



THE PROMISE by BELLA ROYALTY

BUHLEBETHU NDLOVU.

I glanced at the pregnancy test while covering my mouth as tears rolled down my cheeks, this couldn't be happening right now!

Me (crying): No, no... This can't be happening to me right now!!

Someone knocked on the door and I was startled as I tried to hide the stick with its box cover, I quickly wiped my tears and tried to gather myself as I opened the door and it my mother.

Mom: Ukhalelani? I (laughs nervously): Mom come on me wasn't crying... She gave me an intense look.

Her: Mmh okay anyway I just wanted to let you know that sengiyahamba dont forget to give your little sister her medication at 8pm

Me: Okay I wont.

She walked away, my mother is a nurse at our local clinic and this week she was working nightshift while I would take care of my siblings, I have two of them, my brother Sbonga is in grade 6 and Thando is in grade 2 while I am in grade 10 and as you might have guessed it...I just found out I am pregnant and you can go ahead with the #TeenagePregnancyIsWrong banners.

To say I was stressed would be an understatement, mom is definitely going to flip and might throw me out of her house she told me once I got sexually active I must tell her so that she can put me on the pill but my boyfriend took care of that since I was scared of telling her that I was no longer a virgin she would want to know who was responsible and I can't exactly disclose his name yet.

My mother is a single parent our father walked out on us when Thando turned 2 because of unknown reasons and he doesn't support us, as the eldest I am my mother's hope to get out of this 4 roomed house and live a comfortable life free of struggle but look at what I have done, I have gone and got pregnant at 16!

Adding to my mother's struggles already I couldn't be more disappointed in myself as well.

How was I going to tell her? Let alone the father? Speaking of the father, my phone rang and it was him calling and I prepared myself, you will soon know why.

Me(nervously): Hey...

Him: Babe hey, I am outside.

Me: Okay I am coming.

I dropped the call and went to get my jacket passing Sbonga and Thando watching tv in the living room.

Me: Sbonga I am coming back now okay?

Sbonga: Okay sis.

I went out and Indeed the black royal Land Rover was parked outside and it seemed as though he was driving himself tonight.

I got in at the front and he immediately attacked me with a warm embrace and kiss, gosh he smelled good...as always.

We broke the kiss after a while as he kissed my hand, such a gentleman when he wants to.

Me(smiles): My prince.

Him: Come on now I told you to stop calling me that baby, how are you?

Me: I am good and how are you?

Him: I have been worried about you since you told me you weren't feeling great I was even thinking of taking you to the doctor.

Doctor?

Me: I am good now babe I promise, mom got me some pills shes a nurse remember?

Him(laughs): I keep forgetting hey...

Me: Anyway how are you?

Him: Can I be honest with you? I thought you would tell me some shit like maybe you are pregnant or something, today Bab'Ngwenya called us in his hut and told us one of us had impregnated and some stuff.

My heart started beating a little faster.

Him: Honestly I think its my older brother, my father would flip if it were either me or Sphiwokuhle since we arent even married yet.

Me: Worse impregnating a commoner right?

Him: Babe we have had this conversation...

Me: Sandiso I mean...this is all nice and all but we have to remember that i am no princess, I dont even come from a rich family I am nothing but a poor girl birthed by a single mother who is a nurse with 3 kids and besides that we are young...next year you are going to varsity you will forget about me.

Him: Buhlebethu look at me.

I did as he held my hand.

Him: I love you

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no one else but you, I don't care that you are no princess, you live in a 4 roomed house with your two siblings and single nurse mother and you go to that public school and stuff, you gave me

a chance when you were just 15 years old and I later on took your purity that same year we are about to finish our second year next month, that's not going to change anytime soon, when the time comes I will fight for you and our love, and I know it sounds like a cheesy promise but I will make you my wife, trust me once Sphesihle becomes king he will banish the rule that says as royals we should only marry our kind before we marry commoners...

Me: You promise? You will never leave me? We will be together?

Him: Have I ever lied to you?

Me(sighs): No but Sandiso I have heard about things like this before, you guys making promises to us young naive girls...empty promises I dont want that to happen to me.

Him: My word is my honour baby, trust me.

I looked at him for a while debating whether should I tell him now that I am pregnant or not.

Him: I love you.

Me: I love you.

Theres no reason for me to doubt his word so far he has been nothing but truthful and loyal which I wasnt expecting seeing that he is a prince and all.

Sandiso Mthembu, the second prince of the three princes, the first soon to be king, Prince Sphehile Mthembu is engaged to be married, Prince Sandiso Mthembu who is doing grade 12 this year and then the last prince Sphiwokuhle Mthembu who is in grade 10.

Sandiso and I met at some English competition for different grades, I already knew who he was and when he asked me out I gave him the run around for months because it just didn't occur to me that he was actually serious and maybe I had low self esteem issues, a whole prince asking poor me out?

He was persistent and I finally gave in and I asked that we keep it on the low because of his status and obviously my mother, he made a promise to me from the very first day we met, that I would be his queen one day and we have been in love ever since and happy.

However I am afraid that me being pregnant might break us apart and I can't afford to lose him seeing that it's a guarantee that my mother will definitely kick me out of her house when she finds out that I am pregnant.

This is a mess, another person would probably rejoice at this, being pregnant with a Prince's child and all but to me it's not something I can rejoice about.

INSERT 001.

PRINCE SANDISO THEO MTHEMBU.

My brothers Sphehile and Sphiwokuhle got in and sat next to me and I placed my phone away.

Sphehile: So did you ask her if she was pregnant?

Me: Not directly, I didn't have to. Buhle would have told me, she just has flu and on your side?

Sphehile: I haven't touched Lisanda so whoever it is it's between the two of you lads.

We looked at Sphiwokuhle who is the wildcard between us, doesn't exactly have a straight girlfriend...he is somewhat of a player.

Sphiwokuhle: It might be me I guess I will just have to wait till one of them pops up and tell me they are pregnant.

Sphehlehle: Do you see why it's important to have one partner? Someone is out there is pregnant with your child and you don't even know who it is or if they will come forward.

Me: Maybe we should consult again maybe we might come up with a name.

Sphiwokuhle: What's the use? Dad doesn't want any illegitimate half commoner children he made that clear, even if I do find whoever is pregnant I will have to convince the girl to abort or take matters into my own hand and the idea of doing that unsettles me...regardless of its identity it's still my blood.

Me: Yeah this law of us having children who are only full on royalty sucks and having to kill ones that are half royalty is just brutal and plain outdated...but its a good thing though when you are king brother you will banish that law.

I said looking at Sphehlehle.

Sphehlehle: That will be my first order of business once I take on the throne not every prince wants to marry another princess.

Me: Especially if you follow your heart.

Sphehlehle: Mmh you really love this girl dont you?

Me(smiles): Very much, one way or the other shes going to be my wife and the mother of my children.

Sphehlehle: You are so whipped whats with this girl?

Me: Ooh brother you wouldnt understand...she is the real deal, that was love at first sight.

Them:Mmmh.

I smiled looking at my lockscreen which was a picture of Buhle and I.

To be honest I never thought I would fall for anyone as hard as I fell for Buhle but it wasn't that hard to be honest, the second I saw her on that stage with her school mates debating, I admired her confidence and how she stood her ground.

We don't go to the same school so I had to ask around about who she was and it took her a few weeks for her to actually give in, her main reason for turning me down was that I was a prince...I know a lot of girls who would have given me a chance on the first day because I am a prince but not Buhlebethu Ndlovu.

And the last two years together have been nothing but amazing although it's been quite hard trying to keep the relationship off the radar away from the public eye, away from her mother, the community and my family.

Dad is...a bit old school, he is one of those old school kings who believe a prince should marry a princess and have children who are full on royalty, he despises commoners and poor people, he says they are beneath us and dont align with our status as a royal family.

My brothers and I believe in something different, the heart wants whoever it wants but dad says love is overrated, we should marry where we will benefit and where our family name will be elevated..its too much honestly and ridiculous if you ask me.

Arranged marriages and marriages of inconvenience are really outdated but dad believes otherwise, I am pretty sure Sphiwokuhle and I already have royal wives being groomed to be married to us just like Sphehile who will be getting married in a few months.

As we were chatting with my brothers mom walked in.

Mom: Boys.

Us: Queen.

Mom: Sandiso the deisgner will be here in a few minutes to take measures for your suit.

Me: Okay Mah.

Mom: You havent found a partner yet?

Me: Not exactly.

Her: Cant imagine that being hard you are a prince...a handsome prince at that I would imagine you have gotten a lot of offers from girls wanting to be your matric dance partner..especially princesses.

I cleared my throat a bit, I already had a partner

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I was taking Buhle and she was meeting with the designer as we speak.

BUHLEBETHU NDLOVU.

Sandiso had asked me to be his partner at his matric dance which is happening in a few days, I was skeptical about going there to be honest.

It will be full of rich kids and snotty spoiled princesses and since Sandiso is the son of the king obviously all eyes will be on him,

and his partner and I am not sure I am ready for the stares and questions about which kingdom do I belong to or who is my father.

I was with my bestfriend Thandi at the designers shop and my dress was done and I was just fitting it and it sure looked beautiful.

Thandi(smiles): You look like a fairytale princess Cinderella.

I laughed, she calls me Cinderella because well I am no princess but a prince loves me.

Me: I do look good dont I?

Designer: If the prince doesn't ask for your hand in marriage after this? I dont know girl, you look amazing and you will be turning heads at that dance trust me.

I smiled, we had chosen blue and gold as our colours and to be honest the colours looked good.

Me: Thank you Tom this is amazing.

Tom: Pleasure I guess I will see you on the night of the dance since I will be there to assist you with your makeup.

Me: Thank you Tom, we have to go.

We took our bags and left as I called Sandiso on the way.

Sandiso: Ndlovukazi yami.

Me(smiles): Mvelase

Him: How did it go? Phela you refused to even send me pics.

Me: It went well Tom says if you dont propose that night then I dont know...

We laughed.

Him: He must not give me ideas

Me(laughs): Aike wena, Yeah babe everything went well I cant wait for you to see me in the dress.

Him: I cant wait either, listen I have sent you some money you and your friend can grab something to eat.

Me: You didnt have to Sandiso.

Him: Dont even, I will see you later my designer has arrived, I love you.

Me: I love you as well.

I dropped the call.

Me: Lets go grab something to eat Thandi.

Her: Mmh Prince is spoiling us today huh?

Me: Yep he is, I dont like how he spends his allowance on me hey but what can I say? He is stubborn as hell.

Her: He loves you, when are you guys coming out anyway?

Me: When his brother is the king, you know how King Nkosiyabo feels about his sons dating people like us.

Her: Yeah I know...

We arrived at the place and ordered.

Me: Thandi I have to tell you something promise me it'll stay between us.

Her: I am your girl you know that Cinderella.

Me: I...I am pregnat.

Her(shocked): Buhlebethu!!!!

Me: I know..i know okay? I dont know how it happened.

Her: Jesus! Well have you told Sandiso?

Me: No and I wont.

Her: What? Why?

Me: Because I had a conversation with uMah today and she told me if a prince impregnated a commoner they would have to terminate the pregnancy and be brought in to see their healer for cleansing.

Her: Yikes!! I heard about something like that but I just thought it was hearsay how can they kill their own blood? Because even if the mother is a commoner its still their blood? Thats just cold.

Me: Well the king is a cold man Thandi.

Her: What will you do?

Me: Knowing Sandiso he wont want me to terminate I think we will keep this a secret from his family until I give birth however if the king finds out all hell will break loose and he will lose everything heck I might even be banished or trialed for treason king Nkosiyoabo doesnt play and thats if we get through the stigma of being a pregnant teen.

Her: Oh Cinderella this is really not good.

Me: Mom will flip, the royal family will flip, the community will accuse me of trying to trap the prince with a child...gosh this is giving me a headache.

She held my hand for comfort.

Her: Everything will be alright and if you need anything I am here okay?

Me: Thank you friend...for everything.

Her: Anytime, so how far along are you?

Me: I am not sure...a month? I havent checked.

Her: You should babe.

Me: Yeah...let me get to the toilet real quick.

Her:Okay.

I got up and went to the bathroom and did my thing and as I was washing my hands I looked at the mirror and a shady dirty man appeared taking me by surprise...

Me: Shit!!!

I said gathering myself making sure I wasnt hallucinating.

He looked like a traditional healer.

Him: Leyongane oyithwele idinga ukuvikelwa ibalulekile(The child you are carrying is very important therefore should be protected)

What? How did he?

Him: Lokho okucabangayo ungakwenzi(Dont do whatever it is that you are planning on doing)

I held my stomach.

Him: Ngisho nenkosana akumele yazi ngayo lengane ukuze izophila, uma isikhona usungayitshela(even the prince must not know about your pregnancy until the baby is born)

And just like that he disappeared and I was left confused AF.

Me (whispering): What was that?

INSERT 002.

BUHLEBETHU NDLOVU.

Thandi and I were back home and I was pacing up and down.

Thandi: What exactly happened Buhle thats got you so rattled up?

Me: A man appeared on the mirror Thandi, he knew about the pregnancy and he told me i cant kill this child instead I have to protect it which means I cant even tell Sandiso!

Her: What? That doesn't even make sense! A man appeared on the mirror?

Me: Its crazy I know!!! Am I going crazy? I am going crazy right?

She stood up and came to me.

Her: Theres only one man I know that has those kind of powers and he is the royal seer Cinderella! Thats Bab'Ngwenya!

Me: The...the...you mean the royal seer knows? Thandi!!

Her: When he appears to you like that it means you have to go and see him in his hut he has a message for you and you need to see him urgently.

Me: What if Sandiso sees me? How will I explain me being there at his royal seer's hut?

Her: Find out where he is and then go there Buhle dont procrastinate.

I sighed as I took my phone and called Sandiso.

Sandiso: Ndlovukazi.

Me: Hey babe where are you?

Him: Missing me already?

Me: Like crazy...

Him: I am stuck at this boring boards meeting with Sphehile
I wont be back till 6

Me: Great..I mean thats okay I guess I will see you
later then..love you.

Him: Love you more sthandwa sami.

I dropped the call.

Me: Lets go!

Thandi: Alright.

We walked to Bab'Ngwenya's hut and I was a nervous
wreck the entire time.

Thandi: Well I cant go in with you.

Me: I am so nervous Thandi.

Her: It will be okay Buhle trust me I will wait for you here okay?

I nodded as I went in through the gate and a boy about my age came to me.

Him: Buhlebethu Ndlovu?

I nodded.

Him: He is expecting you in his hut leave your shoes behind.

I did as told and walked in and the man who had appeared on the mirror was sitting down waiting for me.

[THIS CONVERSATION IS TRANSLATED FROM ISIZULU]

Bab'Ngwenya: Ndlovukazi please have a seat.

Me: Thank...Thank you.

I sat down.

Him: I am glad you took my visitation seriously Ndlovukazi.

Me: Buhlebethu is just fine baba.

He smiled.

Him: You do know what happens when a prince impregnates someone who isnt of royalty right? What happens to the child?

Me: The king stated that no child of that manner must live.

Him: However Sandiso doesnt believe in that.

Me: Yes I am aware of that however the kings word is the law.

Him: The ancestors arent exactly happy with the way he rules they think its time for change hence why your child has to live and be protected from his wrath and since theres nothing he doesnt know it means even Sandiso has to be in the dark

about this because if Sandiso knows the king will know and he will definitely unleash his wrath on you and the child.

I exhaled.

Me: May I ask why this child needs to be protected? I mean he is not a future prince or king, I mean Sandiso is not next in line for the throne.

He stole a glance at me.

Me: Oh my God! You mean...? But what about Prince Sphesihle?

Him: It will get dark before the sun shines on you, there are things that will happen that will not make sense but in the end they will, you will be angry and hurt but it will work out in the

end, all you have to do is fight and stand your ground...those are qualities you will need as Sandiso's ndlovukazi.

This was too much.

Him: You need to protect the identity of this child you are carrying Buhlebethu and that means you might have to hurt the prince or he might have to hurt you.

When I got home as confused as I was mom was waiting for me and she had that look on her face and I knew shit was about to hit the fan, I honestly didnt need this right now my head was all over the place.

I thought the seer would lighten things up but he just darkened things even more.

Mom: Start talking before I beat the truth out of you!

Me: Mah...

She got up with the belt.

Her: Start talking Buhlebethu Ndlovu!

Me(teary): Mah I can explain...please!!!

Before I could say another word she unleashed the belt on my skin, mom doesnt play guys, she knows how to use a belt.

Me(crying): Mama please I can explain!!

Her(shouting): Buhlebethu didnt I tell you to tell me whenever you start having sex so that I can put you on the pill!!

Me(crying): Mama I am sorry!!

She continued hitting me with the belt.

Her: Didnt I tell you? Who is this boy? Who is he and how long have you been seeing him??

She asked whilst hitting me as I tried to protect my stomach.

Me(crying): Mama stop hitting me and I will tell you please....

She threw away the belt and I knew the kicks were coming.

Her: You even have the nerve to tell me to stop hitting you!
Who are you Buhlebethu? Who are you? Who raised you? You
want to be another teenage pregnancy statistic in this
community? How are people going to look at me? A nurse's
child pregnant? Who is this boy!!

Me: Mama please!!!

She stopped kicking me as I spat out blood.

Her: Start talking!

Me: Its Prince Sandiso Mthembu he is the one who took my virginity and got me pregnant!!

Her(shocked): what????

Me: I am sorry mama!! I am so sorry I will understand if you want me out of your house but I will not abort this child!!

Her: Buhle how can you be so damn stupid!!!! A prince?

She asked a lot calmer now as she helped me up.

Her: Why didnt you just tell me from the get go that you were pregnant? I could have caused you a miscarriage we need to go to the hospital now!!

And thats where we went and the baby was fine and I was told I was 9 weeks pregnant, I had a few swollen bruises but they let me go home and the entire trip home was awkward and quite.

Me(wiping my tears): Mama I am sorry.

Her: Do you see what you almost did Buhle? I could have caused you a miscarriage I didnt know you were pregnant! Sphiwe's mother told me theres a car that parks outside every night when I am at work and I just thought you are dating only!

Oh i thought she saw the pregnancy test in the toilet bin, Sphiwe's mother is one of those noisy neighbours who feed on gossip.

Her: Buhle you are pregnant with the Prince's son do you know what will happen to you? And that baby? Should the king find out?

Me: Mom they cant know, even Sandiso he cant know!!

Her: You are going to your grandmas village atleast there are no harsh rules there

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you will miss the whole year of school next year and you will break up with the prince do you hear me? Theres no one else who knows about you and the prince?

Me: No one except Thandi and she wont say anything.

Her: Make sure she doesnt say anything to the prince as well about your whereabouts.

I nodded.

Me: Mom thank you I know i have disappointed you and placed you in an awkward position.

Her: At the end of the day you are my child I cant kick you out in the streets even though I have always said I would.

I laughed a little and so did she.

Her: But thats my grandchild you are carrying I would never forgive myself if something happened to the both of you especially since we know the king would order for its execution immediately.

Me: So thats why you arent that mad?

Her: If it was any other ordinary boy I would have kicked you out and told you to go and stay with the father of your child but now I know what will happen should the news of the paternity

of that child hit the streets, you will be on your own and I don't believe in abortion when theres prevention.

I nodded.

Her: When did you start dating the prince anyway? And why didnt you tell me we could have avoided this you know, I could have placed you on the pill.

Me: We started dating two years ago and he did place me on the injection but I got sick so we changed to pills and I missed one.

Her: Ooh and when you miss one you definitely fall pregnant thats why I hate those damn pills.

Me: I am really sorry mama.

Her: Whats done is done Buhle, dump the prince.

Me: I will dump him after his matric dance mama and then the following day I will leave and go to Grandma's place.

Her: Good.

[AT THE PALACE]

One of the king's most trusted men arrived as the king also sat down on his throne.

Since the royal seer had told the family about a possible pregnancy by one of his boys he made sure to have them tailed so he could find out who his sons were seeing and then interrogate them into finding out who is pregnant.

He was determined to have his sons marry into royalty for power and have children who would strengthen their bloodline, a half commoner would weaken their bloodline and would be a curse to the next generation...thats what his secret dark seer told him.

King Nkosiyabo Mthembu: Sandile what do you have for me?

Sandile(Guard): Well we can scratch out Prince Sphesihle he and the princess arent sleeping yet.

King: I figured that.

Sandile: Sphiwokuhle is a bit of a wildcard

King(laughs): Reminds me of myself when I was young I have no doubt hes the one.

Sandile: Well you will be surprised, its actually Prince Sandiso and this is his girl, confirmed shes pregnant just checked in at the hospital apperantly she and her mother had an altercation, she is 9 weeks pregnant.

King: Damnit! Does Sandiso know?

Sandile: No according to their conversations she hasnt told him.

King: Good make sure she doesnt get the chance, bring her to me...whatever it takes.

Sandile bowed and left the king looking at Buhlebethu's pictures.

Lets just say the king didnt get that throne through nobility or was he chosen to assume the seat of power, he did things, bad things and sacrificed a lot and a half commoner child would be the downfall of his entire reign.

INSERT 003.

BUHLEBETHU NDLOVU.

Sandiso couldn't see me yesterday because he was tired plus I just dont think I had the guts to look at him knowing very well that i am hiding something so huge from him and worse I am planning on breaking his heart on the happiest day of his life.

However besides that I just didn't want him seeing me all bruised up like that because mom really had done a number on me.

I was not writing today so I was home alone, Thandi was going to visit me in the afternoon and mom had went to Grandma's place to let her know the whole story before I go and stay with her.

I was lazying on the couch when I heard a knock on the door so I went to open and my mouth dropped, it was Sandiso.

Me: Sandiso what...what are you doing here?

Sandiso: What happened to your face? Did you get into a fight?

Babe....

He pushed his way in.

Him: What happened??

Me: Uhm...mom find out I was dating and also found a pregnancy stick and shit hit the fan.

He looked at me.

Me: Relax the stick came out negative I had to be sure since you had asked and honestly I was also suspicious.

Him: Babe..did you tell her who you were dating?

Me: Yeah and she wasn't thrilled you know your family's rep and the fact that there's no future in dating you.

Him: Come here...I am so sorry baby did you get those bruises checked out?

Me: Yeah I did babe don't worry.

He gave me a bear hug and I felt teary knowing that by next week this will be over and it hurt me, I loved Sandiso with everything in me and I just didn't understand why I couldn't have it both, him and the baby, he would have made a good father.

Me: How would you have felt if I had been pregnant babe?

Him: Honestly I really thought you were pregnant and as much as we are young...i mean you are young I would have taken care of you babe and my child.

Me: What about your father we both know what would have happened had he found out.

Him: I was going to take you with to Varsity with me next year, you would have enrolled at a private school which I would have been paying for and we would have lived together, dad wouldn't have found out I would have protected you and my

child the worst that could have happened...I could have been disowned and ripped off my tittle as a Prince.

Me: You would choose me over your family?

Him: Without question babe, i love you and I mean it.

Me: I love you too babe and promise me whatever happens you'll remember that I love you and all I do is for our benefit and its never my intention to hurt you.

He looked at me worried.

Him: Babe...why are you talking like this?

Me(smiles): I love you

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want something to eat?

Him: Buhle...

Me: Sandiso...

I called him as I kissed his lips.

Me: Make up your mind mom is on her way and so is Thandi.

He laughed as I got up, one thing he enjoys is my cooking so I warmed up the food and dished up for him and we both ate on the same plate.

He stayed for a while and then he left and it wasn't long till I heard another knock and I thought it was Thandi.

Me(opening the door): Its about time you got here I...

There were two men standing there that I couldnt recognise.

Me: Uhm...who you are guys?

Man 1: You need to come with us willingly or by force.

Me: What? Come with you to where??

Man 2: Force it is then.

Before I could say anything further they grabbed me to the car and it was a royal car what the hell was happening!

Me(screaming): You cant do this! You cant just kidnap me like this its illegal!

They shoved me at the back of the car and drove off they didnt even care that I was screaming and kicking, and then it hit me!

The king knew! The king knew about the pregnancy because aint no way that these men were sent by Sandiso just a few minutes after he left! I was in deep shit!

The doors were locked so I couldnt jump out of the car...

We finally arrived at this very shady place and they grabbed me roughly inside the house.

Me(irritated): I can walk by myself!!!

They pushed me and I fell down and as I rose I was met by King Nkosiyabo, this man is hella scary.

King: Well arent you a feisty little girl!

