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~ Thandeka ~

It is true that Anger and pain can make u do things you never thought you would do. In a split second I was a murderer! Why did I not take a few seconds to just think

before I acted? But then there was no time to think. It was either me or him and i chose me this time around. For once.

I was so eager to know what happened to Bongani but hey time wasn't on my side, sticking around the scene wasn't going to help me either so I ran away.I didn't even know kuthi ngigijima ngiyaphi as long as I was far away.

I realized that I've ran around almost the whole time not know where I am heading to. I looked up and realised I'm at Park station.

I wiped my sweat,looked for my ID and went to buy a ticket with the money that I found on my wallet. The driver said the bus is going to Durban and its going to leave at 2 am.

I don't know anyone at Durban.I've never been there, my whole life I have been around Gauteng but now Gauteng isn't a place for me. I pushed time by buying out fruits from the street vendors.

The paranoia in me was high because I heard police sirens every now and then and in my mind I thought they were looking for me. Time was moving on so slowly but at long last, it was 2 am.

We all got onto the bus and I couldn't wait for it to leave.

My seat was next to a window..I looked outside with my teary eyes.I took off the sim card and threw it away, put on headsets and listened to gospel music as the bus took off trying to close my eyes.

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Life isn't fair indeed, today i am being released from prison after serving 4 years for a crime i did not commit, just

because a woman was bitter that her husband was fond of me, the husband was my boss at the time whom i regard as my father.

'Mthokozisi Zulu, hurry up man , the car to take us is ready' that was a Warden telling me that.

I was given clean clothes and everything that belonged to me,i didnt believe i was free, like seriously i am going to see the world, fresh air, buildings, nature and people. I walked out and was met by Babu Ndaba, this man has been my hero. Through all the difficulties I've endured he has always been on my side, never looked down on me.

I am Thokozisi Zulu a 28 years old,tall, dark dude. Let me take u down to what happened that landed me to this place.

I completed matric at the age of 19 with flying colours, I mean I got 6 distinctions and an exemption but couldn't go to university because of funds.

My parents died when I was 11 leaving me with my grandmother who saw me through school with his pension money. After metric life was hard, I was forced to go out look for a job because the pension money wasn't enough for the three of us including my sick uncle to survive on.

I had to hustle, that is where I met Babu Ndaba in Durban. The rich man who lived in the North, he hired as his garden and yard boy but when he saw my metric results he was touched and impressed. He helped me register at the Durban university for electrical engineering. I was a part time student because I had to work during the day and study later. I needed the money.

I was lucky on my second year I got a bursary, that way I was able to send extra money at home since my education fees were covered.

Mr Ndaba was an angel, a godsend, my mentor and everything. Never in any day he regarded me as his slave or worker. He treated me like a son, to a point where by I used to eat with him dinner in the main house where he lived with his wife and a daughter who didn't want me there.

The wife kept on complaining that I'm trying to take her daughter's place in her husband's heart of which was not true. Thing is this girl was very spoiled and annoying, she spent her parents money on alcohol

clothes,make up and any other useless things. She kept on changing courses every semester because she was failing dismally. Mr Ndaba is a well known business man who own taxis around here and some shares in the mine at Mpumalanga, a guest house and funeral parlour.

I remember on my third year after passing it with flying colours Mr Ndaba mentioned it during dinner that as soon as I've graduated he's gonna hire me to work at the mine in Mpumalanga. Yooh he made the hatred his wife had for me to be worse.

Two night after that announcement his daughter Simangele came to my room with snacks and drinks. She knew I don't touch alcohol so she brought juice.

She found me reading a bible. I was shocked to see her there because that girl is full of herself, like she sees me like rubbish

nje. Surprisingly that day she was smiling. I should have known that smile was gonna make me spend 4 years in prison!

So she told me she was there to celebrate my results, she was kind making jokes and flirty. Few drinks I started feeling dizzy and things were spinning in my room, my head was heavy to move around.

I tried standing up I fell down. I saw her undressing and undressing me too. I was confused at what was happening. She started kissing me, I tried pushing her but I was just tired all I wanted was to sleep. The next thing she had my dick on her vagina without my permission, she began pleasuring herself with me roughly, fast and hard.

Her parents walked in to my room and found us naked worse intimate.

She jumped to her mother and cried rape. I looked at her shocked and weak to even say a word, everything was just

happening fast and confusing. Mr Ndaba looked rather shocked and disappointed than angrily.

I kept on saying I didn't do anything. Trying to explain the situation with no luck. Cops were called on me by his wife.

With all evidence against me I was sentenced for a rape charge. I was meant to serve 7 years in the 15 years sentence but because of my good behaviour I only served 4.

Mr Ndaba came to me after my sentencing to ask what happened that day. I explained to him and he believed me, he said his daughter is capable of doing such. He promised me that he's going to take care of me and I shall not suffer inside here since I've been already sentenced.

Since I was in prison I chose to take Theology and bible studies. I graduated a year before and I've been preaching inside for

some time now. I sometimes go to other prisons to preach the gospel of God.

Going outside the gate, the first person I see is him. He rushes to me with his smile reaching his ears.

Ndaba: son I'm so happy to see you. Look at you. You are even a yellow bone.

I laughed at that shaking hands with him.

Me: but Father, you know very well I was never a light skinned person stop playing with me.

Ndaba: (laughing) I'm just so happy that you are out son, let's go.

Me: baba about that.I know you have done a lot for me but you don't have to worry yourself now.I will find a way.

Ndaba: nonsense Mthokozisi. Come let's got. I've found u a small cottage to live on while I place u in one of the mines at Mpumalanga.

Me: I really appreciate the gesture baba.I will never forget your kindness and mercy towards me but I have been called and answered. The prison had made some arrangement for me to live in a mission house as I will start preaching there soon.

Ndaba: Wow son, I'm so happy for you although I wished you should have told me this earlier. But all is good. You

will give me direction to the mission house..I hope you will be thinking about the job offer .

Me:when the Holy spirit agrees baba I will take it . I am now guided by the Holy spirit.

I half smiled as Ndaba frowned. Well I've changed now.I don't do things randomly, I have been called.I do things according to what the holy spirit says.I hope he understand.

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NARRATOR

Thandeka arrived in Durban at 8 am in the morning. She doesn't know any side or corner of this place. She got out of the bus looking around at people going up and down minding their own business.

She tried to look normal not lost walking around up until she found herself at the beach. The sea breeze was refreshing and calming.

She sat down wondering where to from where. Deep in her thoughts, she saw some man selling lollipops and Ice and called him to buy one.

Man: Sawubona MaNdaba. (Greetings MaNdaba)

She raised her eyebrows shocked.

Thandeka : sorry baba uyangifanisa, angiyena u MaNdaba. (Sorry sir you are mistaking me. I am not MaNdaba)

Man: my bad sis ukuthi ungifanela nezingane zika babu Ndaba,ungu mabani Ke mntanami? (My bad lady, just that you look like Mr Ndaba's children. What's your surname?)

Thandeka : MaShezi baba. (Shezi sir).

Man :oh u Sigananda, bamba nayi ice ndodakazi uqede ukoma. (Take this ice and ease the heat)

Thandeka :oh ngiyabonga baba kodwa ngicela ukukhokhela.(Thank you sir but can I pay you?)

Man: ai kulungile mntanami take it as isipho nje. (No it's okay my daughter, take it as a gift)

Thandeka : ngiyabonga, ngizothi ubaba wakabani yena ? (Thank you, since you know my surname what is yours?)

Guy: Ndaba.

Thandeka: lawungifanisa khona? (Where you say I'm from?)

Ndaba: yebo,umfowethu omncane unamatekisi nama business nje. (Yes, my younger brother has taxis and lots of businesses)

Thandeka: so why wena ushiswa ilanga udayisa ama ice? (So why are you here burning in the sun selling ice?)

Ndaba: story for another day ndodakazi, awuyena walapha neh? (Story for another day my daughter. You are not from here right?)

Thandeka: why ubuza? (Why are you asking?)

Ndaba: indlela okhuluma ngayo nokuthi. awumazi u Ndaba and u don't know what happened between us, kodwa ngifunga bakithi belele,ungowakithi wena.(The way you speak and the fact that you don't know Ndaba and what happened between us.

I swear on my late ancestors, you are one of us)

2

~NOKUTHULA~

I was wiping my tears sitting next to my brother's helpless body at the hospital. The sound these machines does was giving me goosebumps.

I still cannot believe that a person I loved, welcomed in my home,Fed her,clothed her did this to my brother.

Thandeka how could you! After everything that my brother has done for you,he sent you to school, paid for your mother's funeral where you were no where to be found with your men and you have the audacity to set his house on fire?

I was so much in pain,my heart was aching, before Bongani passed out when we got here he whispered that Thandeka did this. You should see my brother, half of his body is burned from from his left side of the face down to the leg.

He's in so much pain right that I am even scared that he will make it. Even if he does, how is he gonna live with the fact that he's now like this?

Doctors spoke about the bullets stucked in the spinal cord. Chances of him might not able walk are 99%, but the God we serve will indeed see him through.

I trust and believe that he will be ok,what annoys me is that cops are refusing to open a case against this witch. They are busy saying there is no evidence pointing at Thandeka.I've left her numerous messages and if she finds them,she will know that she's a dead woman walking. She must trade very carefully! !

~--MTHOKOZISI --~

It's been two days since I've been here and I must say its nice, it's a 6 room furnished house, nothing fancy nor old. Just normal beautiful furniture .

The church has organised everything that i need,like a cell phone, clothes and people who are going to help me.

Today I've decided on going to OLundi to check on my grandmother and uncle.I'm sure they will be so thrilled to know that I'm out.I last saw them two years ago when they came to visit me in prison.

I wonder how old is my grandmother. I miss her a lot.

I passed by the town and got few things and got in the taxi,few people recognized me and we started talking.

Well like I said,now I'm careful of what I say.I don't just talk whatever that comes to my mind. I think and reason before I spit any words.

The taxi arrived on my hood I got off and walked. From where we get taxis to my place its a bit distance. From a distance I could see my home and suddenly I had mixed

emotions about this place. Tears streamed down my face I couldn't help it but let them flow.

As I got in the gate, I saw my grandmother sitting down with my uncle on a chair next to her. He looks better than the last time I saw him.

I ran to them and threw myself at my grandmother's thighs and cried. I didn't cry lokokuthi okwendoda ikhalela phakathi kodwa bengibhonsa, even the neighbours came to check what was happening.

Gogo: oh Mthoko mfana wami nguwe lona? hau simakade ngaze ngajabula! Umukhulu wena ongabonwayo!

(Mthoko is this you? Oh Lord I am so happy! Thank to the man above!)

Uncle :hawu mshana uphume nini? (Nephew, when did you get out?)

Neighbours : saze sajabula kukubona Mthoko..u gogo ubekhala nje athi uzoze afe ungakabuyi. (We are happy to see you Mthoko, your grandma was crying saying she will die before you come back)

Well that was everyone taking their turns welcoming me and greeting me. It was overwhelming and exciting at the same time. I didn't know they would still be this welcoming and loving after being away for so long.

I helped gogo get up and we went inside, malume told the neighbours to give us some space to talk as a family.

Me:I'm so happy to be back..

Uncle: kujabula thina mshana..yazi u gogo uke waphupha ngawe few days ago. (We are the ones who are happy, you know your granny had a dream about you few days ago)

Well my grandmother has a prophetic gift,like she can see things before they happen in her dreams. Just that she hasn't realised her gift yet.

It was nice being home.I enjoyed every moment catching up with them.I even told them about my calling and all that,they were happy and supportive.

Gogo told me I need to get married..I'm soon going to be 30 and she want great grandchildren.

I laughed at that because I really don't have time for women.I just want to preach the gospel of God.

We slept in the woo hours of morning because there was a lot to catch up that happened the past four years..I wondered where is MaNdaba and that witch daughter of hers? And that if they didn't ruin my life like they did,where would I be now.?

Probably the richest engineer,married with kids,but hey.I don't doubt God's plan nor regret what happened.I believe that everything happens for a reason,for me to go in prison in order to find my calling and self.

---THANDEKA ---

Durban is always hot. It has been two days now and I'm sleeping in the toilets at garage. I don't have a place to stay. I have been going up and down this place looking for a job.

Well today is my third day, I hope I will get luck. I bathed in the toilets sink and got out.

I was walking around handing over C.V.s when I suddenly bumped to this rich well dressed business man. His suit sould it out that he's rich. His files and papers were scattered all over the ground.

He gave me a deadly stare As I picked his stuff apologizing, when I got up to look at him in the eyes, he frowned.

Ndaba: u look familiar, ngikwazelaphi? (Where do I know you from?)

Me: I'm not sure you do baba because I'm from Johannesburg and I don't know anyone here.

Ndaba: are you sure? Like we have never met anywhere?

Me:I'm sure.I arrived here two days ago,this is my third day.

Ndaba : what are you doing in this place all by yourself?

Me: well it's a long story baba but to cut it short, I am looking for a job. Any job at the moment,I will appreciate it. Even if its making u tea

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or scrubbing floors.

Ndaba:okay, come with me. My wife need a helper. She's heavily pregnant and she recently fired her helper ,I'm sure she will like you.

I felt tears of joy threatening to come out.I composed myself.

Me :thank you sir..God bless you.

Ndaba :don't sweat it...what is your name?

Me:Thandeka Shezi baba.

---MaNdaba ---

I was sitting on the couch with my legs on the coffee table scrolling through my tablet.I'm 7 months pregnant and this baby is big,the way I'm so huge right now, I wonder what I will look like at 9 months.

I'm looking for a house help because the old one stole from us I fired her.I can't rely on my daughter to help Me because usephenduke I nyaope ye ntombazana(turned to a nyaope girl)she's hardly home,she parties every day.

I heard my husband's car pull up outside. I checked the time,it's 12:55. What is he doing here so early?

I stood up clearing the place,he walked in with a beautiful medium size light skinned young lady.

Ndaba: don't worry about it dear. I've found you a helper who's going to help you do that.

Me: oh baba ave uyisthandwa. Sawubona sis.(Oh my husband you are such a darling. Hello dear)

Thandeka: Sawubona ma. (Greetings ma'am)

She looked young and respectful,she's perfect.I need someone I will be able to control not someone who will give me problems .

Ndaba : let me leave you to it guys. Love you will show her around and give her the job description.

Me: don't worry sthandwa, thank you.

I said brushing my tummy, he kissed my forehead and left.

I turned to the girl who's eyes were wondering around.

Me: so nana where are u from?

Thandeka: I'm from Joburg Mama I got this side two days ago.

Me: you said your surname was?

Thandeka: Shezi,Thandeka Shezi.

Me: ok MaShezi ukuthi ungifanela no aunty bezingane zami(you look like my sister's in law) but then it might just be an resemblance. How old are u,?

Thandeka: 22 Ma'am.

Me: very well,perfect! Can you drive?

Thandeka : yes I can.I have a licence.

Me: perfect! Well you look like you need a long warm bath and a meal. Come let Me show you your bedroom, it got

everything you need,a tv and bath room in one. You will only come out to join us when we are eating.

You will be doing cooking,cleaning, ironing, and sometimes I will send you for errands in town hence I asked if you can drive.

We are four in this house, myself, husband, my grandson who's 3years, and my daughter who's never here but I hope you will meet her one day.

I will pay you R10 000 plus medical aid, funeral cover and UIF. Is that ok?

Thandeka : yes ma'am it is very much ok.I didn't expect that, thank you.

MaNdaba : You are welcome . this is your bedroom, take a bath I will be fixing you food and a contract to read and sign. After you are done eating we will go fetch my grandson from the day care centre. You will be the one taking and fetching him as from tomorrow.

I left her in the room and went to the kitchen to make her some food.I like this girl,she's just down.

My door opened and Smangele walked in. She is drunk.

Me:drunk at 1 pm? Smangele is this is how you have turned your life to be? To be a drunkard? You don't want to study, you don't respect the job we give you. You have a child that you don't even know how he's holding up.

Sma: yey don't act holy ngami! You are the reason I'm like this.I'm depressed because you forced me to do things I didn't want to. On top of that you forced me to keep a baby I didn't want, mother I hate you!,

This is the life between me and my daughter, always fighting. I've hoped we would have fixed things by now but no. It's keep getting worse. she only speaks to her dad.

As for her son, shame poor child. His mother gives him attention only if she's forced to..like she doesn't care. She once disappeared a whole year cohibiting at Cape Town, Ndaba had to fetch her back, stil she hated me.

---THANDEKA---

I finished bathing and wrapped my body in a towel, unpacking my back pack. I didn't have much clothes since I left Joburg in a hurry.

The madam and husband seem like good people. I wonder how is the daughter.

I was lotioning my body when a door opened and a girl who was so beautiful but half drunk wearing a uniform walked in.

Sma: hi.. I was told we have a new maid.. I'm Sma.

Me: Thandeka.

Sma : nice. look I've came to tell you that you can clean every room in this house, my room is off limit. I will bring out my laundry to the laundry room and that will be it.

Me: ok..

Sma:good. Welcome to this hell of a house.I hope you last. You look like a decent girl, you don't deserve to be here.

I just half smiled.I didn't know what to say so I turned to wear my top letting off the towel drop, she was still at the door looking at me shocked .I turned now dressed to look at her.

Me:is there a problem?

Sma :no..not really,can I ask you something?

Me:yeah sure.

Sma:how did your get that birth Mark on your rib?

Oh that? When I was a forced prostitute clients used to say I have a beautiful tattoo whereas it wasn't. I grow up with that thing. It is shaped like an earth map.

Me: I was born with it, why?

Sma: nothing.I just think I have something like that too except that mine is on my back. Anyways enjoy your stay, I'm off to sleep.

She closed the door and walked away...I looked at myself on the mirror and shock my head.

Ngathi zisazobuya Lana! I need to get myself a new SIM card and call Nokuthula.I need to know if Bongani died or what.

3

--SMANGELE--

I opened my eyes stretching my arms wiping the sweat. Phew. Sleeping during the day while this hot is never a good idea. But then I am happy sleeping than awake. I mean who could have thought that life could be this difficult for a rich 26 year old lady? Sucks!

I work at the Ndaba hotel because dad forced me to since I have son,a son I never wanted!

Growing up as an only child,I got everything I wanted.I guess the idea of being rich got to my head because even at school I wasn't doing so great but because teachers were tired of me, they kept on pushing me to the next grade untill I got to grade 12.I did pass my matric after repeating It for the second time, dad was threatening to disown me I had to pass!

Well the issue of Mthoko is something that eats me daily, like there's no single day I don't regret it. It's worse because I conceived a child from that predicament. He looks exactly like

him, it was like God was punishing me I swear! Dad named him Mxolisi Ndaba because he hoped uyo sixolisa mina no Mthoko, (bring peace between me and Mthoko).

What my mom and I did was pure witchcraft and jealousy, we were just jealous he was going to do well and be in dad's pocket, because already he was his golden boy.

Ever since then, my life has not been the same. Guilt has been eating me daily. I tried running away where I met my boyfriend in Cape Town who introduced me to drugs, even now I'm using them just to cope.

Dad came and dragged me back to Durban. He messed things up for me back there because now Isaac doesn't want to hear a word from me, he told me if Ngike ngazama nje ngasondela near him uzongidubula and he means it! (Should I try coming near him he's going to shoot me and I know he means it).

He's toxic and abusive as fuck! He once shot me on the arm as a warning. I covered the scar with a tattoo. I don't care about him, my worry is my 6 months baby I left with him. Every day I

look at her pictures and wonder how much she has grown, my parents don't know I have another child, worse with a drug dealer and a junkie. Dad would disown me for real this time around.

I miss her. I guess this is the reason why I can't bond with Mxolisi, a reason I hate my mother so much the reason I'm always drunk and high.

Growing up we were in contact with other family members like abo Anti and

Babomkhulu (aunts and uncles), but something happened between them dad cut them off for good. We no longer visits each other, we just like and comment on each others pics on social media with my cousins, life!

Reason I'm taken back to family and everything, it is because of this new maid. I don't know, first time laying my eyes on her I felt some attachment towards her even though I don't know her. And then the birth Mark, it's exactly like mine. Could it be that she's my long lost sister? But how? Manje ke ngizobuza

bani because asizwani namama?(Who will I ask because I don't get along with my mom?)

And even if she is indeed my sister, my mom will do what she did to Mthokozisi to her, so let me just keep quite and watch her in silent.

---TWO MONTHS LATER ---

--THANDEKA--

Life has turned for better. I'm getting familiar with Durban and its hot weather, kwa Ndaba ngiphetheke kahle kakhulu. I'm more close to u mama wakhona. (The Ndabas are good to me and I'm closer to the wife).

Sma comes and go ,sometimes she will dissapear for a week then comes back. Mr Ndaba will be so mad at her and would shout at her for hours but girl would not be bothered at all.

Ngiyahalela nje ukwazi kuthi (I'm dying to know)what happened between her and the parents,especially her mother because I've never seen someone hates and disrespect her parents like this girl does!

Well I have a new phone, while I was in town the other day I used the public phone to call Nokuthula.

Yoooh, she insulted me and cursed me for days saying izintaba azidibani kodwa abantu bayahlangana.Bongani is still alive and from what I gathered sekayiklabishi nje uhlala ku wheelchair and he's broke.karma bafethu! I don't regret what I did to him,given another chance I will do it shame,this time around making sure he's dead. That man took a lot from me,I hate him.

I was done cleaning and feeding Mxolisi, this lil champ is talkative yoooh. He's a sweet kid and we get along very well, doesn't care about his mother but so attached to his grandparents especially Mr Ndaba.

Madam is due to give birth any day from now on, I mean everything is ready. Mr Ndaba asked us (me and Sma) to make sure she's never alone for long time in case she goes to Labour.

Well leso simo sesenze Sma athi kuba mningi ekhaya. (She's mostly at home because lately of that). Well at least a little bit part of her cares.

I walked out of the house with the hope of chilling by the pool but then I saw her chilling on the chairs under the tree near the garden. I decided against swimming and went to join her.

Me: hi..

She looked up and see it was me and went back to her phone.

Me: do you mind if I join you?

Sma:(rolling her eyes) this yard is so big yazi, you can really make yourself scarce!

Me: I was hoping that we could talk you know,like get to know each other well since we don't know each other. Even though I am the helper around here I take u as my bigger sister and I've always wished to have one,but its ok I will leave you in peace.

I took my things and left,I felt my face very hot I knew I am about to cry. Ever since I've been here Sma hardly talks to me unless she want me to do something for her.I don't want us to be friends or anything,just her ro acknowledge me as a human being too. I guess I'm not the type of girl she hangs out with.

Sma: Thandeka...

She shouted behind me when I was just 5 steps away from her. I turned to look at her.

Sma: I'm sorry, please come back. Join me.

I was hesitant after how she spoke to me, but really I wanted us to get along. I made my way to her and sat down next to her and looked far away, at the gate.

Sma: I'm sorry, I'm such a jerk and you are too kind you don't deserve it.

Me: why are you always like this vele? Moody and rude?

Sma: I don't know.

Me: were you born like this?

Sma: no..not really...yeah I've always been a spoiled brat but I was not always been mean.

Me: what changed you?

Sma: life.

Me: yeah neh..I know. It really can change you.

She looked at me and smiled,first time seeing her smile.

Sma : so since you want us to know each other, do tell me about yourself.

Me: well where do I begin? I'm Thandeka Shezi as you already know,22 years old,no siblings,no family,my mother died few months back.I couldn't even bury her.

Suddenly my cheek bones were wet.I was crying,Sma gave me a tissue to wipe my tears.

Sma: I'm sorry to hear that hey. May her soul rest in peace. I'm sure she was a good person.

Me: not really, but she was still my mother you know. I was hoping when I'm done with my social worker degree I was

going to buy her a beautiful house and move her to it. But then a monster took her away from me.

With that I told her about the Bongani saga. I thought Sma was heartless and didn't care but right there we were both sobbing .

Sma: wow I've always thought I'm the most cruel person on earth kanti kukhona abantu abanje .(There's such evil people out there)

She said wiping her tears away.

Me: why do u think you are cruel?

Sma: well because I am.

She told me about the Mthoko issue and the babies,including the one that her parents knows nothing about.

Me: but you and your mother how can you ruin someone's future like that? With something so sensitive? Do you know how many times I tried to arrest Bongani with no luck? And you go do that?

I was getting irritated,I can't believe MaNdaba.I've always thought of her as this good hearted woman,kanti she's so evil.

What kind of a mother that instruct her child to do this ?

Sma: I'm sorry Thah,I was young and stupid.I listened to my mother and even today I regret this,especially looking at Mxo.I can't even look at him nor touch him.

Me: well tough, you need to woman up and face your consequences! That child is innocent, all he needs is his mother's love. You need to try, you won't get it right overnight but try.

All that matters are efforts, make them! You already missed so much on his life. You don't know how much Time you are left

with to live, use it wisely and also find a way of getting your daughter back.

With the current state of the world we live in

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where women and kids get raped and killed every three hours, angazi ulala kanjani ungazi kuthi ingane yakho ye ntombazana I safe and sound yini.

Do the right thing, be responsible and stop hiding behind the bottle of alcohol. Excuse me.

I knew I needed to be away because I was speaking non stop,unable to breathe.

I just run back to the house to my room and locked myself inside,everything came back and it was too much for me..I cried.

---MTHOKOZISI ---

The past two months with me preaching some times going to places outside Durban have been great. I have met a lot of great people along the way.

The church elders have so much faith in me and it is overwhelming,the church is always packed every Sundays. I am glad to see a great attendance from the youth.

My mentor, The Bishop says I need to get married,since I'm gonna be taking over soon as yena azohamba ayoshumayela kwenye indawo(he's going to be preaching at another place flull time)Ey this getting married issue

doesn't sit well with me. I'm not ready to open up my heart to love someone. I'm more focused on preaching the word of God and teach people about God and make them repent.

Last week I took a 7 days fasting and prayer. God has been revealing a lot of things some that I can't make any sense of.

Like one moment I'm a man on a wheelchair and a young lady kneeling on my knees crying that i help him. While focusing on

that, I saw this other young lady coming at me saying I shouldn't dare, she then takes out the spear attempting to stab the man on a wheelchair, then right there Me Ndaba, calls her name to stop. She turns around to see Sma with a baby boy coming behind Mr Ndaba.

The girl with the spear drops it, ran to Sma and pick the baby but the boy won't stop crying, she then looks at me. I make my way to them, take the child, immediately when he gets to my hands he keeps quite.

I don't know what to make of this dream and I have been having it for like a week now, it's the same dream every morning before I wake up.

I've made a decision of calling Mr Ndaba to come to the mission house, maybe I can get some clarity on some of the things.

One of the girls who sings beautiful in the praise team by the name of Londeka walks in to my office with a tray ,two cups, and all ingredients needed to make tea.

Londeka: Sawubona baba.(greetings Father)

That's how they address me here...and its make me feel so old but Bishop told me its the anointing,bahlonipha logqobo oluphezu kwami,sengize ngiyajwayela.(They are respecting the anointing on me, I am getting used to it)

Me: yebo sis ngiyabonga, (greetings dear, thank you)

She smile getting up and looked at me.

Londeka: kukhona okunye ozokudinga? (Is there anything else you are going to need?)

Me: no sis I think that will be all.

Londeka: ok baba,if you need anything, I mean anything at all,dont hesitate to call me.I will be here to give it to you.

Nayo ke imihlola! I think this girl has a crush on me.I mean she goes out of her way to help me. Sometimes would just come here uninvited saying she's here to clean, she's 19.I need to stop this before its goes out of hand.I don't want another rape scandal.

Me : no Londeka it's fine you May be excused.

She smiled and left the office..I shook my head in disbelief pouring myself a cup of tea while waiting for Mr Ndaba. He should be here anytime now.

Right then a knock came through when I was taking a second sip of my tea.

Me: come in.

Ndaba walked in, his expensive cologne filled up my whole office, he looked good, but there was something off about him. I couldn't place my finger on it.

Ndaba: ndodana, ngaze ngajabula kubizwa nguwe. Angazi noma ngenza iphutha yini mangithi ndodana Noma sekumele ngithi my father nami? (Son, I am so happy to be called here by you. I don't know if I am making a mistake by calling you son, maybe I should call you Father just like they do on TV)

Me: (chuckling) cha baba you don't have to do that . You are the eldest here and ngiyakuhlonipha kakhulu so it won't sound appropriate uma uzothi baba Kimi, uma ngabe ufuna kuhlonipha ugcobo ungamane ungibize ngo Zulu. (You are the eldest here and I respect you a lot. It won't sound appropriate if you are going to say Father to me. If you want to respect the anointing, rather call me Zulu)

We shook hands and he sat down. I offered him the tea and biscuits as we started talking about general stuff nje. I always try

my best to avoid asking questions about his family

whenever we are talking because ngivele ngivukelwe umunyu.(

I get emotional).

I finally found a courage to tell him about my dream, he listened attentively without disturbing me until I was done.

Then he sat back shaking his head.

Ndaba: well Zulu I was meaning to tell you this. I was just waiting for right time for you to settle down.

So there is something I need to be told?

Me: yini leyo baba? (What is that father?)

Ndaba: ei angazi ngizoyiqalaphi Lena(I don't know where to begin with this),erh, after the incident between you and Smangele,she fell pregnant and gave birth to a son I named Mxolisi..

Me:whaaaat? Why I was never told about this?

Ndaba: like I said. I needed sometime to tell you,hence I was pushing for you to work because i knew you had a responsibility.

Me: wow.,babal don't mean to be rude but I need to be alone right now.I need to pray,there are somethings i need to make sense of. I will call you.

Ndaba : of course ndodana, whenever you are ready.

We shook hands and left.my God! What is happening ? I felt the ground I'm standing on turning I sat down digesting everything.

- --NDABA ---

I drove out from the ministry's house to my house. I was busy thinking about the revelation this boy had. So he's indeed a pastor? I mean if akwazi kubamba indaba engaka ephusheni means he's good. (If he can get such a big revelation from the dream it means he's good)

I'm just lost about this other girl with a spear he saw, who is she? I need to contact

Gedlembane and get his own version of this. I need to be ready for everything .

I arrived home and parked outside and walked in.

The whole house was quite. I started panicking thinking that my wife is at the hospital. I went to Sma's bedroom, her door was half opened. I just looked through from outside. What I saw in there melted my heart. She was dressing her kid after bathing him.

Wow! Who are you and what have you done to my daughter ? She was even creating a conversation with him?
Wow i love this.

I moved back and went to check on my wife,she was sleeping peacefully.I closed the door and went to my bar room and took my 18 years old whiskey and poured some on the glass,as I was bringing it up to drink a strong wind came to the room and the glass fell on the ground, suddenly the whole room was spinning and filled with air.

Glembane was here!

He appeared in the wall, looking so annoyed and angry.

Gedle : Ndaba!

Me:baba

Gedle: Ndaba

Me: baba?

