

Umqhele We Ndoda



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UMQHELE WE NDODA

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Book Two Of

Indoda Maybe No Mqhele

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~ PROLOGUE

1 MONTH LATER

I see her walking in a dark forest , her screams are piecing well it's more like painful cries than they are screams . The cries echoes through the trees , it sounds like she's in pain . I look down to where she's walking and there's trails of blood on her footprints. The forest has thorns , they've pierced her feet underneath she's bleeding.

By why isn't she stopping , why does she keep moving forward walking even though she's hurting and bleeding ?

She lets out on last scream and it goes completely quiet . She lifts her head I get a clear vision . She's crying tears of blood . I've never seen such as the blood touches her cheeks it dries out completely .

I feel the touch of the soft hand against my cheek ,I can't ignore it it's hard to . I open my eyes and I'm sweating . It's like I was running in the hot sun of summer somewhere in an African country .

Zipho : the dream again ?

She's worried , her facial expression says it all , but I can understand her worry it's been two weeks now and I've been having the

same dream . I haven't told her yet or anyone else for that matter what I dream about . I need answers first

Me : sweetheart go back to sleep

Zipho : do you need anything ?

I get off the bed . What do I say to my pregnant wife ? That I'm busy dreaming of my ex wife and that whatever the dream means can't be good .

That her intentions where she is are not pure. What frustrates me mostly is that I don't understand this dream .

Zipho : Jola...so you'll just ignore me just like that ?

Me : MaJola please sleep I...I need to go to the ancestral hut

She turns away from me . I know she's offended now even though I didn't even raise my voice . My wife is a sweetheart my very own mqhele (crown) . I draw the strength and power to keep going on from her . I put on sweatpants t-shirt and sneakers . I walk to the other side of the bed kiss her forehead and walk outside to the hut

When I get to the door I spot Xhanti sitting down , like he was just waiting for me . I say

nothing to him open the door take my sneakers off

Xhanti : when will you listen ?

He's not even looking at me

Me : I am

Xhanti : must you wait until something happens first ?

I look at him his eyes are focused on the far side where the sun rises

Khanti : if you fail the ancestors this time , my son the consequences will be too dire

With that he gets up and leaves me hanging . I don't understand the dream , I don't seem to understand Khanti right now . Mpilontle betrayed me there's no way my ancestors would want her back in my life . But what is this that I'm not listening on ?

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Insert 01

Mpilontle

After spending a whole month and few weeks selling my body to filthy disgusting men in this Joburg city , luck found me or rather bits of it

This stinking old disgusting man made me an offer that I be his sex slave , stop sleeping with any other man and he'll take care of me . Call it desperation or whatever but I agreed and it's been week staying with him

I've gotten a tiny of my life back . I stole money from him enough to buy an apartment and a small car . The idiot didn't even notice , who keeps stacks of money inside their house ? He's not Nqaba and he can never be Nqaba . The way he treats me he tries I can give him that much ,but he lacks so bad it actually shows me just how much I want my

life back . And come hell or high water I will get it . This old man has been moody as of late , and I don't care to ask what his problem is because I have real problems to deal with than worry with is old disgusting self

I walk in the bedroom , he's laying on the bed with just his briefs . You can hardly even see his face that's how huge his belly is . I clear my throat it's even a struggle for him to lift his head

Jay : where were you ?

He loves acting like he's my father

Me : out

Jay : answer the question

Me : I was at the salon getting my nails done
and thanks for the money I got it

He breathes out

Jay : get naked let's do something useful

I take the dress I'm wearing off I have nothing
underneath . I get on top of the bed and
straddle him believe me you it's a fucking
struggle . He gives me an inquiring look

Jay : what are you doing ?

Duh ! I need some pleasure but I know it won't happen not with him

Me : how about well...just for today I take the lead

Jay : woman you mad ?

He pushes me off him I lay on my back already bored out of my mind it takes him a whole fucking minute to get on top of me . The second he's on top I feel his whole weight on me . I swear if he knew what he was doing I would be dead by now . He's 3 times my size and the belly adds that that weight . I part my knees for him as I feel his

dick on my thigh he groans before he even puts it in warmth must be driving him crazy . I mentally roll my eyes , what did I do to deserve such huh ? This is really torture . I swear someone hates me up there . There's no way life can deal me so much bad luck

I hate Jay with everything that I am and there's no way I'll ever feel otherwise about him . Just his money that I like . I'm brought back from my thoughts when I hear him groan like some fucking wounded animal . He must be done I didn't even feel him move inside of me because I never feel anything , and don't be mistaken he has a dick alright he just doesn't know how to use it .

Jay : next time we fuck I'm gonna make you scream your lungs out for this shit you just pulled today

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Nqabayomzi

Nothing is as frustrating as trying to find answers and all you get is riddles . Is this the nonsense I went under water to initiate for months for? If that's the case then it's fucking useless .

I don't use bones I can't read bones . I only use candles , incense and water to phahla (communicate with ancestors) . Maybe if I

could read bones I'll see and understand better . I feel like I'm failing my wife in a way because she's becoming distant as of late and I can't blame her , because I'm failing to communicate with her as well .

It's not deliberate no I just need to understand what's going on and not pick up riddles I can't even explain

The dreams I keep having of Mpilontle are bothering me and no it's not because she's in danger . What she does and what happens to her doesn't concern me anymore quite frankly I don't care . So this has to involve us

Voice : what is it ?

I lift my eyes and meet his cold emotionless face as usual . He grabs a sit and sits down . I'm considering him as a partner in the new law firm since he was a partner in the old one

Lubanzi : so ?

Me : a lot

Maybe I can offload a bit , since he got back we have gotten closer again as friends

Lubanzi : you know if you need someone taken care of I'm here

I chuckle because I know he means what he's saying

Me : Lubanzi Xaluva I don't want any blood spilled

Lubanzi is anything but a civilized prince . He kills without mercy and no regret .

He does a lot of illegal things including being an assassin that's what he was busy doing in Russia killing world leaders

Lubanzi : really ?

Me : I'm afraid it's not like that

He smirks

Lubanzi : it will get to that and trust me when it does remember I'm here don't get your hands dirty , I won't mind doing it for you

Me : it won't

Lubanzi : blood is always spilled Bangani .
You can't always fix matters with words or prayers whatever it that you my good friend do .

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Mpilontle

This place smells so bad I just want to be done and out of here hoping to never return no matter what life will throw me . But this old hag is taking her own damn time

Me : will you do it ?

She just looks at me , I'm really getting annoyed I pay her good money for her to just be this useless especially when I need answers that she can do this or not

For her sake I hope she can

Dlozi : I can't harm her , the Jola ancestors are with her

Me : that's nonsense everyone can be harmed . What kind of a witch are you

Dlozi : you will watch your tone I'm not a witch I deal with the dark side

Her voice scares me a bit

Me : mxm same thing

Dlozi : stop being an idiot I'm telling you I can't harm her

Me : are you kidding me ...is this a joke to you ?

Dlozi : the Jola ancestors favour her she has their protection it's too powerful for me

I look at her fuming she's supposed to help me get back what's mine , instead she's busy spitting nonsense

Me : damn woman then what can you do because I want Nqabayomzi Bangani and his riches back , he can keep his love this time around but I'm done being poor and sleeping with old woman who can't even fuck . I gave that man 8 years of my life

Dlozi : calm down will you

I scoff

Dlozi : you have to understand...

Me : bloody fake Facebook traditional healer I should have known it was too good to be true. I won't understand anything , this was a fucking waste of my money and time

I get up and put my shoes on , I've endured this disgusting smell for far too long

Dlozi : that man is gifted they have a seer and that woman is no ordinary woman , it won't be easy to get through them with witchcraft .

Tread carefully young lady

I get out slamming the door walk to my car

Me : mxm what a waste

I hit the steering wheel . I've never been so frustrated but one way or another I will get what I want

Me : 5 hours driving for this nonsense

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Ziphozendalo

I wipe my tears off , it has just gotten worse and it doesn't help with everything that's going on with Jola . I've learnt to understand

his ancestral things but this time things are different I can just see it his face every time he wakes from those dreams says it all

But I won't push as always I'll give him his time and space to deal with whatever is going on , then when he's ready he'll talk and I'll listen . I finally arrive at Bhelekazi's place besides my husband she's still the only person I don't mind confiding in

Bhelekazi is just an old woman I don't know her family she never even speaks about them, and I don't dare ask . Ever since I've known her she's always been living alone in this old worn out hut . And since I have no grandmother I figured why not make her my own . She cares and loves me like her own

blood . My father is not found of her that much , so every time I would come see her I'd sneak out .

But now since I have grown so distant with my family I come here anytime I want. Another thing is that people always have assumptions about old women living alone but I don't believe in that witchcraft nonsense

Bhelekazi : oh yhini sana lwam (my baby)

I sit down next to her she brings my head on her lap I lay down

Bhelekazi : you were crying all the way from the Bangani homestead ?

Me : my eyes don't want to co-operate

She laughs running her hands through my hair . It's so soothing this is what I love about Bhelekazi she always makes everything feel better and make sense . I adore her

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Insert 02

Ziphozendalo

I really don't want to bother Bhelekazi with my husband's issues , so maybe I can ask her about something else that's been bothering

me . I've been meaning to ask Mrs Bangani about it but we still not that close for me to ask her such

Me : do you notice something wrong with me?

I've gained a bit , my boobs are bigger and I have this black line on my stomach . Then there's this constant crying

Bhelekazi : a difference yes but wrong ...no there's nothing wrong with you ...why do you ask ?

She asks with a smile

Me : well I can't explain this ...but suddenly my body is enhancing

She laughs I touch my boobs and flinch in pain my nipples hurt I don't even want Jola touching them . And that man is obsessed with my boobs like he's a baby

Me : ouch

Bhelekazi : don't do that

Me : it hurts

Bhelekazi : oh sana lwam you're going to be fine

Me : what's wrong with me ? I'm scared have you seen the way I eat ...it's disgusting

Bhelekazi : months have gone by you will know soon and there's nothing disgusting about eating

Me : that's rather vague and it's not helping

My phone rings and it's my husband . He spent last night in his hut and I haven't seen him since then . I answer

Me : Jola

Nqaba : sisi endincamisana naye uphi ? (the lady I'm dating where are you ?)

He is sulking a whole grown man sulking just because he can't find his wife home , that's the only reason

Me : ndino Bhelekazi (I'm with Bhelekazi)

He sighs like I'm depressing him this man can be dramatic

Me : nton (what)

Nqaba : ndakhumbula khabuye (I miss you come back)

Me : I've just arrived here mna

Nqaba : ngok ndithini mna lonto undixelela yona MaJola (so what am I supposed to do with what you're telling me)

The universe hates me . Now he wants me back home , while I'm still enjoying being with Bhelekazi

Nqaba : andithethi ndedwa njalo MaJola (I'm not talking alone)

Me : kalok ndithini ? (what am I supposed to say?)

Nqaba : hayhiii uyandiqhela manyan ndiyeza apho ndizo'kthatha (you're getting used to me, i'm coming there to fetch you)

I drop the call and not a second later he calls again I answer and not say anything . He laughs I can't help but smile

Nqaba : ndiyak'thanda njalo (I love you)

Me : by force

Nqaba : tshin sisi nomkitha (gosh stunning lady)

Me : khandiyeke wethu (leave me alone bruh)

Nqaba : uyaphambana andingo wethu wakho mna (you're out of your mind I'm not your bruh)

He drops the call Bhelekazi laughs

Bhelekazi : what did you feed that Bangani boy

I laugh , she reminds me of the things people said when I got married to Nqaba

Me : I must have really fed him something because that's what everyone used to say in the beginning

Bhelekazi : akho lonto (there's no such thing)

I sit up straight

Bhelekazi : on the bright side when are you moving

We are moving to PE soon . I got accepted at NMU pity Ndalo got accepted at UCT I'll sure miss my friend

Me : once he's done with his business things

Bhelekazi : your heart is heavy are you not happy to move

I shake my head no

Me : I'm happy but Jola is not okay he's going through a lot right now

Bhelekazi : he's not like any other human being child you married a sangoma

I smile

Me : I know

As much as I want to give him his space and all I also want to know what is bothering him . The fact that I avoid asking and pushing too much doesn't mean I'm okay with not knowing

And it's hard because in that house I have no one really supporting me The wives don't like me . Qhawelomzi came home with his wife Lazola for a week and that woman made sure I knew that she hates me

As for Mrs Bangani that woman is too cold she doesn't even try to know me as her daughter in law . Mvelo now I think hates me because of the food issue . I'm not whining though . Maybe they loved Mpilontle more and I was just an inconvenience . Lazola said if I wasn't in the picture Mpilontle would have never cheated on Jola . That left me questioning if really isn't she right

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Mpilontle

Dlozi is such a waste I have realised I can't get Nqaba through witchcraft . Stupid of me I know but who can blame me . That little brat is busy living my life and I want it back Jay went to Free State I'm finally on my own . I took some of his money to pamper myself today . And what better way than a spa

Voice : life didn't deal you that bad

I don't waste opening my eyes and looking at her . Out of all the Bangani wives she's the

one that decided to be a house wife just
spending Qhawe's money

Me : oh Lazola

She laughs

Lazola : darling don't sound so bored ... We
are sisters in-law after all

I laugh sarcastic

Me : really aren't we too fast to forget ?

Lazola : oh honey you were dealt a raw deal.
All so unfair on you

Okay she has my attention now

Me : I did mess up

I'm testing waters now

Lazola : hell the way your husband was babying that child I don't blame you

She sits down takes her shades off

Me : do you...uhm do you think he can forgive me ?

She smiles that devious and conniving smile

Lazola : you know Nqaba cry wolf he'll play hero and then you strike

This one can be my ally in getting Nqaba back she will help me willing or not

Me : come join me

Lazola : darling I won't say no

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Bangani homestead

Khanti walking inside the main house in a hurry startling everyone Mqhele is on his feet before Khanti can even utter any words

Mr Bangani : Xhanti is anything the matter ?

Ziphozendalo screams shifting the attention on her . Everyone sees what she's looking at Nqabayomzi who's in trance his eyes have turned to hazel green with a bit of blue shiny like that of the huge snake that's right next to him . The family know about Mkhuseleli he's the protector that Nqaba came back with from the water when he was initiating

Mvelo is very quick to hold the shaking trembling Ziphozendalo comforting her

Mqhele : get her out of here

Mvelo nods and carries Ziphozendalo upstairs to a spare room . Downstairs Nqabayomzi is now groaning and hissing while Mkhusele wraps his himself on Nqaba's body

Mrs Bangani : won't he hurt my son

She's crying now scarred of what her eyes are seeing

Ntsika : can you all leave us

He says to the wives , Amahle and Nolitha walk out leaving their husbands Mrs Bangani tells his wife to leave as well.

She leaves reluctant .

Mr Bangani : Xhanti what is the meaning of this

He asks as soon as his wife is out

Xhanti : he's conflicted

Mqhele : don't start with that riddle shit...

Mr Bangani : Mqhele

He reprimands Mqhele keeps quite not taking his stare away from Xhanti

Xhanti : MaJana is in trouble Nqaba has to help her but she's also carrying so not pure intentions now he doesn't know what to do . Whether to help her or not .

Mqhele : I swear I will kill that fucking whore

Ntsika : what do you mean she's in danger ?

Nqaba : then man she's with wants to sacrifice her for riches

He says with a horse voice carrying a long breath Mkhusele is still wrapped around Nqaba's body

Nqaba : but she wants to harm my wife to have me back

Mqhele : that's it I will kill her

Ntsika : be rational

Mqhele : she fucked a man in his house now she wants him back and plans to harm one of our own while doing that ...the fuck that whore thinks she is ?

Nqaba : MaJola has to leave

Them : what

Nqaba : she can't be here...it's not safe

Mqhele : that's why we have to kill Mpilontle

Mr Bangani : we won't do that , son do you have a plan

No answers comes from Nqaba his eyes are now closed . Mkhusele unwraps himself and slides out

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Ziphozendalo

I wake up wrapped in his arms , his breathing is uneven which tells me he's awake .

Me : I'm sorry I freaked out last night

He rubs my stomach . I feel a bit funny

Nqaba : it's okay . Sit up we need to talk

We both sit up

Nqaba : forgive me for not being honest with you , telling you what's happening . I can be such a fuck up of a husband at times .

Me : it's okay I love you still

Nqaba : please still love me after this

He scares me now

Nqaba : I've been dreaming of Mpilontle in a dark forest walking on thorns and she's crying tears of blood but when the blood touches her cheeks it dries out

That's creepy

Me : and wha...what does that mean ?

Nqaba : she met a man

Already ? I want to ask but I might sound judgemental so better not

Nqaba : he wants to sacrifice her she needs my help

When he says she needs my help , I don't know I feel like a part of me is being ripped apart The same Mpilontle that despise me for taking her husband will now be brought back to our lives

Nqaba : but she has no pure intentions she even went to a sangoma that deals with the dark side to try and harm you

Let's forgive my selfishness right now . How am I supposed to be okay with him helping her?

Nqaba : I have to take you away from here

Me : why so she can come here

Argh these bloody tears

Nqaba : siphwo se zinyanya zam (my ancestors gift)

He brings my head to his chest , the Victoria falls are open

Nqaba : Mqhele we ndoda yakhe (my strength my power)

I hate what he's doing i hate it with every fibre in my body

Nqaba : I need you to be strong for me because I'm weak without you

Me : Jola no....don't do this please no

Nqaba : I'll make a plan to keep you safe just until I know she's safe as well

Why am I being put in the same sentence as Mpilontle

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Mpilontle

We have been spending much time with Lazola . She thinks we are friends now and well I don't need a friend I want Nqaba back . I watch her walk in , I raise my hand so she can see me . She spots me and walks to me she sits down

Me : you're late

Lazola : oh chill ... I have a husband to keep busy you know and we were packing for Eastern Cape

Me : you're going home ?

Lazola : yes we are summoned

She rolls her eyes some fake slay queen wife

Me : look I want Nqaba back

She laughs

Lazola : about time , what took you so long ?

Me : I need help

Lazola : anything

I smile to myself I have her where I want her .
Soon that tramp will be out and I'll be back
where I belong .

Me : I can't stay long so go home when you
get to Eastern Cape be my ears and eyes find
anything I can use

Lazola : that's a walk in the park

We say goodbye I head to my car . Jay came
back with a creepy Nigerian man last night .

And he doesn't want me being away from him, that's why I can't stay out for far too long

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Nqabayomzi

My wife is hurt , she's not angry she's not upset but she's hurt and I'm responsible for that . But I'll do anything to keep her and our child safe . I have to help Mpilontle there's nothing I can do about that but also I can't avoid the fact that she wants to harm my wife

Lubanzi : you called ?

He walks in the lounge I'm all alone I have no idea where everyone is at except for my wife who is in our room crying .I've tried to comfort her but it seems useless

Me : I need your help

Lubanzi : I'll leave no evidence

Me : I didn't say I want you killing anyone

He shrugs and sits down

Me : I need my wife out of here

His whole facial expression changes to rage

Lubanzi : what

Me : danger is coming so I need her safe

Lubanzi : I see

Me : ndoda there's no one I can think of who can help me

Lubanzi : I'll have to take her out of Isilo

Me : no that...

I stop talking as she walks in

Zipho : molweni

Lubanzi : Zendalo

I don't get why does he call her that Everyone calls her Zipho except for Omuhle but Lubanzi chooses to call her Zendalo

Me : do you need anything?

She shakes her head no

Lubanzi : can we talk ?

He's already on his feet I follow him outside

Lubanzi : are you fucking kidding me ?

His voice is carrying so much hostility

Me : what ?

Lubanzi : do you fucking know who you're married to ? Why would you want to send her away when she can stay here and help you ?

Me : you're not making sense

Lubanzi : I'm not taking Zendalo anywhere you'll fucking crumble without her

He walks away leaving me confused as fuck ,
he turns back

Lubanzi : and if I ever come here again and
she's red like that Bangani we'll have a
problem

He walk away . Lubanzi better not fuck with
me what does he care what my wife cries
about ?

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Ziphozendalo

Voice : you can't be weak

I look around but I see nothing

Why am I in a dark place like this

Voice : you can't be weak

The voice gets louder , I keep waking forward
I see nothing but I feel at peace . Why do I
feel at peace in such a dark place

Voice : Ziphozendalo

The voice gets creepy like whoever is calling
me is struggling to breath they're drawing
breath from afar

Me : ungubani (who are you)

Voice : Ziphozendalo

I sit down since I seem to just be walking and I have no idea where I'm going . I hug my knees rock myself back and forth my eyes closed

Voice : uyabona ? (do you see)

This person sounds like they're dying . I open my eyes maybe I'll see .It's blurry but I force them to see and it's gets white grey like my eyes . I see water being handed to me in a

transparent glass , there's small black bottles
inside

Me : ufuna ukundibulala ? (You want to kill
me ?)

I lift my eyes and it's Lazola . I'm shaken up
and I can hear Jola's voice in panic mode . I
open my eyes I don't think I've ever seen my
husband scared like this

Me : I'm okay

He engulfs me into a tight huge

Nqaba : don't you ever do that to me . A whole minute trying to wake you up felt like a fucking whole day

So the dream happened in just a minute that's crazy

Nqaba : I can't lose you

His voice is pained , now how do I even tell him what I just dreamt about

Nqaba : everyone is downstairs let's go join them

I nod we get up I walk to the bathroom to wash my face first . Then we walk downstairs and sit down

Mvelo : uright (are you okay)

I nod

Mqhele : what do you care ?

Mvelo : I'm just asking

Okay Mvelo is warming up to me since the whole snake business

Nqaba : you need anything ?

