tests done " I said

She looked at me .

" mum am fine maybe its because your AC is off " I said

"The AC is on son " she said looking at me .

I got out of the car and got into mine something was wrong .

13

#NALEDI

I held my pillow and cried I didn't realise how much I was in love with Joshua I was so stupid blame me all you want I lost my husband he is now my ex husband my friend is enjoy everything .I touched my body as I missed his touch I touched my lips as I missed his kisses .

Tears was just coming out like rain pouring .

I felt like I was dreaming I lost something big and that was my husband .

I heard a knock and I dragged my feet to go open the door.. It was my mother in law .

I wiped my tears and opened the door .

" mum" I said with a fake smile ... " I didn't know you were in town "

" open marriage really " she yelled

My mother in law has never yelled at me even shout she has always been on my side even when Joshua was right and I was wrong she would take my side .

" he told you " I asked

" Naledi I taught you things to do in marriage I treat you like my own daughter you couldn't control your sexual feelings huh mama marriage is no child's play you can be playing with people's feelings like that open marriage only works when you are in movies or its written in books but not reality mama you have lost your husband to that girl " she said

I broke down

" my love you shouldn't have signed those papers without my permission now you guys your marriage is over barely two years and you are divorced " she said rubbing my back ... " I don't even know what I was going to do "

" mummy I know I was wrong Tina shouldn't have gone to my husband " I said

" your husband is a grown man he could have said no " she said

I wiped my tears and got up .

She held my hand and looked at me ..

" mum I don't want to lose him " I said

She rubbed .my hand.

She stayed for a while than she left .

I slept on the sofa till the next day .

I showered wore my office clothes I didn't have appetite so I left without eating anything.

I got to work and I only found Martha .

" early today " I asked her

" my husband travelled with the kids so am bored " she said

I smiled she was happily married .

Tina walked in looking all happy .

She passed us without saying anything .

" some people " Martha said

I just shook my head and started working .

I was called to the boss's office and I was given a transfer letter I was suppose to report for work on Monday .

" would you stop crying I thank God am leaving

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I thank God am leaving at least I will have peace of mind " I said ..." You act like am going to die at least I won't see Joshua for a while or forever "

" Naledi can't you fight for the man you love ?" She asked wiping her tears .

" I did this to my marriage I ruined a great love because of my desires because I wanted to try something I was selfish and stupid " I said

She hugged me .

The next morning I packed everything .. I sent a text to Joshua to come get the keys .

He came after an hour.

" here are the keys " I said

" you are moving out " he asked surprised .

" I was transferred to work in Lusaka " I said

I got my bags and he held my hand .

I looked at him with my teary eyes .

" why are you crying " he asked with a soft voice.

" nothing its just that we shared a lot of memories in this house and I was saying goodbye " I said .

" it happens " he said

" can I give you a goodbye kiss "I said ..." I know I will never see you again if its not okay with you its fine "

He came close and kissed me .

He pulled out and helped me with the Bags the company car came and took me to Lusaka my mother in-law I mean ex mother in-law suggested I stayed with her since she was mostly home alone her grand kids are always at school .

" you look tired " she said

" I don't know why am tired its only a two hours drive " I said

" I guess you are just stressed " she said

I smiled and we ate our dinner I went to my room and prepared my work clothes .

In the morning I left for work the good part of getting married in a rich family there are a lot of maids .

I went to work my mother in-law told her driver to take me to work even when I refused you can't say no to her.

I was introduced to everyone and showed me to my office .

" new beginning Naledi" I said to myself .

A cute guy walked in not as cute as my husband though I mean my ex husband .

" hey am Dominic I just wanted to welcome you " he said showing his dimples .

" hello " I said with a smile .

" I have to go back to my office " he said

" alright " I said with a smile .

After work I went to get some few things I needed in town.

I went back home.

14

#TINA

When I got back from work he was just throwing up in the bathroom .

"Babe " I called

He looked very weak .

"Did you by any chance ate something that didn't agree with your stomach " I asked

He shook his head .

I had to take him to the hospital if he died I wouldn't know what I would do .