Gedle: Ndaba!

Me: yebo baba?

Gedle: how many times have I called u?

Me: three times baba.

I was not looking at him. Theres no wah I you can look at him.
He's scary and ugly .Idon't think I will ever get used to him.

Gedle: you are in hot water my boy, you need to come see me.

Me: baba,uyazi umkami uzobeletha kungekudala i can't leave her here alone for leskhathi engiyaye ngisihambe. (You know my wife is due anytime I can't leave her alone)

Gedle: imohlolo ngiyalingwa! Sengilibeka ulibeke?
Ngikufuna ekhaya lingakashoni elanamhlanje uma ukwazi okukulungele. (Am I being tested? I talk you talk? I want you in my house before the end of today, you will be there if you know what's good for you!)

Me: yebo baba.

Then there was a cold breeze I knew he was gone. I looked up and banged the table. I called Thandeka to come clean this mess.

She came in from her sleep, looks like she was done for the day because she was off from her uniform, wearing a crop top and a jean.

When she bent picking up the glasses I spotted the birth Mark on her body, wait. What the? I mean, NO!

Me: Thandeka?

Thandeka: baba.

Me: that thing on your back...how did you got it,?

Thandeka: (frowning) I was born with it, I have another one....

Me: konje uthi who is your mother ? (You said who was your mom?)

Thandeka: sir..where are you going with all these questions?

Me: no where, never mind me my daughter I'm just getting old. When you are Done here please go pack for me a bag with clothes to last me for a week.

Ndaba : kulungile baba.(Ok sir)

She picked the glasses and leftI couldn't take away the birth Mark on her back from my mind.I ran to her room.I looked around and took her toothbrush and put it in the plastic.I need to get answers before I make assumptions.

--MaNdaba --

I was woken up by someone moving in my room and that made me to open my eyes. Thandeka was packing clothes for my husband .

Me: what are you doing?

Thandeka : uxolo mama, Babu Ndaba uthe angimpakele uzoba nohambo lweviki.(Apologies mother. Mr Ndaba asked that I pack him clothes to last him a week)

Me: imihlola yini kodwa lengiyihlolelwa ngubaba

Smangele? Wazi kahle kuthi this week iviki lami lokubeletha? (What kind of game is Smangele's father playing at? He knows very well that I am due this week!)

I said getting up from the bed furious.

Thandeka : angazi mina mama kuthiwe angipake. (I don't know, I was just following orders).

Me:leave those things I will deal with my husband.

Bese ngiphefumelela phezulu ukuthukuthela (I was breathing heavily because of anger).I wore my sleepers as I wanted to go down and ask him what game is he playing when he walked in.

Ndaba: msindo wani lengiwuzwayo? Thandeka awukaqedi kupaka namanje? (What's this noise about? Thandeka, you haven't packed my bag even now?)

MaNdaba : she's not making a mistake kanti vele umthumile? Ndaba unghlolelani kodwa.(What are you doing to me?)

I couldn't finish my sentence, i felt a burning sensation on my back and my water broke.I screamed out loud.Ndaba pooped his big eyes out.

Ndaba: Thandeka!

Thandeka: yebo baba..

Ndaba: go tell Smangele it is time and get the car ready.

Thandeka didnt waste time and left the room.Ndaba came to hold my hand.

Ndaba: yehlisa umoya nkosikazi we will get to the hospital soon in time.

Me: ungangishiyi baba please. (Don't leave me)

Ndaba: angeke mkami.(I won't my wife)

4

---NDABA---

What was happening was driving me insane.I knew this week was my wife's week to give birth but I didn't think that

its going to be THE Same day Gedlembane want me home with.

Sma came running to our bedroom and met us on the door while my wife was moving slowly.

Sma : mom,dad. Is it time?

Me: yes Angel please help me get your mom's delivery bag.

Sma: ok dad.

She said running inside our bedroom.

My wife was now sweating busy brushing her back.I was helping where I can because I could see that she's in pains. We finally got outside, the car was parked and ready to hit the road.

Sma came with the bag and opened the back door we helped her mother in.

Sma: sis I need to go with my mother to the hospital, please look after Mxo..urhm my son?

Thandeka : its ok, you don't even have to ask. Go be there with your mother.

They hugged briefly and Sma hooped on the car,as I was getting on the drivers seat,I saw Gedlembane on my garage door,he didn't look happy at all.I chose to ignore him and drove out of the yard.

---MTHOKOZISI---

It's been a day now since Ndaba has told me about having a son. I still can't believe this. I'm someone's father?

Why did they kept it from me? Is this some sort of trap? Like what is happening? But I wouldn't dream it if it wasn't real right?

And my spirit is not at peace about this. I couldn't sleep yesterday. I kept seeing Mr Ndaba in this fire, something is going on in his life, something deep.

I took my phone trying to call him but it sends me straight to voicemail, I wonder what is it? If I still don't get him, tomorrow morning I will wake and up and go to his house. About the child issue, well I will have to run a DNA test to prove if he's mine. Lord forgive me but I need to be sure.

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It was now 13 hours later but still MaNdaba was still in Labour, like she would get ready the next thing the baby will go back.

Such was strange, and has not been seen anywhere. Doctors called Ndaba to the office to tell him that his wife's life and that of his son are at risk. Ndaba was over the moon that he was getting a son, he always prayed for a son to take over his legacy because Smangele isn't responsible.

The doctors told him they can only save one soul, could be the wife or child. He had like 4 hours to make a decision.

This was a very hard one to make. Ndaba turned black, navy and grey at the same time.

He asked to be excused as he needed to think this through. He left Smangele at the hospital and drove out to Gedle's house, his eyes puffy red.

Gedle : I was starting to think you are avoiding me Ndaba.

Ndaba: be realistic Gedle, I'm dealing with a lot right now. I'm at a verge of losing someone I love dearly, please help me.

Gedle : ei Ndaba kuloku kunzima ndoda, the price you have to pay is heavy, remember you owe me., remember the deal we made that every male child you conceive is mine to sacrifice with so that your wealthy can grow?

Ndaba : no no Gedle I Refuse this time, this is my 3rd son you want to take, this is going to break my wife. At least before she had miscarriages now she carried this baby full term, she has to hold him. You can take my life for theirs Gedle please I beg of you.

Ndaba was now crying kneeling down. Gedle shook his head and threw his bones on the ground busy chanting and singing strange things.

Gedle : are you sure that you want to sacrifice your life for them to live?

Ndaba :yes anything please.

Gedle : there is another way out.

Ndaba: what is it? .

Gedle : the girl in your house is your ticket. You can appease my ancestors with her blood but then you will have to get me two virgin girls for the lives of your wife and son, but hers will do for now.

This hit Ndaba hard, he liked the girl and the fact that he suspected she is his child doesn't help him. But he was desperate, he was trapped in a rock and hard place.

Gedle : go Ndaba, you have three hours to bring her to me. Take this, blow it when you enter your house and rub this on your face. She will fall asleep immediately.

Ndaba took the stuff with his sweaty hands and walked out, he was driving slowly busy thinking what has he done is now

catching up on him. Now he has to kill the girl he think is his daughter, as he was driving out he received a call that his wife is complicating he turned the car and drove straight to the hospital.

---THANDEKA --

it's now morning,still no word from the hospital.I'm very worried about her. Yesterday when Sma came to get new clothes you could tell they didn't sleep.

I'm starting to suspect that whatever that's happening its kind of a spiritual problem.I mean the doctors can't find anything wrong with her.

It's now 8: 30 am I've just came from dropping Mxo from his day care and I've started with my duties although my body is feeling a bit down.

At 10: 00 someone is at the gate so i open for them. They drove in,a man around 50s almost Ndaba 's age came out with

another guy whom I looked and felt so dizzy. He looked so familiar like I've seen him somewhere.

They sat down afree greeting me.

Mtho:I'm Mthokozisi Zulu and this is Bishop P Nhleko.

Me :ngiyabula kunazi mfundisi nawe Bishop. (Happy to know you Pastor and you Bishop).

Mtho: size kubantu abadala balayikhaya singabathola? (We are here for the elders of this house. Can we get them?)

Me: no,they left two days ago to the hospital after MaNdaba was in Labour but still she hasn't delivered the baby.

Bishop: Jesus Christ what is the matter?

Me: I don't know,but i heard Smangele saying the doctors told her father he has to make a choice to save one life.

Mtho: baba..we have came here for something else but I think right now we need to rush to the hospital,this is what I've been dreaming about.Sis, do you mind coming with us?

Me: ok give me five minutes to change .

I said running to the bedroom to change to more decent clothes.

---MTHOKOZISI ---

Coming back to this house has brought a lot of memories,good and bad but mostly bad.

As we drove in i felt a heavy burned on my shoulder like someone has put this huge rock on my back to carry.

As we walked in side,a beautiful lady who always appears on my dreams welcomed us and told us about the dilemma this family is facing.

Looking into her eyes

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there's something deep ngaye,especially her origin and she look like Ndaba,could it be what I think it is?

Either way let me leave that for now and face the situation at hand.

We arrived at the hospital and found Sma crying on the bench,after 4 years,she look miserable, more like she is suffering. I know her family is well off,she's suffering for her deeds.

If I wasn't a Christian that I am right now, I would jump and strangle her there but no.I'm not here for that.I could see that she was shocked and scared to see me there.

This lady we are with who introduced herself as Thandeka Shezi ran to Sma and they hugged.

Me: Sawubona MaNdaba .

Sma : MTHO...oh my God..I'm so sorry

Me: shhh now it is not the time for that,me and you have to talk, a lot even. For now I'm not here for that,this is my Bishop, we would like to see your father.

She wiped her tears and led us to the ward.

Ndaba was holding a document I assume he had to sign in order to agree that one of them must be saved and the other crucified.

Me: Mr Ndaba you will do no such thing! You are not going to sign anything.

Everyone turned and looked at me..I could see that the doctors were thinking I'm crazy.

Dr: excuse me but we are running out of time here,look at the woman here,We need to move!

I looked at MaNdaba,she was pale,her stomach so big it could burst anytime.I ignored them.

Me:baba,a word with you please .and you guys Dont you dare start anything before We are back .

We took Ndaba to the nearest office and locked the door,it was him, me and my Bishop.

Me: Ndaba, you know what is going on.I will no go into details because we don't have time. Right now I need you to make a choice, and you have to make it now.

Ndaba: anything to see my family alive.

Me: you need to repent when I say repent I don't mean temporarily. I need to deliver You from all the dark world and powers surrounding you. Your wife and child will live but it's all relaying on you to repent, admit your sins and confess them to Jesus. I must warn you though, everything and anything obtained ngamandla obumnyama will be scattered and destroyed including your riches Ndaba. Are you ready?

Ndaba :for the lives of my children and wife.I'm ready to loose it all.

Me: very well then.Baba, I guess we can start the process so that we can go save the woman.

Bishop: yes we can start ndodana.

The deliverance of Ndaba took the whole two hours,he was burning crying and confessing his sins. some were scary,things he had to do to get those riches were beyond wicked but I

know that the Lord we serve is kind and honest enough to forgive us all our trespasses as long as we admit to our sins completely .

Noma zibomvu njengegazi yena uyakuzihlanza zibe mhlophe njengeqhwa

Ndaba vomited lot of scary things in the bucket. His roars and groans sent the hospital in awe, he vomited blood, some meaty stuff, and finally this huge dark shadow came out from his body. The time it came out, it nearly took his soul hence he was drained and out after.

I opened the door called the other doctors who standing at the corridor scared wondering what is happening to come get Ndaba admitted immediately because he's losing power. I knew he's going to be ok.

We rushed to MaNdaba's ward...bekayobayoba asha asajuluke amanzi nte.(Panting up and down, very sweaty).

Mtho:mama

MaNdaba : MTHO

MTHO : it shall be well..

MaNdaba :(screams)

Mtho: I need you to do something for me

MaNdaba :(moans out loud)

MTHO : I want you to say these words after me...

MaNdaba : ok...ok..

Mtho: Lord I come to you..

MaNdaba : baba ngiza kuwe

MTHO : ngingumntwana wakho ngonile(I am your child I've sinned)

MaNdaba: ngingumntwana wakho ngonile. ..oh God this is painful

Mtho: baba ngiyazivuma izono zami engizaziyo nengingazazi.(Father I admit to my sins, the ones I know and dont know)

MaNdaba : Lord I admit my sins. .engizaziyo nengingazazi.

Mtho: I give my life to you and ask for forgiveness .

MaNdaba : nginekela impilo yami kuwe ngicela noxolo.

I placed my hand on her tummy

Mtho: baba egameni lakho Jehovah ..we call up unto you now Lord,we ask that your will be done. God we ask for your mercy. Forgive her oh Lord. Your power and your existence let be shown to her and everyone right now in the might name of Jesus! Lord.

I deliver her from any spirit of darkness.I command them to come out from her body in the might name of Jesus I say OUT you spirit of darkness and witchcraft. .OUT now! This is not your place. Get out! This body is covered and protected by the blood of Jesus so you are going to leave her right now!

I took my bible and hit her stomach with it.

Me: hey hey hey you spirit darkness..ngibiza amandla ka Jehovah ngibiza umlilo oqothulayo and I say burn leave this body now.!...release her oh my God...free her Jesus.

Everyone in that room was watching scared as MaNdaba was crying jumping up and down,then a strange thing happened. A big black smoke in a form of a snake came out from her private part. The doctors and nurses screamed moving back to the door.

I called out the name of Jesus three times the smoke vanished through the window, the screams from MaNdaba were now low and her breathings higher.

I looked at the doctors and everyone was shocked.

Me:get her ready to deliver.

I walked out of that ward and met Sma and Thandeka holding hands together praying.

Me: Thandeka.

Thandeka: yes mfundisi.

Me: can I hold your hand?

She gave me her hand.I hold it.I felt fire burning my hand..I felt dizzy.I let go, as I was falling my Bishop caught me.Sma caught Thandeka before she hit the ground.

As we regained our conciousness,we heard baby's cries coming from the ward.

My Bishop and I knelt down with tears streaming down my face.

Me: thank u Lord,all praises goes to you, let your name be praised!

As we said Amen Sma received a phone call ,few minutes later I saw her collapsing,we rushed to her and helped her get up.

We sat her down on the benches,she looked shaken.

Sma : I just received a call that dad's 30 taxis got Burned but no one suffered injuries from that fire.

I knew that the operation khuculula has began.

5

• God is my strength of my heart and my portion forever"~ Psalm 73:26

--MTHOKOZISI --

What was happening right now was a true proof of the saying that says " easy come easy go".

I watched as Sma going crazy over the news she received about her father's taxis, deep down I knew worse was coming. Everything I mean everything obtained through darkness will perish.

Me: erh Bishop, my work here is done. Let us go.

Sma : MTHO kancane nje, (a moment please)

Me: yes..?

Sma: uhm..about Mxolisi..

Me: oh..here's my card, make an appointment and come see me. I have to go, congratulations on being a big sister.

She smiled briefly I walked away. I saw their helper, looking kinda lost her back against the wall.

Me : are you ok?

Thandeka: yes I'm fine, just a bit dizzy. I think I have a headache. I will drink some meds and be okay.

Me: let me just touch your forehead you will be fine, you don't need those pills.

I touched her head, the same electric feeling I experienced struck, I took steps backward wondering what is the meaning of this?

Tha: you really good. I feel Better instant.

Me: praises to God who makes it all possible.

I just chuckled trying to hide the shock I was receiving from the reaction every moment our bodies collided.

I said my goodbyes and walked away getting in the car and the Bishop started it driving out.

Bishop: what is going on between you and that girl?

Me: which one baba?

Bishop : both of them if I may ask?

Me: oh nothing..but ingane ka Ndaba ngine history nayo. (But me and Sma have history)

Bishop : fix this history nalentombazana Zulu before its destroys you.

Me: yebo baba..

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---NDABA---

I woke up in a hospital bed,I kicked the bed covers and wore my clothes.I felt different,more lighter than before, a huge weight was lifted off me.I run to my wife's ward.

I saw her breastfeeding our son,mixed emotions took over but I am a man I controlled them walking up to them.

Me:oh mkami..ekugcineni. (oh my wife, finally)

MaNdaba :ekugcineni baba yazi bese ngilahle ithemba,we should thank Mthoko...(At long last much husband, I have lost hope)

Me:indeed,sizothi ubani igama lakhe..? (Which name are we giving him?)

MaNdaba :Mthobisi,uwathobisile amanxeba umfana wami.(
He has healed my heart)

Me:beautiful name nkosikazi,welcome to the world
Mthobisi Ndaba.

We smiled at him,then my phone rang disturbing me from
my family moment. It was Gedle, he's been calling.
Avoiding him won't help.

I walked out to answer.

Me:hello

Gedle:ucabanga ukuthi uhlakaniphile neh? Wait and watch
as everything scatters and scrambles on your feet and
don't you dare come to me crying nxxx.

He hung up leaving me shocked. I saw my daughter making her way to me crying.

Me: Smangele yini?

Sma:baba, the guest house e Mhlanga ivele yasha nayo.(
The guest house at Mhlanga also burned)

Me: what do u mean ivele yasha nayo? (What do you mean it also burned?)

Sma: you haven't heard? Baba, your 30 taxis, garage, now guest house all of them in a space of 30 minutes burned down to ashes. What's weird about all of this is that no one died in this fire or harmed.

I felt my hair shrinking and my legs vibrating, what am I going to do?

Clearly I'm losing it all. Gedle's words came back. I just had to be strong for my daughter. I hugged her then released her to go in see her mother.

I walked out to my car and started it going to my house.

I drove in and found THANDEKA feeding Mxo. I walked past her to my office. I needed a strong whiskey to tackle and think about this.

I tried drinking it; it tastes like urine. Fuck what is happening?

My phone vibrated. I answered, it was the CEO in one of the mines I invested my shares into, they were buying me out. With the board's vote against me, I had no choice!

I sat down wondering what's gonna be of me?

I called Mthokozisi, he's the only person who can give me a logic explanation in this.

Mthoko:baba

Me:ndodana, kuyabheda. (It's bad)

Mthoko :I know, it's gonna get worse,because even the house you are living into is on the list.

Me:no. No..no..no Zulu I cant loose this house too! I've lost a lot already, please mfana wami if you have a way to stop this

from happening please do.I can't loose this house. Where will my family go to?

Mtho : everything is on your hands baba,I've done my part. You shouldn't worry about the

things you are losing. Trust God, all shall be replaced. Jobe lost everything even his wife. Wabeka ithemba lakhe kujehova and umvuzo wokuthembeka waphindwa kasikhombisa.

Nawe konke loku kobuya kuphindiwe and the best part about it, kobe kubuya ku Jehovah. (He entrusted Jesus and the reward of his loyalty was multiplied 7 times. All that you have lost will come back and the best part of it, all will be from God)

I was now crying, they say men don't cry but this was too much. I was afraid, afraid of this new change that's coming.

Me: I'm not Jobe son please help me. I can't loose it all. I can't loose my family please.

Mthoko: There's one sin you don't want to confess, call a family meeting. Sit them down, tell them everything then maybe I mean maybe God can have mercy on you.

Eix now that was tricky. How do i tell my family this?I told Mthoko I will call him again and hung up.

I walked outside just for fresh air then an unexpected. My jaguar just exploded and was on fire.I realised that this was too deep than I anticipated, I needed to act fast before I am left with nothing.

I dialled numbers on my phone.

Mthoko:that was fast...

Me :kulungile I will talk,tonight. Can you come to my house?

Mthoko :Lena idinga wena nomndeni wakho,ayisangifuni mina.I can only come after.I don't think ngi ready ukuzwa ezinye zezinto owazenza.

Me:eix ok it's fine. let Me go get my family.

Mthoko :all the best of luck, I will be praying for you.

I took my car keys of the other car,started it and drove back to the hospital .Luckily for me my wife and baby were healthy so we signed discharged forms and drove back home.

I called all of them in the lounge.

Me:uhm I think I need to explain to everyone what is happening.

MaNdaba :I'm getting notifications left right and centre baba, our employees are freaked out. We are in debts in a blink of an eye,what is happening?

Me:mkami if you can give me a chance to explain. Thank you.

Ok so i will try to cut to the Chase,this wealth and everything I have,I obtained it through black magic.

Them :angizwanga? (We beg your pardon?)

Me:yes,a lot was done to get this good and fancy life.I killed people,women and kids. The reason I don't get along with my siblings its because I sacrificed my mother ,when my elder brother found out, I turned him into a useless thing since I couldn't kill him. As you can see him roaming the streets selling ice.

Them:hai bo!

Thandeka:guys this is too deep for me.I'm not family please excuse me.

Me:Thandeka sit down! So another thing my wife I've been responsible for your miscarriages,I sacrificed those kids for money and reputation.

MaNdaba :Jehovah! Ernest,who are you?

Sma :angiyikholwa le!to think that sihleli nomzala ka devil landlini! Wow! Baba I'm shocked. (I don't believe this! So we are living with the devil's cousin?)

Me: that is not all.Thandeka,to you.I'm sure you have heard rumours,saw signs.I was hoping that I will do some tests to confirm this but there's no time.

Thandeka uyindodakazi yami...ukusuka kwakho egoli uze Lana kwakungelona iphutha,uNkulunkulu was bringing u to your roots. (Thandeka you are my daughter, you moving from Joburg to this was not a mistake. God was bringing you home)

MaNdaba : ithi uyadlala! Ernest, njengoba lengane incane nje kuno Sma! (Please tell me you are joking! This girl is younger than Smangele!)

Me: mkami ngiyaxolisa kwenzeka iphutha. (My wife I apologise

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I did a mistake and..)

Thandeka : yima ke wooh,ibambe lapho My mother said I am a product of rape. Did you force yourself on her?

MaNdaba and Sma : ini? Ai cha kuyenyukela! Baba tell us its not true?

Me: (facing down) it is true.look I had my own demons that time., sleeping with her was part of my ritual .I had to release

something off me to a stranger. Unfortunately you were created, but I'm happy you were, I mean...

Thandeka: just shut the Fuck up..I hate you. Do you know the curse you planted on me ngalento owayenza? I've been a victim of rape countless times, even the justice system failed me.I hate you. You are not my father but a monster..

She ran away to her room.MaNdaba's face was round and red from all the anger..

Sma stood up disgusted. She followed Thandeka up.

MaNdaba just walked to the main bedroom and started packing.

Me: mkami let us talk about this please.,we can still fix this. I am trying to change.

Mandaba: I don't have time for this Ernest.I've heard enough..uma ngingaqhubeka ngihlale Lana my head is next to be sacrificed.

I can't believe you ,all those painful moments I endured. Crying my eyes out on the hospital every Time I miscarried you comforting me kanti it was all a lie.nxx I hate you.I'm taking my kids and we are out of this hell house, dont you dare come near us.

I tried touching her she pushed me and I fell my head hitting the corner of a dressing table.I felt a sharp pain where I hit my head at.MaNdaba walked away not even checking up on me clicking her tongue.

---THANDEKA ---

I remember growing up with my mother hating me.I remember her telling me how I was conceived,how the man who did this to her showed no mercy.

I've always wished to meet the man And for him to tell me its not true,little did I know the man I've got to love and respect So much is my father. I am having such mixed emotions.

After the confession I've locked myself in this room crying,the loud banging and knocks on the door felt very far like as I was drown in my own sobs.

I may have passed out because I saw myself dreaming. My mother was smiling at me holding my hand, right then Ndaba came to us, my mother looked at me then told me to go to him.I was refusing but she begged me to.I made my way to him then I woke up.

I wiped the sweat standing up going to the door.I saw an envelope and a letter. It was signed Sma. I went back to the bed opening it and read it.

"Thandeka..I've always known you are my sister,from the way we clicked and connected first time we spoke.

I accept you as my younger sister and truly wish to build a relationship with you. Feel free to contact me or join us, my mother and I are moving back to her parent's till we come up with a decision, the kids are with us. Here's some money, go rent a flat in town while we are figuring things out.

Love

Your big sis Smangele "

I took the envelope plus the letter and walked to the main bedroom. I was hoping Ndaba is still around.

I needed some answers. I then saw him laying there in a pool of blood coming from his head. I panicked. I check his pulse he was still alive. Thank God.

Heavy and big as he was. I dragged him to the front, ran to the drawer that had all the first aid kits.

After so much work I managed to stop the bleeding and dressed the wound.

I struggled getting him to the sleeping couch because his bed was too big and high I wouldn't be able to get him on it.

I cleaned the floor and threw the bloodied water on the drain,he should be ok now.

I sat on the bed watching him...after an hour or so thinking of pouring water on him, he coughed touching his head clenching his jaw.

I gave him headache tablets,he looked at the time on the wall watch, we were shocked to see that it was 21:32.

I walked out to my room.

I also packed my clothes, first thing tomorrow morning I'm leaving this place.

--MTHOKOZISI ---

I was in my office doing a daily routine with my mind not concentrating. I was thinking how did it go the other day with Ndaba and his family. I've been trying to call him since that day and yesterday but his phone is off.

There was a knock on my door. I looked up, Sma walked in. I paused what I was doing and looked at her.

Me :hi

Sma:hi..I'm sorry I didn't know where to go.

Me:its okay, come in. You may sit down. How do I assist you?

Sma: MTHO before we go far, I just want to apologize for everything I did to you. I know I ruined your life for full four years. I don't have words or excuses to defend my actions. I just want to apologize and hope that you and Mxo can have a father and son relationship since now we're not with dad...

Me: about that... I will ask that we do a DNA test on the boy to confirm if he's mine.

Sma: do you really have to though? Ingoba ungamboni kuthi ufana nawe? (Can't you see he looks like you?)

I raised my eyebrows in disbelief. Lentombazana icabanga kuthi ngizophinde ngikholwe into ekhulunywa yiyo after lento angenza yona? I cleared my throat

Me:Smangele if you want me to have a relationship with the boy we will do the DNA test. Now if you will excuse me.I need to be somewhere.

I said taking the car keys. The Bishop left one of the cars behind for me to use..

Sma:ain't you gonna pray for Me?

Me: sis I'm being led Bythe holy spirit,angenzi nje ngokuthanda kwami.I can't pray for you unless the holy spirit tells me to,and before you think its because of our history, no its not.

Sma:ok..I'm Sorry.

Me: no problem,ngicela siphume sihambe. (Get up let us leave).

We walked out, she went to her car got to mine and we drove our separate ways.

I drove straight Mr Ndaba's house.I arrived and hooted at the gate,moment later it opened.

I parked the car outside and made my way inside.I was met by Thandeka.I was shocked to see her here. I thought she left.

Me:hi

Thandeka :hi please come in.

Me: thank you, how are you?

Thandeka :I am well pastor given the circumstances.

Me:I didn't expect to see you here but I'm happy you are here, how is Mr Ndaba?

Thandeka :not so good.I wanted to leave too because I was way angry but i realised I'm all he has you know, so if I leave who's going to be with him? We spoke yesterday a lot I guess I've found closure.

This lady bakithi..right now I'm looking at her lips moving as she's speaking but I'm actually looking at the dept of her heart,she's smart and has a heart of gold.

Me:I'm glad to hear that nkosazane. Can I see him?

Thandeka :yes of course;he has been asking for you. Follow me.

We walked to the main bedroom.Ndaba was under bed covers, eix seeing my role model and the man I admire this broken broke my heart.

Me:sis please get me a glass of plain clean water please.

Thandeka : ok.

She walked out and came back with it..

I took half of it and poured it on my hand before sprinkling it all over him.

Me:with this water I speak healing and deliverance. You spirit of failure and guilty I cast you out now,leave this man of God,let him free so that he can start over. Ndabafear Not my father, God has heard your prayers,he has seen your heart,how sorry you are, you are free and healed.

In Jesus mighty name

I prayed and we left the bedroom to the lounge as Thandeka insisted on making lunch for me.

Thandeka :so nawe ungulomfundisi who perform miracles? (Are you the pastor that perform miracles?)

Me: hahaha not really sis, you see with my gift neh, it is to cast out demons and seeing. I can see the past and future.

Thandeka: for real?wow that's awesome. I wish I had such gift too.

Me: you do. Are u aware that you should be a pastor's wife one day?

Thandeka: ubani? Mina? Mama mfundisi? Wuuh angeke! (Who? Me? Pastor's wife? Never!)

Me: please give me your hand.

She handed it over to me.I held it,this time the burning was too much but I hold on.I felt her blood circulating moving from hers to mine.

Me: please look at me Thandeka.

She did, then looked down closing her eyes.

Me: I see pain..I see regrets, anger, questions. You were raped by someone you trusted.

Who is Bongani?

She let go of my hand immediately as I said that name.

Thandeka: he's back in jozi why?

Me: no thing. I can't say much, all in good time, here's my number. Please call me wherever you or your dad need my help.

Thandeka : okay thank you.

Me : kubonga mina MaNdaba.

I stood up and walked out getting in my car and drove out.

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NARRATOR

THREE DAYS LATER

Ndaba was now feeling better. He was able to get out from bed and take a bath, the past few days he has been really sick. Thandeka has been taking care of him. Sma called her to leave but she told them she's staying.

Sma and Mthoko did a DNA test and indeed he was Mxolisi's father.

---THANDEKA ---

I was now happy that my father is recovering, today we ate supper together at the dining table, kungekudala uzobe sekazihambela without the stick(sooN he will be able to move around without the walking stick)

I thank Mthoko and his prayers,speaking about him,maybe I should call him and let him know about dad's condition.

I dialled his number,it's rang four times with no answer till I hung up.

Maybe he's sleeping.I mean its past 9 already.I took a shower and got in my bed trying to sleep. My phone rang disturbing me.

Me: hello

A male bold sexy voice replied on the other side.

Mthoko: hi...I missed your call.

I sat up and checked my phone. Shit! Mthoko! Ngezwa ngishaywa uvalo ngijuluka. (My heart raced and I had this cold sweat on my back)

Me: oh hi. sorry if I've Disturbed you from your sleep.
It's Thandeka.

Mthoko : bengingalele sisi bengithandaza, ukahle?(I wasn't sleeping but praying, are you okay?)

Me: yes I'm ok, I just wanted to let you know that dad is recovering well.

Mthoko : we thank God for that sisi. I am glad for the feedback.

Me: ok that was all, sleep well

Mthoko: wait...if you are not busy I would like to invite you and your dad to imvuselelo ezobe sinayo this Saturday kule branch entsha Bishop ayivulayo.

Me: hmmm let me check with dad then let you know.

Mthoko: kulungile MaNdaba,ulale kahle. (That's fine, sleep well)

Me: goodnight.

I hung up and exhaled loud with my palms sweating. Phew.
Let me sleep

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---THANDEKA---

I was making breakfast when Ndaba , or should I say dad, came to sit on the table,he's getting much better and I'm happy. Each and every day we are building our relationship and getting closer to each other.