Me : a glass of water please

He pours me water , I take it to drink

Voice : family

We turn and it's Lazola I drop the glass of water on the floor

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Insert 03

Nqabayomzi

Me : stop shaking

Zipho : I'm sorry

One look at Lazola and I can feel the aura she walked in with . Qhawe better put her wife on a leash . I can't be preparing myself for a battle with Mpilontle and also fight my brother's wife

Me : do you know something I don't know ?

She ran out after she broke the glass when Lazola walked in and since then she hasn't stopped shaking she's scared

Zipho : we don't lie to each other right ?

A very strange question

Me : no we don't

Zipho : then don't make me

She holds me I return the favour . My mind
wandering around

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Ndalo

Lubabalo walks in goes to the fridge he takes a bottle of water and down it

Luba : where is your friend ?

The obsession my brother has with Zipho is annoying

Me : am I get keeper brother?

I ask annoyed , he raises a brow

Luba : if I didn't know better I'll say you dear sister you're very jealous of your friend

I get up he laughs

Luba : I'm right aren't I ?

In this village of ours you have made it if you're part of the Bangani family or the royal family , and in neither I don't even see myself getting a piece of the prince's . And as for the Bangani brothers they're all married except Mvelo .

Me : leave me alone , she's my friend

Luba : exactly that's why I love her not you

I pop my eyes with shock , yes I know he's obsessed with her but as far as love that's new

Luba : you should see yourself

Me : I hope that's a joke Lubabalo

Luba : no

Me : she's married for havens sake

Luba : she married a married man and well I can also take a married woman . She said she's with him because of his dick what guy doesn't have a dick ?

This is a shocker the Zipho that I know would never say that like ever she's too goody too shoes for her own good

Me : Zipho was arranged for a marriage she didn't even want

I laugh at his silly statement

Luba : is that what she told you ? Then little sister you know nothing

He walks leaving me contemplating on this . Did she lie about this ? Was there an affair between her and Nqaba before they got married

Ziphozendalo

I hated it when Jola was the one keeping things from me , but now here I am doing the same thing . But how do I tell him that his brother's wife is here with intentions to kill me? He holds me from behind planting soft wet kisses on my neck

Me : hm...Jola

He sucks hard on my neck my body reacts to the way he's holding me caressing my body

Nqaba : mmmm

Me : can you....forgive me ?

He says nothing

Me : if...I keep some...something from you ?
But for a good reason that is

He stops like he didn't even start

Nqaba : out with it

He is just blank

Me : but....

Nqaba : now

He's being unfair hayhiii why did I even mention this thing

Me : I...I saw something

Nqaba : what ?

I can't tell Nqaba what Lazola is here to do and what if I'm wrong .. what then? I don't want to cause tensions and rifts for nothing

Me : someone was handing me a glass of water and it had black small broken glasses inside

Nqaba : who ?

There's no way I'm telling him

Me : a little white lie is not a lie right

Nqaba : Ziphozendalo Bangani I will not ask again

Hah

Me : I didn't see

He gives me a stare that can send me right straight underground to meet the gang .

After a while he puts on his t-shirt and walks out

Me : great Ziphozendalo Bangani you have done it

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Nqabayomzi

I saw this baby of mine is going to drive me insane I already so much to deal with and now she's keeping things from me

Xhanti : I have no answer for you

I take my sneakers and walk inside his hut , I
sit down on the grass mat

Me : you're the family seer for a reason

Xhanti : you're a seer yourself

Me : we're different anyways stop that Xhanti
...who is my wife ?

He laughs I'll wait until he's done

Xhanti : you're the one who's married to her
so you're asking me because ?

Me : don't mock me ...she told me

she saw something so now I need to know is she gifted ?

Xhanti : like me and you ? Oh no she's not

Me : then what ?

Xhanti : she's yet to know who and what she is until then even I can't say ...she's not of our land we are no match for her

Me : I hate these riddles

Xhanti : joys of being us isn't it

Me : hell no

I get up walk towards the door

Xhanti : she can see the past the present and the future

I turn back and look at him , he's busy with his herbs unlike me he uses herbs and bones even water .

Me : you just said she's not gifted

Xhanti : that's because she's not

Now he's loosing me even more

Xhanti : when she knows she'll let you know
...and keep that royal prince away from her

I haven't seen Lubanzi since he left not
pleased with me just because I wanted to
send my wife away and the fact that she was
crying

Me : care to tell me why

Xhanti : no

This arrogant old man . I leave his hut

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Mpilontle

He groans so loud on top of me I want to cry ,
not because of pleasure no but the way he's
so heavy . It's like everyday he gains more
weight

Jay : Ohhh yess babyyy

The fuck yhoh life sure dealt me here

Jay : fuck can you feel that

I feel nothing , besides his heaviness

Me : oh yes

The fake moans are getting me tired as well .
Oh how I miss Nqaba that man was a fucking
beast he was rough with me yes he never
made love to me but damn he gave it to me
so good always

Jay : shit that was great

He falls next to me the bed even bumps a bit .
He's done this is how I survive him by
blocking what's happening with wild thoughts

Jay : shit baby that was great

Me : yes hunny it was as always

Lies and lies and lies . Will I ever see heaven
though ? I doubt

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Nqabayomzi

What Xhanti said has been on my mind as of
late . So I've called Lubanzi over I know he
calls it as it is so I know he wont lie to me

Lubanzi : you're making this a habit Bangani

Me : what's your deal with my wife ?

Lubanzi : none

I chuckle

Me : balance me here Xaluva why were you so bothered with her state?

Lubanzi : if you still want me to take her fine but like I said I'll take her out of Isilo and if you must know I have no desire to fuck your wife

What did I say ?

Me : now tell me what you desire

Lubanzi : the difference between me and you is that I'm a prince a product of two wild species . I hail from two kingdoms I see even beyond you just gasps what's in front of you only

Is my gift being mocked right now ?

Lubanzi : take no offence it's the truth and your wife she's what's bigger than both me and you combined . You want to save her from harm yet if you dare take her away you'll be swallowed . My good friend I believe we are done here . Those who eye your wife and lust her are way too close to home .

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Mpilontle

I'm on call with Lazola , I really thought being slay queen housewife will make her clever but she's seeming to fail

Me : how hard can it be ?

Lazola : these people say nothing useful in front of me . It's like they can smell my snooping around

Me : you're such...

Lazola : hold up on the swearing I'm helping you here

Me : and so far you've brought me nothing , you're deeming to be useless

She gasps I drop the call sit on the bed with a sigh

Me : this is starting to feel like a full time job

The door opens and this disgusting old fat thing walks in . I can't keep pretending any longer . I better find a solution for my problem

Jay : why are you being rude ?

Okay he doesn't sound happy

Me : did I do or say something.....

My cheek burns my head hurts I realise I'm on the floor . This pig has just slapped me

Jay : we have a visitor and you're here doing what ?

That creepy Nigerian guy is still here . Is he my visitor or his , this one is out of his mind

Me : you...you slapped me ?

Jay : and I can do much worse so pick yourself up be a good bitch that you are , fix yourself go downstairs entertain our guest

See Nqaba might have been unfair to me in the end how he let his mother kick me out with nothing , running the streets naked but not even once has he ever laid his hand on me . See why I need to leave this place and this pig . I get up walk to the bathroom wash my face it has that hand mark

Me : mxm idiot

I'm sure he feels like a man right now since he fails to prove it in the bedroom

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Ndalo

Me : I can never get over how beautiful this house is

She laughs

Zipho : you've been here before

Me : yes and I can't believe you're moving

Zipho : well you're moving too

Me : yes Cape Town here I come

She grabs the tray with the snacks and drinks
we walk out to the garden it's beautiful

Me : must be amazing being one of the
Bangani's

I still can't get over what Lubabalo said . But
then I know my brother he loves exaggerating
and he can take things out of context

Zipho : what's amazing about it?

She asks like it's nothing

Me : really chomam look at all these riches the cars the money and not to mention the handsomeness in the Bangani men even though I know only Mvelo and your sexy husband

Her eyes changes that the sexy husband part

Me : you never minded that

Zipho : yeah that was before I knew never to be too trusting and all

I chuckle a bit nervous

Me : I just wonder how it feels to have a man like that and have him be a Bangani

She takes her juice glass and drinks

Zipho : Ndalo there's 6 Bangani son's you can take either of the 5 leave mine alone . I've already had my fair share of him being with another woman . So please don't step on my toes I will retaliate very bad

The sweet Ziphozendalo just threatened me . I'm lost for words and regret even starting on her . Maybe I can get myself Mvelo but hell no . My friend is dating the older man and she's having it all

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Mpilontle

The dinner was just creepy for me the guy kept giving me strange and unsettling stares . I'm so glad that is over

I'm getting ready for bed my phone rings it's Lazola I answer

Me : yes

Lazola : don't you dare ever drop a call on me like that

Me : yeah whatever did you call to rant or what ?

Lazola : seems like your sister wife friend
wants a piece of being a Bangani

Me : another bloody village child

She laughs

Lazola : we can use her to spilt the two

I hear footsteps approaching

Me : okay let's finish this tomorrow

I drop the call Jay walks in I open the sheets
and get into bed

Jay : I'm going out

Me : oh with your friend ?

Jay : I said I not we

Hell no he's not leaving me alone with that
creepy man no

Me : please don't go

I beg he just looks at me and walks out . Lord
I need you tonight I don't trust that man at all

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Insert 04

Mpilontle

It's middle of the night when I feel the bedroom door open , I laid awake for few hours scared for my self of course . I lift my head hoping I'll see Jay . But now it's the Nigerian man I don't know his name even to this day . Where did he get the key because I locked the door ?

Me : Ja...Jay is not here

He smiles seductively it makes my body crawl

Him : I know

He says walking towards the bed . I don't want to be a statistics and I don't want to say why was I waiting I jump off the to the other side I fall down but quick to get up run towards the door

Him : the fuck you think you're doing ?

He lets out a distraught laugh grabbing me

Me : nooooo ...let me go

I scream and try to kick him but he's too powerful for me . He pins me against the wall and tears my nightdress off

Me : p....please no

I'm crying a river right now but he doesn't even care . There's no way I can close or shut this out . It's happening and I'll live with it for the rest of my life

I feel him as he shoves his dick roughly inside of me I've never felt this much pain ever . His groans fill the room while he enjoys himself having his wife with me

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Nqabayomzi

The whole thing plays in my mind like I'm watching a video does this mean I've failed now?

Voice : sleeping with her was only the begging

I turn back it's Xhanti standing by door of my hut , he walks on and sits down on the mat .

Me : what do you mean ?

Xhanti : the worst is yet to come , if you don't save her

Fuck these ancestors this is the same woman that cheated on me . Why must her life bother me now ?

Me : I did not ask for this

Xhanti : we don't choose who we are

Me : well it's unfair , don't you think so ?

I raise my voice a bit

Xhanti : watch yourself

I hear Mkhuseleli hissing a bit

Me : it's about time my wife and I leave this place

Xhanti : help that woman

Me : she's not my responsibility

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Mpilontle

I've been crying since last night. I'm in the shower my body is cold it has even wrinkled .

The words of that man keep ringing in my head

Jay left him with me on purpose knowing exactly that he lusts over me . Can it be that he knows I've been stealing money from him? So this is his punishment

Voice : get the fuck out of the there

Oh the pig is back . I drag myself out of the shower . My whole body hurts I have bruises not only did he force himself on me he also held my body roughly. I'm bleeding the way I scrubbed trying to get his sweaty scent off of me .

Jay : you look like a mess

He's not even remorseful

Me : how can you do that ?

Jay : love I don't give a fuck about you . You live me you eat me you bathe me you sleep me you shop me , look basically everything about you is me

All this for his few peanuts he calls money ?
I'm no saint yes but to deserve this is just
pure heartless

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Ziphozendalo

Ever since Lazola got here I've tried to stay clear of her but the woman is so persistent . All of the sudden she wants to be my friend , she's always asking me to go out with her it's pathetic because I know her intentions .

Thank god for school cause that's what I use as an excuse but I can't always because we are writing final , exams now and soon I'll be done .

She doesn't even look like she'll be leaving anytime soon

Lazola : sister in-law

With the most fake smile I've ever seen

Mrs Bangani : it's so nice to see you all get along

What is this woman talking about ?

Lazola : oh mother we are nice like that and it's about time , it's been long overdue now

Wow some people are born legends with pretence

Lazola : can I make you ladies some tea

Me : no

Mrs Bangani : yes

We say at the same time

Mrs Bangani : it's just tea MaJola join us

Me : ma I...I had to go study

Lazola : oh it won't be hours just 15 minutes
for tea is enough

Bawo no this can't happen . How am I going
to decline the tea because it'll just make me
sound ungrateful . She gets busy making the
tea . I'm shaking praying for a way out . Mvelo

walks in with a laughing Omuhle who just runs to her room

Mvelo : the Bangani wives

Mrs Bangani : and I'm not getting any younger

Mvelo : your daughter's in-law seem to have a problem with fertility

What now ? I hope I'm not included in that I've only been married for 10 months . And who's hurrying to bare children like the world is coming to an end ? Definitely not me

Lazola : mother I have you two beautiful granddaughters so please lets exclude me in that talk

She puts the tea on the table in front of us .
There's no way in hell I'm drinking this . I'll spill it even if it burns me it's fine .

Mrs Bangani : I still need more grandkids one can never have enough

Lazola : you have 6 daughters in-law so

Did she just say 6 ?

Mvelo : I'm still very much single

Lazola : I meant with Mpil....oh sorry my bad

The nerve of this woman . And she's not sorry she knows exactly what she's doing . This is my chance . I get up as if I'm offended I hope I can pretend well

Me : please excuse me

Mrs Bangani : hawu MaJola

I don't even look at any of them i walk outside Mvelo comes running after me for what I don't know

Mvelo : I'm sorry I didn't mean to be offensive
in there

He holds my arm I yank it off

Mvelo : sorry

I sigh

Me : you saved me in there so thank you

He looks at me confused

Me : never mind

Mvelo : it's okay anything for you always .
Even though I don't know what I did

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Nqabayomzi

Lubanzi : what do you mean?

I tried to ignore this but I can't so here I am
resorting to his methods to help me

Me : I need you to find Mpilontle

Lubanzi : your whore ex wife ?

Me : can we refrain from the swearing

Lubanzi : what do our care ?

I shake my head . The way Lubanzi is always serious never laughs you'll swear he's always angry

Me : will you ?

Lubanzi : yeah

He gets up and buttons his suit jacket

Lubanzi : I swear if you ever hurt Zendalo with this shit of yours and that whore I'll snap

your neck , suck on your blood to quench my
thirst and I'll feed on your mortal body

There's no way this guy is normal , that is no
threat but it's a promise

Me : as if my wife will let you

Lubanzi : she'll thank me

He leaves .I grab my phone and call the only
person that will put a smile on my face right
now . She answers

Me : sisi nomkitha (my stunning
lady)

Zipho : ndilambe (I'm so hungry)

I laugh she's saying with so much exaggeration

Me : uphi (where are you)

Zipho : leaving the exam room

Me : I'm coming with food what do you want to eat?

Zipho : bring everything wings , nuggets , some ribs , don't forget those beef burgers

Me : okay

I'm holding in a laugh , because she hates it when I laugh at her when it comes to food

Zipho : oh and Jola

Me : yes sweetheart

Zipho : don't forget steak

Me : juicy and well done

Zipho : just like how you love yours

A fucking 17 year old has me by the balls

Me : I shall be served tonight

Zipho : right when you arrive so if I were you
Jola I'll hurry

Me : do you see me leaving the office right
now

She laughs

Me : ndiyak'thanda njalo siphiso se zinyanya
zam (I love you , my ancestors gift)

Zipho : uthandwa ndim Jola (I'm the one who
loves you)

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Ndalo

With exams happening everything is too much . One hardly even has time for themselves . I'm at the shop buying snacks when I feel a tap on my shoulder I turn back and it's the other Bangani wife

Her : hi

Me : hi

She smiles

Her : you still remember me ?

I don't even know her name , well I forgot

Me : yes

She laughs slightly

Her : what's your name again ?

What's yours ?

Me : Ndalo

Her : oh my gosh why is many Ndalo's ...
Village people though ! Did they run out of
names to name your kids

Aibo what in the hell is this now

Her : oh don't take any offence honey

Me : what's your name ?

She frowns

Her : but you said

Me : I lied

Her : what a despicable child you are
...anyways I'm Lazola Bangani married to
Qhawelomzi Bangani

Me : oh so what do you want

She laughs . It's so annoying makes me
wonder if she's ever real

Lazola : I have a deal for you

Me : no thank you

I turn to walk away from her what deal can
she possibly want to have for me ?

Lazola : it'll come in handy and you might just score yourself a Bangani

I look at her

Me : last time I checked they're all married

Lazola : and your dear friend got one who was married in the end she ended up with him alone

Me : what do you want ?

She looks around like those conniving old hags who cannot take defeat so are always looking to plot

Lazola : separate Nqaba and that friend of yours he'll be yours

Did I just hear her right ?

I'm sure there's nothing wrong with my ears .
She wants me to separate Zipho with Nqaba and I get to be with him , that's interesting

Me : how ?

She smiles rubbing her hands together flashing those long fake nails and that expensive ring .

Lazola : it's about to get exciting

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Insert 05

Mpilontle

This disgusting man had the nerve to sleep with me right after his friend raped me the pervious night . When life deals you it's sure raw , they do say that when it rains it pours

My phone rings , I haven't gotten out of bed in two days . Even though I was a prostitute it wasn't anything like being violated like that

Me : this stupid phone

I answer

Me : what

Lazola : awusemuncu (you're so sour)

Me : Lazola nton (what is it)

Lazola : I have found the perfect plan

Me : just tell me already

As broken as I am I still want Nqaba I want my life back ain't no way I'm giving up . I

won't come hell or high water I'll get what I want

Lazola : I told you her friend wants a piece of the Bangani life style

Me : so ?

Lazola : I've promised her Nqaba

Me : what nonsense is that ? I said I want my husband back . Not for you to offer him to more fucking school kids

Lazola : oh honey calm down okay just listen to me . We use this Ndalo girl to break them

up then boom you come in take your man and we get rid of her . Once they're broken up she can't do anything her job will be done

Me : so you mean we manipulate her ?

Lazola : now she gets it

Me : fine how long will you be there?

Lazola : I've given Qhawe enough sex he agreed we can stay until the December holdings are over

Perfect just two weeks left and it'll be December

Me : good work on that girl

Lazola : pity my other plan is not working

Me : what other plan ?

She goes quite like she wasn't supposed to say that

Me : Lazola I asked a question

Lazola : don't worry yourself about it darling toddles

She drops the call on me . I hope she's not an idiot enough to use any form of medicine because Xhanti or Nqaba will see and she won't succeed

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Ziphozendalo

Voice : find your way home

I swear I'm going crazy . It's midday I'm not dreaming , I'm definitely not sleeping . Here I am hearing the damn voice again .

Me : w...who are you

Voice : are you talking alone ?

I get startled by the cold voice that carries no emotion nothing

Me : uhm my prince

Lubanzi : don't call me that

How did he even know I'm out here in the garden ? Because I know no one saw me leave the house . And he wasn't even here when I arrived

Me : my apologies Jola is still in PE

Lubanzi : why aren't you with him there ?

What's it to him ? And why is he still talking to me ? This man scares me I have never met a person with such a presence

Lubanzi : you're starrng

Lord save me . I turn my face away from him

Lubanzi : stop talking alone people will think you're loosing it . And crazy people lose battles because they're not in their right minds

He turns away . Did he just leave me with a riddle ?

Me : oh Zipho what have they gotten yourself into ?

I should pay my parents a visit before we leave for PE tomorrow . It's been 9 months don't they miss me ? Because I know I miss them even though they dealt me wrong

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Nqabayomzi

Dad : I'm proud son

Mqhele : you know he's done this before right

Qhawe : why do you say it like that

We laugh

Mqhele : because that's how it is

Me : yeah well , this time it's how it's supposed to be

Qhawe : like meant to be stuff ?

Me : that's too deep

Dad : so is your love for MaJola

Me : tata

Dad : on the real... around her you act like a
17 year old because she looks like she's 12

We laugh

Me : don't let her hear you say that

Qhawe : good thing she gives you statue

Me : Mkhuluwa are you implying something
(big brother)

Mqhele : he's not implying , but he's saying

I shake my head as they laugh . Everything was moved to PE yesterday . The house is all done the way my wife wanted and needed so we are moving there today

Mqhele : you have your priorities right now don't stray away from them

My phone rings it's Lubanzi

Me : I need to take this

I walk away from them and answer

Me : ndoda

Lubanzi : I found her

Me : is she okay ?

Lubanzi : Bangani what do you care ?

I'm sure he has that expression of his that screams murder

Me : can you get her here ?

He says nothing for a few seconds before he drops the call . I guess that means yes he can. I can't ignore this even though I want to . It's best I help Mpilontle and cut ties with her

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Ziphosendalo

I take a deep breath , suddenly I am scared .

Nqaba : are you sure you want to do this ?

No

Me : it's okay

Nqaba : that's not what I asked

We are in the car outside my home They even extended the house , the 80 000 must have done them good . While they just discarded me like I'm not theirs

Me : something happened yesterday

Nqaba : what ?

Me : the prince ...he said something to me

Nqaba : when he was at home ?

I nod

Nqaba : what did he say ?

I look at him , he looks scared like there's something I'm not supposed to know about that Lubanzi could have potentially said to me

Me : Jola what are you not telling me ?

He looks down

Me : wow

I open the door and walk out with him calling my name , I ignore him and walk inside the yard . I take a deep breath and knock at the door , for a while no one answers . I knock until I'm ready to give up , my mother opens the door The shock on her face it's like she's seeing a stranger or she's seeing me for the

first time or rather I was said to be dead and
now here I am

Me : molo ma

Mom : Nguwe Zipho (it's you)

What is wrong with this woman ? She can
see clearly it's me , so why the shock ?

