

Book 3 of the Ndlovu series



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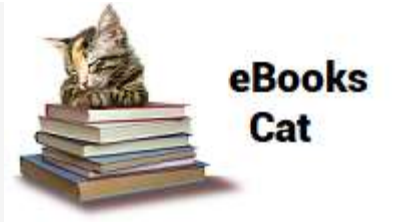
**SNIKIWE'S HOPE**



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**Thando Mkhize**



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## Prologue

I rub my hands softly while feeling the moist under my armpits. Nervous scared of the moments ahead. This this will be my biggest performance I have ever had tonight. I always reminded myself why I am here and how I cannot afford to mess things up or I would suffer

the consequences of my mistakes.

“You are hustling Nikiwe you are doing it for yourself ” I said softly..

“Snikiwe ! ” I stopped my tracks as I was pacing up and down.

My eyes set on him as I swallow.

“Its time ” he says

“I ...Mncedi I can't do this ” I say . Finally feel the pressure from his eyes and also my work

but mostly the fear I have over making this man disappointed. He looks at me with an intense stare that makes me feel a bit uncomfortable at the moment. I shy away from his stare and look to my feet. His cologne hits my nostrils I breathe out. "Look at me " I look at him slowly.

"You will be ok. It's just soft singing. The lights will dim you " he says

"They won't touch me ? " I ask.

The previous audience didn't touch me but these are important people. One amongst these people is the club owner.

“No don't disappoint me ” I swallow and nod.

He places his fingers on my chin and kiss the top of my forehead. My stomach turns in fear as he lets me go. It's not about what awaits me out there but his presence.

“Go on now ” he grabs my arm and leads me out.

Every stride I take I feel like I will fall. He is watching me his eyes are on me that I know. I have a funeral to attend tomorrow. My Sunday school teacher is on her way to heaven or hell but tomorrow we will honour her life and send her off. She would preach to us. Especially me that “Your body is the lord's temple” is it still the lord's temple when it has

been tainted ? Where do I fit in? I am a sinner. I won't make it to heaven that I know. I swallow the lump that is stuck in my throat as I get onto the lighted stage. Stripers on the poles as I am in the corner. "The devil's house " those words ring in my head. My eyes become blurry from the tears and they stream down my cheeks. I wipe them off quickly as my eyes move everywhere. I see him looking

at me. Waiting for me to mess up and I would be punished. My eyes move to the men who are in front of us. The important ones I know them. Who wouldn't know the Ndlovu's if you are from Durban. They can see me but I can't see them when the lights dim. I would like to keep it that way. I clear my throat and let my tiny voice out.

---



“Another glass please” I ask the bartender for another glass. He nods and walks off to get me another yet strong drink. I could smell his scent and it is making me feel nauseated at the moment.

“You did great ”

I keep my silence and my drink comes.

“That's enough now ” I take a huge gulp and let it sting my throat. He holds the hand that

has the glass firmly so that I wouldn't move it.

“Mncedi...”

“Love ” I hated that word.

“I ...I disappointed Mama ” he is silent and I feel vulnerable at the moment.

Weak ! I don't want to feel like that. He has power over me and he is feeding off my vulnerability at the moment.

“Its life Snikiwe. People die” I move my eyes from my glass to him.

“She wasn't supposed to die. Not my mother ” I say.

“So what? You lost your mother it's better off a world without that hag!” a sharp pain piercing through my heart.

“She was my mother Mncedi she is my mother how•••how could you say that !?”the bartender from the distant has his eyes on the now short scene.

I am a sobbing mess. It's the pain the pain that my mother is

no more. He roughly grabs my arm and pulls me off the eyes off everyone.

“You don't ever speak to me like that !” he says through his teeth while his eyes looked into mine.

The fear I had for this man was more than anything.

“Your mother is dead so what ?! Suck it up or you won't go to that funeral tomorrow” I swallow

“Is everything ok?” he turns to the side and it's our boss.

“Uhm yes Mr Ndlovu. Just a little misunderstanding” I wiped my tears quickly.

His gaze is stationary onto us.

His eyes move to Mncedi who is close to me and he moves back from my body.

“Are you done for the night ? ”

Mr Ndlovu asks.

“Yes sir but I still need to ..”

“Then leave. Your job is done for the day ”

“But I..”

“Leave !” Mr Ndlovu grunts it through his teeth.

It held more authority than any of Mncedi's threats. I have never seen him at the mercy of someone else. Maybe it's because it took him so long to get this promotion of being an event organiser for this very Club. Maybe it's that he doesn't want to be out of my sight Incase I try something.

“I want you home in an exact hour ” he whispers into my ear and I swallow and nod slowly. He looks at Mr Ndlovu who is still rooted at his position before he leaves. I turn my heels and I feel a hand on my arm.

“Boyfriend ? ” I turn around.

“Uhm yes sir ” I can't lie. Lying is not what I am good in.

“I should leave ” I turn and stumble my way almost falling.

The alcohol has kicked in me. I am caught quickly before I can even hit the ground.

“You should go home ” I shook my head as fresh tears started forming in my eyes.

“Why ? Why did she leave me in this cruel world ” here he is not knowing what to do.

“Uhrrr

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Sakhile ! Nazo! Shit I can't do this ” he places me on the floor and leaves me there crying.



I curl myself and I hold my knees. I can't believe that my own mother is gone. It.. it is all surreal at this moment. The minister makes his way towards me holding bottled water. He crouches Infront of me and says.

“Hey drink up here ” I can't even breath.

I ended up drinking the water and feeling a little bit better.

“So ...” he sat next to me.

“What's the problem ?” I look at the bottle and try not to cry.

“Same story as everyone ” I shrug.

“Like ?” I swallow the lump. I kept my silence. I shrug not having the strength in me to talk.

“Shall we take you home. You don't seem ok” he says

He helps me up and chuckles lightly. I tell him my bag is on the other side and he says he

will send one of the staff members to go and fetch it. I am placed between these men. Uncomfortable while looked at like I am child. The one who left me on the floor is nowhere to be seen. I drink the water as my bag arrives I apologise for being unprofessional and they don't seem to mind. I don't want to loose this job because I will loose somethings if that happens.

“Afika ” one stands up when the one who left me shows up. He takes a quick glance my side and instructs me to get up. He will take me home. Everyone is looking at me wondering why I am sitting with these men. It is evident and known that they are married. Lucky woman to have such gentle gentlemen in their lives.

I am following him like a lost puppy. We enter his car and it

drives off. Silence consumes the car and he says :

“Where is home ?” Home .

My phone pings at that moment and it's a message from Mncedi. He wants me back home as in now. The fear kicks in but some part of me days

“Adams mission ”He nods.

I am in need of being home. I haven't been home this whole week my mother is

disappointed. She is wherever she is.

“Baby” a tiny voice irrupts through the car.

It's a phone call

“Thole ” he says scratching his head.

Much to his irritation.

“I miss you. Come tonight ” I don't want to be part of the conversation.

“What was the deal?ungangicasuli( don't irritate me)”

“Hawu” he hangs up as I am silent.

“Your mother passed on ? ” he is making conversation

“Ye..yes on Monday” I say

“Who do you live with ?”

“My boyfriend” his eyes move from the road and examine my whole body searching for what is hidden.

“You are going to go home empty handed?” he asks

“I..” he chuckled.

“KwaNdlovu asiwangeni amagceke abantu sineke izandla ( We don't enter people's homes empty handed)” he takes another route.

I am silent after that.

---

“Where the hell are you ?” he asks I am shaking but happy to be here.

“I will see you tomorrow ” I put my phone away.



I breathe out while waiting for the things to be loaded. It's done and dusted.

“Thank you” I say as soon as he gets in the car.

He nods.

“It's a human thing” I nod.

He drives off to drop me home and my aunt's already outside are surrounding the car as they see me out. They give me hugs and kisses that I need I hold myself from breaking down any

further. I have missed  
this. Being in warm arms.

“Ah Mshana usulethe  
uMkhwenyana ongcono ( My  
Niece you have brought a  
better husband )” my uncle  
says.

He is drunk and embarrassing  
me!

“I am sorry ” I say to my boss.

“It's fine ”

“Malume!” I shake my head.

The things are loaded inside the  
house. We walk inside and my

heart stops when I see the casket. My father staring inside it I am scared to even go close but my aunt pulls me “You will have peace when you see her ”we get close. It kicked in as soon as I saw her beautiful face that she is no more. I stumble a bit and I am caught by my aunt. I am lost for words at the moment. Fresh tears leave my eyes and I start crying softly.

“Ngiyaxolisa Mama ngicela ubuye Ngiyaxolisa (I am sorry mom please come back I am sorry)”

I hold onto the casket for dear life as I wail for the loss of my mother.

---

I open my eyes and look at my side. I sit up straight and wipe my face as I feel a heavy headache coming on. I am even afraid to look up into his eyes but I do after some

time. He gets on the bed and embraces me in his arms. It has been so long since I have been stuck in these arms.

“How are you?” he asks.

I should be asking him that. He is the one who lost the love of his life.

“I●●●I miss her” I say softly.

“It will be ok my child” he kisses my forehead.

I love my father. He is the only parent I have left now. All that their God has saved for me and

took away from me was my mother.

“Your phone has been ringing” he says

“I will answer later” I say  
I know it's Mncedi and I am trying to avoid him as much as possible. I just want peace for this day●●●

Chapter 1

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CHAPTER 1

I saw him from a distance from where I was. He couldn't reach me even if he wanted to but had to respect the presence of my family. I keep on looking at him wondering if he had disappeared and is letting me stay just a few days at home but no not with Mncedisi. He wouldn't allow me to stay at home even after my mother's death. He didn't allow me to

stay before while she was still  
alive and gravely ill.

My aunt touches my thigh  
snapping me out of my gaze  
with him from afar and I see  
people moving. She takes my  
hand and wraps the black scarf  
around my shoulders before  
pulling me away from the seats  
we were seated on and we are  
now walking to the cars. The  
service is now done and it felt  
like I wasn't even there. I  
wasn't focused I couldn't utter



amazwi okuphekezela for my own mother. My voice failed me. I failed her as her daughter.

We reach the cars and I see Banele standing by his car. I didn't think he would come his mother is a very poisonous woman who despises my mother. The last family meeting left us all in turmoil and also in anger. I was part of the family meeting conversation. It escalated

when it was concern of Banele and the fact that him and my father's family did a welcoming ceremony for him behind his mother's back. She was lived and called my mother all sorts of names. Harsh words were exchanged and I also received the fiery end when Mncedi was mentioned and about our relationship. How much of a useless daughter I am yet my mother was a devoted Christian who preached God all the

way“Uphi UNkulunkulu wakho Hlengiwe?(Where is your God Hlengiwe?)” a constant insulting question people ask my mother concerning my behaviour.

I wasn't like this. I wasn't always considered a disappointment to my parents. It all started when I entered the stage of adulthood. The friends we keep are the ones who lead us astray. I met Mncedi during my first year in university when

I was doing Public Relations. It was through my friend Sasa who was deep in the blessee industry. She wouldn't let a man who has money pass her by and she did have the looks to charm any man. Her body would call them to just touch her and give her all she desired. Mncedi is her cousin. We were out on lunch and Mncedi was supposed to meet Sasa but he ended up joining us and that's when I met him. I wasn't

interested in dating and I knew my morals but he was charming and still is. Sasa thought it would be perfect to set us up and he seemed like a real gentle man. He is... He isn't..is he? He put up a facade and showed who he truly is as time went by. I am still friends with Sasa even today. She is married now to a man who is 25 years older than her. He didn't have a child when they met and that is what made Sasa

marry the old man who is old enough to be our father. They have a baby girl now and it was all Sasa's plan. A plan where money is involved.

We reach him and he greets aunty who leaves us to join her siblings. There is silent between us. I don't know what to say after the insults that were thrown at my mother that sent her to the grave by his mother. I wondered where he came from and if my father had

cheated on my mother when I was told that I have a brother. All my 20 years in life I always thought I was the only child until Banele came. I didn't understand at first but now I do. That's why the insults were thrown our way. The truth was a hard pillow to swallow by his mother.

“Hey” he says.

After so long of us standing in silence and staring at each other. I thought having a

brother would be wonderful. A big brother for that matter but it doesn't make any difference. It doesn't at all.

“Hi” I say

“I am sorry for your●●● yeah”

he clears his throat.

“It's ok”

“I have to go” I say

I move away from him and wipe my tears. He couldn't even say it. He couldn't give me a clear condolence towards the loss of my mother!



I am not mad at my father at all. I love him to death. He is all I am relying on now. He needs me as much as I need him in my life. It's time to lay my Queen to her final resting place. I am grateful to be here and be able to send her off.

---

After tears! Whoever started this horrible tradition needs to be panel beaten because this is not how I imagined a respected woman like my mother to end

her resting day in this manner. My father is in their martial bedroom browsing through the albums in the room looking at photos containing my mother. We have eaten and the church members have left. Well the youth from my mother's church is here drinking like they are professionals at it! Theses church freaks always act holier than thou kanti they do this! I am not a church freak I once

was before. I fell into sin and the pit I am in I don't think I would get out any time soon. I am outside standing by the wall watching these people tainting my mother's yard. Oh her beautiful flowers that she always worked so hard on. These drunkerns are stepping on them.

“Yeyi wena you are ruining the flowers don't pee there!” I quickly make my way to the man who is about to pull his zip

down and shush him out of the yard.

These people should start leaving very soon.

“Sister Snikiwe” it's the pastor's son Thabani.

“Yes” I say faking a smile I could find.

“How are you?” he asks.

“I am well thank you” I say.

Pity cloudes his eyes and I look away.

“Your mother was an amazing woman. May God welcome her well” he says

Oh drop the act Dr Pastor Jnr wannabe. I just saw you Downing a Jonny walker with some of the ushers there having the time of your life.

“Snikiwe!” it's my aunt.

She comes towards us while smiling.

“Praise the lord mah” Thabani says

“Praise the lord. We want to thank your father for conducting the funeral.” she says

“He was simply doing the lord's work” Thabani says

“I have to go. See you Sunday Snikiwe” he says and walks away.

I used to have a crush on him while we were growing up.

Since we were little kids in Sunday school. Every girl did and I used to love rocking my

pompoms just so he would notice me until high school where I saw how much of a manwhore he is and the way he did things weren't what I used to agree with but now I have also joined the train.

“Banele has left. He said he will call you” Aunty says

“Oh” I say

“Snikiwe please don't involve yourself in adult squabbles” she says.

“But●●●” she shakes her head.

“I will be moving to live here. Will you move back in?” she asks.

I want to but with Mncedi I won't leave that place alive. He wouldn't let me go.

“I am fine aunty. I will visit frequently” I let out a smile. She kisses my forehead.

“Ok” she walks away.

It would've been lovely to come back home. My phone rings and I take it out of my pocket and it's Mncedi. I ignore it and



go back inside the house. I will see him later.

---

The cab has just dropped me off. I knew if I stay another day longer I would suffer heavier consequences and also I have work awaiting me tonight that I have to prepare for. I breathed in out before I opened the door and made my way in. I dropped the keys on the table and took off my coat and looked up when I smelt his scent. He is

looking at me all changed and ready to leave for his duties.

“I called you” I swallow.

I don't know what to say

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I swallow.

I don't know what to say I don't have an excuse. I am bad at lying. It was something my mother installed in me since I was little that lying is what God dislikes. I know people do it but I have never gotten used to lying and I couldn't even if I

tried. I would be caught quickly.

He has me pinned on the wall with his hand squeezing my wind pipe shut. I can't breath but try to remove his strong hand from depriving me of oxygen.

“I am sorry” is all I could mutter softly.

“You want to follow your mother Snikiwe?” tears stream down my eyes.

“Why do you want to make me angry?!” he is angry.

He lets go of me and I land on the floor coughing while holding my throat like my life depends on it.

“Go and Get ready and sort that out I don't want any problems tonight”. He says while disappearing to the bedroom.

Tears stream down my cheeks but I quickly wipe them away and stand up from the floor

before he comes back. I grab my bag and make my way to the kitchen and turn on the kettle. I go to the bathroom and take a shower. I don't want to cry so I push back the tears. I get out in time and I go to our bedroom and he is seated on the bed waiting while on his phone. He looks up to me and I drop the towel and start to lotion my body. I get done and get dressed then move myself to the dressing table and I sit

down on the chair and take my weave.

“Wear the long weave” he says and I nod.

I take my make up kit and place it Infront of me. I never saw myself as someone who would wear make up one day. I always loved my skin and how I am.

My mother would compliment me even when I didn't feel beautiful and didn't see the need for make up but now I am a master at it that's to Sasa. I

start on it and withing time I am done with preparing myself. He stands up from the bed and grabs the car keys.

“Let last night be the last time you do what you did understood?” I swallow.

“Yes”

“Now kiss me” I stand on my toes and place a kiss on his lips.

“Grab your bag and let's go” I do so and we walk out of the house.

---

I got done with my duties for the night. I only sing on Fridays but the rest of the weekend I help wherever I can either anything. The singing is only needed when the strippers section is used and it's to make the show more sex appealing. I would have never thought I would be singing for sexual pleasures in my life. I always thought I would end up with Thabani with a huge ring on my finger singing Hallelujah



Mdumiseni by Lebo sekgobela as Mam'fundisi Jnr to a General practitioner who is also a Pastor's son. The Sunday school's teachers daughter married to the pastor's son was what I imagined since I was a teenager but that all changed. I ask the barman for a round of shots and he nods and brings them forth to me. Mncedi is busy on the general floor checking if everything is well. People are here to have a great

time and also spend some money on alcohol alone. The owner of this place makes a lot of money from here. He is a filthy rich man! Even Thabani doesn't compare to him. My drinks are brought forth and I thank the waiter. To being●●● I don't know. The men who are here in the VIP section haven't tried their luck of which I appreciate. I don't want any trouble today.

“I need extra hands downstairs. It seems to be packed. Where is the other barman for the stripper lounge?” It’s Mr boss man.

He turns to me as I am drowning the last content of my drink.

“Oh and Snikiwe go home. Put her bill on my tab” He says He walks off. No I can't leave without Mncedi. I get off the high chair and I rush after him

“I can't leave the stripper lounge needs me” I say.

He turns and looks at me.

“Angizwani nabantu abangalaleli.(I don't get along with people who don't listen)” he says

“I want you in my office as in now” he says

“But bo•••” he disappears leaving me there.

My stomach turns after that. I breathe out before I make my way downstairs. I won't tell

Mncedi. I will just simply send a message and tell him I am home. Yes that would be better. I make my way to the boss's office as I could hear Afro beats playing downstairs. It's Afrobeat Hour and people are just warming up for the devil hours that are about to come. Where people loose their morals and the club turns like a devil house. That's why those church women refer to

this places as a devil's house as if they knew.

I knock first and make my way in. He is looking into some books and he is speaking to someone on loud speaker.

“I will be there in an hour Thole I am still busy right now” he says.

It is a conversation between the woman from Yesterday. I look around the office and there is a shelf just filled with

whiskey bottles. He hangs up and looks up to me.

“I got you a cab and it's waiting for you outside.” he says

“I need to work please”

“You are not in the right state of mind to do so”

“But●●●”

He bangs the table with his fist.

“Get your bag and go home don't argue with me. This is my club. What I say goes and that red thing on your neck better be gone. I don't want

unprofessionalism” I touch my neck and walk out after his outburst.

He scared me. I take out my phone and text Mncedi telling him I was sent home. I go and grab my bag before I go outside and I get in the cab and it drives home. I look out the window as the car drives away in the night in Durban. I sigh and shift my eyes to meet the driver's who is looking at me through the



review mirror and I cover my neck with my hand and sigh. I am dropped off and I didn't pay as the driver told me that it was taken care off. My phone rings and my heart beats fast at the appearance of Mncedi's name. I breathe in and out before I answer.

"Where are you?" he asks

"Ho●●●Home" I say

"I will see you in the morning.

Behave" thank God.

“I will” I hang up and walk inside the house I throw my bag down before I make my way to the bedroom and slept.

---

I woke up in the morning to find this man next to me snaking his hands around my body. I exhaled and he groaned before opening his eyes and staring at me as I try to get off the bed.

“Where are you going?” he asks

“To make some food and●●●  
and clean” I quickly say.

He pulls me back to him and  
kisses my forehead.

“You know I love you Sinikiwe”

I nod.

“Yes”

“Sasa wants you to visit her” his  
fingers trail on my neck.

“I told her you are sick” I nod.

“Ok”

I couldn't tell him that our boss  
saw how my neck was and said  
I should get rid of it. He will

strangle me to death this time●●

## Chapter 2

### CHAPTER 2

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It's a Monday a day that not most people love but I do today. I woke up on the good side of the bed as they would say. I have cleaned the house and decided to bake some treats. Mncedi is at work.He is

the manager and event promoter of that club. This week he is organizing some celebrity to come through the club on Friday so that more people could come to spend their hard earned money on alcohol. The fort is always held by him and the owner just comes to oversee if everything is still functioning well. I am humming to a song that my mother used to love. Crying would not bring her back but

hold me back from learning to live without her. It would be difficult but I have to try. I am baking in the kitchen just to get my mind of things when my phone rings. I quickly grab it and wipe my hands. It's Banele. I last spoke to him on Saturday and he said he would call me to my aunt but he didn't. I wasn't ready to talk to him at the moment but I have to face him. I sigh and answer the phone "Bhuti" I say

“SniHow are you?” he lets out a sigh.

“I am well. How are you?” I ask while being polite.

“I am around eMlazi.” he says

“Can I come and fetch you?” he continues.

“|●●|”

“Please Sni”

“Fine you can come”

“I will be there in 2 minutes” I nod as he hangs up.

I throw the apron off and I place the ingredients back

where they were supposed to be. I quickly go to my room and I am happy that my neck is better now. I can finally go back to work as well without any problems. I hear a hoot outside and I presume he is here. I grab my bag. I want to get some things on my way out with him. I lock the house and send a message to Mncedi stating I am out with my brother Incase he comes back home early.



I open the gate and he steps out of his car and waits for me to approach him. He looks different without his black suit and briefcase that I constantly see him in. He is in shorts and a t-shirt like he is going to some chilled braai and that hat makes him look more like our father. I throw my arms around him and he exhales and wraps them around me.

“I am sorry I●●●”

“Its ok. You are my brother” I say

“I love that” I smile.

We break the hug and I am ushered inside the car before it drives off. We talk and set our differences aside and let bygones be bygones. He tells me about his work and states that he took a 3 day leave just so he could relax from the divorce cases he has been dealing with. I am listening

attentively to what he is saying.

“Why do you live with your boyfriend?” he frowns.

“I didn't want to disturb mom when I come back late from work and my boyfriend works there so it's easier” I say

“Oh I see.” he says

We go to Mega city to do my shopping and spend some time together. It's a bit awkward but I think with time we would get used to each other. His phone

rings and he answers it as we are walking around. I give him a bit of space to talk with the other person. He stops his tracks and then hangs up before coming forth towards me.

“Thats my friend. He was telling me that Taxi drivers are fighting for routes and it just got bad.”

he says.

“How bad?” I ask

“ so far 3 people were shot” he says

“Come let's get you home and safe” he takes my hand like a little child.

\*

I am home safe. Banele left and said I should stay indoors. I don't have to be told twice about that. I packed everything I bought away and started with cooking for the day.

---

It's Tuesday I haven't heard about what happened yesterday and if the fight was

down or not but it seems like it. Mncedi informed me as well of what I had already knew.

Today I am visiting Sasa and her daughter. I have missed them dearly and right now I need a friend to relax with and just talk about rubbish to get things out of my mind. I prepared myself and I got dressed and when I was done I kissed Mncedi good bye and left to go and catch a taxi. I got one and it went to

town. I bought some treats and got a taxi to Sasa's house. She lived the life that she has always wanted for herself. A house wife with a husband who has money living in a white neighbourhood and driving a car that her husband had bought for her. I still wonder how that old man and her got married. She mentioned to me that he is nothing and then the next thing they are getting married. I buzz at the gate and I

am let in. I make my way inside and find her in her pyjamas at this hour. It's almost noon.

“Mngani” she yawns and hugs me.

Her baby cries and she groans.

“Portia handle her please!” she shouts.

“I see you are in a bad space. I should come another time” I say

“What's in there? I hope there is some alcohol. Mkhulu bae forbidden me until his daughter



is done breast feeding” she  
grabs the plastic.

“Arg really Sni?you haven't  
changed” she shoves the plastic  
in my hands.

“Are we going out or what?” I  
say

“I have a baby to handle unlike  
you. I will see you later I need  
to rest”

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I shove the plastic of goods in  
her hands.

“Sure”

Waste of my time really. I walked out of the gate and walked the distance to the taxi stop. I take out my umbrella and open it as I wait. I hate white neighbourhoods for these specific reasons. The long wait for a taxi to come.

At long last I got one and headed to town. I don't have anything that I need from town at the moment so my choice is to go home right now. As I am

walking through the city there is a combustion Infront of me. It's two taxi's that collided on each other. The taxi driver of the first one jumps out with a Knobkiri in his hand. His brentwood holding tight on his butt.

“Awu bheke lah ohamba khona wena!(Look where you are going!)” the man with the Knobkiri shouts.

The guy jumps out of the taxi as well and assesses the damage done on his taxi.

“Look what you have done with your stupid driving skills!” the other driver shouts back.

I see an opportunity to cross the road just so I could get to the taxi rank on the other side.

Some taxi drivers rush past me to attend the scene behind me.

“Uyaphi sisi?(where are you going?)” I turn at the recognition of that voice.

I knew that they had taxi's but I didn't think he would be here in such a place directing people to their correct taxi. He is not in semi formal just like we would always see him he is in tracksuits with a bennie on smelling like nicotine.

“I am●●●”

bang bang!

People scatter while screaming and I am on the floor with this man ontop of me. My boss ontop of me. He gets up quickly pulling a gun from the track pants and rushes towards where people are running away from. I feel a burning sensation from my stomach and I knew I have been shot.

“Afika!” I scream as much as I could. He turns around and looks around trying to figure out who is calling him.

“Help!” I say quickly. He spots me and runs up to me forgetting the gun show that was happening.

“Calm down Snikiwe and no matter what you do don't close your eyes” he says picking me up.