I took him to the hospital but they didn't know what was wrong with him they took many tests but nothing was wrong with him .

" but what could be the problem " I asked the nurse

"We also don't know what is wrong with doctor Joshua maybe its something spiritual" she said

" no it can't be " I said

"But why is he throwing up we have tested everything but he is perfectly fine " she said

" did you examine his liver or kidney " I asked getting frustrated

"Madam we examined everything including his intestines " she said sarcastically

I clicked my tongue .

She smiled and walked away.

A doctor came out and I followed him .

"Doctor any news "I asked

" miss where is his wife " he asked

"I am his wife " I said

He laughed

" what's funny " I asked getting upset

"Miss I attended Mr mutale's wedding and I don't remember your face get me his wife " he said

"You are all rude in this hospital he got divorced to his ex wife he is now my husband" I said

"If you say so anyway you can go see him since you are the wife " he said

People at this hospital were rude its like they all went to the same university or college they didn't train them well .

"Hey " I said

He looked very weak .

"That drip is for what ?" I asked

"Water I have lost a lot of water " he said

" you were okay when I left you at home what happened "I asked

" I was just okay until I left my previous home " he said

"Why did you go there" I asked

" Naledi called that I should go get the kiss " he said

" I knew it she did something to you " I said... " that witch she can't just let you go "

" I didn't even eat anything " he said

" does it matter these girls can just wear juju and come see them " I said

" you are exaggerating now " he said

" but babe she can do juju " I said

" Naledi is alot if things but juju naah moreover she grew up in a Christian home her mother was a pastor" he said

" it does matter i know is she did something to you " I said

" can you drop it I really need to rest " he said .

He was acting kind of strange

Sponsored

I really needed to go see baba to know what was really going on ?

I got permission from work and I wanted to take care of Joshua..

I got there and Mike was around so I left to see baba .

When I got there there were a line so I stood from afar I didn't want to be seen by these gossips around from here .

After an hour it was now clear .

" come my child " he said

I removed my shoes put a k50 in a clay pot .

I took a seat .

" how may I help you " he asked

" baba my boyfriend has been vomiting since he got back from seeing his wife " I said

He got a small bloom (African bloom) it was tied with a red cloth there was a bowl of water next to himhe started saying his words and a picture of Joshua in the hospital came .

" is he the one " he asked

"Yeah yes baba" I said

He said his words again but this time he showed me Joshua with Naledi they kissed .

" that is why " he said

" what can I do " I asked

He got some powder and a root .

" this powder you put a little in his food than the root put in the water you are going to bath get in the basin wash every part of your body especially your lady part when doing this call his name three times do not throw the water away get some and put in his water to drink and the rest put in a container when you want to enjoy yourselves wash your lady part with the same water" he said

" okay thank you baba" I said

" make sure he doesn't see his wife again because their love is very strong " he said

" thank baba not to worry the wife is out of Kabwe " I said

I got up and left .

I went to bath the water first than cooked his food and took it to the hospital .

He ate and I was told not to stay the night .

In the morning he was discharged because he was now better .

" thank you baba" I said to myself

15

NALEDI

Being in Lusaka made me miss Joshua even more its like I was now addicted to him .

Its like someone who smokes weed if you haven't smoked some you feel out of place .

Being a Saturday my mother in-law took me out to go see her friends (imagine old women talking about old stuff)

" Naledi nakula weh umwana ati shani (naledi has grown how about a baby) " one lady said

You see why I hate being around old women do they even know that am divorced .

" balimuchita transfer (she was transferred) " my mother in-law answered

" nombamamudala balibeka (the husband is alone)" she asked again

"Bana Mercy ama question ayo(Mercy's mum all those questions)" another lady asked

A tall girl walked out and whispered that I should go with her .

I took a deep breath .

" why sitting with old women they will just bore you to death " she said with a smile

"My mother in-law brought me here since am new in this town " I said

"You can be my friend my name is Mercy the talkative lady is my mother " she said

I laughed

"So what brought you here in Lusaka " she asked

"Work my family are in kabwe including my husband" I said

"You left him alone awe you trust him " she said

"Very much" I faked a smile .