Me : ewe (yes)

Mom : oh wow

This is awkward good people like very
awkward

Me : can I come in ?

Mom : no why ?

She says so fast like she had already anticipated that I was going to ask

Me : ohis dad home?

Mom : he's busy Zipho marn come another time

That other time is never . I can see I'm not needed here nor am I wanted . What kind of a mother can turn her child away like this ?

Sometimes it makes me wonder if they're really my parents

Me : bye

I turn back . My heart is so heavy . I just felt rejected by my own mother and now I have to face my husband who is hiding things from me . Will I ever get a break in life though ?

Nqaba : sweetheart

He's leaning against the car

Me : I need to say goodbye to Bhelekazi

Nqaba : you're crying , what did they do to you ?

How about what he did when I left the car

Me : can you take me ?

Nqaba : so now you're ignoring me

I just look at him and say nothing , after a while he opens the door for me I get in he goes to his side and drives to Bhelekazi's place

Nqaba : MaJola

Me : no Jola please...I am done trying to do this with you . It's always something and I don't know maybe it's because I'm a child so you don't consider me to be matured enough that you'll trust me with whatever things you keep to yourself . So from now on I'm done asking things you don't want to tell me

Nqaba : I never meant to make you feel this way okay it's just....

Me : please stop

I feel a slight pain on my abdomen . But since I'm already crying I ignore it maybe it's my periods . They tend to be very painful for me

Nqaba : is something wrong ?

He's worried but I say nothing to him

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Nqabayomzi

Must I always fuck up ? Seeing my wife
breaks me so much especially when I know
I'm the reason for that I watch her as she
walks inside Bhelekazi's hut

I take my phone and call Lubanzi

Lubanzi : why do you call me like we have something going on ...heh Bangani you don't fuck with me

Me : what did you say to my wife yesterday ?

Lubanzi : nothing that concerns you and stop calling me like this ... I'll deliver your whore

He drops the call right after saying Mpilontle is my whore . Lubanzi is found of my wife and I'll get to the bottom of this

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Ziphozendalo

Bhelekazi : you know he doesn't mean to hurt you ?

Me : either way he does but it's fine

Bhelekazi : don't do this

Me : what ?

Bhelekazi : look defeated like that , like you're accepting a behaviour that'll be hard for you to live with

Me : Jola shuts me out , he doesn't trust me enough so what am I supposed to do ?

Bhelekazi : Ziphozendalo calm down

I'm heating up so bad I can feel it everywhere
in my body from my head to my feet

Bhelekazi : oh dear child it's too soon

I can hear her but from afar , some words I
can't gaps what she's saying

Bhelekazi : oNgonyama can't let this happen

I close my eyes and I feel her holding me

I'm walking on a green veld the grass is green
the trees are green it's like spring has just
graced this land

Voice : Ngonyama you need to find home

Says that voice

Me : home ?

I ask very confused

Voice : look around

I look around all I see is mountains and a
huge waterfall

Me : is this....home ?

Voice : you need to find home

This is confusing ..

Me : who...who are you and how do I get home ?

Voice : follow me

Out of nowhere a huge white lion appears right in front of me . Shouldn't I run away ?

Voice : you can't be scared of your own

I'm not crazy no ways I refuse , this lion is talking to me . The mouth is not moving but the voice I somehow can feel it's coming from it

Voice : forces will try to fight him but remember he's one of your own he will never harm you .

Who is this he ?

Voice : he's the path to leading you home , stand your ground he will always be with you .

Me : who...

Voice : remember who you are Ngonyama
keep him close he will lead you home

I feel someone shaking me . The lion moves
now I want to follow it like it said but I can't

Voice : buya ekhaya Ngonyama (come
home)

Those words keep persisting , they're said in
Zulu and not Xhosa .

I open my eyes and I'm in Bhelekazi's arms ,
she looks like her usual self like nothing has

shocked her at all . I have never been so
confused like I am right now

Me : did you say something ?

She graces me with her warm smile

Bhelekazi : your husband is waiting for you

That's not what she said I am sure , I can't
remember the exact words but I know she
said something . And what just happened ?
The dream ...was it a dream or what ?

Me : do lions talk ?

She laughs at me like I've asked the most stupid thing ever

Bhelekazi : child you dream to much ... Now don't forget me when you get to PE

I get a feeling she's dismissing me

Me : I won't I still have two exams to write next week so I'll be here

Bhelekazi : take care of yourself

We hug and say goodbye . I head to the car my husband has his head bowed down

Me : we can leave now

Nqaba : what happened to you ?

He's still looking down

Me : I don't know

He nods and starts driving off

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Ndalo

Lazola brought me to the city . She bought me so many clothes and well now we are having lunch at this expensive restaurant

Me : this is the life

Lazola : oh darling you haven't seen nothing

Me : so this is what it feel like being a Bangani wife ?

Lazola : and more

Well I can get used to living lavish like this

Me : I will do it...I will help you break Zipho and Nqaba up

My friend will have to forgive me , but I also want a piece of her life

Lazola : best decision ever

Me : so how do I do it ?

Lazola : we need something that will make Nqaba hate and despise her

Me : like what ?

Lazola : child I don't know use your mind ...
Maybe create some cheating story or
whatever

I nod smiling that can work and I have just the right person to use as bait

Me : I'll get to it ... My brother is so obsessed with Zipho....

Lazola : oh hell no... okay we are not involving other people on this

Me : don't worry ... He wants her and he won't mind getting dirty . I won't tell him anything he'll think I'm supporting him to follow his heart while I'm just using him

She smiles

Lazola : oh child we are going far

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Ziphozendalo

I hardly slept , first night in my own home and I can't sleep peacefully . Because my mind was busy working overtime .

What happened in Bhelekazi's house ? I can't remember anything besides knowing for a fact that I spoke with a freaking lion . I don't even what she said to me I have a feeling the

lion was female don't ask me how cause I don't know it's just a feeling

Nqaba : please stop playing with your food

I can't eat for once I have no appetite and worse I'm still feeling those cramps on my abdomen . This morning I woke up and I look so different even my flat stomach looked like I'm 3 months pregnant .

Which is not possible because I've been getting my periods every month . Even though Jola and I we are careless when it comes to sex , but maybe I'm never ovulating when we do it .

Nqaba : MaJola

Me : I'm not hungry

Nqaba : I swear this was the last time I keep anything to you okay ... this is not us , we don't talk to each other like we are forced . Remember I told you the dreams I've had about Mpilontle ?

I nod , Mpilontle again ? I wonder if we'll ever be rid of that woman

Nqaba : I tried my best to keep my distance but the ancestors ... Sweetheart I have to help her , her life is in danger I've asked Lubanzi to find her and he said he did

Me : and ?

Nqaba : I asked him to bring her at Isilo

Me : great

I get up

Nqaba : you don't get to walk away from me
MaJola I'm fixing what I messed up okay

Me : so she gets go to Isilo and then what ?
You help her she gets better then she gets
you too in the mix

For the first time my voice is high while I'm talking to my husband

Nqaba : what ... no I don't want Mpilontle back I.....

Me : she wants you back Jola that's why Lazola is here busy plotting with people I call friends trying to kill me to separate us

Oh Ziphozendalo I'm crying I'm shouting good people I'm a mess

Nqaba : what did you just say ?

He asks in the most calm manner ever . Lord

what have I done now ?

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Insert 06

Nqabayomzi

I look at her , she's crying I feel so bad but I want her to explain what she just said right now

Me : MaJola I asked a question

Zipho : Jola please ... not now

Me : Lazola is here to kill you ? On who's orders?

I have a feeling the very same person my ancestors want me to help , is the very same person that's looking to harm my wife

Zipho : I think you know

She walks out on me . I take my phone and call Qhawe he answers first ring like he was expecting me to call

Me : bawo

Qhawe : Mkhuluwa

He doesn't sound okay but I don't care my wife comes first and if his wife wants to hurt mine then we have a problem

Me : can you and Lazola come to PE say today ?

Qhawe : okay

That's Qhawe for you he won't even ask too many questions . I drop the call

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Ziphozendalo

Being here feels like a part of me is missing .
There's no river I tried sitting by the pool but
there's no connection nothing at all . I miss
being back at the village going to the river
sitting on my rock . It gave me some sense of
peace . And with everything going on right
now I sure need that peace

I'm sure Jola thinks I'm some spoilt brat , an
immature kid that's making a fuss over
nothing .

But 8 years of marriage good people it
doesn't just die in months

I have a lot going on in my mind . A lot of questions like will he get tempted when he sees her ? What if this brings them together again ? What will become of me ?

I basically have no one in this world besides Bhelekazi . That woman is heaven sent for me . I thank the day I hurt my ankle and fell in front of her yard because since that day I gained a mother . I take my phone and call Ndalo it rings for a few minutes and she answers

Ndalo : chomam

Those words sting because of what I uttered to Jola .

Me : hey

Ndalo : you don't sound okay

Me : I'm fine ...how are you ?

Ndalo : I couldn't be better girl well except for
Lubabalo

Me : yeah your brother will never change

Ndalo : never and guess what ?

Me : what ?

Ndalo : he is throwing a bash in the city we are invited

Me ? Going to a bash wow

Me : but you know me I'm the most boring human being alive

She laughs

Ndalo : trust me friend you'll love this

Me : who will be there? And what happens to bashes ?

Ndalo : a lot so I've heard but don't worry
we'll be safe

Me : okay

Ndalo : you're the best now I have to dash
we'll talk

Me : bye

We drop the call . But I can't shake this
uneasy feeling about Ndalo , she's my friend
though . Can she hurt me ?

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Nqabayomzi

Qhawe arrives with Lazola and seeing her I just get angered

Zipho : why are they here ?

She whispers

Lazola : wow this house is beautiful

She lets out that disturbing laugh of hers

Zipho : thank you

She says politely

Lazola : you girl are living the life heh ? You got it all , I swear out of all the Bangani wives you are the most cherished and spoilt . Look at all this

Qhawe shakes is head

Qhawe : bawo why are we here

Me : Mkhuluwa I need your wife to clear something for me

One thing about us is that we don't over step boundaries when it comes to each other's

wives . We don't even engage with the wives that much

Qhawe : let's hear it

Lazola : hawu bhuti mna

Qhawe : keep quite

She rolls her eyes if only it was my wife

Me : Lazola Bangani I want you to explain to me why you came here with intentions to kill my wife

The shock on her face says it all . She did not expect me to ask her such or even know

Qhawe : answer

He says looking at his wife

Lazola : babe I....bhuti why would you ask me that ?

Qhawe : when Nqaba asks you a question you answer you don't ask another question

Lazola moves back from him a bit you can't miss the fear in her

Qhawe : now

Lazola : bhuti I'm...so sorry it...it was
Mpilontle she...She was the one that....I
didn't ...

Before we know it Qhawe is choking the life
out of his wife

Zipho : Jola do something please

She begs I pull Qhawe off a screaming crying
Lazola

Qhawe : bawo I'm doing us all a favour

Me : not like this

Qhawe : if our own kills each other how much more of outsiders can they invite to hurt us

He's right about that . Mpilontle is an outsider now but if she has access to our family then how safe are we ?

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Mpilontle

Strange things are happening in this house .
Since that night I haven't been able to sleep at all . I literally look like a walking zombie .

Jay has let his friend have sex with me well rape me right in front of him . I'm not even allowed to go out anymore . Worse Lazola hasn't told me how far she is with getting that child on our plan . I need to get out of here soon

Jay : come here

He commands and like a little puppy I follow him . We walk into the backyard it looks so creepy . There's candles everywhere , what looks like blood and red meat , there's stings , blades and a knife

Me : w... what's this

I stop walking he gives me one look I try to run away but he pulls me , I trip and fall he just drags me

Me : p...please don't hurt me ..Jay please

Jay : my love there's a prince to everything

He throws me right in front of the Nigerian man .

Him : tie her

He instructs Jay , who takes the black strings and tie both my hands and feet . The man doesn't waste time tearing my dress apart

exposing my private part

Me : p...ple...ase no

I'm crying and begging this has been my life as of late . The man takes some blank stinky thing he mixes it with the red stuff that looks like blood . He roughly pushes the things inside of my pussy . Within seconds I get excruciating pains

I feel wetness between my thighs I look and I'm bleeding its burning down there . I'm screaming even my voice is hoarse

Me : Jay.... Please

Out of nowhere is guns everywhere I wiggle
and try to untie myself as both Jay and his
friend fall down with bullets through their
skulls

Me : please don't hurt me ...please don't hurt
me please

I'm roughly picked by a man I can't even see
his face

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Ziphozendalo

Qhawelomzi decided to leave his wife here in

my house . She's been crying holding her neck

Me : I'm...I'm sorry

She clicks her tongue . Okay I'm only apologizing because had I not said anything to Jola none of this would have happened

Lazola : this is all your fault , the same way that Nqaba fought with Mvelo that was also on you Mpilontle was right , and she's even more right to fight for her man now . No one likes you , everyone want you out of the Bangani home and believe me you soon you'll be out

Seems like everyone doesn't like me indeed .
My parents my in-laws it seems like I'm
cursed or something

I get up walk up the stairs , the pain on my
abdomen comes again I scream a bit it's
more painful than I've ever felt . And strange I
haven't gotten my periods this month , why
are they delaying to come ?

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Mpilontle

I'm in a strange room , I guess maybe I'm
thankful none of these men have had their
way with me . Even though I'm still bleeding

bad . The door opens and this creation of a man walks in . Look at me lusting over him while I'm in this predicament

Him : listen here and hear me very well . I don't like you even one bit if I had my way I would have let that freaking man sacrifice you because I don't give shit , buy I did a friend a favour and you'll help me or I assure you it won't end well for you Get the help you need and get the out of duck if your value your pathetic life . A single tear escapes Zendalo's eyes because of you you're dead . I don't give shit about Nqaba if he becomes a problem too I'll kill him

He walks out leaving me shaking in my intestines . Who is he and what is the

relationship with that tramp that took my man from me ?

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Nqabayomzi

I came to the house as soon as I can because my wife was sleeping so I'll be quick so when she wakes up I'll be home

I walk inside the room and she looks bad very bad not like the Mpilontle I fell in love with 10 years ago

Me : Mpilontle

She turns and looks at me , her expression has mixed emotions

Mpilo : Nqaba...babe it's you ... it's really you

Me : don't call me that , How are you feeling?

Mpilo : I'm ...how do you think I am?

Okay we are cheeky now

Mpilo : you left me Nqaba over one mistake and this is what has become of me all thanks to you

Me : did I send you to go fuck with another man in our house ?

Mpilo : had you not agreed for that bitch you call a wife to come between us none of that would have happened

Me : you make it seem like I had a choice

She laughs

Mpilo : don't give me that ancestors bullshit . You had always chose me Nqaba always and for once you didn't things went south

She's right about one thing that I've always chose her . 2 years into our marriage my gift

started bothering me I had to go initiate , coming from a Christian family she wasn't for that so I took about 5 years before I even do that . Which I didn't even decide to do . One night I went to sleep next thing I know I'm under water .

No one knew where I went until the ancestors told Xhanti . Mpilontle was against that , but I can say she learnt to live with the fact that I'm a traditional healer

It was weeks after I came back that I was shown MaJola , my ancestors wanted me to marry her for what reason I don't know . Again Mpilontle wasn't for that she said no and I listened . Until my ancestors had enough of my disobeying that they put me

into a deep sleep all because I didn't listen I chose to listen to Mpilontle

Me : if we are going to spend this time pointing fingers at each other I might as well leave

Mpilo : leave me alone again Nqaba . The same way that I have no one right now all thanks to you

Me : what

Mpilo : I have no relationship with my family all because.....

Me : because you chose to alienate them
when you came into money and riches

Her jaw drops

Me : that was your choice and your own doing

I leave . I better tell my wife the truth when I
get home because surely if she were to learn
about Mpilontle being back from someone
else I'll be in trouble

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Ziphozendalo

This man makes the hair behind my neck rise, and what is he doing here ?

Me : Jola is not here

Lubanzi : because he's with that whore of his ex wife

The lump on my throat

Lubanzi : don't cry in front of me because I'll kill Nqaba the second he walks through this door

His eyes glisten like that of the lion I saw I'm that dream or vision whatever it was

Me : you....it was you

Lubanzi : I don't like riddles much

Me : the white lion that...that was you ?

He smirks for a second I swear if you weren't paying attention you'd have missed it

Me : who are you ?

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Insert 07

Ziphosendalo

The tension in this living room of mine is too much , but I need to know . What role does Lubanzi play in all of this ?

Lubanzi : can you handle who we are ? That's the question you ought to ask

What does he mean who we are ?

Me : an answer would be very much appreciated at this moment

The door opens my husband walks in the heaviness that he's carrying falls on my shoulders like I'm carrying it with him

And him walking in has just ruined me finding the truth right now , well that's if I was going to find the truth

Nqaba : Xaluva

Lubanzi : Bangani

He looks at us

Nqaba : what's going on here ?

What kind of a question is that ? This is his friend what does he possibly think is going on

Lubanzi : I'll take my leave believing that every message I relayed across was taken into account , or blood will be spilled Bangani

He walks past me and he touches my shoulder . I feel the very same hot flush I felt at Bhelekazi's place .

Nqaba : what's wrong ?

He takes my hand as soon as Lubanzi leaves

Me : it's...I don't know

Nqaba : sweetheart you don't look okay

Me : I'll be fine

He leads me to the lounge I sit down .

Nqaba : can I get you anything

Me : no

He crouches in front of me . The look of guilt and shame that he has cannot be missed at all

Nqaba : he told you ?

Is that a rhetorical question ?

Me : we both know he did ... Jola forgive me for saying this but it seems like prince Lubanzi is more honest and open to me than my very own husband

The reaction I get is not what I expected . He takes a huge sigh and looks down

Me : will you ever see me beyond an ancestral wife ?

It's no use hiding all these feelings that are just hurting me . Maybe it's time I know my place in this family and in this marriage

Me : my father just shoved me to your family because they pleaded with him , he didn't care to ask me anything . But I'm a child and as a girl my word doesn't hold much

Nqaba : you're more than you realise

Me : you , your family , my family and these ancestors make me feel like a pawn that can be tossed aside anytime

I'm crying now and that damn pain comes again , but it's now or never If I don't burp all this I might never do it

Nqaba : I told you I can't loose you

Me : first sign Mpilontle is in trouble you go out of your way to make sure she's back into our lives , you leave me in our home and you go to her .

He looks at me his eyes are bloodshot red

Me : 10 months cannot be compared to 8 years I get that . Yours was love ours was not even arranged more like forced

Nqaba : don't say that

Me : it's the truth . I wasn't given a choice , and you were asleep . When you woke up everyone went on with their lives like nothing

happened so did you .

Nqaba : I...

Me : please

He nods

Me : I don't feel like a Bangani , no one gives a damn about me in that house . Quite frankly I think they all just tolerate me because your ancestors want me to be your wife

Nqaba : I want you to be my wife doesn't that matter ?

Me : Do you really want me Jola ? Or you fear what will happen if you let go

Nqaba : no

He raises his voice a bit and it actually scares me . There's just something about Nqaba's voice that's unsettling when he shouts .

Nqaba : I understand this is not normal circumstances ...

Me : that but will erase what you just said before it

Nqaba : sweetheart you're not giving me a

chance

Me : for 10 months I've given you chances

He gets up and sits next to me

Nqaba : I fucked up yes , Mpilontle will never replace you ever

Me : you went to her why ?

Cwaka (silence)

Me : I see

I get up and walk upstairs to our room .

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Ndalo

You ever feel like you've been denied an orgasm that's exactly how I feel right now .
Lazola went AWOL on me

She hasn't called nor texted absolutely nothing . Now I don't know is the plan still in motion or what ?

Luba : and then ?

I look at him , he takes the remote from me

Luba : are you dating ?

Me : what's it to you ?

Luba : you look like someone who's been
dumped

Well yes I do because I was promised to be a
Bangani but now it seems like it's not going to
happen

Luba : the dude finally saw the light big ups to
that

Me : must you always be such a dick

Luba : you're my sister it'll be distributing to even answer you

He's such an idiot

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Nqabayomzi

Last night was hell for me and I don't ever want to experience such Damn Lubanzi he just had to get here before me and tell my wife where I went , now it looks like I'm running after Mpilontle like she still matters

I made breakfast , nothing fancy . I've never
slaved in the kitchen so I don't know much.
My wife walks in

Me : guess the breakfast in bed is ruined

She smiles , it's like yesterday she wasn't
crying pouring her heart out to me . And it
actually made me realise just how I don't
deserve her at all

Zipho : you cooked ?

Me : sweetheart I tried

Zipho : I won't get food poisoning from this?