I'm so sleepy.I didn't sleep at all,I've been up all night chatting with Sma ngama night shifts and I must say its really nice having her as my big sister,she's even encouraging me to finish up my social worker degree,a whole Sma and school work encouragement? Seems like Pastor Mtho's prayers are doing wonders in this family.

Ndaba : kusile ndodakazi(good morning my daughter)

Me:kusile baba nivuka njani? (Good morning Dad, how are you doing this morning?)

Ndaba : ai ngincono kakhulu namuhla ntombi and ngifuna ukuya ekhaya,e Mandeni kengiyolungisa izinto. (I'm much better today my day.i want to go home in Mandeni to fix things)

Me: wow Kuhle loko baba..but are you sure you are fit to drive? I mean I can drive you. (Wow that's great father)

Ndaba: cha kulungile mntanami ngizohamba,kuningi okumele kukhulunywe kuxazululwe,please pack a bag for me ngoba kungesengenzeka ngihambe izinsukwana I hope angeke usabe? (It's okay my dear, there's a lot to talk about and fix things. Please pack a bag for me because I might be gone for a while. I hope you won't be afraid of being alone here?)

Kusamele ngibatshela nangawe kuyima ke ngikwethula kibo.(I need to tell them about you before I introduce you to them)

Me: kulungile baba,do what you have to do and when you are done you will find me here, endabeni yokusaba..no angisabi I will be ok.

Ndaba : ok ntombi unjani udadewenu? Uthi unjani unyoko nezingane? I miss them.(Ok my dear, how is your sister? How is your mother and the kids?)

Me: I miss them too baba especially Mxolisi, they are good, give them time they will come back. They are still frightened.

Ndaba: ukhulumisa okwa Zulu yazi,ngiyabonga mntanami. (You are speaking like Zulu. Thank you my child)

Me: speaking of Zulu baba,he invited us to some church seminar or celebration I'm not sure that will take place in Durban next week Saturday so I don't know if we can go?

Ndaba: lomfana usengenzele lukhulu wangisiza Futhi kokuningi so i don't see why not, tell him sizoz, he should just send us an address. (That boy has done a lot of great things and helped me a lot so I don't see why not.tell him we'll come)

Me: ngizokwenza njalo baba. (I will do exactly that father).

---NOKUTHULA---

I was chilling at home watching Dumisa Tv when my favourite Bishop Nhleko announced that he will be having a huge revival at Durban where he's opening and launching another branch there. I love this man, be blessed my soul and his teachings together with sermons always find a way in my heart.

I can say that I'm slowly changing to be a Christian and I believe through me my brother will be saved.

I'm taking Bongani to that service. I've heard that Pastor Zulu, Bishop's third spiritual son will also be preaching there, together with Apostle Mncendisi Ngema.

Rumour says Pastor Zulu is good like Bishop Nhleko, some believe he's more powerful than him so I really have hope that with him there, my brother will be healed and saved. All I need to do is do bookings early so that by Thursday we can fly there

since the service is on Saturdays the whole day. Friday we will be exploring Durban.

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A. Man

deni.. -

Kwa

Ndaba-

Ndaba omkhulu, who's Ernest's father was sitting next to his old house reading a newspaper when Ernest 's car pulled over.

He took off his glasses just to make sure if he sees clearly, it's been 7 years since Ernest stopped coming home or making any contact..

Ernest got out of the car.Ndaba noticed that he's no longer the same, something have changed in him even though he can't pin point it.

Ernest: siyakhuleka ekhaya ka Ndaba,

Mwelase,

Mthiyane,

Mhlungu,

Longode wena ongaweli ngazibuko

owela ngempambosi zomfula,masinga

asilele.Ndabezitha umuntu akacedwa!

Ndaba : mameshane! Ngabe ngibona kahle

ngempela? Ndodana nguwe lo? (Are my eyes deceiving me? Son, is this really you?)

Ernest: ewu baba imina ngempela. (Yes father, it's me).

His father stood up from the chair to shake his hand,when he was sure its him,wavele wakhala waklewuza, kwaphuma wonke umuntu endlini ezobheka kuthi lidliwa yini ikhehla bakithi. (He cried so loud that everyone came out of the house to check what's eating up the old man)

His elder brother Wilson and sisters Nomzamo and Ntombifuthi were shocked to see him there.

Nomzamo: imihlola! Lizoduma ebusika izulu! Ufunani Lana wena? (Wonders shall never end! There will be thunder and lightning in winter! What are you doing here?)

Ntombi: buza uliphinde Dade...yazi mina bese ngesicininiseko sokuthi lona akasayazi indlela eza lapha. (Ask again my dear sister, I was so sure that he has forgotten an address to come here)

Ndaba: ake nehlise umoya zingane zami,ngiyazi kuningi okusamele kukhulunywe kodwa mina ngijabulela nje kuthi imithandazo Yami izwakele,indodana yami seyibuyile ekhaya. (Please calm down my children, I know there's a lot to talk about but I am just happy that my prayers have been heard. My son is back home)

Kuzomele ngishise impepho emsamo ngisthele abadala ngalendaba awu ngaze ngajabula bakithi.(I need to burn an incense and inform my ancestors about this. I am so happy)

Wilson : impela imihlola ayibhulwa yonke kungaphela imali! Baba after yonke lento lona ayenza lakhaya ummukela ngezandla ezimhlophe? (After everything he did, you are going to welcome him with warm hands?)

Ernest: mfwethu mina angizanga ngempi Lana,kepha ngize ukuthi sizoxoxa silungisane siphinde sibe nobudlelwano futhi. (My brother, I am not here to fight,but I'm here to talk to you all and fix things and our relationship)

Nomzamo: after you cut us off in your life bhuti? Khona manje kwazi bani kuthi uqinisile kulento oyishoyo? Mhlambe nje uzolanda ikhanda lomunye wethu ukuze ucebe Futhi ! (Who knows you are being genuine? Maybe you are here to get one of our heads so that you can be rich again!)

Ernest: dade akunjalo, angisekho lapho mina,sengasindiswa. (My sister, that's not true. I am no longer doing those things . I am now a born again Christian)

Wilson : (laughing) niyangizwisa bodade? Uthi sewasindiswa! (Did you hear that? He says he's a born again!)

They laughed out so loud.

Ndaba: Sekwanele! Ngenani endlini nihlale phansi nimamele nimuzwe kuthi uthini then sonke singabhodla ngendlela esifuna kubhodla ngayo. (Enough! Get inside and sit down, give him a chance to say what he wants to say and after that all can express how we feel)

Wilson: kulungile singangena endlini,kodwa baba lokumtotosa kwakho lona yikho loku okwamenza wanje. (It's fine we can get inside the house. But this thing of treating this one like an egg is the reason why he has turned out to be like this.)

The family went inside the house.

--NARRATOR ---

Ernest Ndaba's trip to Emandeni was successful,although there was a lot of argument and swearing with tears,they managed to break the grudge and forgave each

other,bathelelana amanzi and promised on fixing their relationship as umndeni,kids were called kuzobona umalume no babomncane wabo okukade agcina ekhaya.

Before he Left wabashiyela I cheque of R100 000 even though his pocket was weak but he felt like his family need it,They thanked him and promised to visit his house soon.

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--MTHOKOZISI --

Today is the first day of the revival. since it is starting at 10 am and now it's 8:00 people already are gathered outside, they want to come in.

I just came here to lead the intersection before the main service begin, I feel it in my power that something big is going to happen today and when I think about it, my heart beats faster.

I pray that God reveals himself on his people and do his work. I've been on fasting the whole week for this service. I really hope it's become what we are hoping for.

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--THANDEKA --

We had arrived at the venue where the revival is taking place, me and my dad are at the front row of everything, we got to see pastor's and guest speakers at a very close level.

Angizizwa kahle emoyeni, ukube angisabi kuphoxa baba namfundisi Zulu ngabe ngiyajika. .amahlombe ami ayasinda and ngishaywa uvalo...kukhona into ezokwenzakala Lana and angeke ibe yinhle, ngapha nehlo lami liyadikiza..ingabe ngubani lengizombona ekukade ngamgcina? (I am not really feeling good. Just that I am scared to disappoint Pastor Zulu i would go back to the house. My shoulders are heavy, my heart beating faster. Something is going to happen here and it won't be a good thing. My eye is also blinking

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who am I going to see that I last saw in a long time?)

The praise and worship team walks to the stage and start praying as the ushers are getting people in and making sure they get seated according to order.

At that time I am busy texting my sister Simangele. I really wish she was here, it was gonna be lit shame.

Then the ushers wheels someone on a wheelchair and placed them 2 seats away from ours. I raised my head to see who are they because I heard the lady's voice sounding familiar.

I didn't believe who my eyes showed me! Nokuthula and her evil brother were the ones being seated next to us!

We just gave each other those devil and ugly eyes. I shifted my eyes to Bongani obekagxaza amathe, looking all kinds of scary with that burnt scar on his face, yeah neh, my heart was filled with joy when I saw what the fire did in him.

My main question was bazokwenzani laba Lana? (What are they doing here?) Witches who loves miracles, mxm.

I decided to shift my focus to the front as the praise team started singing.

Half hour in the service the pastors walked in, everyone ululated and was happy to see them, they went to sit down on their white big chairs.

The drill took place and for really I was having time of my life, the main topic was forgiveness, it's like batshelene because

every pastor who came to the stage spoke about forgiveness. I kinda forgot about those two.

Apostle Mncendisi Ngema called out Nokuthula and prayed for her, yoooh the things mo girl did was so scary shame like she was rolling on the floor.

Bongani was scared you could tell. I wish they called him and make him twist on that wheelchair!

Lot of people were delivered and it was scary to witness demons speaking through this people. I've always watched these things on tv and sometimes I thought no they are

acting but now seeing it with my two eyes shame I was scared.

Then one bishop called my father and told him not to worry because he's blessed, I was happy hearing that.

Then the moment everyone had been waiting for came, it was Pastor Mthokozisi's turn as he was closing, today unesinye isithunzi like akabhekeki uyesabeka nje and he's so serious.

He took the Mic and started singing the song by Dumi Mkokstad - ulwandle, boy his bold voice on that mic plus the band and praise team was backing him up pretty well, I found myself crying, how he sang this song moved me, everyone in fact.

He finished singing it with people speaking tongues behind me some rolling on the floor soke crying. Ok some were a bit too much but what can we say? There's cameras in the house so yeah.

Mthoko: Ngizothanda ukubingelela abazali bami
enkosini engimi lana ngenxa yabo nengibathanda
kakhulu

U baba u Bishop T Nhleko nomama u Lady D.M Nhleko
egameni lika Jesu krestu amen. (I would like to greet mu

spiritual parents that I love so much in the name of Jesus
Amen

Bishop T.Nhleko and his wife Lady Bishop D.M Nhleko, I
greet you)

Ngindlule ngibingelele wonke amadoda agcotshiwe ka
Nkulunkulu anathi namhlanje kanye namakhosikazi awo
ngithi siyabonga ukuthi sithe uma sinimema ukuthi nize
nizokwendlala amazwi kulenkonziso ebaluleke

nemqoka kangaka, nayeka konke neza lapha. some drove
from Joburg and Mpumalanga to be here so sithi nje
siyabonga kakhulu, u Nkulunkulu engathi enganigcina
anisikelele kukho konke. (Would also like to greet the
anointed men of God who are with us here today with their
wives. We thank you for honouring our invites when we
called and asked that you come and share few words on this
blessed, important service we are having today. Some drove
from Joburg and Mpumalanga to be

here so we are very grateful and we ask that God protect you
in everything.)

Ebese ngibingelele ibandla lika Nkulunkulu eligcwele lapha
namhlanje ngithi inkosi mayibe nani ngiyathemba
nisabusisekile. (Would also love to greet the church of

God that's gathered here today. May God be with you, I trust that you are blessed)

Erh angeke ngibe mude kakhulu, sezikhululumile izigcotshwa zika Nkulunkulu zajula...mina okwami uku summarize yonke lento eshiwo lana namhlanje Amen. (Erh I won't take too long, the great men of God have spoken and went to deep. My job is to summarize everything that was said today, Amen)

The crowd went amen.Mtho is loved shame jealous down and today he swaggered up really good, trimmed his hair and beard nicely.

Mthoko: without wasting more time brethens, can we please open our Bible and read on 1 John verse 9 , since our tittle and our theme today is FORGIVENESS,I would also love to walk on those words.

On my Bible it is read like this : "but if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what what right. He will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrong doings "

Let's close our eyes bazalwane ...baba izwi lakho linamandla futhi limnene,ngiyacela Nkosi ukuba uvule izindlebe namehlo kamoya abantwana bakho balizwe futhi balihumushe ngendlela e fanele..amen.. (Lord your word is powerful and

great. I pray Lord that you open spiritual ears of your children to receive and interpret this word accordingly. Amen)

Bazalwane as sigxile ekuxoleleni okuyona nto esihlulayo, kuningi kakhulu esibambebele kukho and of which is delaying us of our success and progress, because when you forgive awenzeli lowakona but you free yourself from the pain and hatred oyivalele ngaphakathi kuwe,uzohlala twenty years ukwatele umuntu uloku umfisela I karma,hey forgive that person and move on, by so doing you are freeing yourself and removing those chains around you, indaba isala ngaye kanti the more umkwatele umdlinzela kabi it is the more uzibopha, uzilimaza. (As we are focusing on the issue of forgiveness of which is the main obstacle to many of us. There's a lot of things we are holding into that are delaying us of our success and progress.

When you forgive, you are not doing that person any favors but you are setting yourself free from the hatred you have buried inside of you. You will spend 20 years being angry for a person wishing them karma, hey forgive that person and move on)

Mhmm Mthoko was deep, I looked at Bongani and found him crying.

Mthoko: sis Thandeka ngicela uze ngaphambili. (Please come at the front)

My heart raced as he made his way to me and picked my hand to the front, all eyes on us.

Mthoko: zikhulule sis, free yourself you are destined for greater and good things in life. What's holding you back is this hatred you are channeling inside you.

Lift up your hands and let me pray for you.

I lifted my hands that were shaking and sweaty at the moment.

He laid his hand on my forehead.

Mthoko: Father in the name of Jesus, oh God. You are mercy and wonderful. Your promises are yes and forever.

Wena moyongcwele wazana nazo zonke izimpi zikamoya esibhekene nazo. (You holy spirit know each and every spiritual battle we face)

Wazana nobuhlungu esibhekana nabo abantu bengaboni, abantu basibona sigqoke kahle sibahle. (You know the pain we face that people don't see when we are dressed and beautiful)

Wazi izinyembezi esizikhala sisemvakwendlu sisodwa. (You know the tears we cry at the back of our houses all alone)

Wazana nobuthakathaka bethu esibufihlile kubantu. (You know our weaknesses that we hide from people)

Hlala Kuye naye ahlale kuwe.

Membese amandla okukhanya nenjabulo. (Cover her with your powers of light and happiness)

Qaqa izibopho zosizi empilweni yakhe. (Remove all the bondage of pain in her life)

Amen.

He blew some air to my face I felt hot,I felt myself spinning then I was down. He was praying and casting as I was wailing letting it all out, after a moment he made me stand up and came to me to shake my hand, that electric feeling caught up with me again.I wanted to scream so loud.

Mthoko: how are you feeling?

Me: I'm better..

Mthoko: how so?

Me: like I'm letting go of everything that has hurted me in the past.I'm forgiving the people who hurted me but never apologized for it.I'm saying its ok.I've forgiven all of you.

The crowd clapped hands and Mtho gave me a warm hug and told me to remain there.

He made his way to Bongani who was shaking roughly on the wheelchair,the ushers were unable to keep him still.

Mthoko:ushers ,let him be. Sir confess your sins and be free, this is your only chance to be saved.

Bongani's face was now wet from all the crying,Mthoko gave him th mic,he cried for a moment and I was touched,he confessed his sins.I saw shock and disappointment in

Nokuthula's face, she looked at me and i looked her straight back,she looked down embarrassed.

Bongani apologised to me in front of phambi kwabantu. In front of the whole congregation y'all. His apology won't change what

it put me through but like Mthoko said, some burdens are a waste.

Mthoko: if you were to ask one thing from God right now with faith to do for you, what would it be?

Bongani: I..I ..I would ask him for a chance to walk again so that I can kneel down and apologize to Thandeka.I've hurt her a lot.

Mthoko: very well then..

Mthoko placed his hands on both Bongani's thighs and knees while he vibrated and cried with agony.

Mthoko: stand up and follow me.

He said moving from him to me, strange thing happened.Bongani stood up on his own, the crowd clapped and ululated, he was struggling to walk straight and properly but he was moving his legs, the ushers assisted him as he made his way to me and cried on my feet.I didn't like the attention that i was getting and I was such a mess from all the crying.

I got him up and told him I forgive him, after that i felt dizzy and passed out. I don't remember what happened next.

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I woke up in my bedroom at home. I searched for my phone and found it. I checked the time, it was past 9 pm. I was drained and sweaty from all the sleeping

I got up and went to shower, I felt a whole better after that.

I wore my black track pants and sleepers making my way to the kitchen as I was hungry as hell.

I found dad drinking coffee with Mthokozisi.

Me: sanibonani. (Greetings)

Ndaba: sawubona ndodakazi uzizwa unjani? (How are you feeling my daughter?)

Me: still drowsy but I will be ok.

Ndaba : you will be fine my Angel.. you know after today I respect you Thandeka, you are one strong woman. I'm proud of the woman you have become after all of this. I love you so much my daughter.

I'm such a cry baby. I was already in tears. He stood up and hugged me and left the room.

Mthoko: can I make you some coffee?

Me: please..

Mthoko: how do you like it?

Me: strong and black.

Mthoko : just like me neh? Coming right up.

I grinned at that,wait ,is Mtho flirting with me or what? No maybe he's just being kind.I mean there's no way. He's out of my league and way respectable to think like that about him .

7

--NOKUTHULA --

I was sitting on the bed at the hotel we have booked into with my brother. I can't believe that he's walking on his own now,yes he is still using crutches for balance but there's hope.

With him up, he will be able to do a face surgery and be ok,but I still can't believe what he did to Thandeka and other innocent girls. To actually think I believed all the stories he said about Thandeka?

I'm shocked,what happened to my loving brother whom I grew up with? To think that I've insulted Thandeka and resented her so much while she endured so much pain under my brother scares me.

I wasn't there for her,what kind of a friend I a.? I didn't see the signs,my heart is bleeding right now thinking of how much pain she went through under my brother.

I need to make things right with her..even though I've lost her as a friend at least she should know how sorry I am.

I took my phone and dialled her number hoping that she will answer,on the 4th ring she answered.

Thandeka : hello

Me: hi Tha, its me, Nokuthula.

Thandeka: oh hi how are you?

Me : I'm good and you,

Thandeka : great..

Me: uhm Thandeka I'm calling you to apologize about how I handled this situation ..

Thandeka: there is no problem dear.I understand .

Me: no no no T you understand nothing.I was wrong okay.I didn't do any investigation to confirm whether your claims were true or not, instead I just jumped into defending my brother without knowing the full story.I'm also sorry for not being there for you when you went through the abuse.Im such a bad friend..

Thandeka : like I said,it's ok Nokuthula.I didn't speak up so you wouldn't have known your brother is abusing me.

Me: but still Tha.I'm your friend I should have seen the signs .I mean I believed his lies when you ran away.oh my God ?

I literally cried.I can't imagine what Thandeka is and went through.

Thandeka: its ok babes I forgive you hey.

Me: thank you.I know that me and my brother don't deserve your forgiveness and kindness but I truly appreciate it.

Thandeka : its not gonna be eas,but as a social worker in the making.I'm willing to try and counsel myself so yeah I will be good.

Me: can I ask you something?

Thandeka : yeah shoot..

Me: can we still be friends?

Thandeka : urhm babes,as much as I've forgiven you and your brother but I don't think that it is possible,not in a bad way but being closer to you will mean being closer to your brother and he's someone I want to shut out of my mind and life for good. Not that I hate him.I just want to move on and forget.I hope you understand .

Me: I do sis and its ok,thank you for forgiving me,just know I will always love and miss you,take care and all the best in life neh.

Thandeka : you too..thanks and bye.

She hung up,yeah neh.Bongani you costed me a good friend, what will I do with you Mara?

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-NARRATED-

Simangele managed to go get her daughter back. She did that with the help of authorities after she sold her boyfriend out on the drugs issue.

Guy threatened her life that he should swear and vow he's not coming out because he will make her life a living hell.

Today Sma is introducing Mxolisi to Mthokozisi..

Mthoko: oh my God, he is such a younger version of me.Zulu,Mageba..how are you my boy?

Mxo: I'm good dad.

Sma had done the introduction and the boy was too happy to learn that now he has a father.

Mthokozisi : I'm great too,how is school? I'm sure you are smart as your daddy right?

Mxo: yes..I'm always number one in activities...

Mthoko : great.. youu indeed took after me.

Mxo: dad where were you?

Mtho and Sma looked at each other.

Sma : daddy was overseas my boy studying,now he's a pastor and an engineer in the making.

Mxo: wow for real?

Mtho: yes my boy for real..

Mxo: awesome,so dad will you teach me how to pray?

Mthoko: most definitely son,you and I will do everything together I promise. I want us to be best friends.

Mxo: so dad are you going to live with us? I mean me,mom, my sister and Grandma with Mthobisi?

Mthoko: urhm no boy..daddy will look for a job,build a big house for us to live into ok?

Mxo: just the two of us?

Mthoko: yes boy.

Mxo: why though? Can my mom and sister come too?

Yoooh this kid and and questions.Sma looked at Mtho who was relaxed answering them all, she decided to add.

Sma:because mom and daddy are not together anymore,but we promise to be both involved in your life,ok?

Mxo: ok..mom can I please have an ice cream?

Sma : no its late for an ice cream.

The outing was purely fun.Sma and Mthoko kept it professional and were ok with each other,they would speak to each other

here and there then it was time to go.Mtho promised the lil champ to come get him so that he can go introduce him to his grandmother.

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--THANDEKA--

I was alone in the house.,dad has left for some business trip in Mpumalanga, He says if things go according to his plan,we will be back soon..The Ndabas will be respected again,honestly I dont care. It's not like we are broke broke broke,we are managing.

I'm expecting Sma and my kids.I can't wait to meet Mxo.its been long but I so can't wait to meet the princess.

I heard a car pulling over and ran out to meet them.

Me: hey boy, look at you, you have grown so much.

what are they feeding you that side?

I said picking Mxo up rotating him on the air, he loves that, he was giggling non stop. I put him down and went to hug my sister who was holding Bianca.

Me: hey sis.

Sma : hey boo.

We hugged and I took the princess, she was so adorable with beautiful sparkling eyes.

Me: ncooh Sma your baby is so gorgeous. Look at her eyes and lips. Hello nana, you are so pretty. I'm your aunty...

Sma : so your father is not yet back,? I don't want to meet him.

Me: he's your dad too Smangele and no, he's not coming back.

Sma: great can we go in then.

We walked inside with me playing with Bianca, she's so gorgeous I'm glad she fetched her.

I put her back to her mother's lap and made drinks with snacks and started catching up.

Sma : so how things with father?

Me: slowly getting there, and how are you guys? We miss you. Especially my baby brother. I didn't get enough time to bond with him.

Sma: I told you that mom said you can come and meet Mthobisi any day. We are good and to be honest with you my sister I miss home too. That place is overcrowded especially with my two kids yooh ai.

Me: then why are you not coming home?

Sma: I'm still scared Thah, the things dad do, yooh sometimes they make my blood shiver .

Me: but he has changed now

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he's working on his new clean path.

Sma: a leopard never changes its spots dear.

Me: give him a chance please, he's really trying.

Sma: I will think about it.

Me: awesome, so how your outing with your baby daddy?

Sma : it was good hey.. Mthoko and Mxo connected so easily. I didn't need tricks or bribes to make them connect, like that father and son bond. Mtho is good with kids, he will be such a great father.

Me: mmmm that's great..

Sma : you know, between you and I,I think I have a crush on Mtho. A serious one,like lately I can't even sleep.

Me: amen! You need deliverance.

We laughed out at that..

Sma : no on a serious note though.Mtho is a good guy,a matured one at that.I mean he can make a wonderful husband and a father.

Me: the last time I checked you and him didn't see eye to eye, how are you going to make him notice your crush?

Sma: I dont know hey, but i guess I will use Mxolisi to bring myself closer to him,make him like me?

Me: hai bo! I'm warning you...you are playing a dangerous game. Don't use your kid for your own personal gains.

Sma: ok fine you are righ,it's not fair. Aareu going to help me?

Me: ha! Ai no! Me? Why me,?

Sma: well because you are my little sister and secondly you and Mtho have that understanding so please put a good word for your sister please,tell him I've changed,like I'm changing.

Me :I thought you said a leopard never changes its spots?

Sma: come on Tha..

Me: the answer is no babes.I respect Mtho a lot to come on him with this.

Sma: fine I will do it myself.I will find a way.

---MTHOKOZISI ---

I was driving to my Bishop's house,he has called me to talk.I hope I didn't do anything wrong.

I arrived and parked outside,when I walked in we welcome by his daughter, who's same age with Sma . She greets me and take me to her father.

Bishop: son.

Me: baba

We shook hands and sat down,the girl brought tea and cakes,she poured it on our cups and left.

Bishop : how are things at church my boy?

Me: well they are very good,everyone is supportive I don't feel the gap that you left much, they respect me and everyone is carrying their duties accordingly.

Bishop: that's very good.I'm happy to hear that,son the reason why I called you here its about you being formally introduced as a pastor. Its time for you to be ordained.

So here's a thing, as a ordained pastor you know that you need a helper .I can't hand over the ropes to you as a single pastor..

Me: but why not...

Bishop: because, the ladies will throw themselves at you, there will be a lot of sexual scandals roaming the place. Scandals that

were going to be easily avoided if you had a wife, a leader is respectable with a helper on his side..

So I'm going to give you time to start searching. I will be praying for you to find a rightful helper, someone who will understand you, understand your calling and mission in this gospel, don't rush, don't look for physical beauty or perfection.

Look for someone who love and respect God above everything, ok?

Me: yes father.

Bishop : good you do that otherwise if you fail I, myself will look a wife for you.

I chuckled at that because he was so serious..he can do that.

--SMANGELE --

It was so nice catching up with my sister she's such a kind and beautiful soul. I love her too bits.

Growing up I never really had friends.I'm hoping me and her are going to be the best of friends .

Now I should go back to my grandmother's place.I'm so tempted to sleep over but I don't want dad to come and find me here so I'm leaving.

We were saying our goodbyes outside standing by my car when Mthoko's car pulled over.

He walked out of the car.I swear to God I felt my heart jumping and it was so close coming out of my mouth.

This guy has that thing;his appearance demand respect,he is goals I tell you.

Mthoko:good afternoon ladies.

Me & Tha: hi.

Me :dad is not around.

Mthoko :oh I know..I'm here to see Thandeka .

Thandeka: oh..really?

Mthoko :yes if you are not busy, but if you are I can come back next time.

Thandeka:it's fine, I mean you drove all this way to here so it's must be important .

My sister we will talk neh?

Me: its ok sis..Mtho it was lovely seeing you again.

Mtho: likewise..bye bye boy..be good ok? I will call you.

Mxo waved at his father excitedly I reserved out of the yard.I swear jealous sprang when I saw Thandeka and Mtho go inside. What could it be that he want from her that made him drove all the way to come here?

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-THANDEKA--

I was wondering what brought Mthokozisi in my father's house knowing he's not around..

Me:can I offer you anything to drink?

Mthoko:water will be fine thank you.

I went to get it from the fridge and we sat down.

Me:so what is it that you want to talk to me about ?

Mthoko : oh don't sweat its nothing deep.I was just hoping that we could get to know each other a bit.I mean I've encountered with you so many times. You seem like an interesting person?

Me: really? Yooh I beg to differ.

Mthoko: try me.

Me: yooh ok...what is it that you want to know about me?

Mthoko: everything.

Me: yooh that's going to take some time.

Mthoko: I'm not in a hurry..

I looked at him and he smiled.I told him I need to cook so that we can eat,he volunteered to help.

So while cooking we were telling each other about ourselves I get to know another side of him besides being a pastor,away from that he's a normal cool guy who's fun to be around. Love and support Mamelodi Sundowns while I support Orland Pirates.

We washed dishes together,he prepared a dessert.

Hhaha it was so delicious, so he told me about Sma and everything.I was shocked my sister want a relationship after what she did to the poor guy.I told him about my forced prostitution, the abortions and losing my first

boyfriend, somehow I cried,he comforted me with scriptures to every pain and situation.

We then spoke about future, that I still want to go back to the university and complete my degree. He said he also want to look for a job now to take care of his son and get married.

We closed the chapter with a movie, what I noticed is that we had a lot in common, with our upbringing and things we went

through in life, which made it easy to connect. I even forgot that I'm speaking with the man of God, a whole pastor.

I don't know how we fell asleep and I was awoken up by my phone ringing that was on the coffee table. I had passed out on Mtho's shoulder and the movie was long finished.. his hands were on my waist as his head was leaning back on the couch, he was fast asleep.

I moved slowly and took my phone checking the time, shit it's past 00:00 already.

I moved away from the lounge to answer.

Me: mntase do you have any idea what time is it?

Sma : sorry to wake you up...why are you ignoring me on whatsapp ? I've been texting you non stop.

Me: oh sorry I was busy...what's up?

Sma : I wanted to know what Mthokozisi wanted and so on..

Me: oh..ok...sis let me call you back in the morning ok..I love you..goodnight.

I hung up before she could talk, really I don't know what to say to her, she called again and I switched off my phone .

I went back to the lounge. Mtho was still out. I shook him up, he woke up and checked the time on his wrist and jumped.

Mthoko : shit I overstayed my welcome.

Me: hahaha its all good. I had fun.

Mthoko : me too..we should do this again soon yeah?

Me: ok..

Mthoko: I need to go now...thanks for your time and everything. Me: it's my pleasure.

He took his things we walked to the door, and he asked to hug me, gosh he's so tall His chest is comfortable and soft enough though.

We pulled out from the hug he held my hand and looked at me. I gosh I felt something transfer from him to me, when he realised I felt that he let go and got in the car..

I remained there dumbstruck and blushing non stop., after he drove out i went back to the house.

I realised he forgot his jacket on the table where we were seated before cooking.

I took it and inhaled his cologne.

Gosh.I felt butterflies on my stomach.

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--SMANGELE--

I was making a bottled milk for Bianca and Mtho but my eyes were glued on my phone.I'm expecting Thandeka's call, I'm dying to know what happened , I mean Mtho looked all kind of serious when he arrive,what did he want? He didnt even recognize me. It was like I wasn't there.

Then my mother walked to the kitchen with Bianca on her arms.

MaNdaba: your daughter has been screaming,how far are you with that milk?

Me: I'm cooling it down ma, give her to me.

MaNdaba : are you ok? You look a bit distracted,since yesterday.