She had a bible and some Christian books on her bed

She didn't even look like a Christian don't come for me okay ?

She looked like those girls who would party the all weekend and come back on Monday .

"You like my collections" she said pointing at her books .

"You must be deep in this Christian things " I said

" yes am even a prophetess " she said looking at me .

"Oh " I said

"Don't be scared I won't tell those women that you are divorced " she said ..

"how did you know that " I asked

"I actually had a dream about you that I will meet you and change your life " I said

I got up because I don't believe in God I believe in the universe .

I used to believe in God but God took away my mother who was a full time God believer .

" and yes I used to party a lot until one fateful night God saved me I swear that day I told God that if I survived this night I will turn my life to Christ " she said

" I will just stop thinking " I said laughing

" its okay to not believe in God but he will change your life " she said

" I doubt I lost my husband to my friend now am regretting telling him about the open marriage thing

" I said

" its not your fault and you never lost your husband he is still yours " she said

" yes I did" I said

" you never lost your husband " she said ... " listen I want you and me to be praying every weekend I would love to tell you want I meant by that but I want you to turn your life to Christ that's when I will tell you everything "

She left me with questions .

We went back home .

" you met prophetess Mercy"she asked

" yes mum " I said

" she is a really nice person and she is a blessed child " she said

"Indeed she is .

That night I dreamt that Joshua was crying for help he was in a bottle and some things around him .he cried so much that I also started crying .

" help me help me

Sponsored

help me help me " he cries out .

I opened my eyes and it was 05:40am I went to bath got ready had my breakfast and waited for the driver to come pick me up .

My mind was far why did I have that dream ?

Someone touched my shoulder .

"My love good morning" she greeted

"Morning mummy how are you" I greeted back

"Am good are you okay " she asked

" yes just had a terrible nightmare and it was about Joshua mummy I think something is wrong " I said

" maybe you should let Mercy help you " she said

"That's what she told me " I said

" you should see her than " she said

I nodded.

When I got to work I called Martha.

"Mama I miss you " she said sounding sad .

"I miss you more I will make a plan and come see you how is everything" I asked

"Everything is okay despite Joshua being sick the hospital didn't have an idea what was wrong with him he kept on vomiting a day later he was back on his feet it was strange " she said

"Really why didn't you tell me " I asked

"Mama I think this is spiritual to be honest with you how can someone be sick after a day he is better he needs a pastor" she said

"Stop exaggerating" I said

"Which exaggerating ? Naledi the day he said he came to get the keys from you that's the day he started throwing up so what are you telling me " she asked

I was quiet when my boss walked in I hung up I really needed to see mercy .

The one who does what is sinful is of the devil because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work 1john 3:8.. Sometimes the devil uses people who are close to us you have to be careful who you trust woman tend to trust so much we are good at opening up any howlet's look at how the snake manipulated Eva we don't even know who is good for us and who is bad for us some people can either build us or destroy us it's takes us years to understand and know that your biggest enemy is someone close to you . becareful with who you trust don't be too open with anyone someone can use your weakness against you .

" you look worked up is something wrong " he asked

" honey nothing just worried about someone and if the wife won't change her mind she will lose her husband forever " I said

My fiancé was also a prophet .

" why can't you pray for her " he asked

" babe you know even the wife has to be involved I can't just pray for them and moreover she needs Christ in her life " she said

" but you can't force her to pray if she ain't welling and you know for a prayer to work it has to come from within and one should accept " he said

We always destroy a lot of things because what our friends advice us to do .

I used to be the black sheep I wouldn't miss any party for anything partying was my life anyway I thank God for that night .

" mummy am asking for Mrs mutale's home address " I said

" why " she asked with a worried face .

" don't worry its nothing serious" I said

" is it that her in-law" she asked ... " how can you leave your husband alone "

" mum the address " I said

" you know this your church thing is boring man you know I miss gossiping with you " she said .."

Now you are just seriousif you gossip are you breaking any commandment?"