Me : I hope not

I pull a chair for her

Zipho : we should order just in case

She laughs I sit down opposite her as she dishes up

Me : please have faith

She nods and starts eating

Me : I'm sorry

Zipho : Jola I've heard so many riddles the last few weeks I'm tired . Give me as it is please

I chuckle

Zipho : I wasn't talking about sex so please

Me : can we tame your mind please

She laughs

Me : I'm sorry because in all honestly I dealt you a raw deal , actually we all did . But I won't account for everyone just myself . As your husband ancestors or not I should have

played my part , heard your views on this whole thing . Then together we would have found a better common ground and understanding . It's just me and you know and you shouldn't be feeling like you still come second best or that you're not enough

Zipho : Jola I feel like your ancestors wife than I am yours

Me : and that is all my fault , in the beginning the love wasn't what it is now . Truth of the matter is that I loved you the second my ancestors accepted you , but I thought it was just a spiritual force . It's later on I realised that I'm actually in love with you and that's when problems began . I loved Mpilontle I

was never in love with her

Zipho : still she knew her place in your life I
feel like mine was just to wake you up

Me : I'm a shitty hundred and that's for sure .
Siphiwo sam you've stuck it through with me
and at every turn I fail you . I don't think you
have ever cried this much in your life as I
have made you cry

She smiles and already you can see she
wants to cry . It's not even about the
pregnancy . My wife is broken and I keep
adding onto that

Zipho : I cry about everything lately

Me : please allow me to fix this

She holds her hand out I take it into mine

Zipho : see I know this life is not yours , you don't control yourself but you're controlled .
Jola I'm not upset that you ran to help your ex wife , but you don't talk to me I feel so belittled that you don't trust me . I'm the 17 year old that was forced upon a 28 year old married man . Who has lived and experienced life You were my first what do I know about love , life , marriage , and worse being married to a sangoma You're a people's person I get that and I'll never stand in between your gift nor can I even compete

with it , but can we please not make me look and feel like I'm competing with your ex wife . It was your choice to divorce her no one forced you to do so , you could have chosen to forgive her but you didn't You let me have that idea that now it's me and you , but 2 months later here she is . No matter how much a woman is confident about the loyalty of their husband in a case like this one can't help but wonder

Me : can we go see her and end this once and for all ?

Zipho : we ?

Me : yes we MaJola and Jola together , I am tired of hurting you and making you feel this way I'm really tired now I want you to know just who you are to me

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Mpilontle

To think I thought now I'm okay but here I am in this place no one has bothered to come see since last night . I still feel like someone prisoner of a kind

Even Nqaba I thought he'll come but nothing . Now I have no way of communicating with Lazola , I have no idea what's happening .

This situation that just happened can help me get back with Nqaba , he can feel pity for me and I'll be back in his arms

The door opens I sit up and he walks in . This man will always be the best in my eyes

Me : babe I know you will come back , look I'm sorry about last night . I didn't mean to put the blame on you , I was just hurt okay surely you can understand that

Nqaba : I understand and Mpilontle I told you not to call me that

Me : I...Nqaba I still love you and I want you back ...my love please we can fix us we can

Nqaba : there's no fixing it was even a mistake to bring you here so

Just then the bitch walks in glowing in all kinds of goodness

Me : you have got to be kidding me Nqaba you came here with this bitch of yours

Nqaba : and you'll refrain from calling my wife names

The pain of hearing him say my wife knowing she's the only one now . This tramp deserves nothing but death

Nqaba : I was a fool o can admit that , from the beginning it was always about you what you wanted and what worked for you . And I did all of that because I loved you . You took all of that and spat it right back on my face

Me : Nqaba please....we can still fix this okay I know we can

Nqaba : Mpilontle no , I divorced you for a reason

He holds the tramps hand as they sit down on the couch . I don't get why she's here honestly

Nqaba : .See here is the difference between men and women we know our worth and when we actually say we know our worth we actually mean it . Ain't no man that's going to forgive a cheating wife and still love her the same way , men don't forgive cheating women we just don't . Yes you felt betrayed yet I stressed this so many times that I wasn't cheating MaJola is my wife

Me : she took you away from me . Why wasn't I enough for your ancestors to choose me for you ? That was unfair on me and you know it

Now I'm crying , I don't care that this child will see me this vulnerable but it's about time they

both see how them being together hurt me
and it's still hurting me to this day

Nqaba : true it was unfair . But after initiation I asked you if you can do this because I wasn't the same Nqaba you married , and you said yes that you'll take me with everything I came with every baggage . I married you with your baggage and what you came with , some of the things you even think I don't know but I do I kept quiet because they didn't matter . All my brother's have kids yet I settled for a marriage with a wife who was more concerned about her figure than giving me kids

Shit

Nqaba : and I knew the reason behind that

Nqaba can't do this to me no he cannot air
my dirty laundry in front of this bitch he
cannot

Nqaba : it's not even about you not wanting
kids

Me : Nqaba please no...

He shakes his head assuring me he won't say
anything

Nqaba : listen I came here to apologize to my wife for bringing you here . After she expressed her feelings about this , but I had to save you from being sacrificed . And now that's done you can leave My wife and I we have agreed that whatever money your clothes that I sold were I'll give it to you

They get up

Nqaba : Mpilontle you'll do me a favour and stay far from my wife try any of your schemes again be it you or Lazola or whoever you'll involve this time around , you'll never live to tell the tale

They walk out , I scream my lungs out ,
there's no way this bitch has won no i refuse

How can I be such an idiot . Nqaba seems to
know everything there isn't lying to him. I
come from a poor background , my mother is
a domestic worker she was raising 4 children
all on her own . My brother is a criminal that's
always in and out of Jail . And all my sister
knew was selling her body

I'm beautiful , boys always admired that and
in high school before I met Nqaba . I would
sleep with those rich boys , they did
everything for me . Pity I wasn't that clever I
got pregnant twice and both times I aborted
the babies .

That's why I never wanted to have kids . I'm not haunted no that was my choice and my decision , I just can never see myself being selfish raising another baby when I aborted 2 already . I thought I was safe from that .

So Nqaba always knew , can it be the reason why his ancestors didn't see me enough to be his only wife But who are they to judge me. Now I remember Xhanti said they wanted Nqaba to marry a woman of a pure heart .
Two abortions and I'm not pure

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Insert 08

At the Bangani homestead

Ntsikayesizwe along with Mpande and their wives have just arrived . The kids came with Mqhele and Nolitha

Ntsika : the air in this place

Mpande : what did we miss ?

Qhawe : a lot

Things are a bit rocky between Qhawelomzi and his wife

Mqhele : why did you beat Lazola

His brother's look at him shocked

Ntsika : he what ?

Qhawe : I wouldn't call a slap a beating

Mpande : why the hell would you slap her ?

Qhawe : she was scheming to kill Nqaba's baby girl along Mpilontle

He says laughing , which shocks the others because it's unlike Mqhele to laugh

Ntsika : and that's amusing to you ?

Mpande : how are they both still alive ?

Mqhele : I'm telling you the day Nqaba burst ,
this family will be covered in blood

The brothers all nod . They get a feeling and
know what Mqhele is talking about

Mpande : he's been keeping a lot inside

Mqhele : too much

Ntsika : we should call him home

Mqhele : as if that will help , it's only a matter
of life before he spills blood

Qhawe : and I'll be very far when that happens

Mpande : can I tag along ?

Mqhele : such a coward

They laugh

Mpande : better because we will all feel his wrath and I don't want to fall victim to that

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Nqabayomzi

I've been looking after my wife all weekend she wasn't feeling well . But I can say the baby is okay because I haven't seen or felt anything off about our child .

My phone rings and it's Xhanti . It's very rare for this man to pick up and phone and call anyone . I just hope he's not summoning me home because I don't want to go to Isilo anytime soon . I answer

Me : Xhanti

Xhanti : what did I say about letting that Xaluva boy near your wife ?

This again

Me : are you aware that I don't control either of them ?

Xhanti : kwedini... (Boy)

Me : ungandiphambanisi (don't drive me insane)

I roar at him , seer or not he will or dare disrespect me like I'm some fucking child

Xhanti : I hope you handle what's coming your way

He fucking hangs up on me . Xhanti is full of shit

Lubanzi can't be told as if I can tell him to stay away from my wife . And why must he stay away from her ?

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Ziphozendalo

After all that drama with Mpilontle , I spent the whole weekend cooped up in bed . I don't feel okay at all . One minute I'm okay the next I'm not . Just one last exam and I'll be done with high school . I cannot wait to enjoy my holidays . I'm walking out the gate when I

spot Ndalo along with some of our
classmates

Me : Ndalo

She looks at me and says something to them,
then walks to me .

Ndalo : hey stranger

She tries to hug me but strange her hand was
aiming for my stomach , I dodge that

Ndalo : and then ? No more hugs...what's up
with that?

Why did I move like that ?

Me : uhm...it's nothing wethu ...listen I won't make it to the bash

Her face drops with disappointment and frustration

Ndalo : but Zipho you promised

Me : no I said okay

Ndalo : wow...you know what I won't beg you.

Her tone is off now

Ndalo : since you're a Bangani I guess you think you're better off than the rest of us mxm

Okay where is this coming from now ?

Me : Ndalo I'm not okay I...

Ndalo : save it

She walks away leaving me like a freaking idiot . What did I miss ?

Best I go see Bhelekazi because I want to go to the river before I head back home .

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Ndalo

As much as Lazola is quite , I still intend to go ahead with the plan

Luba : was that Zipho?

Me : yeah and she's not coming to your stupid bash

Luba : fuck no , I plan to have she can't do that go me

He rushes off to her , what an idiotic brother I have . I turn and look at them he has his hand over her shoulders .

Me : perfect

I take my phone and snap the moment . I look at the picture and it's perfect .

Me : Lazola will take me serious after this

I send the picture to her . It makes Lubabalo and Ziphosendalo look like a high school it couple

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Ziphosendalo

Lubabalo kept begging me to come to his bash I said no , he gave up after being defeated

I walk inside the hut since it's open but there's no one in the kitchen . I get scared a bit

Me : Bhelekazi ?

I shout

Bhelekazi : hayhiii Zipho uyaxola (you're making noise)

She responds from the bedroom I sigh in relief

Me : wethu ndizok'bona (bruh I'm here to see you)

She laughs . Being back here reminds me of the last time I was here . She comes out

Me : you're aging gracefully

She smiles we sit down

Bhelekazi : it's good genes even when I'm wrinkled they just won't go away

Me : aww mchanam injalo lawei (oh so it's like that)

We laugh , good people nothing beats being with this woman . She makes everything okay

Bhelekazi : what's on your mind ?

Me : yhoh everything and anything

I narrate all the Mpilontle drama to her , when I'm done I feel like I've offloaded

Bhelekazi : oh sana lwam you're too young for all this nonsense

Me : tell me about it , yaz I feel like I've wronged someone somewhere maybe in my past life

Bhelekazi : there's no such , you're just way too special

Me : don't make me feel cheap

We laugh

Bhelekazi : must you always twist everything

Me : hayhiii wethu

Bhelekazi : it's good to see and hear you laughing like this

Me : and I'm afraid it won't last , it never does

Bhelekazi : Sana lwam

Me : Bhelekazi do you think I'm adopted ?

She coughs like crazy , I want to get her a glass of water but this is suspicious I want to see her reaction until the end . It takes a few minutes until she's done and she gets that glass of water herself

Bhelekazi : nton ngawe heh (what is it with you)

I give her a stare blank

Bhelekazi : you want me to die ?

Me : uyayibhanxa ngok (you're exaggerating now)

I want an answer and I'm not leaving without it

Bhelekazi : undibuza njani into enjena (how do you ask me such a thing?)

Me : umbuzo qha (it's just a question)

Bhelekazi : uyabazi abazali bakho (you know your parents)

Me : the very same parents who sold me off ,
then want nothing to do with me ?

Cwaka (silence)

Me : I don't know Zulu I've never even tried to
speak it , I've never associated with anyone
who speaks it

She looks around like she's searching for a
while to get in

Me : but a white female lion told me to find
home and it was uttered in Zulu

She laughs like I'm crazy , well maybe I am
but this old woman of mine is hiding
something from me

Bhelekazi : a white lion , child animals don't
talk

Me : fine be like that , and if I dare find the
truth on my own while you knew and kept it
from me , you'll be like everyone else that's
abounded me

I've hit a nerve , the look she gives me . Good
people I love this woman to bits no ways I can
cut her off my life . I just want to push her to
tell me something

Me : there's something the lion kept saying
but it's a pity after the visions my mind is
always foggy like something is blocking me

Bhelekazi : maybe you're not supposed to
know yet

Me : I demand to know . Look at me

Bhelekazi , is this the life you want for me ?

She sighs

Bhelekazi : child

Me : ndiphendule (answer me)

Bhelekazi : hayhiii (no)

Me : then please help me , I beg of you

She nods

Bhelekazi : but I have to take a journey
somewhere , after it I promise I'll tell you
everything you want to know

That's better than nothing right

Me : how long will you be gone ?

Bhelekazi : just a few days

Me : thank you

Bhelekazi : I'll do anything for you Zipho

Me : I know

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Mpilontle

That creation of a man walks in . He's in formal three piece slim fit suit as always

Him : Nqaba has made the payment he said he will so get your flat ass out of here

I've been kept here and I don't know where I am

Me : just like that ?

Him : the fuck you think this is ?

Yhoh say no more , I get off the bed and put on my shoes . He hands me a card a small paper that's written pin on the 4 numbers on it

Me : thank you

Him : bitch don't thank me

For a handsome men he's fucking arrogant . I walk towards the door and hold the handle

Him : remember what I said ?

He raises his brow

Him : hurt Zendalo make her cry I swear I'll finish you off

I can feel his damn promise but fuck I'm not giving up on getting Nqaba , and if it means stepping on that bitch so be it

Him : try me

His voice is as cold as ice . I walk out before he says anything more , what's his deal with

that child anyways or he's another one that wants her ? Mxm

The shock of seeing that I'm actually at Isilo , so all this time I've been here ?

Ziphozendalo

This place calms me in a way I never even realised before . I've always come here but today it feels different . Besides just drawing water here I just sat on my rock and admired the water . Today I feel drawn to it

So here I am barefoot with my feet in the water , somehow I feel like I'm in a foreign land yet feels like home

Me : so this is what peace feels like

I close my eyes , I'm making this a habit

What appears in front of me , I feel like I'm looking at myself in the mirror only difference is that this is the older version of myself .I've never seen a white grey eyes person like myself but here she is .

Her : Ngonyama

That damn name again , can I please not forget it once I open my eyes . I have so many questions . She sounds like she's calling me .

Me : wh...who are you ?

She smiles , even the smile it's me exactly

Her : ngicabanga umbuzo omkhulu onawo ukuthi wena ungubani (I think the big question you have is who are you)

She's speaking Zulu , my voice is actually irritating and annoying now that I hear it from someone else

Me : am I you ?

Her : you're a product of Ngonyama so yes

What does that mean ?

Me : who is this Ngo... Ngonyama?

Her : take a look

She disappears like she was never here , all I see is nothing but darkness I try to open my eyes but they can't open

Me : lord no...please no

I'm at the river alone , my eye cannot be shut

Voice : shhhhhh

I try to control my breathing , I shouldn't panic especially because I start feeling those abdomen pains again

Me : lord ...please ahhh

I scream a bit touching my stomach the most beautiful thing happens , I hear a baby's laughter it's so soothing . Suddenly there's movement in my stomach , I cannot explain this feeling ... But I feel whole like I'm completely whole fully .

It feels like someone is playing inside of my tummy there , but how? I'm not pregnant .

The woman appears again and she's holding a baby .

Her : sondela (come closer)

Somehow I seem to walk closer to her yet I still feel my feet stuck at the river where I've been standing . I look at the baby it's the younger version of me well the baby version of me

Me : is this your baby ?

I've never seen such a beautiful baby , okay she's the only baby I've ever seen .

Her : she's a product of Ngonyama

Yhuh that doesn't even make sense . The little human being opens her eyes . This baby is me

Her : you need to find home Ngonyama

Why is she confusing me so much and what home ? She holds the baby's hand out to me there's a mark there it's white like white paint I can't make out what it is

Her : he has the same mark , he will bring you home . You're taking too long

She fades away slowly I don't want her to go ,
but I can't cry and beg a woman I don't know
to stay with me I open my eyes

Me : he has the same mark

That's the first thing I utter out of my mouth

Me : he

I don't know but there's only one person who
can sense of this whole nonsense . He got
away the first time it won't happen again .

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Insert 09

Nqabayomzi

We turned one of the rooms here as an ancestral sacred room where I can do my things , since the ndumba (ancestral sacred hut) is at home and it cannot be moved for now . I've been in here all morning trying to see if there's anything I can get about my wife, she's really not okay . And coming from the village yesterday she seems even worse . But I haven't gotten nothing .

A slight knock comes at the door , she opens the door and peeks through . I smile she returns it

Zipho : can I come in ?

Me : only you can come in

She walks in barefoot , that doesn't please me it's still in the early hours of the morning and it's a bit chilly

Zipho : I'm not disturbing ?

She sits down

Me : no , they don't want to talk to me

We laugh

Zipho : then I can talk to you

Me : ndimamele (I'm listening)

Zipho : Jola I need your help

Me : okay

Zipho : can you please ask your friend to come here ?

That can only be Lubanzi

Me : mmmm why?

Zipho : I need questions to some answers and I believe only he can answer me right now

Me : should I be worried ?

Zipho : no, not at all

I nod

Me : okay , I'll call him

She looks at me surprised , maybe because I didn't make a fuss about this . But that's because for the first time I genuinely feel like we are communicating with each other and not just at each other

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At the Bangani homestead

Lazola has been looking at the picture from Ndalo . She's battling with herself what to do with it . There's a part that wants Mpilontle to have the picture , another is scared of what might happen if it's found out she's responsible for giving it

Mvelo : where did you get that ?

She's startled by his voice

Lazola : don't you know how to mind your business ?

Mvelo : that looks like Zipho

Ntsika : what did Nqaba say about his wife
being addressed with her maiden name here?

He says walking in with Amahle his wife

Mvelo : xolo mkhuluwa

He looks at Lazola

Mvelo : I hope whatever nonsense you are
planning you leave it . Nqaba is not Qhawe
he won't just choke or slap you

He walks away

Ntsika : he will kill you

He also walks out . Leaving Lazola alone with
he thoughts not knowing what to do

Lazola : Nqaba is a traditional healer , there's
no way he can spill blood I refuse to believe
that . Mpilontle will get this picture no matter
what

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Nqabayomzi

Nothing beats having this intense eye contact with her . It feels like she's searching for something within my eyes . Some kind of validation and I hope she finds it

Her hands are all over my back if I don't have scratches it'll be a miracle .

Me : ndiyak'thanda (I love you)

Zipho : nam.....(me too)

I trail to her neck , sucking hard leaving wet kisses . She moves her hips slowly underneath me , meeting my thrusts . Her walls close it I lift my face we lock eyes . Her moans increase a bit . I thrust in deeper and

enjoy the beautiful sight underneath me as she orgasms

Me : are you okay ?

She just nods . I'm pleased , I get off her walk to the bathroom . I wet a towel . One thing she hates as of late is being sticky because of sex sweat , doesn't even make sense to me . Something catches my eye , her sanitary towels haven't been opened this month . And I haven't heard her cry about period pains

Does this mean it's time , she's ready to know? I walk back to the bedroom and wipe her , return the towel back to the bathroom . I get in bed and cuddle her

Me : sweetheart you're okay right , and not in pain ?

Zipho : just my coochie complaining a bit but I'm okay

The fear of making love to my wife as of late , she's pregnant and her months have gone by. The last thing I want is hurting her or the baby. But she sulks so bad when I don't pay attention to her like that , I end up obliging because I don't want her to think that maybe I'm getting it somewhere

Me : are you okay

She nods

Me : then tell me

She laughs lazily

Zipho : Jola you asked me that three times already

Me : mmmm

Zipho : okay I'm okay

Me : that's too many okays

Zipho : I know right

We laugh

Me : you haven't had your periods

I say more than asking

Zipho : I know and I've been having abdomen pains for the past weeks not everyday though, some days I'm fine but nothing blood coming out

I look at her

Zipho : nton (what)

Me : must you say it like that

She laughs , I kiss her forehead

Zipho : I missed that

Me : I know

Zipho : anyways do you think something is wrong with me ?

Me : you're way past your cycle date

Yes that I'm that husband who knows his wife's cycle . Throughout she's been getting her periods and I think it was just a way to make her not be aware that she's pregnant

Me : we'll go to the doctor

Zipho : yhoh ihamba Jola (such exaggeration)

The pains are worrying me , and I wish she could have told me sooner

Me : hayhiii

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Mpilontle

I finally got a phone and a small apartment right at Isilo , just in the city . I won't leave this place , I'm way too close and leaving will only mean I'm accepting defeat

The apartment is nothing huge or big nor even fancy but it's a roof over my head . I've been thinking of going home to my parents , just to try and make amends . Even though I know I'll probably not be welcomed there

It would be even better if Nqaba is by my side. Then they can see I can hold a man down . And there's no way they won't welcome me with man like him by my side . I

managed to get Lazola's number on Facebook , I didn't even know that even in these crazy times we live in people still leave their numbers carelessly like that . I make the call and the phone rings, after a while she answers

Lazola : Bangani hello

Is this how she answers her phone to strangers ?

Me : really ?

Lazola : it's you ? Hey where have you been leaving me dry like that ?

Me : long story , do you have anything for me
She laughs , lord knows how I hate this laugh
of hers

Lazola : Ndalo came through

Me : which one ?

Lazola : silly the other child that wants Nqaba,
let me send you the picture

I hope it's something compromising the
message comes through . I take a look and
it's not that damning but then it's something

Me : perfect

Lazola : I thought so as well

Me : we'll talk soon , send me Nqaba's number

I'm sure he's changed the one I know .

Lazola : where am I supposed to get it ?

These damn Bangani brothers with their stupid rule of not being too friendly with each other's wives

Me : I don't know Lazola , steal it from Qhawe's phone . Must I think for you

I drop the call . She won't be happy about that, but I know she will get me those numbers and Nqaba will have this picture .

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Ziphozendalo

I'm writing my last exam tomorrow and I can't wait . With the way I'm feeling it's for the best. Ndalo has totally ghosted me , I tried calling her she rejects my calls and on WhatsApp she has blocked me it's only on Instagram that we're still following each other . I wonder

what's her deal , or could I have been right that she's also plotting against me ? If that's the case then you can never say you know anyone . A knock comes at the door I go open and just seeing him makes me feel in a way I cannot comprehend

Lubanzi : I won't stand at your doorstep like I'm some delivery man

Aibo must he be this rude and arrogant ?