Me: well I'm fine.

I said taking the bottle and gave it to Bianca, she sucked once and screamed, my mother took her away from me.

MaNdaba : Smangele are you crazy! This milk is hot!

Me:(scoffs) mom I'm so sorry.I wasn't focusing.

I said sitting down,my mom cooled the milk and gave it Bianca.

MaNdaba : what's wrong? You better talk before you start hurting kids with your sulking behaviour.

Me: well mom I think Mtho likes Thandeka.

MaNdaba : so how is that your business, why is it stressing you?

Me: well mama can't you see? I love Mthoko.I want us to be a family,he's Mxo 's father after all,me and him have a bond.

My mother laughed clapping hands.

MaNdaba : oh yeah ! Smangele my daughter sometimes I ask myself if re ally hy are my daughter, the way you are so stupid sometimes!

Me: ouch mother!

MaNdaba : ouch my left foot! You are here talking about stupid bonds. You and Mthoko never had any bond,nor friendship nothing! If he want Thandeka, then that is good for him.Thandeka suits him.

Me: oh wow! Are you seriously choosing her over me?

MaNdaba : get over yourself Smangele! Mthoko will never look at you that way after what you did to him. If he likes Thandeka let them be ,don't try anything that will be fired badly on you.

Me: so mother you are not going to help me get Mtho back?

MaNdaba : hell no Smangale! We already put that boy through a lot. You need to let him be. Whatever you are planing I'm not part of it, and besides he helped me on my death bed so no.

Me: wow, thank you so much for support.

Then my phone rang, it was Thandeka. I jumped picking it up.

Me: hey sis. I've been waiting for your call.

Thandeka : I know pumpkin sorry when you called I was deep in my dreams and then my phone went off just saw it this morning.

Me: no problem babe. So do tell me .What did Mthoko want?

My mother gave Me a warning eye but I ignored her.

Thandeka: well he was just talking about church stuff, my deliverance and dad..

Me : oh really.. what time did he leave?

Why am I sensing that Thandeka is lying to me? Could be? Why would she lie to me though? If she's lying to me then that's means she's hiding something.

We spoke and spoke then she passed my greetings to mother and hung up.

MaNdaba : you need to stop this obsessive behaviour before you loose the only sister you have.I may have been mad at

your father for how he brought her up into this world but I've made peace with her. She's now my daughter and I love her, ever since she arrived in the house she has been good to me. All she need is a mother's love,and I'm going to give it to her.

Me : mom wait..are u saying what I think you are saying? Do you perhaps mean that we could go back to the house?

MaNdaba :maybe...

She smiled leaving,yaaas now this is good.I will push for it to happen sooner. If we move to the house , I will be able to monitor what ever Thandeka and Mthokozisi do,stop it before it get any further..

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--THANDEKA --

I don't why I lied to Smangele about Mtho's true intentions.I'm not blind but I can see he's checking me out.I mean this morning i woke up to his good morning text

asking if I should bring his jacket, and I get this feeling every time I speak to him. Those butterflies on my stomach..

So that is why I can't really tell Sma about Mtho. I mean she also wants him, why do I get jealous about that? I mean they have a

kid together so it's only fair they date, but she raped him! Thandeka, control your thoughts girly.

That was me talking alone in the mirror dressing up to go meet Mthoko and give him his jacket.

Dad is coming back today he said he wants me home we got news to celebrate on, that could mean his trip was fruitful.

Just then my phone beeped informing me of a notification, I checked it out. Durban University has agreed that I complete my degree with them, they checked me at UJ and all checked out.

I screamed with so much joy. God this is what I've been praying for, a chance to finish up my degree, well dad I guess we have double celebration news later.

I took my things, carefully wrapped Mthoko's jacket to my bag and got out.

Today I'm using taxis, well we only have one car now. Since MaNdaba and Sma took the two, the other one was burnt in fire, so yeah.

I arrived at the mission house and went inside. Mtho was sitting outside on the stoep reading a book.

Today he was on shorts and a vest, his hairy legs and big chest was visible and very charming.

He stood up when I was near and hugged me, he smells heavenly, it's like he just bathed.

Mthoko : you look so amazing, how are you?

Me: well I'm good, in fact I'm excellent.

Mthoko: someone is in good mood, do tell the news.

Me: well, DUT has accepted me, finally I'm going to finish my studies!

Mthoko: what? Wow that's great news. I'm happy for you.

We hugged and sat down. I noticed that he was not ok..

Me: is everything ok?

Mthoko : everything is fine Thandeka..

Me: Mthokozisi come on...

He sighed and put his big hands on his eyes, then removed them, his eyes were red, wait is he crying?

Mthoko : ok truth of the matter is that I'm happy for you and this opportunity but then again I'm a little sad it is going to derail my plans.

Me: why is that?

Mthoko: well because Thandeka.I like you so much.I was hoping that we are going to explore this and see where it lead

us to.Thandeka I'm not saying this to stop you.At first I wasn't sure of these feelings myself,but lately you are what I keep on dreaming and thinking about...

I pray for you more than I pray for myself.I know it won't be fair if I ask you not to go to Durban. If we are to have anything.I have to allow you to make decisions especially that's concerning your future.

Me: Mthokozisi what are you saying to me?

Mthoko: MaNdaba I'm saying that I've fallen in love with you..

Oh my God! Just as I've suspected,we were holding each other's hands looking deep in each other eyes..

Me: well Mthoko I don't know what to say.I mean say I agree that we give this a chance..,how will it work with you having a baby with my sister?

Mthoko: Thandeka.I neved loved Sma

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neither did I had any relationship with her., Yes I love and accept my child now but Honestly I'm not happy I have a child with her.

Forget about all of that and concentrate on the fact that i love you.I want us to explore this relationship together.

Me: well I don't want to hurt other people.

Mthoko: Thandeka how old are you?

Me: 23..

Mthoko : start thinking like a 23 year old not a 14 year old,this is you we are talking about here,this is simple,what I need to know from you is do you love me or not? Are you willing to give me a chance or? And please be free. Don't agree to something you are not comfortable with ok? I'm not that man. Whatever decision you make I will respect it.

I looked down, gosh why is this happening now?

Honestly I love Mthoko I'm just afraid to hurt Sma.

---MTHOKOZISI ---

I looked at her cute round face blushing and shy.God you know I have to do this.

I would have taken my time in telling her that i love her but now this is the only chance I have,the only chance I could never get if I mess up.

Me: well...

Thandeka :well Mtho thing is I've never had a boyfriend before.I don't know how to love or girlfriend.

Me: no one is born perfect, you have go let love and God guide you.

Thandeka :hmmm, well I do love you its just that I'm afraid that this relationship will cause chaos and break my relationship with my sister.

Me: it will not. You need to pray and trust in the Lord Thandeka,he's the answer to everything. Thank you so much for this opportunity, you have no idea how much you have made me happy.

We took the chairs and went inside,we spoke a lot especially since we will be hours apart. She promised coming home more often.God I pray that she's the one.

I changed to decent clothes and we drove out. We went to a nerby Park and stood there watching ducks playing in water, birds singing. People going up and down. This other girl passed by with a picnic plastic.

Inside that plastic there was everything nice and sweet ladies love. Flowers, chocolates,pizza you name it. I excused myself leaving her there and follow this lady to buy it.

I explained my situation to the seller she smiled and told me that she's going to help me set it up. I went back to get Thandeka.

Thandeka: bese ngimangele ukuthi ushonephi.(I was wondering where did you go to)

Me: oh I was fixing something. Come this side.

I said taking her hand and we walked to the trees the lady was done with the setting,even used her blanket and all that. Talk about a smart business person. I wonder how she came up with this idea.

Thandeka: wow, this is beautiful.

Me: well I had to do think quickly and do something fun for our first date.

Thandeka: date huh? So sweet, thank you.

She said smiling genuinely.

Me: angithi nithanda ukuthi abafundisi abekho romantic ngingazi nezwa ngabani. Kusaseyisicalo lesi.(You love saying pastors are not romantic,I don't know where did you get that from. This is a beginning , next time I'm going to cook for you. All those candlite dinner? Yes will do it for you)

Thandeka: I am just a simple person Mthoko, you don't have to go extra mile trying to impress me but I really appreciate the gesture. It is beautiful.

Me: you know since I just realized you haven't kissed me. When are you kissing your man?

She blushed looking down and I pulled her face up to look at me , I kissed her. The kiss sealed the deal.I felt things move in my body I knew that she is indeed the one.

I don't care about the few hours distance and all,as long as we have each other and under one province, all shall be well.

I let her rest her head on my tighs as I fed her all these sweets things. She loosened up and was talking more and nothing was making me even happier than that. Seeing her so care free, to her I'm the boyfriend not a pastor.

We decided to wrap our day as she said she wanted to be home before her dad got back. We left. I must say that we really had a great time together. Hoping for more better and great days.I dropped her home to notice that Ndaba was back.I stole a few minute kiss and drove away before he can see me.

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--NDABA ---

I came home to a surprise of finding my whole family back. Thandeka was not around though. I wonder where she is, but I hope she will be back soon.

I'm so happy my wife is giving us another chance. I'm glad to have them under one roof again, although she said we are taking things slowly, I'm just glad she's back.

Just then Thandeka walked in, she was shocked to see the family back in but happy, she hugged everyone and took her baby brother Mtho.

Sma: so sis where are you from?

Thandeka : out...

Sma: out where?

MaNdaba : Smangele! Give Thandeka a break, she doesn't have to report to you her every whereabouts.

Sma : mom are you seriously going to say that now? With women and kids getting killed every and kidnapped now and then..

MaNdaba : oh shut the Fuck up! We both know this is not about that.

Okay! What is this? What's going on? But u know what , I will ask MaNdaba later. Tonight is the night to celebrate my family reuniting under one roof and also getting my mine back, so it's celebrating time .

Ndaba : uhm family.I would like to inform all of you that we have gotten back our mine back so slowly but surely the hunger in the family will disappear.

Sma:very funny dad,we weren't that broke yet.

They all a laughed..

MaNdaba : Im glad we are getting back on and that you are getting your things legit this time around.

I smiled at that,it's so good to have my family back.I will never do anything to jeopardise this warmth right now.

Thandeka : I also have news to tell, DUT has accepted me so i will finish the remaining year with them.

MaNdaba ululated hugging her and Sma did too.

Ndaba: hoping you will be staying home? I can get you a car..

Thandeka : I don't want that dad,but worry not.I will always come back on every Friday.

Sma : you better because if not I will go drag you there.

Thandeka : your drama!

They laughed,now they have eased up to whatever was bothering them.

Sma : and don't date Nigerians and those rich Durban Indians with huge bellies ok?

MaNdaba : Smangele!

This is a crazy family I tell you.

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---NARRATED ---

Mthoko returned from dropping Thandeka off and went straight to church. He wanted to pray, he was in deep praying when he felt a shadow in front of him.

He opened his eyes quickly because he was sure he was alone and had locked the doors.

He saw a man, same age with Ndaba, wearing expensive suit.

Mthoko: how did you get in here?

Man: I have my ways.

Mthoko : what do you want?

Man: two easy things

1. I want you to work for me. I've been watching you, you are very powerful. I can imagine with your power combined with mine we can rule the world.

1. In this bag there's over 10 million in cash. I will invest 5m in the church organization and you can do renovations and what not. Then the rest is yours to do whatever you want..

Mthoko : you are joking ain't you?

Man: I'm not Trevor Noah, so what do you say? Let me add that if you agree to this, you will be more powerful than you already are, and very rich too.

Mthoko: I don't need nor want your dirty money or any dirty alliance, take your money and get out .

This is not some show ground to play on.

Man: boy I'm coming to you with kindness and you are rejecting me. Do you know who am I?

Mthoko: I don't need to know who are you, just get out.

Man: you are playing with fire.

Mthoko: psalms 101 verse 3 -6 " 3..and I will never tolerate evil. I hate the actions of those who turn away from God, I will have nothing to do with them;

4 ...I will not be dishonest , and will have no dealings with evil..

1. I will get rid of anyone who whispers evil thing about someone else.

I will not tolerate anyone who is proud and arrogant.

1. I will approve of those who are faithful to God and let them live in my palace."

Mr you have been warned, get out! Don't let me release God's wrath on you!

The man stood up with so much anger and pride, his eyes changed to those of a viper. I moved back asking God what is happening.

Man: I came to you humble and in peace, yet you treated me like trash. Get ready for a war.

Mthoko: Isaiah 54 verse 17 says " but no weapon will be able to hurt u; you will have an answer for all who accuse you. I will defend my servants and give them victory"

So if u know whats good for you. You will know I'm not one to be dared, but bring it on, the lesser power will bow to the greater power.

9

---THANDEKA ---

The dinner with the family was really lovely and warm, it made the house warmly, I was truly happy that MaNdaba was back, dad has been miserable even though he didn't say

it. He missed his family so much. I'm glad him and MaNdaba are giving their relationship another chance.

Speaking of relationships, I'm not too sure I'm happy Smangele is back, ever since I got here this evening she's giving me a questioning eye, like she's accusing me of something through her eyes.

To be honest I'm not in the mood to entertain her crazy stunts. I don't have the energy nje, I am busy thinking about my new next step of which is going back to school and complete my degree.

I'm left with only this weekend which means two days before I go to DUT mind you I still need to sort out accommodation and stuff because I don't want to stay at Res.

I was laying on bed busy scrolling the internet searching the best flats in town. I want a two bedroom flat with kitchen and a lounge, courtesy from daddy dearest.

He said I should choose a bigger flats In case he does his business around town so that he can sleep over.

The prizes for such accommodation were crazy and high but hey.I'm a Ndaba money isn't a problem, lol I'm kidding.

My phone rang,it was Mthoko.I smiled getting up to lock the door and answered with a huge grin on my face.

Me: hey.

Mthoko: hey love you good?

Me: couldn't be better,what are you doing?

Mthoko: just finished bathing and you?

Me: I'm on my bed, was searching for accommodation..

Mthoko: any lucky on that?

Me: yes.I've found the flat I love and the building is clean with good security.

Mthoko: that's wonderful,when are you going to view the place before moving in?

Me: uhm,Monday then Tuesday I will move in.

Mthoko : awesome,maybe I can accompany you.

Me: that would be lovely babe but my sister has already offered to do so.

Mthoko :oh ok no problem then...

Me: but you can drive me there Tuesday if you won't be busy..

Mthoko: I would love that very much...

Me: great,listen MaNdaba and her kids are back.

Mthoko: oh praise God.I'm happy that your family is United and under one roof again.

I smiled and there was silence.I picked up from his sighing that something is bothering him.

Me: baby you ok?

Mthoko: actually something happened when I came back from dropping you.

I sat up balancing with the pillow to listen carefully.

Me: ok..what happened?

Mthoko : an angel of darkness visited me in the ministry imagine.

Me: wait..did you say an angel of darkness?

Mthoko : yes...

Me: what did it want?

Mthoko : trying to lure me into their world,but they won't succeed.I'm not that type of a person.

Me: you sound so chilled and relaxed. Tell me exactly what happened...

He narrated the story from exactly how it happened I felt myself sweating.,this shit is scary and yet he's so calm.

Mthoko: babe I'm not bothered nor scared. I know who I worship, he has never forsaken me and he won't start now.,so such things are small water for me.

Me: mhmm babe just be careful ok?

Mthoko: I will..can I please ask a favour from you

Me: yeah?

Mthoko : please pray for me,as much as I do pray for other people, I also need your prayers and protection. While you are on that,pray for our relationship. Pray for our love.

Thandeka I see a lot challenges on our way,the only way we will be able to conquer it is if we pray harder. So please my darling,as from now on, make prayer your lifestyle.

Me: I hear you babe I will do so...

Mthoko: thank you,let me sleep we will talk tomorrow.I love you ok?

Me: I love you too.goodnight.

He hung up and there was a knock on my door.I got up to open, to my shock it was Sma.She was on her short pants pyjamas.I must admit my sister is beautiful.

Sma : hey thought I should come and say goodnight.

Me: oh come in..

She made her way in and we sat on the bed,again there was that awkward silence.

Sma : Thandeka all my life growing up I've always wished to have a sister,a friend,someone to confide in,someone I could trust you know.

I kept quite. I wonder where this conversation is going to. She held me hand, we looked at each other.

Sma: when I learnt that you are my sister I was very happy.. I welcomed you as one from day one I saw you here, that birth mark on your back confirmed it. I knew you were one of us through it but I waited for a confirmation.

I love u Tha, I want us to have a healthy relationship, I want us not to have any secrets. I want us to trust each other with everything, can we be able to do that?

I cleared my throat.

Me: yes we can do that...

Sma : thank you...goodnight sis.

We hugged and she left. Okay

Advertisement

what was that? Ai we will see.

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---SOME WHERE UNDER THE WATER..

400 MEN, RESPECTED MEN WITH BIG POSITIONS IN THE COUNTRY, FROM POLITICS, GOVERNMENT, PASTORS AND ALL DEPARTMENTS WERE GATHERED --

In that secret meeting, the main discussion was Mthokozisi, there was a huge mirror where it showed Sma and Thandeka

talking in the room, after Sma left the leader pulled down the mirror.

1st man: there we have it guys, now we have a weakness to get to him.

2nd man: the sisters!

3rd man: exactly! Both of them love him and if they both realise that, there will be a huge fight..

So I suggest that if we can use one of the sisters to bring us Mthoko we will achieve a lot.

1st man : my thoughts exactly..but which sister can we use to do that ?

The leader: I suggest we use the baby mama,.but let's wait for her to find out the relationship between her sister and the guy. When she realised that they are dating,she will do everything in her power to win him,and us gentlemen, will help her.

The men shook their heads in agreement and laughed out Loud.

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SUNDAY SERVICE

---MTHOKOZISI ---

Apart from Thandeka, I haven't told anyone about the spiritual encounter I had with that man, not even my Bishop. I don't want him to think that I'm weak, I run to him with every little detail.

I was expecting nightmares and all that but I guess they are still planning. I wonder if they know that I'm ready. Come whatever I will fight. I will never join them.

The main service was about to start and the MC was about to introduce me to the pulpit when I saw Thandeka and her sister on the front row. I was so happy to see her. I'm glad she's attending before I've even told her to. I know God is preparing her for me.

As I walked to the pulpit to start preaching, three high profile men with their bodyguards walked in, they caused some commotion because the congregation was looking at them.

They sat on the seat behind Smangele and Thandeka. I chose to ignore them and began the program.

As I was preaching the holy spirit took over me. I decided to listen to what it was telling me to do, at that moment I felt like worshiping and not preach. I did exactly that and the praise team backed me., as I had closed my eyes, deep in

worshipping, in the spiritual world I saw the men putting a chain on Smangele's neck.

I quickly opened my eyes there was nothing on her neck. Well I pushed the program till the end but I was very disturbed by the revelation I saw.

When I was done preaching, it was time for offering. The men each signed a cheque and put it at the front then walked away.

When the church was over I collected the cheques, each was R 100 000. What do those men want from me? What was worse was that they were throwing money at me to lure me into their game and I'm not going to budge

I tore them cheques into pieces, the treasurer was shocked to see this but I didn't explain anything. If accept this money I'm doomed., so I will not.

I went home and changed into casual clothes when my girlfriend called me inviting me to a family lunch , i wonder if their parents are ok.

I drove to their house, the table setting made me more hungry. Mr and Mrs Ndaba looked very happy, now this is what makes me happy, such reunions.

We dined chatting and laughing. I noticed Sma running around going over board to ensure that I'm ok. Thandeka didn't show any sign of jealousy, she kept her cool throughout and watched her sister's dramatic behaviour.

When the dining and eating was over, Ndaba and His wife packed their clothes saying they are visiting the family at Mandeni. Smangele was happy to go meet them especially since it's been long. Thandeka was nervous since it was her first time.

The sisters were gonna come back later since tomorrow they have to go view the flat in town.

Sma walked me to the car. I was holding my boy. I said goodbye to him and put him down. He ran back to the house.

Sma: your sermon was very powerful hey, I was touched.

Me: oh really, we thank God...thank you for coming to church.

Sma : thank you for joining us for lunch.I will be coming More to church especially nowThandeka won't be around.I will be bored and stuff.

Me: I see. Well safe journey to your grandparents,let me go.
Thank the family for lunch.

Sma : no problem.

She then hugged me.I was just shocked.I hugged her back not to be rude.As she was walking back Thandeka came to me with a Tupperware.

Thandeka: mom packed some left overs for you for later.

Me: thank her for me...

Thandeka: I will. Goodbye.

She attempted to walk. I could see that she was a bit angry, could be the hug between me and her sister?

Me: Thandeka.

Thandeka : yes...

Me: she hugged me not the other way around.

She shook her head. I could tell she was stopping tears from falling, eix i hate this.

Thandeka : ok...goodbye then.

She walked back to the house. I felt a huge pain in my heart, the love of my life was mad at me. How do I fix this?

I got in the car and drove away. God help me. I don't want Ndaba to shoot me for coming between his daughter's. Something I'm not planning to do.

I love Thandeka and I will marry her., only if she won't fall for her sisters games.

10

#NARRATED

Two weeks later Thandeka was settling in well at her new flat in town, she was done with administration and stuff.

The trip to her paternal family was fruitful because they all welcomed her with warm hands, they loved her to be correct. She met her cousin's and sisters.

Her relationship with Mthoko had taken a rough patch, she was a bit hurt seeing him hug Smangele that day. She couldn't help but be jealous knowing how hell-bent Sma is to get Mthoko to notice her. Knowing that a certain woman wants your man isn't settling shame.

She discovered that Wilson's daughter who's 2 years older than her was around Durban too, Gugu Ndaba. She was practising law at the Durban high court staying at CBD not far from her flat.

They quickly clicked and got along so fast. Gugu paid her a visit at her flat just to see how she was settling.

Gugu: so how are things between you and pastor bae?

Thandeka: well just ok, last spoke to him this morning.

Gugu: what did he say? When is he coming this side? I want to see him.

Thandeka: well he was asking for that too you know. He want us to talk especially since we didn't even bid each other goodbye properly.

Gugu: that's nice, what did you say?

Thandeka : I said I will think about it..

Gugu rolled her eyes drinking her juice...

Gugu: please borrow me your phone .

Thandeka not paying attention handed it to her.Gugu took the phone and texted

Mthokozisi the location and that he can come,it was 12pm in the afternoon Wed.

She deleted the message and then told Thandeka they need to do grocery shopping .Thandeka not aware what was happening she agreed, Gugu bought her lot of food and drinks.

She even volunteered to help her cook,when done cooking she told Thandeka to go bath and wear the dress they bought today which was red.

While Thandeka was bathing her phone rang.Mthoko was asking for an access code.Gugu dropped the call and sent it to him via sms.

She picked her stuff and left the room. She spotted Mthoko going up the stairs while she used the lift.

---THANDEKA ---

God knows what's going on with my sister today.I mean she's pushing me with cooking the food that you normally see on magazines, bought me a beautiful red body hugging dress.

I wore it damn I felt all kind of hot and sexiness,Gugu is good and she is a fashionista. I wore the navy heels she chose and catwalked in front of the mirror.

I walked out to show this crazy girl my dress.

Me: you know sis you should leave change career choices and leave law because..

I stood dumbstruck when I saw Mtho standing by the kitchen counter.

I felt my heart beating fast,what is he doing here? How did he get in? How did he know the location?Beside all those questions roaming my head, I just ran up to him.I was happy to see him.

He hugged me so tight and he was smelling so good. I think I am obsessed with his scent.

Me: how are you? How did you know I live here ?

Mthoko : baby what do you mean?I got your text message...

Oh gosh! Gugu I will kill you!! I smiled blushing.

Me: its ok..sit down I will dish up for you.

Mthoko: before you go allow me to say this. You look very beautiful.

Me: thank you.

I walked to the kitchen taking up the plates.I took my phone checking the messages.Gugu deleted it.I called her.

She answered giggling, I swear I'm going to kill this girl yazi.

Me: I will kill you.

Gugu: you are welcome,dedicate the first one for me.

Me: Gugu!

She laughed and hung up.My gosh what do i do with this child?

I dished up and took the food to him,we ate talking about random stuff. He told me about church and spiritual attacks that were coming left and right.

As we were chilling he received an e-mail,he read it and his face beamed with joy, he gave me the phone to read it too.

I couldn't contain my excitement..I jumped up to him kissing him.

One of the mine called Black Diamond Mining was calling him for an interview,good thing was that he was in the CBD already.

The kiss filled with emotions we found ourselves undressing each other with so much desire.,but he stopped himself as we were naked,left with underwear .I wanted him so bad.I was biting his ear,worse I was sitting on top of him,he wanted me too. Proof visible enough on his pants.

Mthoko : babe we can't.

He said that as a whisper holding my hands back.I wanted to cry so bad.

Me: babe..

Mthoko: my love dont forget I'm a man of principle,as much as I want to do this with you right now,I can't before I marry you.

Oh my God here we go! The no sex before marriage song!

Me: but if you are going to marry me I don't see this as a problem.

Mthoko: love you need to start fasting for the spirit of lust.

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if we do this, its gonna become a habit and Satan will use it against us.

Me:I hear you.

I said with my heavy heart.I swear to God i was so close to crying.I got up picking my dress, it was already late so i just went to put on my pyjams and got in bed,when my head hit the pillow tears flow.

I heard a knock,he came in and moments late I felt him holding me,he turned me around to lay on his chest.I closed my eyes in embarrassment. I mean I'm crying for sex.I'm such a Delilah. I'm tempting a man of God.

Mthoko : its ok my love,I understand,but all in good time ok?

Me: ok...I'm sorry.

Mthoko: no problem..Im sorry too.

We kept quite,he kissed my forehead and I felt at peace.

Me: can you cuddle with me till morning or its also forbidden?

He chuckled at that i laughed too.

Mthoko:I would love to cuddle with you babe..

He took off his clothes and was left with only shorts.
Temptations i swear,we cuddled like that speaking about his interview that was Friday morning,tomorrow was Thursday.
Some of his things were back home,he asked his assistant to e-mail them to him.

The following day I woke up and prepare breakfast for my future husband before i left for school leaving him

at my apartment as he was also preparing for his interview .

I hope all goes well for him,he deserve this.I just wanna finish up with my classes and come back to spend some quality time with him.

---SMANGELE---

I finished bathing of my kids and sent them to preschool.

Today its Thursday and I'm planning on spending it with Mthoko.I bathed and rocked my peach below the knee hugging dress with my black stilleto .

I looked all kind of flames I know.I took my black clutch bag and walked out i arrived at the mission house and saw his assistant.

Me: hello.

Muzi: hello sis.

Me: I'm looking for Mthokozisi is he around?

Muzi : you mean pastor Zulu?

Damn,this guy was teaching me respect,here everyone is addressed with his or her position.

Me: yes pastor Zulu.

Muzi: oh I'm sorry,he's not around at the moment.

Me: oh,do you perhaps know where he is? It's kinda urgent.

Muzi: He left yesterday for Durban and he's coming back tomorrow.I can take a message for you.

Me: oh no its ok.I will try calling him,thank you.

Muzi: no problem sis.

I walked to my car, Durban? What is Mthoko doing there? Oh my God ! Thandeka! So he neglected his duties here and left for Durban to see her? Oh what a wow! Thandeka how can you betray me like that?

I took my phone wanting to video call him but he rejected the call.I slammed my head on the car seat.I tried Thandeka,she did the same too.

Clearly they are together! So I'm their fool? Minute later she called me.I cooled myself down, I dont want them to know I'm into them.

Thandeka: sis.

Me: hey baby how are you?

Thandeka : I'm good just busy with school work...

Me:ok sorry to disturb you I just miss you.

Thandeka : I miss you too pumpkin and guess what..?

I faked some excitement in my voice and asked what?

Thandeka: I'm coming home tomorrow ive missed you guys.

The past few days away have been a lot yoooh.

Oh wow! Another confirmation,clearly he will come with Mthoko!

Me: oh really? That is nice, should I fetch you?

Thandeka: actually a friend of mine this side is coming home tomorrow so i got a lift.

Me: so you have made friends already?

Thandeka : yep Durban is not that bad after all.

Me: I see,well let me leave you to it then.I will see you tomorrow .

Thandeka : ok..greet my kids.

She hung up.Thandeka you have messed with a wrong person I swear. You know I love Mthoko and you do this? I'm going to tell Mom and Dad!

As I was starting my car I saw a man on my back seat,he looked all kind of scary. How did he get in here because the doors are locked?

I screamed trying to open the door but they were not opening.

Man: scream all you want,they wont hear you.

Me: who...who...w..h..o are you? How did u get in here?

Man: just drive.

He wasn't laughing or showing any facial expression,with my hands sweating and shaking I started the car.

11

- Don't think that the Lord is too weak to save you or too deaf to hear your call for help! It is because of your sins that he doesn't hear you.It is your sins that separate you from God when you try to worship him.You are guilty of lying,violence and murder." ~ Isaiah 59 13

---MTHOKOZISI ---

It's Friday the day of my interview, ilwoke up early.

I'm a bit nervous and unsettled about this job offer. What make it worse is I don't remember applying for this position,or maybe I did few years back while I was still in varsity? Well I don't know.

I went to shower and came back to my clothes ironed and ready to be worn,wow I could get used to this.I should get married soon to enjoy this treatment.

I finished up dressing and went to eat,the table was ready, the breakfast was appetizing just from eyes, its quite obvious I'm going to be fat once I'm married.

Me: good morning MaNdaba.

She flashed a smile through that gorgeous teeth of hers..I love this soul.

Thandeka : good morning, you slept well?

Me: how wouldn't I? Sleeping next to such a gorgeous woman.I slept well my darling.

Again she smiled and we sat down to eat.I asked her to bless the food she prepared. She did then we dig in,shortly after that she helped me put on my blazer,fixing my tie..

That's it, third salary I'm sending my uncle's and getting married immediately.

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---SMANGELE ---

I kept on driving saying a silent prayer as this scary ugly man behind me was silent looking at me straight to the eyes through the mirror. Yooh I've never seen such a scary man before!

Right now I swear I want to pee on my self,my God what have i done? He seized my cell phone and hand bag.I'm doomed.

We got off the free way he directed me to go on the gravel road that took a whole two hours,he kept on turning me left and right till I saw this huge forest in front of us.

Looking at it, I felt dizzy,he told me to get out of the car.I hesitated a bit,then I saw him unlocking my door. When did he get out? I don't know!

I'm starting to think I'm with a zombie struu.He opened my door and stood in front of me,looking irritated.

Him: get out.,we dont have all day.

Me: where are we going to?

Him: past this tree's and forest,there's a huge river,people there are waiting for us.

What people is he talking about? Who is this man kidnapping me on a broad daylight like this

Him: take off your shoes and let's go.

Is he crazy? Ther's no way I'm taking of my heels to walk barefoot in this crazy forest,he rather shoot me if he can!