I am scared I love my mother but I don't want to die and follow her. I haven't left a child at least in this world that would have my blood. Oh God I know I

have sinned alot of times but please don't let me die.

He goes to a taxi and gets inside. There is a man who looks like him in there with other two men.

“Ntozakhona was looking for you” the guy says

“Drive we will see him later. She needs the hosptail” he says

The taxi speeds off. They try to stop the bleeding. Afika has taken his top off and placed it



on my stomach to try and stop the bleeding. My phone is ringing but I am too occupied by the pain to answer or care about it.

“Snikiwe” I look at him as he softly says.

“Do you have a child?” why is he asking me that?

“No” I say

“Ungafi ke ngingaka kuMithisi(Don't die before I impregnant you)” what!?

The other men laugh and he is finding this amusing. I am dying here and this man has time for such jokes!

“I feel weak”i announce.

“Don't close your eyes we are almost there”he says.

---

A week of me being passed out resulted in me being at my close death but I didn't die. I don't know who shot me but surely Mr Ndlovu would find

out who is the culprit behind me being shot.

Taxi drivers tempers are sky high! You can't confirm them when they start especially when they out you in your place.

“You need to eat something light” it's the nurse bringing in custard and jelly. Oh how I hate those they make me want to puke.

“Do I●●● I have to?” I ask and she nods.

She takes the wet food and hands it over to me. She walks to the door and bump into the man who made an irrelevant joke when I was hanging thin between death and living.

“Sawubona” he says

“Yebo” he places his hands in his pocket.

“Your family was here yesterday” he says

“Oh” I was out of it.

He walks around the room and he comes by my side.

“How are you feeling?” he asks  
“Thank you for saving me” I say  
and groan at the pain  
“Take it easy. I found the  
person who did this to you” I  
don't trust his tone.

“Oh”

“Don't worry about him. You  
won't see him again” he says  
I swallow.

“What does that mean?”

“I have to leave”

He walks out of the room.

Chapter 3

## CHAPTER 3

### **Daily New African Novels**

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I stand by the kitchen wall and lean on it while watching my aunt move around the kitchen. It has been so long since I stayed at home and actually enjoyed it. After the news of me being shot my aunt insisted on taking me back home much to Mncedi's annoyance but there is nothing he would do.

She turns around holding the spatula and drops it quickly on the counter and rushes to me.

“Snikiwe I said stay in bed I will●●●”

“Aunty ngikahle please(I am ok)” I say

She wraps her arms around my waist carefully and pulls me to sit down on one of the chairs then she breathes out.

“You are not ok. If it wasn't for my scolding you would be out

there not taking care of  
yourself”

I huff as I look at her. She is  
panicking too much for  
nothing.

“I am feeling ok” I groan a bit as  
she goes and grabs a cushion  
and adjusts me on the seat. I  
stop her from placing the  
cushion behind me.

“I am fine please”

“Ok” she breathes out.

She goes back to making her  
food.



“Where is dad?”

“He went out to go and meet with the pastor. The congregation is coming in for prayers”

“I wasn't told”

“Now you are told” I huff.

I am not ready for those judging pricks! I was once those one of those pricks but I wasn't like them. The old women are the most judgemental ones at that church. I don't understand how my mother worked

between their beliefs. My father comes from a very traditional family and my mother was christian yet they worked well with it. My mother never disputed any of my father's beliefs but respected them as much as he did with her's.

My phone rings and I try to stand up.

“Sit down I will get it”

She wipes her hands and disappears to my bedroom. She

comes back with my phone and hands it over to me.

“Hello”

“Love” how I despise that word

“How are you?”

“I miss you” oh please. I don't miss you even one bit.

“Me too”

“Can I see you after I have rested?”

He is pleading. He sounds like a vulnerable child.

“There is a prayer meeting. You can come and join” I know he wouldn't.

“No I will call you then. I love you Snikiwe”

“I●●●I have to go”

I take a look at my aunt and she is looking at me. I hang up and breathe out. She gets done and hands the plate to me and I thank her.

“You will bath after” I nod.

I hate being treated like a child at the moment. Sitting around is driving me crazy.

I finished my food and went to bathing and got dressed. The prayer meeting was conducted and some were not praying about my recovery but leaving my sinful ways as they are the ones who have got me where I am. I just wanted to leave the room immediately. I knew that these church freaks were here

to judge me! Thabani was here as well and he wished speedy recovery upon me and also the girl got herself some flowers and a fruit basket from him. Atleast he was thoughtful to bring something. They later on left after that.

“That is sweet of Thabani” my aunt says while smiling.

I am not going to entertain her. I already have a handful boyfriend.

“I am going to my bedroom”

---

It's the noise that has got me irritated at the moment. I look outside the curtain and close it as soon as the door opens.

“Mzala!” Nozulu screams on top of her lungs and falls on me forgetting that I am injured.

“Nozulu you are hurting her!” it's Aunty Gloria pulling her away from me.

The pain. The pain is surfacing pretty badly. My aunt rushes in and comes by my side

“Oh Snikiwe I am sorry” Nozulu says

“It's●●● It's ok” I say

My aunt assess the wound.

“How are you kodwa Mntaka Bhuti(my brother's child)” it's aunty Gloria.

“I am getting there” I flinch at the pain I feel.

“I am sorry Snikiwe.” Nozulu apologizes again.

“You will be fine”my aunt says I nod and she walks out with her sister.



“Who is here?” I ask

“Everyone. When we heard you were shot we decided to all come down” she says with a smile.

“Aren’t you supposed to be in school?” I ask

“Well yes but that doesn't matter. Where is Sasa?”

“I haven't spoken to her since I got shot”

She falls next to me

“Heh mzala uyabona kodwa ukuthi imoto udinga

ukuyithenga(You see that you need to buy a car)”

“Ngani kodwa udlala ngami(How when I don't have money)” I huff.

“I was just suggesting Sni what's wrong with that?”

I didn't get along with Nozulu at first but we are ok now. She is just like Sasa.The bedroom door opens and my drunk uncle comes in.

“Mshana usudakhela amabullet manje(You are dodging bullets now)”

Oh my god. This is what I am not up for?

“Malume kukhona i1818 emotweni (There is 1818 in the car uncle)” it's Nozulu.

She is saving me. He loves talking so much.

“I will be back” he walks out.

Nozulu quickly goes to the door and locks it.



A few weeks passed with me being home. I enjoyed being taken care of as much as I didn't at first but I loved it and staying with my father as well. He is getting there with the loss of mom and I heard my aunt say that he is going to therapy. I am just glad he is not living alone in that house. Banele is here to drive me back to eMlazi. I feel better now and the support from my father's family and their

company was what made the stay very wonderful for me.

“You really hate being home”

Banele says as he enters the area.

I look at him

“I don't hate home it's just I have work waiting for me”

“I don't have a child or wife yet so let me take care of you Sni.”

he says

“I love my job Banele” I really do.

“You studied Public Relations and not Music.”

He parks Infront of our place and I unbuckle my belt.

“Life is not garenteed” I say I open the door and he does the same as well.

“It’s time I saw this boyfriend of yours and let us speak man to man” he says

“Banele” he is out of the car already.

I get out as well and breathe in and out. He takes my luggage

and locks his car after. We made our way inside the yard and he gives the door a hard knock.

“You will break the door”

He is not listening. It's roughly opened. I swallow

“Hi” He says

He opens his arms for me and I go and give him a hug. He places a kiss on my forehead.

“I have missed you”

“Me too”

We break the hug

“I am Banele Snikiwe's older brother” Banele says

“Mncedisi”

“Won't you let us in?” What is Banele doing?

Mncedi looks at me before he moves aside letting us

in. Banele looks around the lounge and places the luggage down and walks around and looks around. I am shaking where I am.

“I just wanted to make sure the environment my sister is living



in is not a bad one” Banele says  
looking at Mncedi.

“It’s not”

“Well I will call you later Sni”

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he gives me a hug.

“Bye Bhuti” he nods and gives  
Mncedi one last look before  
walking out.

I breathe out after.

“I am sorry I just•••” I quickly  
say

“Its ok. I almost went crazy when you were injured” he holds me in his arms.

I start to relax in them.

“I want to go to work” I say  
“You will tonight” I am glad then.

I can't stay in this house alone and do nothing. It will start to drive me crazy.

“Go and get ready for me” I know what he wants.

He turns me around and kisses my shoulder.

“Go and open the bath water. I will join you” I nod and walk off.

---

I came back at the most busiest day of the week Friday! There is a celebrity performance downstairs at the general section and it's packed you can't even move without rubbing yourself on someone. I always avoid the general section for such reasons and Mncedi doesn't want me to be

seen by many prying men who would want to touch everything that says woman.

“Please can I have lemon juice with honey” I say to the barman at the VIP section.

There are two of these sections. One by the general and this one upstairs for more privacy.

He gives it to me and I thank him then walk towards the balcony and watch as people are singing and shouting their

lungs out. Girls pulling on the performer and camera's capturing the moment. I gulp down my drink and clear my throat.

I have two performances tonight. I am already done with one and one is left. This place makes money than what people think. Close to half a million or more per weekend alone. You would be surprised how much people spend on

alcohol alone and for such entertainment.

“Snikiwe!”

I turn around quickly thinking it's Mncedi but it isn't him. It's the boss I thought he wouldn't be here today.

“Come to my office” he says and turns around

I sigh and go to the bar and hand the glass over to Sthe.

“Thank you Sthe”

“It's ok” he says

I make my way to his office. I knock twice and open the door. There is that guy who looks just like him that I once saw before. He stands up from the chair.

“I will see you bhuti” he says

“Get Thole to go to the Stripper lounge” he nods

Oh it's his brother? I greet before he walks out closing the door.

“Awuzwa(You don't listen)” he says

“Excuse me?”

“Go home” he says

“No” he looks up to me.

“I want to be here. I want to work here and you kick me out Everytime even before I was shot!”

“Don’t shout at me you won't like the consequences”

I swallow. He goes and pours some whiskey and drinks up.

“Who does my job when I am not here?”

“Thole”



“I just want to work and I am fine now Afika”

Maybe using his name would get me somewhere.

“Ufune ngize ngikumithise ukuze kuhlaleke ekhaya?(You want me to impregnate you so you can stay at home?)” I gasp.

“That’s inappropriate to say” I say

He places the glass down and shoves his hands in his pocket.

He moves to where I am and I

can smell the nicotine and his cologne.

“I don't care what's appropriate or not. I am asking you do you want that?” I am tongue tied

“|●●●|”

“Get on that table” what?!

“I am leaving”

“Singaxabani Snikiwe(Let us not argue Snikiwe)” he says

I am scared now. I slowly sit on the table and he comes and takes off my stilettos and throws them far away from

him. He moves the chair  
Infront of me and he places his  
hands on my thighs before he  
parts my legs.

“Afika” he is looking at me.

He takes out a pocket knife and  
I swallow. It rips apart my  
underwear before he places it  
next to me. My heart is beating  
fast in fear.

He is not kissing me or laying  
those sloppy kisses that Mncedi  
does. He is just staring at me.  
His finger is in esibayeni

followed by another and I gasp. He is still looking at me. He thrusts them slowly at first.

“Someone could walk in” I say.

“I don't care. I want them to hear you scream my clan name.

No one is leaving this room until that's done” I swallow.

He increases the thrusts and I am breathing heavily. He pulls the fingers out.

“Stay like that and open your legs wider” he goes to pour the whiskey and takes a sip before

he dips the fingers he was using  
and drinks the whiskey there  
after.

He is back and quickly  
unbuckles his belt there  
after●●●

---

I have never in my life thought I  
would do the things that I am  
doing right now. It's not  
shocking but I am just scared if  
he finds out what I did. I don't  
think the neighbours have  
heard me moan or scream to

Mncedi's name or surname but Afika kept his promise. He meant it when he said I will only leave when I have screamed his clan name. God I feel so dirty at the moment that I just had sexual pleasure with my boss and I liked it! I actually loved it!!.

“Bika konke kujesu...” I haven't been here since first year since I started university.

My sins are burdening my shoulders now and I just want to release them today.

I am at church. My mother's church and my aunt smiles when she spots me. I greet and the usher directs me to an empty seat at the back. I am nervous I asked Mncedi to drop me off here and to my surprise he did.

“Snikiwe” I look up and it's Thabani.

I wave and he comes my way.  
It's the first time in years since  
he called me just Snikiwe.

“It’s good to see you here” he  
gives me a hug.

“Its good to be here”lies.

“I am getting married” he says  
What?! Wow. Thabani getting  
married? It must have his  
parents behind it.

“I am happy for you” I say

“I will see you after church” I  
nod as he walks away to join his  
parents.



I stay a little while before I leave church. It's not doing anything. I don't feel relieved but rather I should forget about it. Forget about what happened on Friday.

“That should keep you at home” he said after he was done.

He gave me money and said: “Go home”

It was too much money and I felt like I just prostituted myself. Mama what has

became of your daughter? I get  
a cab and it comes and takes  
me away from this place●●●

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

Esibayeni:(Kraal but in this case  
it's a koochie/kookie/Virginia  
ect...)

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Chapter4

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## CHAPTER 4

Finally I get to sit down with Sasa and just to talk about the problems in our lives. She is here with her daughter who is soundly sleeping in the stroller. I have alot of time on my hands but I don't like this sitting around thing. I don't want to be dependent on anyone to

money. We are at Gateway mall having our lunch at the restaurant if her choice.

“How is my cousin and you?” she asks.

She doesn't know what I sometimes go through with Mncedi.

“We are good. He is amazing” lies.

“He told me you were shot mngani. I am sorry.” she says  
She could've visited and saw what state I was in.

“I am better now”

“I can see and I am glad. I will pay you need to save all the money you can get”

There she starts with throwing money everywhere. She thinks I can't afford just because I live in eMlazi and work as a sexual singer at a club. She forgets she comes from the slums of that place that I live in.

“Sure” I don't mind either if she is paying

It saves me some money.

We order our food and it comes our way.

“Here is your order ma’am” the waiter says.

“We thank him”

We catch up on some gossips and Sasa tells me that her husband is prying a high school child now. She wants us to tag team and beat the child up. I would not do that. I won't go around fighting kids for grown up men and besides I don't

want to be involved in other people's relationships.

We take a few pictures and post them on our social pages. I am enjoying my time here and especially seeing her daughter. She is very cute you would not want to pry over her. Besides the cheating saga she tells me about her life seems to be in great shape.

---

I plump myself on the couch as soon as I get home. He appears

from the bedroom all dressed up and ready to leave.

“How was your lunch date?” he asks.

“It was good” he places his hand on my neck and kisses the other side of it.

“I hope you behaved”

I nod

“Yes”

“I will see you at night” he says

“Ok” he gives me another kiss before he goes and finish up.



I close my eyes and rest for a little while. He comes and kisses me good bye before he leaves the house. I get up and go and take a bath before I slip myself into some pyjamas. I am full and I will not cook today. Mncedi will get food from work just like he always does. I don't cook much because we are sometimes too busy to do so. I hate sitting at home. It just makes me feel useless more than anything. If I could I would

call him and ask to come back. I can't stand this really. I go to rest after that.



I check the time and it's 5 pm I don't understand who would be knocking at this time and Mncedi has the house keys so what could be stopping him from opening the door. I kick the covers off when the knock is more than persistent on the door and is loud enough to be heard by the neighbours.

“Who is it?” I ask

“MaSkhosana it's me●●●”

“Afika” he continues.

My palms are sweaty at the mention of his name. What is he doing here? How does he know where I live? He knocks again.

“Snikiwe”

I quickly go to the door and I open it while pulling my gown together. He is wearing Nike track pants this time. No jacket with a bennie on his head and

the smells of nicotine can't be missed.

“What are you doing here?”

Quickly ask.

He pushes past me and walks inside the house. I close the door and turn to him looking around the place.

“I am here to see you”

“You need to leave before my boyfriend comes back home” I say

“Angimusabi(I am not scared of him)” well I am!!

“Afika please leave. It's bad enough that I have to sit at home” I say

“How will the baby happen if you are busy up and down in the club?” he says

“There is no baby happening.”

“Ngicithile Mama.(I came inside you) I remember that quiet well” he smirks.

He is amused by that?

“Well I went and bought morning After's with that chunk of money you gave to me” I say

“Was it enough?” he asks

“What?”

“The money”

Is he hearing himself?

“I don't care about the money.

We cheated on our partners” I

say frustrated and sit down on

the couch.

What is going on with you

Snikiwe?

“I don't have a partner” I look

at him.

“What about the Thole you

always talk to” he smirks.

“Siyahlabana nje akukho okutheni(We are just fucking nothing serious)”What?

“Get out” I say

“Why?”

“Just get out” he looks at me. He fiddles with his pocket and throws a roll off money on the coffee table.

“I will see you”he walks out after that.

I look at the money Infront of me and I go and take it as it's held together by an elastic. I

unroll it and it's alot of money. He should come and take it. I was about to go and call him when I remember I don't have his number.

“Damnit!”

---

I have stashed the roll inside my bag and tomorrow I will be on a mission to find him and give him back his money.

“Snikiwe!” It's Mncedi.

I get off the bed placing my phone aside and I go to the



lounge. He is standing there and looks at me.

“Hey” I say

“Was someone in here?” he asks

My heart beats fast.

“No there wasn't anyone” I quickly say.

“I am going to ask again”

“No”

Is it the neighbours who informed him of someone came here?

He slaps me unexpectedly and I fall back on the floor.

“I can smell the bloody man!”  
he grabs my hair and I scream.

Afika has been gone for 20 minutes now is that possible?

“Mncedi I am sorry please!” He pulls me up with my hair and pins me on the wall.

“Are you cheating on me now?”

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I shake my head quickly.

“No”

He chuckles and punches my face. He constantly does that and hits my stomach with his knee. He is forgetting that I am a woman.

“I am sorry!” I cry as I lay there on the floor feeling his kicks on my ribcage.

“Ngizoqeda lokufeba onakho(I will end this whoring tendency of yours)” he stops breathing heavily.

I am moaning in pain.

”I am coming back. I am not done with you. I want to teach you a lesson you would never forget” he says

He walks to the bedroom and I try getting up from the floor. I finally do and limp my way to the door. I fiddle with it quickly before it opens and I run out of the door. He is going to kill me. He is going to kill me if I don't run away.

My gown is blood and my feet hurt but I keep on running down the street. I don't even look back.

---

“Olandelayo!(Next!)” I walk slowly towards the counter as I bow my head.

“How may I help you?” The officer asks.

“|●●●|●●●”

“Khuluma sisi ukungingiza asikuzelele lah sinomsebenzi(Talk stuttering is

not what we are here for we have work to do)”the officer says.

Another police officer came towards the one Infront of him and they spoke for a while.

“Have you decided to talk?” the officer asks.

I shook my head and turned around.

“We can't help you if you don't talk” I moved away.

I walked out of the police station and placed my hand on

the wall leaning by it. Someone touches my shoulder and I got a fright.

“Hey what is wrong?” it's another officer.

“Nothing. I am fine.” I say

“You don't look fine to me. You are injured badly. I suggest you open a case right now so we can help” he says

“Like all those other dead women that were helped?” I ask

He sighs and close his eyes.

“We can help you though”

“Police are useless”

“Not all of us”

I keep my silence.

“What is your name?” he asks.

“Sni•••Snikiwe Skhosana ” he clears his throat then clenches his jaw.

“I will be right back stay here” I nod.

He goes back inside as I stay there. For now I don't want to go back to Mncedi. I don't want to go home and worry my



father and aunt. I have no where to go and it's already dark at night past 9 pm.

“Come let’s go to my office it's cold here” the officer says and pulls me inside.

“I am constable Khuzwayo by the way but you can call me Jabu” I nod.

The officer who I was consulting with earlier looks at me and shakes his head before we disappear into the passage.



I have been sitting in the room for the past 10 minutes now. Coffee was offered but I rejected it. A statement hasn't been taken from me or that I should open a case. Jabu opens the door and walks in. He is followed by Afika behind him. I don't even know how he knows him.

“I will leave you to it” Jabu says  
“Thank you ”

He walks out closing the door.

“How did you know I was here?” I ask that after the long silence.

“That doesn't matter. Look at you!” his voice rises.

“What about me?” he clenches his jaw and closes his eyes breathing out.

“For how long?”

“What?”

“He has been hitting you and don't you dare lie Snikiwe” I look away.

“Fuck!” he bangs the door.

“Get up we are leaving” he says

I do get up and walk towards him. He picks me up and I flinch he walks out and goes out to the parking lot.

---

Afika left me in this foreign place after he placed me on the couch and left. I haven't moved from where I am and I checked the time and it's midnight now. He is not back yet and I am worried about me being

here. His scent started all of this. The door opens and a man walks in and I get frightened.

“Hi I am Sakhile” he says

“Hi” Afika walks in pushing past him while holding a gun.

“You can go and rest” The Sakhile character nods and walks off.

He places his gun on the coffee table and I shift uncomfortably.

He smells of alcohol and nicotine.

“Come let's get you cleaned up” he picks me up.

”Where did you go?” I ask

“It doesn't matter. Just know that boyfriend of yours won't bother you ever again. You will never see him” I swallow.

I just nod.

“Ok” I wonder what he did.

Chapter 5

CHAPTER 5

# Daily New African Novels

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I am seated on the bed staring outside the window while watching the green back yard from there. The door opens and I look behind me as he walks in and stops his tracks before leaning against the wall.

“You are awake”

“I asked Cholo to buy some groceries. Do you need anything?”he asks.

“No” I say

He walks in further and stands  
Infront of me.

“Sni look at me” I lift my head  
and look at him.

“You will be ok and I will make  
sure of that” he says.

“Thank you••• for welcoming  
me here” I say

“Sure”

“Come let's go and shower” he  
pulls me up and leads me to the  
ensuit bathroom in his space.



The Sakhile guy I saw last night was gone. I didn't know when he left but all I knew was that he was gone. Afika left to get some breakfast. I don't understand why he doesn't order through apps and have it delivered as it would've been easier.

I checked the cardboard boxes and there wasn't really any food here nothing. How does he survive without food in this house? It seems like he doesn't

stay here for long. The door opens and his brother walks in the guy I met at the club and during my shooting. He smiles and places the take away on the counter.

“Sawubona sisi Snikiwe(Hello Sis Snikiwe).” he says

I guess his brother told him who I am.

“Hi”

“I am Langelihle Afika's younger brother” he says

“Uhm nice meeting you” I don't know what to say.

“I will be in one of the rooms” he says and walks away as Afika surfaces carrying a 6 pack of beer.

“You should start eating and I don't really have dishes” Afika says

I take the food and I start eating.

“I bought some medication for you at the pharmacy”

“Where do you eat?” I ask

“Taxi rank” he says and pops the gum in his mouth before opening a beer and drinking. Its so early in the morning for that.

“Aren't you going to work”

“NoNtozakhona has it covered”

he says

I nodded at him.I have heard some things about the Ndlovu family but it never went into detail. There is a knock on the door and a woman enters shouting for Afika and

Langelihle. She walks into the kitchen and stops her tracks looking at me then she looks at Afika. She has a ring on her finger and a big child walking behind her. She is dressed prime and proper.

"Baba!" The boy runs to Afika's arms.

It must be the wife considering the child calling him baba. She is staring at me still. I get off the high chair ready to run at any direction if she tries to

come and hit me for being in the house with her man. I can't believe this man lied and said he doesn't have a partner when he is married. This man is a liar. How could I be so stupid to even sleep with a married man?

“Sis Cholo” it's Langelihle. He goes and hugs the woman who smiles happily for him. They break the hug.

“The groceries are in the car. I didn't know what to get and

finally Afika won't come to my house and finish our food already Ntozakhona is complaining” She has turned from that mute person who was staring at me to this talkative one.

Langelihle disappears to the outside while the 4 of us are still here. She steps towards me and I take a step back hitting the corner of the counter with my back.

“MaSkhosana” Afika puts the boy down and comes my way.

“Stand there please” I say

The lady stops her tracks.

“I am sorry for scaring you. I won't hurt you” she says.

I look at her then at Afika.

“That's Cholo” Afika says.

The lady looks at me for a while then she smiles but it doesn't reach her eyes like the time when she saw Langelihle. It seems fake to me.



“I want to go home” I  
announce.

Afika looks at me with a frown

“I will leave you two for a  
moment” she takes the boy  
with her and walk off.

Afika steps towards me and  
stands Infront of me.

“I thought you will stay here  
until your bruises have faded”  
he says.

“I don't want to direspect her.”

“Cholo is married to my brother  
Ntozakhona”

I look away from his gaze and he just chuckles.

“Ohw” I don't know what to say

“Finish your food so you can drink the medication” he says I go and finish my food as he finishes up his beer and I am done as well. I feel a bit embarrassed with what happened but I just feel like this lady doesn't like me.

---

I am sure my family is going crazy wherever they are as I don't have my phone with me. The thought of Mncedi just makes my body go into some shock and fear. I knew that day that I am dying if I don't leave. I would love to go home but I am scared to stress my aunt and father about Mncedi. What would've been of me if he came to my home and tried something? On my aunt or my father?

This staying at home is driving me crazy. I feel more useless and more thoughts come into my mind than anything.

I splash the water on my face and I walk out of the bathroom once I am done. I see him through the sliding door glass and he is smoking while on the phone. I go towards it and open the sliding door.

“I will call you” he hangs up and throws his cigarette before he turns to me.

“Staying at home and doing nothing drives me crazy. I want to go to work tonight I can cover up the bruises just please”

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he looks at me before coming forth.

I look up to him and he cups my face.

“That’s why I wanted you pregnant. A baby will keep you busy” he says

“I●●●I am not financially ready for a child” I say

“Money is not a problem” he says

I swallow. His hand stays above my butt and he turns me around pulls me close to him by my waist.

“For now I will keep you busy”he says.

“NoI don't need that” I turn and look at him.

I walk away from him. I will just have to find another job then

because I can't stand this sitting around really.

It's at night and I have managed to cook something with the help of Langelihle. He is a nice person and for someone who is a bit older than me he sure calls me 'sisi' every chance he gets. I have given up on telling him to call me just Snikiwe. I have learnt that he is doing his final year in medicine before he doesn't his internship next year

of which he seems excited about.