Me : sorry

I make way for him he gets in , did he have to arrive right now ? Jola went to court so I'm all alone and I wanted my husband to be here

when I ask Lubanzi all the questions I have .
We walk to the lounge and sit down in
awkward silence from my side that is ,
because the man looks so comfortable like he
owns this house

Me : can I get you a drink ?

Lubanzi : do you have Irish scotch?

I shake my head no , I've never seen my
husband consume any alcohol I wonder if he
even drinks

Lubanzi : then no

I nod , we are sitting opposite each other . I fiddle with my fingers like I'm a little child

Me : do you have a mark , a white mark like a paint on your hands ?

Did I just ? Yes I did

Lubanzi : no

What ? No ways

Me : are you sure ?

He holds his perfect hands out and the man has no white mark

Me : well can you speak Zulu

Lubanzi : yes

That's better

Me : uhm You're royalty so do you perhaps know if lions talk or anything like that?

I put my hand under my chin and stare at him, he stares right back at me

Lubanzi : lions of a certain lineage maybe in royalty yes

Me : which lineage is that ? More especially with white female lions

Lubanzi : Ngonyama Kingdom in KZN

I pop my eyes yes this man is royalty meaning he can know about them , because kingdoms always form alliances with other kingdoms

Me : KZN as in KwaZulu-Natal

Lubanzi : is there another ?

Yhoh his arrogant self

Me : do you know people from there , like do they maybe have white paint marks on their hands or maybe eyes like mine ?

Lubanzi : your eyes are unique no one has them , well except Ngonyama the fallen Golden Goddess

Ngonyama that's the name now I remember it

Me : Ngonyama

He says nothing , I wasn't asking either just stating

Me : this fallen Golden Goddess with eyes like mine , she's this Ngonyama ?

Lubanzi : yes

So why was I called that in the dream ?

Me : did she perhaps have this mark ?

Lubanzi : no and it's not paint , it's the mark of Ngonyama on all the descendants of her lineage

I know it she's a female

Me : where exactly in KZN is this Ngonyama Kingdom ?

Lubanzi : ever heard of the lost world , the lost city ?

Me : yes

Have I really ? Good people I don't know maybe I'm lying

Lubanzi : well Ngonyama Kingdom is like the lost kingdom I can't direct you to it but I can take you to it

Me : can you take me there ?

Voice : take you where ?

Oh great , I look at him he smiles

Me : to Ngonyama Kingdom in KZN

Nqaba : Ngonyama Kingdom where is that ?

He sits down next to me

Me : Jola I just said in KZN

Nqaba : well no Lubanzi you're not taking my wife anywhere right now

Me : but...

Nqaba : sweetheart remember we have to go see the doctor

Lubanzi : she's not sick

What does he know ? Besides I am sick

Me : I'm sick

He raises his brow , and he's just mocking me with that

Nqaba : did he answer your questions ?

Me : yes he did

Nqaba : that's good

His phone beeps indicating a message he opens it I don't bother looking at him but his facial expression , it changes instantly .

Whatever message he just received can't be good

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Insert 10

Nqabayomzi

I keep reading the message over and over again

Lubanzi : are you still with us ?

I look at my wife , she looks scared. One would swear I physically abuse this woman . Why is she the way she is right now ?

Me : can we talk ?

She is hesitant

Me : MaJola

She looks at me , and doesn't look like she wants to go anywhere talk with me in private . I don't want to think the worst about my wife

right now . There's no way she can do this I'm sure there's an explanation for this

Zipho : uhm....is everything okay?

Me : I said let's go talk

She gets up

Lubanzi : lay one finger on her Bangani

This one and his promises . We walk into the kitchen , she keeps so much distance from me

Me : are you scared of me ?

She shakes her head but you can see it's a lie

Me : why would you be scared of me ?

Zipho : last time I saw you like that , Mvelo was unrecognisable

Oh that

Me : explain this to me sweetheart

I hand her the phone , it has to password she opens the message . Her expression tells me

this is fucking innocent and she wasn't even aware a picture was being taken

Zipho : this is me and Lubabalo he's Ndalo's brother , it was father I had written my exam last week he was begging me to go to his bash

She hands me the phone back

Me : bash ?

She nods

Zipho : Ndalo asked me first and when I told her I can't go she wasn't happy , her brother came he begged I told him no as well

Me : I see

She turns to walk away

Me : did you see Mpilontle is the one who sent the picture ?

She turns back , I don't have her numbers anymore but let's thank True caller

Zipho : yes Jola your ex wife wants you back and she will do whatever and anything to

break us up , who knows they didn't plan the whole picture thing

Now I've hurt my wife by asking about this , she walks out on me . Lubanzi walks in

Lubanzi : you shouldn't have even asked her shit

Me : stay out of this

Lubanzi : one last chance , make up your mind . Mpilontle or Zendalo choose before I make the choice for you

He leaves . I have no choice no make I
already did that , buy clearly I need to get my
life into order . Before I lose what I have over
something that's not

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Ziphozendalo

These people are so out to get to me , who
would even take that picture ? I wonder if
Lubabalo knew about this , and it was just a
set up for me . For the first time ever I went to
bed not talking to my husband . He tried
talking but I wasn't up for it , and I was just
feeling worse

Me : morning Jola

He's having coffee , I kiss his cheek and sit next to him

Me : that smells awful

He chuckles

Nqaba : you don't like coffee

Me : no , please forgive me for last night . I wasn't myself

Nqaba : I am sorry for making you feel like I'm accusing you of something

Me : no you didn't , and it was your right to ask that's what you did

Nqaba : you're not angry ?

Me : no

He's surprised

Me : we were talking , I got hurt because it seems like I can never catch a break

Nqaba : I'm sorry

Me : you should tell your ex to leave me alone, it's you she wants not me

He looks at me like I'm mad , I laugh

Me : I'm serious

Ndalo

I may be naïve maybe but I'm not stupid ,
clearly I'm being used here and I fell for it .
Lazola got the picture not once did she call
me or even text , she's totally ghosted me

And I feel like I've lost a friend for what ,
absolutely nothing . As much as I envy
Zipho's life , she was still my friend . Now I
have nothing

Mom : you're sad as of late

We finished with exams so we are done with school . I won't even go that bash Lubabalo is having . What's the point of celebrating ? I don't feel like I have anything to celebrate

Me : can I ask ?

Mom : of course

I get up and help her chop the cabbage

Me : have you ever done something wrong , knowing that it's wrong and will hurt someone

you care about , but you still went ahead and did it , all for nothing ?

Mom : I think we all have done things we are not proud of

Me : but how does one fix that ?

Mom : real question is do you want to fix it , or you're just feeling bad because guilt is eating you up ?

Or maybe it's because I see I've been used and I won't get Nqaba either way . Because for a fact if I was to get him , I wouldn't care nor feel this way

Me : I...I don't know

Mom : then stay away from this person you wronged

Me : but...

Mom : silence is better than a fake apology , save both yourself the drama of doing something that's not from the heart

Maybe it's for the best , besides I'll be moving to Cape Town soon

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Ziphosendalo

Nothing feels good like being done with school . I shall wait to see what NMU awaits for me . It's been a week Bhelekazi is still not back and I don't think I have the patience to wait for her any longer . She's been gone for a 9 days to be exact

Nqaba : I would like to hear what's your mind

We are going to his home and if it was me I wouldn't be going there , I don't want to go but Nqaba misses his brother's

Me : please let Lubanzi take me to Ngonyama

He sighs , honestly we are okay . The whole Mpilontle thing didn't even make us fight , it was just that one night

Me : Jola please

I beg , I have a feeling that I have to go to that place

Nqaba : let's make a deal

I smile

Nqaba : aww sisi nomkitha , it has nothing to do with sex (my stunning lady)

Yhoh what a bummer

Me : okay

Nqaba : look at you sulking

Me : stop...so what is it?

Nqaba : you go see a doctor before you leave

Me : done

Since we never went to see that doctor , I don't mind even though the pains have stopped but I still haven't had my period

Nqaba : and I'm coming with

Hell no

Me : with that much tension between you and Lubanzi ? For friends who have know each other for years , you two don't like each other very much

He laughs

Nqaba : Lubanzi is like a little brother to me and brother's always fight

Me : not like you two

Nqaba : either way sweetheart that's the deal
take it or its not happening

Me : fine

He sighs again , I've realised he does this
when I stress him

Nqaba : you really want to go there?

Me : yes

He holds my hand

Nqaba : okay ...you'll go

Me : thank you

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At the Bangani homestead

The wives are cooking in the kitchen , while the brothers are outside near the pool having drinks

Mpande : so you've fixed things ?

Qhawe : mkhuluwa you don't fix things with a traitor you make it seem like you have , so you're more vigilant for when they strike the next time

Ntsika : that's messed up

Qhawe : that's how messed up I felt when I found out the kind of woman I'm married to

Ntsika : bawo tell me how is our wife doing

Nqaba shoots his twin brother a stare

Ntsika : I have a feeling to come spend the week at your house

Nqaba : Ntsika stop with that nonsense

Ntsika : uyakhweleta (are you
jealous)

The brothers laugh

Ntsika : kalok I'm your twin brother

Mqhele : worse identical

Ntsika : which makes me you and you me

Nqaba : fuck no

Ntsika : but ndoda , I haven't spent time with
our wife to get to know her better

Nqaba : Ntsika I said no , I don't fucking want any of your near my wife

Mpande : yakhweleta le ndoda (this man is jealous)

Nqaba : the last time I wasn't , one of you tried their luck on my wife

They burst out laughing , since Mvelo is not even with them

Mpande : that boy got a beating of his life he'll never forget

Qhawe : we should hook him up

Mqhele : draught season has surely been
killing him since his baby mama

Ntsika : don't go there

Nqaba : stop with this hooking people up you
did it once and it was enough

Mqhele : we fucking woke you up

Nqaba : my wife did you mean

Ntsika : fuck man you're whipped

They laugh

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Ziphozendalo

I want to be out of here the sly comments that are being made . The things we endure for the ones we love , if it wasn't Nqaba I wouldn't be here . I'm not bothered being in my house

Nolitha : Zipho...that's your name right ?

This one likes acting like the boss of all the Bangani wives just because she's the first wife

Amahle : yes Nolitha stop being silly

Hah Ntsikayesizwe's wife she likes acting like the sweet innocent lamb, good people all fake a whole fat sheep in wolfs clothing

Nolitha : oh yeah , well I forget we were so used to Mpilontle that we can't make nor tell the difference

She has got to kidding me

Me : well then just call me whatever you want

Lazola : heh now you're showing your true colours

Lihle laughs , she's Mpande's wife her and Nolitha are the same just because she's the second wife

Lihle : you might think we don't like you but...

Lazola coughs letting them know that yes she hates me

Amahle : Lazola

Lazola : speak for yourselves , I hate her to the core . She's the same reason why I got choked and slapped

Nolitha : wherever you're concerned there's always violence

Lazola : exactly , that's what I told her

Her phone rings she looks at it and smiles

Lazola : look who it is

She shows them , well us all and it's Mpilontle

Amahle : you're still communicating

Nolitha : put her on speaker

She does as told

Nolitha : MaJana

Cwaka (silence) but you can hear her
breathing

Lazola : relax darling , we are all here the
ladies want to say him

Mpilo : you scared me a bit

They all laugh

Mpilo : the whole crew is together

Amahle : along with your replacement

Yhoh I cannot , I walk away and they laugh
their lungs out . Someone grabs my arms as I
get to the corridor , I turn and it's Mvelo

Me : Bhuti

Mvelo : you'll never stop calling me that

He's way too close for comfort , I want him a
far away from me . I yank my hand off

Mvelo : I heard everything

Great

Mvelo : you don't deserve any of this
Yeah well I don't but what's it to him ?

Mvelo : Zipho , I love you

Hell no , God why do you hate me so much .
Not this again

Mvelo : I have always loved you

Me : bhuti Mvelo please

Mvelo : so Nqaba gave me a beating , was that supposed to take the feelings I have for you away ?

I will never get a break I swear

Mvelo : I can make you happy , Nqaba doesn't deserve you . Right now he's out there with his brother's laughing having fun while the bitter wives are ganging up on you

I feel some wetness between my thighs , whatever is it it's wet and hot

Me : please leave

Mvelo : give me a chance , let's see how...

Me : leave me the hell alone

I scream my lungs out at him , taking a deep breath tears are already threatening to come out I'm in pain

Mvelo : you're...you're bleeding

I scream as camps hit my abdomen I feel like my something is twisting in there and the movement in my stomach doesn't help either, I feel such string kicks . The wives all appear

Nolitha : what's going on

Mvelo : sisi she's ... we need help

Lazola : Nqaba will kill both of you today

These idiots they think we are busy cheating on Nqaba here , while I feel like I'm dying

The rest of the brothers come in , surely my screams have called them in

Mqhele : what's going on ?

Nqaba : shit

He's first to see , that something is
wrong

Nqaba : my wife is bleeding and you're all
standing here like fucking statues

Me : Jola ...I...

He doesn't wait he just picks me up, running
to the car he places me in the back . Ntsika
gets in the drivers seat and drives out

Ntsika : bawo where ?

Nqaba : hospital

Will he make it in time ?

Nqaba : it's going to be okay

Me : it ...hurts

Nqaba : shhhh it's okay , both of you are going to be okay

Us : both ?

Nqaba : Ntsika drive

Yeiiy he cannot avoid the question

Me : what doyou mean both ?

He ignores me

Me : Nqaba

I don't think I've ever raised my voice this loud . I'm in pain , crying and he's frustrating me worse

Nqaba : you're pregnant okay , please it's calm down

Me : oh no...no ...no I can't lose my child
Nqaba no

He holds me so tight

Nqaba : you're 8 months it's okay

What the hell is he talking about . His phone rings it's Lubanzi he ignores it

Me : ah....call him back

Nqaba : Lubanzi can wait right now

Me : just do it

I shout again taking deep breaths in and out
I'm even heating

Ntsika : just call the damn guy pregnant
woman are crazy

Did he just say I'm crazy ? Nqaba's phone rings again he answers

Nqaba : ndoda now is...

He gets cut off by whatever Lubanzi is saying.
He drops the call frustrated .

Nqaba : Ntsika go to the palace

Ntsika : are you....

Nqaba : just do it

Me : I swear...if I lose this child ...

Nqabayomzi Bangani you whole lot will pay
for it

Ntsika : mnfazi wethu please keep me out of
it (our wife)

He says making a U-turn to the palace

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Mpilontle

It's been a week and Nqaba hasn't said
anything , he even blocked me That one must
have been fed some kind of a portion , there's

no way a child's pussy is making him ignore me like this . Or maybe he's still dealing with the second betrayal ? That would work for me perfectly . The ladies had to cut our call short because of some drama between that brat and Mvelo I'm so eager to know what's happening . She's very busy , and I hope this time Nqaba sees the bitch she is and comes back home where he belongs to me

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Note Lubanzi is just a mystery here he story has nothing to do with him don't even try to understand . Until we meet on *The Isilo Royal Family*

Insert 11

At the Royal Palace

Lubanzi is pacing up and down

Ntando : calm down

Ntando is Lubanzi's protector

Ntando : Ngonyama

He looks at him , Ntando takes a step back

Lubanzi : I won't hurt you

Ntando : calm down and I'll actually believe that shit

He's nearing towards the door

Lubanzi : really ?

Ntando : look at yourself , if she sees you like this she'll screaming running right back to that homestead

Lubanzi takes a few minutes trying to control his breathing , it takes a toll on him .
Eventually he gets fine

Ntando : that's better , and they're here

They both run out to the car , the second Lubanzi lands his eyes on Ziphozendalo rage takes over him

Ntando : fuck take her into the west chamber now

He shouts at Nqaba who obliges , only because of his weak bleeding , screaming and crying wife . He certainly does not appreciate the way Ntando just spoke to him . They get into the chamber , and he places Ziphozendalo on the bed

Lubanzi : you Bangani's are fucking poking me

Ntsika : can we help her and stop throwing ..

Lubanzi : did I say you can talk ?

Ntsikayesizwe is not very much acquainted with Lubanzi , so he has no idea of his behaviour

He looks at his twin brother who seems to be having hard , his heart bleeds for him because he can feel the pain his brother is feeling

Ntsika : okay ...I'm quite

He raises his hand up in surrender

Lubanzi : Ntando

Ntando : on top of it

He walks towards the bed

Nqaba : be careful with her

The pleading in his voice , all three guys feel it . It makes Ntando pity him , breaks Ntsikayesizwe's heart, makes Lubanzi control his rage .

Lubanzi : let's talk

He walks out Nqaba follows him , leaving Ntsikayesizwe alone with Ntando and Ziphozendalo

Lubanzi : I don't get why you had to drag her there , you could have gone on your own it's your home after all not hers

Nqaba : and she's my wife

Lubanzi : Mkhuluwa your family is toxic for Zendalo and from now on she's off limits

Nqaba : if you want to burst go ahead
Lubanzi I don't have your energy right now

The man is drained

Lubanzi : I don't have yours either , now...

A loud scream from the chamber sends them rushing back in . Nqaba stops at the door as he seems the pain his wife is in .

Ntsika : I can't watch this

He walks out . Lubanzi takes out his phone and makes a call lucky for him the other person answers

Lubanzi : Ndlovukazi kubi (my queen it's bad)

He takes the phone and puts it on

Ziphozendalo's ear , it's a crazy for a few seconds before she slowly calms down .

Ntando : she's sleeping , we don't have much longer

Lubanzi : estimate at least

Ntando : 5 hours

Nqaba : you two are not saying my wife has 5 hours to live are you ?

Lubanzi : listen here , until she delivers this baby I want you and your whole fucking family away from her , Ntando get the bag

Nqaba : Xaluva you're fucking with me

He says chuckling

Lubanzi : help her bath and change we don't have much time

He walks out with Ntando leaving Nqabayomzi with his wife . He may not understand anything right now but he gets that this is a pressing matter

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Nqabayomzi

Ntsika : she's going to be okay

Is she really

Lubanzi : we are leaving , and once she's
awake she'll decide if she wants to talk to you
or not

Me : bawo.....

Lubanzi : I mean it , I want all of you away
from her

Me : make me Lubanzi

Ntando : can we stop right now...it's not about any of you . It's about her and the baby and now to save them we have to leave

Me : tell your fucking prince he's mad if he thinks I'm letting him take my wife to some God forsaken kingdom in KZN without me

Lubanzi shakes his head and walks to the car

Ntando : can we just go cause clearly you're not staying behind

Ntsika : I'll tell everyone at home

Me : you'll tell everyone nothing Ntsika

He nods . Ntando and I walk to the car , see Lubanzi having my wife's head on his lap like he's his lover

Me : yhoh uyandiqhela bawo (you're getting used to be little brother)

Ntando laughs , I let him drive and take the front passenger seat

Lubanzi : jonga indoda endala kangaka iyandikhweletela (look a grown man jealous of me)

Me : why must I compete with you when it comes to my wife ?

Lubanzi : I'm protecting her mkhuluwa (big brother)

Me : and you think I'm failing to do so ?

Lubanzi : I'll never disrespect you like that , but your circle is full of people that cannot be trusted

He's right about that , someone still needs to account as to what happened in that house .
We arrive at the airport

Me : care to explain to me how are we flying to KZN without Visa's and she's out like that

Lubanzi : I'm Lubanzi Xaluva

Ntando laughs

Me : a fucking classic punk

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At the Bangani homestead

Ntsikayesizwe arrives and all eyes on him

Amahle : babe is she okay ?

She asks her husband really concerned ,
Ntsika just shrugs and pulls her to his side

Mrs Bangani : Ntsika what's that ?

Ntsika : what ?

Mrs Bangani : that shrugging what does it
mean ? Is she okay or not and where is your
brother ?

She's fuming

Mr Bangani : please calm down give him a chance to speak

He says gently to his wife

Mrs Bangani : he better say something right now

Mqhele : the noise nozala (mother)

That's one thing Ntsika cannot stand , noise

Mqhele : bawo uphi uMaJola? (little brother where is MaJola)

Ntsika : andaz (I don't know)

He sits down , confusing everyone

Mqhele : what do you mean because you left with them ?

Ntsika : and along the way we got separated

Ntsika is that person who will lie with a straight face , you'll swear he took an oath

Mpande : got separated how ?

Ntsika : Nqaba called someone to come get them and we met along the way , they left with that person . I turned back

Mrs Bangani : you've been gone for hours

She shouts again

Ntsika : I needed a break and I fucking need one right now

Mr Bangani : stay , your mother and I will take that break

He knows his son's better than anyone , and the last thing he wants is Ntsika snapping at his mother

The parents walk out , leaving the brothers with their wives

Ntsika : where is Mvelo ?

Qhawe : he took off right after you

Mqhele : can anyone tell us what happened in this house ?

Nolitha : we were in the kitchen , we don't know

Mqhele : don't tell me that nonsense Nolitha

His voice has changed , and everyone knows an angry Mqhele is not what they want

Amahle : MaJola left us in the kitchen bhuti

Lazola and Lihle give her nasty stares ,
Nolitha has her head bowed she knows her
husband won't stop until he gets what
happened , and that whole Mpilontle phone
call is just going to get them into trouble with
Mqhele

Mqhele : then what ?

Amahle looks at her husband , they may
seem distant with Nqaba unlike your typical
twins but she knows they share each other's
pain

Amahle : she left because...

Lazola : aibo Amahle

Qhawe : yhoh gqwhirhakazi don't start (witch)

She can't believe Qhawelomzi just called her a witch in front of everyone , she knows very well he hasn't let go of what she did . And this is just going to add fuel to the already burning fire

Mqhele : ndisamile njalo (I'm still waiting)

Amahle : because ...she left because Mpilo called Lazola and we...