Me: Why am I here I havent done anything wrong!!

Him: No manners I see and yes you have done something wrong but dont worry we will make it right...nurse!

A lady appeared holding a glass of water and some pills.

Him: Dont worry this will be over soon child, I am just removing what shouldnt be inside you thats all.

Were they going to make me drink abortion pills by force?

I backed away shaking my head.

Me:No, No you cannot do this! This is not Sandiso's child!
Thats why I havent told him about it! Its not his!!! Please!!!

Him: You think I am stupid? I know all about you and my son
and how you will be my downfall and I cant let that happen!
Make her swallow those pills!!

The big guys held me as the lady forced the pills down my
throat while I kicked and screamed but they overpowered me.

They forced me to swallow a pill and I was taken to a bed where
these guys held my hands and legs while the lady pushed

another pill on my vagina and it was so painful and then I was
injected with something that knocked me straight out.

I woke up with a heavy head and every part of my body was painful, I looked around and I was in hospital judging by the setup and beeping machines.

My first instinct was my baby as I held my stomach.

Mom: Buhle abortion really?

Me(teary): What?...Mom no! Please tell me my baby is okay?

Mom: First tell me why! Why the hell would you try and abort?

Why?? Did I raise you to be a murderer?

Me: Try?...Wait that means the abortion wasnt successful?

Her: Are you disappointed?He is of royalty ofcourse not even abortion would make him go away!!!

I breathed a sigh of relief...my baby was still okay thats all that mattered.

Me: I have to get out of here and go to Grandma I am not safe mama, if they find out I am still pregnant they will kill me! I have to get out of here immediately!

Her: What are you talking about? Who will kill you? Buhle?

Me: The king knew mama! The king knew about the pregnancy he did this!

Her(shocked): What???

Me: Yes mama!!!

Her: Okay okay calm down, calm down I will go and get my bag we are leaving ASAP Okay??

I nodded as i tried to get out of bed

Her: I know the doctor I will ask him to write down on the records that the abortion was a success that will get them off our backs for a while okay?

Me: Okay.

INSERT 004.

PRINCE SANDISO MTHEMBU.

I had been trying to call Buhle for about 10 minutes now and she wasn't answering and it was worrying me, Buhle hardly ignores my calls at all.

I was about to head down to her home when dad called me to his study.

Me: Dad what's this about? I actually have somewhere to go.

Dad: To Buhlebethu Ndlovu?

I gulped, how did he?

Me: Dad are you having the guards spy on us now?

Him: Sandiso don't forget who you are talking to, this is my kingdom I know everything that goes on around here.

Me: Unbelievable! Just don't tell me to break up with her because that's not gonna happen.

I said folding my arms and he chuckled a bit.

Him: You love her?

Me: As a matter of fact I do and dont open the 'shes not royalty' bible on me its not gonna work I am not set to become king therefore I can marry whoever I want.

Him: I wont try anything of that sort nyanami its just that...

He took an envelope that was on his table and opened it.

Him: I didnt know you were into girls who are whores thats all...I mean what about your health?

Me: I dont understand...Buhle is not a whore shes faithful.

Him: Faithful? Really? I hate to say this son but she might not be who you think she is, her mother is flat broke for a nurse, theres bills, theres school, her siblings its a lot and maybe shes just trying to help her mother thats all...not everyone is as rich as you are son.

Okay...what was this man talking about?

Me: What are talking about? Why are you overanalyzing their living and financial status?

He handed me the pictures and my jaw almost dropped to the floor.

Him: Your girlfriend is a whore Sandiso.

Me(shocked): No shes not...you probably made these up baba! I cannot believe you!!! Is it because she is...

Him(shouting): Hey! I did no such! Go and ask her if she isnt a whore!!

No this couldnt be, Buhle wasnt like that! These were pictures of her in bed with different men.

Dad came and held my shoulder as I fought back the tears, these pictures looked real.

Him: I saw how you were falling for this girl and I initially thought she was the one pregnant but Sandile told me you couldn't be involved with her because of her secret life, apparently naye uSandile has paid to sleep with her a while back...i was just looking out for you son.

He gave me a tap on the shoulder.

Him: There have been times where you couldn't reach her on the phone and she would say she couldn't answer it because her mother was in the room right? Times where she wouldn't come out when you are there to see her, some clients are rough maybe you have seen her with bruises that she lied about and said were because of her mother, son she's not who you think

she is, she lives two lives, an innocent high school teenager during the day and a glorified private sex worker at night.

He walked out as I sank back in the chair with the pictures still in my hand, this cant be real, this cant be real Buhle does not sell her body after dark I would know! I am the only one shes sleeping with!

But the more I thought about dad's words about the days when I couldnt see her

couldnt get her on the phone, when she had bruises it all just got a bit confusing...

I looked at his whiskey and took a glass and poured myself some, it tasted very bad, i gulped down 3 glasses and I felt the rush as I grabbed my phone and car keys alongside the pictures I was headed to her house I didnt care whether her mother was there or not I needed to know the truth!

As I drove the more I got angry, if this was true how could she? If they needed the money why didnt she tell me? She was risking my life! Sleeping with all these men? What the hell? And what kind of mother allows such for her daughter?

I finally arrived at her home and the car boot was opened with a few bags..looks like they were going somewhere.

As I was about to get inside the house Buhle met me on her way out with a few more bags.

She looked a mess and was so shocked to see me that she dropped the bags on the ground.

Me: Going somewhere??

Her(shocked): Sandiso...

BUHLEBETHU NDLOVU.

I might have peed a little I dont know but something warm did gush down my legs, my heart was on overdrive beating way too fast, I have never been so scared in my life, what was he doing here right now?

Sandiso: Arent you going to answer me?

Me(stuttering): Uhm...I was going to call you and tell you that mom is sending me to visit a...

Him: I have been calling you and you werent answering,why?

Me: I have been...been busy as you can see packing.

Him: Are you perhaps running away from your sins?

Me: Sins?

Him(shouting): I know about your secret Buhle I cant believe you thought I wouldnt find out!!!

Oh no! No how does he? No!!!

Me: You...you know? How?

Him: Its true kanti??? Buhle how could you? Why didnt you ask for help instead of....(holds tears) who are you???

Me(crying): Sandiso I am sorry everything just happened too fast and my first instinct was to protect...

He hit me with a bunch of pictures that got splashed everywhere and i bent down taking them one by one and what I saw there shocked me.

Me: What? What is this!!

Him: Your secret life after hours!! Buhle you are a prostitute!

Me(shocked): What? Sandiso no! I dont know these pictures Sandiso I would never...I wasnt talking about...I thought you were talking about...

We were talking about two completely different things and I almost mentioned the baby.

Mom got out probably because she heard the noise, Sandiso was so angry I had never seen him so angry.

Mom: What the hell is this noise about in my house?

Sandiso: Maka Buhle have you no shame? Selling your daughter to different men to cover up your debts?

Me(crying): Sandiso thats not true! This must have been photoshopped! I am...

Mom looked at me and nodded and I shook my head no.

Mom: I am sorry you had to find out this way Sandiso.

Me(shouting): Mom no!!

Mom: He was eventually going to know mtanami about your work after hours...

Sandiso: I trusted you Buhle! You disgust me! Did you even use protection or you just risked me in the process? Risked my health? How could you? If you needed help you could have just asked instead of sleeping around with different men for money! I thought you loved me! Heck I loved you Buhle! I would have done anything for you! I would have risked everything for you!! But you are nothing but a dusty poor whore!!!! You probably took it from your mother because who the fuck has 3 kids out of wedlock!! I hate you and I dont ever want to see you ever again!! Make sure our paths dont ever cross you disgust me!! I cant believe I loved you!!!!

He spat on my face and left, I was so devastated and speechless, I couldn't help the tears as I dropped to the ground.

Mom: Atleast now he wont ever try to look for you...

Me(crying): Mom he hates me! He thinks....

I looked at the pictures...these are from today, i did say that when the king had abducted me they injected me with something that knocked me out till I woke up in hospital..this is when these pictures were taken while I was out because I recognize these men, they are the guards that took me.

Damn the king was good, Sandiso despised me with everything in him because of his father.

I then remembered Bab'Ngwenya and his words.

Me:I hope one day he will understand Mama...

Mom: He will understand why everything happened the way it did mtanami.

Me(crying): I dont know Mama....I dont really know.

She comforted me as i cried, this isnt how it should have happened.

INSERT 005.

PRINCE SANDISO MTHEMBU

8 MONTHS LATER.

Where can I begin? Its been rough, Buhle really messed me up ngimthanda, I think what even broke me is the fact that she didnt even try to run after me and try to beg me to give her another chance, its how she just accepted me dumping her and never wanting to see her that messed me up.

Yes she hurt me and I may have said some bad things to her but I got home that night and just introspected and realised that even if she was indeed a prostitute at night I still loved her and wanted her, I figured I could make her stop that and give

her money because she was doing that for the money she hadn't deliberately cheated on me.

I expected her to at least try and beg me to give her another chance, fight for our love but she didn't, she really left that night

and she never called or texted, it was like I had done her a favour by ending things with her, sometimes I doubt our love was even real, she just gave up way too easily you know for someone who had claimed to love me and was in the wrong.

I have visited her mother many times, tried to get her to tell me where she is, interrogated Thandi as well but they wouldn't tell me anything.

I took this whole thing hard, first 4 months I was drowning in alcohol I even failed a few modules at school, I never even went to that stupid matric dance, I really had it rough.

Then 2 months ago I figured it was time to get my shit together and it was right about the same time dad told me I would be getting married to King Lushaba's daughter, Princess Zanokuhle and I figured why not? Obviously things between Buhle and I were really over I mean she was gone.

I had waited 6 months for her to come back but she never came back.

As much as my marriage to Zanokuhle is arranged I figured we should atleast try to get to know each other before we get married and she is a nice down to earth girl, very humble and funny not to mention beautiful, kind of reminds me of Buhle in a way maybe thats why the idea of us together wasnt that hard to implement.

The media had quickly caught on the marriage and we have been the most talked about couple ever since, The

Lushabas are quite the socialites in the media industry forming an alliance with them is going to elevate our family name and kingdom.

Zano is going to be the second girl that I will be deflowering, shes a princess from a very strict royal family so she has saved herself up for marriage.

Our marriage is in two weeks and everything is set everybody is excited, I am the second to get married even though I am a bit young I mean I am just 20 years old in my first year in varsity, 3 months ago Sphehile also tied the knot and after me we will be waiting on Sphiwokuhle who luckily is still in grade 11 so he has nothing to worry about for now.

I was in my room looking at the bracelet in my hand that Buhle gave me when she agreed to be my girlfriend, its called Ucu.

Funny enough I havent taken it off and I am not planning to, looking at it kind of reminded me of the day I took her virginity and The Promise we both made to each other after that.

FLASHBACK

I placed the royal protection necklace over our intertwined pinky fingers.

Me: With this royal protection necklace over our intertwined fingers, Buhle I am making a promise to you, a promise that I will always love you

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I will never stop loving you, fighting for you and our love, a promise that in the end on these fingers will be rings that will unify us, I will never marry unless that person I am marrying is you.

She looked at me.

Buhle: What if you are forced to marry a princess you know your father Sandiso.

Me: Then you are free to crash that wedding and remind me of the promise that I made I promise you I will walk out the wedding with you, I will always choose you over anyone I would rather lose my family then lose you thats how much I love you.

She didnt believe me but I was serious...

END OF FLASHBACK

That was a young and stupid me, Buhle left me after hurting me and not showing any remorse.

And I seriously doubt she would come at the wedding and stop it.

BUHLEBETHU NDLOVU.

Its been 8 months and I wish I can say that its been a great 8 months but it hasnt, it has been very hard actually.

Getting through each day has been nothing but a mission, I was diagnosed with Tachycardia when I entered by second trimester and my high blood pressure sky rocketed and I was told I wouldnt have a normal pregnancy and birth.

These were all caused by me overthinking, I kept thinking if I had done the right thing by not telling Sandiso about the pregnancy, I never even tried to justify my so called secret life nor defend myself he probably thought I didnt care and him breaking up with me was what I wanted him to do because I didnt call or text him after that night, I just vanished and Thandi told me that the first few months were hard on him, he was a mess and that broke my heart.

I wish he knew, I wish he knew why I had to run away but he might never know because now he is getting married and I know its all his fathers fault.

He had always made me promise that if ever he was getting married to some snob princess I would come and save him by stopping the wedding he would gladly walk out the wedding with me, I dont know if I should do that because I hurt him and he seems happy with this princess even though he said he would never marry a princess voluntarily.

I think another part of me thinks that deposite what he said a two years ago, if I were to go there and stop the wedding he would just embarass me because I did hurt him.

I sighed as I zipped my hospital bag, I am going to be induced tomorrow at 7pm.

Grandma: All packed? You got everything?

Me: Yes grandma I got everything...I am so scared though.

Her: Everything will be okay Buhle, have faith.

They are inducing me tomorrow since I will be 37/40 weeks so basically by tomorrow I will be holding my baby boy, Mvelwenhle Lwandiso and I cannot wait, Mvelwenhle is the name Bab'Ngwenya said I should give him and Lwandiso as you can hear sounds similar as Sandiso its his favourite name that he said if ever he had a child he would name him Lwandiso.

Grandma left me and I took the phone and made my number private and called Sandiso like i have been doing the past few months, I do this to hear his voice and not say anything back.

Sandiso: Sandiso Mthembu hello??

I smiled a little hearing his voice and my baby kicked.

Sandiso: Listen here private number whoever you are this is no longer funny, leave me alone if you dont have anything to say!

He dropped the call.

AT A SECRET LOCATION

The king knelt down on the hut as his dark seer was looking upon him.

Nkosiyo: Makhosi what is it that was so urgent that you had to drag me here I have inlaws at home

Makhosi: When I said handle our little problem I meant handle it permanently not temporarily.

The king looked at him confused.

Nkosiyabo: But I did handle the little girl, we got rid of the child she was carrying and she has since disappeared.

Makhosi laughed at Nkosiyabo's stupidity.

Makhosi: The rightful king's son is very much alive, tomorrow he will be arriving and that means doom for you and your throne especially if that girl honours the promise Sandiso once made that she must stop the wedding.

Nkosiyabo's eyes went all wide with shock.

Nkosiyabo: What? How did he survive? Where is she?

Makhosi: If you dont find her by tomorrow if indeed Sandiso is meant to be king, it will be raining all day but if it doesn't rain than Sandiso is not meant to be king and if he is...well you know what to do.

Nkosiyabo: Makhosi I can't kill Sandiso he is my son.

Makhosi: Come on now Nkosiyabo who do you think you are speaking to, you killed your father and also your brother who

would have been the rightful king so please dont go all noble on me.

Nkosiyabo gulped.

Makhosi: Find this girl and kill her alongside the child.

INSERT 006.

PRINCE SANDISO MTHEMBU.

I looked out the window as it was raining cats and dogs outside, this was all so sudden, in the morning you wouldnt have predicted that by 11am it would be raining like this out of the blue.

In addition to that I was not feeling well, I think I was coming down with something.

Zano walked in holding two cups wearing only a t-shirt, she had spent the night in my flat however we agreed that I would only sleep with her on our wedding day so for now we just do the basics which are killing me to be honest.

Zano: Here you go babe I made us some coffee.

Me: Thank you baby can you believe this weather? It was fine a moment ago.

Her: You know back at home we have this belief that when it suddenly rains like this it means a king is born.

Me: Really? Only in your kingdom?

Her: No it could be a future king from any kingdom or village even yours.

I looked at her.

Me: Funny you should say that...a few months ago Bab'Ngwenya told us that one of us had impregnated a girl I think by now she should have given birth.

Her: Really? Who did yall suspect?

Me: I mean Sphesihle and his wife werent marrier yet so it wasnt him, it wasnt me either because my then girlfriend confirmed she wasnt so we just assumed it was the wildcard Sphiwokuhle.

Her: You think Sphiwokuhle would impregnate a girl who would be carrying a future king? Isnt that Sphesihle?

I thought for a while.

Me: Yeah you are right it doesn't make sense which means whoever it is its not from our kingdom.

Her: Yeah maybe.

My phone rang and it was Lungisani, he is a friend I found here at school we are both doing medicine but he is from another village, he had to rush home because of his sick grandma.

Me: Lungisani I was about to call and ask about your grandma ndoda how is she?

Him: Prince shes doing okay, I am actually at the hospital as we speak, is it raining there as well?

Me: Bro, its raining cats and dogs.

Him: Look at me being distracted I only called you because I have a theory I think I have just seen your girl here bro.

I looked at Zano and excused myself and went to another room.

Me: What do you mean? I am with her right now.

Him: I mean the one you cant get over, the one you told me about whats her name? Buhle something.

Me(shocked): Seen her where Lungisani?

Him: Bro here at the hospital

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I wasn't seeing things at all that's her I recognised her from the pictures!!

Me: Lungisani don't play with me like that mfethu she's working there or what?

Him: Wait let me ask this nurse I have been flirting with what's happening because I just saw her being wheeled surrounded by many doctors and nurses...give me a few.

He dropped the call and my heart was racing like nobody's business, Buhlebethu Ndlovu.

I was literally pacing up and down waiting for him to call back.

I almost dropped the phone on the floor when he called back.

Me: Mfethu what's up?

Him: Confirmed, Buhlebethu Ndlovu is here because it's her birth induction day and she was just rushed to theatre.

Me(shocked): What? Lungisani are you sure?

Him: I am sure I have her maternity case record card right now the nurse was very generous, shes 37/40 weeks pregnant diagnosed with persistent Tachycardia they are rushing her to theatre because of feotal distress.

Me: Shes pregnant?

Him: Yes, is there a chance that it can be yours I mean you did tell me you found out about her secret life...

Me: Send me your location I am coming there now!!

I dropped the call and grabbed my keys and a jacket.

Zano: Where are you going?

Me: Somewhere.

I kissed her cheek and rushed out.

PRINCESS ZANOKIHLE LUSHABA.

I quickly got my phone and called King Nkosiyo.

Nkosiyo: You better have something for me.

Me: They have found the girl, she's about to give birth now at some village.

Him: What? Well done that's great I will deal with it now.

Me: How will you find him?

Him: His car has a tracker it won't be hard he will lead us straight to her, well done Zano you must really love Sandiso and want to be his only wife.

Me: I don't share my king and by the looks of things if Sandiso ever found this girl he wouldn't think twice about not marrying me he loves her.

Him: Don't worry he will get married to you I will make sure of it.

BUHLEBETHU NDLOVU.

So I had to be rushed to theatre because of foetal distress I guess my baby was eager to also come out, immediately after they did the operation which was a success I had to leave the hospital and be taken to a secret location as planned.

Bab'Ngwenya came to me this morning and told me my next move because apparently the king would know where I am and come for me so he had organised a place for me and my grandma to go to where I would nurse Mvelo for at least a month before I make my return.

He made it clear that I have to make sure Sandiso and Princess Zanokuhle do not get married which means I will have to stop their wedding.

I was using a wheelchair because I hadn't regained the use of my legs yet, when you have a cesarean they kill you from your spine down so for about 6 hours you can't really walk or use the

toilet so I had a pipe down there and also my drip on my hand, he had organised a car and we drove for about 4 hours until we arrived at this very big yet traditional house where some people were already waiting for us.

Bab'Ngwenya helped me on the wheelchair and placed baby Mvelo on my arms the way everything was rushed I hadn't even seen Mvelo at all as he wrapped up.

A woman who had a familiar resemblance walked to us.

Woman: Ngwenya you have arrived.

Bab'Ngwenya: As guided by the ancestors my queen.

Huh? Is it me or did this woman look like Sandiso?

She looked at me with a smile.

Her: You must be tired and eager to bond with your son I will let you rest and then we will talk I am sure you have a lot of questions.

Me: Just one.

She looked at me.

Her: Yes I am Sandiso's real mother, his father the rightful king was Nkosiyo's sacrifice and he thinks I am dead so out of guilt he took my son and raised him as his own but its time now, Sandiso is the rightful next king and not Sphesihle basically Nkosiyo shouldnt have even sat on that throne.

Grandma: Now everything makes sense...I have always suspected that Nkosiyo was off somehow.

Sandiso's mom: So I will keep you and my grandchild here for a month till you gain your strength to go and fight for Sandiso and help him fight for his birthright which is the throne.

This was too much.

INSERT 007.

PRINCE SANDISO MTHEMBU.

I almost got into an accident on my way to this village because of the way I was driving, my head was spinning because of the thoughts I had.

Everything was starting to make sense, Buhle would never just leave without even trying to fight for us or atleast defend herself, one thing about her is that she doesnt like a person to not be clarified she always explains herself and I always tell her that sometimes she doesnt have to so the Buhle I know would have atleast sent a text and tried to explain why she was doing whatever she was doing.

Buhle left because she was in danger because she was pregnant and she didnt want to become a laughing stock in the hood and also didnt want my father to force her to abort the child she was carrying because it was mine.

I remember when she asked me what would I had done had she been pregnant and I told her I would have taken her with to the city and she would have lived with me but I know we wouldnt been able to keep the pregnancy a secret for long at some point my father and family would have found out.

Dad must have already tried to make her abort the child thats why she ran away, dad must have also faked those pictures and had her mother admit that indeed Buhle was working as a prostitute after hours.

Gosh I feel so stupid for allwoing dad to mess me up like that, I should have trusted Buhle and looked for her harder but at the same time I am pretty sure dad was monitoring my calls and whereabouts just incase Buhle made contact.

I am probably being followed right now.

I arrived at the hospital and went straight to the receptionist.

Me: Hi I am here to see Buhlebethu Ndlovu I believe shes out of theatre.

Her: Let me look her up for you.

She pressed her computer.

Her: It says here she was discharged sir.

Me: Hows that even possible? Shouldnt she be resting and stuff?

Her: She requested to be discharged.

Me: Damn it she knew my father would be after her! Do you have her file...maybe her contact details or address?

Her: No sir her record has been erased here whatever whats left of it is being erased right now.

I exhaled, I had hit a dead end and just then I saw my dad's shady men entering and I used another exit and ran to my car and drove off, my father was behind everything!

I cant believe I didnt see this coming!!

BUHLEBETHU NDLOVU.

Usually people say that if you want something you must fight for it whatever it takes but some people just take this whole advice to a whole new level.

So apperantly the late king, Nkosiyesizwe who is Sandiso's grandfather and King Nkosiyabo's father had two wives, one who was a princess and the other one wasnt

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the princess was the second wife and the commoner was the first wife since Nkosiyezwe had impregnated her he had to marry her and she gave birth to Nkosiyabo who was never going to be king but his brother from the princess was, Nkosekhethiwe(abaphansi) who is Sandiso's real father.

Nkosiyo's mother and Nkosekhetiwe were always at logger heads because for some reason Nkosiyo's mother believed as the eldest, her son should have been the king and that's how he raised Nkosiyo and him and his brother never got along.

The day before Nkosekhetiwe was placed as king he got into an accident which claimed his life at the spot while his wife, Sandiso's mother went into coma and that's when Bab'Ngwenya was led by the ancestors to save her life while everybody believed the machines were switched off and that's how she died.

King Nkosiyesizwe was meant to raise Sandiso as the next king but Nkosiyo also used him as a sacrifice and killed his own father can you imagine? How cruel is this man?

Since he was the only one left to ascend the throne he became the new king just like that luckily he spared Sandiso even though he knew one day he would be king.

So he killed his brother and his father for the throne he might as well have killed the late queen, Nkosekhetiwe's mother because she died of a heart attack after King Nkosiyesizwe died.

Nkosiyo's reign on that throne is unlawful, he shouldn't be sitting on that throne because his blood is tainted and his heart is dark and evil, neither should Sphesihle should be the king...it's Sandiso's birthright and I am chosen to be by his side as he fights and sits on that throne.

Me: You are right King Nkosiyo has to go, but he won't just go down that easily...he will fight dirty might I add and we are not the kind.

Sandiso's mom: I know but if theres anyone who can defeat him its you and Sandiso plus you will have the full support of the Mthembu ancestors.

Me: Firstly we aren't even sure Sandiso will forgive me for what I did and secondly it seems as though he really likes this Zanokuhle girl.

Her: Then you will have to fight for your man Buhle...

I exhaled.

Her: But you have a whole month to think of a strategy.

She walked out and I looked at Lwandiso, my beautiful baby boy who looked so much like his father and i knew i had to fight...this was his legacy as well.

INSERT 008.

PRINCE SANDISO MTHEMBU.