"Mummy I need the address" I said

Before she could say something else I heard a knock I opened and it was Mrs mutale junior .

" I was actually coming to your house but am glad you are here " I said

She greeted my mother and we went to my room.

" so tell me what changed your mind " I asked taking a seat .

" I had a dream about my husband and my friend told me he was sick " she said

" he wasn't sick its something he was given " I said

" given like food or poison " she asked

I shook my head no .

" than what was it " she asked

" Naledi stop blaming yourself " I said

" its my fault I begged my husband to be in a open marriage "she said

" you know you ain't Will Smith and jade smith right where you can get in an entanglement you suggesting that to your husband

Sponsored

you were letting the devil in your house when you get married you become one body one soul and you wanting other men all in the name of open marriage these things work but in America not in Africa its either you fall in love with someone else or your husband falls in love with another if you wanted a open marriage why didn't you wait before you got married because your Husband loves you very much " i said

" he doesn't love me he loves my friend " she said

" you still call her your friend? You have a big heart sweetheart and I admire you the same friend of yours goes to a witchdoctor to make your husband love her " I said

" no she can't do that " she said

" your friend has always been jealous of you even before you got married to your husband mama the devil was closer to you than you think haven't you heard that saying that your biggest enemy is someone you eat with " I said .

She got up and removed her jacket .

" its getting hot" I asked

" I never did anything to her " she said .." I have always been nice to her yes we have had our bad days but that didn't mean I never loved her "

"Naledi there is nothing you can do but trust God " I said

" my husband " she cried

I rubbed her back she cried so much that her voice became hoarse

" listen to me your husband is in danger we need to find a way to bring him to Lusaka he needs prayers " I said

" he would never listen to me " she said

" how about his mother "I asked

She shook her head no .

" Naledi but before we call him here we need to pray " I said

" I haven't prayed like in forever ever since my mother died I just stopped praying and I blamed God for all the pain he caused me " she said

" we have all blamed God for everything but without him we wouldn't be here chatting we would be here spreading the word 1 Thessalonians 5:1 says :give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus all you need to do is say thank you God for my current situation and I trust for " I said

" it sounds so easy with you but we are divorced even if we go back together " she said

" you are not divorced look you will find out everything " I said

" am scared what if God disappoints me " she asked

" God never forsakes his children trust him and have faith " I said

She was so worried about her husband that she kept pacing up and down .

She didn't know what to but she still wanted to help her husband.

Sometimes we should learn to trust God and have faith and declare things in your life .

There is power in the tongue .

The time she calmed down I hugged her

" thank you for telling me " she said

17

#NALEDI

When Mecy told me all those things my heart broke in pieces it broke because I neglected my own husband I forgot that he was existing and the fact that I Gave my friend my husband on a silver plate I could have know Joshua was acting weird how could he fall for Tina no offense Tina was a gorgeous woman but he wouldn't have fallen for her because of the friendship they had they had this special bond with mike.

"Naledi am waiting for the answer " she said

" I will do it " I said

" 3 days of fasting 6-6 maybe you have heard about it .. From 6 am to 6pm " she said

" yes my mum use prepare if we were fasting the next day " I said

" which days are you comfortable with" she asked

" Friday to Sunday " I said

" you don't go to Chuch? " she said

" I don't and I don't need one " I said

" I never invited you but where did you get married I mean the church " I said

" his church " I said

She nodded

"Am still confused with the Tina thing I trusted her " I said

She smiled

"Tell me about yourself " I asked

" nothing much to tell "she said .

" come on you know that I told my husband to have another woman and am not a prophet " I said

She laughed

She told me all about herself and I don't know why I felt a connection with her maybe because I didn't have a sister younger than me she was only a year younger .

" so are you ready " she asked again

" what if he becomes better and he still decides to leave me what am I going to do " I asked

" my love what I know is he will never leave you" she said

" I will ask his mother to call him " I said

I went home and waiting for my mother in-law .

She came back very late and she seemed very tired .

" hey honey " she said after she had her bath .

" hey mum " I said looking at her .