“I think this is ready now” he says removing the pot from the stove and switching it off.

“Now we don't have any dishes to dish on. How does your brother live like this?” He chuckles.

“Let me call him and tell him to bring the ones from my apartment” he walks away after that.



A house this beautiful but no dishes available. I am even sure that the cover on his bed is the only one that he has if this is the case. How can he have appliances of things with no food and dishes I just don't get it.

“He will be here in 20 minutes” Lange announces as he comes back.

I nod. We sit down and talk. He actually tells me he has a girlfriend but he doesn't want

his family knowing as yet until he is sure that she is it. I want to ask about Thole but I find it non of my business in that matter. We talk about many things and I end up finding out that he 25 years old. I did mention he is a bit older than me. Just a few years. I just wonder how old is Afika if he is this age.

“Why isn't your brother married?” I have to ask.

Maybe I will get his age as well.

“He hadn't found the one who was the center of his world” he says

“Meaning?”

“That one person that he would do anything for. My brother is●●●” he keeps quiet for a moment.

“He is what?” the door opens and Afika walks in.

“We cooked” Lange announces avoiding my question and dismissing me.

He takes the dishes from Afika and goes to the kitchen. I stand up from the couch as well.

“Sni” I look at him.

“I know you are a bit angry at me for not allowing you to work but it's because I have a reason” he says

“What is the reason?” I ask

He keeps quiet for a moment.

“Just know my actions speak louder than any word I can utter” he walks away from me.

He left me confused. I stood there before going to join Lange.

---

It's the following day. I have been taking the medication that Afika has been giving to me and I asked to use his phone to call my aunt and just tell them that I am ok wherever I am and I will see them later on. My aunt was relieved to hear me and made me promise to come and visit after I spun a

story of why I wasn't reachable. Afika and Lange left. Lange went to school and Afika had to rush to the taxi rank but he mentioned he will be back. Now here is this phone In my hand with no social media only phone numbers and messages. I wouldn't be able to live with that. I didn't read them because that is invasion of his privacy. The phone rings in my hand and it's written Ntozakhona. I leave it like that

and let it ring then it goes silent and rings again. I look at it once more and let it ring again then it's silent.



He came back quicker than I thought he would. He looks at me before stepping inside and breathing out.

“I called” he says

But his phone was with me.

“Oh.” I say

“Come I am taking you to go and get what you need” he says

“But I still have bruises on my face” I say

“Shit I forgot” he scratches his head.

“Let me make a call and make a list of things you need” I hand his phone over to him and he walks out.

He makes the call that he needs while I make the list of things I need. I get done and he tells



me he will send them to Cholo and she will get everything for me. I nod at that moment as he walks out.

---

This Cholo lady doesn't like me and I don't know why. Does she have something with Afika or she likes the Thole I just learnt about. Afika is outside having one of his smokes at the front yard while this lady is laying all the things I needed on the Afika's bed Infront of me.

“Snikiwe” I look at her.

She goes quickly to close the door and sighs.

“You are a wonderful girl from what I have heard from Afika” he talks about me to his family.

“Oh”

“I am scared for you” she says

“Afika is a good man but he is never serious about relationships.” she comes and I sits next to me.

“I am not saying anything bad about him but I know him. He

has a hard time with showing affection to people outside his family circle and hence he doesn't have friends”

“What about Jabu?”

“He knows my husband. What I mean is that keep an open mind about this. He may be your saviour but not you forever” she says.

I nod at her and she smiles and carries on with what she was doing.

Chapter 6

## CHAPTER 6

### **Daily New African Novels**

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A lot has been roaming in my head about what type of person Afika really is from what his family members have been hinting. I think it's a sign that I should run away from another Mncedi. Afika is dangerous than Mncedi. As far as I knew Mncedi never owned a gun but Already I have seen Afika with a

gun twice. I wonder if he has hurt someone physically before.

I felt at unease with what cholo had said before and I knew I couldn't stay so long here. I have to find a way to leave without Afika knowing that I am leaving. I will just wait for him to go to the club or the taxi rank. Langelihle went back to his apartment.

I am standing Infront of the mirror examining myself after I have showered and my bruises are fading from my face of which I am happy about. I drop the towel and turn to examine my body. I touch my chest and the image of Mncedi constantly kicking me comes into mind. I let out a sigh before I feel hands around my waist. I got a fright and looked at him through the mirror the smell of nicotine not to be missed as it's

blended with his perfume. He is deep into this smoking habit of his.

“I need to get dressed” I say  
His eyes move from the mirror gaze and he is looking down on me. His hands move from my waist along to the bruises. He takes a deep breath in and out as he moves his fingers along.

“What would've been of the world if you had died” he says. His one hand rests on my waist and the other below it then he

looks at me through the mirror  
and we hold the gaze.

“You are something else  
MaSkhosana” he says

His hand lowers cupping  
esibayeni he starts to circulate  
with his index finger on my  
clitoris. His gaze doesn't move  
from mine.

“Afika” I softly say

He doesn't say anything but  
keeps on with what he is doing.  
His hand moves further and  
inserts one finger inside and I



gasp when another is followed by the first one. The thrusts them inside and I close my eyes while biting my bottom lip softly trying to suppress a feeling I can't control. He increases the thrusts of his fingers and I am a wet mess already. God this is a sin but why does it feel this good ? I hold onto his arm as I am feeling the pleasure wash over me too much.

“I am cuming” I quickly announce that.

My legs are shaking as he is thrusting those damn fingers quickening the pace of his thrusts and exceeding the pleasure I am feeling. I remove his hand and my legs fail me as I pee on the floor. He looks at me as I am trying to catch my breath and the shaking of my lower body.

I look up to him and he gives off a conniving smirk my way.

“Come” he offers his hand and pulls me up holding me against his body.

“I●●●I need to clean up” I say  
“Come I am not done” he says  
Oh my God.

He turns me around and makes me face the mirror once again holding my waist firmer than before he whispers into my ear and says :“I want to look at your face as Gatsheni enters”  
I swallow and with his one hand he pulls his sweat pants down

with ease. He makes me bend a bit and he rubs the head of Gatsheni at the entrance before he thrusts feel in and wraps his arms around my waist as I gasp.

“Are you ok?” he asks

“Ye●●●Yes I am” he pulls out and adjusts the way he is holding me.

“Are you sure?” he thrusts inside.

“Yes” I say softly while closing my eyes.

He keeps on thrusting deeper but slow.

“Open your eyes for me” I took a deep breath in and looked at the mirror and I bit my bottom lip preventing myself from moaning.

“I love watching this ” he says He lowers his head to my neck and I could feel his warm breath as he is thrustin in and out.

“I love watching you trying to suppress the pleasure you are feeling” he says



I woke up to an empty bed the side where he was is still as it is and shows that someone was sleeping next to me. I sit up on the bed and I looked around.

“Afika!” I shout out for him but there is silence.

I get of the bed and I make it before I go and bath. I get out and go and change into

something comfortable and went to the dressing table and took some money from there and I wore one of his caps and breathed out before walking out of the room. It was silence in the house and show that there was no one in here. I opened the door and looked around before making my way out of the house.

---

I knock on the door for the second time while looking

around checking if no one is following me behind. The door opens and it's my aunt in an apron I throw myself in her arms and she catches me with hesitation.

“Can we help you?” she asks  
“Its me aunty” I say removing myself from her and remove the cap.

“Oh my God Snikiwe what happened to you!”

“Can we get inside?”

“Come”



She pulls me in and closes the door. My dad is seated on the couch watching TV. He looks at my direction and springs off the couch coming towards me. I break down in his arms and he hugs me.

"I am ok" that's what I say before they ask anything.

"You don't look ok Baby" my dad holds my face.

"I am "

"I am calling Banele. Maybe you can talk to him" Aunty says

“No! Don't call him please.  
Don't tell him I am here”

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the look at me.

“I need to lie down” I say

“Come and eat first” I shake my  
head.

“No thank you aunty” I let go of  
my dad and make my way to  
my bedroom

I throw Afika's cap on the bed  
and slid down the door. I look  
around my room. The walls are  
painted in cream colour and is

decorated simply. My mother decorated this room and I would never find myself to change anything. It may look too simple but it's sentimental to me. I laid back on the cold tiles and I Cholo's words rang in my head. "He may be your saviour but not your forever". "Snikiwe it's aunty" I lay back where I am.

"We are worried"

I keep my silence until she walks away.

I slept there on the cold tiles floor and woke up at night. I went to pee before I went to eat with my family then went to rest once again. I woke up in the morning feeling myself in a lighter mood and I was feeling a bit happy as well. I took out one of my old dresses from the wardrobe and got myself dressed after I was done bathing. I walked into the kitchen and my aunt was there

making porridge. She dishes up for us and we sit having a light conversation. You could see that they wanted to ask about the marks on my body but they didn't want to pry.

“Its Mncedi. We had a fight” I say to ease their conscious.

“Lets go and report him to the police” my father says

“No I am just glad I left that place” my aunt comes and hugs me.

“And you will stay here from now on” she says

I nod. Yes I am staying at home now on. I just need to find a new job around here and I would be fine. I helped my aunt with the dishes before I told them that I would be back. I couldn't disappear forever. I got a cab and it came and took me to my destination. I got there and I paid and held the end of my dress and I knocked

on the door. It opened and it was cholo.

“Hi” I say

“Hi what are you doing here?”

she says

“I came for Afika” she looks behind her and comes out closing the door.

“He is not in a good state right now” she says

“Oh okay”

“Maybe you should come back next time” I look at this woman.

“I will say my piece and leave it is very short” I pushed past her and went inside while clicking my tongue.

She gets on my nerves so very much.

“Babe” she says behind me and the man Infront of us turns to us.

Afika stands up from the couch holding a beer bottle and he comes my way.

“Snikiwe”



“We will see you later” the man says before greeting me and leaving with Cholo. That must be Ntozakhona the husband.

“I went home I●●●”

He attacks me with a hug and it is unexpected. I breathe slowly before I relax in his arms.

“I have never been so scared in my life” he speaks

“What made you scared?” I ask

“You”

There is silence.

“The thought of loosing you  
scared me” he says  
I break the hug and look at  
him.

“I just came to thank you for  
everything and tell you where I  
am. I am also quitting at work”  
I say

“Can I see you everyday?” he  
says

“I don't think that's possible”

“Why?”

“It just wouldn't be possible”

He holds my waist and dips his head lower.

“Nothing is impossible Sni” he says

“Some things are”

“I thought so until you came” he says

I look at this man Infront of me.

“Cela ungivumele mama( please allow me mama)”

“Afika” he is too close.

“Please allow me to be your Gatsheni” he kisses me then.....

## Chapter 7

### CHAPTER 7

## **Daily New African Novels**

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I feel like it has been so long since I went out to get stores just to get a few things then go back home. I finally got my things back that were left at Mncedi's place with the help of Afika. It has been two weeks since that kiss. The first ever time he has kissed me since the

past few months I have known him to be my boss before the sexual pleasures that were happening. Let us move along from that anyway.

“What are you thinking about?” he is behind me as I take a few spices and place them in the trolley.

“You don't have to know” I say moving away from where we are.

He follows after me and places his hand on my waist.

We are at Gateway mall doing some grocery shopping and here I am with Afika who wanted to tag along so he could 'See me' right that's a lie I know.

"Snikiwe!" I turn to the sound of the person calling me and it's Sasa.

She is with her little family and that old man could never change arg even clothes won't make him look any young.

"Sasa"

We reach each other and we hug it out before pulling out from each other and she is looking at Afika.

“You don't call anymore” she says

Well if she would call instead of me calling all the time.

“I have been busy” I say

She nods slowly.

“Is this your brother Banele?” she points at Afika now eager to know him.

“Lets go MaSkhosana” Afika says

“I am Sasa ”

Afika swiftly pulls me away from them.

“What was that for?” I ask

“I know girls like her. They are a bad influence” he says

“You can't choose friends for me” he looks at me.

“I won't let you fall into a dark pit when I can see it” he says  
I stop the trolley.



“I don't tell you to have who as a friend” I say

“I don't have friends” he says

“Why?” I ask

“I have my brothers. They are my friends” he says

“Come”

We go to the till to pay when we have everything he takes two packs off gum and he takes out his wallet and gives me some money.

“I will be at the kiosk if it's short just call me” he says

“Ok” he walks off to the kiosk. I get to pay for groceries and there is some money left. It was more than enough. I was assisted with the trolley till I reached Afika who took over and we left. When we got to his car he offloaded everything and we got inside the car then he drove off. Maskandi music was playing softly. You could just tell he enjoys it with the way he is tapping and bobbing his head back and forth. He is just

different and somehow I just like it.

He places the cigarette box next to his lighter and fiddles with his pockets.

“Here is the change” I say and hand him his bubble gum as well.

“Yazi mama angithandi lento oyenzayo(I don't like what you are doing)” he says

“What did I do?”

“Yonke imali engiyisebenzelayo ngiyisebenzela wena manje

mese ubuyisa imali yakho  
uyangixaka ngempela ( All the  
money I work for is for you and  
now that you are brining back  
your money I don't understand  
really why you would do that)”

he says

“Afika”

He looks at me then stares at  
the road ahead.

“MaSkhosana”

I just find myself blushing and  
look outside the window. He

chuckles lightly when he catches a glimpse of me.

“Kwathi angigiye mangikubona umoyizela kahle kanje(I feel like dancing when I see you smile so beautifully like that)” he says.

“Please stop” I say  
I look at him.

“When will you come and visit me?” he asks.

“I will have to see first” he nods.

“I miss you” he says

That's the first time hearing him say that. When he calls he just says he is coming to see me and he hopes I am ready or he is just outside. He never says he misses me or not nor do I know if he just likes me or more than that.

“I miss you too Gatsheni” I say after a while.

---

I have done unloading the grocery and I am dead tired. I went to rest a bit before going

to start on the dishes just to give my aunt a break. She walks in the kitchen as I am slaving away in the kitchen.

“Nozulu wants to visit” she says

“Oh that's ok” I say

There is silence between us.

“Banele is coming this afternoon. Your father told him” I drop the knife.

“Why?”

“Your father was worried Sni”

“I am ok now.” I say

“Well you weren't before. That boyfriend of yours might come back and do God knows what” she says

“He won't” Afika gave me an assurance of that.

“And Thabani is getting married this weekend we are going to his wedding.” she says

“I don't have anything to wear”

“We will figure that out” she perks my lips and then goes to the lounge.



Banele is coming I really didn't want alot of people knowing that I was being boxed by my boyfriend. If his mother hears this she will insult me with it as far as I know. I carry on with my cooking. My phone rings and it's Afika. I don't think this man even knows how WhatsApp is operated in which manner.

“Hello” I say

“Its been two weeks Mama”  
what does he mean?

“About?”

“Your answer you haven't answered me” he says

Did he call me for that?

“I can't say it over the phone”

“Should I come ? I am at the taxi rank”

“No it's fine” I sigh.

“I am coming”

“I will give you a chance”.

There is silence.

“Ngibonge MaSkhosana ( Thank you)” he hangs up after that.

This man is just weird but he weirdness rubs off me in a good

way. I just think of Cholo and what she said. Well I don't care she is not my friend or anything to me. I finish cooking and I go and join my aunt at the lounge.



“Banele” It's my aunt being all over him. Hugging and kisses him.

“Aunty!” he is complaining.

“Asisakwazi awusalethi kwamakoti layikhaya ( We don't know you anymore you don't

even bring a wife here)" she says

Banele chuckles and I lean against the wall breathing in and out by the passage.

"Snikiwe ! Banele is here!" it's my aunt.

I walk out slowly bowing my head and reach them.

"Hello" I say softly.

"I will leave you two" my Aunt walks off.

We stay there in silence.

"I left him" I quickly say

He comes and embraces me.

“I am a bad brother” he says

This is an affectionate hug.

“You are not”

He sighs and let's go of me.

“From now on I will check on you every chance I get” I nod.

“Ok”

We sit together and start talking about anything and he updates me about his mother. That woman is still crazy even now.

.

.

My ringing phone woke me up from my peaceful sleep. I stretch my hand over to the side table and take my phone. It stops ringing and I look at the time. Its 2 am in the morning and I don't know this number that is calling me. It rings again and I answer it. "Who is this?" I quickly say "Sisi Snikiwe it's Lange "

"Oh how are you?" I ask

“Bhuti Afika was stabbed” my body freezes.

“What? Where?”

“He was at Max lifestyle and he was stabbed by someone on the street” I close my eyes.

“Is he ok?”

I hear someone talking.

“Sni” I hear a groan

“Snikiwe” He calls out for me.

“Yes I am here” I say

“Sisi Snikiwe it's Lange He needs to go to surgery but he doesn't want to" Lange says.

I am here panicking a bit.

“Can you please talk to him”

Lange says

“Will he listen to me?” I ask

“Yes” I sigh

“Ok”

“We will fetch you”

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I sigh

“Ok”

“We will fetch you” he says

“Ok” the call gets cut and I get out of the bed.



I rush to the bathroom and brush my teeth then wash my face. I go and change out of my clothes and I get done taking my phone and a R100 just in case. I go to my father's bedroom and I knock before opening the door.

"Baba" I say softly

"Snikiwe"

He sits up and turns on the side lamp.

"Is something wrong?" He looks worried.

“A friend of mine is at the hospital injured and I need to go there. They are fetching me”

I say

“Oh I am sorry. Will you be ok?” I nod.

“Come hug your father” I go and hug him. I breathe in and out before we let go.

“You can go. Just call us” I nod.

“Thank you” I walk out and close the door.

I wait for Lange and he announces that he is outside and I walk out of the house.

---

He turns his head to the direction of the door and so as everyone who is in this room. It's filled up with these people and beautiful looking ladies and Cholo as well.

“Sni” he tries to sit up.

“Afika the doctor said don't move or you will cause more bleeding.”

“I am●●●fine”he groans.

I go towards him greeting everyone and stand by him.

“He just needs stitching” Lange says.

He made it sound like he is dying.

“What happened?”

“It doesn't matter” Afika says

“Who is this?” some lady asks.

“Sisi please” Lange says

“Go I will wait for you here” I say to Afika.

“Ok” Ntozakhona rushes to get the doctor.

They took him to go and get his stitching as we waited. I have just learned that Afika has two sisters and one of them was the one who asked about me. A lady comes and Sits next to me while all these men held their wives close to them. The minister disappeared somewhere.

“Hi I am Slindokuhle Ndlovu but you can call me Slindo” she says with a smile.

“Snikiwe” I say

“MaSkhosana ” she giggles

“That is what he calls you.Afika that is” she says

“Yes” he does.

“Well it's nice meeting you even though under such circumstances and I didn't think he would listen to anyone but he did with you” she says

“Are you here to tell me to back away from Afika because he is not good enough for me?” she frowns.

“No listen” she holds my hand.

“Every man may not be good enough for some people but that doesn't mean they wouldn't be enough for you.

Don't judge them by their past and Afika is a bit difficult ” she laughs.

“ I see” I say

“Just trust him ok?” I nod.

“And you look young” she says.

“I am 24” I say

“Age is just a number” she says.

We sit together and talk. I told her what cholo said and she told me some of Cholo’s business and her’s as well. We laughed here and there and the shock on my face to learn that she has married Sakhile then Nazo was too much. To even have children between the cousins is something else. We



promised each other that the secrets shared stay between us. The doctor comes and tells us that he is discharging Afika. Everyone is relieved about that and we wait just for him.

---

It's Thabani's wedding day. Everyone in the congregation is dressed prime and proper today. I told Afika about it and he is out on the streets doing what he is doing

without any resting. He says that a man doesn't sleep but works. I don't know where he got that stupid saying from but he is sticking by it surely. I got to buy a dress with the money gave to me and I look proper as well.

“Snikiwe let's go we will be late” I get out of my bedroom.

“Lets go” we walk out of the house and get into the car and it drives off.

We arrive at the pastor's house and make our way in as people are busy up and down singing all around. I see some of Thabani's friends and some of the youth from church. We are greeted and hear some condolences as well.

"Snikiwe!" It's Mam'fundisi She hugs me and greets my aunt. My dad disappeared with the pastor.

"Thabani has been asking about you" she says

“Oh” I say

“Come” she pulls me and we go to Thabani’s room . He is standing Infront of the mirror before he turns to us.

“Sni” I greet. His mother closes the door and moves out.

“Uhm how are you?” he clears his throat.

“I am fine. I came to say good luck.” I say

“Thank you” he says.

We stand there in silence for a while.

“So where did you meet your future wife?” I ask.

He sits on the bed.

“At church. We grew up together” he says

I look at him

“Is it Asanda?” I ask

He shakes his head. I knew she had a thing for him so I was assuming.

“Her mother was our Sunday school teacher” Sunday school teacher?

“My•••My mother was our  
Sunday school teacher” I say  
He stands up and comes  
towards me.

“Yes” tears glitter in my eyes.

“I am with someone else  
Thabani I can't do him like that”

I say

He lifts my face up to his level  
and looks at me.

“He doesn't deserve you Sni”  
he says

“He saved me from Mncedi.  
I●●●I can't I am sorry” I quickly  
move away from him.

“Snikiwe!” I close the door  
behind me and push past  
people.

“Snikiwe!” It's my aunt.  
I can't believe they did this to  
me ! I take out my phone from  
my bag as I try to wipe the  
tears and make a call.

“ Mama”

“Please fetch me.”

“I will be there right now” I drop the call and keep on walking until I was a distance away from the house.

I stood by the side walk and 10 minutes later his car parked in front of me and I got inside. I looked out of the car.

“What happened?” he asks.

“Its nothing” I say

“You can't say it's nothing when you are crying ” he says

“Its nothing Afika”



He holds my face to look at him.

“MaSkhosana angizwani nalokho( I don't like that)” he says

“You dont tell me anything about you as well so why should I bother?” he sighs.

“You always want to fight with me ” he says

I feel a burn in my throat.

“Let go of my face I want to vomit ” he does and i open the car door and vomit outside.

“Sni” he hops out of the car and comes my side. When I am done he pulls me up and wipes my face then gets me water from his car. I drink up.

“You don't smell nice” I say  
“I will shower when we get home” he wanted to say more but he seems defeated.

“Thank you”.

Chapter 8

CHAPTER 8

# Daily New African Novels

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“They set me up Bhuti I can't believe it ” I say

I am pacing up and down the yard while Afika went to take a shower as I have requested. I have been ignoring my family's calls. Even aunty Gloria was calling me and now I am venting to Banele. They should've told me and not make me a fool.

“It's for the best” I stop my tracks when I hear him say that.

“For the best Banele ? Are you hearing yourself?” I ask

“Yes. He loves you Sni and he is a good guy as well. I approve of him ” he says

“I can't stand your family at the moment” I hang up on him and make my way inside the house. Afika is on the phone and he hangs up while placing things into a small bag.

“Why are you packing?” I feel like throwing up again just by the scent in his room.

“I have to go for 2 days” what ?

“What about me?” I don't want to go home at the moment.

“I will be back Snikiwe” he zips up the bag.

“They will marry me off if I go back home !” He turns to me quickly and holds my face.

“They won't. Until a bullet takes my last breath then you

won't marry anyone ok?" he says.

"Yes" he gives me a kiss. The second one yet.

We break the kiss and he goes to the wardrobe and he takes a stack of money and he throws it on the bed and takes out his wallet and throws a card on it then his Audi car keys.

"If the money is not enough use the card and I don't want you going to the taxi rank ok?" I nod.

He gets done with zipping the bag.

“Be careful” I say

“I will take you to my homestead when I come back” he smiles.

I blush and look away.

“I feel sick when I smell your scent” I say

“I will ask someone what can help” I nod.

I look at him as he gets done with his packing.

“If you can't reach me just call Lange ok?” I nod.

“I will be fine” I say

He looks at me then nods.

“Come let's drop you home” he takes my hand in his and we walk out of the room.

We get to the Audi and he puts the bag at the back and we get in. He informs me that his ride will come by my home. I

honestly want to know why my family would do this to me really ? I just wonder why. I



look outside the window as I am in thoughts until we reach home and Afika looks at me.

"I will be back" I nod.

"Ok" I don't want to fight with anyone right now.

He gets out of the car and I do the same. Already his cousin is waiting for him. I want to hug him so I rush and give him a hug after taking his bag and he hasitates a bit before wrapping his arms around me.

We let go and say good bye to each other before I park the car in the yard. I get inside the house and the hypocrites I call family are here.

“Snikiwe” it's my father. I raise my hand and stop him.

“How could you dad?” I ask

“We thought it was best because you have always loved Thabani and your previous relationship wasn't ok. Your mother would've been happy” he says

“My mother?” I ask

“Sni we are sorry but we have the best interest at heart” my aunt says

“Can I just go and process all of this but that doesn't mean I am considering anything” they nod as I walk past them. I go to my room and close the door.

---

A hard knock on the door of my room woke me up from my deep sleep and I got off the bed

and went to open the door only to be met by Sasa.

“Sasa”

“Where is Mncedi?” she asks.

“I don't know. We broke up” she looks at me.

“Well he has been missing and he lived with you” she says

“I don't know where he went” she sighed.

“When you see him please just tell me ” I nod as she walks out.

I follow her and see her out. I wonder who gave her access to get in this place.

.  
. .  
.

The burning sensation in my throat just irritates me. I bury my head in the toilet and my aunt hands me the jug full of water and I drink up before I vomit once again. She comes and rubs my back.

“Phephisa Nana wagcina mini uku'khlupha inyongo?( Sorry **Sponsored**

wagcina mini uku'khlupha inyongo?( Sorry when was the last time you got rid of bile?)” she asks.

“It has been years ”I say

“Maybe you need to do so”I nod.

I sit myself next to the toilet as she leaves. I feel drained yet I haven't eaten anything. She comes back and helps me up

before we flush the toilet  
before I bath and go to change.  
I haven't talked to Afika since  
he left and I have been trying to  
get hold of him with no luck. I  
won't lie it's a bit frustrating to  
be in a relationship with him  
and it's like sometimes he  
forgets he has a thing called a  
girlfriend.

Speaking of the devil here my  
phone rings.

“Hello” I answer.