I drove back home with a heavy heart and I didnt even know what to do or believe anymore, if indeed Buhle was the one pregnant why couldnt she just tell me we could have figured out a way together instead she let me believe that she was someone she wasnt and then left, she was alone the entire pregnancy which was so wrong in so many levels.

I went straight to her mother's house.

Buhle's mom: My prince? If this is about Buhle I really cannot tell you where she is I have said this to you.

Me: I know why you had to take her away..far away from this place.

Her: You do? And why is that?

Me: She was pregnant with my child and we both know what happens when something like that happens, what my father does, I bet he first threatened Buhle to terminate and then asked her to break up with me hence the photos, but she didn't terminate instead she chose to runaway you know I have always known deep down that Buhle would never keep

something like that away from me...this was all because of my father and now he wants me to marry some princess.

Her: Now you know why I had to make sure Buhle gives birth somewhere far where your father couldnt reach her, she gave birth today by the way to a healthy bouncing baby boy that she named Mvelwenhle Lwandiso.

I smiled feeling the tears burn my eyes.

Me: I am...I am a father?

Her: Yes you are.

Me: Yeses!! I cannot believe this! When can I see them? Can I see them? Wherever they are.

Her: You cannot see them until Lwandiso is atleast a month old.

Me: Can I...Can I atleast call them?

Her: Your phone is tapped, your car has a tracker.

I exhaled.

Her: Its for her own safety, wait for her to be strong enough to come back and then you will see her.

A guard knocked on the door and told me my father was requesting my presence urgently.

Buhle's mom: He knows you are here...

Me: And he knows about Buhle and Lwandiso...I have to go.

I got up and left.

When I arrived at home dad was already waiting for me and I couldnt contain my anger.

Me(shouting): You drove Buhle and my child away???Why the fuck would you do that???!!!

Him: You watch your tone when you speak to me Sandiso i am your father but most importantly I am your king!!

Me: Fuck that!!! You tried to kill my girlfriend and my son!!!!

My own flesh and blood!!!

Him: Oh come on your girlfriend was a whore you arent even sure that child is yours!!

Me: Baba dont patronize me!! I recognised your men in those pics! You planned this whole thing baba why? Why do you hate half royalty kids so much huh???

Him: They are a curse and shouldnt live!!!

Me: And who died and made you God who decides on who lives and dies?? Free information? I will always choose Buhle and my child so you can disown me right now father!!! I am out of here!! And if you dare touch my son...I swear to God!!!

I walked out banging the door as I went to my room to get all my clothes, I was leaving this place!

Dad got in as I was packing.

Dad: And where the hell do you think you are going??You are getting married in a few days for heavensake!

Me: To a girl you forced down my throat!!!

Dad: I will tell you what? You marry this girl I will let you marry this commoner as your second wife and let your curse of a son live.

Me: How nice of you! We both know you just want me to draw Buhle out of wherever she is and then kill both her and my son its not gonna happen dad I am leaving!!!

I pushed him out of the way and as I went for the door he spoke.

Dad: If you walk out of that door...you will no longer be my son but my enemy and you of all people know what I do to my enemies Sandiso dont make me do this...

Me: Go ahead dad do whatever you want I am leaving!!!

I got in my car and drove off, I decided to sleep at a hotel for tonight but I first started at a local club and grabbed a few drinks to distress, I was suddenly under a lot of stress, thinking about my girlfriend and child and also the fact that I had just been stripped of the prince title and disowned.

I checked my balance and sighed, It wasn't enough for a fresh new start at all with a family at that.

After just two drinks I suddenly felt dizzy and got up to leave some girl offered to at least drive me to my destination and she would Uber herself back to her destination

I mean I was still a prince and she was concerned because of my state, my vision was blurry, I was staggering as well.

I figured why not because she looked trustworthy and she must have known that I had guards following me from a distance.

We arrived at the hotel and she made sure I was in my room safely and then she left.

I woke up the next morning completely out of it, my head was so heavy, gosh how much did I have to drink last night?

I tried getting up but immediately fell back in bed, I dont even remember when I got undressed but I was in my boxers.

I eventually managed to get up and went to the bathroom and washed my face just to wake myself up, I needed to check the time...where was my phone?

I started searching for it on my clothes but couldn't find it so i checked the bed..

Me:What the hell???

I flipped the girl over, how the fuck is there a girl on the other side of the bed? A naked girl to be precise? I dont remember taking any girl last night at all!!

I started waking her up as i held my paining head but she wasnt waking up, I flipped her over and thats when I saw that her eyes were wide open, foam in her mouth, bruises around her neck and slap marks on her face.

I started panicking as I felt her pulse.

Me(panicking): No, No lady you have to wake up!!! What the fuck!!!

She was dead!!! The girl was dead and I didnt even know who she was or how she ended up in my bed!!!

The door was forcefully knocked down and police with their guns busted in and I was still confused as fuck trying to make sense of everything but I waa caught of guard when one of them said:

"Prince Sandiso Theo Mthembu you are under arrest for the murder of Priscilla Cele you have the right to remain silent or anything you say can and will be used against you in the court of law, you have a right to an attorney if you cant afford one the court will provide you with one..."

Me (shocked): WHAT????

King Nkosiyo: Is it done?

Sandile: Its being handled as we speak.

King Nkosiyo: Good, Sandiso clearly doesnt know who I am.

INSERT 009.

PRINCE SANDISO MTHEMBU.

I couldnt believe this at all, I didnt kill that lady! I didnt even know who she was! There was press everywhere this was a nightmare.

I was at the interrogation room waiting to be interrogated, I had called my brother Sphesihle and he said he was coming with a lawyer because dad forbade me to use the family lawyer...for some reason this had him written all over, this is exactly how treats his enemies.

Its no coincidence that he threatens me and then here I am about to be jailed for something I didnt do.

Sphesihle with the lawyer arrived and I was so thankful, Sphesihle gave me a hug as we sat down.

Sphesihle: This is Advocate Mbatha he will be assisting us with the case.

Me: Thank you brother.

Advocate: First tell us what happened?

Me: I dont remember much but I do remember getting into some bar and having two drinks and I suddenly felt whoozy and I was staggering and even my vision was getting blurry basically I couldnt drive so this lady offered to drive me to my destination out of respect because I am a prince.

Advocate: What about your guards?

Me: I realised that my father instructed them to not guard me anymore since we are fighting, honestly I dont remember anything after that its so confusing.

Sphesihle: The girl that drove you to the hotel and the dead lady? Is it the same person?

Me: No its not.

Advocate: Sandiso I will be honest with you its not looking good, the hotel provided the police with last nights footage and you were seen arriving with Priscilla Cele, you went in your room and cleaners say they heard screams around 5am thats when the police were called.

Me(frustrated): Thats bullshit! I never met this Priscilla chick! I didnt take anyone to my room that footage has been tampered with! I swear to God I didnt kill her!! Sphehile you believe me right?

Sphehile: Honestly brother its hard...

Me: I was probably drugged! Its so convincing that this girl at the bar was that kind enough to drive me home and next thing I dont remember shit!

Advocate: The tests came back, you werent drugged Sandiso.

I toppled the table over because of frustration and they were startled.

Me: I DIDNT KILL THAT GIRL!!!!

Spheihle: Your fingernails have her skin

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you werent drugged, theres footage Sandiso...

Me(teary): Wow good to know how much you trust me brother.

Spheihle: Sandiso now is not the time you did this! You put yourself through this!

Advocate: Lets all calm down, tell you what? I will organise a new drug test, have your fingernails rechecked, have the footage at the hotel checked for authenticity and also find

the girl at the bar and then we can take it from there okay? In the meantime dont say anything to anyone.

Me: I promise you I am being framed here and its my father.

Sphehlehle: Oh Sandiso come on why would father do this?

Tarnish the family's reputation like this? Frame his son?

Seriously?

Me: Sphehlehle you are the golden child ofcourse you wouldnt believe your father is capable of evil, Buhle was never a prostitute those pictures were fabricated by your father and he drove her away!

Sphehlehle: Why? Why would he do that?

Me(shouts): Because Buhle was the one pregnant!!!!

Sphehlehle: What??

Me: He wanted her dead with my son! She ran away to protect herself and my son and now shes given birth Sphesihle! I am telling you father did this because I told him curse or not that child was mine and I was going to choose it over anyone! Theres a reason why dad hates half royalty children this much it

cant be because they are a curse! A curse to whom?
Something is not right here!

BUHLEBETHU NDLOVU.

I went to the living room with the newspaper in my hands.

Me: Mrs Mthembu have you seen this? Sandiso was arrested for murder at some hotel last night! This cant be true Sandiso is no murderer!

Mrs Mthembu: Bab'Ngwenya says that Sandiso now knows about you and Mvelo and him and his father had a fight yesterday where his father practically disowned him.

Me: He is not his father! I have to go there and see him..he must be so scared.

Mrs Mthembu: You cannot go there thats exactly what Nkosiyo wants, he is trying to draw you out of wherever you are so that he can finish you and Mvelo!

Me: Well we have to do something to help Sandiso we cant just let him rot to jail for a crime he didnt do.

Mrs Mthembu: Dont worry he wont go to jail I am working on something.

Me:Argh!!

I went back to my room and took my phone dialing Thandi.

Thandi:Mommy

Me:Hey I need a favour...

PRINCE SANDISO MTHEMBU.

I was told I had a visitor and that visitor was none other than my father.

Me:Came to gloat about your handi work? Nice setup by the way FATHER.

Dad(chuckles): I would like to take the credit but It wasnt my work.

Me: I am your son!! How could you set me up for murder just because I chose my girlfriend and child you should be proud that I am becoming a man!!

Dad: I am proud son and honestly i didnt set you up.

Me(laughs sarcastically): Yeah sure dad.

Dad: It was King Lushaba.

Me: Why would he set me up dad?

Dad: We had a deal remember? Marry his daughter? All of a sudden you are rambling about your girlfriend and son which wasn't part of the package so here's the deal... If you think I am dangerous and heartless then you haven't met this man he is 10 times more lethal and for his daughter's happiness? He will kill.

I gulped.

Dad: Marry Zanokuhle otherwise...

He tilted his head looking at me.

Me: Otherwise what?

He didn't say anything.

Me (shouts): Otherwise what!!! Answer me!!!

Dad: You will go down for the murder of Priscilla Cele and not to mention that he will find Buhle and your son and...you dont really wanna know what he will do to them so its your choice son...wanna stay behind bars ?

Me(shouts): This is all your fault!!! You brought this Zanokuhle princess into my life!!!

Dad: If you choose freedom and a new bride you will have to completely forget about Buhle because if she surfaces he will kill them both...stay away from them its for their own safety.

Me(tears): Baba no! I cannot turn my back on my son!

Dad: Its for their own safety King Lushaba needs to be convinced that you dont want a half royalty child either otherwise he will find them and kill them while you rot here in jail for a crime you didnt commit...he can make this all go away only if you cooperate son.

He walked away and I got up toppling the table and chair out of frustration, this wasn't happening!!

It's either I marry this princess so that I don't rot in jail for a crime i didn't commit which means I will have to turn my back on my girlfriend and son for their own safety, If this man can frame me for murder I know for damn sure that they will hurt Buhle and Mvelo...God this is so messed up!

What do I do? I can't turn my back on Buhle and Mvelo at the same time I can't go to jail either...shit!!!

INSERT 010.

Buhle's mother was brought in and tossed to the ground while one of the guards tied her up on the chair, Nkosiyabo went closer to her and tapped her face to wake her up as she had been drugged before she was abducted to here.

She slowly opened her eyes and she immediately tried to get away upon seeing who had her but she couldnt move an inch as she was tied to the chair.

Nkosiyabo: Miss Ndlovo we will make this easy for everyones sake, you give me what I want and I let you go..easy right?

Lindiwe looked at him.

Nkosiyabo: Okay where is Buhle and the child?

Lindiwe: I dont know where they are

Nkosiyabo slapped her hard across the face and she spat blood.

Him: Wrong answer! Lets try that again shall we? Where is your daughter? And think carefully before you answer me because it might get ugly...

Lindiwe: I swear to God I dont know where they are they didnt tell me when they left the hospital where they were going I swear!!

Nkosiyabo signalled to the other guard who came in with Buhle's siblings who were terrified.

Lindiwe(crying): My king please...please let them go I swear to you I have no idea where...

She stopped halfway as Nkosiyoabo pointed thr gun at Sbonga, Buhles little brother.

Nkosiyoabo: Think carefully about what you say next...

Sbonga(screams): Mama ngiyasaba!!

Lindiwe(screams): My king please!! I really dont know where Buhle...

(Gunshot)

Nkosiyoabo had shot Sbonga in the head and both Lindiwe and Thando screamed in horror.

Lindiwe(cries): Nooo!!! Sbonga!!!

Nkosiyoabo: Lets try this one more time shall we? Where are they?

Lindiwe couldnt even talk she was a mess and when Nkosiyoabo saw that she was not answering him he shot both of them, Lindiwe and Thando.

After that he wiped his gun.

Nosiyabo: Deliver their bodies back at their house someone is bound to find them and report back to Buhle this will surely draw her out of wherever she is.

The guards nodded as they dragged the bodies.

BUHLEBETHU NDLOVU.

Today Mvelo wouldnt stop crying and I was losing it because I didnt know what to do as I was alone today, Sandiso's mother had went to meet someone about getting Sandiso out of jail since he had been denied bail yesterday, grandma had went back to her house at the village.

My phone rang as I had put Mvelo to bed finally after a few failed attempts.

Me: Thandi hey I have been waiting for your call...

She was crying and I couldnt make out what she was saying properly.

Me: Thandi whats wrong? Is everything okay? Are you okay?

Her(crying): Buhle they are all dead! Your mom, Thando and Sbonga there must have been a break in...

I dropped the phone on the floor as I sank down as well, this wasnt happening!

Me(screams&cry): Nooooo!!!!!!

This had Nkosiyabo written all over him, how can he do this? He probably wanted my location and mom honestly didnt know where we were this time so he must have killed them to send a message, they died because of me!!

After my crying session I went to Sandiso's mom study, a few days ago I saw a gun here at one of the drawers and she said it belonged to her husband, she remarried by the way.

I didnt even know how to load it

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I was shaking as I tried to load it after that I hid it on my back and started pacing up and down waiting for them to come back, I didnt know what to do or what I would do with the gun but I was engulfed by this enormous anger and darkness,

all I saw was vengeance for my mother and siblings they didnt deserve to die at all.

I called Thandi who was a lot calmer now and asked her how they died and she told me they were all shot through their heads, so cruel.

Sandiso's mother and her husband arrived.

Me: Can you please watch Mvelo for me and if I dont make it back tell him I love him.

I said wiping my tears.

Mr Skhosana: Where are you going?

Sandiso's mother: Buhle whats going on? Are you crying?

Me: I just need some air thats all I will be right back.

I walked to one of the cars and asked for a key from the guard who was standing next to it, got in and drove out.

I was thankful to Sandiso for teaching me how to drive even though I had no papers should i be stopped by the police on the way.

Driving to our village from here is about 2 hours, I was headed to the palace and I didnt have a plan all I knew is that the king had to pay with a life dear to him as well like he took mine.

I finally arrived, the security at the gate were kind of hesitant letting me in, the king wasnt home apperantly but Sphehile was...the golden boy and supposed future king.

Prince Sphesihle: My, I couldn't believe it when I was told you were here...

Me: And why is that hard to believe my prince?

Him: I don't know maybe because we haven't seen you in almost a year, you left my little brother in a complete mess.

Me: I wonder whose fault is that?

Him: Excuse me? Actually what are you doing here?

Me: Call your dad for me will you.

He looked at me.

Me: I hear he has been looking for me...right? I am here now call him.

He took out his phone and called him as he turned his back against me I took a vase and smashed it at the back of his head and he fell to the floor and I dragged him to the table where I

placed him on the chair as he was unconscious and I looked for a rope in one of the drawers and I found it and tied him up.

I prayed to God for forgiveness for what I was about to do.

When the guards appeared first with their guns already out, behind them was Nkosiyabo I also took out mine and pointed it at Prince Sphesihle.

Nkosiyabo(smiles): Buhle can we all just calm down? And not do anything stupid that will put us to jail for treason for killing a future king.

Me: We both know he aint no future king you are nothing but a fraud that shouldnt even be seated on that throne thats why you want my son and I dead so bad because he is the rightful heir to throne alongside his father Sandiso.

Him: You dont know what you are talking about...

Me: I dont? Then lets talk about what I actually know for certain...why did you kill my mother, brother and sister??

Him: Simple...I wanted them to tell me where you were but they couldn't tell me so they had to go.

This man didnt even have remorse, I clocked the gun still pointed at Sphesihle.

Him: Buhle we both know you arent no killer and you are not about to start now so hand me the gun and we can talk...

Me: Any last words for your son?

Him(laughs): And I am expected to believe that a 16 year old hormonal teenager will kill a prince who is a future king? Really??You are nothing but a kid!!!

Me (crying): Whom you took everything from!!!!

(Gunshot)

INSERT 011.

BUHLEBETHU NDLOVU.

They say everyone is a killer just take away what they love and hand them a weapon and they will become killers.

Nkosiyabo had really hurt me, I thought when he had me kidnapped and forced me to drink abortion pills and had me knocked out so that he can fake a part of my life so that Sandiso would leave me and want nothing to do with me so that he can manipulate him into marrying some princess, I thought I felt great pain that day, leaving the love of my life and being alone my entire pregnancy and living in fear for my life and my son's, I thought I knew what pain was then but...

Being told my mother, my sister and brother were killed, as in shot in the head now that was unbearable pain, it was more painful because they died because of me and thats the guilt and pain that I have to live with for the rest of my life, I am just a little girl I still needed my mother, i just had a baby who needed

his grandma and his uncle and aunt and they were taken away from me by some wannabe king, now tell me how do I deal with that?

How do I live with the pain and guilt? How do I go on with life? Killing neither Nkosiyoabo nor Sphesihle wont bring them back instead it will make me a killer and a prisoner and what good am I to my son and this fight then?

I could have pulled the trigger and shot Sphesihle right on the side of his head but I missed...on purpose because I am no killer.

The universe will deal with Nkosiyoabo for me, for every life that he has taken he shall one day feel great pain and loss and his days are numbered.

Nkosiyoabo: I knew you couldnt do it now tell me what makes you think I wouldnt drop you dead right where you stand?

Me(crying): It wouldnt matter if you killed me Nkosiyoabo...

Nkosiyoabo: Its King Nkosiyoabo you little..

Me: Boo hoo! You arent no king, Nkosiyoabo you are a fraud!!
You killed the rightful king who was your brother and also your
father just so you can sit on that throne so you are no king!!!!

I screamed at him wiping my tears as I went closer to him
and his guards stood in front of me.

Me: Your days in that chair are numbered !!

Nkosiyoabo: You watch what you say young lady I am your...

Me: King?? You are no king of mine! And this imbecile right here
is no next king but Sandiso is! Yazi you amuse me Nkosiyoabo you
forced me to drink abortion pills because I was carrying a 'curse'
a child who wasnt full on royalty but heres the amusing part...you
are also not full on royalty! Your mother was a regular civillian
who trapped the late king with a child and she thought as the
first wife with the first son you could be the heir

to throne but you are not and you never were and you never
will be and soon everyone will know that you are nothing but a
fraud and cold hearted murderer and the reason you arent in

jail right now is because to the public you are still the king therefore my case wouldnt hold any weight against the court of law but your day...your day is coming!!

He pushed pass the guards that were standing infront of me and placed his hands on my neck tightly and pushed me against the wall.

Nkosiyoabo(Gritted teeth): Who the fuck told you all of this mmh? Whom have you been talking to??

Me: Your days are numbered!

Guard: Sir you have a call.

He let go of me and took the phone and whatever it was

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wasnt good news at all.

PRINCE SANDISO MTHEMBU.

The prison guard came and unlocked the bars.

Guard: Mthembu!!

I walked out following him as we went to some other room where there was a woman and a young man waiting.

Woman: Are the cuffs necessary? Take them off he is a prince for heaven's sake!

The guard quickly uncuffed me.

Woman(smiles): Sandiso...

Me: Who are you??

Woman: I am your mother...your real mother.

What??

Me: Yeah funny.

Woman: I am assuming you know about Nkosiya's late brother, Nkosekethiwe well you probably were told that he died alongside his family, wife and son well that isn't true, I am the wife and I survived but because Nkosiya was behind the hit because he wanted to be king it wasn't safe for me so we faked my death and I have been in hiding ever since and you are the surviving son...the real prince and future king.

I blinked a hundred times, what did this woman just say?

Her: I am your mother...Nkosiya is treating you like this because you are not his biological son but you are a threat to his throne.

Me(stuttering): You were alive all this time?...I mean I heard a conversation a few years ago but I was dismissed but its

been bothering me ever since because he has always treated me differently I just...

Her: Its going to be okay Sandiso, everything is going to be fine I am here now my son, come here...

I went to her as she hugged me tight and I broke down, I couldnt believe this!

I overheard my father I mean...Nkosiyo speaking to my mother..i mean his wife about keeping the parternity of one of the boys a secret, that he didnt need to know that he was the late Nkosekhethiwe's son because he knew them as parents.

We asked who was the son between us but they never really gave us an answer but all along it was me, to be honest I am different from them, fair even in complexion,

what was surprising is that we have never even seen a picture of this Nkosekhethiwe and his wife.

Hope had been restored.

My mom was alive!!!

INSERT 012.

[PRINCE SANDISO MTHEMBU]

As we drove to some fancy house I had so many questions running through my mind they were driving me crazy.

We finally arrived and got out of the car, the house was huge and beautiful.

Thobeka: Welcome home Sandiso.

I just gave her a faint smile and followed her inside where we found a man and two children, boy and girl.

Thobeka: This is my husband, Sqalo Skhosana and those are your siblings Sukoluhle and Sthandokuhle they are twins at 14 years of age.

Sqalo: Its nice to finally meet you Sandiso I have heard a lot about you.

I smiled.

Oluhle&Sthandwa: Hello Sandiso...

Me: Hey guys its nice to meet you.

Thobeka: Is Buhle back yet?

Me: Buhle was here?

Thobeka: I took her after she gave birth together with Mvelo, they have been staying here since then.

Me: Wow I...

Sqalo: She might not be back yet darling she isnt in the right state of mind, Nkosiyoabo killed her family when they couldnt give up her location.

Me: What???? He did what?

Sqalo: I am sorry Sandiso.

I couldnt help my tears.

Thobeka: The poor child...we have to find her

Me: This has gone for long enough!!!Nkosiyoabo has to die! First it was my father and then grandfather and now Buhle's family? When will it stop!

Thobeka: Sandiso you have to think this clearly we need to have a plan...

Me: A plan? Who the fuck are you? Where were you all these years?

Thobeka(defeated): Sandiso...

Me: No!!! At any moment couldnt you have came back for me? I needed you! Look whats happened now? I have been framed for murder by some dangerous king who is blackmailing me to marry his daughter otherwise he kills Buhle and my son! All because they knew who I was but I didnt!

Sqalo: Sandiso...

Me: I needed you instead you saved yourself and left me to stay and be raised by that dicator and murderer who killed my father!!!

Thobeka: My son calm down...

Some lady walked in carrying a crying child and Thobeka ran to her and took the child.

Me: Is that...

She nodded as I went closer and my anger immediately subsidised looking into those pure beautiful clear eyes.

Me: My son.

Thobeka: Your replica.

He was so beautiful.

The door opened and in came the mother of my child that I hadn't seen in almost a year.

Buhle: Sandiso...

[BUHLEBETHU NDLOVU]

I couldn't believe my eyes, he was here! I hadn't seen him since forever

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he still gave me the same butterflies he gave me months ago.

He gave Mvelo back to his mother and I ran to his arms and he engulfed me in a tight warm bear hug and I couldn't help but let it all out, my safe haven.

Sandiso(crying): I am so sorry that I wasn't there, I shouldn't have let you go that night sthandwa sami...I am sorry!!!

Me(crying): Sandiso he killed them! He killed my mother, brother and sister! Shot them through their heads! They didn't deserve to die like that...

Sandiso: I am so sorry I promise you I will avenge you! I will avenge them! I will kill him Buhle!

I looked at him as he wiped my tears with his thumb.

Me: I couldn't...I tried

Him: You couldnt because it was not meant to be you who ends his fate but me.

Me: You would kill him for me?

Him: I made a promise to you didnt I? The promise was you before anyone remember?

Me(crying): And Zanothando?