Him: woman I hate repeating myself !

Now he was shouting! God I don't know when I took off those shoes quickly,he told me to leave everything behind. No one will take my car.

We walked few steps from my car to the forest's entrance, immediately when we were in it was dark.I was surprised because it was still very early. Around 11 am I guess.

"WELCOME TO THE EVIL BLACK FOREST; THE MAJOR ONE IS WAITING FOR YOU"

A big bold voice echoed in the midst of nowhere,the man who's kidnapping me bowed.

Man: great ONE

After that he looked at me,then came to me picking me up to his shoulders since he can see I was struggling to walk barefoot in this crazy dark forest,no air,no Sun, no animals just BLACK.

As we were walking I heard snakes hissing to say I was scared.I looked up quickly it was unfolding in front of us.,it is dark in here but the snake was pure white with its tounge spitting fire,the man knelt in front of it bowing with me.

I was cold from fear,I just heard my heart stop from beating,moments later I was awoke up by a strange smell that got me sneezing.

When I looked around I was surrounded by men,30+ .
What came to my mind was gang rape,but they all looked at me. Some man I assume it was their leader took my hand to stand up.

He looked at me,then smiled,his smile though wasn't wasn't friendly one.The man who was carrying me all the way was in the group of other men that were gathered here on a circle

Man : you are more beautiful in person. welcome.I've been dying to know when will you bless us with your beauty,gentlemen, get her comfortable then we shall proceed.

Proceed? Proceed with what,? Who are these people? Why are they wearing masks?

HOURS LATER

---THANDEKA ---

I was home today waiting for Mthoko to come back from his interview so that we can hit the road and go home.I'm anxious to know how did he go, but I have hope that he will nail it.

Just as I was wondering with my thoughts he walked in,he looked all kind of drained and sad.I rushed up to him worried and hugged him.

Me:baby..

He kept quite and went to sit down with his hands behind his head.

Me: love you are scaring me what is it,?

He looked at me,his eyes were red.Like he was crying. What is happening? I decided to not rush him with questions and give him time to talk.

Mthoko : some people are after my soul and blood. They are out to get me Thandeka

Me: I don't understand babe, you left here this morning for a job interview,what happened with that?

Mthoko : it was a trap,it's still the same underworld syndicate. My God I knew something was too good to be true.I mean the R80 000 per month salary while I don't have experience was red flag from the beginning. They also had lots of

benefits,including car, house

UIF, medical aid and lots of stuff babe.

Thank God the holy spirit never left me.

You know when the man was persuading me to sign the contract, something told me to pray I said a silent prayer,when I opened my eyes to sign,he was hissing like a snake.

Me: Jesus Christ!

I was shocked to hear this news. Now tears were streaming down his face, first time I see him this sad.

Mthoko: I said the same thing too. I said Jesus Christ what is happening. I pushed the chair standing up, by that time he was slowly turning to be a snake. I don't know how I made it out of that office babe.

You know what I saw today it is what people always tell us and we would say its a fairytale. Such things don't exist. Believe me they do.

I'm still amazed at how God is with me all the time. I'm sorry babe I know how much you wanted this to work but I will work, when God allows me to. I will never sell my soul to devil for money.

Me: you don't have to even apologize. I love you for who you are, not what you have. I'm sorry about what you went through., come here.

I said taking him to my arms, he was hot like burning up. He asked if he could just sleep for an hour or so, then we will get ready for the road going back home.

I said sure and finished up packing, when he locked the room I knelt down praying to God. I was now emotional, why all the attacks on Mthoko? Why don't these

men leave him the hell alone? Why are they making his life a living hell like this,?

God please be with him, let his faith and trust in you be stronger than before, he needs your protection now more than ever. Don't forsake him, all he ever wants to do is to worship and serve you.

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--NARRATED --

SMANGELE was hypnotized and after that she was doing everything the men told her to do, from drinking black blood to turn her heart black.

She was cut all over her body, stuffs were smeared in, inhaled a lot of voodoo stuff.

The great one: young lady, you told us you want Mthokozisi to love you right?

Sma : yes, but he loves my sister.

TGO: don't worry my daughter, you see after this binding we will do, no one, I mean no one will be able to separate you two. I mean even your sister won't know what hit her.

But the prize to pay for his love is big..

Sma : great one,at this moment I'm ready to anything and everything to make him mine.I can even kill if I have to.

The Great One smiled,Sma was one of them now from how she spoke fearless impressed him. He knew now they will get Zulu,and if they get him,they will rule the world and be untouchable,because they know Zulu is powerful.

TGO : very well then.I will give you something you will use to bath with,some put it In his food,watch his move and attitude towards you after that

He will want to sleep with you so badly, he will be very horny. I will need to finish off the process by sleeping with you, that way I will be transferring some powers to you sexually .The moment Mthoko touch you,he will be tamed and do everything and anything you want him to do ok?

Sma: yes Great One.

TGO : follow me

Sma stood up and follow the man to one hut. Moments later they came out..Sma was smiling like an idiot.

TGO : here,use it as I've instructed u,don't overdose.Make sure only Mthoko eat the food that has this thing,don't make a mistake of another man eating this,because they will be

chasing you all over and they can even sleep with you on public.

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---MTHOKOZISI ---

The drive back home was very draining because of the heat. I have been so drained and Thandeka took the wheel.

I must say that this girl drives fast.I hope she's insured because I'm not ready to die yet.

We arrived at the Ndaba household while they are having dinner.They welcomed us in.Smangele is a bit off,she can't even look at me in the eyes.What's wrong with her?

We sat down,as we are talking waiting for the girls to dish up.I told Mr and Mrs Ndaba about my relationship with Thandeka and my intentions with her.I love her so much and I need to make my intentions clear. To accepted the news well and gave me their blessings and wished us luck .

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---SMANGELE--

Did I hear that right? Mthoko asking for blessings with their relationship with Thandeka? I looked at this young devil.

Thandeka: mntase I was about to tell you. It's something new I promise I was going to tell you.

The way i was so mad. I slapped her so hard.

Me: how could you Thandeka ! You know I love Mthoko and I was working on getting him back.

Thandeka : getting him back from what,? Bitch he was never yours! Are you even stable ? How can you falsely accuse a man of rape then get him convicted for something he didn't do then come back to claim you love him, are you that crazy?

Wait is she talking to me like that ? This girl has grown wings and liver now huh? Like she can talk to me anyhow she want to.

I attempted to slap her again , she blocked my hand and gave me one hot back slap ever I fell on my knees, she grabbed my hair roughly pulling me up and pressing me against the wall, her nails duck deeper on my neck to a point I was struggling to breathe.

Thandeka : don't be fooled by this good girl standing right in front of you. I will kick your fake ass so bad that even Google

won't be able to recognise you. Don't mess with me or my man do you hear me, ? Gone are those days where I would let people walk over me and smile,now I give what I get.

We heard footsteps coming to the kitchen,she let me go and I was coughing opening a tap from the sink to drink water some water.

Mthoko : is everything okay ladies? We heard some arguing.

Thandeka : everything is ok baby. Coome let me dish up for you.

She said kissing him and pulling him away back to the dining area.

Thandeka is daring me serious.I ran to my bedroom to get the little poison from my bag.

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-----SMANGELE-----

Thandeka is daring me serious,I ran to my bedroom to get the little poison from my bag. I stopped dead on my tracks and screamed so loud and everyone was by me in a second.

Mxolisi was laying in a pool of blood coming from his nose and mouth, in his hands he was holding the poison bottle I quickly grabbed and hid it.

Thandeka knelt down feeling his pulse.

Thandeka : he's still alive, let's get him to the hospital! Mthokozisi hurry get the car I will come with him.

My dad picked him up on his running with him out of my room. I remained pacing around. I turned I felt a hot slap on my face. The Great One was in my room, he was beyond pissed.

TGO : how can you be so careless and stupid, didn't we warn you about the danger of this poison?

Me: I'm sorry. I was planning to keep it safe but...

MaNdaba: Smangele, who are you talking to ? Why are you even here while People are rushing with your son to the hospital?

I froze! I stood there as if a lightning has struck me. I didn't know what to do or say.

My mother gave me a weird questioning look, I kept on checking if she can see The Great One but he has disappeared.

MaNdaba : well Smangele I asked you a question?

Me: sorry what is it that you said again?

MaNdaba : I'm asking who are you talking to, why are you here?

Me: urhm well mom I wasn't talking to anyone. I'm just confused and scared about this whole thing Ma, what if I lose my son?

MaNdaba : you won't loose him,now let's go.

She dragged me out of my room and we drove like crazy to the hospital.We arrived to find out that my son has been admitted already.I couldn't even look at Mthoko. He looked so stressed,Thandeka was giving me a suspicious look I felt guilty.

We sat down waiting on the news on how is my son doing.I pray nothing happens to him,I k ow I have been a bad mother but he can't die.The doctors came after hours of waiting,they told us they managed to flush the poison out of his system. We did well by rushing him on time. Should we have delayed an hour later,we would be speaking a different tune now.

The thought of my son dying made me cry so much.God what did I got myself into?

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---MaNdaba ---

The drive from the hospital was tiring. I'm just glad my grandson is going to be ok. I wonder where on earth did he find that poison? Doctors can't find a name or source of it, its dangerous and untraceable.

I need to look after the kids since Sma will remain at the hospital till Mxo is discharged.

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---THANDEKA ---

Something wasn't adding up to Mxo 's accident,I mean where did he get the deadly poison from?

And he was at Smangele's bedroom so he might have gotten the poison from..I need to go search her bedroom and found proof before accusing her.Then she will tell us who was she trying to poison,little devil.

Me: baby are you going to be fine? I need to go home really quick.

Mthoko: its ok babe I will be fine.I just need to be here when my son wakes up.

I didn't want nor liked the thought of leaving them together but I guess I have to be the stronger and better person, give me man the benefit of the doubt and trust him.

A. baby kissed him and left. Soon as I arrived home I went to check up on Sma 's bedroom.I turned it up and down untill I saw the small bottle shoved under the bed.

Me: yesss,.now let's see how you are going go explain this.

I didn't touch it to avoid my fingerprints being on the bottle. I went to call on MaNdaba as my witness,she took the bottle and walked out.

She begged me to keep this between us,that was a difficult thing to agree to but I promised anyway.I know I will tell Mthoko and confront her.

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---SMANGELE ---

Yesterday have been tense.Mthoko didn't say anything to me,he kept his head down the whole time. Today Mxo is much better the doctors say we can take him home and he will monitor his healing from home.

I was happy to hear that.I hate hospitals.Thandeka fetched us,again she gave me that look. Wee drove in totally silence untill we arrived home.

I put Mxo on his bed and left him with his father and went to my room.I closed the door and started looking for the poison bottle.I was going crazy because I know I left it here yesterday.

Me: no no no where is this thing now? Oh my God I'm dead.

MaNdaba : looking for this?

I heard my mother speaking behind me. I jumped in shock as I saw her holding the poison bottle.

Me: mom.

MaNdaba : shut up Smangele! Just shut up!

I looked down biting my nails, she went to lock the door and ordered me to sit on the couch as she sat on the bed looking at me.

MaNdaba : what is wrong with you? Do you realise you nearly killed your child?

Me: mom I'm sorry. I wasn't thinking..

MaNdaba : that's your problem Smangele, you never think! What is it my baby

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why are you doing this?

Me: mama I was trying to get Mthoko to me. I love him
mama.

I cried. She looked at me worried.

Mandaba: come here baby.

I walked up to her as she embraced me and made me lie on
her thighs.

MaNdaba : this is all my fault. I shouldn't have never asked
you to do what you did with Mthoko before, now listen to me
baby. You need to let go of this obsession before it destroys
you. You nearly lost a son, if that is not an enough wake up
call then I don't know.

You are beautiful, you deserve much better, you have come
far to be a better person to go back now, don't allow the devil
to rule you. You are stronger than that ok?

Fix your relationship with your sister, allow them to date, dust yourself up. Invest in yourself and future. When the time is right, your partner will come and get you.

Now there are three things I want you to do.

1. Talk to your sister and be honest to her.

1. We will attend a therapy session from tomorrow.

1. You need deliverance my baby I will talk to Mthoko to arrange one for you. I love you Smangele you are my only daughter, it's breaks my heart seeing you destroying yourself like this.

I Just nodded because I was crying, My mom hugged me and kissed my hair. She then left my room. I went to take a bath, it was late. I'm sure Mthoko has left now.

I showered. I felt like smoking today, the way I'm so stressed. I keep on hearing voices in my head. I'm going to go crazy for real. I wore my pyjams and went to knock on Thandeka's room.

She opened and was shocked more like angry to see it was me.

Thandeka: do you have any idea what time is it?

Me: please my sister can I come sleep with you tonight? I can't sleep in my room.

Thandeka: your demons are finally catching up on you and you want to disturb my peace?

Me: Thandeka please.

She looked at me then sighed letting me in. I went to sit down at the edge of her bed. I was busy scratching my head and arms like someone who's a drug addict.

Thandeka: Smangele are you ok?

She was scared and looking at me with concern.

Smangele : my sister I'm so sorry for everything that i have done to you.I'm sorry I allowed jealousy to get in the way and our friendship. I love you so much. It's ok you can date Mthoko. You guys have both been through a lot. You deserve some happiness .

I promise I won't be a destruction anymore.

Thandeka : Smangele you are scaring me right now, calm down, breathe and take breaks when talking.

I keep on hearing voices laughing on my head and other telling me I'm telling lies.I will finish what I've started.I started screaming taking off my weave.

Thandeka : thats it! I'm calling mom and dad.

She ran out of her bedroom and the voices got louder. I kept on screaming and kicking. I saw my parents getting in the room shocked at what was happening.

I heard Thandeka calling Mthokozisi. I felt my dad tying my hands with ropes because I was starting to break things, why do I feel like I'm going crazy?

I began laughing out loud. Moments later I was in the corner chained. Mthoko walked in with his Bible.

He started talking then he lay his hands on me. I felt fire consuming my body I screamed. I have never screamed so much my entire life. He kept on praying sometimes I didn't hear a thing he was saying because he was praying in tongues, the

voices in my head were lowering and I was vibrating on the floor.

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---MTHOKOZISI ---

The prayer for Smangele took me whole two hours, by the time I was done it was already 3 am in the morning. Finally she's calm and resting. She needs serious exorcism.

Who so ever did this to her is very evil. I am so tired, what I need right now is shower and my bed. I don't have any strength in me. I'm even forcing myself to drive. Delivering someone who's possessed need serious power and preparation. It's worse because I hadn't had enough time to prepare but I thank God that at the end she's calm and I trust God she will be ok.

I was offramping when I saw three cars passing me with so much speed. I was trying to process as to why three same

Audi A5's are speeding in the early hours of the morning when i felt another car hitting me from the back.

I looked at the rear view mirror, it was a Jeep. It was hitting my car on purpose.

Shocked at what kind of witchcraft is this, the three cars came at me from the front,one hit the front and the two hit both sides, the driver and passenger's seat. I screamed in agony as I was pressed inside the car.

I saw the car going on in a smoke,then I felt doors opening as I said a small prayer.

Me: God please accept my soul.

TGO : let us see who is going to protect you now since you are busy playing God protecting people with your prayers.I've been nice to you,begged you to come on my side. My kindness has exceeded its limit and I hate kissing a man's arse.

Since you refuse to be on my team you better dead.

He said that emptying his bullets on me, Everything became dark after that after I coughed blood.

13

---THANDEKA ---

Today its Tuesday and I'm still at home .I should have returned to Durban yesterday but I had to accompany my sister to her first therapy session.With everything that has been happening around me,indeed I do believe that God exists.I'm grateful for his mercy and love upon our lives.

But as much as I'm at peace I'm stressed about Mthoko.I last heard and saw him Sunday midnight when he left our home after praying for Smangele.

The whole of yesterday i didn't hear from him.And I was also too busy to notice,today I've been trying to call him all day because I can't go back to Durban without seeing him.

His phone is on voicemail,let me try the mission house landline,maybe I will find him there.

Muzi : hello.

Me: hi can I please talk to Pastor Zulu?

Muzi: eix my sister I'm sorry that won't be possible at the moment.

Me: why? Where is Mthoko?

Muzi: Zulu has been...eix..

I heard a voice behind him asking who is on the phone, Muzi asked then the person took the phone, it was the Bishop himself.

Bishop: MaNdaba.

Me: Greetings Bishop, how are you?

Bishop : ei I'm not good at all my dear..

Me: why, where is Pastor Zulu?

Bishop : my dear,we have called your dad. Wait for him he will explain. When he does,please be strong.

I felt it in my blood, the back of my hair shranked same time. It is like I will hear news that i won't like at all. What is happening?

I heard Dad's car pulling over outside.I ran to meet him on the door.His face was wet,why? Dad has been crying?

Me: Dad?

Ndaba: my dear..I'm so sorry.

He hugged me,now my heart is beating faster.God why I'm so scared?

Me: dad talk to me please,what happened to Mthoko?

Ndaba : let us sit down baby.

He took my hand and we sat down,he wiped his tears that kept on falling.

Ndaba: well my dear Mthoko has been in a terrible accident. I'm just coming from the hospital to see him. Things are bad,not only was he in an accident but he was shot as well,countless times.

Doctors are doing everything they can but chances are very slim that he will survive. Even if he survive,he won't be able to walk because one of the bullet is stuck on his spinal cord.

I felt my heart being shuttered .I swear I felt myself dying right there.I couldn't cry.I just froze.I was shocked.

Ndaba : Thandeka,talk to me my Angel.

I felt tears drop.I wiped them.

Me: please take me to him.

Ndaba: are you sure? It's not advisable to go see him in this state he is in.

Me: dad NOW please or I will drive myself .

He stood up and we drove there,along the way I kept on saying its not possible. That Is not my Mthoko,they are talking about someone else. Mine Is out there doing the Lord's work.

Dad took me to the Intensive Care unit.I ran to his ward as doctors tried to stop me. What I saw there made me stop dead on my tracks. It was him. His body with pipes all over his body.

I felt my knees getting weaker and tears getting heavier as I felt down. Dad was fast to catch me. He dragged me to the benches where I wailed out.

Ndaba: oh Thandeka don't cry so much my dear,he's not dead yet. Please have hope and faith. He need you to be strong to survive this.

Me: why everything has to be so difficult dad? Why this has to happen to Mthoko?

Ndaba: Thandeka, I am not the strong spiritual person but I remember one of the good days Zulu once said God doesn't put nor give you a load knowing that you won't be able to carry it. Sometimes he put us through situations so that we can get to see and know how great he is. We can get to know that he's the only solution to all our problems.

Pray harder than before. That's all you can do for him.

He was speaking sense but I was drained. I didn't even know where to start, where to begin. I am way too young for all of this. First it was Quinton and now Mthoko? Will I ever find happiness mara?

Dad left me there and I dragged myself to his ward. The sounds those machines made, they made me weak.

He was just laying there, his head covered by bondage. Only his eyes, nose, mouth were out. I sat down on the chair next to his bed.

Closing my eyes rubbing my face thinking about what to do next. I looked at him and remembered this verse "Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart. And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus. "(Philippians 4:6-7 GNTD)

I moved from the chair and kneeled down holding his hand. Kissing it as tears streamed down my face. A song rose inside of me. I found myself humming it slowly.

- Uyalalewa uSomandla,

Noma isimo singavumi.

Ukulalela, kwesinye isikhathi kubiza ukuphila kwethu.

Uyalalewa uNkululunkulu.

Uyalalewa u Somandla.

Ukulalela kwesinye isikhathi kubiza ukuphila kwethu."

Me:(teary) Father we call up your name. I don't know what to say but I believe that you sees and know my pain. You know how heavy my heart is right now.

I don't have the right to question your doing Because I know and believe that you have a reason for every situation you put us through. All I am asking God is that don't let the devil win.

What is it going to be of us if your devoted servant die in the hands of those against your way of life?

Father, I Know you will heal him, he is healed already, I know you are at work with him, I know that he will come out stronger than before. All I'm asking God is that you give me strength, give me power to hold on ,not doubt or ran of patience.

We need him. The world need him, his family need him. Again,show these people who you are. You promised us, you promised us that no weapon formed against us shall prosper.

You told us that whoever is planning anything sinister against us, you will give us victory. We are praying for the victory of which is his life.

May all those who did this suffer, I am sending and casting fire in their kingdom of darkness. Burn and destroy everything.

Looking back at my life, I know and believe that you have always been with me because truly without you I wouldn't have made it out on my own.

Do it again, you have never forsaken me and you won't start now.

I trust and believe in you now more than ever.

Amen.

6 MONTHS LATER

---THANDEKA ---

Things have taken a sudden twist in my life ever since Mthoko's accident. He has been laying there. I visit him each

and everyday.I pray,cry till I have no tears and words anymore.

What has given me hope is that the past two months he has shown some improvement. The swelling on his legs and face is slowly dying out.

Once again I have hope.I hope that things are going to be ok.

Sma and I are tighter than before, although at first I hated her with everything blaming her with everything that has been happening but we managed to resolve our problems. Now she's my pillar of strength, the whole family actually.

I'm a walking zombie, I have lost so much weight. Studying is the only thing that keep me sane, it's been my greatest distraction lately because I would have gone mad.

I finished off my classes and went to the hospital again.I walked to his ward and didn't find him.

My heart beated faster thinking that they might have pulled the plug

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his family has considered that along with some church elders I kicked the idea away.

Mthoko will wake up and he will be just fine. Seeing his bed empty caused a panic attack on me.I was not ready for this.

I balanced with hospital walls to catch my breath before fainting,his doctor made his way in.

Dr: Ms Ndaba.

Me: doctor please tell me its not true.

Dr: what are you on about?

Me: where is my boyfriend?

Dr: oh that, he has been moved to a more secured and safer place because we have reasons to believe that his life is under threat yet again.

What? Oh no, not this men again! When will they give up? What do they want from Mthoko this much? I was relieved that at least he's not dead, yooh I don't know how I would have survived the news. Surely I would have died.

Me: oh ok that's ok I'm glad he's safe. When can I meet him?

I said wiping my tears off me. I can't loose Mthoko, not now. The past months have been hell, trials and temptations came at me from all angles. I didn't come this far easily.

To think that i have been telling him about how my day each and everyday, told him even when his soccer team lost. Its been crazy.

Dr: uhm I will need you to sign few forms to be added on the list and then maybe you can come again a day after tomorrow while it is being processed.

Me: ok doctor I hope its just going to be a day.I want to be there when he wakes up.

Dr: don't worry,when such happen i will let you know.
Follow me so that we can start on the forms.

Me: ok Dr...

We followed each other to his office.

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---MTHOKOZISI ---

I was sitting on my bed looking outside the window. I'm at a heavily guarded ward. Ndaba's orders. Him and my doctor are the only people who are aware about me waking up.

As much as I know this has been torturing Thandeka and myself but I had to do it, truth of the matter is that I have been protecting my life and planning my future as I was laying there.

My beard has grown so much..I even gained some complexion. I woke up two months after my operation to remove the bullet that was stuck in me, but when I discovered that I was unable to walk, my emotions and frustration were all over the place.

I didn't want her to deal with that on top of everything that's going on in her life. Ndaba arranged for me the best Physiotherapist in the world, got her flown to the country and I must give it to

her,she's that good. She has been working hand in hand with Dr Modise.

Now I'm just using one crutch but I feel so strong.I think I'm ready to " wake up " infront of Thandeka now.

I can't bear the torture of hearing her cry and sob everyday,especially when she plant her lips on mine.I was so tempted so many times to return the kiss,but that would have ruined things for me.

Having Dr Modise and Mr Ndaba on my side has helped me a lot .Ndaba pushed the issue of Road accident funds to be finalised before I leave hospital. It something I don't actually care about.I care for my life and safety.

I'm so grateful to God to make it out alive from that accident.I still shiver when I think of that day. I am a living testimony.

I also miss my son.I want to hold him and hear his laughter.

He has been coming in around with either Thandeka or Smangele, he would ask me loads of questions but I couldn't answer him. His mother, I think God is giving her a second chance I hope she will use it wisely.

I was disturbed from my thoughts by my doctor who walked in.

Dr: how is my patient doing today.

I smiled, this guy deserve some kind of extra remuneration he has gone extra mile to make sure that I'm safe and alive , I don't want to go into deep about the black underworld syndicate. I will deal with them once I'm out from here. I won't let them be after what they did to me. If its means embarking on a 40 days fasting and prayer, I will. I really want them to feel God's wrath on their lives.

Me: I'm doing so much better doctor.

Dr: I'm glad to hear that, but Zulu tell me, when are you planning to tell that girlfriend of yours that you actually up?

Me: well soon...

Dr: please do, before you lose the only person who cares for you deeply. This girl truly loves you. She nearly fainted when she realised that you were moved there, thinking you are dead. Make it quick, it's not fair on her.

Me: eix yeah, no I will tell her. When is she coming to see me?

Dr: day after tomorrow.

Me: perfect. .I will need you to help me with something.

Dr: anything for you my guy..

Me: great. First help me shave this beard.

He laughed out loud at that as he listened carefully to what I wanted from him.

----THANDEKA---

Today I'm going straight to see Mthoko,yooh I haven't seen him for a day but I'm going crazy already.I'm wearing the dress Sma bought for me yesterday I must say it look good on me, only if I still have my body back.

I drove to the hospital with Sma's car.

The doctor met me at the reception its like he has been waiting for me here.I followed him as we took another turn to the south of town to where Mthoko was at.

This hospital is huge,if you know pavilion and gateway mall, it's that big. We arrived at one fancy ward,this side was quite, clean with nurses that had 5 bars and more on their shoulders and doctors mostly white and Indian.Modise was the only black one here.

It's like a side where " rich " people are treated at. I walked to the door.

The security scanned me then let me through,walking in it was like I'm walking to a hotel room than a hospital.

I was expecting to see Mthoko on his bed, chained to drips and oxygens,but I was met by a beautiful setting of roses, table, I opened the bowls on the table,suddenly my stomach made those funny hunger sounds. This is some fancy food here.

I looked around the music playing was very soft and very romantic. I was so confused.I mean what the hell is going on? Did Modise dropped me at the wrong ward.? Could be because this right now doesn't make sense.

As I was turning around to walk out,my heart nearly stopped beating.

Mthokozisi : Sawubona MaNdaba (greetings MaNdaba)

I was stunned didn't know what to do. I nearly dropped down, when Did he wake up? He is even walking on his own!

On a black and navy powder blue suite, his hair and beard shaved neatly.

He look so yummy and drop handsome, he rushed at me before I could fall from shock. He sat me down and helped me drink water.

When I had caught my breath he took my hand..

Mthoko : MaNdaba, I know there's a lot you want to say or ask. I promise you my love will tell you everything and answer all your questions ; but before we get to that i need to ask you one important question I almost died without asking.

Me: what question is that?

He wiped the sweat on his face and knelt down. I saw him flinch in pain as he did that but he knelt anyways, oh my God. I hope he's not doing what I think he is doing.

I'm now sweating too. God !

Mthoko : Thandeka me and you have been through a lot together before we met and after we have met, we weren't given a chance to celebrate our relationship.

This accident has proven to me how short life is, how much you love me. It's really showed me that you are the one. The one sent to be my helper, to hold my hand throughout everything.

I heard every word, every prayer you uttered next to my bedside.

MaNdaba, you are a perfect woman for me.. I would be crazy if I would say I need time to know you or do this.

With all that being said,Thandeka Ndaba, will you make me the happiest man in the world by honouring my wish of being my wife?

Whaaaat? Somebody please wake me up because surely I'm dreaming...this ain't really right,?

He took a box and my favourite one piece silver ring was in there. I'm not dreaming? He's proposing me for real! My heart was beating faster.

Me: yesss I will marry you Mthoko!

He put the ring on my finger sweating. When it was finally in he stood up with me and smashed his lips on mine,the kiss had all kinds of emotions on it.

He pulled out from it and kissed my forehead.

Mthoko: I've been dying to kiss you back the whole time you would kiss me laying down there.I love you Thandeka Zulu.

Ohk, from Thandeka Shezi to Thandeka Ndaba now to be Thandeka Zulu.I think Zulu sounds much better and nicer..

14

---THANDEKA---

God is indeed alive, God is good, he's always with us, he never give us burdens that we won't be able to handle. When I look back on my life I'm just amazed at how he has been great to me, how he has been saving me from situations that were made to kill me.

I ask myself each and everyday how did I make it? How did I endured such but still came on top? Then it's occurred to me that I'm not just an average human being. I'm God's chosen and called child., I was meant to go through all of that so that I can see his presence in my life .

I will never stop thanking him for my life, family I have, everything and mostly for the man he has sent into my life to be my partner. Who would have thought that after so much pain I've suffered in the hands of men I trusted, one day I will receive true love from the same gender?

I was laying on bed looking at my shining ring still amazed and shocked that I'm engaged. I can't wait to get home and tell the family the news. I know MaNdaba will be happy and she will immediately start planning my wedding.

God bless that woman, she has filled the void that I don't have a mother's, she's mothering me so well yet I am a product of cheating.

Yesterday after the proposal Mthoko and I did so much of talking. He explained to me everything and why he hid the fact that he was up, actually I was no longer mad at him. I'm happy he's up and back to me. I was just overwhelmed with everything, and to say that we almost had sex. Yooh Mthoko is strong to be able to hold himself this much.

He told me that first thing he's going to do after being discharged is going to my parents and inform them about the engagement and him traveling to his family and all that.

He told me not to worry about most things because God is showing off. I was lost as to what he is saying exactly. He then

told me that my father is working tirelessly and pulling up strings and favors so that RAF can pay up quick.

All he wants to do is pay my lobolo, buy my dream house and for us to get married. There's nothing I would love more than that. Carrying his surname for the rest of my life.

We were cuddling in the hospital bed with him busy brushing my hair.

Mthoko : baby...

Me: yes love..

Mthoko: tell me are you ready for what we are but to embark on?

Me : you mean the marriage?

Mthoko: yes..that and our spiritual life, are you aware that your life will change a bit,that you are going to be Mama Mfundisi and lead people?

Eix! I've been avoiding that thought for a while now, and now there's no more running away from it. To be honest, I'm scared. Will the people accept me as his partner? As his wife? Will they see me fit enough? Mthoko is powerful bazalwane and I don't think I am near close to that.

I guess he saw and read all those questions in my mind because he squeezed my hand and kissed my cheek.

Mthoko : its going to be alright. I will be with you every step of the way, guiding you and supporting you. You just need to relax and allow the holy spirit to guide you ok?

Me:ok baby..

Mthoko: there's also elderly women who are ready and waiting to help you. All you need to do is open your heart, let the holy

Spirit inside you. Read your Bible in you. Thandeka, you have it in you. You just need to find it and let it out.

I smiled and then remembered something.

Me: baby..

Mthoko : MaNdaba...

Me: how much are you going to get from the RAF?

Mthoko: I'm not really sure, your dad said couple of millions.