“Mama how are you?” he asks

“I am good. How are you? I am worried” I say

“Don’t be. I will try and be back soon ” he says

“Where are you?” I ask

“Sakhile's house” he says

“Oh ok” what is he doing there?

“I will call you later on” I nod.

”Ok bye” I bite my bottom lip.

---

Nozulu was right that I should've bought myself a car because I enjoy driving myself



around and Lange does check on me if I am fine. It feels weird that someone older than me calls me Sisi. I can't get used to that as well. Sasa hasn't found anything of Mncedi and he has been reported missing. In a way I know that Afika did something to him as I remember his words and I really wonder what he did. I decided to go and take myself out instead of staying inside the house and beside uGatsheni

wami uyathanda mangidla imali yakhe ( My Gatsheni loves it when I spend his money) so why not? I lock the car as soon as I am parked and someone shouts for me. I look around and I see Cholo with her son. This woman better not start me today because I have something for her.

“How are you?” She asks as she reaches me.

“I am good ”

“I am good too. ” She looks at the car and then me.

“I see you and Afika are getting close” she says

“If me being isqandamathe sakhe (his woman)being close then yes we are”

“I●●●” I interrupt her.

“What is your problem with me being with Afika really? I want to hear it today because I don't see us any different and I am way better. I didn't find the

man in any serious relationship” I say

“I don't have a problem with you and if you go around trying to intimidate people with their past then you got the wrong girl” she says.

I get closer to her.

“Guess what? I am staying” I walk away from her.

I just wish for one WWE raw match with her and I would be very happy. I go inside the mall and go buying some clothes. I

decide to get Afika a new perfume that I liked and I could stand than his new one. It seems to irritate me these days. My phone rings and I answer it.

“Gatsheni” I say

“Wangibiza kahle Mama namhlanje kunjani?( You are calling me nicely today. How are you?)” I smile.

“I miss you” I say.

“I do too.” He let's out a sigh.

“Snikiwe” he says

“Yes?”

“We will talk when I fetch you. I hope you have packed” he says.

“Not yet” I say

“Please do” I nod.

“I will when I get home”

“And spend that money it's yours”

“How do you know what I am doing?”

“My phone just has notifications of where you were buying. I never realized I enjoy

seeing that especially done by you” oh this man.

“That’s why you don't want me working?”

“Yes I will take care of you” he says

“What if we break up Afika or something then what ? I need a job on my own and•••”

“Ngiyakuthanda yezwa?

Bambaba lelo futhi

ngiyethemba angikaka

kudumazi MaSkhosana.

Angithandi mawunga

phathekile kahle Mama( I love you ok? Just hold onto that and I hope that I haven't disappointed you. I don't like it when you are not ok)"he says "You love me?"

"I will call you when I arrive "

he hangs up avoiding the question.

I did hear him say so. That he loves me. I get done with the trip and I make my way back home to go and pack for the trip ahead. I told my aunt that a



friend is taking me out after the stunt they pulled and it is working. I am not ready to introduce Afika at home but I will with time if things work out. I hope they do.

## Chapter 9

### CHAPTER 9

**Daily New African Novels**

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I feel like I am out of place. I have been to a rural area before and it was usually

visiting my mother's mother while I was still young. I feel his hand on my waist as I am looking over to his family home. It beautiful and the place is very spacious.

“We are a big family” he says I look at him and nod before fixing my dork on my head.

“How do I look?” I ask I probably don't look as good. He smiles though and runs his thumb on my cheek.

“Couldn’t look anymore perfect” he says

I smile and someone calls out for me.

“Snikiwe!” it's Slindo.

She attacks me with a hug and she looks like a true wife.

“I thought Afika was playing tricks on us when he said he was coming to introduce you to the family” I look at Afika.

“Oh I am happy to be here ” she pulls me away from Afika.

“I want you to meet some people ” she says  
I nod and we walk into a room with some ladies there.

“Guys this is Snikiwe you remember her” Slindo says.  
I look at Cholo.

“Hey Sni I am your new big sister Sane” the woman says  
“Hi” I greet everyone and we are all seated.

Wine is shared amongst the women and I have a glass as well while joining them. They

are nice women shame except that Cholo is getting on my nerves lately. There is a knock on the door and Who I learnt is Ciyela goes and open.

“Hey” she looks at her husband.

“The meeting is starting” He walks off.

What meeting? They all start standing up and walk out.

“Come ” Sane says.

“No I will stay here” I don't want to invade family meetings.

She nods and walks out. I have a bit of wine to occupy myself while they leave.

He bursts through the door giving me a bit of a fright and comes towards me.

“Are you ok?” I nod.

“I am ok why?” I am really trying to tolerate Afika's perfume.

“Why aren't you with the ladies?” he asks.

“Its Cholo” I say

He frowns a bit.

“I feel like she doesn't want us together” I say that.

“I don't care what she says do you?”

“No I don't” I hold his face and give him a kiss.

He is taken as I break it off and he blushes while looking

away. Is he really blushing? I

wrap my arms around his neck.

“You could be the best boyfriend I have ” I say  
It's the wine talking. It's the wine making me say these with such honesty.

“Thank you mama” He says.

“You said you love me ” I say

“Lets get you some sleep. It was a long trip” he is avoiding it again.

“Afika” he carries me out of the room to his room.

---



I woke up with the urgency to go and vomit again. I thought when my aunt helped me get rid of the bile I would be fine but here I am rushing to the bathroom. I vomit inside the toilet and hug it for dear life before I am done. I look up and flush the toilet before I go and wash my mouth and step into the shower. I get done and wrap a towel around my body. "Are you ok?" he asks. "Yes. Inyongo ( it's bile)" I say

“You need to eat” he touches my face.

“I will eat Gatsheni” I look at him.

“What are we here for?” I ask

“I didn't want to be alone while I am home” he says

I go and get dressed.

“Afika” I turn to him.

“Yes mama”

“Do you trust me ?” he is silent.

“Do you trust me enough to let me in your world?” I ask

He sighs and looks down.

“I am scared to do so. I don't want to consume you in it. It's not as you think it seems ” he looks at me.

I go to him.

“Tell me ” he sighs once more.

“I am trying Sni. I will try in all of this relationship thing. I am not good at it but please just be patient with me” I nod and feel another one coming. I run to the bathroom and vomit.

“We should get you something”

he says

I bury my head deep inside the toilet as I vomit.

.

.

“I heard you are not well”

It's one of the ladies. Cholo was called by Afika I don't know about what. We are in the kitchen in the main house helping out. I met Afika's father and I was scared there for a moment. Slindo dishes up

some porridge for me and I thank her as I take my spoon and dip in eating.

I finish the bowl and wash the dishes. Cholo walks in.

“Sni can we talk?” I look at her.

“Uhm sure”

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I look at her.

“Uhm sure” I wipe my hands and follow her outside.

She sighs and looks at me.

“I am sorry for everything. I shouldn't have been like that

towards you in the first place  
and it's none of my business  
what happens in your  
relationship with Afika” she  
says

“Yes you don't have a right to  
do what you did and you don't  
see me doing what you are  
doing.” I say

“I am sorry can we start over?”  
I am skeptical but I nod.

“Let me go and finish up inside”  
I turn and walk inside.

I go and finish the dishes. We clean up and we get done then some lunch is made for the everyone. This family is bigger than mine and I thought mine was big.

“What is that smell?” I ask

“We are making beef curry”

Sane says

“Where is the bathroom?” I

ask

“Down the passage on your left” I rush there and close the

door before I vomit inside all that I ate.

I hug the toilet as I repeat the process until I feel the burning sensation within my throat.

There is a knock on the door.

“Sni are you ok?”

“I am” I get up from the toilet and I flush it.

I go and rinse my mouth and I feel a bit light headed.

I close my eyes for a moment and then opened them. I



walked to the door and Sane was standing there.

“We heard gaging are you ok?” She asks but I hear her voice in a distance.

“Snikiwe!” my head hits the tiled floor and I lose my eyes.

---

I open my eyes and I am in a room on a bed. I turn my head looking around and I see Afika standing by the door as it is open while smoking.

“Afika” he turns to me and quickly discards the cigarette before coming towards me.

“Hey are you ok?” I nod my head.

“I am hungry” I say

“I will ask Slindo to get you some food. You need the hospital now ” he says

“I am fine. It's just I vomited too much last time ” I say

He nods not sure though.

“Let me call Slindo for food” he says standing up and walks out

to go and make the call. I lay on the bed and he comes back and gets in bed and is contemplating with himself to hold me or not before he does and I sink into his arms. He breathes out and gives me a small forehead kiss.

“MaSkhosana ” he says

“Yes?”

“Lokhu jugular kwakho kuyangithusa ngempela mama( Your sickness scares me really)”  
I look at him.

“I will be fine don't worry” I say  
A knock on the door comes and  
Afika stands up to go and  
attend to it. Slindo walks in  
with a tray.

“Hey I hope you are ok” she  
says

“She doesn't want to go to the  
hospital” Afika says.

“Maybe you should to get if  
you didn't hit your head hard”  
Slindo says

“We will” I quickly say

“I will see you” She walks out.

I start eating the food and I quiet enjoyed it. After that I rested and Afika joined me in he and I laid closer to him as well.



It has been 2 months since Afika and I Started this relationship and I could honestly say that I am a gone girl. This weird Zulu man just makes me feel things I have never felt just at the thought of him. We went to get my head

checked and I was told that I was all fine but the vomiting continued and still today I experience it.

“Someone is plotting against you” My father says after I am done with my usual vomiting.

“I am drained” I say

I go to my room and I start making my bed after showering before I get dressed.

”Snikiwe where are your pain killers you use for period pains

my headache is killing me”

aunty says

“They are in my drawer I need to buy new ones. I am sure they are running out now” I say taking them out of the drawer.

“They seem full to me. Thank you” my Aunt says and walks out.

I look at them. Usually they run out very fast and I have to rebuy them Everytime. I don't remember having period pains lately. I go to my drawer and I

see a sealed pack of Always pads.

“Oh no! No!no ! God don't do this to me ” I close the draw and I take my phone and make a call.

“Sqandamathe sami My heart yelps at that but I tell myself not right now.

“Afika we are in a huge crisis” I am pacing up and down in my room.

“Do you need me to come there?”



“Yes please”

“I will there now” we hang up  
and I bite my bottom lip.

Maybe I am just stressing for  
nothing and people do go some  
time without their periods.

Sometimes that happened to  
me so it could be one of those  
times and I am stressing for  
nothing.

“Yes Snikiwe just calms down” I  
say to myself.

Afika arrives just in time and I sneak out of the house and make my way to his car and get inside. He is in his sweat pants and slides and a t-shirt with his bennie. He must be coming from the taxi rank.

“You sounded like you were panicking” he says

I hits my bottom lip.

“I think I might be pregnant” I close my eyes and breathe out.

He is silent. I open my eyes and look at him.

“Really mama?”

“I mean I have been vomiting and I fainted at your home and now I have missed my periods. I don't know when last I went on them.” I say

“Ngiyabonga KaMahlanga( Thank you)” he kisses my lips.

“Ngibonga kakhulu mama ( Thank you so much)”

Deep inside I didn't want to be pregnant at this age. Even before I get married but with this man I wouldn't be able to

resist giving him anything he wants.

## Chapter 10

### CHAPTER 10

## **Daily New African Novels**

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It has been confirmed that I am indeed pregnant. Some part of me hoped that I wasn't as it is too soon to do so and some part of me I don't know where it was standing with this. Pretty soon I will start to show but the

problem now is telling my family that I am pregnant this early. I sigh and move myself from looking at the bathroom mirror and stare at him as I come out.

“Are you ready to leave ?” I nod my head.

I take my bag and throw it on my shoulders before we exit the house to his car.

“You seem nervous” he says  
Who wouldn't be nervous going to sit down with his father?

“I am ” he chuckles

“You shouldn't be ”

He steals glances at me the whole way. We are driving to pietermaritzburg where his father lives. I wonder why he has never spoken about his mother. He hardly spoke about his direct family only those cousins that I have met. We get to Boughton where his father lives and it's a quiet neighbourhood. He hoots at the gate before it opens and he

drives in. My heart is beating fast and before I knew it he was helping me out of the car. I walk slowly beside him trying to get myself out of this situation because I know I wouldn't be able to handle it.

“Baba I am here” Afika announces.

He pulls me in and soft Maskandi music is playing. A woman appears who seems a bit older and she smiles.

“Afika” she says and gives him a hug

“MaZondi this is umawengane Yami(This is the mother of my child)” he says. I look away shyly

“It’s nice to meet you” she gives me a hug as well.

“Your father would be here any minute. Let me get you something to eat” she walks away and Afika pulls me to sit on the couch.



I settle down and keep on playing with my hands as I am nervous he goes to the radio and starts changing the song that was playing to another one.

“Afika” a voice said and I stood up bowing my head.

“Baba ” he cleared his throat and came by my side.

“Sawubona Ndodakazi( Hello)” he says to me.

“Yebo baba ” I look at Afika.

“How are you?”

“I am well and yourself?”

“I am good as well” there is silence between us.

“Uhm baba there is something important to discuss with you”

Afika says

“Ok let's sit down” we all do.

MaZondi comes back and lays beverages In front of us and she smiles walking away.

“MaSkhosana is pregnant”  
couldn't he maybe have some conversation first before dropping that bomb?

“Aw' Ngaze ngajabula ukuzwa lezo zindaba. Sekuzoba nomzukulu ozozihlalela nekhehla elinjengami(I am happy to hear such news now there will be a child who would be running around visiting an old man like myself)” His father says and Afika takes my hand in his.

“Yes I want to do right and pay for the damages. That's what I am here for” Afika says.

“I will tell my brothers. When do you want this done?” His father asks.

“As soon as possible Baba. Ngifuna kuhleleke konke kahle( I want everything to be done well)” He says.

“No problem”

I breathe in and out.

“And also ngifuna ukuzishaya zonke baba( I want to pay full cows )”my head shoots up and I look at him.

He is looking serious.

---

I throw my bag on the couch and take off my shoes and go to the bedroom. I am tired and I don't want anyone annoying me at the moment.

“You have been quiet ” really ?

“I hate this thing of yours doing things without consulting me ” I say

“What did I do?” he asks

“Ufuna ukuzishaya zonke ukhulume nobani Afika ?(You want to pay full cows when you

talked to who Afika?) Are you in this relationship alone and I am just here for decoration?!" I take off my top and throw it inside the clothing basket.

"I don't see a problem in what I said" oh Lord please help me.

"My family Afika! They don't know I am dating again after everything and worse I am Pregnant yet and I have to break the news to them and manje kuzofika incwadi kini( now a letter from your home

will come) stating things I was never told about.”

He silent looking at me like I am a mad woman.

“I don't like being shouted at Snikiwe. We are talking here”

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oh Lord please help me.

“My family Afika! They don't know I am dating again after everything and worse I am Pregnant yet and I have to break the news to them and manje kuzofika incwadi kini(

now a letter from your home will come) stating things I was never told about.”

He silent looking at me like I am a mad woman.

“I don't like being shouted at Snikiwe. We are talking here” so that's all he is getting.

“Just because I keep quiet about things doesn't mean I am comfortable with them. I don't know much about your life either than the taxi rank or popping out of nowhere



siblings. I don't know anything about you as my boyfriend and now this ? ”

He looks away from my eyes and sighs.

“What do you want to know?” I look at him.

He lifts his head and looks at me.

“What do you want to know MaSkhosana?”

“How•••How many siblings do you have?” I ask

“3 siblings. 2 sisters and 1 brother” ok.

“How old are you?”

He seems a bit hesitant with the answer.

“I am 36 years” I am shook at the moment.

“What do you love and hate ?” I ask

“I hate shouting and I love you” there he says it again.

“Why is it so hard for you to express how you feel?” I ask

“I don't know how to” I nod.

He looks like a vulnerable boy.

“Is MaZondi your mother?” I ask

“No she is the mother of my older sisters but they are not together with my father. my mother left when I was young. I don't know her” he says

He turns and walks out of the room closing the door. His mother must be a sensitive topic to him. I plump myself on the bed after that.

---

I don't know where this man went to but I woke up with him still not here. I get off the bed and make a call to my family just checking in on them. This. This is harder than I thought it would be. I slip off the bed and try calling Afika while I go and prepare myself but it doesn't get answered. I take a quick shower and make a call to Lange after I am done. I really don't have a choice right now.

“Sisi Snikiwe how are you?” He asks

“I am good. Have you see your brother?”

“NoI have not”

“Uhm ok thank you ” I hang up.

I get dressed and go to make some food. I eat and wash the dishes then then door opens. I look at him and he does the same before closing it and places his keys on the coffee table. I wouldn't have seen him

if this place wasn't an open plan kitchen.

“Where did you go ?” I ask

“Ntozakhona’s house”

“So you would do this everytime I am trying to get to know the person I am in a relationship with?” I fold my arms.

“It won't happen again”

“Really?” he is silent.

“Ayidle ishiyele MaSkhosana( I am sorry)”

I sigh

“Communicate with me Afika. Annoy me with yourself” he smiles.

“You like it?”

“I love it”

“The letter would be sent soon informing your family about mine coming” I nod.

“I have to tell my family about the pregnancy before that” he nods.

“Go and shower. I will make food”

He nods and walks away. I  
make some food for him and he  
soon comes out dressed.

“I need to get you a car” he  
says

“That's a bit extreme” I say

“Nothing is extreme. I love it  
when you spend money it gives  
me a sense of joy that I am  
doing what a man should be  
doing” he says.

“I love this man” he stops  
eating and looks at me.

“You do ?” I nod.



“I do” He blushes and looks away from me carrying on eating.

## Chapter 11

### CHAPTER 11

## **Daily New African Novels**

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This is hard for me. A bit too hard for me as I am older.

Thabani came to apologize after the stunt they pulled and he said he would wait for me until I am ready to be his. If he

said and did all of this before Mncedi then I would most probably be his wife with two little kids attending Church meetings like I am on steroids. Having mamezala meetings with my mother in law and sharing pictures of my son and husband and how they look alike. We could be staying in Morning side or Durban north but here I am calling on my family to sit down as I have something to share with

them. I don't know how I will break it down to them. I am scared as well for this happening.

“Snikiwe you can start we are all here” My aunt says disturbing my thoughts.

I clear my throat just looking amongst these three Infront of me. I wonder how my mother would've felt as I broke the news down of her daughter being pregnant for a man

before marriage. She would've been disappointed in me.

“Uhm I don't know how to say this to everyone” I fiddle with my fingers.

“You can calm down and say it” Banele says.

I lightly smile before I let out a sigh.

“I am pregnant” there is silence. No one is talking to anyone.

“It's that boy who you were dating” my father says

“No uhm It's not Mncedi who is the father but Afika Ndlovu” I say.

“Wait did you say Ndlovu?” I nod.

“Snikiwe ” my aunt says in defeat.

“I am sorry” I quickly say

“You know this person Banele?” My dad asks.

“I am working on a divorce case for one of the women who got married in that family” now my ears are open to hear this.

“Who?” I ask

“Ciyela” Isn't that Sakhile's wife or something?

I wonder what went down. I should teach Afika to gossip because I want to hear these news.

“I wanted to tell you that and his family will send a letter” I say

“Snikiwe are you sure about this boy?” My dad asks.

“He is a man and yes I am sure. He treats me well baba

angisweli lutho( I don't lack anything)” I say

“This is a shock and disappointment. We thought you would get married first but there's nothing that can be done now” my aunt says.

“We want to meet him before any letters coming in to state anything between you and him” Banele says.

“I agree with that Mfana wami( my boy)” It's dad

“I will tell him”

“How about tomorrow

?” Banele suggests

“I am fine with it” my aunt says.

Oh wow this is happening? I just nod to their request and soon we dispersed to our own places. I went to my room. These prescribed pills from the doctor help but I still do vomit from time to time of which I wish I could just take this baby out and let Afika feel



what I go through. My phone rings and it's him calling.

“Gatsheni” I lay on the bed.

“How are you?”

“I am ok. I told my family and they want to meet you” he is silent for a moment.

“Meet me?”

“Yes you. They want to know you” I say

“Uhm when?” he asks.

“Tomorrow” I say

He is silent for a moment before he sighs.

“Ok I will come”

“Thank you” I say

“I will never hurt you if that's  
what they think” he says

“I know. Where are you?”

“At the club. I will be here the  
whole day” he says

“Ok. I will call later” I say

“Ok”

We hang up from the call. I  
decide to take a nap that  
moment.

---

My aunt is making this feel like it's something so big just to meet the weird man I love. He really swept me off my feet and weirdly I am happy to be part of his life somehow. It was unexpected but here I am busy being the master chef's assistant slaving around in the kitchen.

“It smells nice in here” it's Banele.

He enters the kitchen and hugs aunty before coming over and

he hugs me. The kitchen is too hot for me and I am not used to such hard labour in the kitchen I swear. I can cook but cooking is not something I do on a daily basis and enjoy.

“We are busy cooking. Sni how far is this boy?” if the only knew that this man in 4 years would be in his 40’s but they call him a ‘boy’. I hope the questions they have don't come down to asking about his age because I can already see my

aunt fainting from just hearing a man say he is 12 years older than me.

“I will check on him right now” I say

“Let me go and greet dad”

Banele walks off.

I go and call Afika and find out how far he is and he says he is just a few minutes away. I go to the kitchen and my aunt is sealing the food away and orders Banele to go and put it

properly on the counter. She is really putting effort here.

“He is a few minutes away” I say

“Ok Bhuti please go and sit down. Snikiwe check if the juice is cold” she is stressing too much.

“Calm down sisi” my dad says and she nods. My phone rings.

“He is here” I say and walk out.

I go and open the gate for him

and let him park the car

outside. He hops out of the car

and comes my way. He has flowers and wine in his hands and I frown. Afika is not into these things. I don't think he knows where the flower shop is.

“Sane suggested these” He says.

I nod. I won't even go into his outfit. He looks like a mess! He is nervous by the look in his eyes. Atleast he went to get a hair cut but non the less he looks presentable.

“You were smoking” I say  
“I needed to calm down” he  
says

Oh my god.

“Do you have your perfume in  
the car?” he shakes his head.

“Ok

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he shakes his head.

“Ok let's go” we just have to  
pull through and hope for the  
best.

We walk inside and everyone is  
on their feet looking at him. I



take the flowers and wine and put it away.

“This is Afika Ndlovu. Afika that is my father his sister and my big brother Banele” he looks at me.

Yes I have never went into detail of me having a sibling. I think he always assumed that I am the only child with alot of cousins that I call Bhuti and Sisi like Lange.

“Nice to meet you ” my aunt says shaking his hand but these two keep on gazing at him.

We get seated and the interrogation starts right away.

“How did you meet my Snikiwe?” it's dad.

“She was working for me” My mother would've said in that devil's house right this moment.

“So this is what you do ? Approach your workers?”

Banele

“Bhuti” I say

“No” Afika answers.

“Afika tell us about yourself will you?” my aunt says politely.

Afika shifts a bit next to me. I look at him as he clears his throat.

“I am a 3rd born child with 3 siblings and a father. I come from a big family from Msinga but some of my family members are around the country or overseas. It's obabomncane Kanye no aunty (

Young uncles and aunts) that are scattered everywhere.” he says.

I want to hold his hand so badly.

“You work at the club only?” this is disturbing my father.

“No. My family owns Taxi’s and I work at the taxi rank” eyes shoot at me. I am silent looking down.

“How old are you?” Did she really have to ask that? my aunt is just.. my God.

“36 years” Afika replies.

“Amen” My aunt claps her hands.

“You are too old for snikiwe.”

Banele says.

“Banele please” I say

“Yes he is and he is not good enough for you. You were shot at the taxi rank who knows that his enemies were after you”.

He says

“And that gun is visible” my dad mentions. I look at Afika.

“Look at that Snikiwe.” it's Banele.

“I deserve Snikiwe” It's Afika.

“You don't. This is my only sister and I wouldn't let you or any shady man get her for his own benefits” Banele says standing up.

“I do and I won't be told by you if I do or not that's her choice and if you can't take it then I don't care” Afika is getting furious.

“Please guys ” I say

“He should be leaving ” Banele says

“Dad do something!” I say

“Banele is looking out for you” I scoff.

“Looking out for me? And you guys think Thabani is better because he is a cheat that doesn't let a skirt pass by. Look I don't mean any disrespect but Afika and I are having a child and that is not going to change. I love him aunty Baba and he takes care of me and

treats me well as I deserve. He may not make sense to you guys but he does to me and if it wasn't for him that day of my shooting I wouldn't be alive. You wouldn't have a daughter if he didn't take care of me and made sure I was ok. Niyakholwa kodwa( you are christians but) you are judging him. I am so disappointed in you all” Afika walks out of the house that moment. I stand up to go after him.



“Snikiwe sit down ” I scoff.

---

Again I couldn't get hold of him until I disturbed Lange again who informed me that he is at the club burying himself in work. I haven't talked to my family from the stunt they pulled. I am standing Infront of the mirror looking at myself and I look at myself for the final time before before I grab the bag on my bed and my phone tells me that the driver has just

contacted me and he is here. I walk out of my room and head to the lounge.

“Sni” It's my aunt.

I look at all of them.

“The Ndlovu's are sending a letter. I hope it is expected and we behave ourselves” I say

“I promised your mother to take care of you” Dad says.

“Meaning where my happiness is as well” I say

I excuse myself and leave them there. My father loves involving

my mother knowing very well that I love her. It's a bit unfair. I get in the car and it goes off.



It's definitely a Saturday effect today and it's more packed than the day before but Friday's always take the cup. I greet the bartender and he does the same asking me about life and how it's treating me. I ask for a virgin cocktail and he gives it to me. Here I am not as

a worker but more like one of the people here who are here to. I am enjoying my drink slowly. It's not my cup of tea but I have to think of the life inside of me.

“Can I buy you a drink?” This man turns to me and I look at him.

“I am fine with what I have ” I say

“Really?” I nod.

“Ok then ” I am glad he wasn't prying on me.

Someone taps my shoulder and I turn. It's one of my former co-workers.

“Mr Ndlovu is calling at the stripper lounge” How does he know I am here?

“Uhm ok” I go up to the stripper lounge and its empty. Only the strippers snaking themselves on that pole and him watching.