He exhaled and I got away from his grip and tried to walk away but he held my hand.

Him: Its complicated Buhle...her father obviously knew who I am before I knew who I was and the whole murder was a setup if I dont marry his daughter I will rot in jail for a crime I didnt commit and he will come after you.

Me: And who told you this? Nkosi-yabo? He told you this? Cant you see he is the one who orchestrated this whole thing and only said it was king Lushaba just to scare you?

Him: I have heard stories about that king while I was locked up, baby he is capable of this whole thing and more I cant risk it!

Me: And so you will marry her Sandiso?

Him: To save us yes!

I shook my head and walked out, this wasnt happening!

INSERT 013.

[BUHLEBETHU NDLOVU]

Sandiso walked in as I had just finished taking a bath and he stood at the door.

Sandiso: Buhle you don't understand just how huge and complicated this whole thing is.

I kept quite.

Sandiso: I will have to marry Zanokuhle as my second wife inorder to save us or else Buhle I will end up in jail and they will hurt you and my son! I have no choice Buhle its not like she will have my heart or will become the queen, be reasonable I am doing this for us!

I laughed and got up.

Me: You are doing this for us Sandiso? For us? Dont fucken patronize me Sandiso! You are doing this because you actually love this Zanokuhle princess you think I didnt see how you would look at her when yall posed for pictures while you thought I was a prostitute who had left you? You had fallen for her and thats why you want to marry her!

Him: Buhle that is not true! I want to marry her to protect us from her father!

Me: Sandiso when will you grow up and be a man and fight back? Nkosiyoabo is playing mind games with you! He wont frame you for murder if you dont marry Zanokuhle! The truth was always going to come out that you never killed that girl!

Him: And how do you know that Buhle huh? Did he tell you that when you were there to kill him?

Me: Wow! You know what? Sandiso do you! Go and marry Zanokuhle and she can be queen and dont worry I wont deprive you of a relationship with your son but as far as you and I go?

Its over Sandiso, its me or Zanokuhle, If I am going to fight besides you for your birthright and kingdom I need to have assurance that you will always choose me just like I will always choose you but clearly that isnt the case so...this is it.

Him: Buhle dont say that..I love you!

Me: A few months ago you didnt love me because you thought I was a prostitute and now you love me because I have your son? Yazi Sandiso I have been through the worst the past months and all I need is peace, love and assurance and you cant give me that so lets continue with how things were, I wish

you goodluck with your journey I am headed home I need to prepare for my family's funerals.

Him: Buhle...

Me: No Sandiso once you grow a pair and be a man come and get me.

Him: So you are just going to leave Buhle?

Me: As a matter of fact thats exactly what I will do, Sandiso I get it you have been lied to all your life but your life is about to be great, your mom is alive and you are about to be king and me? Me Sandiso? My mother, brother and sister are gone! The only family i have left is my son

Him: Buhle you have me!!

Me: And you have Zanokuhle.

He swallowed and looked down.

Me: You love her just admit it, and if you love her theres no use in selling me dreams about how I will be queen and shit

because when it comes down to it I know you will make her queen because she is royalty this is history repeating itself and I dont want to be a part of it because I aint no princess I am nothing but your babymama.

Him: Buhle please...

Me: No Sandiso you are a prince and soon to be king go be who you were meant to be.

I finished packing my bags and took my son and requested bolt.

Thobeka: Well this is sad...certainly not what I expected, Buhle you were supposed to be by his side as he embarked on his journey.

Me: This is his journey Mama he has to take it alone I have my own stuff to do like planning a funeral for my family

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picking up the pieces and stuff but yall are welcome to have a relationship with Mvelo.

Thobeka: He needs you...

Me: He has Zanokuhle, I gotta go Mrs Skhosana thank you for everything.

The guards helped me with the bags as I got inside the car and drove off, I called Thandi to be there at the gate at home so that she can help me out with the bags and child.

We must have been on the road for 30 minutes when a car came out of nowhere and stopped us in the middle of the road.

Me: Wha..whats happening?

Driver: I dont know this car just halted infront of us we have nowhere to drive...

We were startled by someone in black knocking on the window using a gun.

Me: This isnt happening!!

The driver shakingly opened the doors and they grabbed me out of the car.

Me: Who are you and what do you want!!!

Man: King Lushaba requests your presence.

Me: What? Why? We have no business together!! You cant do this!! This is wrong! Leave me alone! Let me go!!!

Mvelo began crying as they shoved us at the back of their own car..honestly my life is a movie at this point.

I couldnt do anythings as on the sides sat men with guns.

I tried to calm Mvelo down until he fell back asleep as we arrived at some palace looking place.

[PRINCE SANDISO MTHEMBU]

Thobeka...I mean my mother walked in and I quickly wiped my tears.

Thobeka: Sandiso whats going on?

Me: Nothing.

Her: Really? Buhle just took Mvelo and walked out with bags you call that nothing?

Me(shouts): She left me!!! She left me okay? She doesnt want to fight this battle with me!!

She sighed and sat next to me.

Her: What happened?

Me: King Lushaba set that whole murder up and if I dont cooperate and marry his daughter he will make sure I spent the rest of my life behind bars and Buhle and my son might be in danger or killed...

Her: Yeah he might do that he isnt exactly a noble king much like Nkosiyo I guess thats why they get along its because they dont do things by the book nor follow the rules, he must know who you are and that you are set to be king and he wants his daughter to be the queen..gosh this is bad King Lushaba has influence with powerful people at the top whp can make things happen.

Me: So you see why I have to marry Zanokuhle?

Her: It will be on your best interest to marry her I am sure Buhle can understand that, she can be your second wife.

Me: She is not willing to share.

Her: But its for their own safety make her understand..i thought she loved you and that your love was strong?

Me: A lot has happened.

Her: Well if she wants to be that girl who has a child of wedlock then thats her problem, you do what you gotta do hopefully one day she will come around and see that this is whats best for everyone, I say marry Zanokuhle I mean its not like you dont have feelings for her so yall can make it work.

Me: I cant just abandon Buhle..with everything shes been through because of me!

Her: You have to Sandiso, we all have to make sacrifices its part of life Sandiso if Buhle can walk out on you at a time like this then that means she wasnt going to be a great queen anyway,

life isnt easy at all it doesnt need quitters you have to be strong if you want to survive.

Me: But I love her...

Her: Sometimes love is just...not enough Sandiso let her go if yall meant to be she will come around.

I sighed as she walked out and my phone beeped it was my lawyer.

"Good news the charges against you have been dropped, they have found the real killer...congratulations my prince."

I exhaled but Thobeka called me to come immediately.

Me: What?

She raised the volume of the television up.

"A girl by the name of Buhlebethu Ndlovu has turned herself in for the murder of Priscilla Cele that was found dead next to the prince a week ago..."

Us: WHAT??

There was a knock at the door and one of the ladies opened and came back with a basket and...Mvelo? Wtf was going on???

INSERT 014.

UNEDITED.

[MRS THOBEKA SKHOSANA]

We made a toast as I sipped on my drink with a smile.

Muziwakhe: Honestly I didnt think we could pull it off.

Me: I knew we would, Buhle is behind bars giving a chance for my son to marry his queen and take his rightful place at the throne.

Muzi: I cant believe she really thought she was going to be queen, a commoner!

Me(laughs): Imagine! Not after what Nkosiyabo and his mother did to me, I had enough being badly treated by commoners, if my son was going to be king he needed a real princess besides him and I know Zanokuhle will treat him right and she will raise Mvelo like her own, now we just have to deal with Nkosiyabo.

Muzi: You have kept the end of your deal, allow me to deal with him.

Me: Good, I have to go back home and comfort my son he really didnt take Buhle's confession and imprisonment very well.

Him: Go do what you have to do.

I got up and so did he.

Me: King Lushaba, its always a pleasure.

I bowed a little and then left.

[NKOSIYABO MTHEMBU]

He threw his bones and groaned.

Him: There's a third hand here, Lushaba is not working alone, he is working with someone who knew exactly that Sandiso was the rightful king, he could have just asked that Sphesihle takes

Zanokuhle as his second wife but he strictly wanted Sandiso because he knew his destiny.

Me: How could he have known? Nobody knows the truth except us.

Him: I see a woman, very close to Sandiso.

Me: Buhle?

Him: No this one is close to Sandiso and your late brother alongside your late father.

Me: My brother's wife? She died in a coma.

He looked at the bones furthermore.

Him: She is very much alive and shes coming after you with everything she has.

Me: Impossible!

Him: And just like you she despises commoners because of what you and your mother did to her and her husband hence why they threw Buhle under the bus and had her take the fall for that murder by threatning to kill her grandmother, Mvelo

and Thandi and since she had already lost so much she couldnt risk it seeing how dangerous they were she agreed to

go down for the murder of Priscilla Cele which Lushaba had initially told you that Sandiso was going to take the fall for.

Me: Son of bitch he played me!!

He nodded.

Him: Buhle as well

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she thought Sandiso's mother was legit but she had her own agenda.

Me: Damn! They are planning on overthrowing me on that throne! I have to do something!!

[BUHLEBETHU NDLOVU]

I wiped my tears.

Lawyer: Well they have agreed that you can attend your familys funeral tomorrow but you will be heavily guarded.

Me: I understand.

Him: After that you will be driven to Maximum security where you will serve out the rest of your sentence, is there anything you want me to do for you? Maybe arrange one last meeting with your son?

Me(wipes tears): Uhm...no thank you, after this I dont want any visitors especially Sandiso, grandma and Thandi.

Him: Are you sure?

Me: Yes I am sure.

He nodded.

Him: Alright Thandi should be here any minute now.

I nodded as he got up and left and after a short while Thandi walked in.

Thandi: I dont understand, why Buhle? We both know you arent no killer and you were nowhere near Sandiso that night!

Me: I know and I wasnt, I had to do this Thandi.

Her(crying): No you didnt!!

Me: Yes I did! I have already lost mom, Sbonga and Thando I wasnt going to lose Mvelo, Grandma and you! These people are dangerous! They...they cut my...(crying) they cut my son's little toe to prove a point i couldnt stand hearing his innocent cries Thandi! They are cruel! They cut my baby's toe and he was just a week old who does that?

Her(crying): Oh my God!! Buhle!!

She gave me a tight hug as I broke down.

Me: I had to do this because I was perceived as a threat to Sandiso and Zanokuhle's marriage so they had to remove me from the situation in return they will take good care of my son.

Her: This isnt fair!! You are in here for plus or minus 15 years!!!

Me: They might release me on good behaviour in 9 years...

She looked down crying and I held her hand.

Me: Hey...its going to be okay, okay? Everything will be fine I promise just take care of my grandma for me.

She nodded.

Me: And take care of yourself as well, I love you this is goodbye.

[THANDI KHUMALO]

Mom walked in as I wiped my tears.

Mom: I have a plan on how you can help Buhle.

Me: I dont see how Mah.

Her: How about you apply for a job to be Mvelos nanny? That way you will be close to him and you can gather enough evidence to help Buhle out? Shes your sister and she needs you.

Me: I dont think Sandiso will agree to me being their nanny considering he knows me as Buhles friend.

Her: You will convince him Thandi.

She walked away and I sighed, well you read right I am Buhle's sister, thats the reason why our father walked out on them.

Lets just say he was dating both my mother and Buhle's mother at the same time but my mother was more like a sidechick, I am older than her by 3 months.

The truth came out after Buhles little sister was born and by that time we had already been friends but just didnt know we were sisters, when her mother found out she kicked our father out and told Buhle he walked out on them and never came back.

Her and my mother werent friends but they were civil towards each other because they could see that Buhle and I had genuine feelings for each other so they didnt let a man make them enemies.

Buhle obviously doesn't know all of this to her I am just her bestfriend who will move mountains for her.

And now I am about to go and work for the family that casted her out so that I can be close to my nephew because I know for sure that theres no way that Zanokuhle will treat Mvelo like her own child and hopefully I can find something that can set my sister free.

INSERT 015.

[PRINCE SANDISO MTHEMBU]

A FEW DAYS LATER

Some guard walked in and told me that Princess Zanokuhle was here so I went to the living room where she was.

Zanokuhle: Look who it is! He is actually alive! Will you look at that!

Me: Zanokuhle...

Her: Sandiso you got out of jail about a week ago and you didnt even bother to call me and I thought I was your girlfriend or has that changed?

Me: I am so sorry baby things have just been hectic okay?
Buhle, Mvelo, my mother...its been a lot I am sorry.

She sighed and sat next to me.

Her: I know baby...and I am sorry about everything, especially about Buhle hiding your son from you and then killing that girl out of jealousy.

Me(clearing throat): Yeah thanks

Her: I cant believe she did that though it still doesn't make any sense I mean she could have killed me as well.

Me: Yeah can we not talk about her like ever again?

Her: Yeah sure babe.

Me: Lets talk about us, Buhle is locked up and my son is here, in a few days if all goes well I will be placed as king and you will be my wife and I know this is me asking and expecting too much from you but...Mvelo needs a mother.

She looked at me shocked.

Me: I come with baggage Zanokuhle, Mvelo is a prince and he has no family from his mothers side I am all he has and I cant abandon him.

Her: Well...can we atleast get a nanny? I mean i know nothing about kids Sandiso but I am willing to learn and try and be a good mother to him afterall he is an innocent little angel.

Me(excitedly): Really? Babe thats amazing! Thank you!!!

We shared a hug and kiss.

Her(smiles): So...you are set to be king huh? Didnt see that coming at all, I hear theres a royal council meeting this afternoon.

Me: Yep thats actually in the next hour and I should get ready for that.

Her: Okay can I see Mvelo in the meantime?

Me: Yes you can.

Her: I love you?

Me: I love you more.

[NKOSIYABO MTHEMBU]

Somethong just didnt feel right about this urgent royal meeting, the uncles said it was about the recent protests about service delivery but I have a bad feeling about this.

Sphesihle: Sandiso is still not answering my calls baba.

Me: And he is nowhere to be found.

Sphehleh: We need to deal with him before everyone finds out who he is or we will lose all of this! And I am still mad at you that you never told me that he was Uncle Nkosekethiwe's son who by the way is the rightful heir to the throne I had to hear it from Buhle who knows who else she's told? Where was she all this time? And why did she lie about killing that girl? That wasn't part of the plan baba!!

Me: Jesus Sphehleh can you shut it? I have enough as it is! Let's get this meeting over and done with.

We went inside the royal hall and every royal member was there waiting for us as I went to sit on my chair.

Me: We can begin.

Uncle 1: Right we are gathered here today to speak and resolve the issue at hand, King Nkosiyabo

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Buhle the recently jailed girl claimed that you killed her mother and siblings is this true?

Me: Killed? Thats outrageous! Why would I kill her family?

Uncle 2: You wanted them to tell you where she was with your grandson and when they failed to give you the answers you killed them to draw Buhlebethu Ndlovu out of wherever she was.

Me(laughs): And you believe this?

Uncle 1: Theres been a lot of rumours okay?

Everyone in the hall agreed.

Me: This is without proof okay? Why are we exactly here?

Uncle 1: We have a recording of you clearly confessing to the crime right here...

He played a recording.

****Me: You dont know what you are talking about...

Buhle: I dont? Then lets talk about what I actually know for certain...why did you kill my mother, brother and sister??

Me: Simple...I wanted them to tell me where you were but they couldn't tell me so they had to go.****

I closed my eyes and mumbled 'shit'.

Uncle 3: There you have it folks, I suggest Nkosiyabo be removed as our king, we cant have a murderer for a king and who knows what else hes done? He has disrespected this throne for long enough...I say we vote, all in favour of Nkosiyabo being removed from the throne and as our king raise up your hands?

Almost everybody raised their hands, these traitors!

Me: Traitors!!

Uncle 2: This means Sphesihle will...

The door opened and 3 people walked in, including

Sandiso. Uncle 2: Excuse me this is a private royal meeting?

Woman: And you didnt bother inviting me? I am offended!

Uncle: Thobeka? Mfazi kaNkosekhetiwe? Didnt you..?

Thobeka: Die? Nope Nkosiyo was still an amateur those days he...left some loose hands.

I was sweating like nobodys business and Sphesihle looked scared as hell.

Thobeka: Anyway enough about that, if you are going to place anyone as king it should be my son Sandiso, Nkosekhetiwe's son.

Me: Uyahlanya!!

Thobeka: Ngyahlanya? Nkosiyo you arent even royalty let alone your son so shut up this is a conversatiom for royalties, Sandiso is the rightful king and you all know that now lets talk about when is this imposter and his family vacating the throne and royal house shall we?

Sphesihle: Baba they cant do that...

Uncle: We can.

INSERT 016.

[BUHLEBETHU NDLOVU]

Life in the cell has definitely been very hard and gruesome not only physically but emotionally as well.

I have been bullied here, insulted and beaten and right now I am just on survival mode.

I have lost weight because for the past few months I havent been eating well because well...its prison there are some people who will just feel entitled to your plate and if you dont give it to them they will beat you.

I have since made a friend though, a friend that we have been going through the most with as we were newbies, 'fish' is what they called us but theres since been new inmates that have arrived and we are no longer the victims we have since become

invisible but there is this one ugly looking b*** that is on my arse, like literally she wants me to be her b*** and I have told her countless times that I am straight.

Cynthia: Here comes your man..

Me(laughs): Shes not my man, I dont get down like that Cee-c.

Cynthia: How would you know how you get down? Youve literally been with one person the king.

Me: I am pretty sure sausages are my thing and not fingers and whatnot.

Cynthia: I feel you, I just cant believe the king didnt even try to get you out I mean you are his babymama and he has the power to grant anyone clemency.

Me: Why would he do that?I doubt he even ever loved me, he just gave up way too easily and married that Zanokuhle chick and now shes raising my son and its all happy royal family, the king and queen.

Cynthia: Please tell me when you get out of here you will fight for whats rightfully yours? You should be queen Buhle, the ancestors chose you.

Me: Did they Cynthia? If so why am I here then? I think Bab'Ngwenya was in on this as well just like Mrs Skhosana, they all used me in a way.

Cynthia: Jeah you are right but Buhle I am no psychic or sangoma or whatever but you scream of supremecy, theres

something about you that just tells me that you are destined to be someone important like a queen...

I laughed.

Me: Well if thats right this will be my testimony by the time I get out of here I will be a gangster queen.

We laughed.

I have been in prison for about 6 months now and in that 6 months I have had to watch from the news and read from the newspapers about King Sandiso's new glorious life with his wife

Queen Zanokuhle and their son Prince Mvelo, it hurts you know? That is the life that I was promised and now another woman is living it.

I dont know whether I hate Sandiso for being a coward or I hate him for not fighting for us or me but all I know is that chances of us getting back together after I get out of here are slim to none.

I dont need a weak man who cant stand up for himself and what he loves by my side.

Sandiso and his mom failed me dismally.

[KING SANDISO MTHEMBU]

I looked at him.

Bab'Ngwenya: You know you are destined for doom right? Yes the ancestors wanted you to take your rightful place as the king but they wanted Buhle to be by your side.

Me: It was beyond my control Baba you know that I am a king guided by the royal uncles and royal rules.

Bab'Ngwenya: This will not end well, the ancestors are not happy

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they dont want Zanokuhle here and there will be consequences you have the power to get Buhle out of jail but you wont do it and for that there will be consequences son.

Mom: Thats enough Ngwenya you dont speak like that to your king.

Bab'Ngwenya: My apologies my queen I meant no disrespect I was just delivering a message from the ancestors to the king, they want Buhlebethu Ndlovu in these premises.

Mom: Well thats tough because shes not here and wont be here for a long time and even if she comes back who will want a queen as a murderer and jailbird? I respect you as the merger

of two worlds Ngwenya but its clear where your loyalties lie and...as much as it pains me to say this but uh...

She circled him.

Mom: We wont be needing your services any longer you are released as the royal healer.

Me: Mom!!

Mom: We are cleaning house Sandiso he was Nkosiyo's healer remember?

Me: I want him here.

She looked at me.

Me: And I am the king I make decisions around here okay?

Bab'Ngwenya: Thats alright My king, either way the ancestors dont want me here anymore so I am leaving...

Me: What? Bab'Ngwenya no! You are the most legit healer I know around here, you have protected this kingdom for years even though Nkosiyo wasnt a great leader please I need you.

Bab'Ngwenya: What purpose do I serve if you dont listen to me my king?

Mom: No Sandiso you are not bringing Buhle here what will that say about you as a king?

Me: Shes the mother of my child and you and I both know she didn't kill no one.

Mom: The royal board wont like this and Zanokuhle wont either Sandiso!!

Me: I dont care mother for the past 6 months I have let you control me and I am sick of it! I have done what you've asked, Zanokuhle is the queen isnt she? I married her everyones happy except me! I failed Buhle! I made promises to her! I am going to make sure she is released from jail.

Mom: I made you king Sandiso!

Me: I was going to be king with or without you I am tired of being manipulated by you! As far as im concerned you arent my mother my mother died years ago! If I want? I can have you banished here from this kingdom! I make the decisions the days

of you controlling and manipulating me are over!!!! You are no longer a Mthembu remember? Stay out of Mthembu affairs Mrs Skhosana!!!

I walked away from the both of them calling the station commander.

[MRS THOBEKA SKHOSANA]

Look whos grown a pair and has the guts to talk back? My son, the same son I fought for so that he can sit on his throne, I didnt have to do all of this, but I did it because he is my son and I felt like I owed it to his father but now he is spitting on my face.

Buhle cant be queen, Lushaba will kill all of us!

I called him.

Lushaba: Mrs Skhosana

Me: We have a problem.

Lushaba: Yes we do your son wants that commoner girl out of prison and thats not good for my daughter...

Me: Believe me I tried to talk him out of it but he wouldn't listen to me.

Lushaba: Its time we make this girl disappear for good just like Nkosiyoabo and his family.

[AT THE POLICE STATION]

The station commander dropped the call and Detective Ngwazi quickly walked away, he overheard the conversation and he needed to call someone of his own.

The call the station commander got was from the most corrupt King, King Lushaba who ordered a hit on a certain inmate.

Person: This is a nice surprise what can I do for you detective?

Ngwazi: I have something regarding the girl.

Person: Good its about time you became useful, whats up?

Ngwazi: Earlier today King Sandiso ordered that she be released from prison under clemency but the station commander has just been ordered to make sure she doesn't come out alive.

Person: By whom?

Ngwazi: King Lushaba.

Person: Make sure that doesn't happen, I will get her out myself.

Ngwazi: Ndabezitha.

Person: Thank you.

He dropped the call.

INSERT 017.

[BUHLEBETHU NDLOVU]

I suddenly couldn't breathe and when I tried to open my eyes I was met with darkness and I was suffocating, what the hell someone had a pillow on my face with so much force.

She must have placed her knee on my chest because I felt something heavy there as I tried to fight them off with my hands and legs, I was able to overpower them and she fell on the floor and I tried getting up while trying to catch my breath with my hands around my neck very quickly the girl got up and she took out what looked like a sharpened toothbrush.

Me: Please...dont do this whatever it is that I have done we can work it out please!!!

Her: Theres nothing to work out I just want my pay!!

Me: Pay?? What the hell are you talking about? You want money?

She just laughed and came straight at me and we wrestled as I tried to block her from trying to stab me with the toothbrush as I screamed for help, where the hell is my cellmate or even the guards?

She kicked me and I fell down and she got an opportunity to stab me on the side of my stomach but it was a scratch, she was going to stab me on the neck when I forcefully pushed her hard against the wall and she never came back up as i tried to get up, it was only then that the guards came rushing in and when I got up and checked the girl, she was bleeding from the back of her head, I got hold of her neck and saw that she had hit her head against a nail on the wall.

Guard: What the hell is going on here?

Me: I...she...I didnt...

I was covered in blood and I was shaking like a leaf.

Detective: What the hell happened here Ndlovu?

Guard: Shes dead, you killed her.

Me: She was going to kill me! It was...it was self defence, I swear!

The warden appeared and I was taken to his office and I was already scared, what if that incident is added to my sentence and I never get out of here?

Me: Warden please you have to believe me, she was trying to kill me she said something about getting her pay, I swear I didnt mean to kill her it was either me or her it was self defence please believe me...

Warden: Oh I know Miss Ndlovu someone is out to kill you here, theres a bounty on your head thats why I have decided to move you to another facility where you will be safe for the time being.

Me: Move...? Where?

Warden: Guard its time.

They cuffed me up and led me outside to a van where there were some guards waiting for me already and they started the car and we all drove off to a place unknown.