She had her dinner and joined me .

" you look worried " she said

" did you know that Joshua was sick " I asked

" no when " she asked

" my friend from kabwe remember Martha ? She is the one who informed me that he was sick " I said
... " but the bad part the hospital said they didn't know what was wrong with him now he is better "

She got her phone and called him .

"You will come here tomorrow I don't want any excuses " she said hanging up .

So I had to tell her that her precious son was sick I didn't have to explain to her that her son someone was using charms .

I went to call mercy to let her know that he was coming .

The days went by and Joshua kept making excuses and I began the prayer and fasting

Sponsored

I didn't have to explain to her that her son someone was using charms .

I went to call mercy to let her know that he was coming .

The days went by and Joshua kept making excuses and I began the prayer and fasting at first I almost fainted but I remember the reason why I was doing this .. I prepared my mind and after the third day I felt different ..

On Tuesday Joshua arrived I just received a text from his mother .

I became nervous because I didn't even know what I will do .

After knocking off I went to see mercy but she had a few people she was praying for . I waited for an hour for her to be done I called my mother in-law to let her know that I was with mercy .

" am sorry my love " she apologised

" don't apologise I understand I wanted to tell you that Joshua is in Lusaka " I said

" perfect let's go " she said

" now " I asked

" yes when do you want us to go tomorrow after he sees you " she asked

" no I mean okay let's go " I said

She got her car keys and we went to our place .

" how come I have never been here woow this house is huge " she said

" rich people " I laughed

We walked in when Joshua saw me he was shocked .

"Mum how are you hi Joshua " I said

"Am fine how are you Mercy you are welcome " mum said

"Thank you mum Naledi this is Joshua " she asked

"Yes " I said looking at her .

"Am here you know " Joshua said

"Joshua do you know Lameck mbewe " she asked

" yes the prophet right " he asked

" yes I have seen you in his photos nowonder I asked finally I meet you " she said

" how do you know him "he asked

She showed him her ring .

" woow congratulations finally he was always scared of girls " he laughed

They laughed .

I excused myself I went to change into some comfortable .

.

When i saw Naledi I felt abit dizzy I wanted to stand up but I sat back down .

" are you okay " mum asked

" I don't know " I said

Mercy started praying the more she prayed the more I felt more dizzy .

"Bring a bucket for him he must vomit " she ordered .

I sat on the floor I have never felt so weak in my life my legs couldn't move ..

Naledi came back with a bucket .

Mum was rubbing my back .

She continued praying and Naledi joined her .

They prayed and I started vomiting black things .

When I was done I felt better my legs gained strength .

" are you okay " Naledi asked

I nodded

" the charms are out " she said

"Charms? What charms and who gave me " I asked looking at Naledi .

" Tina " Naledi said

" she wouldn't do that " I said

They all looked at me .

"But why would she do that " I asked

" because she was envious of Naledi " she said

" that's wicked " I said

Naledi knelt in front of me .. " look my love its my fault if I didn't bring the idea of the open marriage thing we wouldn't have been in this situation " Naledi said

" I should have said my mind am also sorry " I said hugging her

Mummy clapped .

" I need you tomorrow at church together around 6pm " she asked

Naledi hugged mercy and escorted her .

We slept in different rooms even though it killed me so much .

Naledi left for work and came back at 5pm .

" you ain't ready yet " she asked

" am not like you ladies who take long to get dressed " I said

She rolled her eyes .

She went in her room came back wearing a chitenge a T-shirt she also got her hoodie .

" am ready " she said

I got my car keys she showed me the directions and it was packed .

My wife was in the spirit she removed her hoodie and started Praying .she held my hand and I remembered why I loved this woman she loved holding my hand mike would tease her about it .

After the service we were asked to see them .

" Joshua Mutale "Lameck said

" Mr Mbewe himself " we shared a side hug .

" can we get inside " mercy said opening the door

We got in the office and we couldn't stop talking.