Jehova here is a man that wants me to kill everyone here. What is he doing watching almost naked women

and that Thole is there singing seductively for him. This is burying himself in work? I breathe in and out before I walk towards him. I stand Infront of him blocking his view. He looks at me and I look behind me before looking at him again.

“You need to get your act together Afika” I say

“Sit down and let's enjoy the show” he says while having a sip of brandy.

“The show of watching half naked women and your ex for pleasure? No thank you.”

“Its just a show Snikiwe”

Snikiwe? Snikiwe? Why is he calling me Snikiwe?

“When you are ready to be in a full relationship where we talk and be a parent as well you know where to find me. I won't take stress from everyone including you as well when its danger to the baby ” I click my tongue and put my drink down

before taking his car keys and walking away from the stripper lounge.

I am trying but I can't do this on my own Everytime. I love Afika but really his disappearing acts are getting on my last nerves.

---

He hasn't called or tried to contact me in the last two days since the club incident. I am angry at him but I really miss him and hoped we would be ok but he called me Snikiwe



Infront of his ex whatever she was to him. Is he sleeping with her again? His car is still here in the yard and no one cares to ask who's car it is.

I took a shower and prepared myself to going to the beach on my own. The sea noises will calm me down eventually and I have been spotting just yesterday of which I am worried about. I hope it's not that serious. I tell my aunt where I am going.

“The letter has arrived from the Ndlovu's” she says.

I look at her.

“Oh” I don't really know what to say.

“I will see when I come back” she nods as I walk out.

I get in the car and at this moment I hate male scents because of how strong they are. I miss him. I wish he would call me and tell me how much he loves me even though he doesn't say it much but wants

to prove it. I love how weird he is and the way he randomly blushes when I say something is what I love seeing. I do miss him.

I start the car and drive off to North beach just to clear my head.

## Chapter 12

### CHAPTER 12

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“Mzala Mzala!” It's Nozulu making the biggest noise. She is always this loud but today I am not in the mood of entertaining her or any of my family members for that matter.

“Kwenzenjani Mzala?(what is wrong cousin?)You should be happy today” Happy?

Yes I should be happy today but I am skeptical with today as well.

“Get off that bed and go bath. Everyone is up and down wena ulele lah( and you are here sleeping)” She pulls the covers off me and drags me off the bed.

She opens the curtains and windows before pushing me to the bathroom. I go and brush my teeth before I start taking a bath. I get out after I am done and I feel like vomiting and I do so in the toilet.

“Mzala!” it's Nozulu again

“I am coming” I say  
I wipe my mouth then flush the  
toilet before I go and brush my  
teeth All over again before I get  
out and go to get dressed. My  
aunt gets in the room and she  
has a doek in her hands. She  
wraps it around my head to her  
satisfaction.

“I made something light for  
you” she says

“I am not hungry”

“Think about the baby Sni” I  
sigh and nod.

She walks out. Nozulu also follows saying she quickly wants to call her man. I take my phone and send a message this time before Nozulu comes back rushing and grabs the doek off the bed.

“Cela ungibophe Mzala into ekahle sengibone itype yami kubakhongi(please tie the doek for me I just saw my type outside)” she says

“Your type?” I do her doek and get done. She looks at her self and then does some touch ups. We hear my clan names being chanted and Nozulu goes to peak out of the window. I follow after her. It's his Uncle's that are here as abakhongi and also Sikelela.

“Come and sit down” My aunt says as she brings food over.

“Tell dad to not let them in”  
They look at me.



“What is the matter?” My aunt asks.

I walk out of the room and go to the lounge.

“Snikiwe you are not supposed to be here” it's my uncle.

“Don't let them in. Tell them they should turn back” I say

“Snikiwe ayenziwa lento oyishoyo(What you are saying is not done)” My uncle says.

“Its her wish malume” Banele says.

My uncle sighs and wears his fadora before he goes out of the house. I go and watch by the window and my uncle is talking to dad. They talk to the Ndlovu family and I see Sikelela leaving the men that were standing there.

“Haibo wena uyahlanya yini ?!(Are you crazy?!)Did you see how they are ? I am sure even their bank is big and wena uba islima(you are a fool)” Nozulu says.

“I don't care” I say

“I wish I could strangle you  
back to your senses” she says

“Nozulu leave Snikiwe alone”  
my aunt says.

She clicks her tongue and walks  
out. I eat my food.

“Snikiwe tell us what is the  
problem?” She asks.

“Its nothing aunty” I say

“You can't tell us it's nothing  
when ujikise abantu

esangweni(You told people to

turn around)” I look away from her eyes.

“I disappointed mom” I say softly

She hugs me close to her body.

“She would've been disappointed but look as you have said we don't understand this man but you do and ukuthi afike enze kahle ngakuwena kukhulu(For him to do right by you is something big). I am sorry that we weren't trying to be understanding and we love

you” I nod as tears stream  
down my cheeks.

“Thank you aunty” she wipes  
them.

My phone rings and I take it  
then answer when I see that it's  
Lange.

“Sawubona Bhuti (Hello) I say  
“Sisi Sni how are you?” He asks.

“I am good and yourself?”

“I am well. Can you please  
come outside?” he says.

I look at my aunt.

“I can't●●●”

“We will pay the fine that needed to be paid please” he is begging.

“Ok” I hang up and stand up. I tell my aunt that I am going outside and I will be back. She warns me that a fine would be paid for these men If I decided otherwise. I walk out of the gate and go towards the Ndlovu's. I greet them as I walk to Lange who was there. He doesn't say anything but goes to one of the taxi's and opens

for me. I hesitate in getting in. I look at Lange.

“I am going home” I say

“Please sisi” he says

“Why are you the one begging when he should be the one doing it. Please don't irritate me Lange” I quickly say.

“Get inside Snikiwe”

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I look at him.

“I don't like it when you call me Snikiwe ” I say

He keeps quiet. I look at Lange before I hop inside and he closes the door. It's just the two of us.

“Why did you tell them to turn back?” He asks.

“You haven't called me in almost 5 days and what did you want me to think? That you don't want this anymore and you are just doing all of this for the sake ”

“I want this I want you Sni.”



“You don't show it” he clenches his jaw and sighs.

“I am sorry” he says.

“Sorry won't just fix it Afika” I say

He is silent for a moment.

“Did you sleep with her?” I look at him.

“Who?”

“Thole” I ask

“No. I respect you” he says

That is a relief.

“I am sorry that I didn't call. You said I should communicate with

you and I am trying but it seems too difficult and overwhelming for me. It's something I have never done before but I will grow up just please tell your family to let mine in" I look at him.

"You want this?"

"More than anything Mama" I smile.

"I love you" I say

Even though he is a fool sometimes but I really missed him.

“Let me go then” I say  
He nods and pulls me to him  
and kisses me. It's these  
unexpected moments that I  
love about him. He makes them  
feel worthwhile. We break the  
kiss and I get off his hold and  
hop out of the taxi before I go  
inside the house.

---

Everything went well and  
according to Aunty Gloria they  
paid for everything and the fine  
Afika had to pay for seeing me.

I am a bit calmer now but worried if he won't pull any of his stunts again. I am just happy to hear that he didn't sleep with Thole or do anything with her and I believe him. I have to put faith in him.

“Snikiwe pack your bags” I look at my aunt.

“Why?” I ask

“The Ndlovu's want to go with you. Uzobuya ngomembeso and kuzowenziwa wona kuphela okwamanje ( You will

come back for Umembeso and that is all that will be done for now )” Aunty Gloria explains. They are already packing my things into bags.

“I am going with Sni right?”

Nozulu speaks

“And do what? You are not married so stop trying to worm your way there” her mother says.

She keeps quiet. They get done with my bags and pull me out of the house. My father and

Uncles are having a nice drink and chat while I am leaving !

“Dad” I say

“Oh you are ready” he stands up.

“I am leaving”

“I know.” he comes and hugs me.

“Come back home anytime you want to” he is hesitant on letting me go.

“I will I promise” we let go of each other and I am escorted outside.

Nozulu is walking closely to me.

“I will visit you every weekend ok?” she shouldn't.

“And give in a good word for me to one of the single ones old or young” she says

“Ok” she lets go of me as they take my bags.

“Come” he takes my hand and I say my good byes to my family before we leave.



I am a bit tired from last night. Afika felt like we were not entirely ok and we stayed up 'Solving' things before we sleep. It's now a new habit that we should adjust to and that is not sleeping angry at each other or not ok.

"Aren't you going to the taxi rank?" I ask

"No Ntozakhona will take care of it" he says

I get off the bed and prepare myself. He tells me that we are



off going somewhere and I don't know where we are going. This is some engagement. Atleast a ring nyana would've been something but this is Afika. He doesn't know a thing about relationships. It hasn't been long but it feel so. I have dated Mncedi for years and he has never treated me well and I would rather be here than anywhere else.

“I feel sick” I announce and  
rush to vomit.

I finish.

“I don't think I can leave” I say  
as I am done. I get on the bed.

“What do you need ?” he asks.

“Come lay with me” he looks at  
me.

“Its during the day mama” he  
says

“I know” he gets on the bed.

“You are beyond my dreams.

Imagination even. I never

thought nami ngingabamba

nomuntu omuhle onjengawe  
azithandele uzavolo onjengami  
( I could also have someone  
who is as beautiful as you. Who  
loves a guy like me )” I laugh  
He chuckles.

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- .

## Chapter 13

## CHAPTER 13

# Daily New African Novels

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Now as a full time stay at home finance I should be able to take care of the home that I now live in and one thing I don't like doing is cooking but I have to do it in order to take care of thy man when he comes back home but that's the one thing Afika never expects. He expects to take care of me like a baby. On the eating part we

had a few issues just for a few days. Mainly because I would cook and he would come back full from Taxi rank food of which pissed me off. I don't like it. When he gets home he shouldn't be full of some food I don't know where he got from and I addressed that issue with him and he said he would change that. He just didn't want me to cook ever single day for him I am not his slave. It's thoughtful

considering I am not used to that but I have to get used to cooking because if he ever tries then we would both be in the hospital for bad food.

I got a call from Sasa and I have even forgotten that I have her as a friend. I just wanted everything that said Mncedi to be out of my life and so I distanced myself. She is asking how I am and why am I not visiting or calling anymore? Honey the girl is in her own

house expecting a baby and living the dream she has no time for following up on you Everytime like a lost dog no. I told her I have been stuck on stuff. I didn't go into detail. I don't owe her those details anyway. She wanted us to have lunch sometime and I agreed. I know Afika will not be happy. He fully stated his reasons of not liking Sasa so I would consider this a break up lunch with her.

Right now I am in one of the rooms in Sakhile's house. I wish I could tell you in on what's really going on but I also have no clue except what my brother has been saying might be true. Afika got a call last night stating that things are bad at Sakhile's house and the clan needed to rush there. The elders are not involved just these ones and now everyone was here watching Sakhile



crying his eyes out and begging Ciyela to open the door to their martial bedroom. He kept on apologizing. Slindo was in town to visit her grandmother as her husband is gone on a trip somewhere . Something about meetings what not I don't know. While we were here I got hungry and Slindo took me to go and prepare food. She spilled the beans of how Sakhile was a cheat in their marriage and she is suspecting

that he is so that I am holding onto but he kept on saying :“Bafo angenzanga lutho ngicela ukhulume naye (I didn't do anything please talk to her)”.

I have never seen a grown man cry that much. Maybe she caught him on their bed or something and now here I am on this bed in this house. It's one of Sakhile's boy's room. The bed is empty and I don't think this man of mine even slept a

wink by the look of things. I slowly get off the bed and open the window just to let the fresh air in and subside the nausea before I walk out of the bedroom and head to the bathroom. I pee wash my face and rinse mouth before I go to the lounge. They are still here gathered together like someone has died. Ciyela hasn't come out of the room and Ase Sakhile's son was shipped to Slindo's home

before he witnessed his father crying and begging over a woman.

“How did you sleep?” Sane asks.

“Good” Cholo comes back from the passage and is followed by a dressed up Ciyela.

Sakhile jumps out of the couch.

“Baby ngicela sikhulume(please let's talk)” He begs

“I have work we will talk later” she says

“Can I drive you to work?” We are just spectators watching a movie scene.

She is hesitant but eventually nods he grabs the keys without any care of how he looks like just wanting to drive his wife to work is so much for him after a night of begging and crying. It hasn't been long since I have been officially been engaged in this family and here I am within the family drama.

“Sni are you hungry?” I swear if I won't be a ball by 8 months then I don't know.

It's funny enough that I don't have any cravings that pregnant people usually have and it doesn't scare Afika. He says it's good because I don't get to feed his child rubbish like all the other woman. Who eats soil? It just disturbs him and he is very glad about it.

“Uhm●●●” I am not really. Slindo overfed be last night but I am hesitant with my answer. I am pulled to the kitchen by the women as they start to prepare some food for everyone. This house is practically empty and has almost no food. How could they live like this ?

“I knew that Sakhile wasn't being fed when after he married Ciyela” Sane comments.

Cholo seems offended as Ciyela is her sister.

“What is that supposed to mean ?” She ask

“Slindo did a better job than your sister” I don't know where that is coming from.

“Sane” Slindo says

“I am just saying. Uhlanyiswa idolobha loya made ngambona ( She is changed by the city. I saw this along time ago)” I am silent.



“For all we know it might not be Sakhile this time but someone else ohamba esakaza ikiwi yakhe (Who opens her legs for some people)” Sane says. She is confident in what she is saying.

“Thats my sister you are talking about !” Cholo shouts.

“What’s going on ?” the men ask entering the kitchen

“I will order food” Slindo says and walks away.

Silence. No one is talking to anyone. Cholo clicks her tongue and walks off. Her husband follows after her.

“Are you craving something Sni?” It's Sane asking all polite. I am scared of her.

“No I don't have any cravings yet” she smiles.

“When I had Andile I was all over food” she lightly laughs. I guess that's her son.

I smile. I take Afika's hand and walk out of the awkward kitchen.

“Did you sleep?” is the first thing I ask.

He shakes his head and I feel like hugging him and I do so.

“Come let's get you to sleep” I say

“I don't like sleeping when the sun is out”.

“Please just this once. For me” he sighs and nods slowly.

I pull him to the room I was using and lock it before I help him undress and get him in bed. I also join him and he sighs heavily before he closes his eyes.

---

Today I decided to kill two birds with one stone. I am going to do the house groceries as it is needed. I learnt what I saw when we were at Ciyela's house and there was close to nothing in the cupboards and Sane

talking about her. I don't want that happening and then Thole or whoever pops up and I am finally compared to then with taking care of Afika. If he needs to get fat then so be it. I will also have some Lunch with Sasa today. My stomach is very visible now and you can see it properly if I wear tight tops. Afika's Audi has become my car now. I have been using it so very often than he does. Perks of having two cars.

He doesn't really use it unless he is going to the club. That as well. He shouldn't stay there until late as well. I just don't want to sleep alone. That I have noticed is that I am clingy now. Always want him here by me and being babied from time to time.

I do my grocery and get everything that I need. I called Banele and also talked to my dad and get are at ease when I tell them how fine I am and

that I am happy where I am.  
There are no problems so far  
that could send me packing my  
bags. I get done and pay up  
before I go and load everything  
inside the car. My phone rings  
and it's Sasa.

“Hello”

“I am at the restaurant”

“Ok

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I am coming” I hang up.

I do the finishing touches and  
take myself to where she is.

She is alone without her daughter this time and I greet her before I sit down. She looks at me and gives off a fake smile.

“How are you?” She asks.

“Oh I am good. Just busy” I place my things.

“I seenew job?” she asks looking at my bag and car keys

“Something like that” Being in that family is a job on its own.

“How is finding Mncedi?” I ask. She heaves a heavy sigh.



“We can't find him. We lost hope. When did you last see him?” she asks.

“It was the day before he went for his night shift. We had a fight which resulted in us taking a break and I went home while he went to work” I say

“I asked his co-workers and they don't know where he is and his car is missing as well” I swallow.

Afika has something to do with it. I keep quiet and order some

drinks. We move from Mncedi and she tells me that her husband took her to Capetown. She is bragging than actually telling and it's her strategy of keeping on reminding me that she is better than me. We get on the food and we eat.

“I don't think this friendship could work anymore” I say  
She looks at me and frowns.

“Where is this coming from?”

“I am just Its one sided so we should end it” I say calling the waiter.

“Oh just because you drive a car now you think you are better? You could never be”

“I know better” I say

I ask for take away and I get it. She clicks her tongue at me.

“Don’t come begging me back when life shows you flames” I nod and get my things. I pay for my food before walking out

of the restaurant. I am happy that I finally got to do that.

---

“Aunty can I come back I can't do this anymore” I say.

I am in the kitchen feeling hot as I am cooking and now I can't take the cooking anymore. I should've taken up on Afika's offer to eat out during alternative days but no. Sni wanted to be a super girl and do everything everyday.

“Why?”

“I am tired of cooking” She laughs.

“You have to get used to it” well it has been a week and still nothing.

“Hayi it's too much for me” she doesn't stop laughing.

“You are just being lazy” I huff  
The door opens and he walks in throwing his cap on the couch.

“I have to go aunty I will call”  
we say our good byes and I hang up.

He drops his body on the couch and I turn off the stove and take myself towards him after taking off the apron. I plump myself next to him and give him a small perk.

“How was your day?”

“I am tired”

“Well at home they have made a list of the things needed for Umembeso and the date is set”

I say

“Are you happy about everything?” he asks

“Yes I cooked and hope you didn't have any food from the outside world”

“No I didn't” he says

“Good then” I stand up and go and dish up for him.

Chapter 14

CHAPTER 14

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“Weh Sibari! We Sibari  
Sbari wami! Mbuyisele  
ekhaya..”

I am pacing up and down my bedroom. I don't understand the meaning of make up for Umembeso. For a wedding yes but this ? I just find it very unnecessary but Nozulu saw it fit that I have it on my face and she did a very great job as well. Ofcuase she would it's her everyday routine. I have been back since two days ago and it's like my family is hosting a party everyday. I hardly slept because



of the noise that has been surfacing inside the house.

"Oh my god Banele's mother is here" What?!

It's Zee. My other cousin. My aunt's daughter. You may be wondering where she comes from? She is always working and for her to be here is very big for me. She is educated and very successful. Drives a Mercedes-Benz and smells like disinfectant after a long day from work. She is a General

practitioner studying to specialise in Cardiology. When I look at her I just think of Lange. She is the “Know your worth” team which is why she is single almost all the time. She doesn't take nonsense at all and if you don't fit in her life you are out brother. She has never been swept off her feet and also a hard nut to crack. Inkomozikayise is her name. Weird name I know and her father named her that but we

grew up ignoring inkomo part and using Zikayise until she ended up being Zee. After her father died it has been her and her mother.

“Don’t stress too much Sni●●●” she will keep on reminding us of her qualification.

She told our uncle not to drink anymore as people suffer from alcohol poisoning and they die. She went into detail of what she studied and also ended

with “I am a qualified Doctor I know these things”. Nozulu finds it very annoying.

“I know you told me yesterday the higher the possibilities of me having a miscarriage or giving birth still born baby” I quickly say.

There is a knock on my door and I am hoping it is not Banele’s mother. I don't mind her being here if she doesn't start any drama.

“Come in”The door opens and Thabani walks in.

Oh God please help me. He greets us and we also greet back.

“I am going to check if everything is ok and if my car is parked properly”Zee says

“Uhm Zee this is Brother Thabani from church. Thabani this is Zikayise”I say

“Nice to meet you” he says

“Same here” she walks out after that and I see him looking at her.

A dog never changes it's bark I see.

“How are you?” he asks

“What do you want?”

He places his hands in his pocket.

“I wanted to check up on you” he says

“I am fine as you can see” I say

“I should've paid ilobolo before that wedding” he says

“I am glad you didn't” I say

“Sni I love you” I chuckle.

“I really do” he says

“And I don't dispute that.” I pat next to me.

He comes and Sits down next to me.

“Thabani. To be honest with you is that if I didn't meet my previous boyfriend then I would maybe be your wife today because as much as he didn't treat me right but I would've never met the man that I

proudly love today. I always had a thing for you but I grew from it since I was young and I hope you find an amazing woman who is worthwhile for you. She is not me”

“So you are doing this to us?”

there wasn't even an us

“Don't do that.” he nods.

“I will see you” he stands up and walks out after that.

The singing from outside has increased. I sit there rubbing



my palms feeling the itch under my armpits. I am nervous too.

---

I had to hide as per tradition until the Ndlovu's find me and Chiliza is the one who found me and was taken away to go and get dressed. I was done and a huge blanket was over my shoulders and I was seated on the grass mat with a cushion for my comfort as well. It hasn't been a year as yet but here I am under big heavy blankets

and people are just here to bare witness to this celebration. My family goes to fetch Afika from wherever he is and a chair is brought next to me. They come back with him. Aunty Gloria holding him so close to her body. I am sure he squashed and feels suffocated between my well fed aunt's who are very loud when they have had some alcohol in their system. They sit him down and as well before everything is

done. Everyone who deserves to be gifted gets gifted in my family including my mother. Zee's mom stands in for my mother and I wouldn't want any other person doing so.

After the gifting food is served and I get to stretch my legs. Nozulu is all over Lange. Didn't he say he has a girlfriend or something? I quickly go to where they are and I pull Nozulu away from Lange.

“Whats your problem?”

“Stop throwing yourself like that” I say

She clicks her tongue and walks away. I go and eat before my aunt starts complaining and her daughter adding on the dangers of not eating with her ‘Qualifications’. I grab a plate and dish up then sit down and eat. As I am done Zee comes towards me clicking her heels harshly on the floor.

“You are being called outside”

she says

“By who?” I ask

“Your man come” she walks out  
and I follow after her.

“Where is he?”

“Outside the gate”

She gives me slippers and I  
thank her before we walk out.

She is leading the way to where  
there are people standing there  
and ululating by the gate and  
more people are coming to  
watch. I hope it is not my drunk

uncle starting with his  
Traditional dance moves that  
he can hardly do when he is  
drunk. That would be pure  
embarrassment.

“I hope it's not your uncle” I say  
and Zee laughs.

We get out of the gate and  
there is a car in the middle of  
the street with the biggest red  
ribbon. The headlights are on  
as the sun is starting to set. It's  
a beautiful Audi but an SUV.  
Hey I don't own a car so I am

not really sure what it is. Afika steps out of it and I put hands over my mouth in disbelief. I go towards him and stand Infront of him.

“I can't believe you” I say

“You love it?” he asks

“Love it ? Oh my God this... This is ”

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he asks

“Love it ? Oh my God this... This is ” I kiss him and he is caught off guard forgetting there are

people around us. I break it off.

“I love it so much”

He hands the car keys over to me and I swing them around to my family members. I rush to my aunt's and Aunty Gloria is already inside the car touching everything and saying: “Ingane ka Bhuti leh (this is my brother's child)”.

The drama within my family is too much.

---



I have been officially welcomed into the Ndlovu wives club. I don't know what that is but Sane told me it's a circle for only the Ndlovu wives. That is being women who are now part of the Ndlovu family. We are at the The ocean Terrace in Umhlanga having a day out together and dinning. It's just the four of us and we had to be able to drag Ciyela out of her 'busy' schedule of being a teacher. That's another thing I

don't like about her is that she thinks she is the only person with a qualification amongst us when some of us do.

Anyway I am enjoying my meal and the amazing weather in Durban with these ladies and since the day Cholo apologized she hasn't started anything with me and I am happy with that.

“Afika is not romantic mara where is the ring?” Slindo says

“He is perfectly fine the way he is” I say

“Now Ciyela you are really divorcing Sakhile?” Sane says while sipping on her drink.

There is silence.

“Lets not be involved in each other's relationships” Cholo says

“We just want to know if fanele sishaye uSakhile or not ( We have to hit Sakhile or not)”

Sane says

“Its not the time for that” I also want to know.

“So Snikiwe what gender are you having with Afika” I don't know and I don't want to know as yet and labeling the baby.

I can see that they are using my pregnancy as an escape mechanism.

“I don't want to know as yet” Slindo nods.

Ciyela's phone rings and she takes it while standing up. We carry on with our meal.

It was great being with the ladies even though there was a bit of drama. Afika insisted on dropping me off and also fetching me after I am done and he really has helped me. He came and we left. The problem now is getting home and cooking.

“I am so tired” I say

“I was thinking” he says

“About ?”

“Selling the house and buying a bigger one” he says

We are progressing here.

“Uhm yeah. The house doesn't have much space” I say

He nods.

“And also getting someone to help you around the house.” I look at him.

“I can handle well” I say

“It will be too much when the baby comes” he says

“Ok I will consider it” he nods.



We get home and I quickly go and whip up something for Afika making sure it comes to a satisfaction of a Zulu man. He is at the lounge as he keeps on changing his music that he is listening too. I get done with making food and keep it in a warmer. Yes I bought one and I don't think this man would ever bother himself with knowing how it operates. There is a knock on the door and I wipe my hands while he is rooted

Infront of the sterio. I don't even bother him but go and open the door.

“Is Afika in?” it's Thole.

“What do you want from him?” I ask.

“I am pregnant so move” I look at her and go inside.

“Your pregnant girlfriend is here” I say

“Pregnant what?●●●” he seems confused until he sees Thole.

“What do you want?” Thole looks at me.



“I had to find out on social media that you are paying lobolo and expecting a child. Why wasn't I told?” she says.

“I don't need to explain anything to you and get out of my house before I make you disappear” she huffs and turns around walking out of the door.

“And wena stop going around hearing things from people that are not true about me and ask

me before getting any mad” he walks away.

What did I do?

## Chapter 15

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It has been two months later and things are going well even for Sakhile I presume. We haven't been called because things are going bad and it seems like the divorce have

been out on hold. I really wonder what really is going on in their relationship but it's not my business to know so I shouldn't involve myself.

It's winter now and that's the most annoying part of being pregnant and in winter. Afika leaving early for the taxi rank. He really loves going there and you wouldn't say his family owns taxi's. He has told me how he enjoys being there and actually interacting with

people as well. He tells me that he may come from a privileged home but it gives him a sense of belonging that I don't even know how it feels with the way he describes it. He used to wake up very early and by 4 am he is already gone. I begged him to at least don't leave that early and now the time has been pushed up to 6. It has to be something than nothing at all. It's just winter and I am used to him being next to me. I

am fussy during this pregnancy and It annoys Afika sometimes. I could be annoying and now he sees that impregnating a woman is not ideal.