We must have driven for about 10 minutes when the car suddenly stopped in the middle of the road and I heard gunshots and these guards that were sitting with me at the back also got out with their guns ready to open fire but they were defeated, I literally had to say a prayer because whoever this person who wanted me dead meant business they were here to finish me off.

They opened the door and I hid my face with my hands and begged them to not kill me.

Me(crying): Please...please dont kill me please....

They didnt say anything but forcefully grabbed me and dragged me to their van, they had their faces hidden.

What the hell was happening? I had never been so scared in my entire life, I was this close to peeing myself especially when

one of them made a call and referred to me as the 'Package' as in 'Sir we have retrieved the package it is safe...'

Me: Where are you guys taking me? Who are you?

They didnt respond until we drove into this beautiful huge double size mansion fit for a king and i was confused as hell.

There were guards and maids dressed traditionally...I think I was in some palace

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but whose palace because it wasnt Sandiso's palace either.

They unlocked the cuffs and led me inside and had a maid take me to a bedroom where she told me to take a bath everything will be okay and then left the room.

I looked around nervously and decided to take the bath because I didnt want to disobey whoever this person who was going to kill me any further.

To be honest everything about this whole mansion was just so peaceful and it felt...at home.

I took a long relaxing bath if I die I might as well die clean and relaxed its been a while since I had a proper relaxing bath the prison doesnt exactly have that luxury.

When I got out fresh clothes were on the bed, a very beautiful long princess like gown and some comsetics that looked and smelled expensive, there were some accessories as well for the hands and neck.

I got dressed and then sat down, waiting for whoever my host or killer was.

[KING SANDISO MTHEMBU]

I was pacing up and down, I didnt know what to think or do what the hell just happened?

Zano: Babe calm down you will drive yourself crazy!

Me: Zano dont tell me to fucken calm down! My son has been kidnapped and so has Buhle!

Mom: This is too much of a coincidence, I think Buhle is behind the kidnapping of Mvelo.

Me: Mom please I know you are not a fan but what you are saying is just ridiculous okay? You saw the roadside cameras Buhle was also abducted and so was my son! Zano how could you be so careless? And these useless guards as well how does

someone just snatch a child in front of you!!! I want my son back!!! Fuck!!!

Mom: Language !

Me: Mom fuck off!! Not now!!!

[MRS THOBEKA SKHOSANA]

I quickly made a call to Lushaba he better have an explanation as to why the hell he would take my grandson the agreement was that he deals with Buhle!

Me: You better have a good explanation as to why you had to kidnap my grandson!

Lushaba: I heard the news I am so sorry

Me: Dont you dare act like you had nothing to do with this Lushaba!!! Where is my grandson??

Him: Thobeka I swear I didnt take him neither did I get to Buhle on time!

Me: What?? If you dont have them where the hell are they???

[BUHLEBETHU NDLOVU]

I decided to take a nap and was woken up by small hands all over my face and when I opened my eyes I was met with the finest pair of beautiful eyes that looked familiar.

Me: Mvelo?

Oh my God it was Mvelo! My son was here! I couldn't believe this I was so emotional I had last seen him when he was little over a month and now he was all grown, going on 7 months he was such a cute little fellow.

Me: When did you get here...

He just smiled and I was so confused, where the hell was I kanti?

A maid walked in, bowing her head she told me my presence was requested at the living room by the king.

I nervously got up and took Mvelo with me and followed the maid, my knees were wobbly as we approached the living room and I suddenly felt heavy, the room was heavy, someone superior was within this room.

Maid: You dont look into his eyes.

I nodded and Indeed I looked down.

Him: Princess Sthel'esihle Its lovely to finally be in your presence I have waited for this moment for a very long time, I apologise for the way you were brought in here I had to make it seem like you had been abducted.

Me: Princess Sthel'esihle? My king I am 100% sure you have me confused.

Him: No I dont have you confused Princess Sthel'esihle you may raise your head and look at me.

I slowly raised up my head and this guy looked young enough to atleast be a prince and not be a king, he was cute you know...excuse my thirst but I have been locked up with women for over 6 months okay?

Him: I am too young to be a king jeah I get that a lot.

He reads minds as well...Lol, he looked at me and smiled.

Him: Yes I do read minds Princess lets start with introductions though , King Daluxolo Mntwana Zulu the Third here and you are Princess Sthel'esihle the soon to be Queen of this kingdom

we have been waiting for your arrival for a very long time
some died waiting for you.

Me: This is the legendary and famous Mystic Zulu Kingdom?

He nodded.

Me: Oh my God you exist? I mean it exists? I thought it was
a myth wait....I read the book there was a princess
Sthel'esihle there.

Him: It wasnt just a book...but a prophesy and now it has been
fulfilled.

Uhh what the f now???

INSERT 018.

[BUHLEBETHU NDLOVU]

Mystic princesses and queens aren't something that the Zulu Kingdom wasn't accustomed to, during that era it would either be the king or queen who possess certain powers, at that time those who possessed these powers were called names because people just didn't understand how a human being can be born with certain powers.

Throughout the years people started accepting these gifted people because they saw that they used their powers for good and not to destroy the kingdom and prey on the weak and innocent so that's how the kingdom gained popularity over the years and became one of the most feared and respected kingdoms in the entire land of royalty.

So the healer who wrote this book named it The Great Prophecy because he said that it was something that he had been shown by the ancestors, some people never believed him

and his book was surrounded by so much controversy because the past years gifted princes and princesses were only found within the kingdom and not outside but this princess was set to be different because first of all she would not be born a princess but would be chosen to be a princess.

The healer's story claimed that when the last gifted queen passed on, her spirit wandered everywhere trying to find a vessel that it could occupy, it needed a vessel that was innocent and had been through a great deal of misfortune and because the queen could see far beyond the human eye, her spirit entered a hospital where women were set to give birth and she went through each mother one by one trying to read every unborn child's fate and apparently she found the child who wouldn't be so lucky in life and she entered her.

Can you hear just how crazy this sounds? I am assuming the spirit entered me while I was still on my mother's womb which means I might have that queen's powers.

The book also entails how some healers will be able to find Sthel'esihle and would try to manipulate her fate so that she can end up marrying their princes but the problem is that her fated husband wouldnt be a prince but it would be someone who would already be a king.

I was so overwhelmed.

King Daluxolo: I take it you have read The Great Prophecy before?

Me: Yeah I have actually which is why I so overwhelmed so you mean to say I have the great spirit of your...mother?

Him: Grandmother.

Me: But how do we know for sure? I mean not so long ago I was told I was meant to be with King Sandiso Mthembu and rule side by side with him...

Him: If that was the case then why is Zanokuhle Lushaba the queen and not you? Thr ancestors could have fought harder right?

That makes sense.

Him: It was just so easy for Sandiso to let you rot in jail and marry someone else...yet I got you out of there as soon as I heard that you were my betrothed, I wouldn't have forgiven myself if I knew who you were and just let you stay there.

I exhaled.

Me: So Bab'Ngwenya knew who I was and he was trying to show them the light

Him: Unfortunately our ancestors were more stronger they used Thobeka to make sure you don't end up there, you would have been unhappy anyway because deep down you would have felt that you didn't belong.

Me: This is a lot...

Him: I know all my life I had to restrain myself and not fall for anyone because I always knew that my Sthel'esihle was out there.

Me: And you found me impure, with a package which is just so not fair for you as a king.

He smiled.

Him: You didnt know and Its not that much of an issue.

Me: So what happens now?

Him: Youll be taken to the river where you will be cleansed of anything that shouldnt be on you, there will be a ceremony where the kingdom and its people will witness who you are.

Me: And if I am not Sthelo?

Him: You are Sthelo, I know and I can feel it.

Me: But how?

He walked closer to me and I felt my heart beating out of my chest.

He showed me a traditional wristband with beads.

Him: Touch it and if it changes colour that means you are who I say you are.

I was kind of reluctant but eventually I touched the wristband and it changed colour from black to red it was so...magical and beautiful.

Me: I cant believe this, I mean the Mystical Ndabezitha Kingdom exists and you are indeed gifted, besides reading people's minds what else can you do?

Him: I can only just read their minds, figure out their intentions.

Me: Thats actually amazing I would have thought since Sthelo is your supposed soulmate you wouldnt be able to read her mind.

He chuckled probably because I referred to Sthelo as a third person.

Me: Until I have powers I will believe that I am Sthelo.

We laughed.

Him: Well to answer your question once you realize your powers I wont be able to read your mind anymore.

Me: Thats a relief.

Him(smiles): Mmmh you know you are more beautiful than I imagined you...

Me: Thank you and I will just say this before you get inside my head...you arent bad yourself my king.

Him: Thank you my queen, let me show you around our house.

Me: I would love that.

Dali was really handsome you guys, he looked like he grew up bathing with milk and yoghurt, his skin so smooth with not even a dark spot, caramel in complexion, thick eyebrows, lashes

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dont get me started with his perfect teeth and lips, he looked like he was friends with the gym, kind of tall but well built...Lord those broad shoulders! And his voice was just

something else...God definitely took his time when he created this man, he was in no rush.

Apparently he was 27 years old, became king when he was just 25 years old, these people have a fleet of different businesses and are deemed the most wealthiest royal families in the land.

He is a middle child, got a sister who is 4 years older than him and he is 2 years older than the last princess.

His sisters are both married and everyone was starting to get worried that he would never find his Sthelo.

His father is still alive alongside his mother but both the grandparents are dead, for a powerful royal family they are quite private and lowkey.

Their palace was very beautiful and sophisticated I loved it, everyone was welcoming and respectful, I was going to meet the whole family tomorrow.

Honestly besides fate, I would have fallen for King Dali, he is a charming guy and his personality is just captivating.

After the tour I decided to make a call to Thandi just to let her know that I am fine and so is Mvelo I heard she was the nanny.

Thandi: Thandi hello?

Me: Thandi hey its Buhle

Her: Oh my word! I have been so worried you are all over the news, Sandiso and Zanokuhle are busy making press conferences pleading with the community to help them find you everybody is worried about the missing little prince! Where the hell are you? Is Mvelo with you?

Me(laughs): Tjo girl you can talk! I am fine, we are safe, Mvelo and I... kuningi marn Thandi yayazi i-wishy wishy yento but we are okay.

Her: Where are you?

Me: Somewhere safe I will tell you once I have settled.

Her: I am glad you are okay let me get back to work before Zanokuhle breathes fire on me.

[KING SANDISO MTHEMBU]

I was inside Bab'Ngwenya's consulting hut, I had to seek for answers because this just didnt make any sense.

Bab'Ngwenya: Sandiso now that your mother is not here we can talk freely.

Me: Yes.

Him: I lied.

Me: I dont understand Baba...

Him: I was able to discover who Buhlebethu Ndlovu was and I thought I could manipulate her fate by getting her to marry you before she met her real fated husband.

Me: Fated husband?

Him: She is the infamous Sthel'esihle Zulu queen, Sandiso.

Me: What???!!!

Him: Had everyone just listened to me, had you listened to me when I told you to marry her and that she was the rightful queen we would have gotten her.

I got up pacing and down.

Me: The famous Sthel'esihle from The Great Prophecy book?
The gifted queen of the Mystical Ndabezitha Kingdom??

He nodded.

Me: And you are only telling me this now Ngwenya? You should have told me this earlier! I would have married her long ago.

Him: I couldnt just outright say who she was okay? The Gods from that kingdom would have stricken me dead! Why did you have to be stubborn? Letting your mother and Lushaba play you like that? You thought Nkosiyo was the worst? Your mom is the devil herself!

Me: We need to find her Ngwenya!

Him: Its too late, they have found her!

Me: No! No! Ngwenya no! We have a son...maybe we can use that? I mean Mvelo is my son they cant keep him away from me...

Him: Mvelo is their son.

Me: Excuse me?

Him: She is a mystical person and so is Mvelo, his DNA changes 3 times till it is solid, first he had yours and 7 days in that kingdom he will adapt to whoever touches his mother 14 days later he will be a Zulu prince so even if you plan on fighting don't ever ask for a DNA test because you will lose.

I ran my hands on my head...

Me: I had her! I had her! Ngwenya! She was my first love! We had something and I blew it she could have been queen of this kingdom! And I blew it!

Him: Yes you did and don't even think of fighting King Daluxolo he might be young but he is a gifted being you lose besides he is better off as an ally not an enemy.

Tjo this was just messed up!!

Buhlebethu is gone....just like that.

INSERT 019.

[BUHLEBETHU NDLOVU]

Peace, is what I felt when I went to bed laat night and peace is what i felt when I woke up today.

I felt grateful for a lot of things this morning, I went through quite a lot all at once at a very short space of time that it felt like I had been suffering my whole life when I hadnt been suffering things just changed when I fell pregnant.

Its been a lot, falling pregnant in high school, being kidnapped and forced to drink termination pills, going into hiding inorder to save my son, my mother, sister and brother being killed and having to take a fall for a murder I didnt commit to save my son.

You know Bab'Ngwenya did say it will get hard before it gets easier, it did get hard and now I think it might be getting easier however I do know theres no journey without its hardships.

I am meant to be this respected queen in this kingdom, married to this feared and respected king who is very much literate and handling all sorts of business, do i feel inferior? Yes I do, do I feel like I am not good enough? Yes that is exactly what I feel I mean besides being 'Sthel'esihle' who else am I? Or what do I bring to the table?Nothing.

Is that the kind of queen these people will accept? I dont think so, an illiterate teenager who dropped out of school and has a child? Yeah no this is going to be one hell of a ride.

Just as I was about to wake up someone knocked on my bedroom door and I assumed it was the maid but it was

Dali...I mean King Daluxolo and I didnt know whether to get up and bow or just...

Him: Please...you are my queen you arent mandated to do that..(smiles)

Me: In my defence I havent been coronated as queen yet my king

Him: We should fix that ASAP.

I smiled as he sat on the bed and I covered up myself.

Him: How did you sleep?

Me: I slept okay...peaceful.

Him: Thats good I can see you woke up with a lot on your mind this morning...

Me(laughs nervously): I forgot you read minds...

Him: Talk to me.

Me(smiles): Its nothing honestly just my mind playing tricks on me convincing me otherwise.

Him: Sthelo...

He held my hand and I felt butterflies in my stomach and vibrations all over my body I am assuming those are called...goosebumps?

Him: You are about to be my wife...I know its not by choice but I want you to know that we are a team and considering what you have been through I just want to make things easy for you.

I exhaled.

Me: I know its just that I am worried about the queen I am going to be I mean besides being 'uSthelo' I am a nobody and that frightens me, I mean look at you...already accomplished and stuff.

Him: I understand before finding out you were Sthelo I am sure you had dreams and aspirations and i would like to hear those dreams and aspirations, talk them over and compromise where we can.

Me: Exactly what is expected of me King...

Him: Sthelo please...its just Dali or Mntwana.

Me: I think I will use Dali.

He smiled.

Him: On normal basis I would have to court you...convince you to be my girlfriend, propose and then you would be shown the ropes of becoming queen which would require you to work side by side with me in running the family business and advancing this kingdom's economy.

Me: I assume I would have to hold some sort of qualification for all of that be able to hold certain conversations, reach out to people be able to solve conflicts and whatnot.

Him: Idealically yes...

Me: I dont just want to be a pretty gifted wife standing next to you, I want to be independent.

He smiled.

Him: Sthelo you will never be casted out if thats your fear...I mean I understand why you want to be independent and be able to do things yourself but...

Me: And I appreciate that but Dali marriage wasnt something I wanted so early, before being incarcerated I had hopes of going back to school and finishing up my education I mean what kind of queen will I be if I encourage little kids to go to school yet I never finished school myself?

Him: Not only beautiful but smart as well...

Me: You see I cant encourage young women to go to school, be independent and work yet I am a trophy wife and a spoilt king's wife.

Him: So you want to go back to school?

Me: I understand that it will be weird and all but we can get married and I can only be coronated as queen after matric and I will study through that...online.

Him: Anything my beautiful bride wants, she will get it.

Me: Thank you.

Him: I will go and make a few calls and arrangements.

Me: Okay in the meantime let me get ready

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I understand your family will be here shortly for breakfast?

Him: Yes they are on their way...let me give you some space.

[KING DALUXOLO]

Life is so unpredictable to be honest, I have been waiting for this moment for all my life, waiting to meet the wife that was chosen for me by the ancestors, and I won't even lie I am happy with their choice.

Buhle is smart, she has got a good head on her shoulders for the first few minutes we talked about the future I was impressed, most girls wouldn't even bother with returning to school after finding out that they are the 'Sthel'esihle Zulu' I

mean why would you return to school when you are about to get married to a rich king and become queen?

However Buhle wants to practise what she will preach, you cant be a queen that preaches education and independency amongst young girls while you dont even have a simple paper such as a matric certificate? I love her already.

My family had already arrived they were excited about meeting her as I was but we had to wait for her to get ready so in the meantime my father and I went to the study to talk.

Dad: Ndodana(son)

Me: Ndabezitha

Dad: How is our queen? Did the ancestors and your grandmother do well?

Me: They did very well father, she is what this kingdom needs as a leader and what I need as my wife by my side.

Him: Really? Elaborate further.

Me: Well for starters she will be returning to school to finish her high school studies and further them and only then will she accept my request for her to become queen.

Him: Wow I didnt expect this at all I thought she would just want to be a rich housewife and queen.

Me(smiles): Not Buhlebethu.

Him: Well theres a first time for everything I mean we have never had a kings wife in high school, good thing we prepared for this a long time ago by establishing the Royal School.

Me: I am a little worried though she will be in a strictly royal school some learners there will have some attitude since shes not exactly royalty.

Him: However she will be the only one who is gifted...which means she will be feared and respected besides that I think she can handle herself I mean shes been through a lot and that teaches you how to be strong and stand up for yourself.

A maid walked in and alerted us that Sthelo was done and ready for breakfast.

[KING SANDISO MTHEMBU]

I was suddenly not interested in anything these days ever since I found out who Buhlebethu really is, truth is no matter how I may be viewed I really loved Buhlebethu and it hurts because I never really fought harder for her and now shes gone and it hurts.

I know I should be grateful I have a lot to be grateful for actually, I am king, mom is alive you know? But theres this gap inside me, theres this void inside me that needs to be filled.

And to be honest I am not so sure about Zanokuhle anymore, I dont think I love her that much anymore ever since I learnt why I had to marry her.

Mom sat next to me.

Mom: How far are you with trying to get ahold of Buhlebethu?

Me: Nowhere.

Her: Maybe we need to hire a PI to track her down she cant just run away with your son, Mvelo is your son as well.

Me: Mmh

Her: Okay whats on your mind?

Me: I think I want to take a second wife.

Her: We giving up on Buhlebethu?

Me: You never liked her mom so cut the crap.

Her: Touchè but she made you happy.

Me: Whatever, thats spilt milk I want a second wife Zanokuhle is good as a queen but I have no desire of being intimate with her something is off.

She looked at me eyes widened.

Her: Ever since you got married you mean you havent...

Me: Might not be sexually attracted to her.

Her: Sandiso!

[QUEEN ZANOKUHLE]

She looked at me, eyes widened with shock and I sipped my juice trying to avoid her eyes.

Zandile: Zanokuhle you have been married for months!

Me: 7 months to be exact.

Her: And yall havent done the deed? What is wrong with Sandiso is he gay or something?

Me: He broke Buhlebethu's virginity and they have a son together so no...hes not gay.

Her: Okay I am about to gossip, what if Buhle did something to him? So that he doesnt make love to you?

Me: I wouldnt put it past her, its the only explanation I can come up with I mean I aint that bad am I? Zah he doesnt even look at me like that Its like I am his sister...

Her: Kuzomele uyisukumele ke le next thing you will hear that hes taking a second wife and you will die a virgin, Imagine

you have everything, married and a queen yet your husband wont even touch you.

Me: Do you know anyone that can help? Traditionally?

Zah: I might.

INSERT 020.

[KING SANDISO MTHEMBU]

These days Zanokuhle has decided to takeover the kitchen which is something that she has never been interested in and its quite alarming to be honest, it might be nothing but...

I watched as she placed the tray on my lap and she also got inside the covers.

Me: Oh just say it already

Zano: Say what?

Me: Whatever's on your mind Zano we both know you hate the kitchen.

Her: Okay fine...people have been calling me names insulting me and insinuating that I might be barren.

Me: Really?

Her: Yes Sandiso! We have been married for almost 7 months and you havent touched me look I have been nothing but understanding that you are going through a lot regarding the Buhle situation but Sandiso come the fuck on this has to stop, shes moved on and so should you its time to live our lives as well, create a family especially now that even Mvelo is no longer here.

How do I tell I am just not attracted to her?

Her: Oh what? You dont find me attractive? Talk to me or maybe we should see someone?

Me: Zano you are a beautiful young...

Her: Oh cut the crap Sandiso maybe we should consult maybe Buhle did something to you thats why you dont want to be intimate with me!

Me: I just dont find you...(stops)

Her(shouts): Find me what Sandiso? Say it damnit!

Me: I dont find you sexually attractive okay??? There I said it!!! Happy now? Jeez its not even 8 yet here we are arguing about sex!! Jesus!!!

I got out of the covers and left her crying and went to take a cold shower when i got out she wasnt there anymore so i got dressed.

I found mom wheeling her suitcases.

Me: And then?

Her: Well I figured you are well settled in now let me leave you to focus on your marriage and if you need me I am just one call away son.

Me: I dont want you to leave yet though mama.

Her: I know son but the uncles are starting to ramble about how I am no longer a Mthembu and how I am meddling in your affairs and they are right my goal was to make sure you lived your true life and now its all up to you...

We were disturbed by a guard who was delivering an envelope addressed to us the royal house and I took it and opened it.

Her: Whom is it from?

Me: The Ndabezitha Kingdom is inviting us to Sthel'esihle's ceremony this saturday.

Her: I guess thats where they will really determine if she really has the spirit of the late queen and her magic.

Me: You coming?

Her: I wouldnt miss it for the world, might put on a sympathetic show and apologise for how I treated her I mean as of now we would rather have her and her crown king as allies and not enemies they need to know that we will not be causing any problems we are infact a family because of Mvelo.

I nodded.

Me: She really never was mine.

Mom gave me a sympathetic look as Zanokuhle came downstairs wheeling her bags as well.

Mom: And now?

Zanokuhle: I am leaving I wont continue staying in this sham of a marriage where my husband doesnt even find me sexually attractive, I still have a home.

Me: You cant just decide to walk out you are a queen!

Her: Which is a tittle I never wanted in the first place!

She walked out and I was speechless.

[BUHLEBETHU NDLOVU]

Today might be the last day I am addressed as Buhlebethu Ndlovu, if all goes well tomorrow I start a new journey with a new name and identity and all shall be made right.

Dali's family have been nothing short of welcoming and amazing, I expected some vibes from them as my inlaws but they were just genuine people.

Today we are preparing for tomorrow, its my homecoming ceremony and the whole kingdom with its neighbouring royals will be introduced to Sthel'esihle and I am a nervous wreck.

Mrs Zulu: Sthelo have you invited your sister and her mother?

I turned and looked at her.

Me: I...I dont have a sister Mah they died a few months ago.

She smiled and looked down as if she had said something she shouldnt have said.

Her: Phew being mystical people sometimes requires us to know things we arent meant to know, Sthelo you have a sister from your father's side.

Me: I dont understand...

Her: Thandi is your sister

your father and her mother had an affair.

What?

Me: Did my mother know? Does Thandi know?

Her: They all know except for you.

Me: Wow! I cannot believe this! I wish they could have told me! Explains why I was so fond of Thandi and she was of me.

She nodded and I decided to ask since she knew things.

Me: So my father...

Her: He will hear the news and he will come looking for you.

Me: Should I be worried? Is he going to be genuine?

Her: Oh my child I cannot tell you that I hope you understand...

I sighed as she walked out I was still trying to grasp lento kaThandi being my sister from my father's side so I decided to send her a text inviting her to the ceremony tomorrow.

Dali walked in.

Dali: Good news they have accepted you at the School of Royals.

Me(laughs): As if they wouldnt.

He also laughed as he sat next to me I still cant get over how handsome and majestic he is, his presence gets me every time.

Him: Tomorrow is going to go well dont stress much about it okay?

Me(sighs): I am an overthinker by nature I cant really help it however I am also worried about the Mthembus being here.

Him: They wont cause trouble if thats what you are worried about.

Me: I know its just...nevermind anyway after tomorrow what happens next?