The way he was so cool saying this. Yooh couple of millions? I hope the money won't change him.

Me: uhm ok,what are u planning to Do with all of that?

Mthoko : give you the best wedding ever,spoil you rotten.
Build a warm and comfortable home for ourselves,invest the rest at church and assets that will generate more income for us..

I liked how he was thinking. I just kissed him and got up to get ready to go back home before they start to blow up my phone.

THREE MONTHS LATER.

NARRATED

Mthokozisi was now fully back to his old self. He was back to preaching and it was like he was never gone. The church members were increasing every Sunday.

The money did come out and he kept his promise and paid lobolo to Thandeka, took her to his family for introduction and they loved her.

He renovated the church to what he wants it to be. Their house it was being decorated as they were planning on moving on to it soon after getting married.

Thandeka has been into so many marriage counseling together with Mthoko sometimes she was with the elderly

women who were guiding her on the new path she was about to embark on. She was growing daily in the spiritual life . Her studies were coming well and she was left with one exam the second semester to wrap it up and concentrate on her wedding.

Together with Khethiwe,(Apostle Mncendisi Ngema's wife) they started a church organization where she also added her knowledge she acquired from the University.

Today the church is packed. Everyone is out to see the Mrs Zulu to be as she's taking the pulpit first ever. Some are happy and looking forward to see her while are ready with their phones to record so that they can criticize and they wanted Mthoko for themselves.

Thandeka has been praying and fasting for this day. She is no where ready

Advertisement

she's so nervous but Mthoko told her once she gets through this, the next will be easy.

Pastors , Bishops with their wives from other branches are present.

She takes the stage after an introduction and to release the fear In her she decides to sing. She sing the Andile Ka Majola song- U Jehovah ungibiyele.

- Nawe ungamthatha,

Umenze owakho,

Akubiyele, umhlengi wami.

U Jehovah, ungibiyele"

She sang the song and found herself deep within the holy Spirit that she cried. Mthoko was just chilled there with his

legs folded. He knew Thandeka could sing but he didn't know this deep.

After composing herself, she greeted all the leaders according to their positions and greeted the congregation at large that responded with so much positive energy. Even those who were ready to criticize that spirit was out.

Her family was seated on the front row. Seeing them gave her more strength and support.

Thandeka: I would love us to open Isaiah 43 and read from verse 18-19. It reads like this. " But forget all that is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?

I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasterland."

There is nothing more important to God than love. That sounds so basic, doesn't it? The fact is that He's the author of love itself. However, his unconditional love is truly beyond human comprehension.

The greatest commandment given to us, according to God's word, is to love God and love others. When we love we are most like God. Unfortunately it's not always easy for us to love because we get focused on how things affect us and our viewpoint gets twisted to think we are more important than anyone else.

But God's love is so pure and honest that it forgives even the most horrible things. God loves even when that love isn't returned. He loves even when the objects of his love disappoint him. God's love is constant and forgiving.

God's love is the model for us. It gives us a goal to reach for. Let us all praise God for love.

Receiving is important in our relationship with God. When we receive from God, we actually take into ourselves what he is offering.

The Bible teaches us that the love of God has been poured in our hearts by the holy Spirit. That simply means that when the Lord decides to dwell in our hearts because of our Faith in his son Jesus Christ. He brings love with him.

We need to ask ourselves that what are we doing with the love that has been freely given to us.

Are we rejecting it because we don't think we are valuable enough to be loved? Or are we receiving his love with a thankful Heart, believing that he is greater than our failures and weaknesses?

God's love for his people made him come down to the Earth in the form of fire to Moses and tell him to go rescue his people who were suffering from Faraoh.

Before I sit down I would love to say something. Respect everyone, don't belittle or undermine people because you don't know where life will take you to.

No one is born as a pastor, prophet or evangelist. All these people we see here today at the front, they all had goals

but God disrupted their life's after seeing the need from us. He disturbed their lives so that ours can be saved.

We are all called and important in the eyes of the Lord . God gets very angry when his people get unfair treatment. Remember when Israel was complaining and throwing insults at Moses for almost everything, he sent snakes as punishment.

Be careful of what you say about the next person. God wants us to love one another and share the grace.

May peace be upon all of you. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to share this word with you.

She handed the mic to the MC and stepped down from the pulpit.

MC: wow, that was powerful and beautiful. Thank you ma'am.

Over to you Pastor Zulu.

Mthokozisi got up and took the mic.

Mthoko: (singing)Ekuseni unguJehova, (From dawn, you are the Lord)

Emini unguJehova (In the noontime, you are the Lord)

Entambama unguJehova (In the afternoon, you're the Lord)

Awuguquki (You do not change)

Uyawuzwa umkhuleko (He hears your prayer)

Uma ebizwa okholwayo (Believe and call on Him)

Jehova uNgumabizwa asabele (The Lord, our portion)

Ngithi/Yebo mbize (I say/yes call Him)

El Shadai aa simakade! (El Shadai! Ah You're everlasting)

Elohim mm Jehovah (Elohim! Mm, Lord God)

Ezintweni zonke, Yena ungu Jehova (All creations agree,
you're the Lord) (x2)

15

"There's a private place reserved for the lovers of God,
where they sit near him and receive the revelation-secrets
of his promises" Psalms 25:14

---THE GREAT ONE---

Him and his associates were watching the whole service, at their mirror and he smashed the glass he was drinking from against the wall.

TGO : how many lives does this man have,why is he still alive after such?

1st man: boss I guess its high time we ask for help from other angels of darkness,it's quite clear we can't handle him ourselves.

TGO : no,I won't do that.I will find a way to crush this small excitement. He will come to us begging for mercy.

2nd man: but how are you planning on doing that?

TGO : I will figure everything out,soon. Right now I will need you to be ready and alert to strike,are we clear?

Them: yes Great One!

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-

---MTHOKOZISI ---

The church service was so beautiful. To say I'm More proud of my wife to be, that would be an understatement. I just wish I

can get on top of the tallest building and scream how lucky and blessed I am.

God truly loves me through this woman. What was that? Wow! She walked up to me after all the greetings and handshaking she has been doing with the congregation and other leaders.

Thandeka: Zulu.

Me:(smiling) MaZulu.

Thandeka: sorry for the delay, all these people want the piece of me.

Me:(smirking) I can tell. All eyes on you, you really stole the show.

Thandeka: (smiling) are we jealous?

Me: what? Me jealous of my wife? Never.

Thandeka:(laughing) I'm kidding my love. Honestly I wouldn't have done all of this without you,your support and prayers. Thank you.

Me: you are more than welcome. We are going to do amazing things together. I am super proud of you. Come here.

I said opening my arms for a hug and she snuggled in and I smelled her hair.

Me:(whispering) I cannot wait to make love to you..

She quickly pulled out from the hug blushing like crazy looking around. I just bite my lips in amusement to her reaction.

Thandeka: (blushing) that's not a good thing to say in church premises Mageba.

Me:(laughing) listen at you! Let's go I'm hungry.

Thandeka: mom invited us for dinner. Are you coming?

Me: of course. Who can say no to Mandaba's cooking?

Thandeka: great. Let's go.

We said goodbye to Bishop and his wife together with other elders going to our car. We arrived at the Ndaba's and Thandeka fixed a snack for me while we wait for dinner.

I got a chance to actually talk to Mr Ndaba about business. He's a great man and his businesses are blossoming. You would never say he once suffered a punch. God is multiplying everything he lost.

I want to make him my mentor and partner with him in most businesses. I know I would never go wrong.

Dinner was ready and we were called inside to eat. while eating we spoke about the service and how great it was. We chatted and later on said a prayer as a family and went to sleep.

They forbidden me from driving at night since the last incident. So i were to spend the night in, sleeping with Mxolisi.I was so dying to sleep next to my woman but this was her father's house.I have to show some respect. At least If we were already married.

Around 1 am I had a very terrible nightmare. I woke up wet from sweating.

I quickly knelt down and prayed.I don't know when Mxo woke up but I felt him kneeling besides me.He wasn't saying anything only placing his tiny hands over his face. Having him by my side melted my heart and gave me hope and courage to pray some more.I took my phone and called Thandeka to pray because I have a feeling something bad is about to happen again.

After praying we slept like babies with my boy.I was woken up by Thandeka shaking me up.

Thandeka: baby wake up..

I opened my eyes,phew. Look like I overslept .I stretched my arms.

Me:(yawning) good morning baby.

Thandeka: good morning,wake up and take a bath.
Breakfast has already been saved.

She baby kissed me before leaving the room.

I went to take a shower because it was quick,as I was showering I felt something or someone covering Me with a plastic while water pouring on me.I fought with my last power on me while saying prayer and suddenly whatever was holding me loosened its grip on me then left.

I was catching up on my breathe still shocked as to what the hell is happening?

No these people are getting on my nerves.I got out and got dressed.

I was beyond pissed,they want war? War is what they will get!I went to the dining table and greeted the family.

Me: good morning family.

Them : morning

Ndaba: son,are you alright?

Me: no father I'm not. Actually I would like to be excused.I need to attend something very urgently.

Thandeka: and what could that be?

Me: can we talk outside please?

We stood up and I said my goodbyes and left them.We got in the car .Thandeka was looking at me waiting for an explanation.

Me: I'm under attacks, they are back. This time to wipe out everything and anyone close to me. I need to get ready. I need to fight once and for all.

I saw her eyes widening

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she held my hand.

Thandeka: I'm coming with you. I won't let you go through this alone again.

I was touched by her statement, I held her hand tighter. The depth of her commitment to us was visible through those words and her face.

Me: baby this is not an easy journey, it's a do or die situation.

Thandeka : you asked me if I was ready to be your wife. I said yes. Asked me if I was ready to walk this spiritual journey with you I said yes, even now. I'm ready for anything. You told

me that no weapon formed against us shall prosper. So come what may come I'm with you. Ngifela lawuzofela khona nawe.

Those words touched my heart I felt tears dropping. I kissed her lips so deep.

Me: Thank you. Let us go tell your parents about this.

Thandeka: No, they will panic and dad will get involved and start shooting people. Let's just disappear, we will tell them everything when it's all over.

I made no mistake here! She's the one! As much as I was grateful to have Thandeka on my corner, I still didn't like the idea of us just vanishing from her parent's house.

I promised on calling her father as soon as I've arrived at the house. We didn't go to my newly bought house but straight to the mission house. We found the bishop and his wife chilling.

We sat down as the daughter was making tea for us. I explained everything that led to my accident and to the present situation.

Bishop Nhleko told me that he's been receiving some threats too. Wow this world we live in, so now serving and worshipping God has become such a sin? What did we do wrong?

Well we decided to spend the night in the mission house as per preparations for this war.

I called babu Ndaba because I respect that man so much to just take his daughter and disappear without his permission, he understood and supported us in everything.

The 14 days dry fasting and prayer began, sometimes we would go to the mountains in the early hours of the morning to pray.

It was a first time experience for Thandeka but she managed quite well I was very impressed.

Two days before the end of our fasting, God started attacking. It was a chaos. The movement was felt. Arrests were made left right and centre and it was proven that only the high positioned men were going down.

They are many but the great leaders were the one suffering God's wrath, others we're wise and saw this from a distance and chose to repent in time.

It was disappointing to see other pastors and Bishops I knew falling from this circle. They were getting arrested for fraud, rape and all other crimes.

On the last day, we woke up to trending news the one who was after my soul and like so much, the so called Great one, died in a Terrible accident. His body parts were picked one by one after he clushes with a train. Terrifying.

I know one might ask how can a whole pastor celebrate a painful death of another person but the Bible clearly states

on Psalms 37 verse 32 says " Wicked people watch good people and try to kill them; but the Lord will not abandon them to their enemy's power or let them be condemned when are on trial".

The reason to praise is that God is more powerful than Satan. He will always and forever win. Satan has no chance against God. And he has no chance against you if you call on God's power to fight for you.

Ask God to protect you from Satan's arrows and to help you stand strong by putting on the armor he provides for you. Because for the eyes of the Lord range throughout the Earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

So that we say with confidence, The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or dangers of sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

The Lord is my strength and my shield, my Heart trust in him and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in a song.

Thandeka: what are you thinking about so deep?

She said walking in and I smiled getting up to her. I took her hands to mine and kissed her forehead.

Me: we did it baby. Let's go get married.

16

-----THANDEKA-----

Today is my wedding. Mixed emotions are taking over. I am happy, excited, nervous, emotional and scared. Early in the morning Gugu, Smangele and I went to check the decor and everything is going well, beautiful if I may say.

I wanted a small intimate wedding but then marrying a well known pastor with so many branches , that won't cut. We are expecting more than 500+ people.

Our theme is dusty peach, navy and white. Meaning my bridesmaids will wear peach dresses with navy heels while his groomsmen will be on navy and white shirt suit. My husband? Both of us will be wearing white! Yes I'm adding some light up angithi umnyama? Lol I'm kidding.

The mood in the house is great, wedding songs are on high volumes and the ululations. Smangele and Gugu are tipsy. These girls though. They tried getting me some vodka to cool the nerves but I'm cool.

I can't wait to be walking down the aisle to my husband but I can't wait to be on my traditional dress. Yes we are also doing the traditional wedding. Just because we are Christians doesn't mean we are going to forget where we come from.

Celebrating our culture as Christians doesn't include slaughtering for ancestors. Nope.

MaNdaba:(walking into the room dressed to kill) you look beautiful my baby. Like an Angel, straight from heaven.

Oh God this woman? Bless her for me. Yes she's not perfect, has her own flaws but I am just greatfull and appreciative of the love she has given me. Throughout this whole preparation of my wedding, we have been running the town hand in hand. Not to forget my sister Smangele. She has made peace with our relationship and I don't see her as a threat anymore.

The family from my mother's side didn't even bother to show up so I guess it's me and my dad's family. It's all good.

Me: thank you mother. You also look amazing.

MaNdaba: go and make me proud kwa Zulu. We have spoken, you are strong, matured. I trust you and know that you have got this. I won't ruin this moment by more

speeches that will make you teary and ruin your make up. I just want you to know that I will always be here when you need me. Don't hesitate to call me or come home. Okay?

Me: I love you mother . Thank you for everything.

We hugged so tight and she kissed my forehead and left. Smangele and Gugu walked in and they finished my make up before covering me with the veil.

We walked out to the cars. The atmosphere is beautiful, the mood from the people is also great. God, it's finally happening.

#AT CHURCH

People were coming in and filling up the seats. Mthoko was up there with his friends who both are pastors. He was nervous, anxious to meet his wife. Above all he was crossing fingers that all goes well, his friends told him not to worry. This day have been prayed for, signed and sealed in heaven. No one will dare mess with it.

Because of the huge number of guests, they chose Durban ICC venue and the decor was breath taking. It was beautiful and neat. They chose to do everything here, matrimonial service and reception.

Officiating the couple was the guest Bishop N.D Nhlapho from God Never Fails ministries.

As soon as everyone was seated down, the music for the bride and her team started and Mthoko with his guys stood up to go to the front.

Groomsmen fetched the bridesmaids and stood on sides.

Thandeka walked in on her white body hugging mermaid dress.

She looked great takingly beautiful, plus she was from fasting her body was goals. She was an Angel.

Mthoko looked up just to stop the tears from falling as mixed emotions took over .

Finally Thandeka was in front of him, he took off the veil and they faced each other as Bishop Nhlapho took the mic. He started by singing " ungithathe down, ngingelutho" song and everyone went crazy because of how good his voice was matching the keyboard.

Bishop: Ephesians 4: 2-3 . Be always humble, gentle and patient. Show your love by being tolerant with one another.

Do your best to persevere the unity which the spirit gives by the means of the peace that binds you together.

Let us also look 1st Peter 4:8-10.

Above everything, love one another earnestly, because love covers so many sins. Open your homes to each other without complaining.

Each one, as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use for the good of others the special gift he has received from God.

Bazalwane today we are gathered here because two people who love each other decided to do what God loves and approve of. You see what is happening here, excites God so much. Love is beautiful and his love for us endure forever, that why Mthokozisi and Thandeka are here today.

Firstly, love is unconditional. Somebody once joked that the agenda of the bride on her wedding day is 'aisle-altar-hymn'. 'I'll alter him' may be necessary, but to go into love on the assumption that love is conditional upon someone changing is quite dangerous. Love becomes carrot and stick. Love becomes something that is policed by 'good cop, bad cop'. Love eventually gives way to fear and distance.

But the love of God is not like that. There is a beautiful verse in the Bible which says, 'We love, because he first loved us.' God's love for us is seen in him sending Jesus before we ever loved him. It's unconditional love. He loved us before we responded to him.

And I suggest to you that this unconditional love is a healthy model for marriage. While it is right to long for your spouse to change, they are best loved into changing. If they know they are loved regardless, they will want to change. Make no mistake, it's important to change over the years. If I still loved my wife the way I loved her on our wedding day years ago, I don't believe we would still be together. My love for her will always have to grow. And what brings that out the best is that the knowledge that she loves me unconditionally.

Secondly, love is forgiving. When I was a child, a slogan in an advert for a wildly popular film was this: 'Love means never having to say you're sorry.' Do any of the older people here recognise it? It was Love Story.

And wouldn't it be great if love really were like that?
Never having to say you're sorry?

If only.

But for us frail human beings, love is rarely like that. Rather than 'Love is never having to say you're sorry', I suggest 'Love is saying you are sorry and hearing you are forgiven.'

Much as today we celebrate the enjoyable side of love with its chemicals and hormones, the fact is those things won't make a marriage last. What will make a marriage last is the willingness to seek forgiveness, and to forgive. That's why in the Bible reading Paul says that love 'keeps no record of wrongs' (verse 5). It's easy to keep a record of wrongs. If you're not careful, you keep a chart

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a list, a running tally of all the times you've been hurt or offended. I encourage you not to do that. Forgive, because that's what Jesus does.

I don't know what the father of the bride is going to say later today, but at my sister's wedding, when my Dad gave his 'father of the bride' speech, he gave one piece of advice to her and my

brother-in-law. He had another Bible verse as a motto, the one he and my Mum have kept close to their hearts: 'Do not let the sun go down on your anger.' I commend that to

you. Find your ways of resolving your conflicts, forgiving each other – and of then enjoying the making up!

This all means that thirdly and finally, love is sacrificial. What does it mean to forgive? It means to set the other person free by absorbing pain into yourself that should rightly be theirs.

Mthokozisi i want you to say the words found in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. Instead of "Love", substitute it with your own name.

He said giving him the mic.

Mthokozisi: Mthokozisi is patient, Mthokozisi is kind. He does not envy, he does not boast. He is not proud. He does not dishonor others, he is not self seeking. He is not easily angered, he keeps no record of wrongs.

Mthokozisi does not delight in evil but rejoice with the truth.

He always protect, trusts,hopes and always persevere.

Bishop: Thandeka, instead of your name. Substitute it with "Jesus".

He handed the mic to Thandeka.

Thandeka: Jesus is patient, Jesus is kind. He does not envy, he does not boast. He is not proud, he does not dishonor others. He is not self seeking. He is not easily angered. He keeps no record of wrongs.

Jesus does not delight in evil but rejoice with the truth. He always protect, trusts, hopes and persevere.

Bishop: That is the Jesus who is available to you this day and every day to make your love for one another and for others grow that will touch others with joy

May God bless you both.

You may say your own vows.

Mthokozisi:(taking the ring and putting it half on her finger) I tell you this every day but what better day to repeat it than today? You are the love of my life, you are my best friend,my lover and inspiration.

You make everyday better and you make me better. I promise to love you unconditional through thick and thin, in sickness and in health. I promise to accomplish one of the greatest streaks any human could ever wish to pursue.

To tell you that I love you every single day of the rest of our lives.

I promise that as we adventure through the rest of our lives together, I'll always be by your side, loving you, pushing and celebrating you.

I will always put you first and give you my absolute best for the rest of my days, till death do us apart. I love you.

He slid the ring on her finger and the people ululated. It was such a gorgeous diamond one piece ring.

Thandeka:(putting the ring on his finger) I didn't fall in love with you, I walked into love with you, with my eyes wide open. Choosing to take every step along the way.

I do believe in fate and destiny, but I also believe we are only fated to do the things we'd chose anyway.

And I'd choose you, in a hundred life times, in a hundred worlds, in any version of reality, I'd find you and choose you.

Because of you, I laugh,smile and I dare to dream more than ever have.

Thank you for the miracle of you.You are and always be the love of my life,My soulmate,my person.

I love you Zulu ka Malandela ngokulandela izinkomo zamadoda.

Zulu omnyama,Ondlela zimhlophe,

Wena ka Phunga no Mageba,

Wena ke Mjokwane ka Ndaba,

Wena wenkayishana ka Menzi,

Eyaphuza umlaza ngameva,

Sthuli sika Ndaba

Sthuli sika Nkombane

Ndabezitha..

Guest:(whistling) Musho! Ai kwathi angigiye ebandleni!

The whole time Mthokozisi was smiling so wide. His smile reaching his ears, not to forget the blushing mess he is. He didn't expect this but definitely loving it.

The Bishop finished his duties by calling up their witness closer so that they can sign their marriage certificate and prayed for them.

Bishop: with powers invested in me, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you Mr and Mrs Zulu.

You may kiss the bride.

The moment he's been waiting for. He firstly pecked her lips before taking her face to his hands and devoured her lips with his. Everyone was on their feet ululating and singing, camera lights flashing like crazy..

17

-----SMANGELE-----

The wedding was really beautiful, everything was top notch. From the decor, to catering, music, speeches, you name it.

It is almost over right now since the cake cutting ceremony have been done, the welcome to Mamaland and Babaland speeches. I forgot to mention the gifts, yey people went all out here. They are so luxury and fancy.

I was distracted from my thoughts by this yellow mellow guy who stands next to me. He doesn't say anything other than staring at me smiling and I raise my eyebrows frowning.

Me:can I help you?

Him: (smiling) you mean to tell me that you don't recognize me?

I looked at him closely and laughed covering my face.

Me:Dr Modise? My bad I'm sorry I am just exhausted it's been a busy day.

Ofentse: no problem. My name is Ofentse Modise. Let's leave the formalities at the hospital and call me Ofentse please.

Me:okay Ofentse. So good that you could join us.

Ofentse:Mthoko is like my brother man, I have never been so attached to a patient before like I have been with him.

Me:it's understandable I mean you spent a whole lot of time together, you were more like his private doctor.

Ofentse: that's correct. You look amazing.

Someone tell this guy I don't like flattery marn because I blush and cry so easily.

Me: thank you. Who did you leave your partner with?

Ofentse:(smirking) is that your way of asking me If I came here with my girlfriend?

Me:well...

Ofentse: I came alone ma'am.

I was about to open my mouth to say something but stopped when the MC announced that the couple is about to give a thank you speeche, Ofentse and I walked back to the main table. Why is he following me? Okay not that I mind though.

Mthoko: allow me to thank each and everyone of you who is here today. Honestly this day wouldn't be so amazing and successful without your presence.

Thank you very much.

To our Spiritual and biological parents, thank you for carrying us with your prayers from the beginning till the end, please

continue to pray for us because we are still going to need your prayers.

To my church, guys thank you, we had a wedding planner but how you pulled up your sleeves to help was amazing. Let that spirit continue to each and everyone of you. Never stop helping.

Before I pray and close it off, let me give to my wife to say few words. Hee bazalwane, I can't believe I am finally saying this. My wife. It's sounds so good marn.

The guests laughed and he handed the mic to the blushing Thandeka. They were now on their Zulu traditional attires. Beautiful.

Thandeka: I feel like saying (singing)

Ungithathe down, ngingelutho

Wangibeka high, wangenz'umuntu

Qhubeka Nkosi, usiphumelelise

Amen bazalwane. Allow me to reintroduce my self. My name is Thandeka Zulu. You can call me Mrs Zulu from now on I don't mind.

She said smiling and the guest cheered on.

Thandeka: My husband has thanked all of you and I also want to add and say thank you so much. May our good Lord bless you all and meet your individual needs.

I never knew there's so much love in Christianity.

I have gained myself a lot of mothers, father's, sisters, brother's in Christ.

Now I truly agree that there's no orphan in presence of Christ.

Thank you so much for dedicating your time and spend this day with us. We love you, God bless you all.

She handed the mic back to her husband who sang the song " how great are you Lord". He sang it so deep with tears streaming down his face then he prayed.

Mthoko:I want to thank you how you protected me,I want to thank you how you provided for me.

I want to thank you for the moments where you were there for me and I didn't even know it.

Thank you for the things you have spoken to me in secret places.

Thank you for how you have comforted me.

Thank you for the family you have given me

But mostly thank you for the wife you have given me.

Thank you for everything that you have done in my life.

Even if you Don't do any other thing, it would still be enough.

Amen.

--KING SHAKA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT---

Bongani gets off from the plane and button up his suit jacket as the air blows it off. He lit his cigar and take two pulls blowing it off and walked to the car.

They open the door for him while loading his bags on the boot. The car drives off with him busy looking outside the window until it's stops in one of the hotels.

He checks in and they give him the access card to his room.

"Welcome to Durban sir, we hope you are going to enjoy your stay with us"

Bongani:(smiling) I am planning to. Thank you.

He said walking to his room with his gold stick. The lady who was helping him shook her head exhaling. This guy is scary. Even more scary when he smiles because of the burnt scar on his face.

-----THANDEKA-----

Instead of spending more money paying hotels, we choose to spend our first matrimonial night at our new house.

The interior decorator really came through for us. Our house is heaven on Earth. When you are outside you may assume it's simple but come in, yerr.

I still can't believe that this is me, we are now here. Like God is so good guys, I mean I love that guy, more than anything and anyone.

Our bedroom has Bluetooth speakers connected in the ceiling. I took my phone and connected to it. A song by Sia-Helium came through.

I took off all the clothes and went to shower. Mthokozisi is still busy with the people delivering gifts and oh they are going to forgive me.

I'm tired actually I wish I could just tell them to leave but then I can't be rude right? I just hope they let soon though. I let the water hit me while my favorite song blusted out on the speakers in the bedroom. Sometimes I found myself singing along.

I am lucky that you're around

Yeah, I wanted to play tough, thought I could do all this on my own

But even Superwoman sometimes needed Superman's soul

Help me out of this hell

Your love lifts me up like helium

Your love lifts me up when I'm down, down, down, when I've hit the ground

You're all I need

'Cause your love lifts me up like helium

Your love lifts me up like helium

You lift me up and I am found

You lift me up before I hit the ground

You lift me up when I am down, down, down

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You lift me up and I am found

You lift me up before I hit the ground

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I walked out of the shower with the towel wrapped around
my body, my hair still wet. I had styled my own hair so when
showering I let the water wash off all the shampoo.

I took my body lotion and went to the mirror and lotion
myself.

This song speaks deep to me and it's on repeat.

Mthoko finally finish with these people and get to
our bedroom. He stand by the door staring at me
before taking steps walking up to me and stand
behind me.

We stare at each other through the mirror.

Mthoko: let me help you with that.

He says taking my body lotion smearing it on my back slowly. There's something about his touch that makes my heart beats 5 times in a minute.

He plants his warm lips on my neck. I close my eyes taking it all in and he turns me around slowly to face him. He kisses me. He has kissed me before but this kiss right now, it is filled with all emotions, desire and need.

He picks me up and place me on top of the dressing table and stand in between my legs.

#NARRATED

"Lord, we ask you to rejoice and delight in us as we engage in sexual intimacy.

We know that at the beginning of creation You made us male and female. For this reason a man leaves his father and

mother and unites with his wife ,as we did and the two become one flesh.

Indeed, we are no longer two

but one flesh. Bless our physical union tonight so that we both express and foster that deep intimacy You gave to marriage alone. Your Son said, "What God has joined together, let no one separate." Join us together physically, emotionally, and spiritually in Your sight and take pleasure in our sexual intimacy.

Amen"

Mthokozisi said that short prayer and opened his eyes. Thandeka was looking at him. They kissed, first lightly, then more urgently, his tongue in her mouth, her hips titled against his, her breasts against his chest, her whole body sending a message that was undeniable.

He put her down taking her hand to the bed. He left her slip down the bed, unfastening his pants, eased his briefs over his hips and his hard erected cock sprang free.

She brushed the length of his cock with her palm before taking him in her mouth. He sighed, eyes shut, thinking about how unbelievably good it felt.

When Thandeka gave a throaty moan, then her mouth from base to too and whispered to him" look at me".

He pulled her up so that they face each other. He slid his hands between her legs, positioning his fingers and thumbs on her pussy, the way she was so wet indicated to him that she was ready for him.

He nuzzled against her, his lips on her neck, nibbling and kissing his way up to her earlobe, tickling her with his tongue.

Thandeka:(digging his nails on his back) ooh ooh ohh. Oh my God!

She whispered as he worked his fingers against her slick seam, then she forgot to pose,to try looking good and lost herself inside her own pleasure.

This was her first time being intimate with the man she loved and felt so deep with her body and soul. She was so ready to give herself fully to him, her husband.

Mthokozisi watched her squeeze her eyes, before she could recover, he rolled onto her back and slipped inside her. After the first thrust he stopped, he had to hold still, knowing that if he kept moving, if he gave himself up to the exquisite tightness, the heat, he would explode. It's been so long since he's been inside a woman like this and he was happy he's doing this with his wife.

He wanted her to come at least once more, with him. He slammed inside her again, his cock covered by her white cream. She gasped and shut her eyes, biting her lips, opening her legs a bit wider to give him more access as he pumped her fast and stopped.

He picked one leg and placed it on his shoulder, the other one stroking his back, from the nape of his neck to the base of his spine.

Mthokozisi:(massaging her boob with his hand) baby you feel so damn good.

Thandeka responded with a moan, after that he couldn't hold back any longer. He pushed himself inside her, deep into that maddening clutch, that heat and she screamed realising hard that her juices were flowing down her thighs to her leg.

She moaned, her hands locked onto his shoulders, her breath against his face, her voice in his ear, urging him not to stop .

Mthokozisi:(grunting with his eyes closed) oh baby!

He gasped as she put her lips against his ear, whispering his name softly over and over, like a chant or song or maybe a prayer.

Right then, his finger slid into her wet hair and grabbed it roughly, his lips biting on her shoulder, he cried her name as he released hard inside her.

He came so good that he was vibrating, Thandeka passed out and enjoyed the feeling of her husband filling her pussy with so much cum in her dream that she didn't want to wake up from...

18

-----BONGANI-----

I was standing by the window outside my bedroom with my iPad on the hand. I got distracted from it a bit by the beautiful sea breeze coming from a distance. Arh, Durban. What a breath of fresh air in the morning.

I lit my cigarette and puffed two pulls before going back to the article. The trending news, The Zulu's wedding. The same guy who delivered me and gave me healing. I am here standing it's all thanks to him, oh he said he doesn't have powers to perform miracles so it's all thanks to his God, our God .