Within a split second Lazola is on the floor with a busted lip and bleeding nose . Lihle is first to run out , no way she's waiting for her turn if it comes

Nolitha : bhut Qhawe

She tries to attend to Lazola but Mqhele drags her she falls , with just one hand he lifts her up

Qhawe : this nonsense again ?

Mqhele : when will you all learn ? These two tried to kill Nqaba's wife and you're still befriending her ? The very same woman that we found going up and down another man's dick in my brother's house

His roar can be felt the . The brothers all look at each other and have that eye communication

Mpande : I'll find her myself

He walks out smiling the wives are so lost , is he going to find Lihle ? And what will he do when he finds her ? Because she acted like a guilty woman

Nolitha : we didn't mean to cause any....

Mqhele : help me and you both and shut up

He walks out after a few minutes of silence
Nolitha walks out to follow him

Amahle : xolo Bangani

She gets down on her knees in front of Ntsika
who has his head bowed down , his hands on
his face

Ntsika : he's my brother , why would you want
to keep hurting his wife like that ?

Even she has no comeback

Ntsika : Amahle were you treated like that
when you got here ?

Amahle : no I wasn't

Ntsika : what's so hard about any of you tearing MaJola right ?

A tear escape her eye she wipes it

Ntsika : you all love Mpilontle so much to an extent that you'll let her use you to hurt one of our own ? What are you telling us , that what she did ...the very same reason she's no longer a wife here was okay ?

Amahle : no...no we...

Ntsika : are you trying to tell us that one day either of you can do what she did and you'll fucking support each other ?

She wails , while guilt eats Lazola up

Ntsika : I think we are all learning the kind of people we married and made wives

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Nqabayomzi

Being in a foreign land and it sure feels like a foreign land . I thought Isilo was developed and all but it has nothing on this Ngonyama

hidden kingdom , that I don't even think it exists on the map . I don't even know how we got here I watch as these women take my wife to only they know where , I don't even have the energy nor the strength to argue with them as well. Lubanzi walks closer , he touches my shoulder

Lubanzi : mkhuluwa she's going to be fine

Me : she better be bawo , she was asking me to let her come here .

He smirks

Me : do you know why?

Lubanzi : I have no idea what happens in that tiny head of your wife

We laugh

Me : what if ...

Lubanzi : hey you're in Ngonyama now you don't have those negative thoughts at all

Me : bawo I can't lose my wife

I let the tears fall

Me : I know I don't deserve her , I know I've wronged and failed her so many times . Every time I think about being vulnerable to her , I

can't help but fear how she'll react once she knows just how much she means to me . It doesn't even have to do with these bloody ancestors , she completes me in such a way that without her I don't see Nqaba at all . I do the most weirdest things

I chuckle

Me : those words I fail to say to her when she's looking at me with these creepy white grey eyes , I say in the middle of the night when she's laying her head on my chest and this eyes are closed

Lubanzi : mkhuluwa a 17 year old has turned you into a pussy

We laugh , I wipe my tears off

Lubanzi : who knew the mighty Nqabayomzi Bangani will be so whipped in love like this ?

Me : she's the best thing that has ever happened to me and I'm afraid , I don't know how to love her the right way

Lubanzi : she doesn't require much, just acknowledge her . Don't say it but show it

We take a few minutes standing in silence . I pick up an aura that matches exactly with the

one my wife carries , this place is very unusual

Me : she's a descendant of Ngonyama isn't she ?

I look at him he looks right back at me

Voice : she's a Ngonyama

We both turn , and it's a replica of Lubanzi

Me : why do you look like a woman?

He laughs the woman smiles , I just couldn't help but ask . If anything he looks like her

Her : it's finally an honour to meet you

The voice is slightly like my wife's but my wife's voice is very unique

Me : you'll have to forgive me I'm so not very much acquainted with royalty

Lubanzi : damn you disappoint me , I'm with you 78 percent of the time

Me : and I don't consider you royalty 80 percent of the time

Lubanzi : what ?

He asks not believing

Her : you two stop it , go have something to eat and get rest

Me : can I see my wife ?

Her : the...

Me : please even if it's just a minute

Her : she's going to be okay , you sure did take your time before bringing her . One thing you must remember at all times is that your ancestors chose her for a reason , she's not just some 17 year old child

How does she know how is she ?

Me : okay that's noted...but is she giving birth?

She smiles

Her : no she's only on her 8th month

I know that

Me : so both her and the bay are okay?

Lubanzi : no for real you're whipped ...

Ndlovukazi I'll go eat now

He walks away

Her : don't mind him , your heart is the right place but you need to get yourself in check

Yeah I sure do

Her : follow me

I follow her and it's dark only the stars are providing light . We walk in silence for a whole distance I even start to feel like we won't make it where we are going

Her : I won't harm you

Me : I'm not scared

She laughs a bit

Her : Bangani you're a healer and what
Ngonyama is or who we are , well it's even
bigger than you

She goes through a shade of trees

Me : fuck that's creepy

Her : come on now , you're not scared

She says from the other side

Me : don't mock me

I'm a man I can do this . I close my eyes and go through it .

Her : even power healers with huge water snakes as protectors are still scared of something , but it's okay at the end of the day we are all humans

This woman , can she stop with the shade already

I look around , this place is beautiful in here
there's light . I see my wife she's laid down of
something I can't even seen exactly. Creepy
there's a waterfall running in here

Me : why...why is she near the water like
that?

Her : there's something about a flowing river
that calm her down , and the baby is restless .
She's taking a strain on her mother

Me : she ?

I ask she smiles nodding . Can a man be
blessed more than once ? Well I feel I am .
I'm going to have my very own princess

Her : a few minutes with her will be fine , they need the rest so do you

She walks away . I walk closer to my wife .
She looks so pale like she hasn't eaten nor rested in weeks

Me : I'm so sorry . Time and time again I fail you and I seem to be singing sorry like it's fucking lullaby

Zipho : don't swear there's a baby in here
She says in almost what sounds like a whisper , she fiddles for my hand I take hers .

Me : can I kiss you in here ?

She smiles , her eyes are closed

Zipho : ncamisa intombi yakho (kiss your girlfriend)

We laugh

Me : ndashela wandifaka njalo ? (I courted and you agreed)

Zipho : hayhiii Sana , wehluleka ndabona uk'ba hayhiii andisoze ndijole apha (no baby , you failed and I saw that I'll never date here)

Me : wandincqiba nyan (you have finished me)

She opens her eyes slowly , and I've never felt so content

Me : weh sisi endincamisana naye khawube intombi yam (the lady I'm dating can you be my girlfriend)

Zipho : wahluleka nyan yhoh ndiyiyo Sana (you're failed really , I am baby)

Me : Kha ndik'ncamise ke (let me kiss you)

I lean down capture her lips , she welcomes me . We kiss for a few minutes and pull out

Zipho : why didn't you tell me ?

Me : they didn't want me to tell you

Zipho : your ancestors are not very nice people Jola

I laugh

Me : I know

Zipho : I missed out so much

Me : sweetheart I know , I couldn't even act of character when you wanted those crazy foods, and eating Mvelo's food

The change in her facial expression at the mention of his name

Me : he's back to his old shit isn't he ?

Zipho : don't fight your brother again , your family already sees me as the fight starting makoti . Sort it fine this time around

That boy never learns , but I made him a promise and this time his mother is surely going to mourn him

Zipho : Jola hayhiii , you're not going to taint your hands with your brothers blood

What the hell....?

Me : how...

Voice : she can read minds , hear thoughts
see the past the present and the future, so
you're not safe and now you have to go eat
leave them to rest

It's that woman again

Me : you what ?

She gives me her innocent cute face while I'm
freaking out

Zipho : ndiyak'thanda njalo (I love you still)

Me : hayhiii why did you read my mind ? Are my thoughts not safe from you

She laughs

Me : aibo this matter is very serious MaJola

Her : she can't control it yet , let's go

Yhoh this woman , she can wait

Me : sweetheart , I can't hide anything from you ?

Zipho : you never intended to , we just fail to communicate

True that

Me : but now either way

Zipho : you look bad , please go eat and rest
come see us tomorrow

Me : can't I sleep here ?

Her : a man , sleeping in Ngonyama's sacred
place not happening

This woman lacks inner peace

Zipho : that's not nice , she means well

Me : I don't like you very much right now

Zipho : you love me and I asked that they get you your candles so you can communicate with your ancestors tell them where you are

Me : so now you can even think ahead of me?

Zipho : stop being silly

She laughs , I kiss her forehead and her tummy .

Zipho : she kicks like a man

Me : she's a Jola , uMaJola omncinci (the little MaJola)

Zipho : you're going to confuse the child

She pouts I laugh

Me : uyakhweleta? (are you jealous)

Zipho : ndiyeke (leave me)

Me : somehow is not pleased that she's going to share now

I peck her lips . And leave with this woman

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Insert 12

Mpilontle

Middle of the night I can feel that I'm not alone in here no matter what . Now I'm even scared to even open my eyes . What if there's someone really ?

I slowly uncover myself and I can't help but scream seeing the shadow of a man in my bedroom sitting on the chair next to the bed . With my past experience I've learnt men aren't my favourite species .

Me : please don't hurt me

I'm already crying

Me : ple...ase take the money...just don't...hurt me

He puts the lights on , and it's Mpande . Is he a psycho now , what is he doing middle of the night in my bedroom and how did he even know where to find me ? Even Lazola doesn't know I live here

Me : bh...bhuti ?

Mpande : unfortunately I'm going to hurt you so bad

This is not the always quite Mpande who only utters two words at the most

Mpande : now you're going to help both of us, get up and get dressed so we can leave .

Me : no...

Mpande : oh you can always choose that I drag you out of here , trust me that won't be so pleasing

The way he's so calm , the anger in him is so visible . I'm literally shaking , but best I do what he says than have him man handle me. I've had a lot of that as of late to last me a lifetime . I get up he throws me a gown I put it on , he drags me with his hand . Mind you I have no shoes on

We get to his car , he drives out for hours and hours . I have no idea where we are going

Mpande : don't you dare fall asleep in my car

Is he crazy ? He woke me up from my sleep so I'm still sleepy . How can I be sleepy in this situation ? Well Mpande knows me so there's

no way he's going to hurt me , even though he threatened to do so

We finally arrive , and this place is so much secluded whatever it is . There isn't much here but just a small house , it's still dark I can't see clearly . He grabs my arm and drags me inside the house , the grass is even hurting my feet . There's a few lights inside , a tied up Lazola to a chair she looks so bad she's even crying and a Qhawe that's eating an apple with a pocket knife .

This place even smells so bad .

Me : bhuti

I don't know which one but I hope one of them says something

Qhawe : so you found her ?

Mpande : I told you I would

Qhawe : you Mkhuluwa are very good

They laugh

Me : no...no please don't hurt me

Qhawe grabs me roughly he ties me to the chair , I fear what they'll do to me . If he can

tie his own wife like this , then what about me?

Qhawe : you two will stay here for a few days maybe weeks , while you think more and plan thoroughly your schemes and plots to kill a Bangani wife

Lazola : baby...please...I swear it...it was all her doing

Yes trust her to throw me under the bus . So everyone knows what I wanted to do ? Now there's no way I'll get Nqaba harming that tramp of his wife , because everyone will know it was me

Qhawe : have fun

They walk out , leaving us in this stinking
room , tied up to chairs

Lazola : this is all your fault

I don't have time for her whining

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Ziphozendalo

I don't know sleep at all , I don't know if it's because I'm in this place or the fact that I just found out I have a baby inside of me that's due to come out anytime , or maybe I just missed my husband . Sleeping alone not being cuddled when you've gotten used to it it's not nice good people . I'm just glad my baby is okay , even though I feel a bit robbed. I wanted to know that I'm pregnant , I wanted to enjoy and experience those crazy moments if there were any . Now I only have a few weeks to bond with my baby girl before she comes

Nqaba : how are my girls doing ?

My back is turned on him , but I felt his presence the second he entered . One thing

I'm sure is that he didn't sleep either , for a grown man my husband sulks like a child. Makes me wonder who's really the child here

Me : you know Jola in all honesty , I loved being your only baby girl

He laughs and comes to my side

Me : I wouldn't have minded giving you a Jola, that would have made me feel like I'm going to be the most loved and protected woman ever . But no some people want to take my spot

He laughs

Nqaba : this is just a rant right ?

Me : hayhiii wethu andaz (yhoh bruh I don't know)

Nqaba : aibo MaJola andingo wethu wakho mna (I'm not your bruh)

Me : Xolo ke (sorry then)

He takes my hand , as walk closer to the waterfall . It's so beautiful and even seems magical , but one thing I learnt about Ngonyama is that there's no magic but legends . Like the great white lion ancestor Ngonyama herself

Nqaba : tell me are you really okay?

Me : I'm so overwhelmed by everything

Nqaba : understandably so

Events of yesterday play like a broken record
in my mind over and over again

Me : forgive me for what I said , that if
anything happens to the baby you and your
family would pay for it

Although I meant that , I know Nqaba has his faults but who doesn't . And at every turn he tries his best to fix them

Nqaba : don't apologize for what you truly feel sweetheart . Truth of the matter is that my family and I are toxic for you , and that's no sane environment to be in . More especially in your state , and I feel as though my ancestors are failing me in a big way .

Saying that about his ancestors is hurting him and you can't miss that hurt

Me : Jola you can't say that

Nqaba : don't get me wrong sweetheart , I love my gift and I embrace it . Damn I'm not ashamed of being a sangoma (traditional healer) before I am a lawyer , but the way things happen and I have no idea . It's only later or when they're about to happen that I'll sense or see something . Why can't they just show me in due time ?

He's getting frustrated now

Nqaba : a man like myself should be able to protect his wife , because he sees before hand .Or maybe I'm just not listening

I can take anything and everything but definitely not him doubting himself , or his capabilities as a healer

Me : liphilele Idlozi lakho nalo lizokuphilela
(live for your ancestors and they'll live for you)

He looks at me

Me : I guess what I'm trying to say is , trust is them even when you don't see a reason to .
Still maintain that relationship with them ,
because sometimes they don't show you things because they're dealing with them themselves .

Nqaba : the one good thing those Bangani men ever did , was marrying a sleeping me to you

We laugh

Me : I know now without a doubt your sisters in-law don't like me Jola , to them I'm the child that drove their Mpilontle away . Your brothers try not because they want to but for your sake they try

Nqaba : we can safely exclude Mfihloyemvelo apho (there)

There's that , he looks at me for a while

Nqaba : are my thoughts safe ?

I laugh .

Me : I don't control what I hear , or what I read . Unlike seeing the past present and future

Nqaba : so...what do we call you ?

Me : guess I'm still yet to know about that , everything happened so fast . Ndlovukazi was in a hurry to save the baby as Ngonyama just wanted me to know my powers and find out who I am , which I'm still yet to find out

Nqaba : who is this Ngonyama?

He whispers I laugh

Me : a great while lion ancestor of this Kingdom , she's a fallen golden goddess

He looks at me saying nothing , I can see I'm confusing this handsome man of mine

Me : asiyeke (let's leave it)

We laugh

Nqaba : you coming to eat right ?

Me : I'm yet to meet Ngonyama I can't eat
cause I won't be pure

Nqaba : oh I think I understand that

Yes he does because even he , when he has
to go to the river he doesn't eat for 3 days or
7 days or the night before . Because if he
eats and he goes to the river he won't be pure
he will be dirty , the same applies to

Ngonyama

Nqaba : okay I'll come check on you two then

I give him a hug , he returns it . I hope after everything we can be okay and still be standing together because I feel the future holds a lot of turmoil for us . We pull out of the hug and I walk him back to the entrance

Me : so much death and blood hovering over the Bangani's

Nqaba : what ?

Me : Mpande he's going to kill Mpilontle and Lazola

His expression is blank

Nqaba : don't invade my privacy

He says it like it's a joke

Me : Jola you can't let him do that

Nqaba : sweetheart , I'm so far away from Isilo Kingdom I have no means to even communicate with my brother's . So how do I stop him?

Me : really , you can ask anyone for a phone call your family and tell them this

Nqaba : oh yeah Lubanzi has no airtime I can't call

Me : aibo J...

He shuts me up with a kiss , I don't mean to hear those thoughts . But he's like Mpande is doing us all a favour

Me : Jola please

I mumble through the kiss , he deepens it I welcome him . It must be a shame to have sexual thoughts in this sacred place but lord I can't help it . I push him off slightly

Nqaba : ndiyak'thanda

Me : there's already death

I say in a whisper but I know he heard me .
He kisses my forehead says nothing and
leaves .

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At the Bangani Homestead

Things are sour in this family and anyone and
everyone can feel it

Amahle : babe I'm sorry

Ntsika : you know right now I'll prefer for you to keep quite , the last thing I want is us saying hurtful things to each other that we can't take back

Amahle nods , she knows her husband .
Nolitha walks in with Mqhele they join everyone , greetings are exchanged

After a few seconds the parents join them .
Everyone dishes up and eat

Mrs Bangani : where is Lazola ?

Qhawelomzi acts like he's not even on this table , as for Mpande he's eating like he hasn't eaten in days

Mrs Bangani : is anyone going to answer me?

Mqhele : maybe she's out there with guilt
swallowing at her

The wives look down they don't want the
parents knowing what they have done

Mrs Bangani : what are you talking about ?

Ntsika : your precious daughters in-law have
been plotting with the whoering Mpilontle to
kill MaJola so that cheater can come back

It goes quite , even Mpande stops eating

Mrs Bangani : tell me this is not true ?

Silence

Mrs Bangani : as of right now I have no idea where that poor child who left this house bleeding is , if she is to pop up dead I don't know what I'll tell her parents . And you're telling me that my very own family is trying to kill her

Mqhele : your daughter's in-law

He emphasizes on that because he feels they're not to be blamed , them as the brothers did nothing

Mrs Bangani : Nolitha what is this?

Nolitha : ma our only fault was talking to...her while MaJola was in our presence , we didn't plot anything

Mqhele : say Mpilontle and not her say it

Nolitha's eyes are red with eye bags , you can see she doesn't know sleep and she has been crying

Nolitha : Lazola is the one who was planning we didn't even know , until we were told yesterday

Mqhele : the fact that you all were so happy to play buddies with Mpilontle just to spite MaJola paints with the same brush

Xhanti walks in and he looks distraught

Mr Bangani : Xhanti what is it ?

The man is fuming with anger having learnt what he just did . All this happening right under his nose and he has no idea . And why didn't Xhanti inform him ? Because without a doubt the ancestors show him everything that happens in this family

Xhanti : it's....one of our own is no longer with us

Everyone gets on their feet except Mpande ,
he hopes it's not Lazola because he wants to
kill those two himself so they cannot escape
his wrath and die

Mr Bangani : who ?

Xhanti : Mfihloyemvelo

Mrs Bangani goes down , Mqhele is quick to
catch her before she touches the ground

Ntsika : what....where is he ?

Xhanti : right in his room

With that he walks out , Mrs Bangani is crying like death is in the family . Mpande and Ntsikayesizwe run outside to Mvelo's roundavel

He's hanging on the roof , with a rope and the chair kicked down

Ntsika : fuck

Mpande : consequences of falling in love with your brothers wife a woman you cannot have are there

Ntsika looks at his brother not believing what he just said

Ntsika : do you think now is the time ?

Mpande scoffs

Mpande : this family is fucking messed up .

With that he gets on the bed and unties
Mvelo's cold body from the ceiling

Ntsika : how do we get hold of Nqaba now ?

Mqhele : leave him alone , he has enough
he's dealing with

He says standing behind them at the door
along with their father

Mpande : he knew what he was doing

Ntsika : whatever what was going on , he didn't have to kill himself

Mpande : are you crazy , Nqaba was going to kill him this time without a doubt . Remember we walked into the house he was right in the corridor with MaJola

Mr Bangani : the ancestors have surely curses me

He turns leaving his son's alone

Mqhele : this boy is a fucking idiot

Ntsika : we can't speak such about dead people

His brother disapprove of how he's acting right now

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Nqabayomzi

I don't know who's death was my wife talking about , but my spirit is a bit down so I guess there really is death at home . But one thing I know is that I'm not leaving her here alone and running back home

Lubanzi : mkhuluwa (big brother)

He sits next to me

Me : bawo (little brother)

Lubanzi : your family good ?

Me : yes much good and I have you to thank
for that

Lubanzi : I was doing what you could have
done for me

I nod

Me : so tell me , what is this to you?

He chuckles

Lubanzi : I told you I hail from two kingdoms

Right now he's confusing me

Because as much as I don't know the royal family at Isilo that well . I know the queen is also from a Xhosa kingdom . But here we are in KZN and he says he hails from two kingdoms

Lubanzi : when she learns the truth, she's going to need you more than ever

Me : yes that's right change the topic , shift the attention

He laughs

Lubanzi : on the real , she's just learnt she's pregnant , she's discovered her gifts . She's yet to know who she is and how she's connected to Ngonyama and a whole lot of things are about to unfold . Like the hidden truths in your family

Me : meaning ?

Lubanzi : it's going to get tough , at some point Bangani you'll have to make a choice and it won't be easy

My wife was right when she asked will she ever get a break .

Lubanzi : don't worry she's strong , shell be able to balance you

Me : nyan ngu Mqhele wam (indeed she's truly my strength and power)

Lubanzi : nge siZulu sithi induku ehle ighawulwa ezizweni (in Zulu language we say a beautiful maiden is found in foreign land)

We laugh

Lubanzi : and you came all the way to Zulu land

Me : you telling me she's really not from Isilo?

Lubanzi : she was raised there

Me : okay but the truth about her identity is she royalty ?