Him: Well we will have to start planning our wedding by the time the new year starts you should be my wife and you know what that means right?

I looked at him confused and he held my hand and kissed it.

Him: We wont be sleeping in seperate rooms and beds, you will move to the royal master bedroom with me.

Me: Oh I see.

Him: Dont look so gloom I promise I am a peaceful bedmate.

I laughed.

Me: Theres no such thing as a bed mate Dali.

Him: Well there is one now(smiles).

He squeezed my hand and I looked at him.

Him: Hey...everything's going to be fine okay? I know the journey hasn't been easy, you have lost a lot I know...

Me(teary): I wish she were here you know? To see me as I enter this next stage of life, I am scared Dali. It's just been a lot I miss them every single day and I feel like I never mourned for them enough because everything was just happening all too fast. This is the first time I am actually catching a breather.

Him: I cannot fill the void of losing a family member but I can try to be a great partner Sthelo, it won't be easy dealing with us as a dynamic family but one thing I know is that we are a supportive bunch, we stick up for one another and you will never feel alone or feel like you don't belong.

Me: I know I already felt the love around the room.

Him: Exactly siyakuthanda lana kwaNdabezitha.

I smiled.

[QUEEN ZANOKUHLE MTHEMBU]

As I walked my father was already waiting for me with his cigar on his mouth.

Baba: Zanokuhle didnt your mothers tell you on the day of your wedding ukuthi emendweni kuyabekezelwa? When the kitchen gets hot you pack your bags ans return home?

Me: What am I supposed to do baba? Akangifuni nje uSandiso! Uthi he is not sexually attracted to me how do I fix that and make things work because next thing uzothatha omunye umfazi? Ilungiswa kanjani ke inkinga ?

Him: And you have tried everything to get him to notice you? What about those curtain things yall wear to seduce men?

I would have laughed if I was feeling okay...

Mom appeared.

Him: Khuluma nengane yakho mfazi.

He walked away and mom walked to me and I stepped back because I knew how she would react.

As predicted she slapped me on my face.

Mom: Go back to your house and fix your marriage with your husband this isnt how you were raised, when your marital house is on fire you dont pack your bags and leave, you find a water pipe and try to defuse the fire you little brat!!!!

Me(crying): But Mama he...

Her: Zanokuhle!!!!

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[BUHLEBETHU NDLOVU]

I have been in nervous situations before, you know those situations where you wake up with a knot in your stomach? And your heart is busy beating abnormally? I am having one of those days today.

I am scared and nervous and not forgetting how much I am freaking out, I just want this day to go well that's all.

Also another thing that is making me all jumpy is the fact that today I will also be finding out which powers do I possess and for some reason that scares me as well, with great power always comes responsibility so I know the powers will be a blessing and a curse.

The entire kingdom is in a frenzy, you can feel it in the air, apart from the noise and the beautiful skies.

I had to wear traditionally today, I will say I look good in the infamous Zulu traditional attire with my shield and spear ready for combat.

The princesses were helping me get ready if all goes well I will have my own entourage by the end of the day.

They left me to gather my thoughts and soon after there was a knock at the door and I gathered myself, it was Dali so I bowed a little

Me: My king...

He stood there with a smile.

Him: If theres anything I will forever be grateful for to the ancestors is their choice for a wife and queen, they did a great job I dont even want to lie.

I blushed looking down.

Me: You are making me blush Dali...

Him: Waze wamuhle Nkosazane emhlophe.

Me: Ndabezitha...

Him: Are you ready? Everybody is waiting for you.

Me: Yeah I think I am.

Him: Lets introduce you to your people.

I inhaled and followed him and he held my hand as we walked outside and got into the limousine and drove off to the royal grounds where the entire kingdom and its neighbouring royals were.

Before we arrived I said a little prayer and before I know it we had arrived.

We walked out and everyone went wild praising the king reciting his clan names as we went to sit next to his father and mother, and also sisters.

Izintombi zendawo were busy singing and doing a traditional dance, it was a beautiful celebration, the host who speaks on behalf of the royal family did the introductions and introduced all the neighbouring royal families that had managed to honour the invitation, King Sandiso and his wife Queen Zanokuhle were also here.

Bab'Gcwensa: We are gathered here to witness a miracle, a tale of the tape or in this case a tale of the legendary book being brought to life named The Great Prophecy, it is within our belief that our queen, Queen Sthel'esihle has finally found her way home.

Everybody clapped their hands.

He continued "And if indeed the lady that sits next to our great king is indeed the queen, when she walks to our great healer the skies shall change and we will see rain up until she reaches our healer, my lady please come forward..."

I slowly got up and walked to where the healer was which was quite a walk and it had suddenly turned quite people quietly observing, I looked slowly at the skies and the clouds started aligning and becoming dark and it wasn't long till we felt some droplets of rain before I could grasp that, we were hit by heavy drops of rain and everyone cheered as I smiled and now started walking with confidence.

I was indeed the legendary mystic queen Sthel'esihle Zulu, who would have thought that I was that queen that I read about?

Healer: To stop the rain my queen point that spear up and throw it back down.

I did as told and everyone was just so happy, I mean so was I.

Healer: Sizwe sakaNdaba, Meet your queen uSthelo!!!!

Everyone cheered as he led me to the pure river where I would be cleansed, the water down there was so cold

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he led me deep down where there was a light underneath that i had to follow, funny enough I had my eyes open and I could breathe underneath the water.

I noticed that I was no longer walking with the healer but I was alone, I reached a very beautiful woman dressed in traditional white holding something in her hands with a smile on her face she was glowing like she wasnt real.

She nodded that I kneel down.

Her: I am your guide, I chose you to takeover from me because of your heart and strong will, I knew my kingdom and my grandson would be in good hands with you, you are scared I know, so was I when I was your age but believe me you will get the hang of things quickly.

I nodded as she made me wear the bracelets on my wrists.

Her: This is Ndaba, because whats a princess without an animal sidekick?

I laughed a little but quickly held myself when I realised that this was not even a dog nor a cat but a black jaguar.

Me: Please dont tell me I will change into...

Her(laughs): No you dont, Dali's great grandfather did though, the jaguar has been a protector of this family for hundreds of years, usually it chooses the male in the family as its host but

seemingly it chose to be by your side which means you are more powerful than your king.

Ndaba walked to me and honestly i was holding my breath the entire time but he just purred and rubbed himself against me.

Her: He likes you..as he should now your powers before anyone thinks I have swallowed you, you have the powers to read minds all except your husband's, see the future, freeze time, move things with your mind and manipulate peoples minds get them to see what you want them to see and they will be unlocked in the next 7 days as you and your husband will become one ngokwenyama if you know what I mean.

This woman!

Her: If theres anything you are unsure of please talk to Ndaba he is here to protect and guide you on my behalf, he will follow you everywhere you go..dont worry people wont find it weird stranger things have happened before in this kingdom.

We laughed as I got up.

Me: Thank you queen mother.

She smiled

Her: Its time to go now Sthelo, go and celebrate!

I was pulled up from underneath the surface by the healer and as soon as people were able to see us, he lifted the arm that had the wristband in the air and everyone was able to see it and cheer.

Healer: My queen!!

This was all just surreal, I was still trying to take note of the powers I would now have and everybody was lready treating me with so much respect and love, it was all just overwhelming.

I went back to join the royal family and they said a few welcoming speeches and the ceremony went on and after a long day of celebration it was time to bid our esteemed guests goodbye and thats when Sandiso, his wife and mother approached Dali and I as we were accepting blessings from other kings and queens.

Sandiso: I guess I should call you Sthelo now hey...

Me: I guess so.

Zanokuhle: Who would have thought...

Me: I am still surprised myself.

Sandiso: I am happy for you Mawengane yami if theres anyone who deserves a happy ending its you, you have surely been through a lot.

Me: Well I wouldnt call this an ending but rather a beginning.

Dali: Exactly its a new beginning.

Thobeka: On that note of new beginnings I hope you wont be holding any grudges against any of us understand that we did what we had to do.

Me: No grudges held.

Sandiso: Okay cool then I guess we will be seeing each other a lot now seeing that we share a child.

Dali: I guess so.

They shook hands and Zanokuhle asked to speak to me on the side.

Her: Seeing that now you have found your king and kingdom, can you fo me a favour and remove whatever spell you casted upon my husband.

Me: I am not sure I follow...

Her: He doesnt want me! He wont sleep with me! And it your fault!

Me: I didnt...(sighs) i didnt cast any spell on anyone my God I would never do that!

Her: You are lying Buhlebethu! Why wont he touch me?
Make love to me?

Me: Clearly the two of you have issues and I am not the reason okay? Sort them out! Seek traditional help or whatever..

I walked away because I was getting angry and i didnt want that.

Dali: You okay?

Me(smiles): Yeah..yeah I am okay.

Him: Come here i have been wanting to do this for a long time...

He kissed me!

END OF PART 01

PART TWO.

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STHEL'ESIHLE ZULU.

When I woke up my husband wasn't next to me, so I got up and went to pee and then washed my face and also rinsed my mouth and as I was tying up my hair so that it doesn't get wet when I take a shower, I felt his arms around my waist hugging me from the back and I couldn't help but smile as he kissed the side of my cheek.

Dali: Goodmorning beautiful.

Me(smiles): Good morning to you too husband.

I turned around and we shared a kiss.

Me: Lets take a shower.

He nodded as we got undressed and went to take a shower, after the shower I got ready.

It's a new year and that means I am returnibg to school as promised, I will be doing grade 11 and I would be lying if I said I wasn't nervous, because at the end of the day, as famous as I might be now, I am still a teenager starting a new school in a new place so ofcourse I am terrified of starting all over again.

Dali: Yeah no I am worried now those young princes better not try me...

He said as I wore my blazer and I laughed at his silliness.

Me: Is that jealousy and insecurity I smell there zulu?

Dali(chuckles): You cant blame me sthandwa sami, you are a very beautiful young lady and you will be the envy of many princes.

Me: You need to calm down I only have eyes for you only my king.

I said getting closer to him.

Me: You do realise that I will also be hated by the princesses as well because I just popped out of nowhere and stole their dream husband and as well as their crush.

We laughed.

Dali: As long as they don't give you trouble its all good with me, because if they do, you will be home schooled and I aint joking Esihle.

I smiled.

Me: You just want me close to you that's all.

Dali: And is that a bad thing? I mean look at you.

I giggled as he planted soft kisses on my lips.

Me: Don't tempt me, lets go and have breakfast.

Dali: Yes maam...I love you okay?

Me(giggles): Random much? I love you too Mntwana.

We held each others hands and went to have breakfast, Mvelo's nanny brought him to us as we were eating and he shrieked at the site and was all over the place, we all just had a lovely breakfast.

I was so grateful for my little family, After I was introduced as Sthel'esihle Zulu, Dali and I got married and then we moved to the royal house and left the family royal house to Dali's family, so in this palace its just the three of us and the maids and guards and its really peaceful.

After I was done eating I took Mvelo to his nanny and went to check up on Ndaba my sidekick animal, and he was good.

Me: Okay I am ready to go.

Dali: Okay let me get that for you my lady.

He said taking my schoolbag and the rest of the maids wished me well on my first day of school which I appreciated.

Dali accompanied me to my personal car and the driver opened the door for me and he handed me my bag and I closed the door.

Dali: Have a great day sthandwa sami I will try not to miss you much.

Me(laughs): Why do I get the feeling that you will show up unannounced at school my king?

We both laughed.

Dali: Maybe I will, I need to make sure everybody treats you the way you deserve to be treated, you are a queen afterall.

I exhaled dramatically.

Dali: Not a word.

He warned and there was nothing more I could say after that, he leaned in for a kiss.

Me: Have a good day Mntwana.

Dali: Have a great day as well Mrs Zulu...and I have a surprise for you at school and you can thank me later.

I squinted my eyes at him.

Me: How I wish I was able to read your mind Zulu.

He laughed as the driver started the car and I couldn't help but smile as I leaned back and just reminisced about my life the past few months.

Around this time last year I thought I had the perfect life, my mother was still alive alongside my brother Sbonga and my

sister Thando, I had a bestfriend Thandi and I was dating whom I thought was the love of my life, Prince Sandiso.

To be honest everything was kind of going well there until I fell pregnant, everything after that kind of went downhill, I lost my family but gained a new one, found out I had a sister who was also my bestfriend, found out dusty old me was someone very important in another kingdom

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I was a future queen bethrowed to the most handsome powerful king in all of the kingdoms.

I miss my family everyday, I wish my mother was still alive to witness all of this.

Heck I wish Thandi was also here to be by my side as I start this new journey, if this was a normal school I would have asked Dali that we bring Thandi here to study with me but this is a school of royals so she couldn't be here.

I was disturbed in my thoughts by the driver announcing that we had arrived, I looked over the window and exhaled, this

school is very beautiful you can tell that its really a school of royals indeed.

The driver opened the door for me and heart began beating way too fast because I was nervous.

And before I could take everything in someone attacked me with a hug and yelled surprised and I couldn't believe it!

Me: What? What are you doing here?

Thandi: Did you honestly think I would let you be bullied by these royals alone? Not a chance!

She was in the same uniform as well and I screamed.

Me: Oh uDali kodwa bakithi! How did he manage to pull this off?

Thandi: Well he found my mother and I a house this side, arranged my mother a job, and got me a place here, I mean he

is the king and you are the future queen so you should be treated as such and whats a queen without a sidekick?

Me: Oh my God I am so happy! I didn't see this coming at all! My day has been made! With you by my side girl I can get through anyday!

We shared a hug.

Me: I love you sis.

Thandi: I love you too now lets go inside and show these royals who os the queen of this b****.

Me(laughs): Yaasss!!!

We walked inside and everyone kind of recognised me and they bowed showing their respects, the guards, staff and teachers.

We went to the locker room and placed the books we wouldn't use for the day and went to find a place to sit and catch up.

Thandi: So how does it feel to be an extraordinary gifted person? Powers feel weird?

Me: You know sometimes I even forget that I have powers to be honest.

Thandi: For real?

Me: For real everything is just so ordinary.

Thandi: Show me a few tricks.

She threw her pencil case afar and I brought it back by just looking at it and she was so excited that I just laughed at her.

A group of girls came to us and greeted us and asked to take pictures with me and stuff, they expressed their joy of having me here at school, they had a great aura to be honest.

They were princesses, Alakhe, Azania and Anaya.

They decided to give us the juice of what to expect because whats high school without drama?

Me: So I heard theres a princess that was being considered to marry the king should the year ended and Sthelo hadnt found her way home.

Alakhe: Oh yes shes a senior, her mother works here, Princess Zamandosi Cele, I am glad she didn't get married to the king, she doesn't exactly treat people well since shes from the second wealthiest royal family after the Zulu's shes always felt entitled.

Thandi: Why am I not surprised? And I am assuming that she doesn't exactly like Sthelo? Because in her eyes she stole her husband?

Anaya: She and her family have been very vocal about it, we heard our father saying they are even considering contesting the royal will and point out that King Daluxolo must have a royal wife because Princess Sthelo is not exactly a princess.

Me: Weeeh I expected that yazi, My husband and I discussed that.

Azania: You need to be careful of Zama shes very cunning and vindictive.

Me: She must not try me.

I suddenly felt a weird cold energy and when I looked up I saw 3 girls approaching us and I already knew who they were and what they were about.

Me: And here they come.

Azania: How did you...oh youre gifted I almost forgot.

We laughed as they reached us.

Thandi: You are standing before a future queen I suggest you show your respect.

They laughed.

Zama: Oh im sorry I only bow down to royals...do you know what that is?

Great!!

Me: So why are you here? I would assume royals don't have anything to discuss with us non-royals.

Zama: Sweety the right word is commoners.

Azania: Zama...

Zama: Its princess Zamandosi to you, from the Cele royal family the second most wealthiest royal family in this kingdom and where do you come from...Buhlebethu? I mean that's your real name right? You know you can change your name, get a powerful witch doctor to give you powers so that you can fool us that you are the legendary mystic queen, but we can see through you, you are still Buhlebethu Ndlovu the teenager who

tried to trap the Mthembu prince with a child at just 16 years old! You are a poor desperate princess wannabe and that's all you will ever be.

I laughed a little, not today satan...not today.

Me: You did not just call me desperate now did you? I mean you are the one standing here in front of me trying to disrupt my peace all just because you are bitter you didn't get to marry the king because I came and stole your shine? I may not have purple blood running through my veins Zama but guess what? I am married to your dream husband, yes me the same girl who had a child as a teen, I was chosen to embrace the mystic queen's powers, poor dusty commoner Buhlebethu and you

darling princess shall bow to me and it doesn't matter how many times you scream that I am a fraud or how I am not a real princess okusalayo I am your queen now you can either bow down to me or I can make you...which one will it be dear princess Zamandosi?

She swallowed.

Me: If you are looking for someone to exercise your 'second wealthiest royal family' power...sweety I am not your victim try nextdoor.

Thandi: Bye!!!

PART TWO.

INSERT 2/10.

STHEL'ESIHLE ZULU.

When I woke up this morning I didn't wake up with a purpose to throw the fact that I am married to a king and I have special powers to anyones face, I planned on being a regular learner like everybody else to avoid being accused of bragging and using my powers wrongly, but for the love of God there had to be people like Zamandosi Cele that had to bring up my past and provoke me so that they can run to their parents and tell on me so that I can get into trouble with the people that don't exactly approve of me.

I expected that you know not everyone was going to accept me, I mean I did basically just waltz in from out of nowhere and took everything, the most eligible bachelor in the kingdom, the tittle of being queen, the tittle of being Mrs Zulu and not forgetting their legendary mystic queen's powers ofcourse some people were going to feel some type of way about me.

Besides that...I am not from around here in this kingdom so there are reservations and rumblings about why was I chosen and why couldn't a person from here be chosen to be 'Sthel'Esihle Zulu'.

Honestly I don't know either why I was chosen and not someone from here was chosen, I really don't know so I don't get why I am being punished and called names.

Well Zamandosi reported me to her mother who happens to be the deputy of this school and Dali being the person that he is, I don't know how he heard that I had been called a meeting but he arrived shortly after I was summoned to the office.

Mrs Cele suddenly couldn't talk now that Dali was here...yet she was going on and on about how she doesn't understand why I was even chosen.

Dali: Do we actually have a problem here Mrs Cele? Why is my wife summoned to the principals office on her very first day here? Did I not stress the importance of treating her well as she deserves?

Mrs Cele: Your wife is a bully, just because she has powers doesn't give her the right to threaten our children, children in this school have stressed to us how they don't feel comfortable with Sthelo here since she has powers.

Me: Wow! And if I may ask who are those children? Or by children you mean your spoilt brat of a princess?

Mrs Cele: Do you see my king?

Dali: But shes asking a question...one that demands an answer, who are those children?

Me: Mrs Cele I know you and your family don't necessary like me which isn't fair to be honest, I didn't choose to be Sthel'esihle, I was chosen and before I was chosen I knew nothing about this kingdom and the king and who was meant to marry him and all that, what you must understand is that I am just a teenager whose life was changed drastically overnight, one minute I was trying to grieve for my family, trying to get my life in order and next thing I was told I was the next Ndabezitha kingdom, that I had to marry King Daluxolo not even a prince but a whole king, I was then told I had powers, powers that

were going to be a blessing and a curse, powers that many people will want to have, powers that would make me a target, however those powers would also make people's lives easier because if they came to me needing clarity about their lives I could help them so hating on me is not fair.

I wiped my tears.

Me: I understand why Princess Zamandosi would be bitter I mean she was promised to the king should I not find my way home, had King Sandiso Mthembu been smart and realised what he had when he still had me and actually married me I wouldn't have come here and stole Zamandosis dream, I can

withstand any kind of insult but nobody has the right to bring up my mistakes, mistakes that I am trying so hard to learn from, I know I am not a good example for many of your perfect princesses here, I lost my virginity and had a child to someone I am not married to and that's a mistake I will forever regret but I am trying to learn from it, here I am trying to finish my education which is something I didn't have to do, I could have just chosen to be a stay at home kind of wife and not finish school my husband didn't have a problem with that because he can take of me and my child...

Dali squeezed my hand for assurance.

Me: But here I am, a whole future queen trying to finish school which is so pointless because I can read minds which means its not even fair because I will pass every test and exam but here I am because I don't want you people using the fact that I didn't finish school against me and tell me you cant have an illiterate queen but on my very first day you people chose to treat me this way, why? Just because I don't have purple blood running through my veins how is that my fault? How?

They all looked down..

Me: I don't want drama

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I don't want haters, I don't want to fight because theres still a big fight that's coming and I cant afford to have haters because I will not be able to win the fight that's coming, so I ask that you let me learn in peace together with my sister and try and overlook the fact that we are not like you important people.

Dali: On that note, effective immediately Mrs Cele you are fired and you Princess Zamandosi have been expelled from my school.

Mrs Cele was in disbelief and tried to beg.

Dali: Anyone who disrespects my throne and my queen will feel my wrath, Zamandosi is not the onky princess that was considered to get married to me should Sthelo not find her way here, many princesses were considered but you don't see them causing drama against Sthelo and if you think you will contest the royal will and bring up the fact that as a king I have to marry a royal princess as well I wish you luck because that's not going to

happen, Sthelo royal or not is the only woman who will have my last name and will rule this kingdom side by side with me, you people should count yourself as lucky and blessed to be in the same presence as someone like Sthelo, have a good day.

Dali and I walked out, we found Thandi already waiting for us with my driver.

Before we could reach them I just hugged Dali tight.

Me: I love you and thank you for standing up for me when I needed you.

Dali: Always.

We shared a kiss.

Dali: I am assuming you and your sister have a date?

Me: Uhm...yes we do, you are going back to work?

Dali: Yes babe I have an important meeting around 4 so I will see you at home, love you and be careful.

Me: Love you more.

He greeted Thandi and we got inside the car.

Thandi: So how did it go?

Me: Well Princess Zamandosi and her bully of a mother will no longer be at the School Of Royals, Dali fired and expelled the bullies.

Thandi: Jeez that's extreme! He means business..wont that make the second most wealthiest royal family put up a fight against the Ndabezitha leaders?

We laughed because she said the 'second most wealthiest royal family ' part in Zamandosis voice.

Me: Well the king had spoken there wasn't much I can say, even if I disagreed I couldn't tell him in public that's against the law.

Thandi: Royal rules I understand.

We finally reached the mall and we had security busy tailing us and some people would recognise me and bow down to show respect and also bless me to be a great queen, it was beautiful because it was mostly the elderly that were blessing me.

We did a bit of shopping and then sat down for some late lunch.

Just as we were eating I felt a wave of cold air pass through which made me shiver a bit and I looked around.

Thandi: You okay?

Me: Yeah I am still trying to learn some of my powers especially dictating different energies around me and what they mean.

Thandi: And you have just felt a weird energy?

Me: Something like that...

“I thought I recognised you...” we looked up to the person who said that.

Thandi: Uhm...can we help you sir?

Man: The name is...

Our father who art in heaven, never did I think I will ever see this person ever again, same person who walked out on us and left my mother to raise us.

Thandi: Dad?

Man: Yes Thandi its dad, Buhlebethu...

Me: Hi, I don't go by that name anymore my name is Sthelo.

Man: Oh yes I heard.

Me: And don't pretend you didn't know because we both know you knew all that I mean that's why you are here right? You are here because your daughter is about to be a queen?

Man: Buhle...I mean Sthelo I know you are angry about how I left you guys...

Me(shouting): You walked out on us !! You left us! My mother took care of us alone! Where the hell were you? Where the hell were you when we needed you? Mom died! Sbonga died! Thando died! You never bothered to even come to the funeral!

Man: I can explain Sthelo if you can give me a chance...

Me: Yeah no I don't owe you that courtesy! Walk out on us like you did before we don't need you!

Man: Sthelo...

Me: No Muziwakhe you don't get to play that card! I needed you and you weren't there! I don't need you now!!! Thandi lets go or you'd rather sit here and play happy families with this man?

Thandi: Im leaving.

Muzi: My children please...

We got up and left, gosh I was angry, I was sweating, I opened the windows in the car.

Thandi didn't know how to even approach me.

Me: Yeses the nerve!! He wasn't even in this kingdom!

Thandi: Sthelo you need to calm down! Don't let this man work you up like this!

Me: You mean your father?

Thandi: Well technically he is our father.

I laughed.

Thandi: Maybe we should hear him out Sthelo I mean...

Me: Ay count me out Thandi that man died and stopped being my father the day he walked out on us.