Thandeka, she looks so grown up and beautiful. The glow and happiness on her face so visible. You can't miss it. She is beautiful and happy. I have watched her sermons and she is good. I remember the first time hearing her sing, anyone

can sing but her voice, it has always had that anointing and power on it.

A knock came from my bedroom and I walked back inside and opened the door. My PA walked in pulling her suitcase.

Zinhle: good morning sid, I am surprised you are still not ready at this time.

Me: what's up with the formalities? Anyway those people can wait.

Zinhle:(shaking her head) I can't believe you. Anyway are you enjoying Durban?

Me:(holding her waist) if you could join me in that bed, maybe I would..

Zinhle:(removing my hands from her) can we be civil and professional? Thank you. What's the plan since you are delaying your meeting?

Me:(sitting on the bed) I want you to look at the non profit organization that is ran by Thandeka Zulu and this friend of hers , what's her name? Khethiwe Ngema.

Zinhle:(frowning) why? That's not your type of investment..

Me: I don't remember saying I have a type. Anyway please look at it because I want to make a donation.

Zinhle: I will ask again why? These people are married to rich pastors, they don't need your money!

Me: There's so much God's work to do, believe me, they will appreciate this kind of donation.

Zinhle:(folding her hands) is this about Thandeka? You still have feelings for her?

Me:(smirking as I pick the jealousy on her tone) come on, Thandeka is a married woman now. All I want to do is show my appreciation and compensate the pain I caused her.

Zinhle: it's better be that Bongani because I won't have this. If you want to go back to your old ways please let me know so that I can leave.

Me:(pulling her closer to me) it's so cute that you are jealous, but honestly, you don't have to. Now give daddy sugar.

Zinhle:(blushing) Bongani we are running late .

Me:(pushing her to bed) they will wait..

-----SMANGELE-----

Bianca got on top of me and forcefully opened my eyes nearly blinding me in the process. Yoooh Lord! Zalani anginamoma. I got up and looked at her.

She just smiled beautiful and that smiled warmed up my heart.

Its so innocent and amazing. My daughter is everything to me.

I love my babies but I really wish I could just get a two months break from them just to sleep . We were the last ones to sleep coming from the wedding. I really don't deserve this torture right now but then.

I got up making the bed and changed my clothes after a bath. We wore matching outfits with the madam and walked to the kitchen. I found Mxolisi and Mthobisi crawling on the floor, toys all over.

Jehovah! This is Definitely going to be a long draining day. My mother isn't paying attention to them as she's enjoying her breakfast. I put Bianca down as it's clear she wants to join them and pull a chair sitting next to my mom.

Me: good morning Mom.

MaNdaba: good morning baby, slept well?

Me: I wish. Woke up to Bianca attempting to take out my eye.

MaNdaba:(laughing) so much drama!

Me: for real yooh hai , I need a holiday.

MaNdaba: anyway some guy popped in here and left this for you.

I frowned. Guy? Dropping flowers here?

Me: who are they from?

MaNdaba: Ofentse. Who is Ofentse?

I don't know but I found myself blushing and smiling at that reading the card. Guy was asking me on a date with him. And that if I agree I will show up at his office in his workplace. So cheesy.

MaNdaba: Smangele!

Me:(closing the card and putting them flowers away)
urhm, he's a friend.

MaNdaba: a friend? With that smile?

Me:(blushing) yes mother, a friend. Now let me feed
my daughter.

-----THANDEKA-----

I was woken up by my phone ringing. I moved from Mthoko's
embrace and reached for it from my drawer answering
rubbing my eyes. It was Gugu.

Me:(yawning) hello.

Gugu: hello! Heee Lord this child? Why does it sound like
you are still sleeping at this time?

Me:yes I am. It's still early Gugu.

Gugu: Jesus! Oh my God, they are going to send you back home.. hiii Lord, did they not tell you that a young wife doesn't sleep until this time?

Me: (rolling my eyes) stop with the drama Gugu, it's 9 am.

Gugu: exactly, your husband should be having a pre-lunch right now!

I just chuckled at her drama. She's extra this one. I can't keep up with her craziness.

Gugu:(whispering) anyway, I called to find out about the holy sex..

I couldn't hold myself but burst out laughing. Seriously? You see what I meant? Girl is too crazy damn!

Me: please stop

my husband is still sleeping.

Gugu: well answer me quickly. Was it good?

Me:(smiling and biting my lips remembering last night) amazing, worth the wait.

Gugu:(clapping hands) Amen! Exactly what I wanted to hear. I trusted him though, I knew he was going to deliver! Now girl serve him, serve that man, don't open a gap for the devil to enter in your marriage..

Me: you talk too much one would swear you once married a pastor before.

I heard Mthoko chuckling behind me that I quickly said my goodbyes and turned to him. He had his eyes half opened and amused.

Me: good morning Mageba.

Mthokozisi: good morning MaNdaba.

Me: I'm sorry about the noise, my cousin is crazy.

Mthokozisi: it's okay, I was long awake anyway. How did you sleep?

Me: with you next to me, good!

Mthokozisi:mhmm.. I'm glad to hear that.

Me:let me get up and prepare us some breakfast..

I said pulling the blankets away but he pulled me back to bed by my hand and kissed me.

Mthokozisi: the real breakfast starts here.

He said holding my head and kissing me. At first I was worried about the morning breath but argh, I chose not to entertain that as my husband devoured me.

He opened my thighs with his knee getting in between me. His manhood was poking me while his hands was working on my boobs.

He left my lips and sucked on them circulative around the nipples. I moaned running my fingers on his back. He planted the kisses from my boobs all the way to my stomach. Putting his tongue on my belly button.

I moaned in pleasure when I felt his tongue in between my thighs , licking me all the way to my pussy. The way I was so wet, I was a bit embarrassed because it was an ocean down there.

He rubbed my clit with his fingers before licking it,when he muffed me, eating my pussy so damn well. I cried. I don't know how he did it. His lips muffing me his tongue fucking me. A skill!

I felt a huge of orgasms building up that I tried getting up but he pressed me down, my legs on his shoulders, I decided to stop fighting it and released hard on his mouth, pinching and pulling his ear.

He didn't let go of me immediately after cummin. He worked with me until I was powerless. He then got up. His dick so hard and shiny. He rubbed his shiny head in. Ramming it up and down, my vaginal lips kissing it before sliding on me.

Mthokozisi: (biting his lips pressing on my stomach) damn!

He said as he thrusted slow, in and out of me, he pulled me up to sit on my ass as he made love to me slowly. His eyes were so Small, his hand at the back of my neck.

Mthokozisi: I love you Thandeka..

He whispered and I told him I love him too and his pace changed. He pumped me hard and fast that my juices trailed off from my legs.

He stopped and flipped me over making me to lay on my stomach with my ass up . He dickslaped my pussy finger fucking it before he slammed hard on me and held my waist and thrust deep on me.

I held my head with my hands screaming his name as he was hitting it so good and in all the right places. When the sheets slipped from my hands I took the pillow and buried my face into it.

Mthokozisi: Gaaaad!

He said roaring loud as he released hard and passed out next to me. His chest going up and down. I just continued to sleep with my face down.

He pulled me to his chest and kissed my sweaty forehead. He is wet from all the sweating.

Mthokozisi: God you are amazing. I think I am going to be addicted.

Me:(biting my lips blushing) there's no fault in that. You will be getting addicted to your wife.

He pulled my face to his and kissed me.

Mthokozisi: thank you for agreeing to be mine. I love you so much.

Me: I love you more. Let's go take a shower. I m hungry.

Mthokozisi: there's no food in this house.

Me: it's fine then we'll order in something to eat while we sorts out our presents.

Mthokozisi: okay.

-----MTHOKOZISI-----

After taking a shower Thandeka went to the kitchen to get our food and I remained behind still talking to my son who

was asking me endless questions about when am I bringing him to live with me and all that.

It's one of the things I need to discuss with my wife about. Since the year is almost over, I think it would be best if he moves in next year January. The remaining months in this year I would love to spend it with my wife enjoying the privacy and our honeymoon.

Just because we decided to spend it here at home doesn't mean we won't do funny things couple's do. We Still have a lot to do, travel around South Africa as there's lot of places we have never been into.

I walked up to her humming and I smiled. I hugged her from behind kissing her hair.

Me: someone is happy.

Thandeka: very.

Me: I'm glad. Is the food real?

Thandeka: just a minute love.

She said setting up the table and I sat on the chair looking at her going up and down. Now this, the moment I would forever treasure.

Thandeka: when are you resuming your church duties?

Me:(drinking the juice) you mean " we?" Because I'm no longer alone in this but now it's us.

Thandeka:oh yes, when are we resuming the church duties?

Me: next year January. We are on honeymoon remember?

Thandeka: (smiling) of cause. These gifts are so many I don't know which one to start with.

Me: I checked yesterday some of the things we will have to give it out to your organization because they are repeated while some are plain unnecessary.

Thandeka: thank you for suggesting that because I was actually thinking about it and about to run it past you.

Me:great minds think alike..

Thandeka:(smiling) they do.. umuhle yazi..

Me:(laughing) hai ke! Wake wayibonaphi indoda emnyama enhle?

Thandeka: no like serious my love. You are a whole snack. Tall, handsome, smart, smells good...

Me :(putting down the fork smirking) qhubeka, angeke ngisadla.

Thandeka:(laughing) uma ungadli uzodlani?

Me:wena...

18

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He pulled my face to his and kissed me.

Mthokozisi: thank you for agreeing to be mine. I love you so much.

Me: I love you more. Let's go take a shower. I m hungry.

Mthokozisi: there's no food in this house.

Me: it's fine then we'll order in something to eat while we sorts out our presents.

Mthokozisi: okay.

-----MTHOKOZISI-----

After taking a shower Thandeka went to the kitchen to get our food and I remained behind still talking to my son who was asking me endless questions about when am I bringing him to live with me and all that.

It's one of the things I need to discuss with my wife about. Since the year is almost over, I think it would be best if he moves in next year January. The remaining months in this year I would love to spend it with my wife enjoying the privacy and our honeymoon.

Just because we decided to spend it here at home doesn't mean we won't do funny things couple's do. We Still have a

lot to do, travel around South Africa as there's lot of places we have never been into.

I walked up to her humming and I smiled. I hugged her from behind kissing her hair.

Me: someone is happy.

Thandeka: very.

Me: I'm glad. Is the food real?

Thandeka: just a minute love.

She said setting up the table and I sat on the chair looking at her going up and down. Now this, the moment I would forever treasure.

Thandeka: when are you resuming your church duties?

Me:(drinking the juice) you mean " we?" Because I'm no longer alone in this but now it's us.

Thandeka:oh yes, when are we resuming the church duties?

Me: next year January. We are on honeymoon remember?

Thandeka: (smiling) of course. These gifts are so many I don't know which one to start with.

Me: I checked yesterday some of the things we will have to give it out to your organization because they are repeated while some are plain unnecessary.

Thandeka: thank you for suggesting that because I was actually thinking about it and about to run it past you.

Me:great minds think alike..

Thandeka:(smiling) they do.. umuhle yazi..

Me:(laughing) hai ke! Wake wayibonaphi indoda emnyama enhle?

Thandeka: no like serious my love. You are a whole snack. Tall, handsome, smart, smells good...

Me :(putting down the fork smirking) qhubeka, angeke ngisadla.

Thandeka:(laughing) uma ungadli uzodlani?

Me:wena...

-----SMANGELE-----

I kept turning around the mirror staring at myself. Damn I'm beautiful. I really took My mother's genes . I found myself doing the little dance catwalking. You would not say that this body, carried two babies.

I took my bag double checking if I took everything that I need and walked out. The trio was making noise in the lounge and that gave me a perfect opportunity to ran away before Bianca cries for me.

I sighed in relief when I got to the car without her seeing me. I started it and drove playing the new amapiano hit song my babies love so much.

I found myself singing along those crazy lyrics just like they do.

- Ai amanikiniki ai I

cheese Ai beef,ai

amanikiniki"

I actually laughed when I thought about this. The lyrics are crazy but the beat is the one shame. I lowered the volume when I reached the hospital.

Fixed my lipstick, put on my shades and got out from the car locking it and walked inside. I think I still remember his office. Phew, so I'm doing this? Yuuh the way men have dribbled me Neh, in fact let me not go in circles but the way Bianca's father dribbled me, what he did can never be undid.

I scanned my eyes around looking for his office until I bumped into this beautiful nurse in the corridor who was carrying a file. My shoes doesn't allow me to go around in this huge slippery floor so I stopped her.

Me: good afternoon sister.

Nurse:(closing the file and looking at me) afternoon ma'am, how can I help you?

Me: I am looking for Dr Modise's office, he's expecting me.

Nurse: just go straight, second door on your left, you will find his surname outside.

Me: thank you so much. Have a great day.

We parted ways and suddenly I felt hot although there's aircon. Okay I'm here now. I did my breathing exercises and knocked. A voice inside told me to come in. HUUUH Jesus, I opened the door and walked in. He was on the phone call busy turning around with his chair .

This guy is handsome bathong, you see Jesse Suntu? Mzi from Rhythm City? Yes I am looking at him right now. How he played with the pen on his fingers was gorgeous. Okay it's the hands that are beautiful bazalwane.

He signalled for me to sit down as he finished with his call and turned to look at me.

Ofentse:(smiling) so you came?

Me:(blushing) I came.

Ofentse: how are you doing? You look beautiful..

Wuuh okay someone, urhm okay I'm blushing my make up will melt.

Me:I am doing good and thank you. How are you doing doctor?

Ofentse:(stretching his arms)I am tired and hungry. Want us to grab something to eat?

Me: that's why I'm here.

Ofentse:okay let's go.

He took off his coat hanging it behind his chair, grabbed his car keys and cellphone then we walked out. We got to the park lot

and he suggested we use one car and I was down with that.

We got to his driving to the nearest restaurant.

I ordered some juicy ribs, chips, two rolls and 4 hot wings. Don't look at me like that, I love food. Oh and also some wine.

I was focused on my phone when he ordered his so I didn't pay attention until it came back. Hai bazalwane I felt bad. Guy ordered some green salad and steak qha while my plate was huge.

He didn't seem bothered though although mina eix, how do you finish all of this in front of your crush? And then he's drinking Appletizer. I'm dead!

Ofentse: so the purpose of this lunch is to get to know you better, actually know each other better. I won't beat around the bush but I'm going to tell you straight up that

for the very first moment I laid my eyes on you, I liked you and wished to speak to you but you were in a hurry.

Straight to the point. I like.

Me: what would you like to know about me?

Ofentse: the basics you know. Who's Smangele, what does she do and the rest.

Me: urhm okay, Smangele is a 27 year old wonderful mother to two beautiful babies, I am currently working at my father's hotel and doing a beauty course part time.

Ofentse: interesting. So are you involved with the father of your kids?

Me: no, My son's father, Mthoko is married and my daughter's father is in prison.

Ofentse: wait, Mthoko is your baby daddy?

Me: yes. I thought you knew?

Ofentse:no

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I've seen the boy around him but I thought he was Thandeka's.

Me: no he's mine.

Ofentse: so help me understand this, Mthoko dated you and you guys had a child then break up for him to marry your sister?

Me:it didn't happen like that..

Ofentse:(raising his eyebrow) okay?

Me:urhm what I can say is that Mthoko and I have a history and it's not a good one. I will tell you some other day.

Ofentse: I think it's best we lay all the cards on the table so that I can know what I'm dealing with and you are very much

welcome to do the same about me because Smangele one thing I hate is drama. I don't stay where there's drama.

Me: there's no drama. That I can assure you.

Ofentse:okay. So is there anything you want to know about me?

Me: are you single? And if that's the case why?

Ofentse: yes I am single, I broke up with the lady I was seeing because our dreams and goals didn't compliment each other. On top of it all she didn't want to compromise.

Me: what is it that you are looking in a woman?.

Ofentse: you need to be goal driven, have your own life, dreams, aspirations you want to accomplish. I love a well informed lady. As much as I don't expect you to know about surgical and theater terms but be informed about weather,

politics, soccer. Read.. don't let generations and scandal be the only thing we talk about.

Me: I see.

-----MTHOKOZISI-----

I threw myself at the couch and rested my head on it. Damn it's been a long day. The gifts are way too much and wow. People do love us. I mean I don't even know what to do with some of the stuff.

My phone rang and I answered. It's was Muzi my assistant.

Me: Nceku..

Muzi: mfundisi, how are you doing?

Me: I'm good Muzi thanks for asking.

Muzi: I'm sorry to bother you sir but there's someone here who really needs to see you. I have told him that you are away but he insists.

Me: (sitting up) who is it?

Muzi:(clears his throat) Bongani...

Me:Bongani? From where?

Muzi: the one you prayed for his deliverance on that..

Me:oh oh oh. I remember him. What does he want?

Muzi: he won't say, only saying he wants to see you.

Me:(rubbing my face) give him my address I will be waiting for him.

Muzi: thank you pastor. Sorry to bother you again.

I hung up and went to look for Thandeka and found her making some snack for us.

Thandeka: I am almost done..

Me:babe..

Thandeka:yes love?

Me:urhm Bongani is coming to see us .

Thandeka: here?

Me: yes. They called me at church saying he wants to see me and he is insisting that he's not leaving until such is done.

Thandeka: yoooh hai ungumlingo lomuntu! Ufunani!(he really is testing us, what does he want?)

Me: I guess we will Never know until we get to meet him.

Thandeka: please don't expect me to make tea and cakes for him..

Me: baby..

Thandeka: hai Zulu. I am actually not happy that you allowed him to come here but it's fine.,it's done already.

Me:I'm sorry I just wanted this to be over so that we can get all the time to ourselves.

Thandeka: I'm going to give you guys privacy when he comes here.

Me: baby I..

Thandeka: I forgave him yes, but that doesn't mean I have forgotten what he put me through or if I want to see him ever again.

Me: come here baby.

I said taking her to my arms and brushing her back kissing her hair.

Me:I'm going to meet him outside and I'm sorry, I didn't want to open old wounds or upset you. When you are ready

you can face him. I am here with you, at some point to be fully over the situation you need to face it heads on.

Thandeka:(sniffing) I will never forget.

Me: I understand. I'm here for you. Always.

-----BONGANI-----

I arrived at the address Zulu's sidekick gave me. Wow. I'm impressed. I must say I didn't expect this. Yes I heard that he got money from his accident but I didn't think it was enough to build such heaven on Earth.

They opened up for me after announcing my arrival on the intercom. I drove inside their clean pavement yard and parked.

Getting out of my car I saw Zulu coming out of his glass sliding door. He walked up to me. We shook hands.

Mthoko: let's go sit there.

He says pointing some metal built chairs under the tree.

Me: let me first take this opportunity to thank you for allowing to see me at such notice. It is just that I am going back to Johannesburg Tonight so I needed to see you.

Mthoko:oh ai no there's no problem. What brings you this side?

Me: there's nothing much I really want to say except to thank you. I wanted to come and thank you personally for your prayers. You didn't only pray for my healing but for my well being. It's a lot yes but I'm getting back on my feet and it's all thanks to you.

Mthoko:we thank God, it's him who made it all possible. How are your legs? I see you are using a stick.

Me: sometimes I get strained and hurt my back the stick is for balance when that happens.

Mthoko:in good time you won't be using it altogether. Urhm I'm happy you are healing and claiming your life back. Do you go to church?

Me:(chuckling) ai mfundisi. I am grateful to God really but I'm not a born again. I have done a lot of bad things I don't think God will accept me as his servant.

Mthoko: that's where you are wrong. God doesn't want the perfect people. He wants your likes to actually be the one to preach the good news about him. Would you believe me if I were to tell you that I was in prison for 4 years?

Me: no offense but that's a lie.

Mthoko:(chuckling) you see? When you get home, please read Psalm 119:169. Cry before God, ask the Lord to give you understanding according to his word.

Me: I will try to remember that. Without wasting more time, I came to drop this. It's a little appreciation and contribution to the church organization so that you can do more good work.

I said giving him the cheque.

Mthoko: May God bless you man. Thank you. Let me inform my wife about it. I will be back.

He stands up and disappear inside the house. Few minutes later Thandeka comes out. Alone. My heart start beating fast. My God she's beautiful.

She sits down and look at me.

Me: Thandeka,wow. You look...

Thandeka:(stern voice) Mrs Zulu to you. What are you doing here?

Me: I came to drop the cheque and to actually apologize for what I did to you.

Thandeka I know it won't make any sense but I am really sorry for all the pain I put you through. I wish we could rewind time and I would better.

Thandeka: I need one answer from you, why did you do all of that? I see the abuse from you, but what did Mom and Quinton do to you?

Me: eix Thandeka...

Thandeka:(putting the cheque on my hand) take your filthy money and disappear. I don't want it. No amount of it will ever erase the pain you put me through. I may have forgiven you but it doesn't mean I have forgotten about it, and it also doesn't mean you are welcome to come here. I don't trust you and will never be.

Just because I am married to a pastor don't you dare think you will come here in your wolve clothing pretending to be a sheep. My husband has a good heart and believes in giving people second chances..

Me: that what true Christians do..

Thandeka: well i don't! Don't push me. I won't mind finishing what I started, this time making sure you are dead. Just leave us the hell alone. Take this money to any orphanage out there, that's if you really mean good.

My whole body trembled at the reminder of how I thought my life was over when that fire consumed my house and actually got to me.

Me: you know I am trying to make ends meet here, apologizing to you for what I did but not even once have you apologised for the damage you also caused in my life. Not once .

Thandeka:(laughing sarcastically) imihlolo ka James! Read my lips, A. S. O. Z. E ! You deserved it, oh how I wish Mthoko didn't pray for you..

I don't know what happened but I found myself grabbing her wrist..

Mthoko: and what the hell is going on here?

I don't know when did he get to us but I quickly let go of her. I was sweating and panting. I looked at Zulu who gave me a

straight"I asked you a question" look, . A whole 6 inch tall dark man looking at you. I found myself trembling with fear.

Mthoko:(holding her waist) you okay my love?

Thandeka:once a trash always a trash. Get this thing out of my house and I don't ever want to see him again here.

She said and turned going back to the house. Zulu sat down still his eyes on me.

Mthoko: (sitting down looking at me) Do you really disrespect me that much to drive all the way you come from and provoke my wife? In my house, on my presence?

Me: I...I...I don't know what came over me.. I really came here in peace.

Mthoko: tomorrow you will go around accusing Christians and their Faith saying all things about them..

Me: Zulu mfowethu...

Mthoko:(standing up) hamba Bongani. Please leave..

Fuck why did I allow my anger to blow off my cover so fast? Shit! This wasn't part of the plan. I walked to my car. I got in the car and wiped out the sweat reversing out. I parked on

the side of the road and took the newspaper that's on my passenger seat.

I looked at the front page news of the awful accident that made headlines all over the media few weeks ago and sighed.

I started the car and drove away.

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(This chapter is unedited, please excuse the errors)

-----THANDEKA-----

I can't believe the audacity that Bongani has yazi. He honestly sat down and thought that I owe him an apology? What The fu... Oh urhm apologies Lord didn't me to swear just that this toenail of Satan is really provoking me I swear I'm going to kill him for real this time.

My phone rang and it was Khethiwe. I exhaled before answering.

Me:love.

Khethiwe: Mrs Zulu. I have been trying to call you.

Me:I'm sorry I was dealing with some thing.

Khethiwe: doesn't sound good. What's up?

I explained to him and she as shocked.

Khethiwe:hunny your husband is too kind. But what am I saying? Him and Mncendisi are the same. He also forgave that pyscho Mngobi who put me through much hell. I truly understand how you feel. These people should just disappear and die really.

I laughed a little. Khethiwe is my kind of girl, both of us are young and married to powerful pastors. She's royalty but hai I think I'm better, she is ghetto.

Me: I will have to talk to him and make him toughen up a bit.

We can't have the likes of Bongani walking on our heads.

Khethiwe: hahahaha don't be the monster pastor's wife. You know how these girls who wants our husbands refers to us.

Me:(laughing) what do they call us?

Khethiwe: apparently we are evil and not strong or anointed like our husbands.

We both burst out laughing. Oh my gosh.

Me: yooh hai, I'm still going to deal with the girls crushing on my husband?

Khethiwe: you need to be serious when it comes to that but the person who needs to draw the line is your husband. If they overstep it, put the Christian doek aside and beat the hoe.

Imagine a whole mam mfundisi beating someone for that. I laughed hard.

Me: you are crazy. I know my head is lacking few screws but I can never do that. They spoke to Mthoko and told him to put me first before the church and everyone.

Khethiwe: your husband looks cool and strict. Yooh with Mncendisi, I had to twist few ears from these praise and worship team girls. Because wow, I couldn't.

Khethiwe is crazy. She's very much capable of that. I was still laughing and enjoying our gossip when I felt hands wrapping itself around my waist, my favorite scent suffocating me and warm lips on my neck.

Me:(clearing my throat) babe I have to go, the man's here.

Khethiwe: pass my greetings. Bye.

I hung and turn up to him. He kissed me.

Mthoko: you good?

Me: I'm fine just a little bit mad.

Mthoko:(making those puppy eyes? Mad at me?

Me:(rolling my eyes walking away) yes. You shouldn't have invited Bongani here. Now look he knows our address and I don't think I am comfortable with that.

Mthoko: baby I am sorry about that. You don't have to worry about anything because the one we serve can never leave our side nor forsake us.

I gave him a silent treatment and he smirked. The next thing I know he's tickling me. Gosh I hate that. I ran away until I threw myself on the couch and he falls on top of me.

Mthoko: I love your laughter, I love hearing it and seeing your smile all the time. I want to make you happy.

Me: I am happy babe. You really do make me happy.

Mthoko: serious?

Me: yes. Very.

Mthoko:(perking my lips)I'm glad. I was thinking.

Me: urhm?

Mthoko:that we leave Durban for a while..

Me:(sitting up) okay, do you have any place in mind?

Mthoko:yes.

Me: tell me baby please..

Mthoko:(getting up) nope. Start packing not too much clothes though. I will be preparing us something to eat later.

Me: baby...

Mthoko:(zipping his lips) I'm not saying a word. All I can say is that you are going to love it.

Me:(sighed defeated leaning back on the couch) fine!

He walks to the kitchen and starts taking out pots. I wonder what is he planning.

You

-----BONGANI-----

I got to my hotel room and took off the jacket throwing it on the bed. Pouring the whiskey on the glass was just too delaying for me so I just drank straight from the bottle.

Zinhle walked in and stood by the door folding her hands and looked at me . I know that look and I hate it. I know what she's about to say and I don't want to hear it.

Zinhle:(sighs) I have booked our flight and our tickets are ready.

We are leaving at 5pm. Get ready.

Me:(taking off the tie) I don't think I will leave tonight. I still have some business to take care of.

Zinhle: Bongani.. what is the obsession you have with this girl?

Am I not good enough for you?

Her voice was breaking.

Me: not now Zinhle I need to think!

Zinhle:(sitting next to me wiping her tears) no Bongani we are doing this right now and right here! I was there, nursing

you back to health where everyone turned their backs on you including your sister. You have no idea how it's takes to love someone like you but I do. I really do and watching you obsessing about someone who never gave a dime about you, who wanted you death, someone who gave you a second chance at this life thing by forgiving your ass hurts me.

Like seriously are you prepared to loose everything that we have build because of this?

Me:(defensive) nothing is going to happen. I will make sure of that.

Zinhle: you want to bet on it? Fine! You can gamble with your own life but I'm out of here.. I tried. God knows I tried.

She says getting up and going to the door. I rubbed my face.

Me: I promised him. I promised him revenge.

Zinhle: revenge for what? You didn't know about him until his death and you think it's fair to fight his battles that has nothing to do with you? Honestly if he was a great father he should have raised you maybe you were not going to turn out the way you did but reading about him, I think it's best he didn't because you were going to be worse.

Let go of this Bongani before you are doomed for good. I will not be here where all of this backfires. You should take the

lesson from how he died and wonder what's going to happen to you.

She storms out and I remain alone. I take off all the clothes and stand in front of the mirror looking at my burned body as all the memories crushes back. I close my eyes and I am taken back to the day where she stood in front of me with a gun.

I remember laughing thinking it was a toy and that she wasn't going to shoot but the anger and hatred on her eyes scared me although I acted tough. When she pulled the trigger 3 times I knew I had underestimated her.

I sigh and put on back my clothes. I look at the news paper and tear the cover page to pieces and threw myself to bed. My head is spinning and the headache is too much.

I might have passed out because I am awoken by Zinhle who tells me she's leaving. She is dressed and pulling up her bags. I look at the time and it's 15:30. Damn.

Me:urhm please give me 30 minutes to shower.

Zinhle:sorry?

Me: you are right, there's nothing left for me in Durban. I need to..

I don't finish the sentence she jumps on me and hugs me hard

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her cologne all over me.

Zinhle: gosh thank you. Urhmm okay hurry and shower I will take out the clothes you will wear.

Me: thank you, for having my back.

Zinhle: I got you baby.

I strip and head to the shower.

-----OFENTSE-----

I am at the office busy zooming in Smangele's pictures on Instagram. Yes I am stalking her. Shhhh don't tell her that. Seeing her pictures with her sister makes me wonder how does this whole thing work out.

She didn't tell me how her and Mthoko ended up having a son together, we got carried away with the conversation that we realized my lunch break was over.

I love that she's a total opposite of me. Beautiful, loud, smart and care free. I found myself blabbing non stop with her, I guess she brings the best in me and it's not even been that long.

I dial Mthoko's number and wait as it's rings on the other side.

Mthoko:my brother.

Me: Zulu. How are you? How's marriage life?

Mthoko: great marn if I knew it was this good, I would have long wifed her.

The excitement on his voice is visible. You can't miss it.

Me:I'm happy to see you this happy. Beautiful wedding you had man. I'm inspired.

Mthoko: thank you.. I wouldn't have done it without you and... Wait, did you just say you are inspired? Madoda, last time you told me you are engaged to your work, did something happen? Like is there a future Mrs Modise on the picture?

Me: hai Zulu gossip is for women!

Mthoko:come on, don't do me like that.

Me: if you may know I have my eyes on someone..

Mthoko: finally! Hallelujah. I was starting to get worried.

Remember the Bible says it's not right for a man to...

Me: yeah yeah I know before you read the whole scripture on me!

Mthoko:(laughing) I am happy my friend and I am the one that is going to officiate you. So who is the lucky lady?

Me:(clears throat) mhmm.. your sister in law ..

Mthoko: Smangele?

Me: yes.

Mthoko: wow, I didn't see that one coming but it doesn't change anything, I am happy when you are happy.

Me: thank you. Look marn I know that you and Smangele have a child together, something I discovered recently by the way. I just hope it won't ruin things between us?

Mthoko: look marn, you were free to date Smangele. I'm cool really and very much Happy with my wife.

Me:pheh thank you. I just wanted you to be cool with me making a move on your ex..