Lubanzi : she's a descendant of Ngonyama

That does not answer me at all

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At the Bangani homestead

Mrs Bangani has been sedated a doctor was called in , she didn't take the news of her last born killing himself like that . As much as Mpande feels that his brother brought this upon himself , he was still his littler brother he cared and loved him . His body has been taken , Xhanti has cleansed the room so his spirit doesn't hover around it and be bothersome around the yard

Ntsika : he took it far

Mqhele : until it happens to you , you cannot say people who commit suicide are selfish

What Mvelo has done , it's taken Mqhele back to when he was only 17 and he found his 12 year old bother with foam coming out of his mouth , his eye completely white

Mpande : bawo

He says to his brother

Mpande : Ntsika please excuse us

Ntsikayesizwe can see something is going on so he walks away , leaving his two older brothers alone

Mpande : Don't do this to yourself

Me : first we failed to protect Nqaba now
Mvelo

Mpande : Nqaba is still alive today despite
what happened years ago he's still here

Mqhele : is he normal to you ?

He shuts a bit , tears escalates his eyes . The
last time Mpande saw his big brother cry was
those years ago when they found Nqaba like
that

Mpande : he's trying

Mqhele : there's nothing that Nqaba is trying ,
he's a fucking control freak . The only thing
that makes sense to him is that woman

Mpande : at least it's something , please don't
do this to yourself bringing up memories that
we buried that deep

Mqhele gets up he wipes his tears

Mqhele : kill those two now , spare us having
to have more funerals and tears later

Mpande is shocked , how does his brother know he plans to kills Mpilontle and Lazola ?
Because he did not even tell Qhawe

Mqhele : being a Bangani is starting to feel like a curse now

He walks away from his brother

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Insert 13

Ziphozendalo

I've been walking around this place, it looks like some kind of a room but then it's like nature out there in its purest form

Voice : you're home

There's that voice again I look around but I don't see anyone

Voice : stop thinking , we don't have much time we can't be disturbed by your thoughts

My feel pull me closer to the waterfall , I sit down and dip my feet in the water . The same peace that the river at Isilo gave me , but this one is exceeding

Voice : your husband is doubting himself

More like he's doubting his gift , and his capabilities with it

Me : he feels .. well the ancestors haven't communicated with him as of late

Voice : Idlozi alihlali lapho kuno msindo khona (ancestors don't stay where it's noisy)

It's not like he created it , drama just seems to be following us everywhere we go

Voice : you need to stand with him , because only you can help him through everything .

Without you that man will crumble to ashes
even the gift he has won't mean anything

Me : how do I do that when I don't even know
who I am

Voice : you're a descendant of Ngonyama ,
the golden goddess you possess the powers
of Ngonyama the great ancestor of this soil .
You can read minds hear thoughts see the
past the present and the future . You can heal,
all this water just pure natural water . That's
the reason the Jola ancestors chose you for
their son . He's connected to water , but he
has learnt just how to possess the powers the
water grant to him in healing and seeing .
You're of pure heart and innocence . The only
thing that tames the evil in him

The way she says evil in him , I don't like it he's still my husband . And Nqaba is broken before anything else , he's just good at hiding it .

How he killed a man all because he was protecting his brother and he used his gift to block Ntsika's memories from that period of time . That's when he tried to kill himself , he's a spiritual person he spilled blood and killed . He couldn't live with that . All this I saw last night and I couldn't even comprehend it . That's why I didn't even ask him when he came to see me this morning , last thing I want is to offend him . But after all this and we go back to our lives I want no secrets between us so we will have to talk about this

Me : I understand

Voice : ask that question so we can move forward

Me : who am I ?

I close my eyes I see their white grey colour .
The woman the older version of mine comes again this time she's not holding any baby , but she's pregnant .

She doesn't look okay , in fact it looks like she has been crying . Her spirit is unsettled .

Suddenly out of nowhere she runs with her heavily pregnant self

Someone is chasing her , the way she's running she keeps looking back . Holding her stomach she gets gripped and falls . Her screams pierce through my heart , I have never been this hurt . A part of my heart has been ripped apart , after seeing this I will never be whole again

These three men , ground her down on the veld . They cut her open on her stomach and take the child out leaving her to die all alone in a veld with no one . Bleeding to death . That's where I lost who I am I lost my identity and I lost myself . So that's how I was taken away from my mother by the very same

people whom I thought were my parents . The dress I'm wearing is even wet from my own tears .

Voice : stop with the tears , you're interrupting forces in the spirit

Hayhiii what nonsense is this , the man stole me cut my mother opened took me out left her to die . He raised me as his own , and this damn voice is telling me to stop crying . Let them those forces be disturbed I don't care

Voice : your mother is one of the fallen queens of Ngonyama , you were also in line to be one of our queen having taken all the qualities of Ngonyama our golden goddess .

The one who controls the sun that is why your tears are disturbing . But since you're already married , you cannot take the throne so can never your lineage

I don't care about that

Me : who is my father ?

Voice : the men who father the descendants of Ngonyama are unknown

What !

Voice : don't confuse yourself like that , you can never know the man who fathered you . For the short time you are here you need to channel your powers because things are still yet to get tough

No I hate my life

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Nqabayomzi

I wake up , I have no idea when I even fell asleep . My heart is heavy and I know my wife is not okay . I get up and walk out I bump into Lubanzi he's smoking

Me : I need to see my wife

Lubanzi : you can't

Me : I have to

Lubanzi : mkhuluwa Ndlovukazi said
Ngonyama is still busy with her

Me : she's not okay

Lubanzi : she has to do this , remember your
wife is a Bangani now . Once she leaves
Ngonyama there's no return for her , she
needs to gather as much as she can about
herself and her gift with this time she has

Me : I don't like this

Lubanzi : but you'll do anything for

her

The sadness that overcomes me , feels like a part of me has been ripped off it's gone and I'll never get it back

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Mpilontle

For days now we have cooped up in this room , with no food no water nothing . Lazola has peed on herself . It smells even worse than how it was smelling the first time I got here . We are still tied and there's no way of out here

I'm so weak , I've run out of energy. Lazola looks like she's about to die anytime . Trying to get Nqaba back wasn't supposed to be like this , it wasn't supposed to end up with me being here at all . Lazola screaming brings me out of my thoughts , and I swear I am not crazy .

There's a huge snake right in front of us , it's Mkhuseleli the snake Nqaba came home with when he got out of the water

Since that day I haven't seen it , but here it is. I swear we are dying today and there's no escaping it

Lazola : m....make it...go away

Is she out of her mind ? I'm crying scared with her . How the hell am I supposed to make it go away . I pee on myself as the damn snake ties itself around my feet I feel like my bones are being crushes , yes they're being crushed

Me : h...help me

Lazola moves with her chair it just falls

When it let's go I cannot feel my legs at all I feel nothing , no pain like absolutely nothing

Me : oh.... My God

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The Bangani homestead

Mpande walks in Mqhele pulls him out away
from the others

Mqhele : and ?

Mpande : I got there and ...

He swallows

Mqhele : and what ?

Mpande : they...something happened there

Mqhele : something like what ?

Mpande : look I dropped them at the hospital .

Mqhele : so they're still alive and what for ?

Mpande : Mpilontle's bones are crushed , like the she can't move she couldn't even walk

Mqhele : do you think Qhawe went there ?

The brothers look at Qhawe , who's busy with Ntsika and the other men from the community working around the yard

Mpande : I doubt , and Lazola had a bite mark . It wasn't that visible I can't make out what happened there

Mqhele : Nqaba is not even here to tell us what's what

Mpande : maybe Xhanti can help ?

Mqhele : he's said to have gone to the mountains , some spiritual whatever

Ntsikayesizwe walks to his brother's . He has notice the tension between the two and as well as Qhawe and Mpande

Ntsika : my twin is not here so I'm excluded ?

Mqhele : we won't even entertain you right now

Ntsika : what's the whispering all about ?

Mpande : we don't whisper we talk

Ntsika : then let's talk ... Why didn't Xhanti see what was going to happen ?

Mqhele : what?

Mpande : Mvelo committing suicide right in this yard yo Jola . He didn't see it why ?

Mqhele : Nqaba also didn't see anything

Ntsika : Nqaba is not the family seer , it's not his duty to see things that affect this family

Mqhele : what are you two saying ?

Mpande : right now we have a funeral and Xhanti is not here ?

Mqhele doesn't like where this is going , he can hear his brother but the sound of Xhanti not being loyal as he's ought to doesn't sit well with him

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Ziphozendalo

Everything I heard and saw was too much for me . I don't now how I can keep it all and still be able to find a way forward

Ndlovukazi : you called ?

Me : no I didn't

She smiles

Ndlovukazi : yes you did

Me : I'm not going crazy now am I ?

She laughs , this woman somehow gives me a sense of some motherly love

Ndlovukazi : I was just checking , because you've been quite staring into that water for over three hours

Me : oh my word ... Jola must be so worried

He hasn't seen me for days

Ndlovukazi : relax , your husband what's to burn this kingdom down but he knows you need to do this

Me : I need to see him

Ndlovukazi : okay and just so you know I'm here to help you in anyway I can , besides your powers only you can help yourself there

Me : did...uhm did you know my mother ?

She smiles and takes my hand into hers

Ndlovukazi : let's take a walk

We walk around holding hands , and the best feeling is that I feel my baby playing she's happy . I've been crying for too long

Ndlovukazi : her name was Zendalo , you possess her beauty and these eyes of Ngonyama they're very special and rare

They work as some kind of a portable , that's how I'm able to have visions even when I'm not sleeping just by closing my eyes

Ndlovukazi : she was a bit older than me , but we got along very well . Because I was to succeed her as the next queen . She was so ever calm , hardly raised her voice . Her spirit was humble and down to earth . You were her first child , and she was happy when she

found out she was having a girl . Sadly she never got the chance to hold you . I can say Zendalo was the first queen I've ever known who ruled Ngonyama like a commoner and not royalty . She made the people of this village feel equal to us .

Me : she sounds like a remarkable woman

Ndlovukazi : she was

Me : why did those men kill her and take me ?

She takes a deep breath

Ndlovukazi : word got out by one of the midwives who was taking care of Zendalo , that she's to bare a girl child who posses the gifts and powers of Ngonyama as well as that of the golden goddess . We haven't had one since the time and rule of Ngonyama . People know the power of your eyes , we believe that's why you were taken

Me : my eyes are just a portal , how can they take me because of them?

Ndlovukazi : you're yet to discover the power they hold .

Me : just to be sure I understand you well , they took me because of my eyes ?

Ndlovukazi : we believe so yes

Me : do these eyes work even when they're taken out of me ?

She looks down and I have my answer

Ndlovukazi : you're so young for this

Me : I think we are way past that Ndlovukazi

Ndlovukazi : don't hold anger for this man

I think the first thing to do when I leave this place is to go to Isilo and see what exactly is my so called parents plan to do with me

Me : where does Bhelekazi fits into all of this?

I haven't forgotten that woman , who still owes me answers

Ndlovukazi : she's a seer , one of a kind . She's the one who found you Ngonyama was against you being brought back . So we saw it best for Bhelekazi to settle near you so she can always watch over you . It wasn't yet time for you to discover who you are and what you posses , hence she was there to make sure you're protected when dangers nears

Me : when was the right time going to be ?

She smiles and shakes her head

Ndlovukazi : you're surely Zendalo's breed . If you use your powers in anger , you'll reek havoc. WeWe fear that

I fear that too . Because right now I feel like I've been robbed of my life and was given nothing but pain

Ndlovukazi : uncontrolled emotions are a catastrophe

Me : I need to see my husband

Ndlovukazi : okay

We walk back and for once I'm allowed out of the entrance . I haven't seen this beautiful palace but all that can wait I have a lot to get out of my chest and my husband is the only person I need to burp to right now

Insert 14

Nqabayomzi

I feel a presence in the room , I force my eyes to open . I look around and see my wife , the image of Mvelo hanging up of the ceiling like that breaks me even though I know he did this because he knows there was no way he was ever going to get my wife . He thought he

was saving us all the drama , but he still shouldn't have killed himself

Me : sisi endincamisana naye

Zipho : you would have killed him again

She cries I get up and hug her , she wails against my chest . Whatever she found out must have broke her

Zipho : they...killed her Jola

Who is her ? She pulls out of the hug

Me : you're hurting me

I feel her pain and I don't want to break down
cause she needs me right now

Zipho : Ntabeni he...he killed my mother

Me : what ?

She sits on the bed I sit next to her

Me : isn't Ntabeni your father?

Zipho : I don't know my father

Okay I'm getting lost , she doesn't know her
father because of what she found out his

actions or she really doesn't know who her father is ?

Me : don't talk about it if you're not ready

Zipho : I want to take everything out

Me : let's lie down

The vision I just got of Mvelo is still pounding in my head . We lie on the bed her head rests on my chest

Zipho : she was a queen before Ndlovukazi , and when she was expecting me some men including Ntabeni chased her to the veld she

tries to run . She really tried but they got to her and cut her open on her stomach . They took out the child who happens to be me , they left with me and left her there to die

Me : Ntabeni ?

Zipho : he raised me as his own , for his own purposes

Me : which is ?

Zipho : they want my eyes Jola

Am I slow or just plain stupid ? I know her eyes are strange and creepy yes but why

would anyone want her eyes and how would they take them ? Unless if it's to control her with some dark power

Me : your eyes ?

Zipho : my eyes work as a portal , that's how I'm able to see the past present and future .
Jola Ntabeni wants to take my eyes out so he can use them for whatever it is

Me : okay sweetheart balance me , Ntabeni seems like an ordinary man who lives for lavish . Where would he gather such courage and he doesn't strike me like a person who would know much about spiritual or super natural powers

Zipho : that's what I thought . And that's why I want to go see him so I can see what is it he plans to do with my eyes

Me : he must be working with someone or for someone

Zipho : whoever is it I'll find out

She's breathing heavy .I don't like the anger that's rising in her

Me : do me a favour

Zipho : what ?

Me : don't get your hands dirty , I can do that
for you

I swear if push comes to shoves I'll kill
Ntabeni with my own hands

Zipho : no , you're not going to kill anyone
again do you know what Xhanti did to...

Me : what ?

I lift her up a bit

Me : what did you say?

Zipho : I said a lot

She gives her cute face

Me : suyenza lonto (don't do that)

She laughs

Me : aibo andithethi about serious matters here (aren't we talking)

Zipho : k'theni undijonge njalo (why are you looking at me like that?)

Me : MaJola what did you say?

Zipho : about ?

Me : you said I did what?

She looks down

Zipho : I know Jola

Me : know what ?

Zipho : how you protected Ntsika and killed your uncle , how you erases your brothers memory of the fact that your uncle was sexually abusing him . I know how you tried to kill yourself and had it not been for Mpande and Mqhele you wouldn't have made it . I

know how you hate your parents for failing to see something was wrong with Ntsika , the way your mother let your uncle stay in your home knowing very well he wasn't a good person .

The silent in the room is even getting uncomfortable

Zipho : I am so sorry

Me : MaJola am I safe from you ?

We look at each other

Me : no one and I mean no one was supposed to know that . There's no way that

Ntsika can remember all of that it'll break my brother

Zipho : I am not going to go around blabbing about this

Nqaba : please you can't , something's are better off hidden

She nods

Zipho : some yes but others

She shakes her head and I can tell some secrets are about to come out of the closet and it's going to be nasty

Zipho : you need to go home , go mourn your brother

Me : I'm not leaving you here alone

Zipho : Jola...

Me : no it's not happening

Zipho : please do it for me

Me : give it up I'm not leaving you here alone

There's no way they'll burry Mvelo without me there , but if they see the need to do that then let them

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Ndalo

I have given up on that dream of getting Nqaba . It is said Lazola went missing , and now Mvelo is dead . The drama in that house is too much , I don't need to involve myself any further . With schools being closed I don't even see Ziphosendalo here anymore . But that's understandable she's living in PE now . But strange with Mvelo's death they should be around

Luba : that little brain of yours will burst

He slaps my head

Me : that's not cute

Luba : of course where's your cute friend

He's still one about that ?

Luba : it'll be great to groove and tap that ass
on the 16th

Me : are you crazy or you're just bipolar ?

Luba : you jealous?

Me : Her brother in-law passed away on the very same weekend they'll be burying him

He tilts his head

Luba : oh yeah

Me : and I think it's best you leave Zipho alone

He laughs at me . I hope he listens before some misfortune befalls him

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At the Bangani homestead

Mpande pulls his wife from the others wives who are helping with baking

Me : I still need an answer about that stunt you pulled

She looks down Lihle is very scared of her husband and Mpande is very much aware of this . He battled with anger issues during the first years of their marriage , which resulted with Lihle being a punching bag whenever something went wrong . Over the years she forgave him but one can never forget

Lihle : I was scared that you'll lose yourself in there and I'll fall victim again . It has been years since I last saw you upset like that and I

know first hand the consequences of that . I know we did MaJola wrong I can admit my part , all I want or rather wanted was fair chance to apologize and not suffer at your hands receiving a beating

Mpande pulls his wife to him , he hugs her it takes a few seconds to register that he's embracing her and certainly not upset that she brought up the past

Ntsikayesizwe walks in his parents room . His mother is sitting on the mattress , the poor woman looks like she's lost touch with reality

Ntsika : nozala

She looks at her son , Ntsika smiles but she just tears up

Mrs Bangani : uphi uNqaba ? I need my son here

Ntsika : mama Nqaba is not here remember we...we don't know where he is

Mrs Bangani : I need my son here

Ntsika sighs because even he has no idea where his brother is at or if they're okay where they are .

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Ziphozendalo

Ndlovukazi : are you sure about this ?

Me : my husband needs to be home , he doesn't want to leave without me and so we'll leave . He has to go mourn his brother with his family

Ndlovukazi : we won't keep you here without your consent , you're not in jail

Me : thank you Ndlovukazi for everything

Ndlovukazi : I still say you're not ready yet

Me : I'll learn along the way , and I promise I won't let hurt ruin me

Ndlovukazi : come let me give you a gift

She leads me back to Ngonyama sacred place . We walk in

Ndlovukazi : tired already

I laugh

Me : no that I know there's a little human in me , I actually feel it .

Ndlovukazi : that's good , now take this and cherish forever . It's our parting gift to you but

always remember Ngonyama is with you
wherever you are

She draws the water from the waterfall with
her hands and washes both my hands with
the water

Me : the mark ?

I ask confused , she smiles

Ndlovukazi : you know it?

I nod

Me : no but...I've seen it in a vision on a baby

Ndlovukazi : now it's back

Me : that baby was me ?

She laughs

Ndlovukazi : no it was your Qhawekazi

Me : is that her name ?

Ndlovukazi : Ngonyama prefers it for her ,
since she's a girl our descendants favour her
along with our fallen queens

I look at this white mark on my hand and I
kinda love it . She draws water again and
gives to me to drink

Ndlovukazi : it's to protect her

I nod and drink from her hands again . I don't think I've ever drank such tasty water . The little MaJola kicks I laugh

Ndlovukazi : Zendalo's daughter you're blessed

We both touch my stomach , and the princess is playing like nobody's business

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Nqabayomzi

Lubanzi : take care of her

Me : what is she to you ?

Even here Lubanzi still shows that affection
he has about my wife

Lubanzi : nothing

Me : how is that possible ?

Lubanzi : it's just possible .

Voice : we are nothing , besides the fact that we're both descendants of Ngonyama

We both turn and she has her perfect smile on

Lubanzi : go well

She nods he leaves

Me : where are you going?

Zipho : we are going home , we lost one of our own

Me : I thought you'll stay here for a while ?

Zipho : that was the plan but now things have changed , I've already bid everyone goodbye

Me : you are serious ?

Zipho : yes

Me : and the queen agreed ?

She holds her hand out she has a white mark on her hand

Me : and now the paint ?

I ask with a frown

Zipho : it's not paint , the queen blessed me and brought back my Ngonyama mark . I haven't completed my journey but I'll learn along the way

Am I blessed or what ?

Me : then I guess I have to go pack

I bought a few clothes since I presumed we'll be here for a while

Zipho : already done

I laugh

Me : then let's go home

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Ziphozendalo

We slept in PE at our house as only came to Isilo today . Things are bad around here . Mrs Bangani looks like a corpse but she was happy to see Nqaba so maybe now she'll be okay . I'm helping around with the peeling , since the funeral is tomorrow . Nqaba is not happy that I'm working , but I'm pregnant not sick

Nolitha : can we talk ?

Hayhiii the last thing I need is hearing we are sorry we are sorry from these Bangani wives . I don't want them to welcome me in their circle because of pity

Nolitha : please MaJola

Me : with all due respect I know you want to apologize and ask that we start on a clean slate honestly I don't want any of that

She's taken aback by my words

Me : I forgive you for whatever , but I don't want any of you trying to befriend me . We are fine just being civil to each other

I continue peeling she eventually leaves . I hope she didn't take offence , I was just being honest with her

Ntsika : our wife

Yhoh hayhiii

Ntsika : unjani umntana wethu ? (how's our child)

He takes the carrot I'm holding and starts eating it

Ntsika : you people better not pull that disappearing stunt on me again . I had to lie to everyone about where you are . Imagine me lying that was not cool at all .

That was a mouthful

Ntsika : anyway where were you ? Because that hard-core of yours is not telling me anything

Is this the usual Ntsikayesizwe or what ? I'm not really accustomed with these brother's at all . Except Mqhele that he barks orders at everyone and it's yes sir no questions asked

Me : the baby is fine

Ntsika : ewe the baby is a Jola it's all good

I feel a change in the atmosphere

Ntsika : are you okay ?

He holds my hand I turn back and it's Xhanti
his eyes are one me , the second we lock
eyes he looks down

He walks away to his hut maybe .

Ntsika : ah so he's back ?

Me : back ?

Ntsika : this creepy man left a day after we found Mvelo

Me : where did he go ?

He laughs

Ntsika : looks like I've found myself a gossip monger

I smile

Ntsika : if you must know

He looks around and gets way too close

Ntsika : he went to the mountains apparently

He whispers

Me : but you don't buy that ?