If it's not me calling in because I miss him every two hours then it's me being grumpy all of a sudden and then the both of us are angry at each other but non the less I still love him and I always. I mean always apologize first and then he

says: "You should be sorry. You love it when we fight mama." I don't like it that's the reason why I apologize first.

Anyway it would be his birthday today and I have something a bit planned for him and to make it special. I have been told how birthday's and Christmas. Everything that shouts celebration within the Ndlovu family is considered very big and should be taken seriously every year. I for one

have never taken the time to do party planning but Sane said it is mandatory. Usually they have a birthday celebration braai but not this year. He is turning 36 years and it should be shown that he is turning that. Nothing big but something special. I have organized the family celebration and it would be this Saturday.

I have seen it on tv and read on books of how women just wear lingerie's and do all the bedroom work just as a birthday gift to their man but I want it a bit different than that and it's not the fact that I am pregnant and I can't fit in anything lately. It's amusing to Afika that I look like I am carrying a miniature ball for a stomach. God so help me with him in being a sensible father at least. I pray for that.



I have taken the time to put my pride aside and make a sacrifice today and that is cooking. I have went quickly to go and buy some groceries and I know Afika will pop in around 13h00 as he always does to check up on me. It's a habit that started because of my clingy ways. I can't wait to give birth honestly at this point.

I am making everything traditional and tasty. I have called my aunt for any other

recipe advices and I am happy to say that I enjoyed sacrificing my time for a man who gives me literally anything. Just yesterday I was complaining about my feet and back and he didn't say anything but gave me money and said :“You can go to those massage places but let no man touch you” after alot of contemplating with himself if I should go alone he came and drove me there and sat throughout the whole spa

experience I had. I came out feeling very much better and I think he was more calmer when a woman touched me. He went ballistic when hot stones were placed on me during the hot stone massage almost tearing the place down and I had to calm him down in order for me to fully enjoy my experience. Afika is a full time job seriously and I hope this baby doesn't have much drama like the father.

I check the time and he would be here very soon. I go and set up everything that's needed to be set up and I play some of his music. I really am tolerating it for this sake but I wouldn't even bother playing this music when I am in my own mood. I bath dress us like a wife. Maybe I am trying to hard but I look presentable. I take the gift that I have bought and check if everything is alright.

“Mama●●●” I turn to him and he looks at me.

“Wow” I laugh lightly.

“Happy birthday you left so early today” I say

He looks at me without saying a word and comes towards

me. He kisses me and I

respond to the kiss. He breaks it soon after and steps back

looking at me for a little while.

“Wow” He says again.

I could hear voices from the lounge and I am wondering who could that be.

“Are there people inside the house?” he looks at me.

“Uhm yes•••there was a problem today with 5 of the taxi's so we have been at the panel beater since morning. I just came to check on you” he says

“Oh” I thought he was alone.

“Well I cooked” I say

“You did ?” I nod

“Come” I pulled him out and there were 2 men in the lounge. I greeted them and they greeted back.

I walked to the kitchen with him and showed him what I had made.

“Why did you overwork yourself?” he frowns.

“I enjoyed making this for you”

“Don’t do that again. I don't want you strained and going to put hot stones on your body”  
oh my God.

“Calm down. Let me dish up for you and your friends” I say  
I hush him out of the kitchen and prepared to serve everyone. I did and then I stayed at the kitchen taking an apple and took a bite from it. I could hear them laughing and speaking some Durban lingo here and there but mostly it's a talk I can't really understand. Afika is too serious and for me to hear him laugh with other people beside his family



members really does confirm that he loves his Taxi rank people very much.

They get done and the dishes are brought into the kitchen ready for me to tackle on them.

“I loved the food” he says

“I cooked more so when you come back you can have more food” I say

“Ok. I have to go”

“Wait” he does and I give him a quick kiss.

“I love you” he shy away.

I love how he gets to blush and shy away when I say I love him.

It's like he doesn't believe I do.

“You can go” he rushes off after that.

---

By the time he came back I was very sound asleep. I couldn't wait for him so I tucked myself in bed. In the morning he was still here when I woke up and I

shook him a bit wondering why he wasn't at work already. He opened his eyes and looked at me.

“Why are you not gone already?” it's past 6

“Ntozakhona will handle it.” he says

He stretches himself and sits up on the bed.

“I saw this” he takes my gift.

I didn't even get the chance to give it to him yesterday. So much for me trying to plan

something special for his birthday. I tell him to open it and he seems to love the gift and thanks me. Atleast he liked that. I get off the bed and go about cleaning the house first and he goes to take a smoke outside. It's chilly but this man doesn't even think of wearing pyjamas at all. Yes I bought some for him and he doesn't like them. He says he feels hot and the last time he wore pyjamas were at the age of 10

from then on he didn't. I can't imagine a 12 year old wearing boxers alone.

He is done with smoking and I am with the cleaning and we go and take a bath together. One thing he enjoys the most is taking baths with me. He never knew that it was so nice to actually enjoy taking a bath with someone. Well he should enjoy taking a bath with me and it helps me when I need to stand up as he is here. We get

done and get out of the bath tub before we go and get dressed.

“Muntu wam I am lazy to make breakfast right now” I say  
He quickly grabs the car keys and his wallet and checks if money is there.

“Wear your shoes and let's go” I wear my shoes and grab my bag before we are out of the house and in the car going wherever.

My phone rings and I quickly take it out of my bag. It's Sisi Sane.

“Hello”

“And how was your plan for yesterday?” she asks

“Sane wait for her to speak” it's Slindo at the other end.

Honestly these are the only people I get along well with and Chiliza. The other two are just shady.

“It didn't work out” I say

“What happened?” they ask.

I am thinking these two are the best of friends here.

“He is here with me and I can't go into detail but yeah”

“So much for your hard work.”  
tell me about it.

“Yeah”

“Chiliza is pregnant again” oh that's wonderful for her.

”What? Haibo what's really going on between her and Qiniso?” Slindo asks.

“Its like you knew I would say it's Qiniso's baby” Sane says.



She is the know it all. I mean know all the business within the family.

“Where did you hear this from?” I ask

“Hawu usabuza?( You are still asking) I heard it from the horse's mouth. She was crying just yesterday telling me the news”

“Yoh !” Slindo

I am silent. I don't know what to say as I don't know her that well.

“Maybe we should go and visit her soon and check how she is ”

“I told you that when those two started fucking each other they won't stop. Look now” Sane says

“Enjoy your day Snikiwe” Slindo says

“I will thank you” They hang up and Afika looks at me.

I don't even tell a soul.I haven't mastered in getting Afika to gossip about the business

within the family. I also would like to know some stuff.

He slowly places his hand on top of mine but pulls back and I take his hand and hold it in mine. He relaxes a bit after that. So much for being confident. I like how little things like these make him nervous.

---

“Surprise!”

Its after breakfast and I was thinking we were just going to

sit together and chill the whole day while he gets to stuff my face and maybe a girl would get some the whole day but here I am being pulled to sit down by the ladies. I could see some of my family members and it's only a Friday how could they be here. Even Zee the always busy cousin is here taking snaps of me with her Iphone.

We are at Cholo's house and It's a baby shower that I have never expected really. I don't

have friends so I didn't expect one and the only baby shower I have ever attended was Sasa's that is the only one. I look at everyone in disbelief and admiration of the whole thing and how it looks. It must've costed so much to do this and there is also catering. Oh my I am shook.

Gifts are handed over to me and I get to open them one by one and they are not gender specific of which I appreciate. I

haven't found out the gender and I don't think Afika is interested if it's a boy or a girl but he is secretly hoping it's a boy I think. Mainly it is because he would say He would take our child to the taxi rank with him so I am assuming he wants a boy.

“I got those made just for you ”  
it's a white Lingerie and a gown. Sane is something else really.

“I am the only one who gets to see you in it” I am flushed by Afika's statement.

He gulps down his beer and my father is joining in on the laughter while interacting with the old ones. I quickly stuff the things away and put Sane's present to the side.

I carry on with the gifts and I get done. Sane's gift was the only one out of the ordinary and I don't know how will we

carry all these stuff to the car and go back home.

We take pictures and they are all over these women's social media. I have never saw the purpose of having social media so I wouldn't start now. Who would've thought that I would ever feel this kind of joy with close people who actually love me and care for me. If I did know I would've even asked Afika out earlier on my own.



It starts getting late and the husband's pack everything for us inside the car and I am ready to leave. Already my family members left early and I am so happy that Nozulu wasn't here at all. I say my good byes to everyone and leave with Afika. We get home and I quickly go and take a bath and after I am done everything has been brought inside the house. I go and hug Afika.  
“Thank you for everything”

“Its my duty" I give him a kiss.

---

It's the birthday day and everything is ready set just the way I am happy about. I was advised that catering is needed as there are alot of people within the family so I took the advice with both hands and got catering. Afika isn't as excited as I am but he is letting loose today and meeting with his family members just gets him happy I guess.

I just woke him up and cleaned the whole house. I told him to go and get cleaned up before the catering team arrives. He doesn't really see the fuss for me going over this but hey I want to impress and leave a good word on people's mouths. Slindo is going to be here with her husband and all of her kids. Everyone is coming so everyone would be

accommodated I made sure of that.

“Don’t overwork yourself you know how I hate it” Afika says.

There is a knock on the door.

“I am fine please” I walk to the door and open for the catering team.

They get a place to set up and I go and change out of the clothes I was wearing.

My phone rang and I take it.

“Hello”

“Hey Sni. Where is Afika ? Nazo has been trying to get hold of him.” Slindo says

“He is in the kitchen.” I say

“Please give him the phone”

she says

She sounds worried in a way. I put the phone on loud speaker and I go to Afika. I give him the phone and as soon as Nazo's voice comes through he switches off loud speaker and moves away from me.

I hope it's nothing serious but I also wanted to hear what the problem is right now. He comes back after some time and he is all dressed up with car keys in his hands.

“I have to rush there is an emergency”

Before I can ask further he is out of the door. CHAPTER 15

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If it's not me calling in because I miss him every two hours then it's me being grumpy all of a sudden and then the both of us are angry at each other but non

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I have taken the time to put my pride aside and make a sacrifice today and that is cooking. I have went quickly to go and buy some groceries and I know Afika will pop in around 13h00 as he always does to check up on me. It's a habit that started because of my clingy ways. I can't wait to give birth honestly at this point.

I am making everything traditional and tasty. I have called my aunt for any other recipe advices and I am happy to say that I enjoyed sacrificing my time for a man who gives me literally anything. Just yesterday I was complaining about my feet and back and he didn't say anything but gave me money and said :“You can go to those massage places but let no man touch you” after alot of contemplating with himself if I

should go alone he came and drove me there and sat throughout the whole spa experience I had. I came out feeling very much better and I think he was more calmer when a woman touched me. He went ballistic when hot stones were placed on me during the hot stone massage almost tearing the place down and I had to calm him down in order for me to fully enjoy my experience. Afika is a full time

job seriously and I hope this baby doesn't have much drama like the father.

I check the time and he would be here very soon. I go and set up everything that's needed to be set up and I play some of his music. I really am tolerating it for this sake but I wouldn't even bother playing this music when I am in my own mood. I bath dress us like a wife. Maybe I am trying to hard but I look presentable. I take the gift that

I have bought and check if everything is alright.

“Mama●●●” I turn to him and he looks at me.

“Wow” I laugh lightly.

“Happy birthday you left so early today” I say

He looks at me without saying a word and comes towards

me. He kisses me and I

respond to the kiss. He breaks it soon after and steps back

looking at me for a little while.

“Wow” He says again.

I could hear voices from the lounge and I am wondering who could that be.

“Are there people inside the house?” he looks at me.

“Uhm yes•••there was a problem today with 5 of the taxi's so we have been at the panel beater since morning. I just came to check on you” he says

“Oh” I thought he was alone.

“Well I cooked” I say

“You did ?” I nod

“Come” I pulled him out and there were 2 men in the lounge. I greeted them and they greeted back.

I walked to the kitchen with him and showed him what I had made.

“Why did you overwork yourself?” he frowns.

“I enjoyed making this for you”

“Don’t do that again. I don't want you strained and going to put hot stones on your body”  
oh my God.



“Calm down. Let me dish up for you and your friends” I say  
I hush him out of the kitchen and prepared to serve everyone. I did and then I stayed at the kitchen taking an apple and took a bite from it. I could hear them laughing and speaking some Durban lingo here and there but mostly it's a talk I can't really understand. Afika is too serious and for me to hear him laugh with other people beside his family

members really does confirm that he loves his Taxi rank people very much.

They get done and the dishes are brought into the kitchen ready for me to tackle on them.

“I loved the food” he says

“I cooked more so when you come back you can have more food” I say

“Ok. I have to go”

“Wait” he does and I give him a quick kiss.

“I love you” he shy away.

I love how he gets to blush and shy away when I say I love him.

It's like he doesn't believe I do.

“You can go” he rushes off after that.

---

By the time he came back I was very sound asleep. I couldn't wait for him so I tucked myself in bed. In the morning he was still here when I woke up and I

shook him a bit wondering why he wasn't at work already. He opened his eyes and looked at me.

“Why are you not gone already?” it's past 6

“Ntozakhona will handle it.” he says

He stretches himself and sits up on the bed.

“I saw this” he takes my gift.

I didn't even get the chance to give it to him yesterday. So much for me trying to plan

something special for his birthday. I tell him to open it and he seems to love the gift and thanks me. Atleast he liked that. I get off the bed and go about cleaning the house first and he goes to take a smoke outside. It's chilly but this man doesn't even think of wearing pyjamas at all. Yes I bought some for him and he doesn't like them. He says he feels hot and the last time he wore pyjamas were at the age of 10

from then on he didn't. I can't imagine a 12 year old wearing boxers alone.

He is done with smoking and I am with the cleaning and we go and take a bath together. One thing he enjoys the most is taking baths with me. He never knew that it was so nice to actually enjoy taking a bath with someone. Well he should enjoy taking a bath with me and it helps me when I need to stand up as he is here. We get

done and get out of the bath tub before we go and get dressed.

“Muntu wam I am lazy to make breakfast right now” I say  
He quickly grabs the car keys and his wallet and checks if money is there.

“Wear your shoes and let's go” I wear my shoes and grab my bag before we are out of the house and in the car going wherever.

My phone rings and I quickly take it out of my bag. It's Sisi Sane.

“Hello”

“And how was your plan for yesterday?” she asks

“Sane wait for her to speak” it's Slindo at the other end.

Honestly these are the only people I get along well with and Chiliza. The other two are just shady.

“It didn't work out” I say

“What happened?” they ask.



I am thinking these two are the best of friends here.

“He is here with me and I can't go into detail but yeah”

“So much for your hard work.”  
tell me about it.

“Yeah”

“Chiliza is pregnant again” oh that's wonderful for her.

”What? Haibo what's really going on between her and Qiniso?” Slindo asks.

“Its like you knew I would say it's Qiniso's baby” Sane says.

She is the know it all. I mean know all the business within the family.

“Where did you hear this from?” I ask

“Hawu usabuza?( You are still asking) I heard it from the horse's mouth. She was crying just yesterday telling me the news”

“Yoh !” Slindo

I am silent. I don't know what to say as I don't know her that well.

“Maybe we should go and visit her soon and check how she is ”

“I told you that when those two started fucking each other they won't stop. Look now” Sane says

“Enjoy your day Snikiwe” Slindo says

“I will thank you” They hang up and Afika looks at me.

I don't even tell a soul. I haven't mastered in getting Afika to gossip about the business

within the family. I also would like to know some stuff.

He slowly places his hand on top of mine but pulls back and I take his hand and hold it in mine. He relaxes a bit after that. So much for being confident. I like how little things like these make him nervous.

---

“Surprise!”

Its after breakfast and I was thinking we were just going to

sit together and chill the whole day while he gets to stuff my face and maybe a girl would get some the whole day but here I am being pulled to sit down by the ladies. I could see some of my family members and it's only a Friday how could they be here. Even Zee the always busy cousin is here taking snaps of me with her Iphone.

We are at Cholo's house and It's a baby shower that I have never expected really. I don't

have friends so I didn't expect one and the only baby shower I have ever attended was Sasa's that is the only one. I look at everyone in disbelief and admiration of the whole thing and how it looks. It must've costed so much to do this and there is also catering. Oh my I am shook.

Gifts are handed over to me and I get to open them one by one and they are not gender specific of which I appreciate. I

haven't found out the gender and I don't think Afika is interested if it's a boy or a girl but he is secretly hoping it's a boy I think. Mainly it is because he would say He would take our child to the taxi rank with him so I am assuming he wants a boy.

“I got those made just for you ” it's a white Lingerie and a gown. Sane is something else really.

“I am the only one who gets to see you in it” I am flushed by Afika's statement.

He gulps down his beer and my father is joining in on the laughter while interacting with the old ones. I quickly stuff the things away and put Sane's present to the side.

I carry on with the gifts and I get done. Sane's gift was the only one out of the ordinary and I don't know how will we



carry all these stuff to the car and go back home.

We take pictures and they are all over these women's social media. I have never saw the purpose of having social media so I wouldn't start now. Who would've thought that I would ever feel this kind of joy with close people who actually love me and care for me. If I did know I would've even asked Afika out earlier on my own.

It starts getting late and the husband's pack everything for us inside the car and I am ready to leave. Already my family members left early and I am so happy that Nozulu wasn't here at all. I say my good byes to everyone and leave with Afika. We get home and I quickly go and take a bath and after I am done everything has been brought inside the house. I go and hug Afika.  
“Thank you for everything”

“Its my duty" I give him a kiss.

---

It's the birthday day and everything is ready set just the way I am happy about. I was advised that catering is needed as there are alot of people within the family so I took the advice with both hands and got catering. Afika isn't as excited as I am but he is letting loose today and meeting with his family members just gets him happy I guess.

I just woke him up and cleaned the whole house. I told him to go and get cleaned up before the catering team arrives. He doesn't really see the fuss for me going over this but hey I want to impress and leave a good word on people's mouths. Slindo is going to be here with her husband and all of her kids. Everyone is coming so everyone would be

accommodated I made sure of that.

“Don’t overwork yourself you know how I hate it” Afika says.

There is a knock on the door.

“I am fine please” I walk to the door and open for the catering team.

They get a place to set up and I go and change out of the clothes I was wearing.

My phone rang and I take it.

“Hello”

“Hey Sni. Where is Afika ? Nazo has been trying to get hold of him.” Slindo says

“He is in the kitchen.” I say

“Please give him the phone”

she says

She sounds worried in a way. I put the phone on loud speaker and I go to Afika. I give him the phone and as soon as Nazo's voice comes through he switches off loud speaker and moves away from me.

I hope it's nothing serious but I also wanted to hear what the problem is right now. He comes back after some time and he is all dressed up with car keys in his hands.

“I have to rush there is an emergency”

Before I can ask further he is out of the door.

Chapter 16

CHAPTER 16

# Daily New African Novels

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Christmas and trauma came earlier than we have anticipated. Trauma is what I think Afika is what went through. All I can say now is that I am a mother and Afika is a father now. The baby came too early and Zee warned me about stress but I didn't even feel stressed and also told me the reasons of why I went into



early labour. I thought I was dying my God I couldn't handle anything. Afika chickened out of staying in the ward when I was giving birth and said that a man can't witness such so my second option was Lange who was trying his best to get me calm and through and I was scared that Zee's words have come true but with God's grace I delivered a very much breathing child. Thingolayise Ndlovu is the name baby

Rainbow from the aunt's that Afika gave to our baby and I love it. He is obsessed with his baby girl and doesn't even want to hear her cry. If she cries we as people are in trouble. I thought I could handle everything on my own and Afika was right that I need extra hands and we got those extra hands. With Thingo coming unexpectedly and everything happening so fast we had to do the move fast enough and we

got a suitable house for us and I love it. It has so much space and Thingo can move around when she is a bit grown and the back yard is just magnificent. I love it!

So far I am enjoying motherhood and I never thought I would. I never thought that I would be a sit at home mom and not attend Church meeting like I thought I would but actually enjoy my life right now. It's missing one thing and

that is my mother. Our helper's name is Nombuso. She is a very quiet lady and doesn't speak much.

I am changing Thingo's nappy in her sleep. All she ever does is cry eat and sleep. Gaining weight rapidly as well and it worries me that she does but Afika is happy that his child looks like a ball with rolls on her arms. Well I am being dramatic but soon they will

start forming and she wouldn't be able to breathe properly. All this information is from Zikayise.

“Sisi. Bhuti has arrived” I turn and it's Nombuso.

“Oh thank you. Is the food ready?” she nods.

“Yes” As much as I have a helper but the cooking and doing everything for Afika is done by me.

My aunt pulled me by the ear and told me that no woman

should cook and clean for my man so I should do and I am doing it.

Afika pops up in the house more frequently now than before and I feel a bit jealous that Thingo gets this much attention. All attention is all on her and the carrier doesn't exist at all.

I leave Thingo in bed and I walk out of the nursery.

He is changing the music on the stereo and as I get close I can smell that he just went for a smoke.

“Where is Thingy?” it's the first thing he asks when he sees me.

You see what I mean?

“She is asleep” I say

I wrap my arms around him and look at him.

“Thingy gets all the attention and I don't”

“Ngiyaxolisa mama( I am sorry)” he says

“Come” I pull him away from the lounge and get into our bedroom.

“Aren’t we supposed to wait 3 months?” He asks concerned.

“Only if I had natural birth and I didn't.

He smiles as he hears that.

“Let me lock the door.” he quickly goes to lock the door.

“I will be quick” he says and attacks me with a kiss.



---

He left soon after he was done eating. Thingo woke up and I was surprised that she didn't cry today because she makes it known that she is part of the world now by making noise. I think that's the only problem I have with her is her crying tendencies especially when there is Afika. She causes drama my God!

I get her bath water and then I bath her. I go and hand her

over to Nombuso then I go to prepare supper for tonight. My phone rings and it's Sane. I won't lie I love it when she calls because she has some hot gossip. If Afika won't gossip with me then I would gossip with Sane then.

“Hey”

“I knew it! Arg I just knew this one is up to something” she says

I am confused listening to her blabber about something I don't know.

“What is it?”

“You know us house wife's get excited to spend our husbands money and they are happy so I am here at the casino and I just saw her” she says

“Who?” I ask

“I will call back” she hangs up.

Arg now I have to wait? I

wonder who she saw really. I

can't wait to hear these news. I

hear Thingo screaming her lungs out and I wipe my hands going to the lounge. I take her from Nombuso's arms and she has milk all over her face and mostly her nose.

"She was spitting it out" Nombuso says panicking.

"Its fine. I will take her" I take her bottle and towel and I wipe Thingo's face. I put her on a stroller and then go to the kitchen with her. I put a

pacifier in her mouth and she sucks on it until she is asleep. Why did this child have to look like Afika? I feel betrayed by the both of them.



Sane didn't get back to me yesterday and I really wanted to know what she saw or who she saw. I am taking myself and Thingy out to the mall to do a bit of clothing shopping especially her because she grows bigger and bigger

everyday. One day she will just roll off the bed if I just place her at the rate of heaviness she is right now.

I was at the store picking out some outfits for her when someone spoke behind me.

“Fancy seeing you here” I turn around and it's Sasa.

“Its a free country so your point is?” I ask

She looked at the stroller.

“Congratulations”

“Thank you” I get the pink dress.

“I hope it's not my cousin's child and you are hiding it”

“Its not your cousin's” I say

“I knew you were bitchy somewhere” I smile at her.

“I guess we are cut from the same cloth” she gasps.

I move away from her and stop.

“Oh and while standing there.

Forget I even existed” I walk off pushing the stroller.

I go and pay then take the plastics. I go to buy some take away and I see Lange at the mall as well. He is with his friends I guess. I wave at him and he comes my way.

“Hello sisi” I thought I would never get used to him calling me Sisi but I am. It felt weird at first because he is older than I am.

“Hi. You are hiding yourself and not visiting” he chuckles.



“I will visit soon. I wanted to talk to you” I nodded.

“I am graduating soon so I was wondering if you and Bhuti would come?” He says

“Ofcourse” I say

“If he would agree”

“Don’t worry he will be there wearing proper clothes” he chuckles.

“Okthank you” he picks up Thingo

“She is fat!”

“She is well fed”

She is fat but I don't want other people saying that. After some time Lange left and I got my things and left. I got in the car after getting everything inside and feeding Thingo and change her. I drove off after.

I got home and parked behind the taxi. I got off with Thingo and went inside the house. She is awfully silent today and it's not like her. When I got inside I found Afika on the couch with

his eyes closed listening to his music. I swear I have gotten used to this music and tolerated uMaskandi music really I have. He opens his eyes and looks at us.

“We went shopoing” I say  
“I saw” he takes Thingo from my arms and lays her on his chest.

“And I saw Lange” I say  
He nods

“He is graduating soon and he invited us” I say

“I will be in eMpangeni that time” he says

“No Afika don't do that. Cancel or send someone else. I will not have you not supporting your brother” I say  
“Cholo tried to talk to me about it” What?!

“He needs you there. Graduation is a big day and it's so nice if your family is there. Please Baba ka Thingo”

I. Say

“I will think about it”

“I am giving you a day. If you don't have an answer we will suffer consequences” he looks at me and smirks

“I will suffer consequences?”

”Yes” I say

“Where is Nombuso?”

“She is asleep I think”

“Ok”

I Lay my head on his shoulder and he wraps his arm around me. I love this. My own little weird family that no one would understand but me.

## Chapter 17

### CHAPTER 17

## **Daily New African Novels**

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Some matters we can't be quiet with that we just have to take them in our own hands and sort them out. I am a quiet person but unless provoked you wouldn't like my other side. I think I have been quiet with the way Cholo involves herself with what my fiance is

doing. Why couldn't she discuss Lange's issue with me? I am Afika's finance and not her! I have left Thingo with Nombuso while I am here at Cholo's house. I know that her husband is not here and her son is at school so she is all alone.