" guys I have work tomorrow " Naledi said

" my bad anyway let's go to it look you guys when you got married

Sponsored

you became one yes marriage is Like eating cheese today you like it tomorrow you don't today you love each other tomorrow you can't start each other but listen you have to become best friendstell each other everything if you are tired of seeing each other go sleep in different beds but suggesting something that happens in America or movies that's a No I will not blame you but be open in trying different things with each other not a third person your body belongs to each other not any other person" he said

" but the papers are signed we are divorced " naledi said

"Those papers doesn't mean anything you guy got married in church right " mercy asked

We both agreed .

They advised us and we left .

She was quite till we got home .

" mum good evening " we greeted

" evening " mum answered with a smile .

Naledi excused herself.

" how did it go" mum asked

" we were counselled "I said

" so what's the way forward " she asked

" I want my marriage to work mother " I said

" good boy now you are talking " she said

Naledi came back she looked fresh . as a ... Anyway nothing .

We had our dinner mum excused herself because mpali started and she wanted to watch it in her room .

" so what are we going to do about the papers" she asked

" I will go take them there are at Tina's place " I said
" but how are you going to get them from her she can't know that you are now okay and free from those charms " she said
" so I have to pretend " I asked
" yes pretend till you get those papers and walk away from her " she said
" that's a good idea anyway am leaving tomorrow " I said
" okay " she said facing down .
I pulled her close and kissed her our kiss was so slow and passionate I removed her top .
And continued kissing her till we ended up in my room

19

#TINA

Joshua has been gone for two days and I haven't heard from him what if he talked to his wife or he has seen her no no that ain't possible .
I heard a car pull over and it was Joshua .
" thank God " i said with a smile
He got out of the car and he looked worried or nervous .
I welcomed him and he took a seat in the living room .
" are you okay my love " I asked as I took a seat next to him .
He took a deep breath .
" you can talk to me what happened " I asked
I really wanted to know why he was worried deep down I prayed he didn't meet his wife .
"I want the divorce papers the lawyer wants us to split the things with Naledi " he said
I was relieved that he didn't meet her .
"You still have them right " I asked
" yes my love " I said
" if its okay can you bring them so that I can give the lawyer " he said
"No problem love first I need a kiss " he kissed me I got the papers and gave them." My love you are going to come back right "
" yes honey as soon as I give the lawyer the papers I will come back to come spend the night with you " he said
" what happened to your phone " I asked
" I left the charge here and you know iphones I did want to waste money getting a new charge I have one here " he said

I went to get the charger and gave him .

" please call me when you are done" I said

" I will as soon as am done you will be the very first person to call " he said

" but my love why can't you take everything she doesn't deserve everything you giving her " I said

" let me just give her my love so that we are together forever " he said.

He kissed me goodbye and left .

Tina didn't know that Joshua took those papers to his lawyer who analyzed them.and confirmed that the papers were are fake .. Joshua immediately called his mother to see if she can help him get a transfer to Lusaka so that he can be close to his wife Joshua pretended for a month but he was never intimate with Tina he made a lie so that Tina didn't catch up and went back to her witch doctor even though mercy and Lameck assumed him that it can't work this time around but he was still careful with her .

" my love your phone is ringing " I gave him his phone .

" good morning " he answered and got up .he went to answer the phone in the living room.

I followed but couldn't understand anything .

He came and started dressing up .

" where are you going" I asked

" am going to Lusaka

Sponsored

your phone is ringing " I gave him his phone .

" good morning " he answered and got up .he went to answer the phone in the living room.

I followed but couldn't understand anything .

He came and started dressing up .

" where are you going" I asked

" am going to Lusaka will be back tomorrow " he said

" why " I asked

" I will explain when I get there" he kissed me and left .

I watched as he drove out of the yard .

I went back to sleep since it was a Saturday .

I cleaned the house did the laundry and took a nap .

In the evening I tries called Joshua but his number was off .

"Not again" I groaned

I slept and when I woke up .I went to do something grocery shopping the rest of the day I just watched some movies alone .

I tried calling Joshua but his number was off .

Woke up took a bath got dressed ate my breakfast and left for work .

When I got to work everyone was busy whispering to each other .