Thandi: I understand, mom told me he returned to his real family, apperantly he has 3 other kids and us married all the kids are older than us.

Me: Imagine he played both our mothers!

Thandi: Yeah...

We dropped Thandi off at her place, I went in to greet her mother and we told her the news and she was just as furious.

I then went home and first took a shower before I gave my son some love and then Sandiso called.

Sandiso: Hi Sthelo

Me: Hi Sandiso.

Him: Sorry I have been so quite the past few months things were hectic they still are and that's why I called I need your help.

Me: I have been waiting for your call, Dali and I will be there on Saturday.

Him: Thank you.

I dropped the call and noticed Dali had arrived.

Me: Babe hey that was Sandiso.

Dali: He finally called for help?

Me: Yeah that means his kingdom has reached its limits Sphehile must really be giving him hell.

Dali: I reckon, guess who paid me a visit at the firm today.

Me: Who?

I asked as he took Mvelo and kissed my forehead.

Dali: Your father.

Me: Well I will be damned!

Dali: He asked me where I paid Lobola to marry you.

Me: Excuse me what?

Dali: I think he threatened me, babe your dad is a gangster infact the entire family are gangsters and then being here isnt for the pleasure of it, imagine if they had someone like you by their side, they'd be unstoppable youd be an asset to committing their crimes.

Me: And that's the only reason why he wants to fix things because he thinks I am that naïve and desperate for a relationship with him.

Dali: Yep.

Me: Mmh no wonder your mother didn't want to tell me exactly how he would present himself to me.

I had a plan then, its money they want right? Its money they will get as for me being an accessory to their crimes yeah no that's not going to happen.

PART TWO.

INSERT 24

KING DALUXOLO ZULU.

I was a bit distracted today at work because when we woke up this morning Sthelo was not feeling well, we have been

told that when this happens that means the kingdom might be in danger or Sthelo will be required to step in help defuse a situation that the police will fail to defuse.

As part of being a mystic queen, Sthelo's job is not only to help people as she can see far beyond the eye but her job is to also protect this kingdom from any danger with her powers.

This is a very small respected kingdom, with a population of about 55 000 people, everybody who is within the working range is working whether they are employers or employees, the elderly receive grants, children have access to free education, and the rules and punishments that we serve the

troublemakers are very harsh so the police hardly have a situation that they cant handle because people respect our laws.

Usually the troublemakers are people that are not from this kingdom, chancers.

We havent had a kingdom level threat in years, we have had atleast chancers trying to bomb down ATM's but they were never successful.

And right now i have just received call from the colonel of the station saying that the Ndabezitha Bank is under attack, apperantly theres an ongoing bank robbery and there are hostages.

This explains why Sthelo wasnt okay and after I read the situation, I now know that her father Muzi is involved alongside his sons.

STHEL'ESIHLE ZULU.

I would be lying if I said I heard anything that was being taught today in class, my heard was buzzing with so many voices inside my head, my vision would get blurry from time to time.

It was then suddenly quite, I looked around the class and it was everybody had been put on mute, their lips were moving as sign that they were talking but I could not hear them, I rubbed my ears a bit but still there was nothing.

Suddenly Ndaba walked and he looked like he had grown twice as big, it was like nobody was seeing him except me.

"They have been muted because theres somewhere we need to be my queen..."

It was like I wasnt even controlling myself, I got up and followed him out, got on his back and held on tight as he ran towards the

Mall and I learnt that the place that we were headed to was the Mall, Ndabezitha Bank to be specific.

The place outside was already crowded with the police

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general public and journalists and as soon as we arrived they were frightened by the site of Ndaba and they made way for us as we went straight to the police.

Police officer: My queen thank you for gracing us with your presence.

Me: I am here to help officer, whats going on?

Police officer: We have a robbery ongoing inside, possible hostages about 25 we are still unsure how many these robbers are.

Ndaba telepathically told me that there are 8 robbers inside, armed and have their faces covered but he could recognise the other 4 as Muzi Khawula and his 3 sons, my supposed father and stepbrothers and I exhaled.

Me: Officer we have 8 robbers, all armed, Ndaba and I will take it from here just stand by to get the hostages to safety.

He nodded and didnt ask any further questions, Ndaba and walked towards the entrance and one of them walked to the front holding a hostage pointing at them with a gun, now in any case that was a warning that i shouldnt get any closer or else they will shoot.

However I am not an ordinary being, with my hands I signalled that the doors be opened, and they opened automatically which kind of shocked them and we walked closer to them.

Guy 1: Stand back or we will shoot these hostages!

Me: No you wont shoot anyone unless you Muzi and your useless sons want to get the death punishment?

They looked at each other surprised since they had their faces covered

Me: Oh come on give me some credit I am a mystic queen for crying out loud I can see far beyond the human eye.

Muzi: Ofcourse how can we forget that! Welcome to the party dear daughter!

Me: Muzi what kind of stupid game are you playing at here because you knew that you wouldnt succeed in doing this!

Muzi: Well I came here to take whats rightfully mine, i believe as a future queen you are worth a few millions right?

I laughed sarcastically.

Me: Are you kidding me? You attempted to rob a bank all because you feel entitled to lobola money?

Eldest son: Shes smart afterall father.

I looked at him and had his arm twisted and screamed in agony.

Muzi: Your husband refused to...

Me(shouting): Oh shut up man Muzi! Shut up! You left when I was 8 years old! My younger sister was 2 years old! You walked out on us you haven't been a father to me in years and you think now that I am married and soon to be queen you can just waltz right here and demand things you arent worthu of? Are you okay upstairs? Where were you when I needed you when my whole family was gunned down? When I was kidnapped? When I went to jail for something I hadnt done? Where were you? Now do me a favour if you still value your life...i will give you a chance to walk away from my kingdom peacefully and you must never return to my kingdom, to me you are dead, you died the minute you walked out on us!!!!

I turned all their guns against them.

Muzi: The Buhlebethu that I know wouldn't kill a fly let alone her own father!

Me: The Buhlebethu you know died the minute you walked out on her 9 years ago, this right here infront of you is Sthel'esihle

Zulu and she can and will do anything to protect what's hers and her peace and right now you have disturbed my peace!!

He tried walking towards me and Ndaba attacked him, one of the sons got hold of his other gun and tried to fire it at Ndaba but the one that was pointing at him went off.

People from afar screamed in fear, Ndaba let Muzi go and I lowered the guns from the others as they rushed to the son that had been shot.

Muzi: Buhlebethu what have you done!!!!

Me: Your mistake was thinking ngiyadlala wena Muzi, angiyena lomuntu ocabanga ukuthi ngiwuyena (your mistake was thinking I am playing around Muzi, I am no longer the girl you once knew)

The eldest brother angrily picked up the gun from the ground and fired it my way and he was short by one of the police man, his bullet that was meant to come my way fell halfway.

The remaining gang tried to fire back but they were surrounded by the police.

Muzi(crying): You have killed my younger son!!!!

Me: No Muzi you killed your son because of trying to prove a point when you know exactly what I am capable of! This is all on you! And your son is not dead...yet.

PART TWO.

INSERT 4/10.

KING DALUXOLO ZULU.

After this attempted robbery and people finding out that it was Sthelo's father and stepbrothers behind this, I already knew that a royal meeting will be held and it would be used against Sthelo by those who are not happy that she is the one who was chosen to be the next queen.

The royal council board can be so toxic at times especially when they want things to go their own way, we already had the Celes on our hate list.

Muzi and his sons were arrested, since Sthelo also has the powers to heal, she healed the brother that had been shot and they were sent to jail and right now we were on our way to the meeting and she was quite, understandably so, she had a lot on her mind.

Me: I wish I can say I understand how you are currently feeling sthandwa sami.

Sthelo: I just dont get it, I thought that he would come back one day and apologise for walking out on us, apologise for being an absent father but nope! Not Muzi, he came back here because he heard I was married to a king and he felt entitled, he came here demanding money that he knows he doesnt deserve because he didnt raise me and the way he just went about the whole thing is what pisses me off honestly.

I kissed her hand.

Sthelo: He knew exactly how some people already felt about a complete outsider becoming the next queen and he just added fuel to that fire, how are people in this kingdom supposed to trust me when its my own father that is trying to ruin the kingdom? I mean does he not know the ramifications of what hes just done? What hes just pulled is punishable by death here and what? He expects me to go lenient on him because he is my supposed father? God!!

Me: Baby you need to calm down okay? Lets first get through this meeting shall we? And remember you are not alone, you have me, we will handle this together.

She nodded as we shared a kiss and the guards opened our doors and we got out, journalists bombarded us with questions as to how we were going to handle this matter seeing that it was Sthelo's own father who just tried to rob a bank and also attempted to endanger the people of this kingdom, they wanted to know if the death penalty applied to Muzi or were we going to be lenient because he is the father of the future queen? It was a lot!

We finally made it inside and everyone was already waiting for us, they got up showed their respect.

Uncle: My King this meeting was called to discuss what happened earlier yesterday, as you know this is not something new, when something like this happens in this kingdom we call upon a meeting to discuss a verdict for the perpetrators.

Me: I understand Malume, we wouldnt have it any other way.

Uncle: Ndabezitha we havent had such, attempted on this kingdom in a very long time, people of this kingdom respect you and our laws, usually people who attempt this are people who are not from around this kingdom and they are usually dealt with harshly however in this case...things are a bit personal.

Uncle 2: We have learnt that the person on the forefront of this robbery attempt is the father of our future queen and as the council we would like to know Her Majesty's views as we understand that they do not have a relationship.

Sthelo: Uncle why dont you just stop beating around the bush and say whats exactly on your mind? Because I know that you have already gathered and discussed this way before you informed us of this meeting.

Uncle 3: Well if you want to put it that way, we would like to know if did you give your gangster of a father a go ahead to rob the bank in this kingdom because you knew at the end of the day he would not get the preferred punishment because he is your father?

Me: Are you saying that Sthelo was in on this as well?

They spoke amongst themselves and I was shocked and mostly annoyed how can they insinuate such?

Me: Excuse me do-

Sthelo interrupted me.

Sthelo: Babe let me handle this... in a calm way please my love.

I exhaled unbuttoning my shirt a few buttons down.

Sthelo: I hadnt seen that man in over 9 years he walked out on us when i was a child and we never heard from him again, he obviously didnt come here with intents to make amends but to fulfil his own devious plans of getting me in trouble with the people who are already doubting me as a future queen, him and his sons acted on their own accord and to prove that we werent working together, I imply that he be served punishment

like any other criminal and not be given favours just because he is the father of the future queen.

Everyone gasped in shock, heck I was shocked as well.

Me: Sthelo, I know you hate the man but at the end of the day he is your father, baby I know you want to prove your loyalty to this kingdom and its people but...

Sthelo: Mntwana that man is no father of mine and I feel nothing for him so whatever the jury decides I go with it

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a person who does a crime must be punished, end of story my father knew how this kingdom does things and he must face the consequences I will not be bailing him out.

Her mind was made up.

Uncle: Her Majesty...usually when crimes like these are done in this kingdom the perpetrators are...

Sthelo: I know, now that we have gotten over that is there anything else you would like to discuss with us?

They were still quite reeling from the fact that Sthelo wanted her father and stepfather be punished the same way everyone gets punished if they do crime in this kingdom which is usually banishment or the death penalty it depends on the extent of the crime.

Since nobody got injured and they didnt succeed in running away with the money, they will be expected to pay a fine and then be banished from this kingdom, which means Muzi can never even set foot back here when Sthelo gets coronated as queen.

Uncle: There also concerns about the king getting a second wife seeing that his wife is still in school and technically not from around here and not royalty, we as the council feel that the king should take a second wife, a princess who was born and raised in this kingdom as per tradition who will bare us royal children, ofcourse Sthelo as the chosen queen shall

remain the queen, nothing will change but we need to follow tradition, at the end of the day despite the fact that she carries the late queen Sthelo's mystic spirit, to us shes still a commoner and her children cant rule this kingdom.

I saw Sthelo exhaling like she already had been expecting this.

Uncle 3: Lets not shy away from the fact that when our king found Sthelo she was not even pure, she already had a child by someone else which we understand wasnt entirely her fault she couldnt have know that her destiny was to be with a king, her job here is to protect and serve this kingdom, now we need a royal wife for the king.

Me: I believe I have a say in that, whether i want that royal wife or not.

Uncle 2: Technically my king you dont, you were told that you had to marry a royal wife and then if Sthelo found her way home she would be your wife as well and be the queen but to strengthen the throne and royal blood line we need a royal wife.

I looked at my dad and there was nothing he could say, I mean what they were saying was true but I just didnt want a royal wife.

Me: Can we be given a few days to discuss this, my wife and I that is.

They nodded.

STHEL'ESIHLE ZULU

I knew this royal wife topic was going to come sooner or later, I have been seeing it in my dreams, yes I am the chosen queen of this kingdom but the ancestors also want a royal wife who will strengthen their royal bloodline and unfortunately I am not a princess and I will never be one, it would be foolish of me to try and stop Dali from taking a royal wife when its what the ancestors want, am I happy about this? No I am not but I have to understand I cant change tradition.

Dali and I were both quite in the car, I had requested that we stop by the police station where Muzi and his sons were held before we went home.

I went in alone and they had already been waiting for us.

Muzi: Ndodakazi.

Me: Dont come at me with that bullshit Muzi! What you did was stupid! Very stupid! Did you honestly think ngizokukhulumela vele? Change the punishment just because you are my supposed father? Really?

Muzi: What kind of daughter and queen would you be if you let them kill your only surviving parent now nana? What would you say to my grandson? Honestly you are too good to have 4 deaths on your conscience you already have your mother, Sbonga and Thando's death on your conscience you dont need to kill anyone else.

I shook my head and clicked my tongue, this man was never going to change.

Me: Yazi sometimes I wonder if you are indeed my father because wow the hatred is real.

Him: Oh I dont hate you Buhlebethu, If theres anyone I hated it was your mother, had she...

Me: I am going to stop you right there, trying to change how I feel about my mother will not make me love you, I hate you and your entire existence! And you are going to face the consequences of your actions like the criminal that you are! Whether you are banished or killed its not my problem infact I will sleep better at night knowing I dont ever have to see your face ever again.

Him: You are supposed to be a queen arent queens supposed to have kind hearts and shit?

Me: Not this queen! I dont ever want to see you or your sons ever again! If you survive this? Pack your rags and leave this kingdom and never come back, consider Thandi and I dead to you!

I walked out trying to calm myself before I reached Dali who was waiting for me outside the car.

PART TWO.

INSERT 5/10.

STHEL'ESIHLE ZULU.

Its Saturday today and I was again woken up by a strange dream, it felt so real it might as well been a vision, in this dream I am sitting on the mattress and crying hysterically, someone keeps telling me that for all that I have lost..theres much still to be gained, the person keeps telling me to let go and not hold on for whatever I have lost is in a better place.

It was kind of depressing to be honest and I needed clarity on the dream however Ndaba was nowhere to be seen, only he could tell me what the dream or vision means because I was completely lost.

I woke up and went to prepare breakfast for my husband while preparing my son for his visit to his father's kingdom, this will be the first time that Mvelo wont be with me and so far away, its also the first time that Sandiso will get to spend some time with his son, for the weekend and I was quite nervous for some reason.

At exactly 8 the royal car was ready to take him to Sandiso's kingdom.

Dali: You seem weary whats on the queen's mind this morning?

He asked as he joined me on the porch after the car drove away.

Me: I dont know babe but something definitely feels off today maybe its all in my head or whatever but I have been having this dream and its freaking me out.

He looked at me.

Me: I feel like I am not done losing people I love and care about and apparently me losing people that I love means there's much more that I stand to gain, whatever that means.

Him: Have you spoken to uNdaba?

Me: No he isn't here today, let's talk about you, what's bothering you?

Him: The second wife thing.

Me: Oh there's that konje...have you decided on which royal family we will approach for the royal bride?

Him: I have decided to not get a second wife either that or I step down as a king.

I was beyond the word shocked, what?

Me: I don't understand, no make me understand baby.

Him: I am not a polygamous man Sthelo, that was part and parcel of me becoming the king of this kingdom, I told my father in fact I made him promise that I would never have to

take another wife unless I really have to and in this case I don't really have to.

Me: Uh...you sort of do my love, a royal heir is needed and I am not a royal princess.

Him: And whose fault is that? Is it my fault that my late great grandmother and my ancestors chose me a queen that wasn't from around this kingdom and wasn't from royalty?

Well...

Me: No it isn't your fault babe.

Him: So manje ngifelani? There's a reason why you were chosen as the next queen Sthelo, I don't know maybe it's to break down and put an end to these ridiculous royal rules of marrying only into royalty I don't know but whatever reason it is, I am not about to question it.

Me: But babe the royal council, at the end of the day we are guided by them.

Him: If they insist on a royal wife then I will gladly step down as a king, one thing I know is that no one is brave enough to take on the mantle of being king in this kingdom other than my family and I know no one will step to being king if I step down.

Me: I don't know what to say...

Him: Sthelo I love you and only you, I cannot be with someone else other than you, I choose you and only you, I know you feel like you dont exactly have a choice in these matters because at the end of the day you are not royalty, i know you were going to accept the second wife thing because this kingdom and its people have only labelled you as nothing but our protector which isnt right, you are not here just to be the protector, you are more than that.

I wiped my tears.

Him: You have already went through a lot Sthelo as Buhlebethu, even when Sandiso's mother knew who you were she still reduced you to a second wife, I am not about to do that all on the name of royalty must marry royalty, you are and will always be my only wife and our son will rule this kingdom whether they like it or not or else we step down from this throne and see how they manage and thats the end of it

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I wont be taking any second wife its time for a change.

Wow okay I didnt expect this at all, I mean I wasn't happy with Dali possibly getting a second wife because I could already smell the drama and heartache of being reminded all the time that i am not royalty and whatnot but if that was what Dali wanted I was going to allow it because at the end of the day, i am just a commoner with super powers thats all.

Me(teary): You dont know how much those words mean to me Ndabezitha, no one has ever chosen me and threatened to defy the odds all because of my happiness, I love you so much and I promise to be a devoted wife to you whether you are still king or not.

Him(smiles): I love you so much dont ever forget that okay? This is us till the end.

Me: Till the end.

We shared a kiss.

Him: Anyway I am headed over to the uncles to let them know of my decision.

Me: Are you sure you dont want me to come with you?

Him: I will be fine sthandwa sami.

I nodded as he got up and walked away, I smiled a little, it feels nice to be chosen for once you know?

After Dali left, Thandi arrived and we decided to go to the Mall for a few things, I wanted to get them a few things, as it stands she and her mother are my surviving family.

Thandi: You know the king did give ny mother a job so you didnt have to do this Sthelo we are doing just fine.

Me: Whats the use of having a rich sister if she cant spoil you?

We laughed

Me: Besides Dali has been complaining that I dont use my royal card enough so trust me its not a big deal.

We sat down at the restaurant and ordered something to eat.

Thandi: Well if you say so, so have yall decided on the royal bride yet?

Me: There wont be any second wife, Dali doesnt want a second wife.

Thandi: But the royal council insisted that he gets a royal wife.

Me: Those people dont exactly have the final say in the matter, between you and me I think the Celes are the ones that influenced the council to try and force the king to get a second wife by using the fact that I am not royalty, funny enough they are royalty yet the ancestors and the late great queen mother didnt see them fit enough to become the next queen.

Thandi: Now that..that has always puzzled me ukuthi why would they make a girl who isnt a princess and from another kingdom their queen.

Me: What is more puzzling Thandi is the uncles saying my children will never rule this kingdom because they will be half commoner and half royalty since I am not a princess, as far as I am concerned the queen's children do rule, how will the second wife's child be a king yet his mother wasnt a queen? That doesnt make any sense.

Thandi: These people are trying to reduce you to nothing but their protector that the only reason you are in this kingdom is to protect them, honey you are here to be a queen, bear them a son that will rule this kingdom!

Me: Exactly!

Thandi: I am just glad that you have finally found a man that chooses you and doesn't do things because he's been told to do them, he puts your happiness first.

Me: And it feels so weird.

Thandi: Well you better get used to it because you deserve it sis, Sandiso once made a promise that when push comes to shove with his father he would choose you, what happened to The Promise?

I was about to laugh when Zamandosi and her entourage made their way to us, the entitlement in this girl will be her downfall I tell you, I am the princess but you don't see me walking around with about 6 girls on my side.

Thandi: I was wondering why it was suddenly so hot, the devil is in the building. Zamandosi: Ha ha ha very funny Thandi.

Me: What can we do for you Zamandosi?

Zama: Oh cheer up honey thats no way to talk to your sisterwife! Treat me with some respect I will be giving the king what you cant give him. Me: And thats an heir? Zama: Exactly.

Me: How will your son rule this kingdon when you couldnt rule it? Thandi laughed and Zama gave her a death stare.

Thandi: Looks dont kill you fool.

Me: Oh Zama you and your family are so dumb, and fucking desperate excuse my lingo but daaaamn!! Did you really think if you bribed the uncles to force the king to take a second wife that would automatically make the king choose you? As if I

would allow that! But unfortunately...the king doesnt want a second wife, you and all the other people that dont like me will have to suck it up because a commoners child will be the next king of this kingdom.

Zama(shocked): What does that mean?

Me: It means Zama, I am and will always be not only King Daluxolo's wife but also this kingdom's queen who will give birth to this kingdoms next king, need anymore clarity on that princess? I suggest you start calling me princess Sthelo from now on because if you dont..well theres punishment for that which i am sure you know right?(smiles)

She swallowed.

Thandi: In simple English sweety, you wont ever marry the king!!

Me: Bye!!

PART TWO.

INSERT 6/10.

STHEL'ESIHLE ZULU.

I rolled my eyes as I read todays newspaper and I made the news, well ever since I got here I have been making the news but today...lets just say someone isnt exactly happy with me.

Prior to Dali telling the royal council that he has no intents on marrying a second wife many people have accused me of bewitching the king, Lol how ridiculous is that? Bathi ke theres no way that a king can decline a chance to have another wife, and theres no way that a king can defy the royal council for a mere commoner with certain gifts, Dali has definitely been bewitched.

All of a sudden they think I influenced his decision to not take a wife, a royal wife that is.

Seriously this is all garbage, Dali made that decision all on his own, I was fine with whatever he decided, ofcourse I would have been hurt if he was to take a second wife but I would have understood and I wont even lie I am happy that he ended up not taking one.

Dali walked in sipping his coffee.

Dali: You have seen the news.

Me: Yeah about me bewitching you? Imagine bewitching the most powerful king, one that can read minds...how original.

Dali: What? I was talking about Thobeka Skhosana, King Lushaba, Sphesihle, Sphiwokuhle, Zanokuhle being dead all in the same night after some royal dinner.

Me(shocked): What?

Dali: Apperantly its food poisoning although I dont believe that so i was wondering if you could...you know find out my mystic queen?

I was still digesting the whole thing, Zanokuhle is gone?
Thobeka, Sandiso's mom is also gone? King Lushaba?
Sphehile and Sphiwokuhle!!

Dali: Yeah they also found Nkosiyabo's body
somewhere apparently he had been dead for a while.

I stood up shocked to the core, i needed some air, I mean yeah
these people put me through the worst but for them to die
like this? All of them at the same time? I smell a rat...excuse
me I smell a Jaguar.

I went to Ndaba and found him sleeping.

Me: I would be tired as well if I had to kill so many people
in one night hey.

He opened his eyes.

Me: I get the others but come on uSphiwokuhle? He was harmless.

Ndaba: No he wasnt, you think he wouldnt have tried to avenge his father and brother once he found out what happened?

Me: I was nowhere near those people when they died.

Ndaba: Oh really my queen? You are mystic queen you could have sent your animal sidekick to do the job.

Me(exhales): Why? I mean why did you kill them? I was out of their way and its not like they were planning something sinister against me I am no longer a threat to them.

Ndaba: I wouldnt be too sure my queen, those people were never going to rest until they broke you being a mystic queen didnt even scare them, they had gotten the most powerful dark seer to assist them, I saved you, Mvelo and Sandiso could have been no more because of them.

Whaaat??!

Me: Why would they hurt uMvelo? I mean that's Thobekas grandson why would she hurt her own grandson and son like that?

He purred and walked out, I was so confused, he walked back in again and looked at me.

Ndaba: Go for a walk you have a visitor.