As soon as I parked the car I got out and made my way to her door. I rang the door bell and waited. What a big house for only 3 people. I am not being jealous or anything. I love my

house. I am able to maintain it and it's feels like home than a house. The door opens and she looks at me.

“Snikiwe how are you?” she says

“I am good. We need to talk” I push myself past to get in. She closes the door.

“How may I help you?”

“I don't like it that things that have to involve Afika you go to my fiance instead of telling



your husband to talk to him  
or asking me to do so.” I say  
“I don't know what you mean  
?” she says

“Lange's graduation. I don't like  
it. You don't see me running  
around your husband and  
mending in your relationship.  
Stay out of it because you are  
running on thin ice with me and  
you wouldn't like it.” I say  
She folds her arms.

“Are you threatening me?”

“Take it as whatever but this may be the last warning” I click my tongue and smile.

“Enjoy your day” I walk out of her house.

I am sick and tired of that woman. If she dare tries me she will know me.

I get in my car and I drive off going back home. When I get home I want to call Sane. She hasn't gotten back to me and it's frustrating because I want to know. I call her and the call

goes through the car's  
Bluetooth.

“Sni”

“You tell me something and  
forget to get back to me” I say  
“This is not phone conversation  
and you would be the only one  
I tell because kuzoshuba (it will  
be messy)if it gets out.”

“Ok”

“Lets meet at Pavilion mall” she  
says

“Sure” I hang up and drive my  
way there.

Now I am more eager to know what is really going on.

---

I get to pavilion mall and we meet up at the parking lot. I quickly go to Sane's car when she has arrived. I get in and we greet each other before she places her head on the steering wheel and heaves a heavy sigh.

“What is wrong?” I ask.

“Sakhile was never a good man” she says.

Did she see him cheating? Oh my God.

“You know Sni●●●”

”Yes?”

“It wasn't the first time I saw him cry like that. When Slindo got married to Nazo he cried and I saw him but it was his fault that he did a good woman so bad. He actually loves Slindo and it took him some time to actually move on from what he lost. They have been together

since Slindo was 18"ok she is spilling the beans.

Is Sakhile cheating with Slindo?

"I feel sorry for him" She says

"I am sorry" I don't know what to say.

She then looks ahead and she takes out her phone and shows me a picture. I gasp.

"Sane this... This could destroy someone's marriage" I say

"I know. I don't care about that but the people who will be hurt here" she says

“What do you mean?” I ask her.

“We would be in luck if no body is hurt” she says

“I don't know what to say.” I don't want us to involve ourselves.

She delete the photo quickly and smiles.

“Lets go and grab something then you tell me all about Thingo” That fat crying thing that only loves Afika mxm.

“Sure” we get out of the car.

I just told someone to get off my business so I should do the same.

---

I got home a bit late in the afternoon. I was enjoying my time with Sane and she took me shopping for alcohol and also undergarments. For someone her age she really doesn't want to age and be old.

I found Nombuso watching some tv as I walked in.



“How was she?” I greeted.

“She might have a fever”

Nombuso says

“What?” I place my things down and go to the nursery and take her into my arms.

I feel her temperature and I notice a mark on her hand.

“She was scartching herself”

Nombuso says behind me.

How?

“Uhm thank you sisi I will take it from here” she looks at me

and walks off. I check if Thingo is breathing and she is fine. I go with her and go to call Afika.

“Mamakhe” He answers.

“Thingo has a fever and the many didn't tell me ” I say

“I am coming right now” I nod.

“Ok” he hangs up.

I put Thingo on my bed and go and change before getting in next to her.



Afika came as quickly as he could and Nombuso insisted that we all go together so we did. We just took Thingo to the hospital as his father was worried and so am I. She is not that old to start getting sick or maybe we are being dramatic. She was sleeping peacefully. Nombuso asked to use the bathroom and she went out to find one while we waited for the doctor in the ward. Afika was looking at his

daughter and I was deep in thoughts. She was fine this morning and now she is sick.

“What happened here?” Afika asks.

“I don't know. Nombuso said she scratched herself” he frowns.

“She is a baby and doesn't have any nails” my point exactly.

“I was thinking the same thing” I say

“And where were you?”

**Sponsored**

I say

“And where were you?” he asks

I look at him. I can't just tell him I went to threaten his sister in law.

“I was with Sane” I say

He nods and places his finger on Thingo's light skin. I don't know where she got it from because Afika and I are not light skinned.

The doctor comes back in.

“You brought her on time. Seems like we found some water in her lungs. She was going to suffer pneumonia. She will have a fever instead”

What?

“How can that happen?” I ask

“Maybe when she is bathing and she slipped in” I look at Afika and the doctor excuses himself.

“How is she?” it's

Nombuso. Afika goes to her

and holds her neck pinning her on the wall.

“Afika stop!” I say

“What did you do to my daughter?” he asks

“I did nothing ” she says with tears.

“Afika please stop” I am begging.

“Get this straight. If ever she falls or scratches herself or whatever under your watch I will put a bullet through your skull I won't hesitate” he says

I swallow as well. She nods quickly before he lets her go.

---

We have at the hospital for two days and Afika is not even thinking of leaving Thingo's side so as I. In all of this the great news is that Afika agreed to go to Lange's graduation. I used Thingo as my bait and it worked very well. I feel like a mess and being a mother is too much work than I thought it would be. I am a mess that's



it. Thingo gets discharge and we leave with her feeling a bit better than the last time. As soon as we got home I hit the bed and slept in it. It was difficult sleeping in those sleeper couches at the hospital I needed my bed back. My stitches are a bit painful from sleeping there and I can feel them.

“You are tired?” I groan.

“Yes” I say

“Wake me up in two hours please” he nods.

He then walks out of the room closing the door. I lay there like a corpse on the bed. I just need a break even if it's just a whole me day without stressing about anything or anyone because I need it. I am so tired I can't anymore.

I wake up a few hours later and I could hear voices in the lounge. I get off the bed and

he'd to the bathroom to wash my body before changing and going to the lounge. I see half of the Ndlovu clan family. I greet them.

“We heard about Little Thingo” Afika's father says while holding his granddaughter close to his chest.

“Uhm yes. He is getting better”

“Thats great to hear Makoti”

“Let me help you in the kitchen” Chiliza says and they stand up with Sane and Ciyela.

I look at Sane and we keep our silence.

“I am sure you are glad baby Rainbow is ok” Ciyela says

“I am. What we went through is a nightmare” I say

We start with cooking.

Nombuso is at the lounge and I appreciate that she doesn't touch anything in the kitchen.

“When are you giving Sakhile a child Ciyela?” She looks at Sane.

“Now is not a good time” she says

“But you have money. I mean Sakhile has the money. Look at Snikiwe. Afika is taking care of everything well and is not complaining. Slindo gets maintainace money from him quiet well and the kids are well taken care off. Even the grandmother so what is the problem?” Sane is attacking her now.

“As you have stated. He has a lot of responsibilities. Adding another child would be a problem.” Ciyela says

“Or maybe you are the problem” Sane says

“Ladies” I say

“What is your problem Sane really ? You want Sakhile?”

Ciyela is now angry.

“Calm down ladies”

“Why would I want Sakhile when Sikelela is the whole

thing. I just feel sorry for you

yazi" Sane says

"Sanelisiwe" I reprimand. This is getting out of control

"Sorry for me? Why don't you give your husband another child and butt out of my

marriage grandma" Oh my god when did we get here.

"Maybe Sikelela needs someone who hasn't reached her menopause yet" Ciyela adds.

Wow that's low.

“I’m pregnant” Chiliza announces.

Sane clicks her tongue.

“You will know me. I am not done with you” she walks out.

“Lets get you sugared water” I say to Chiliza.

I am now panicking. I give her water and she drinks it up.

“Don’t stress ok?” She nods and then cries. Oh my God.

I rush out and call for Afika.

Ciyela is comforting her sister.

He also panicks reminding me



of the day before my mother's funeral when he just rushed out and left me there. He calls on Qiniso who enters quickly and now we are watching them.

“Its your fault! You lied to me ”  
Chiliza is resisting Qiniso.

“Calm down please” She is sobbing and eventually calms down.

What a mess !

Chapter 18

CHAPTER 18

# Daily New African Novels

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It's Lange's graduation day. I hope that we don't ruin his day. I am so proud of him though I haven't known him that long. The fact that I was invited here is a great honour to me. Only 3 family members were allowed to come and so you could guess who the third person is and that is Cholo. Anyway I made sure that Afika looks proper

today for his brother's day and also we are representatives of each other today. We left Thingo with Nombuso and Linathi. Linathi is Sakhile's daughter and she came with her father this side to do whatever that is concerning the taxi business and so she is there for a little while before her father fetches her. She is just a ball of sweetness that child just like her mother. She should be in Johannesburg but with the

father she has I am sure she gets everything she wants in life so as NalediSane's daughter. I can even see it with Afika right now with Thingo. It would be worse once she starts walking and talking.

We are at the parking lot and I am making sure that we are at the right place and making sure Afika is ok. I look at him  
“Can you be happy for your brother?”

“What will being a doctor help with the taxis?” he says

“Your attitude is not nice and everybody has the right to dream. This goes beyond your brother as well so as Thingo.

Naye fanele apha the ibhamu

Abe usomatekisi

njengawe?(She must also carry guns and be a taxi owner just like you?)” I raise my brow.

“I don't see a problem in that” he smirks.

“Afika!” he chuckles and pulls me in to him

“That's a bad father trait and you should work on it by supporting your child's dreams and also Lange's. Family is everything and you should know that” I say

“OkCan I kiss you?” I place my hand on his cheek and I kiss him.

His phone interrupts us and we break it. He takes out his phone and answers.

“We are hereok” he hangs up.

“Lets go" he says

“Behave please” he nods.

“I will" we get out of the car  
and he holds my hand before  
we go to where Lange and  
Cholo are.

We greet each other in a  
civilized manner before  
proceeding inside the venue.

---

After Lange's graduation I was  
tired from the shoes I am  
wearing but we had more to

unpack today as it's a celebratory day. Nazo and Slindo couldn't make it and they explained of which is understandable. So we went back home and the cars were there. We got in and the small get together for Lange started for his graduation. Old people jokes were thrown around of that Lange will now treat the Ndlovu family but it was more specific on gun wounds when they are shot at taxi fights.



I went to check and Thingo and she was wide awake before I took her outside where she was passed around between her family members and her being a big baby comments were thrown around. Sane is also behaving of which I appreciate. I don't want a repeat of last time.

We prepare the food and serve to everyone. Linathi is stuck on her father very much that I have noticed. She is a daddy's

girl. I look at Sakhile and Ciyela. I also feel sorry for them especially the laughing Sakhile. He loves his wife and shows it very evidently. He believes in public affection in the way he holds her and touches her. He marks his territory around her only if he knew that it has been stepped on and the woman is enjoying it.

“What are you looking at?” it's Sane carrying a wine glass.

I turn to her and take her glass and gulp it down before walking inside the house and she follows me.

"I see what you mean when you say you feel sorry for Sakhile" She sighs.

"Lets forget the picture and pretend like we don't know anything" She says.

"He loves her Sane this will crush him than her just asking for a divorce" I say

"I know Sni"

I can't imagine Afika cheating on me. As much as Mncedi was abusing me but he never cheated and I don't think I would be able to stomach another woman kissing my man or even sleeping with him.

“Will Afika do it to me? What if I am not good for him” she grabs my shoulders roughly.

“Don't even think that. Afika loves you so much and he would never do that. You are amazing. His world even and he

wouldn't want to jeopardize that. You gave him fat Rainbow for goodness sake and made him a family Man and not a weird loner. You did all that Snikiwe and he is yours. All yours” she smiles.

“Thank you” she kisses my forehead.

“Now wipe those tears before he goes crazy” I laugh at how crazy Afika can be.

“He is scared of tears” I say laughing while wiping them.

“Not Rainbow’s tears so wipe them ” I do and breathe in and out.

“Now let's get the wine and forget the photo”

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I do and breathe in and out.

“Now let's get the wine and forget the photo” I follow after her to go and get wine.

We go and join in on the family and I take Thingy to feed her once they are done with passing her around. Music is

played to lighten the mood and if I didn't see this today then I wouldn't know that my Afika is not a Maskandi loving weirdo but could also bust the moves that those people who come to clubs do. I am just shook. Sane is hyping her now drunk man who is fumbling everything but it's very funny to watch. Sakhile seems to know what he is doing and polishing the moves very well. We are just laughing and taking videos

here and then. You wouldn't say these men have kids and are family orientated people.

---

I am tired and the headache is hitting me very hard the next morning. Afika is laying silently with Thingo on his chest. She interrupted our drunk sex which felt so very good. No let me rephrase. Nombuso did so bringing crying Thingo and that was the ruin of our fun. Some Ndlovu's left and Sane with her



husband stayed while Lange left with Cholo. They were wasted last night and they would've caused an accident if they left. I go and bath first before taking any child into my hands. The house is clean and spotless. I appreciate that really. I move to bathing and when I am done I get out and make my room to our bedroom and I greet Nombuso who was leaving with Thingo.

Afika was up and stretching himself already.

“Good morning Gatsheni” he smiles.

“Ulale kanjani KaMahlanga? (How did you sleep?)”

“Well first of all I didn't know you can dance like that Baba ka Thingo” I say

“We didn't finish up yesterday” I look at him.

“Well we are hung over now” I say

“Kodwa akukho okuzongivimba ngiqede umsebenzi wami( But nothing can stop me from doing my work)” I blush

He comes and picks me up then places me on the bed while getting ontop of me.

“Someone might walk in” I say  
“Okwabo lokho ufunani yena?( It's their problem what would they want?)” Oh this man.



I made breakfast for everyone and after eating the lovely

couple were on their way back home. I wanted to go out a bit and Afika suggested that we go to my parents house with Thingo. My aunt does always ask about her and she last saw her at the hospital so I agreed. We changed and told Nombuso that we are leaving with Thingo. We packed her the things she will need put her on the car seat before we got in the car and proceeded our journey. We first started at

Mega City and bought some stuff we would take home. That's one thing about Afika. Akafuni ukufika endaweni ezishayela nje ( He doesn't want to go to a place empty handed) also I. I used to buy things when I went to Sasa's house. We get the stuff and soon after we are on our way home.

I am a bit excited. It's has been so long that I don't even think of coming home the way I

enjoy our house. Afika parks the car and soon my aunt is rushing towards us with her apron on as soon as she heard the car. I hop out of the car and she crushes me into a hug.

“We don't know you anymore. Yoh Waze wamuhle ukuphethe kahle uMkhwenyana (You are so beautiful. Our son in law is treating you well)” I giggle.

“Very well” I say  
She greets Afika.

“Where is my grandchild?” she asks.

“She is in the car” I say

“Let me see her” Afika opens the door for my aunt at the back and she takes Thingo out.

“Oh Nkosi yami kwaze kwayi sdudla esihle(Oh my God such a beautiful chubby baby)” she says

Soon enough she is in the house with her and we unload our things before going inside the house. I put the things in

the kitchen before we are all seated at the lounge. My father is trapped in Thingo's world not even minding that we are here. It his first grandchild after all. My aunt goes and gets beverages for us and comes back to ask us about life and how things are and we respond to her.

“Is Snikiwe treating you well?” My aunt asks.

“She is very much” Afika responds.



“She is a lazy one. I am sure you noticed in cooking” she says  
“Aunty!”

“It is the truth” she says

“You don't have to say that” I say

“I am sorry”

“She cooks alot” Afika says

“You see aunty I do cook and he doesn't complain” my aunt laughs.

“Wait another year you will see” my dad laughs.

It's a bit true. I will get tired from everything I know. I am not used to this but I think eventually I will.

## Chapter 19

### CHAPTER 19

## **Daily New African Novels**

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SLINDOKUHLE

Working part time as a nurse is quiet enjoyable. Atleast It occupies my time for when he

is not here and overseas on trips with the president or on his own. I sometimes join him but then there are a lot of kids to take care of and so I stay.

The triplets are 6 years now and they have grown quiet well. They are a hand full trust me raising boys is not as easy as it seems.

Nazo is taking a shower while I am making sure that everything is packed for him. He is leaving again today going overseas. I

wish he could stay sometimes but I know that he is doing what will benefit the country and the border issues he is working hard on them for the security of the people within the country and people coming in illegally. He also believes that it would slow down Human trafficking and also around the harbours as well. He is really working hard on everything. He loves it.

“Baby your phone is ringing” I say

I close his suitcase and go take his phone. I answer it and he comes out with a towel wrapped around his waist.

“Mr Ndlovu's phone hello”

“Mrs Ndlovu. I was informed that Mr Ndlovu's driver to the airport is ready” It's Zama the house assistant.

“Oh ok I will inform him”

“Yes mam” I hang up and turn to him lotioning his body.

“Don't look at me like that  
Sthandwa sam” I sigh

“I will miss you. It's cold when  
you are not here” I say

“Do you want to visit gogo?” He  
asks

“I think I will since school is  
closing soon” he nods and  
comes towards me and we  
share a kiss.

“I love you ok?”

“I know. I love you too” He  
proceedes into dressing in his

suit and I look at him in admire.

How I got lucky.

He gets done.

“Sakhile is bringing Linathi back today” I say

“I wish I could see her before I leave” I shrug.

He takes his things and I accompany out. We walk down the stairs holding hands and there is alot of noise in the lounge and I know it's the boys.

“Boys!” I say and they stop fighting.

“Don’t stress your mother please” Nazo says

“Yes dad” Snalo comes and hugs his father and the rest do so.

We only live with the triplets and Snalo short for

Snaluthando and also Linathi.

Samkelo and Zabelo live in pietermaritzburg with my

grandmother. My grandmother asked to live with them and

They wanted to as well. Sakhile



agreed and it was benefit for him that they would be in the same city as him and I was at ease with that as well though it was hard to let them go.

“Come let's Accompany daddy to the car” I say.They follow after us and we walk out.

The driver greets and takes Nazo's bags and he turns to me.

“You boys can go inside now” They rush off and he pulls me close to him.

“Hey I will be back ok? Like always.” I nod. He gives me a perk.

“Now smile for me ” I blush and bury my face on his chest.

“Hey I want to see that” he chuckled.

“Go before you are late for your flight” I lift my head up and look at him.

He lets go of me and the driver opens the door for him and he gets inside. I turn around and go back inside the house.

## SNIKIWE

It's has been 3 Months and my mother hood skills are imporving. Thingo is the center of everything and so am I. All I can say is that life is favouring me us right now. I frequently go home with Thingo just to visit her grandfather and he gets consumed in her world. They forget that I even exist and my aunt laughs about that. She

says my father was like this when I was born. Everything was about me and yes I was a bit spoilt when I was the only one without knowing that I have a big brother. Everything is good within the family and there aren't any problems within them. A welcoming ceremony was done for Thingo from both sides which is My family and also Afika's family. As Afika's child and also from my side as my father's first

grandchild. Nozulu once called and asked for Lnage's numbers of which I didn't give to her. She should focus on school and leave boys out for now. Soon enough Lange will start his internship and yoh. If I worked extra hard on my Mathematics in highschool then I would be rolling like Zee.

I am loving how Afika is warming up to supporting his brother and I am very happy

that he is doing so. How is my Afika? Well he is still the same but he is learning things and is now a bit open about how he feels and expressing his feeling. Though the gossip part we haven't mastered but we will get there just one step at a time. He is working at the club more often now as the new manager wasn't doing as well and he fired him and got a new one of which is Sthe. He is there frequently to see if

everything is going well and Sthe seems to be doing a better job than Mncedi even. My aunt is visiting for 2 days just after Afika's approval and so she is at home. She has given me a break in cooking and also is lost in Thingo's trap as well. It's like they see a baby for the first time I don't know. So I took this chance and go visit rainbow's father with lunch. I know he won't eat as he comes back home and complains he hasn't

eaten the whole day. I think I like it when he is at the taxi rank because he at least pops in to eat before going back on the road.

“Snikiwe uyaphi ugqoke lokho?(Where are you going wearing that?)” it's my aunt.

“I am going to see Afika. Is the food dished up?” she looks at me up and down and claps her hands.

“Hai Nombuso just dished it up in the kitchen” she says



“Ok thank you” I take my bag and walk to the kitchen.

Nombuso is on her phone ”

“Yebo Dade ngise thawini.

Ukube uyazi ukuthi kunjani(Yes I am in Durban. If you knew how it's like)” I clear my throat and she sees me.

“I have to go we will talk later” she hangs up and looks down.

“Can I have Afika's food please?” she hands it over to me and I thank her.

I leave the kitchen and my aunt asks to accompany me to my car. We go together and we get to the car and she stops me.

“Snikiwe angiyizwa kahle lentombazane ( I don't feel this girl well)” my aunt says

“What happened?”

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I ask

“Ngibone izinto engingaziqondi nje and lemigexo ebomvu ayifakile iyathusa(I saw things

that I don't understand and the red jewellery that she is wearing scares me)” She says Yes they were scary.

“One of Afika's cousins recommended her because she is from their village.”

“Eyi I just don't like her and I hope she doesn't cook for Afika” she says

“She doesn't I do.”

“Good. Can I go and clean your room. Asazi ufakani laphaya(

we don't know what she plants there)” she says

“Ok. I will talk to Afika that maybe we don't need a nanny anymore” I say

“Please do. I can baby sit Thingo if you need to it's fine but I don't trust her” I nod.

“Thank you Aunty” she gives me a perk and moves away.

She goes inside the house and I drive off after.

I am in thoughts with what my aunt said and I will take her

word for it that I will do. I wouldn't let an elders judgement discarded to the side. I get to the club and I park my car and make my way out pulling my dress a bit down. It's not as exaggerated as my aunt said and besides this is all for Afika and no one else. I stride my way inside the club and I see Sthe. I greet him.

“We don't know you anymore.  
Wow you look beautiful” he  
says

“Thank you. Is the boss in?” I  
ask.

“Yes. You can go” I thank him  
and make my way to Afika's  
office.

I get there and knock softly  
before I make my way in. He  
looks up to me and lays back on  
the leather chair.

“Other men saw you in that?”  
it's the first thing he says.

“Yes I brought food for you” I say placing the food on the table.

“I am not at ease that other men saw lah ngidla khona mama ( where I eat)” he says  
Is he implementing that my dress is that short?

“Its not that short baba ka Thingo” I say

“Bend and let me see” he says  
I do as instructed.

“Haah mama ngeke indunu isobala lah ( No your ass is

visible here)“he says getting up from his chair.

“You are exaggerating Afika” I say

“I am not. Look” he places his hand on my butt and looks at me.

“Well it doesn't show if I don't bend ” I say pulling the dress down.

“You are stubborn” he says

“You love me like this”

“Mmhh” I kiss his lips. He holds my waist.



“Come eat” I say

He picks me up and places me on his table.

“I don't mean that” he takes off my stilettos and throws them on the side before parting my legs.

“I am hungry for this” he says

“Afika people will walk in” I say

“I will be quick” he unbuckles his belt and his pants drop with everything else.

“Aw' yadla yeGatseni intsizwa” he says

He rubs my clitoris slowly and inserts a finger thrusting it inside just to get me wet and he does. When he is satisfied he pulls the finger out and he then thrusts inside and I wimper before he holds my legs in his arms and keeps on thrusting.

---

After everything it was already late now and I should be back home. I told Afika about my aunt's concerns and he asked if

I am sure with the decision and I am. My aunt is going to help if I have a problem. He agrees and says we will release Nombuso. I am happy that he agreed. I said my good byes to him and told him to not come back home late and he promised. He accompanied me out as men will look at my thighs and but that's out there on display which is exaggerating things. I got inside the car and drove off home.

## Chapter 20

### CHAPTER 20

## **Daily New African Novels**

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Today is my aunt's last day here and she is leaving tonight. I informed her that Afika agreed and she was at very much ease. We haven't told Nombuso that we are dismissing her but I will tell her today. I walked in the kitchen finding my aunt feeding

Thingo some food and singing softly to her.

“Good morning” I greet.

“Good morning. Afika has left” I know. He said he would be at the rank today.

“He left very early” I grab a bowl and dish up the porridge.

“You are feeding her so much Sni” my aunt says as she looks at Thingo.

“She eats too much” I say

“You should cut down a bit and make her get used to eating less” my aunt says

“I will do so aunty” I move to the lounge and I start eating. After I am done I go and wash my bowel and ask my aunt where Nombuso is and she tells me that she is outside. I find her outside by the pool and I call her in.

“Nombuso can I see you” she turns to me.

“Yes sisi” she comes in and I follow after her.

I switch off the tv at the lounge and sit opposite her. I breathe in and out before I could speak.

“Nombuso you have been of great help these past few months and I really appreciate it” she nods.

“But now we have to let you go. Tomorrow you will be going home” I say

“Did I do something wrong?”  
she asks.

“No you did nothing wrong ”  
She bites her bottom lip.

“But Thingo is young. She is  
only 3 months” she says

“I can handle my daughter from  
now on” I say

“Are you sure?” she asks

“Yes I am sure”

“Ok. Thank you sisi for  
everything” I Smile.

“Pleasure we will pay you for  
the rest of your services” I say



“Thank you. I wish you luck” I stand up and we dispersed. I went to my aunt.

“I have told her that she is leaving tomorrow” I say

“That is good. Maybe that's why Thingo cries alot. Babies feel bad aura's” I look at my aunt.

“Babies cry alot as well” I say. I try to take Thingo but my aunt doesn't want to using her departure as an excuse to hold Thingo the whole day.

I go and call this man of mine  
and he answers his phone.

“Mama ka Thingo” he says

“I have told Nombuso that she  
is leaving” I say

“Are you changing your mind?”

he asks

“No I am not”

“Do you need a new nanny?”

he asks

“Don’t worry Gatsheni. I will  
handle Thingo just fine” I say

“I might come home late.” he  
says

“Ok” I say

“Are you sure?” he asks

“Yes I am sure Afika. You are working and you are always home on time ”I shrug.

“I love you” he hangs up before I could even say it back.

I hear a cry and I already know that it is Thingo. I rush to where she is and Nombuso is changing her nappy.

“Let me do it ” I move her.