" what is it " I yelled at them

I clicked my tongue and went to my desk .

" you know God works in mysterious ways a couple we thought have divorced come to found out someone manipulated them with fake divorce papers some people are just pure evil all because of what ? What God has put together no man shall separate what God has put together no one shall separate God thank you oh my favorite couple is back together " Martha said

" what are you raving about " I asked

" so you don't know " she asked

" if I knew don't you think I would join you in your gossip " I asked

" check Naledi' Facebook account " she said

I got my phone and Naledi shared a romantic dinner with Joshua ..it was a live Video after that she shared some pictures. My heart was beating very fast .

" if he is not yours he will never stay even if you try oh those juju " she rolled her eyes and continued working . I couldn't concentration because I was heart broken I couldn't cry because I will be a laughing stock .

During lunch time I went to see baba how could he lie to me .

" my child I told you he shouldn't meet his wife and moreover that woman is praying for him there is nothing I can do " baba said

" baba please anything " I begged I was desperate

" you have lost him just find your next victim " he said

I got out of his hat I removed the wig and the shoes .

Why is life an fair I lost mike and now Joshua .

"Yaaah no no " i cried

I was been a laughing stock.

I didn't go back to work I went home and cried. I have lost this battle .

20

#NALEDI

After the romantic night I booked a hotel room and on the bed there was a report.

"Can we separate every time "he said

I laughed

He got the report and read it .

" congratulations daddy" I said

" you are pregnant ?oh my God " he screaming

" shiiii you know we ain't the only one here right " I asked

" I don't care do they have a pregnant wife " he asked

He moved closer and kissed me .

" but I thought you were on a pill" he asked

" I stopped taking it when I moved here" I said

We shared a kiss .

We went to the bathroom to take a shower together .

We made love and we went to bed .

My sleep was disturbed by call .

"I miss you " him

" who is this " me

" you have forgotten me so soon my love " him

" what do you want " me

" I miss you my love when can I see you " him

" honey who is that calling you " Joshua asked

"Look don't call again" me

Before he could say anything I hung up .and blocked his number .

We cuddled into the morning we went back home cause we needed to share the new to his mother .

" mum we have something to tell you " I said

" I hope its not a divorce or someone is dying " she said

We laughed

" no but you are going to be a grandmother " he said

" you are joking really mama" she asked looking at me .

I nodded with tears in my eyes

" oh my gosh this is the best news you guys don't know what yo have done I knew God will bless with other grandchildren " she said

We hugged her .

" I hope he ain't over doing you " she said

I laughed

" mum I have to over do her she starved me"he said

I hit him playfully .

We went to tell Mercy and Lameck we even asked them to be the Godparents to our unborn baby .

You are going to be awesome parents " mercy said

" thank you so much for what you and Lameck have done for us without you I don't know where I would have been and my husband here would be fat of eating juju " I said laughing

" its like that huh" he asked

" there is nothing impossible with God most people lost hope because of what someone fed their minds

Sponsored

we are good at listening to what others say but not what God tells us God speaks to us in different ways but we ignore cause we feel like its our inner voice talking to us " Lameck said

" it takes a believe to understand what God is trying to say " mercy added

" we thank God for you two and I can't wait for the big day " I said

They smiled .

#one year later .

Can you imagine how crazy my life has been while I had my baby 4months ago he is a big boy he is so cute last month was mutinta and Lameck's wedding it was amazing she made a beautiful bride and Lameck made a handsome groom .

Tina was transferred chingola she has lost hope in winning Joshua's love she still texts him on social media .I wish her all best because she was busy feeding him juju and and I am busy feeding him prayers .

Me and Joshua we are in love we try new things everyday we go on a dates vacations my Husband is now my best friend I tell him everything Marcus finally stopped calling when my husband threatened to call the police on him . Open marriage is okay for those who are bored with each other if you have tired try love spice to add to your relationship and the relationship doesn't taste any different try open marriage am kidding .. The best you can do if your relationship isn't working try counselling .open marriage shouldn't be you number one option .

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THE END