He walked away and for a few minutes I tried to understand and make sense of things, well to be honest Ndaba did me a favour however I feel like Nkosiyabo could have gotten a way more brutal death for what he put me through to be honest,

that man took away my family and for what? To save a legacy that wasn't even his? He died way too easily alongside Thobeka and King Lushaba

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I can't believe I trusted Thobeka I really thought she was by my side kanti the whole time she's working with King Lushaba, they even blackmailed me into confessing to a murder I didn't commit.

Well as for Zanokuhle she once accused me of bewitching Sandiso since Sandiso wasn't attracted to her sexually, yazini kuningi nje.

Me: I need to go for a quick walk baby.

Dali: Take the guards with you.

I nodded and two guards followed me, the reason why I needed the walk is because someone was coming to see me and it wasn't going to be pleasant at all so I figured my king didn't have to hear all that because unlike me he is ruthless.

Mrs Cele: First you get my daughter and I expelled at school and then ruin my daughters chances of marrying the king!

See? I knew this was coming.

Me: Oh I was wondering when the lioness would come and confront me.

Mrs Cele: You had no right to influence the king into not taking a second wife! You can't just rock out of whatever hole you're coming from and change things in this kingdom who the hell do you think you are you piece of commoner rubbish!

Me: I would watch my tone if I were Mrs Cele.

Her: Or else what Sthelo? You will hit me with thunder? Oh girlie I would like to see you try!!

My God I saw fire in her eyes, she isnt alone, well ofcourse theres an evil Sthelo out there or in this case an evil spirit.

It has the same powers as me because in a way it is me but an evil version of me.

Her: You thought you were the only gifted one? Jesus turned water into one ofcouse an evil version of the legendary mystic queen wasnt that hard to make as well, the original Sthelo failed to defeat this version and so have all the other Sthelo's, you wont either.

Me: You are forgetting sonething.

Her: Whats that?

Me: The other Sthelo's were pure royalty and I am not.

Her: Meaning?

Me: Theres a reason why the spirit of Sthelo didnt enter a princess, because only a commoner can defeat you, so before

you enter a losing battle i just want to kindly ask you to exit Mrs Celes body and show yourself and stop being a coward!!!

She started laughing.

I stepped away from her and with my right hand I formed a moving circle ontop of my left open hand as I moved the circle the wind did as well, it started getting windy there was dust everywhere surrounding Mrs Cele.

Me: I said get out of Mrs Celes body!!!

With so much force I let the circle go and Mrs Cele was hit against the wall and I saw the spirit of the evil Sthelo depart from Mrs Cele's body and...she looked exactly like me except she was the darker version of me, you know dark make up, dark hair and dark clothes.

Evil Sthelo: No one I mean no one has ever been able to see me in my true form how the hell did you do that!!!!

She roared, she was damn angry, I think the guards ran to call Dali because we were attracting a few eyes.

Me: I told you I was different from the Sthelo's you've faced before and this must show you that I am more powerful than any other Sthelo's you have ever faced and you will not defeat me, the legend continues only this time I defeat you!!!

Evil-Sthelo: NEVER!!!!!!

Okay she had an advantage she could fly! Why do villains always get the best gifts?(SMH).

She made the ground that I was standing on grumble and crack, I was falling as I tried to keep my balance.

Evil-Sthelo: What was that you said about you defeating me mystic queen??? This is your queen!! Your protector everybody! I have watched while you stole the shine! We were twins and we were both given these powers but somehow your powers got praised more! I hated that! You made me invisible and everytime we die and our spirits find new bodies to host us

you always get the good ones! You always get to be a queen!

What about me? I want to be queen as well!!!

Ngifela izono zabanye abantu nje mina Nkosi yami(I am dying for other people's sins) I am the third Sthel'esihle if you must know.

Dali: Sthelo!!!!

Me: Dali!!! I cant keep my balance!!!

Evil-Sthelo: Here comes our husband to the rescue as always!
My beloved husband didnt you tell my precious sisterwife that i
also exist and that I always win, I mean i have had two straight
wins over her for the past 100 years!!

Dali: Hence why this time I didnt want a second wife because
I didnt want to make the same mistakes my great
grandfathers did!

In the 'Great Prophecy' book, Sthel'esihle is always killed by a
heart disease and the second wife has always been the

suspect however that has never been proven so now I get it, when a king who has married Sthel'esihle takes another wife, he unknowingly takes the Evil-Sthelo who is Sthelo's twin sister who is believed to have died when they were 5 years old, judging from what I know now, Evil-Sthelo is the one who kills her twin sister out of jealousy and ends up being the only wife of the king.

So Dali must have known this that's why he didn't want a second wife because he knew that would be Evil-Sthelo who would kill me(I would die of natural causes).

The whole ground shook like there was an earthquake and where it opened lava appeared, shit she was good, no wonder the other Sthelo's haven't been able to defeat her.

Me(praying): Legendary mystic queens that have fallen before me, please guide me she cannot win for the third time, please tell me what to do.

Where I was standing the ground opened and I fell into the burning lava and-

To be Continued

PART TWO.

INSERT 7/10.

STHEL'ESIHLE ZULU.

They say when death nears you see your life flash right in front of your eyes but that wasn't the case for me, as I fell down inside the hot lava I would have thought it would be hot and burning but as soon as my body met with the lava it was like a reunion.

The lava and I became one as if I was reborn, I closed my eyes and embraced it all.

In that lava, Queen Sthel'esihle the third was born, I was pulled out of the lava and when I opened my eyes I had flight, I was in some form of gear and I looked ready for combat, I felt powerful and superior than I was before I fell inside the lava.

Shock was written on everybody's face, it was probably the gear or the fact that they thought I was dead.

Evil-Sthelo: Impossible!!!

She tried to hit me with lightning but I blocked it and combined with my fire it went back to her ten times worse, I looked at my hands in disbelief this is definitely a new power, before I couldn't fly nor shoot fire with my hands.

Me(laughs): Oh you are going down twinnie this time for good!!!

The sky became dark as we began fighting each other for everything she threw at me

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I returned it 10 times worse, she could see that I was powerful than her now and she tried to retrieve but that would only mean she would terrorize the next Sthelo after me who might be my daughter so I couldn't let her.

I set her on fire and she tried to free herself but she couldn't.

Evil-Sthelo: Nooooo!!!!!!

I got every fire in me out and engulfed her with it so much that I could feel myself getting weaker but I didnt stop till there was no fire left in me and she had been reduced to ash.

I dont know when but Dali managed to get her ashes in a bottle as means to trap her spirit as I fell on the ground and the people who had been watching came to my side to try and wake me up as I closed my eyes.

KING DALUXOLO ZULU.

My heart was shattered and I didnt know what to do, I had taken Sthelo back to the palace and I watched as the elder women kept her pouring ice in the bathtub she was sleeping in.

The Great Prophecy book reveals two royal princesses who are both born with extraordinary gifts however at an early age one twin showed traits of good and the other showed traits of evil, the other one had always been jealous at how the other one

was able to light up the room, how she always managed to wrap people around her little finger, she received more blessings than the other and at 5 years old she died because of grief.

When they buried her, an old witch resurrected her corpse and the dead twin's spirit entered the witch that's how Evil-Sthelo was able to live from one body to the other.

Just like the good Sthelo when she dies her spirit wonders looking for a pure body to occupy but Evil-Sthelo looks for an impure body to occupy which has always been in the form of Sthelo's sisterwife.

Once Sthelo gets married to the king there's always a problem with her that forces the king to take a second wife and Evil-Sthelo occupies the body of that second wife and ends up killing Sthelo however that has never been proven because one day Sthelo just never wakes up.

That part of the book was never released to the public only us the royal family know that part and after this happened twice to the previous Sthelo's I had to be prepared to avoid the same fate happening again to us.

Hence why I was against taking a second wife because I knew Evil-Sthelo would be awakened and would end up killing Sthelo, obviously when I refused the second wife this angered her and she couldn't hold herself and she revealed herself as Mrs Cele but Sthelo was able to see through her and brought out the real and defeat her.

Now that she has been defeated it means Sthelo and I will finally live in peace and harmony unlike my great grandfather who had to lose Sthelo and be stuck with the Evil one.

Baba: Now I understand why your late great grandmother chose someone who wasn't a princess to be the next Sthelo.

Me: She knew only she could be able to defeat her evil twin.

Mama: The worst is over now son, you and Sthelo get to rewrite the book and end it on your own terms.

I smiled.

Baba: She will be okay in two days she will wake up.

I went to her and knelt besides her and caressed her face and watched as she slept peacefully.

Me: I love you Sthel'esihle.

PART TWO.

INSERT 8/10.

KING DALUXOLO ZULU.

It seems as though Sthelo might sleep for longer than the two days my father had suggested, we actually dont know exactly for how long she is supposed to sleep as the Great Prophecy doesnt specify but it does specify that when she wakes up she will be a brand new person free from the bondages of the past.

Its the fourth day and she hasnt woken up, I am headed to council for the meeting with the uncles, we need to clarify the Celes behaviour because the Uncles dont understand, Part Two of the book was only for they eyes of royal family in power so that we could be able to defeat Sthelo's evil twin because everyone knew about her it would have been difficult for us to defeat her.

Elder uncle: Ndabezitha we hope you will enlighten us about what happened 4 days ago.

Me: As you all know Sthelo had a twin but she died when they were 5 years old but her spirit didnt, just like Sthelo when she dies her spirit wanders around looking for a body to host and unfortunately she always came back as a second royal wife of the king who then kills the Mystic Queen.

Uncle 2: My hence why whenever the king took a second wife it wouldnt be long till the queen kicks the bucket.

Me: Yes this has happened twice already and we couldnt let it happen again, when the second wife issue came up I knew I had

to reject it so that Sthelo's twin would get so mad to a point where she exposes herself that way Sthelo could be able to defeat her.

Elder Uncle: In this case she came as Princess Zamandosi Cele?

Me: Yes but she didn't have that much fire in her, Mrs Cele was the perfect host.

Mr Cele: My king, we humbly apologise for my wife and daughter's behaviour against the queen.

Me: All is forgiven Ndosi, they were possessed and weren't themselves, it's all water under the bridge, and I will like to state that as of now it will not be mandatory for a royal to marry another royal, let children be free to marry whoever their heart desires commoner or not, because at the end of the day that is not what makes a marriage successful.

They nodded and sang my praises.

Me: Mrs Cele you and your daughter can return to school, all is well

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we have rewritten the fate of The Great Prophecy for the next generations, that will be all for now.

"Ndabezitha..." they all chanted as I stood up to leave and get back to the palace to check up on Sthelo and she was still sleeping peacefully.

As I was having a drink, a blackbird flew past and I closed my eyes, this meant someone had died.

Just then a guard was sent in, he was from Sandiso's Kingdom and from his face and mind from what I could gather from his thoughts I was shattered, I shut him up before he could say anything as I already knew why he was here.

Thandi: Everything okay?

She asked as I got in where Sthelo was sleeping.

Me: Mvelo has sadly passed away.

She covered her mouth in shock and tears made their way.

Me: He died peacefully in his sleep.

Thandi: This is what Sthelo meant when she said the Gods werent done with takong her loved ones, this will crush her my King.

Me: I know, I fear that she might not wake up in time, Mvelo was still a child and he was a prince and therefore has to be buried at his father's palace within the first 24 hours.

We looked at Sthelo.

Thandi: She wont make it, are we allowed to attend?

Me: Yes, the burial is tonight at 20:00.

She nodded.

Thandi: I will go and tell mom we will all meet back here.

Me: Okay.

She walked out and I went to sit next to Sthelo and held her hand.

Me: You saw this coming a few days ago and you prepared your mind and body, I do hope this was the last time you lost anything, it hurts but I know this is a new start filled with blessings for you, I love you.

I kissed her lips and left her.

PART TWO.

INSERT 9/10.

KING DALUXOLO ZULU.

Prince Mvelwenhle Lwandiso Mthembu's funeral was very dignified as it should, I was really heartbroken at the loss because I had come to grow fond of the little guy even though he wasn't biologically mine.

If I was feeling like this I only wondered how Sandiso must have been feeling, he never really spent some time with his son and when he had decided to, he died peacefully in his palace.

I havent spoken to him but his thoughts are very loud, louder than everybody else's who is here, he has regrets and blames himself mostly, and other thoughts that are loud are how the mother of the child couldnt attend the funeral of her own child and what could have really caused his death.

Thandi and her mother and I decided to look for Sandiso and pay our last condolences and return back home.

We finally found him bidding farewell to the other guests that had attended the funeral.

Me: Ndoda, qina.

I said hugging him.

Sandiso: Thank you for coming and showing support I know you were more of a father to Mvelo than I was.

Me: We are both at a loss, I apologise for my wife not being able to come here once again as I stated that she is still asleep and hasn't woken up.

Sandiso: Do you think she will be angry and will blame me? I mean just a day after I had taken Mvelo, he died.

Me: Sandiso, Mvelo was never going to live long, his fate had been decided way before he was conceived, he was brought into your lives as a lesson, had you never impregnated Buhlebethu you would have never met your mother and you would have never been king, it's now time for new beginnings Sandiso, let the past go, start afresh, lead your people you have seen how unruly Nkosiyo was, change that, fall in love and marry and not marry to fall in love, trust me you will be happy again.

Sandiso: Thank you man, I needed that, I hope that one day we can all be friends, I mean as you know I don't have a father so

sometimes this seat does shake me because I am just leading in the blind with no mentor.

Me: Dont worry, in the future we are all friends and inlaws.

Sandiso: Inlaws?

I laughed realising I had already said too much.

Me: I will take my leave now, see you soon.

Thandi went on to say her goodbyes as well and we left

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I got a message from my father that Sthelo was awake.

Me: Just got word that Sthelo is awake.

Thandis Mom: Thank Goodness!!

Thandi: I am just worried at how she will feel when she hears the news.

I didnt reply because Sthelo was at the funeral in her spiritual form and even though I couldnt see her I felt her around and her emotions were heavy.

STHEL'ESIHLE ZULU.

I took a minute and just digested everything and I was so overwhelmed, I had already cried and grieved for my child in the other world, I was spiritually there when he took his last

breath, I was even there when he was laid to rest a few moments ago.

I did say a few days before I met my evil twin that the Gods had sent me a message that I was going to lose one more person I hold dear to my heart, I was never prepared that it would be Mvelo he was just a little boy who had so much ahead of him.

But who am I to question the will of the Gods? I must take this as a fresh new start and understand that Mvelo had served his purpose and he was gone to a better place, it still hurt though.

The Zulu family were kind enough to give me space, I thought after sleeing for so long they would be fussing over me but they respected me and gave me space.

I was grateful for that, grateful for my husband for going there on behalf, I know some didnt understand why I wasnt there.

While I was asleep a lot was revealed to me about the future and it looks promising for everyone I have crossed paths with, I look happy in the future, Dali and I are blessed in the future, my sister as well gets to be a queen in the future, everyone is happy.

Dali: Whats got my sleeping beauty smiling alone like this?Should I be worried?

I smiled and walked to him as we shared a tight hug.

Me: The future looks promising my king thats why I am smiling.

Dali: Come here, I have missed you so much.

We shared another hug.

Me: Thank you, thank you for being there when I couldnt be physically be there.

Dali: He is in a better place.

Me: I know, he will be coming back as one of our children in the future that's why I am not that hurt.

He smiled.

Dali: How are you feeling? Emotionally and physically?

Me: I am surprisingly well rested and rejuvenated and hopeful about the future, I needed that rest it opened my eyes to a lot of things.

Dali: I am glad, you look well rested and rejuvenated.

Me: I feel good as well.

Dali: Uyazi ngyakuthanda angithi?

Me: I know and I love you as well.

We locked eyes for a moment while holding each others hands.

Me: Well since it's just us two here, something weird happens in the future.

Dali: Thandi and Sandiso get married.

Me: Dude I did not see that coming at all.

We laughed a little.

Dali: How does that make you feel? He is your ex and she is your sister.

Me: Sandiso is a good person and honestly I dont mind them being together.

Dali: It shows you have healed.

Me: Yes I have and I am thankful that she wont have to deal with Nkosiyabo or Thobeka, they will be great leaders in that kingdom.

He nodded.

Me: I have lost a lot in life you know? Sometimes I didnt understand why I had to lose so much, I wish my mother was still here to see me, she always wished I found a good man that would take good care of me and treat me, meanwhile I was a whole mystic queen from the most powerful kingdoms and I am married to one wonderful man, shes smiling in heaven right now.

Dali held me tight for comfort and kissed my forehead,to the future!

PART TWO(FINAL)

INSERT 10/10.

QUEEN STHEL'ESIHLE ZULU.

As I was busy on my laptop, I heard something breaking and I quickly got up and went to check on Ndabezinhle and indeed he had broken the lightbulb and I exhaled.

Me: Ndabezinhle baby I told you to stop doing that okay?

Ndabezihle: I am sorry Mama, I wont do it okay.

I sighed and knelt in front of him and held his hands.

Me: I know this is hard for you, being born special with certain powers, I wish there was a way like me to make you inherit your powers when you are old enough and can be able to control them but I cant.

Ndabezinhle: I know mama its just that sometimes I dont know what happens I just stare into something so long and it explodes or pops.

Me: I know baby, having telekinesis isnt easy but you will grow into it and one day you will be able to control it.

Ndabezinhle: And then I can go to a normal school and have friends?

Me(smiles): Yes my prince.

He smiled and I kissed his forehead and went back to my laptop continuing what I was doing.

Ndabezinhle is 6 years old and like every other child he should have started school but he had to be home schooled because well he has a gift, Telekinesis and since he is still young and cant control it, we felt that it wasnt safe for him and the other kids for him to attend school so we decided to have him home schooled and it has been a challenge.

He feels different and I understand why he feels that way, having powers isnt easy for us as adults so I can inly imagine how having them at such a young age feels like.

Dali was 10 years old when he realised he could read minds and I was 16 when I became Sthelo so atleast we were old enough to atleast control the powers whereas for him, he was born with the powers and its been a difficult journey.

8 Years ago, I was in grade 11 with my sister Thandi, I met and fought my evil twin which I ended up defeating and changed the ending of the Great Prophecy book, also in that year Sandiso and I lost our child, Mvelo, it was a difficult year as I had lost almost everybody that I had held dear to my heart but I understood that in order to be Queen Sthel'esihle Zulu, I had to be a completely new person and not have ties in the past.

Towards the end of that year, Thandi's mother got married to someone who worked at the Mthembu Kingdom and she had to return back there while Thandi stayed with us until she

finished high school, and then we unexpectedly made friends with Princess Zamandosi Cele and turned out she was a pretty good person but had been possessed by my evil twin the minute she was told she might be the king's wife should they not find Sthel'esihle.

We finished our final year in high school and Zama was already in College of Business where she met the love of her life, Prince Zwelibanzi Lushaba and she is now married to him.

Prince Zwelibanzi comes from the Lushaba Kingdom, after King Lushaba the third died, since he didnt have a successor, his brother Shaka was appointed to assume the throne,who was already married and had 3 children, two sons and a daughter.

Zama is married to the second prince and therefore will not become the queen and she is content with that, they got married 2 years after they met and it was a beautiful ceremony indeed.

After matric Thandi went to study Medicine at the Mthembu kingdom and stayed with her mother and stepfather, while I went overseas as I had been accepted at the School Of The Gifted and in that year I fell pregnant but I managed to study

with my belly and progress to my second and final year at the school.

Ndabezinhle came at a time when we all could use some good news and his arrival was indeed a happy occasion, its every man's dream to have a son that will be his successor and I gave my husband that and he was very happy and so were the people of this kingdom and I was officially placed as queen after graduating.

Marriage life and life in general has been nothing shot of amazing, Thandi also got married to Sandiso 2 years ago and they have been trying for a child and it hasnt been easy to a point where my sister has asked me to consult and see where

the problem might be and I have been stalling because the news I have, arent good.

THANDI KHUMALO-MTHEMBU.

I glanced at the pregnancy tests

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all 3 of them came back negative and I exhaled wiping the tears off my eyes.

And right on cue my phone beeped, the doctor was alerting me that the results are in and I should come and collect them at 3pm in the afternoon, my stomach was suddenly in knots, I was very scared.

I needed to give my husband a child, the pressure was too much from him and the royal council, its been really hard falling pregnant, Sandiso and I have been dating for 6 years and have been married for two years and I have nothing to show for it, I

am scared because there are even talks of a second wife and I dont think I can survive that.

I was in my first year in Medschool when Sandiso and I began working together at the local clinic, I would help out during the holidays just to gain more knowledge and as a king he worked with the community and thats how we began getting close.

Too close that I started feeling guilty I mean this was my sisters first love and the father of her late son, it didnt feel right and it felt as though maybe he was using me, I told Sthelo all of this and I expected her to flip but she told me she already knew and infact she knew this was going to happen the year that she fell asleep after defeating her evil twin.

I was shocked when she gave us her blessings and told me that if she got mad that would have meant she still had feelings for Sandiso but that wasnt the case, when I was worried about Sandiso's genuine gestures she assured me that he was genuine and I should go for it.

Our relationship wasn't accepted at first, in fact there are some people that still don't want me as Sandiso's wife but unfortunately they cannot change fate.

I decided to call my sister before my appointment with my doctor because I had asked her to consult for me and see where the problem might be because Sandiso is very much fertile.

Me: Hey Sis, I didn't disturb you did I?

Sthelo: No you didn't sis are you okay?

Me: You already have an answer to that question Sthelo.

She exhaled.

Sthelo: And I am afraid I will have to add on that as well.

Me(holding tears): Oh my God.

Sthelo: You cant have kids Thandi.

Me(crying): This cant be happening! Sandiso will divorce me and take another wife since he doesn't want a second wife Sthelo!

Sthelo: No he will do no such thing.

Me: Sthelo you dont understand, the pressure we are under its too much!

Sthelo: All I can say is that, forgive him.

She dropped the call and Sandiso immediately walked in our room and glanced at the pregnancy tests as I wiped my tears.

Sandiso: Negative?

Me: If you divorce me and take another wife I will completely understand Sandiso, you need an heir and I cant give you that because I am barren.

He didnt look shocked.

Him: I kind of figured it out with the healer.

Me: So...what happens now?

He sighed and sat down.

Him: Please forgive me.

Me: For...for what? What did you do?

Him: I have made someone else pregnant.

My ears were buzzing and I felt dizzy for a bit.

Me: You have been cheating on me while I was working tirelessly trying to get pregnant?

Him: Babe listen...

Me: Dont tell me to listen Sandiso you cheated!!

Him: I was under a lot of stress and pressure, it didnt meant anything! I didnt think she would fall pregnant I...baby listen I love you and only you.

"All I can say, forgive him..." Sthelo's words echoed around the room only for me to hear and I got up from the floor and took a breath, I was not about to lose my husband and give everybody who was against this relationship that satisfaction.

Me: What happens now?

Him: We will raise the baby together if...if you are not leaving me because I wont be taking her as a second wife...on the day of birth she wont make it, the healer has confirmed it, apperantly this was the Gods way to offer a solution to our problem.

I exhaled.

Him: The plan was for you to act as if you are pregnant for the royal uncles and community and then you know...(shrugs) raise that child as yours.

I looked at him.

Him: So?

Me: It could work no one else has to know that I was never pregnant or the child isnt mine.

Him: No one will know except us 4, you, me, the girl and the healer.

Me: I still havent forgiven you for cheating on me Sandiso, its no excuse I was also under pressure but I didnt go around sleeping around.

Him: I know and I understand, I love you Thandi and I am sorry.

I waved my hand at him and walked out.

KING DALUXOLO ZULU.

I smiled as the old lady held my hand with a smile as well.

Old lady: My king may you live long enough to hold your grandchildren.

Me: Thank you very much.

Old lady: And very soon you will be holding your daughter as well, i-Ntandokazi yakho.

I was very shocked and happy at the same time, I gave the old lady a hug as we dropped her off at her place, we had given her a lift and we drove back to the palace where I found my wife setting up the table with my son helping her.

Its amazing how we have so many maids around the palace and we have a qualified royal chef but my wife still insists on being the one who cooks my dinner.

My son was the one who noticed me first and ran to me.

Ndabezinhle: Baba!!

I picked him up and kissed him.

Me: Sawubona Zulu.

Ndabezinhle: Sawubona Baba.

Me: How is my prince?

Ndabezinhle: I am good!

Me: Hhawu you will not ask me how I am?

He laughed and Sthelo walked to us and I wrapped my other hand around her waist as she kissed my cheek.

Sthelo: Zulu. Me: Wifey.

We looked at our son and my heart was complete even more complete that a princess is on the way.

.....**THE END**.....