She moves away and I pick up Thingo and hush her until she is

silent before I change her nappy. I change her romper as well as it is messy and there is a red mark on her stomach. It looks bad. I am the one who baths Thingy and she didn't have this mark this morning. I wrap her in a blanket and leave her nursery.

“Nombuso! Nombuso!”

She emerges from the bedroom.

“What did you do to my child?!”

“Your aunt asked me to change her nappy and look after her while she cooks and I took her to do so” she says in an innocent voice.

“Unamanga wena( you are lying) My child was screaming her lungs out because you were hitting her!” I point my finger at her while stepping closer.

“I didn't Sisi”

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she starts crying and covering her face.

“Go and pack your bags manje ngingaze ngikulimaze ( before I handle you with my own hands)”

“What is the noise?” it's my aunt in my apron. She appears from the kitchen.

Nombuso rushes to the room she uses while crying and I ran to my aunt and she opened her arms for me and I placed myself in them and sobbed.

“She hurt Thingo aunty. She hurt my baby and I didn't see it” I say while crying.

“Shhh it's ok. Where is Thingo?” she says pulling me off her.

“She is in her room”

“Wipe those tears and let me go and attend to her while you watch over my pots” I nod.

She gives me a perk on the forehead before I go and attend to her pots.

---

My aunt left later that day. My dad came to fetch her and we stayed a little while together. Nombuso locked herself in the bedroom after that and didn't come out. My dad complained that he was miserable on his own the past two days of which he is exaggerating but men do exaggerate things. Afika didn't come on his usual time and I went to sleep. I took Thingo with me to bed after dressing her properly.





I was woken up by shuffling sounds and I opened the side lamp and sat up.

“Hey it's me” I check the time and it's almost midnight.

He takes off his cloths and is left in boxers.

“Was she restless?” he says as he gets in bed and takes Thingo into his arms and places her on his chest.

“Nombuso will hurt her.” I say

“What is going on Mama?” he asks with more concern.

“Nombuso was hurting Thingo while changing her nappy” I say

“Angizwanga ( Excuse me?)” I look away

“Why didn't you call and tell me ?!”

“I was too emotional and•••and I am sorry” I say

“Where is she?” he gets off the bed and places Thingo where she was.

“She is still in the room that she uses. She locked herself inside.”

I say

“I am coming back” he says

“She is leaving tomorrow Afika.

I don't want you hitting

women” I say

“She thought I was playing with

her ” I get off the bed and go

hold him before he leaves.

“Afika please” he gets himself

off my grip and goes to the

room Nombuso is sleeping in

and I follow.

He tries to open the door but it's locked. He chuckles and knocks on the door.

“Siyahamba sifike naseMsinga. Angikakaqedi ngawe(I am not done with you)” he says loud enough and turns to me and pulls me to the bedroom.

“You should tell me of such stuff” I nod.

“I am sorry” he gets in bed and lays Thingo on him.

It's a habit whenever Thingo is sleeping with us. I close my eyes and sleep.

I woke up in the morning and Afika was gone. I look for Thingo next to me and she is not in bed. I get off the bed and went to her nursery and she wasn't there.

“Nombuso!” I went to the room she is using and she wasn't there even her clothes.

I rush to my phone and I call Afika. He answers his phone after some time.

“Mama”

“She took our child Afika. She took Thingo” I say with my breaking voice.

“Wait I left Thingo on the bed” he says.

“She is not here Afika! She is not here! Oh Jehovah” tears run down my cheeks

“I am coming” he drops the call.

I go around the house looking for anything but there is no sign of Thingo. I feel a bit dizzy. I go to the bathroom and I vomit then cry while holding the toilet seat.

“Snikiwe!” he shouts for me.

I vomit in the toilet again and he comes to the bathroom. He picks me up from the floor and I cry.

“I can't find her anywhere” I say while sobbing.

“Don’t worry I will find her” he brushes my back.

“Come let's get you cleaned up.”

He opens bath water for me and I get inside. I bath and he goes to for a while then comes back and I am out of the bathroom after brushing my teeth. I get dressed.

“Someone is going to come and stay with you while we go to Msinga to search Nombuso there” he says.



I just nod.

“Please find her” I say

“I will” he goes.

We stay for a while and he tells me that he is leaving as Ntozakhona is here. He leaves after that and I curl myself on the bed and cry. I hope they find my daughter.

After a while of sitting here alone I heard someone calling me.

“Snikiwe” I sit up from the bed and rub my eyes.

She comes in and rushes to me.

“I am sorry Afika will find Thingo” She embraces me.

“Sane is on her way. I came as soon as I heard” I appreciate that.

“She took my baby Slindo” I say

“Don't worry you will get your baby back” I hope I do. I really hope they find Nombuso.

## Chapter 21

### CHAPTER 21

## **Daily New African Novels**

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Sane came as well and we all stayed together. I was hoping Afika would call and tell us that they had found Thingo but nothing as yet the whole day. The sun has set and Slindo is the kitchen cooking up a storm. I haven't told any of my family members that Thingo is

missing. I don't want them worrying too much at the moment.

“Sni come and eat” it's Sane.

“What is Thingo eating wherever she is?” She sighs “Everything will be ok come you need energy” I take her hand and we go to the kitchen Slindo dishes up for us and her phone rings that moment.

“Its Sakhile” she says before answering.

“Hello”

She is silent for a moment and looks at me before moving away.

“Do you want us to do something just to ease your mind?” Sane is behaving like a big sister.

“Anything” She nods as I eat. Slindo comes back in.

“What did Sakhile say?” She looked at me.

“They are in Msinga” Slindo says and looks at me.

“Nombuso is not there they have been looking for her since they got there” She carries on. Sane looks at me and holds my hand.

“Don’t cry just have hope” I nod and breathe out letting the lump in my throat set free.

“Ok” I say

“They will keep on updating us.” she stands up.

“Let me try Nazo” she walks off.

We get done with eating and we sit together for a while before I start feeling tired and ask to go and sleep. They switch off the tv and we all go and squash ourselves in a king size bed with myself in the middle. I couldn't hold it in but kept on sobbing softly. I really hope they find Thingy. I can't live without her.

I take my phone and try calling Afika but it doesn't go through.

I just hope he is fine and calls me back as soon as he can.

“Sni you need to rest” It's Sane.

“I can't sleep not knowing where Thingy is” I say

“They will find her we just have to have faith” I cry a bit more.

She pulls me to her chest and rubs my back.

“This is hard on all of us but we have to have faith” I nod.

“We are here for you ok?” I nod once more.

---



I woke up in the morning to the sound of frying. I got out of the bed and went to the kitchen and I found the two ladies in there. Slindo was on her phone while Sane was making breakfast.

“Oh hey”

“Morning”

“I am making breakfast. There is alot of food in here" yeah I learned from when we were at Sakhile's house.

“We eat alot” Sane laughs.

“I can't seem to get to Nazo since yesterday. He should be back today” Slindo says.

“Maybe he is still on the air” Sane says.

“Yeah. Hello Sni” Slindo comes to hug me.

We eat over breakfast and Sane saw it fit we go out a bit just to get some fresh air and also clear our minds. We bathed and changed before we went out and Slindo drove to the beach. We got there and made

our way to the shore. The sound of the ocean were calming.

“Maybe everything will go quicker if we report that case to the police”

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I say

“They are not quick. Don't worry they will find her” I nod. We buy some pop corn and a bit of candy and we stay there for a little while. Sane's phone rings and she answers it.

“We are at South beach” She says.

“Oh ok then” she hangs up. Afika hasn't called since he left. Sane keeps quiet and We also do the same enjoying the Durban weather. After some time we were hungry and we left to go to get take aways before we leave for home.

---

Slindo finally gets through to her husband and it turns out that he won't be back today but

in the next few days. She was a bit disappointed but I guess she understood. She is outside speaking to her husband while I help Sane with Cooking just to get things off my mind. She has been silent and talking here and there and it was after the phone call that she had gotten from her husband. I hope they are not fighting or anything if that sort.

“I am done with this pot” I say to Sane.

“Ok. Let me finish up here” she does so and she does so.

“Babe!” Sane leaves everything and rushes out of the kitchen. I follow after her.

She hugs her husband and Lange is here. He shys away from my eyes and sniffs.

“I need the bathroom” he says wiping his face and passing me. Slindo comes through the from the garden.

“Where is Afika?” I ask

“He is in the car outside” He found Thingo. That was quick and I feel relief

I was about to move to the door but Sikelela holds me back.

“He needs a bit of time before he comes inside” he says.

“I want to see Thingo” I say

“What is going on?” Slindo asks.

“Afika needs some time he will come inside MaSkhosana” Sikelela says.

He lets go of me and The rest of them walk inside. I rush to Afika.

“Where is Thingo? Did you find Nombuso?” Afika is mute.

“We found Nombuso” Sakhile says.

“Where is she? Where did you find her?” I ask

“In pietermaritzburg. She won't be bother anymore” he answers and Afika is silent.

“So where is my child Sakhile? Why isn't she in any of your



arms? Is she at the hospital?" I am panicking. I look at Afika who looks down.

"I am Sorry" Afika says and walks off.

"Afika! Afika where is Thingo?!"

"Afika what are you sorry for?! I want my child Afika please!"

Qiniso catches me in his arms before I can hit the floor.

"Calm down Sni" Slindo begs.

"Afika I want my child! Where is our Child?!" I am crying hysterically yet he is not

answering me. He disappeared on me. All I want is my daughter that's all I am asking for.

“Pack your things. We are going to Msinga” Sikelela instructs.

“Bhuti please. Just bring Thingo to me I beg you” they all ignore my cries like they are not loud enough for them to hear.

Slindo and Sane rush to the instructions given. I am not answered no one is answering me.

## Chapter 22

### CHAPTER 22

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I feel so numb. I have stopped crying but the pain is still visibly felt. I don't know what I did to deserve this. Is my mother punishing me for all the sins I have committed? It's my fault. I blame myself for everything that I am feeling right now. We are here in Msinga. Everyone is

and just this morning the men left to go to pietermaritzburg with Cholo. I couldn't leave as I had to be on this stupid mattress.

“Snikiwe eat please” my aunt comes to me with porridge and I shake my head.

She sits next to me and sighs. People who I don't know have come in and out sympathizing with me.

“Its not your fault” she says.

“It is Aunty. Afika is not talking to me ” I say

She holds my hand.

“He is grieving and people grieve differently. Thingo was his everything and he knows how he found his daughter and the state she was in. It traumatized him” tears stream down my cheeks and I sob.

“She didn't do anything Aunty. She didn't deserve to leave me this soon.” I say

“I know baby but God’s timing can't be confirmed. Now eat” I shake my head.

“I will eat later” she heaves a sigh and stands up walking away.

What did I ever do that woman? My daughter didn't deserve this at all. She didn't. More women come in and my aunt leads them inside the house. I am happy that she is here. I am a bit sane and still attached to life. I look at the

food in front of me and I can't seem to have an apitite of it. My mind jogs to the time he told me. The time he crushed my spirit and left me with nothing.

\*\*\*\*\*

I was laid on the couch after crying and I was still crying. No one was giving me answers. Afika appeared from the bedroom with two bags and I got off the couch and

rushed to him going on my knees while sobbing.

“Ngiyakucela Gatsheni. Ngicela uThingo(Please can I have Thingo)” I say

“Get her off me ” he says to Lange with much coldness.

Lange pulls me off him.

“Lange please” I have been singing the same tune.

“Bhuti you have to tell her she has the right to know where she is” Lange says.



“It won't change anything!” he snaps.

“Afika no. Lange is right”

Sakhile says

“Please Afika. Tell me where she is” I begged.

He looked me straight in the eyes and said: “She is dead” before walking out.

Leaving me in a wailing mess calling out for him to say that it is not true. That he has my daughter somewhere.

\*\*\*\*\*

He didn't say he blames me. No he didn't but I know that deep down he does. I get off the mattress and I run to the bathroom and sink my head inside the toilet.

“Sni are you ok?” it's Slindo

“Yes I am fine” I say.

I can't imagine the cruelty Thingo went through. She was found in pietermaritzburg informal settlements by the river. Laying there with Marks on her body and her tiny head

in a plastic meaning she was suffocated. When Lange described it to me I felt more pain than loosing my mother. More pain than the times Mncedi used me as his punching bag. That physical pain was better as it would fade away but this one is too heavy no cream or medication can help me overcome. She pulls me up and helps me rinse my mouth.

“It is overwhelming sitting there I know. Do you want to take a walk?” I nod. Anything to get away from here.

“Come” she pulls me and we walk out of the house together.

She holds my hand as we are walking and we get to where the graves are. Is she here to show me where my daughter would be laying? Is she for real?

“Come ” she pulls me.

I keep my silence as we are walking and we stand Infront of a tombstone. She goes on her knees and instructs me to do so as well.

“This is my daughter. Owami” she says after the silence.

We are staring at the grave.

“Sakhile and I come here every year on her birthday” she smiles faintly.

“What happened to her?”

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I am curious.

She looks at me.

“She had brain cancer at the age of 3. I went to every hospital and tried to get her treated but it never worked.” she says.

“Sakhile blamed me for her death once and I also blamed myself”

“I am sorry” I say

“Its still painful after years but you know I learned to live with the pain” she says.

She holds my hands

“Its not easy Snikiwe. You will feel the excruciating pain and I know you are feeling it. You can cry and blame yourself but it won't bring Thingo back. That woman was vile and I don't know why she would do that to a 3 month old baby but know that I am here and I know your pain. Sakhile knows Afika's pain” she says and I look away.

“He hates me” I say

“He doesn't. We all grieve differently just give him

time. Let everyone around you help you get through it. If you need therapy then so be it. It's never easy to lose a loved one especially someone you gave birth to. I love you ok and I am here" she hugged me and I hug her back. We sit there for a while before we go back and I get to eat something today. Ciyela and Chiliza were here but it seems like Ciyela is dragging her feet by being here.



---

It's the next morning and the up and down preparations are happening. Slindo goes and calls her husband so as Sane as well. I want to know if they have arrived well and is everything going well there. I try Afika but his phone doesn't go through. I try Lange and it doesn't go through as well. I sigh and go through condolence messages from Thabani and his parents. I reply

accordingly. I see a notification that Ciyela posted on her timeline last night. I checked what she posted.

“Have you seen this?!” It's Slindo waving her phone around to Chiliza.

“No what is it?” I look through her post.

“Sisi wakho udoti yezwa? Muphi?( Your sister is rubbish you hear me ? Where is she?)” Slindo says fuming.

Sane walks in right at that moment.

“Sikelela says they are close by”

My hands were shaking as I read her post.

I got up and left the phone on the mattress.

“Snikiwe where are you going?!” I get out of the main house rushing to the outside buildings.

I get to Sakhile's room and I knock on the door.

“Ciyela open the door now!” I banged on it. How could she be so insensitive on the loss of Thingo and write about it on social media.

“What ?!” she opens the door and I immediately back slap her before laying my hands on her neck.

“What is wrong with you ? Are you psycho?” she tries to get my grip off and she does.

She tries to run out of the door but I pull her back in and push

her against the wall. I take the Little vase in the room and throw it her way but she ducks.

Someone lifts me up from going towards her and I immediately sob.

“What is going on here?” everyone rushes in the room.

“She was hitting me” Ciyela says.

“Sni why would you hit my sister?” It's Cholo.

I can't answer but keep on crying.

“Fuck your sister Cholo she is writting shit about us on social media and also said things on Thingo's death” I can't seem to breathe. The pain that I am feeling.

They hand the phone to Sakhile and he turns to her.

“Pack your shit and run where I won't find you because if I lay my hands on you right now you won't walk out alive”he says.

“Sakhile!”

“Shut up Cholo! Voetsek yezwa?! And pack your shit too!” he walks out.

I kept on sobbing.

---

I woke up and I was in Afika's room. I stretched myself and there was no one beside me. I get off the bed and go to his wardrobe and take out his clothes and sniff them. It's like he is dead but he is alive and is in this very yard. I see some of

Thingo's things and I take them out and throw them on the bed. I search for a lighter but I can't find it. I go out of the room and make my way to the main house and everyone stops their movements when they see me.

“Can I have a lighter and plastic” I say

“What do you want to do with it?” my aunt asks.

“I want to pack something on the plastic bag ” They hand the



plastic bag to me and not the lighter.

I go out and go to back the stuff inside and search for the lighter in one of Afika's pants and I found one. I take the plastic and make my way out of the room. I get to a spot a bit far away and I light the lighter.

“What are you doing ?” I turn around and it's Afika. I turn back to what I am doing.

“Grieving” I crouch and light up the plastic. I step back when it winds up to flames.

I look at it for a while before I turn to him.

“I am very sorry” I say. He comes closer and holds me close to him. I breathe in and out.

## Chapter 23

### CHAPTER 23

The theme for today is black.  
We are all draped in it in

different forms formally and informally but the theme is the same. I feel better today. I don't feel the urge to vomit at the thought of Thingo. I have accepted that God gives and takes even the unexpected but I wish that he didn't give me something so precious only for him to take it away from me. I was looking at Myself on the mirror. I saw myself in the scars that Mncedi used to leave on my body. The scars of

before. The weak girl who stood up to no one and wasn't able to voice how she felt or how much pain she was suffering and sucked it up. She smiled so that her family and friends don't see. She strutted with her head held high knowing her spirit was low.

That's who I saw. The same girl before she knew that happiness can be experienced in a man as well just a different one. I breathed in and out before I

took my scarf and wrapped it around my shoulders swiftly. There is a knock on the door and I go and open. It's my father. He pulls me into his arms and softly whispers a sorry. I wrap my arms around him

“Come let's go” he takes my hand in his and we make our way out to the main house.

Everything was going well. I didn't want to see Thingo for

the last time as I wouldn't be ok. I know I wouldn't be ok after but I was insisted on doing so in that way I would have. I went closer to the casket and it was open. I looked at her face and I just wanted to touch her and hold her in my arms once again. I wanted to hear her cry and see her get fat everyday but I wouldn't see that anymore. I won't hear her cry anymore. A tear drops on her light skin and I am moved by

someone away from the casket.

“That’s enough now Snikiwe”

It's my aunt.

Afika appears in a black suit. I look at him for a second before looking away.

“Its your turn Ndodana (son)” His father says and he walks towards the Casket and places his hands in his pockets. He clenches his jaw then nods before it is closed and then the singing started. They

carried her as we walked out to the tent set up for the service.



The service wasn't long as she didn't live for long. I felt like my knees were weak as she was buried. Slindo was right. I was about to feel the excruciating pain and this was it. This was the excruciating pain that I was feeling. My aunt pulls me away holding me close to her. Slindo comes our way and asks to take



over from my aunt who agrees.

“I am sorry about what Ciyela wrote” She says.

“There is nothing I could change now. How is Sakhile?” I say

“I don't know. It must be hard on him as well” I know.

What she did was very much out of line. It had everyone upset. She wrote about Sakhile and made it seem like he was cheating and abusing her

through the whole marriage then went to including Slindo and saying he was cheating on her with Slindo for years that is why they have kids together and Nazo thinks it's their kids when it's not. She included her so called sister Cholo into the mix. Surprising how Protective she was of her yet she spreaded things on social media about how her marriage came about to Thingo. When she spoke about Thingo it

angered me and hit me so hard more than anything.

“Can I talk to Sni?” It's Cholo.

“She doesn't need your drama Cholo” Slindo says

“I am not here for drama but to apologize. I am sorry for everything and loosing Thingo is hard. I can also feel your pain and sympathize with you. I feel like it's my fault that she died and that I brought Nombuso into our lives” I look at her.

“What do you mean brought her into our lives?” I ask

“Afika told me you were looking for a nanny and he wanted someone from a rural place so he asked me to assist and I asked my sister to get someone ” I say

“What ?!You know your sister is crazy over Afika!”Slindo shouts.

“I am so sorry Snikiwe” She says

I don't know what to say.

“Is everything ok?”

“Ntozakhona please take your wife. I don't know what is wrong with her” Slindo says.

“I don't know what I ever did to you but I am sorry” I say before moving away from her.

I get to the room and throw myself on the bed and wet the pillow silently. I could hear the door opening and there is silence. The lump in my throat is burning me very badly but I don't want to let it out. I don't

want to. I feel hands wrap around my body and his scent hit my nostrils. I keep my silence. It would be cruel of me to blame him. He loved Thingo and wouldn't put her on harm's way purposely. What hurt me is that Cholo is always involved. I thought it was one of his cousins who got the Nanny for us but it wasn't.

“Ngiyaxolisa mama( I am sorry)” he says softly.

It is also my fault. I should've seen the kind of person Nombuso is from the start but I didn't. I was too blind to see everything.

“Ngiyaxolisa Sthandwa sam(I am sorry my love)” He says and I finally let the lump free.

My wimpering sobs fill the room. He is not leaving but held me in his arms still. He is still here trying to comfort me but doesn't know how to do so.

---

It's the following day. Nazo is supposed to arrive today from Slindo's terms and she is quiet excited you can tell. Her husband was trying to secure investors who would help with putting new security around the borders for the safety of the country. He does work hard shame and I can see that it's in them with Afika as well. I haven't moved from the bed. My bed side is empty and I don't feel like waking up



today. I keep on looking at the white ceiling while laid on my back. A knock comes through but I don't move an inch.

“Snikiwe” it's Sane.

She closes the door and gets in on the bed.

“I brought amakip kip” She says.

“They have different food colourings on them” she says.

“Like a rianbow” I say softly.

She lays her back on the bed and lays next to me.

“Like a rainbow” She says after that.

“You know what I love about rainbows?” she asks.

I keep my silence.

“As it rains there is sunshine and it forms a beautiful rainbow. Do you know what is left?” she looks at me.

“A rainbow?” I say softly.

“Yes and Sunshine. The rain is gone” She says and pops some in her mouth.

“You know what that means?” I shake my head.

“It means that during rainy days there will always be sunshine in the end and a rainbow is created” I laugh a bit.

“Do you mean I am the rain and Afika is my sunshine and we created a rainbow?” She laughs and hits my shoulder.

“I didn't think it like that sies Sni!” I laugh.

“I am sorry” I say

She lays back down next to me.

“You are an amazing big sister”

I say looking at her.

“I did say I am going to be your big sister and bring all the hot gossip” I laugh.

“Ciyela is not here anymore”

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I say

“But Cholo is” I laugh.

I was forgetting things for a moment.

**SLINDOKUHLE**

I was on a video call with Nazo right now who is about to board his plane.

“You look a bit horrible today” he says

“How could you say that?” he laughs.

“I am joking muntu wami but I have news” he says

“What news?”

“All my work paid off. The security around the border

project will start in the next few months”

“I am so proud of you. Now I will have all of you home.” I say

“And if you didn't tie your tubes then we would make you pregnant” he raises his brow.

“These kids are enough thank you very much” he chuckles.

“You are just scared of my seeds” I gasp.

“Nazo don't say that in public” he chuckles.

“I don't think they can even hear me”

“Fair enough”

“How was the funeral?” he asks.

“Everything is a mess. There has been a lot of drama and it's draining and your aunt from the U.K has retired. She came back to live this side” I say

“I have been only gone for like a week or so and already I missed so much”

“Yeah” I say

“I am about to board my plane. I will see you when I get there” he says

“Ok. I love you”

“I love you more Themba lam” he hangs up after that.

I get off the bed and make my way to the main house to help out with anything. People are starting to leave now and soon enough we will also be leaving.

“Good morning. Can I help?” I like this aunt.



She has money and also she is very kind hearted unlike the others.

“No we are fine. Hah phela anizona igqila zalayikhaya ( You are not Slaves)” she says laughing softly.

Her kids are educated and are overseas. She is not married and I wonder why she is not. She seems like a person who takes care of herself very well so I don't understand but that is no any of my business.

“Where is everyone?”

“The men are by the kraal and Sanelisiwe went to check on Snikiwe. Chiliza left with Qiniso. She wasn't ok. That baby is bothering her” The aunt says.

“I noticed as well” I go and make some tea and take some scones to eat.

**SNIKIWE**

Everyone's life is a mess right now. We all lost and Sakhile was at a loss and so as the Ndlovu and Skhosana family as a whole. I took a bath and we sat together with Sane. She took my mind of things with her hot gossip and I don't know where she gets it from but it entertained me for a moment there and made me forget about what I am going through at the moment.

She left saying she is going to help out with super for tonight. Burning some of Thingo's things was a bit therapeutic for me. I wish I could've looked Nombuso in the eyes and asked her why she did what she did. I wish I can sometimes turn back the hands of time of which I can't do. I take my phone and I try Afika and it goes through this time with much luck. "Sthandwa sami" I breathe out. I am his love.

He just called me that and it's a common name but it means so much coming from him and I don't know why.

“I love you” I say

“I love you so much and you are the best thing that happened to me” I carry on.

“I love you too Sni. I may not say it much but I really do” I smile.

“I know” I say

“Should I come?”

“No I am fine”

“Are you sure?”

“Yes I am” I say softly.

## SLINDOKUHLE

Sane joined in on the cooking after a long time and I asked her where she was and she told me she was with Snikiwe. I hope Snikiwe will learn to deal with the pain and they both know with Afika that we are behind them and are here to support. I am chopping away

the vegetables while the aunt is telling us about her experience in the U.K and how it is like being a nurse there. She seems like she had enjoyed her job as much as I do with mine which is why I worked part time. My phone rings and I wipe my hands before I take it out and answer.

“Hello” I answer.

“Mrs Ndlovu it's me Zama”

“Hey Zama”

“There are police looking for you and it's regarding Mr Ndlovu” she says

“What did he do?” I ask

“You need to come back quickly I am afraid” she says

“Ok. I will be there tomorrow morning”

“Ok mam”

I hang up.

“What is wrong Makoti?”

“The police are looking for me and it's about Nazo. I hope that



he wasn't transporting anything illegal at the airport”

“Who was transporting something illegal?” Sakhile is asking while getting in with the rest of them.

“Nazo” Sane says.

“Haibo Sanelisiwe. We are not sure but police are looking for Slindo and she has to go back” the aunt says.

“We are all going then. You can't sort whatever it is alone” Sikelela says.

“Ok”. I say.

I really hope Nazo is not into something shady. I am worried for a moment.

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To be continued...

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**.....Thankssss**