Mthoko: Smangele is not my ex. Yes we have a son but we never dated. There's no feelings or history you are stepping on so please.. feel free.

Now I was puzzled. Kgante how did they make the baby? I didn't want to look dumb so I said my goodbyes and wished him well. Something is up here and I can feel it. Smangele dismissed the topic earlier and from Zulu's tone you can tell that a lot happened.

I need to get to the bottom of this, sooner or later.

I checked the time and pushed my chair back getting up and locked my office on my way out.

-----SMANGELE-----

I just received a message from Ofentse saying he wants to see me. Mhmm, twice in one day? Am I lucky or what?

I had just finished up with supper so I checked the little mice and they are out of sight. I ran out of the house only to bump with my father driving in. He gives me that suspicious look shaking his head and I ignore him.

Ofentse is parked down the road . Few houses away from ours. I got to his car and found him sleeping on his driver's seat listening to some soul music by Zonke.

He looks tired and super hot. Gosh I still can't believe that out of all the ladies he meets every day of his life, he is interested in me.

Me: how are you doing?

I asked after giving him a hug.

Ofentse: I am tired. I could do with a massage really.

He gives me that puppy eyes and I just laughed. He sleeps on my thighs and I brush his eyebrows and soft hair.

Me: I was surprised getting your call. I thought we are meeting Friday?

Ofentse: oh yes we still are. Just that there's something that has been bothering me so I thought I should come and find out before Friday.

Me: what is that?

Ofentse:(sitting up) I called Mthoko early just to clear the air, like us guys do that so that there's no drama as I have mentioned earlier how much I hate it. He mentioned something that intrigued me.

Me:(swallowing hard) what did he say?

Ofentse: he said you two have no romantically history of relationship. Now I can't help myself but wonder how did you make the baby then?

Oh heee Lord! Now how do I tell this fine gorgeous man that I rape him? How is he going to look at me after this?

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-----SMANGELE-----

You know when they say that every action has a reaction, whatever you do now , bear in mind that it's consequences will come haunt you one day. Karma doesn't forget it's address, so they say.

I mean it would have been easier if Ofentse was no way in close or contact with Mthoko, I wouldn't have found myself in this predicament of explaining my dirty embarrassing past to him.

Now it's either I tell him myself or he hears it from someone else who might cook it up to make it look even worse. Truth be told, what I did was very awful and disturbing. Just because Mthoko is a man doesn't make it right, on top of it all he went to jail and a child was produced in the process. Sigh, what a mess.

Ofentse:Babe..

He says touching my hand bringing me back to life as I was lost on my own thoughts.

Me:(clears my throat) urhh yeah. I was just thinking about a better way to say this but there's none. Ofentse I know that after this you will not look at me the same way and it's fine, I just want you to understand that I have grown-up and repented from that person I was.

I am more wiser and careful with my actions now.

He looked at me without blinking, giving me that "continue look". Okay this is it, a do or die situation. There's no going back here.

Me: growing up I was a very spoiled and messed up child. You may say I was a brat and so annoying. Reason being, I was the only child and getting everything I wanted.

This other time my father came with Mthoko as introduced him as our new yard helper. Okay I didn't mind nor paid attention to it until he started treating him like his own son.

He helped him with applications to the university since he had grade marks and all. Mthoko became a son than his employee. He was smart no doubt about that. Dad spoke highly and proudly of him. How he was going to hire Mthoko to work to one of his mines and so on.

Mind you I am not used to this competition , I am used to being the only child getting All the love and attention from my parents. As trouble as I was, dad was my rock, I knew that he had my back always.

But upon Mthoko's arrival, he started pointing errors in everything I did. At one point he threaten to disown me because I kept on failing at school. Mthoko was the problem, he messed up a happy family, that what was on my mind.

We knew that if he can be under dad's guidance and mentorship, we are finished so we had to find a way to get rid

of him. The plan was to seduce him and make sure dad catch us on the act and fires him. Things got out of control when Mom called the cops and laid a rape charge.

That was definitely not part of the plan and with all circumstantial evidence, Mthoko was sentenced and served 4 years in prison for raping me while in fact I was the one who did that.

Ofentse:did that how?

Me:(playing with my fingers) I drugged him and forced myself on him... (Breaking voice) I remember how he kept on pushing me away and begging me to stop, how he fought to keep his eyes open the whole time .

Ofentse: God! This is deep! I didn't expect this. So Mxolisi is the product of that act?

Me:(wiping my tears) yes. I didn't want anything to do with him. Plus he looked like Mthoko so I hated him. I couldn't be a

mother to him. The guilty of what I did to Mthoko ate me everyday. I partied hard, slept around and started using until I ran away to Cape Town where I met a drug dealer. Bianca's father.

Ofentse:(taking off his glasses) it's get worse!

Me: at first all was roses until I became a junkie and all. My father came and dragged me back home. So yeah. That's my past.

Ofentse:(brushing his face leaning back on his chair) as hectic as this is , I am truly grateful that you opened up and told me everything. Right now my head is spinning. I have so many thoughts going on that I feel like I have an headache.

Please permit me to go and lie down. We will talk once I am feeling better.

I wanted to plead with him not to go as I felt like this was the last time I am seeing him but then I don't want to come off as desperate to him.

I just swallowed hard and nod. He kissed my forehead and started his car while I got off and ran back home crying..

-----MTHOKOZISI-----

Thandeka and I were seated in front of the TV watching Gomora when Ofentse called me saying he's outside I should open for him. Okay.

I stood up going to the door and let him in. He looked like a mess, like he has been hit by a train.

Ofentse: Mrs Zulu. Good evening.

Thandeka: Ofentse, stop with the formalities please. How are you?

Ofentse: I am fine . Sorry to just show up unannounced
I need a few minutes with your husband.

Thandeka: no problem. Can I offer you anything?

Ofentse:(sitting down) cold water will do.

Thandeka disappears to the kitchen and come back with water for him and juice for me the walk to our bedroom leaving us to talk.

Me: Modise, what's wrong?

Ofentse:(sighs) I don't even know what to say mfe2. I was driving going to my place and the next thing I found myself on a route to your house.

Me: I see. Well you are home here. Feel free.

Ofentse: I need your advice as a friend and a pastor. I am confused like I don't know what to do.

Me: I am listening.

Ofentse: Smangele told me what transpired between the two of you. And I am sorry you went to prison for that. You know I love Smangele and my heart is so heavy right now because honestly I wouldn't have advised my sister to date someone who raped another person. Nevermind about the two kids outside wedlock, I don't care about that as I also have a child from my previous relationship.

But this. God!

He rubbed his head sighing and I could tell that this is heavy on him. You can't expect anyone to be cool about it honestly.

Me: I am happy that Smangele came clean on you about our past. That tells me that she really has changed and she is

growing up. What happened between us was really bad but now looking at it, I think that God had a purpose for me. He wanted me to go to jail to discover him and know about him.

Ofentse: how?

Me: Ofentse my brother if I wasn't arrested, I don't think I would have been a pastor, discovered this calling in me. You know sometimes God put you through certain trials, not because he enjoys or love to see you suffer, but he wants to show his strength and help you discover your greatest potential.

I had to go through all of that so that I could come out more stronger and tell people about him.

Ofentse: It is amazing how you have forgiven her. Honestly I know a lot of people who would've wanted revenge when they came out.

Me: The Bible warns us against judging a fellow Christian, on James 4:11. God says we should not criticize one another, God is the only one law giver and judge. He, alone can save and destroy.

Who do we think we are to judge someone else?

I remember when people gathered around to throw stones on the woman in the Bible they found with another man sinning. The prophet asked each and every one of them that if no one in them had sinned can cast the stones.

You love Smangele and I believe that she loves you too because she wouldn't have told you all of this.

Let us praise God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, in his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade- kept

in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Let us pray.

He came front and we held hands together and started praying.

-----THANDEKA-----

I couldn't help but eavesdrop the conversation between Mthoko and Ofentse and I must say it's deep. Yah neh , this situation Yona is tricky shame.

I do feel for Smangele, I mean just imagine when you think you have found your heart desires and then this happens? But I am glad that Ofentse offloaded and he loves her.

Through God's love, he will help them overcome this and be able to love each other unconditional because we all deserve love, irregardless how dirty and twisted our past is.

I dialled her number and she picked up on the third ring. Her voice sold it away that she's been crying. After greetings I just went straight to the point.

Me: I know you are feeling a bit down now and you actually think that all is over but I want to tell you that it is not. You need to get up and claim what you want.

Ofentse loves you, he's down there with my husband confessing his love for you. Dust yourself up and prove to him that you are not the woman you were 6 years ago. Crying and feeling sorry for yourself won't help. I am pretty sure he also have a past he has not heard from or even if he doesn't it's fine, but your past should not stand in the way of the future.

Pray mfazi, you will win and conquer this through prayer.

Smangele:wow T thank you, I guess I needed to hear that.

Thank you. You just made me feel a whole lot better.

Me: you are welcome. Phela I need to practice my step for y'all's wedding.

Smangele:(chuckling) hai bo so soon? Brika ma'am mfundisi.

I am happy she is now laughing. The bedroom door opened and the husband walked in. I had to say my goodbyes and turned to him. I wanted to talk but nooo, he had other plans. He shut me up with a kiss laying down with me.

Mthoko: I missed you today.

We really had a long day, from Bongani to Ofentse, hai khona!

Me:(brushing his beard) I am here now,all yours.

22

THANDEKA; THE PASTOR'S WIFE

"You are like salt for the whole human race. But if salt loses it's saltiness, there is no way to make it salty again. It has

become worthless, so it's thrown out and people trample on it.

You are like light for the whole world, a city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lump and puts it under a bowl; instead he puts it on the lampstand, where it gives light for everyone in the house"~ Mathew 5:13-15

FEW WEEKS LATER

-----SMANGELE-----

Today's a bit hectic here as the ANC party booked the whole hotel down for their conference. I have been going up and down like a headless chicken making sure that everything is going well.

These men with big tummies are enjoying this since I have been refusing with my number to some of them. I mean they are so ambitious shame. People really need to check and evaluate themselves before approaching another person, you need to ask yourself if roles were reversed, were you going to date yourself mara?

My life has been busy, if it's not the kids at home driving me insane, it's here at work dealing with new people and attitudes everyday or my course. I like the fact that I am always busy to a point where by I haven't had time to think about Ofentse.

I last saw him the day I confessed and ever since then, he hasn't called, texted or anything. I guess the truth became too much for him. But then again I guess I was too ambitious myself. I mean someone who repeated every grade twice from grade 10 to twelve really thought she stood a chance with a whole Wits alumni? A whole doctor no gal?

I just need to forget about him and move on. He's too good for me anyway. I come with a lot of baggage, two kids from different father's and an embarrassing history so yeah. I can't really blame him.

Although sometimes I can't help but wonder how we would have turned out to be. I mean we would turn heads. He's such a snack. A whole package.

After work I need to go and fetch Mthoko from Thandeka. She's having the best time of her life with Mthoko and I am truly happy for her. Mxolisi shouldn't disturb their time, he will be staying with them anyway so yeah.

" Penny to your thoughts"

A voice I know very well said behind me, a voice I've been yearning to hear for weeks spoke behind me. I gathered some courage and turned. Messiah!

He stood there with his blue and white suit look all dapper. Ncaah nkosh, your people!

Me:Ofentse, hi.

Ofentse: hello ma'am. Can I please get a hug?

How do you say no to that? I hugged him and he smells amazing. I can follow this scent all the way to Gauteng barefoot I tell you.

Ofentse: these are for you. I hope you will love them.

He said handing me flowers. Gorgeous. I love flowers.
They represent life.

Me: they are so beautiful, thank you.

Ofentse: not beautiful like you. I was hoping we could talk
but looks like you are very busy.

Me: I can spare a few minutes for you. This way please.

I said leading him to my office and offered him a seat while I
sat on the desk next to him.

Ofentse: so, how have you been?

Me: I have been busy, but okay. You?

Ofentse: I have been miserable without you. I know that you think I have been avoiding you but truth is I have been busy. Call after call it's been hectic. I missed you so much.

Someone please pinch me! This isn't happening right? I am a blushing mess right now I don't know what to do with myself. He gets up and stand in front of me. His hand brush my lips.

Me:(low voice) Ofentse..

Ofentse: I have made a promise to myself that the day I'm going to see you again, first thing imma do is kiss you. Please allow me to.

I didn't know what to say except nodding as he was way too close to me. His cologne intoxicating me. His soft lips brushed mine and I felt a cold sweat on my back.

Our lips locked and he stared at me for a second before kissing me fully pouring all his emotions on that kiss. Damn.

Ofentse: Dinner at 7, my place. I will fetch you. Have a great day MaNdaba.

He pecked my lips one more time and left. I quickly ran to my chair and threw myself into it. Whuuuh okay. I stood up and went to the window as I felt like the aircon was not doing any justice to this heat I'm feeling right now.

Damn Ofentse! I fanned myself smelling him all over me smiling like an idiot. Can it be 4pm already so that I can knock off? I have a date to prepare for y'all.

CAPE TOWN PRISON

Inmates were going up and down after an unknown fire came out. Prison wardens were doing everything they could to maintain the situation but it was damn hard as the fire fighters took their time to arrive.

It was such a mess, people coughing none stop because of the smoke. In mates banging the burglaries asking that they should open for them as the building was on fire. Cooling them down was like pouring water on a Duck's back.

After 45 minutes everything was slowly going back to normal and they went cell to cell checking if anyone got hurt or need any help.

Fortunately everyone was okay the unfortunate part was that one of the most dangerous criminal have escaped. It was believed and suspected that he caused that fire as destruction to get away.

-----SMANGELE-----

Ofentse did fetch me exactly at 18:30 as he promised. I wore my Navy dress matched it with my white blazer. Walking up to him standing by his car looking at me, I felt weaker.

Ofentse: wow, look at you. You look amazing.

Me: thank you, you look dapper yourself.

Ofentse:(opening the door for me) I try ma'am.

I got in and he went to his seat and started the car driving away. He asked me how work was and I told him that everything became slow after his visit because I was busy wishing it was knock off time already.

He told me he was on leave as he wants to spend some time with me and his daughter. A song came through from metro and oh it's one of my favorites.

Me: can I increase the volume?

Ofentse: feel free.

I increased it and damn, his sound system is so good marn.

Messiah

Ndigugqe nge dolo

Phambhi kwakho nd'yakhala smakade s'yaphela

Xolela

Ungas'lahli

Ngelixesha eli njena

He looked at me and smiled.

Ofentse: you love it?

Me: a lot, it's my everyday motivation and prayer song.

Ofentse: I love it too.

I smiled looking at him and he took my hand to his locking them together while he drove with the other one.

El Shaddai Adonai thethelela ndiyakucela

Xolela

Nom' indlela inameva

Ndithembhe wena

Nom' iz' vunguvungu zomoya zingafika mna ndithembhe
wena

Ndithembhe wena

Bawo yibanathi

Nge lixesha elinje

Usixolele izono zethu

Bawo yibanathi

Nge lixesha elinje

Usixolele izono zethu

Dumi Mkokstad:

Xa ukhona Thixo

Ne Xebo liknona

Xa ukhona Thixo

Ne dlela i khona

Noma nge Thixo

Ungau cishanga lo umlilo

Kodwa, yibanathi

Bawo yibanathi

Nge lixesha elinje

Usixolele izono zethu

We found ourselves singing along the lyrics screaming the last verse.

Bawo yibanathi

Nge lixesha elinje

Usixolele izono zethu

Siya kudinga

Ooo Yehova

Nga phandle kwakho

Si ngaenza lutho

Xa ukhona

Konke kulungile

Bawo yibanathi

Nge lixesha elinje

Usixolele izono zethu

After the song was finished we were parked right in front of his house.

Ofentse: I love you.

Ah I will cry for real. I blinked to stop the tears from falling.

Me: I love you too. Thanks for accepting me and giving us a chance.

Ofentse: I should be thanking you for waiting. You could have easily moved on but I am grateful we are here. Let's make it worth.

He leaned over to kiss me and his front door opened. A beautiful girl with rich black hair came out running. She looked like she was same age with my son. We got out and she picked her up.

Little girl: daddy Daddy!

Ofentse: hey princess, when did you get here?

The little girl was all over him excited and damn, they look so much alike. She's his photo copy. Just as we were approaching his house a lady walked out with some guy. She looked like a model, your magazine kinds. I noticed both of them were wearing rings. The guy greeted Ofentse with a handshake while this lady smiled waving at me.

Ofentse: baby this is the mother of my child and her husband, guys, this is my girlfriend Smangele.

Smangele: hi guys. Pleased to meet you.

Lady: same here. You are beautiful.

Look who's talking, girl you are the beautiful one here. I mean look at yourself, it's like you were drawn.

Lady: I would really love to sit down and chat but Ike and I are traveling hence we dropped Bontle earlier than we agreed on. I am truly sorry for the inconvenience. Smangele I hope one day we'll sit down and chat, I would love to know my daughter's stepmom better.

She said handing out her business card to me and just like that they said their goodbyes and walked away. We proceeded inside to the house. He called his house keeper to take baby Bontle.

We were left alone and he took my hand.

Ofentse: I'm sorry about that, they came after I had already left to fetch you and my phone is here so..

Me:shhhh it's okay. I understand.

Ofentse: I just wanted tonight to be special and be about us you know.

Me: we can still do that. I don't see any problem.

Ofentse: come, I have prepared us something special, hoping that you will like it.

He said taking my hand leading me to the lounge. He told me to make myself comfortable as he went to get me something to drink. It was 7pm and news was playing on his TV. He came back with two glasses of wine and handed me one.

Me: thank you.

Ofentse: don't you need sleepers? I need you to be comfortable.

I smiled, how sweet is he? Just as I was about to respond to that, something caught my attention on the news that I focused on it. The news readers was reporting about a fire incident that happened in Cape Town prison and how a dangerous criminal was on the loose.

Police were warning the community to be on the lookout because he is believed to be armed and

dangerous, don't approach him when you see him,rather call cops.

A picture of him was displayed on the screen and I don't know when I let go of the glass on my hand but it slipped away from me and the wine was all over Ofentse's white mat.

Me: oh my goodness!

Ofentse:(coming down with the sleepers) babe, what is it?

I just pointed at the tv not able to utter a word as my throat just became dry all of a sudden..

23

-----OFENTSE-----

Smangele finally managed to calm down after the shock of discovering that Bianca's father has escaped from prison. Yeah neh. This is a disaster and drama. I never thought that one day I would find myself in this situation but as a father to a baby girl, I know that I would never allow anyone and anything happen to my daughter.

I will protect my daughter with everything in me, even if it's means loosing my life doing that then I would. Loving Smangale mean loving her children, I can't separate them from her. They are a combo and package.

It is in my well capacity and duty to protect them and make them feel safe as one of the good days Smangele will be my wife. Yes you heard me right. I am done dating for fun , I want to grow and expand my family.

We haven't had much time together due to my busy schedule but the little time I've had with her have been the happiest. I love her and I want to make her happy.

I turned and looked at her, she is sleeping after I gave her allergex to drink. I knew she won't sleep, she was going to think about this guy the whole night. I don't know the history between them but I don't want her stressed out.

I kissed her pouted lips and put the blanket over her.

Me: goodnight my Queen. Nothing will happen to you so long as I live.

3 MONTHS LATER

-----THANDEKA-----

I rinsed my mouth and wiped my face after washing it. Gosh these morning sicknesses are going to be the death of me. They tick me off for real I can't deal with them.

Yes, Mthokozisi and I are pregnant. I remember when I started getting sick after our honeymoon period was over. He thought it was heat and inyongo because of all the junk we have been eating but when I went for a family planning, I was told I'm too late. There's a bun in the oven. Not surprising, we have been busy marn.

Honestly I was happy, not to mention the husband, he was over the moon. Although we had planned on having our bundle of joy a year later but she decided to come earlier. Oh I pray for a girl, we have a boy already.

I need a mini me, my best friend that I will wear matching outfits with and do her hair. I always envy the relationship Mthokozisi and Mxolisi have. They are father and son goals I tell you.

You should see them on Saturdays rocking Mamelodi sundowns t-shirts. I am the only Orlando Pirates fan in the house, when my daughter gets here, I am definitely encouraging her to support pirates, in fact she will support Pirates, non negotiable.

My phone rang it was Smangele, oh my beautiful sister bathong. Today it's little Bianca's birthday. Finally baby doll is turning 2 years. Since Smangele was not around on her first birthday, she decided to go all out on her second birthday.

Thank goodness that good for nothing thug called her father disappeared. Rumor said he skipped the country. Cops have stopped looking for him.

Me: Mntase.

Smangele: please tell me you are on the way?

Me: I am getting ready mntase but the boys are done .

Smangele:yooh modimo, this pregnancy is making you lazy.

Me: aw come on stop being dramatic. You said everything is covered nje.

Smangele:yeah all is set, really Bontle's mom is the pro in this.

Okay so her and Ofentse's Baby mama have this beautiful relationship going on. I love love it. Bontle's mom is a an event organiser also a does decor and catering. She's really good in this field, we have used her a couple of times and her service is top notch.

She helped Smangele in setting up the decor for the little one.

Me: you see? Allow me to make myself beautiful I will be there in 30 minutes.

Smangele:that's like an hour. I know you. Anyway Khethiwe is already here..

Me: what? She was in Pretoria like an hour ago...

Smangele:(laughing) you know Khethiwe doesn't drive but flies on the road. I will see you soon then.

I hung up and quickly went to my dressing table and dolled myself up. When I was satisfied with my look I went out and found the boys busy playing FIFA.

Me: we can go, I am ready.

Mthokozisi put down the remote or Playstation I don't know and came to me.

Mthokozisi: waze wamuhle Mam Zulu. Kwathi angicale phansi ngishele. (You are looking beautiful Mrs Zulu, I feel like courting you again)

Me:(blushing) I would have allowed you to do that but now we are running late. Thank you.

Mxolisi: umuhle Mama (you are beautiful mom)

Me: ncooh thank you sweetheart.

Mthokozisi: before we go let us hold hands and pray briefly..

-----SMANGELE-----

Everything was going well. Music and food was there for the parents. The kids were truly enjoying themselves, Relo, (Bontle's mom) also put up a mini swimming pool and jumping castle.

I felt hands hugging my waist and warm kisses planted on my neck and I blushed giggling.

Ofentse: you good?

Me: I am good and happy that everything is going well but...

Ofentse: but what now babe? You said if yourself that everything is going well.

Me:(sighs) I don't know love I am having this unsettling feeling that something bad is going to happen and my shoulders are heavy.

Ofentse: nothing is going to happen. Come and entertain our guests. They came here to support us but now they are feeling abandoned.

He took my hand and we walked to the big table where everyone was at and I greeted them sitting down. We had

put up a huge stretch tent outside my father's house. His compound is big and his yard has enough space.

Just as I was exchanging greetings to some ladies, 3guys wearing all black from head to toe invaded the yard and started shooting at the sky. People screamed hiding under the tables.

Guy: heeey! Zinja! Ningalokothi nibange umsindo! We don't want to harm anyone, we are just here for someone..

He didn't finish that sentence as my worst nightmare walked in behind them. He took off his shades and smacked the back of his head roughly.

Guy2 : what did I tell you? Why would you shoot while there's children around?

Guy1: sorry boss man.

Bianca's father was here! Jesus! I felt like peeing on myself right now. He took few steps and walked closer to me.

Issac: hello baby. Remember me?

He said caressing my cheek bone and I shivered.
Ofentse stepped in and held my hand.

Issac:(chuckling lightly) cheese boy, move out of my way or you are going to be hurt boy!

Ofentse: don't call me boy. You are not going to come here and harass my girlfriend.

Me:Ofentse..

Ofentse: no baby, he has no right. He is even brave to show his face here knowing cops are looking for him. One call he will be behind bars.

Isaac like a lightning, he grabbed Ofentse by his neck pulling him up.

Isaac: I dare you to make that stupid phone call. Try it. Nxx!

Me: Isaac please. Leave my boyfriend out of this.

He shoved him on the ground roughly and Ofentse coughed holding his neck that was red instantly since he's yellow.

Isaac:so this is the thing that you replaced me with?
Nxx. Anyway where's my daughter?

Me: Isaac...

Isaac:(pushing me out of the way) I will find her myself!

He said pushing me aside and walked to where the kids were and minute later he came back with her.

Me:(crying) Isaac please don't take my daughter please. I beg of you please.

I cried holding on to his jacket.

Isaac: you sold me out. I should be shooting your stupid whoring ass but I won't do that in front of my child. I will get you

Advertisement

your time is coming. Right now I am here for my daughter, our flight awaits . I am taking her far away from you. She deserves to live like a princess that she is.

Baby,say goodbye to mommy.

My daughter confused as to what is happening, raised her hand waving and I crunched on the ground crying as he took steps walking away.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

4 shots were fired and his goons dropped on the floor. I saw him falling with his knees on the ground holding tight on my daughter making sure he doesn't fall on top of her. I don't know where I got that strength to get up when everyone ran for cover and to get their child.

I snatched Bianca from him and moved away looking at where the shoots are coming from only to see my Father walking slowly coming from the house.

Oh Daddy! You have always had my back. He walks straight to Issac who's on the ground coughing blood.

Ndaba: how dare you come to my house and start shooting around threatening my daughter? Do you think this is Cape Town? Kuse Durban Lana mfana wami uzonyiwa! Nobody messes with my kids and get away with it.

He moves away and comes to me tapping on my shoulder.

Ndaba: you good? I have called the cops, they are very thrilled to make an arrest...

Ofentse:(screaming) Smangele watch out!

Ofentse screamed running to me and pulled me down as Isaac was pulling his gun from his back and firing. I screamed holding on to him and my daughter. Dad turned around quickly and emptied the bullets on him.

He bumped on the ground with smoke coming out from the bullets fired on him.

Minutes later, the yard was filled with cops who took the other guys.

One cop, kneeled down and touched Isaac's pulse.

Cop: good riddance to bad rubbish. The world will be in a better place.

Bianca started crying bringing me back to life as I was zoned out by all of this. I looked at Ofentse who had his arms around me shielding me. Blood was coming out from his mouth.

Me: Ofentse..baby?

He tried to talk and blood gushed out. I removed his hand and one hand was holding where he's been shot. I screamed.

Me: somebody help! Ofentse has been shot.

Ofentse baby. My love please don't do this to me baby please..

Ofentse: I.. I.. I.. love.. you...

Me: I love you too baby Please don't talk.

Relo's husband crunched down next to us, he's also a doctor, he took off his t-shirt and applied pressure on him to stop the bleeding.

Ike: Ofentse, I will need you not to close your eyes okay.
Fight man fight.

Guest: has an ambulance been called?

Mthokozisi: that will take forever, let's drive him there.

Me: Ofentse please live.. please..

Thandeka:(holding my hand pulling me away from the scene as they drove away with him in a speed) Smangele pull yourself together.

Me: I'm scared Thandeka. Ofentse will die because of me!

Thandeka:(hugging me tightly) he's going to be okay, he will live. Remember how Mthokozisi survived after that horrific accident? Come let's us pray. He will be fine.

All the other guests joined us holding hands as Khethiwe started a mini song and Thandeka led us in prayer..

Thandeka: Father God we come before you.

Broken and shaken as we are,I have complete confidence
O God!

Your constant live reaches above the heavens,your
faithfulness touches the skies.

Show your greatness in the sky, O God, and your glory over
all the Earth.

Save us by your might, answer our prayers so that the
people you love may be rescued.

Lord I look up to you, up to heaven,where you rule.

As a servant depend on his master, as a maid depends on
her mistress,

So we will keep on look to you O Lord our God.

Be merciful to us, Lord.

We have been treated with so much contempt.

From the depth of my despair I call to you, Lord.

Hear our cry O Lord.

We come to you with confidence because you said anything we ask according to your will shall be done

We know that you hear us, whatever that we ask you shall give to us.

In this moment we pray for Ofentse's life.

Send your angels to guard his soul and body.

We send healing and deliverance right now in the mighty name of Jesus Christ.

The devil is a liar and he has lost!

He won't win, not against you Jesus.

Ofentse is being healed right now.

Through your wounds and blood he is healed.

In you we are chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of you who works everything in conformity with the purpose of your will,

In order that we , who were the first to hope in Christ,might be for the praise of his glory.

We thank you that you have heard and answered our prayers, now we shall wait with Faith.

Amen.

The ladies said Amen and Thandeka's phone rang. It was Mthoko. She got up from kneeling down and sat on the chair answering with her heart beating so fast.

Thandeka: Mageba..

Mthoko: they have managed to stop the bleeding and by the looks of things, it's not a deep wound as the bulled cut out and fell..he will be fine.

Thandeka:(tears rolling down while raising her hand) ah Nkosi siyabonga. U dumo lonke malube kuwe. Singayini thing ngaphandle kwakho.

Please keep up us updated babe.

Mthoko: I will, take it easy.

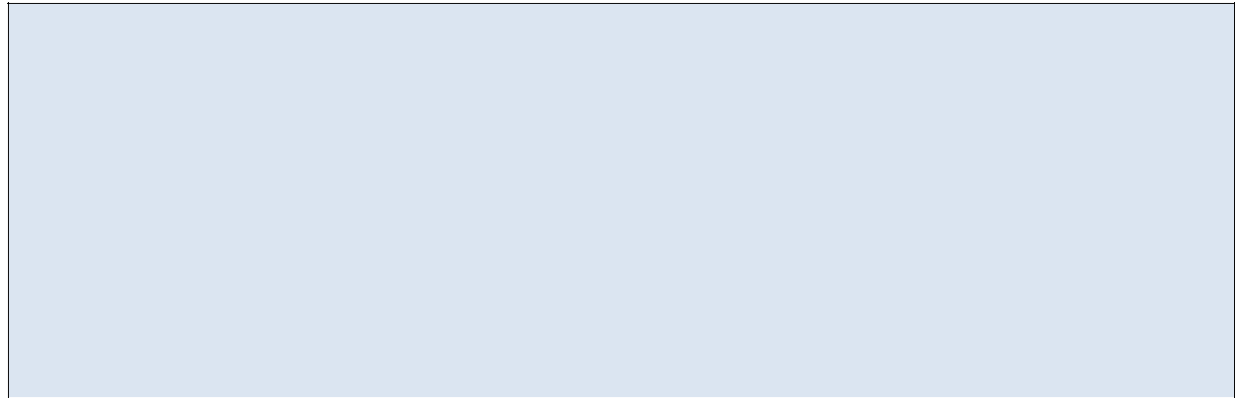
By the time she hung up all eyes were on her. I was next to her holding my chest trying to stop my heart from beating up so fast.

Thandeka: God came through for us. He will be fine.

Khethiwe: you have done it again Lord! You have done it again. You are mercy and wonderful. You keep on fighting our battles and rewarding us with mercy even when don't deserve it.

Thank you for your Glory!

.....**THE**
END.....



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