He chuckles

Ntsika : hell no

Me : I see

Ntsika : yeah let's go Nqaba doesn't like this

He pulls me by my hand we walk into the house

Me : where is Omuhle ?

Ntsika : with his favourite uncle , he said he has to tell her that his father is no more . So they're alone wherever they are because apparently he has to whisper the news to her

Me : bhuti it's not an apparently he has to do it that way , she's still a child

Ntsika : oh yeah he favours you too, he even takes you to his hut that's how you know all these things

Without a doubt I'm yet to discover these Bangani people . I don't think Ntsika has ever uttered so many words to me in one day

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Insert 15

Nqabayomzi

The way people stayed up all night, I really deem these things unnecessary . But hey we

are in the Bundus you can't expect much . I'm just glad my wife managed to sleep , she took Omuhle with. My niece has been crying none stop , she's still a child yes but she understood that her father is no longer living , and she'll never see him . My mother looks a shadow of her former self , and as for my father it's like all is well in his living .

My brother's are shut down , I know somewhere when no one is looking, they cry because despite our hassles and all Mfihloyemvelo was our brother . Sure I would have killed him because he was becoming a thorn in my hand , but at the end of the day he was my brother

I go inside my hut , it's the funeral today and I won't be sitting in that tent listening to people sing and talk none stop as if that will bring him back .

I take the blue Njeti cloth put it over my head, all the way to my shoulder . I take the water and sprinkle a bit around the hut , and the snuff down on the sacred place (emsamo) I light the candles and incense . I don't feel like talking or saying anything , I pray to God when I'm I just sit . The way the red candle is burning , tells me there's dangers lurking and a dark smoke keeps coming from the candle . I have been blessed enough to be able to know how to do a candle reading . A knock comes at the door , I know just the by the sound of it . He walks in , the flame of the red candle spikes up

Xhanti : that doesn't look good

He sits down

Me : and you're going to tell me where have you been all week

I'm not happy at all right in fact I'm getting upset and my voice is revealing that

Xhanti : is there a problem ?

Me : Xhanti do you look at me and see an idiot ?

Xhanti : that's an insult

Me : better yet let's start here , why did you tell me to keep my wife away from Xaluva ?

He doesn't answer

Me : was it because you know she was going to know things no one is meant to know ?

Xhanti : she's dangerous okay , we didn't know who or what she is . How can we let a mystery closer to us like that ? She's even capable of causing us harm , we won't even see it coming because we have no idea whatsoever about her

Me : why do you keep saying “we”

Xhanti : me and you and the whole family for that matter

Me : keep me out of your confusion the last time I checked she was my wife and that's who she is

Xhanti : you know that's not what I'm talking about , she possesses a power that's of foreign land something we are not ...

Me : I said saying we as if me and you are some kind of some bloody team

Mkhuseli appears from behind Xhanti , I don't see him but I do feel his presence

Me : Xhanti you left to go to the caves , to draw power so you can block my wife from seeing what you have done

I'm not asking I'm telling him

Xhanti : you weren't supposed...

Me : to know or see because you always manipulate the ancestors your way whenever you see fit

Xhanti : everything that I do , is for this family

Me : the sacrifices , are they also for this family ? Better yet do they know what you have done ?

Xhanti : Nqabayomzi no one can know , that's why your wife is a threat to us

Me : you made human sacrifices and you say you did that for this family really ?

He groans and moves back , but he's blocked my Mkhusele . He's shocked I know that because he thought he blocked me and I must say for a while it worked

Me : what you're doing and what you did , we

might as well refer to you as a witch than a seer

Xhanti : I will not be insulted , I have lived for this family since you were a child

Me : and you will not get my wife's eyes , before that happens , we'll be calling you an ancestor as well

More shock , when my wife told me that Ntabeni took her for the use of her eyes . It didn't come as shocker to me that she ended up being married off to be that easily . What parent can do that to their own child, unless to push their own agendas ? That's where I picked this up , Ntabeni stole the child for

Xhanti . But because there was no way he could get to her as a child , when I was supposed to marry her that worked in his favour . Now she's family and close by

Me : I can assure you one thing , by now she already knows your evil devious plans so there's no way you'll succeed in that

Xhanti : we...we can talk about this

Me : there's nothing to talk about , I'm going to bury my brother . You stay here Mkhusele will keep you company . And then you can tell everyone what you have done

Xhanti : some secrets will destroy this family

Me : so be it

Xhanti : you don't know what you're doing

He raises his voice

Me : don't you see I'm tired?

I get up and walk towards the door

Xhanti : you're a fool boy

I walk out , he's powerful I know

But with Mkhuseleli in there there's nothing he will do , his powers are tamed

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Ziphozendalo

People came out in numbers to mourn with the family even the royal family is here , I'm seeing them for the first time . Walking up this morning I sneaked out and went into the river, best decision ever because right now I feel like I can take up on anything

We have just laid Mvelo to rest , we are back home . People are eating and funny enough the little MaJola doesn't want to eat today .

Every time I try to eat something the smells
throws me off I stop

Right now I'm busy drooling over this
dreadlocks man with tattoos and sangoma
cloth on his waist the maroon Njeti and he
has the red Njeti in his hand . His dreadlocks
are let loose they even hide his face at some
point . He's walking barefoot , some people
are looking at him funny . Because he doesn't
look like your typical sangoma man . But lord
he looks so good , I swear with the thoughts
I'm having right now Heaven is debating
whether to have me or not . He turns and
catches me drooling at him , I can't help
myself . He smiles and walks to where I am

Nqaba : how are my girls doing?

He kisses my cheek , I smile

Me : your daughter is starving me , she doesn't want to eat any food cooked here today

Nqaba : she's already smart like that , come let me feed you two

He takes my hand we walk to the room that I use or rather we use , because he stopped using his roundavel after his divorce with Mpilontle .

We walk in he closes the door even locks the door . I sit down on the bed , my coochie is doing flip flops backwards . He brings a paper bag and I can smell ribs

Me : so you're really feeding us real food ?

I ask not happy and sulking a bit . He looks at me

Nqaba : Kanti what did you think I was going to feed you ?

I flip my eyelashes , he laughs like I've cracked some joke

Nqaba : you want sex ? That is not happening, you're 8 months I don't want us to hurt the baby .

Me : Jola

Nqaba : hayhiii it's not happening now eat

I'm starved good people yhoh

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Mpilontle

Voice : sikunike ithuba lokuphila ngoba sikukhathalela , wasibulela ngok'funa igazi

lomye wethu (we have you a chance at living because we cared about you , you thanked us with wanting the blood of one of our own)

I come to crying sweating and panting

Me : oh my god what have I done ?

I cry hysterically , the machines beep the doctor comes it . He does his best to calm me down , eventually I calm down

Doc : mam do you know your name?

I nod , still silent crying

Doc : you're in hospital , can you remember what brought you here ? Like what happened to you

I remember everything , except how I ended up in hospital

Me : I can't feel my legs

He looks down

Me : my legs

I can't even raise them because there's nothing there , I try to sit up

Doc : please calm down you'll hurt yourself

Me : my legs , where are my legs I can't feel my legs

Doc : we had to choose between saving your life or your legs

He says with such pity

Me : what ?

Doc : I have never seen anything like that , your bones were completely crushed . The only option we had was to cut your legs

Me : y...you...you imputed my legs?

Doc : our job is to save lives and that's what we chose to do . We had no idea who you are or where your family us , we made the decision ourselves

Is this how the Jola ancestors punish me for trying to harm that child , I thought Mkhuseleli would kill us but he didn't instead he's made me an invalid . How am I ever going to survive right now ? Who's going to take care of me ? I have no one . They might have spared my life but they killed me , they should have just killed me because I might as well be dead . What am I without legs ? Those ancestors never loved me sham

Doc : there's another lady you can with

That must be Lazola

Me : what about her

Doc : she has no idea who she is?

Me : what do you mean ?

Doc : she's completely lost her memory . She doesn't know her name , or where she comes from . She knows nothing

Oh great , I will not be stuck with a crazy person I already have my own problems and she won't be one on them

Me : she's Qhawelomzi Bangani's wife from Isilo Kingdom . Her name is Lazola Bangani , find those people and tell them their daughter in-law is here

I say with annoyance , how can those ancestors do such to us ? This is inhumane

Doc : that would be helpful very much and you ...is there anyone we...

Me : there's no one now please leave me alone

I know Nqaba won't want anything to do with me now . That wife is his everything I am not , I'll spare myself the shame

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Ziphozendalo

It's been a few days after the funeral . Most of the relatives have gone to their homes .We will soon be returning to PE as well Nqaba doesn't want us here . But before that I want to go see Bhelekazi that's if she's back and I want to go see those murderers who stole me

Me : Jola you have to let Xhanti go

I say as he comes out of the bathroom

Nqaba : let him go ?

He asks as if he's dumbfounded

Me : I know you're keeping Xhanti in your hut with Mkhuseleli it's been said now

He laughs

Nqaba : oh you mean that ? Sweetheart Xhanti is not a prisoner he can come out if he wants

Me : How with Mkhuseleli in there ?

He shrugs his shoulders

Nqaba : andaz (I don't know)

Me : please let that man be , he can't harm me nor our child . There's always a price with blood sacrifices , Xhanti has no bloodline if his own . Soon enough he will not be able to sacrifice any blood because his own blood will be required

He sighs

Nqaba : why didn't I just come from a family that has no drama

Me : all families have drama

Nqaba : yes but not like this , that man is witch . He deals and works for the dark side , yet we made him our family seer

Me : you didn't know what he does, Xhanti does good but he draws the powers from the dark side . That's why he wants my eyes to help him see beyond the human eye

Nqaba : that's not going to happen

Me : yes it's not

Nqaba : so really you want me to let him go ?

Me : ewe (yes)

He's not pleased at all

Me : you keep him , the secrets come out and guess what...What happened to Ntsika all those years ago will come out as well as what you did , and we don't want that

Nqaba : okay fine

That fine is so aggressive I should be offended but I'm not . In fact I should push further so we can get this over and done with right here right now

Me : I would like us to adopt Omuhle as our own and I mean legally

He drops the lotion and stares at me . I caught him off guard I know

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Insert 16

Ziphozendalo

Me : andiphambani (I'm not loosing my mind)

I say because he's looking at me like I'm
loosing my mind

Me : you can say no if you want

He shouldn't say no , because I will nag him
until he agrees

Nqaba : we are expecting a new born , you
have varsity and I've just started the law firm

Me : I can manage all of that

Can I ? Well I don't know but he doesn't need to know that . All he needs to know is that I want Omuhle and he's ought to agree

Nqaba : why are you lying ?

I frown , he laughs

Me : but I want her and you're a lawyer you can make it happen

Nqaba : so basically I have no say in this ?

He puts his clothes on , I wait until he's done

Me : what do you mean ? Because I asked you

Nqaba : and you're telling me I'm a lawyer I can make it happen

Me : am I lying

He sighs

Nqaba : I feel very abused right now

Me : hayhiii Jola khame , I want Omuhle and you'll make sure I get her . Her mother wants nothing to do with her , your brothers have their own lives in Joburg . Already it is said Lazola's kids will be staying here

Nqaba : we have our lives in PE

Me : and Omuhle will be part of that

Nqaba : I still need to get permission from my mother

Me : then get I , I don't know but just do it .
I'm not leaving that child here

I get up walk to the bathroom , I have my own reason why I want Omuhle . She just lost the only parent she knew , and staying here won't do her any good . With all the drama that's about to happen , I want her away from this

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At the Bangani homestead

Mqhele walks in and sits down with his brother's and their wives

Ntsika : what ?

Mqhele : I got a call from the hospital , they say Lazola is admitted and she doesn't even remember who she is

Qhawelomzi is first to laugh with Mpande following . This shocks the wives because it's

not a laughing matter . They have been so
scared to ask their husbands where Lazola is
at

Nolitha : we should all go see her

Mqhele : when you say all you mean us
included

He asks annoyed

Nolitha : she's family

Ntsika : yeah so was Mpilontle

Qhawe : I don't want Lazola here she's fine where she is and away from my kids , nozala has already agreed to take the kids in

Mpande : then it's settled

Nqaba : what's settled ?

He asks coming in with his wife , they join the others

Ntsika : apparently his wife has lost her mind

Ziphozendalo smiles and Nqaba catches on that

Ntsika : is it one of those apparently situations?

Zipho : no

He claps once laughing

Mqhele : care to share

He ignores his brother

Ntsika : are you okay ?

Ziphozendalo nods

Ntsika : come there's red velvet cake in the kitchen

He takes her hand and doesn't wait for an answer they walk out

Nqaba : what was that about ?

Mqhele : why don't you ask your twin and wife

Nqaba : don't be an idiot I'm not talking about that

Mpande : then what ?

Nqaba : who's wife is crazy ?

The brothers laugh

Mqhele : no one said anyone is crazy

Qhawe : Lazola lost her mind

Mqhele : memory there's a difference

Nqabayomzi looks at Mpande because his wife said he wanted to kill Lazola and Mpilontle

Mpande : what ?

Nqaba : let's take a walk

He walks out and all his brother's follow him
except Ntsikayesizwe

Nqaba : what did you do ?

His brother's can tell the tone of his voice

Qhawe : we just put them somewhere and left
them there

Nqaba : Lazola and Mpilontle ?

Qhawelomzi nods

Mpande : okay look I didn't hurt anyone
although I planned to I didn't

Mpande is a loose canon the brothers all
know that

Nqaba : then what happened ?

Mpande : I don't know , I got there Lazola
was totally out of it and Mpilontle's legs were
crushes like literally crushes . There's no way
she can use those legs ever again

Mkhuseli Nqaba thinks

Nqaba : okay

Mqhele : just like that ?

Nqaba : it's his wife

Qhawe : and your ex

Nqaba : I have nothing to do with her

Qhawe : I don't want Lazola back, what am I going to do with a nut case ?

They laugh

Mqhele : just file for divorce and help us all
and this one here can help you

Nqaba : talk about filing things , my wife
wants us to adopt Omuhle legally

Ntsikayesizwe walks to his brothers and he
catches what Nqabayomzi is saying

Ntsika : and you're going to give her

Mqhele : are you asking or telling ?

Ntsika : telling of course , what our wife wants
our wife gets

Nqaba : are you going to tell your mother that?

Mqhele : nozala has no right to deny you to adopt her

Mpande : especially if we all gang up on her

Qhawe : involve dad in this

Nqaba : so you all don't have a problem with this ?

Mqhele : no , if anything out of all our wives MaJola is the only sane person here who can

raise our niece and give her the motherly love she needs

Ntsika : I will chip in financially every month

Mpande : I think we all will do that

Qhawe : yes and that money will go to MaJola , she's the mother she will know the needs our baby needs

Nqaba : so much trust yet I'm your brother

Mqhele : yhoh

The brothers laugh

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Mpilontle

My life has been hell it's been a week since I've woken up and everyday is a struggle . Knowing that I have to use a wheelchair now breaks and kills my soul everyday . Honestly I don't want to live anymore

The doctor walks in to do his rounds and ask me stupid questions everyday

Doc : how are you feeling ?

Me : what do you think ?

He feels pity for me his eyes say it all the time

Doc : you know we can offer psychological help for you and...

Me : I'm not crazy

Doc : of course you're not but therapy can help you deal with the emotional and psychological trauma

Me : tell me has anyone come to see Lazola?

I'll rather we stop talking about me

Doc : no I'm afraid not

Me : well did you find anyone ?

Doc : yes , a brother in-law but still no one has come

Those selfish Bangani bastards , don't they have hearts ? But what do I care . They casted me out the second they got a chance to do so

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Ziphozendalo

It's Christmas tomorrow and I've decided to come and see my so called family today . My baby bump is showing now but it's not huge yet you can tell that I'm pregnant

My husband says it suits me and Ntsikayesizwe is so obsessed with it . It's hard avoiding that guy , because I don't want his wife or anyone in the family think I want him now that Mvelo is gone . I knock , it's a while before my so called mother opens the door . Now I don't even know what to call this woman .

Me : uhm molo ma

She smiles but it's so fake , you can't miss it

Me : ukhona utata ?(is dad here)

She gives me a bored look .

Mom : yeah ngena I'm sure you want to
(come in)

I could laugh yhoh bawo , she moves I get in
and damn they upgraded this house inside
and out

Mom : hlala phantsi yhoh (sit down)

I'm looking around too much , I sit down

Mom : being married to those Bangani having all that money and riches still amaze you ?

Riches they got from selling me

Me : it's beautiful

Mom : aibo it has always been beautiful

My so called father comes in the shock when he sees me , he even looks like he wants to run away . I wonder what his friend Xhanti told him , the way the man has been avoiding me at the homestead .

Dad : my baby

Me : Tata

Dad : look at you , you're beautiful

Mom : and she's pregnant

She rolls her eyes , I don't understand the concept of an old woman rolling eyes .

Dad : of course she's married , she's supposed to be pregnant . Or else the Bangani's will think our daughter is infertile

Mom : argh

She walks away leaving us alone . I can literally feel the fear and heartbeat of this man, he's scared

Me : how have you been ?

Dad : good baby good

Me : that's good

He lets out a nervous laugh

Dad : I heard ...you left

Me : yes we live in PE now I got accepted at NMU

Dad : that's my bright baby , I hope you still visit your in-laws

Me : not really , but we do come when he have to like now , being with the family during this tragedy we are faced with

I stare at him intensely , he swallows

Me : you know Mfihlo had a child , a baby girl she's only 4 . He was studying to be an accountant at Isilo university he had so much to do with his life .

Dad : hm

Me : igazi lomntu luyakhala (the blood of men cries)

He shifts uncomfortable

Me : he wasn't Jesus his blood doesn't save

Dad : erll I do understand your hurt, he was family and my heart goes out to your in-laws

Me : thank you

I say with my dashing smile . I know Mvelo had issues battling with his feelings for me and all that. But before anything else he was

a father and he loved his daughter , he was not going to kill himself to leave his daughter all alone just because of me . Xhanti manipulated Mvelo's feeling for me and used that to his advantage

Me : I should get going

Dad : you just came to see us?

Me : yes nothing much

Except that Mvelo's spirit will avenge itself and not even Nqaba will be able to stop it

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Nqabayomzi

My wife went to see that so called family of hers , I wanted to go with her but she told me she'll go on her own . I saw this as an opportunity to talk to my mother , even though she's been shutting out . It's understandable Mvelo was home more than us , they got along better

Me : nozala

We walk in her room , she welcomes us with a smile

Mom : what do you want ?

We laugh , we all find places to sit

Me : how are you ?

Mom : I don't know Nqaba , I feel like I'll wake
up from this

I nod

Qhawe : with time you'll be better , we all will
be

Mom : where is your wife wena ?

Yhoh

Qhawe : she filed for divorce and disappeared

Such a lie when did he even think about it ?

Mom : what ?

Qhawe : yeiiiy nozala andikho right marn ndiyagowisha (mom I'm not okay , I'm going through the most)

No ways no....we laugh including our mother.
What is wrong with Qhawe

Qhawe : like ndizoyithini mna lonto heh ,
ndizobaxelela nton abantwana bethu?(what
am I going to do , what will I tell our kids)

He really has his speech figured out

Mom : oh my baby

Ntsika : aibo uNqaba usekhona (Nqaba is still
here)

Me : the baby of the family enkosi mkhuluwa
(thank you big brother)

Mom : look at you two always looking out for
each other

Ntsika : from the being conceived

Mqhele : spare us

We laugh

Me : nozala I came with a request apha

Mom : I knew y'all wanted something

Me : uhm my wife and I would like to adopt
Omuhle

Mom : what ?

Me : we would like to...

Mom : Nqaba I heard you and no

Okay she's shutting me out

Mqhele : ma...

Mom : that child is the only thing I have left of my son and no one is taking her away from me so no

Me : I'm not taking her away , we just...

Mom : Nqaba I don't care what you want , it's not happening so forget it

Something is going on here and it's bigger than what she's letting on

Ntsika : all Nqaba and MaJola want is to give Omuhle the love of both a mother and a father

Mom : I don't care , they're not her parents they can't give her the parental love . Make your own kids or rather go to orphanages there's lot of abandoned kids there okay happy families with those and not my Omuhle

Qhawe : that's not a nice thing to say nozala

Mom : do I look like I care ?

I get up

Mqhele : mkhuluwa

Me : no it's fine

I walk out . Whatever is going on here is bigger than me I just hope my wife can understand . I walk into our room. And she's already back

Zipho : your mother said no ?

Me : stop reading my mind

She smiles , it melts my heart I feel better already

Me : I'm sorry sweetheart

Zipho : it's okay , your mother will give me Omuhle

The way she's saying , she's so convinced it will happen

Me : do you know something I don't know ?

Zipho : we both know things the other doesn't know

Me : no I'm certain you know all I know

Zipho : I don't know why your mother doesn't want to give us Omuhle

Me : she said something about us wanting to take away the only thing she has from her son

She nods , but is not convinced

Me : I'm sorry

Zipho : we will leave with her as our own . No one has a claim over Mvelo's child not even your mother

What am I missing here ?

Zipho : go release Xhanti from that hut Jola ,
it's been over a week now

Me : fine

I walk out to the hut , he's laying down with
Mkhuseli still next to him. One thing is for
sure he's still alive

Me : you can leave

He sits up

Xhanti : greater forces are at play here

Me : you think I give a fuck ? Leave my wife alone Xhanti

Xhanti : she's powerful than any of us , do you think I'm the only one who wants her ?

Me : I don't care , none of you are getting her

He gets up

Xhanti : you can only protect her to a point

Me : you're annoying me leave

He walks to the door

Xhanti : this family is built on lies and secrets, for the ancestors to forgive you for having blood on your hands a sacrifice had to be made . There's a lot you don't know

Me : and all thanks to you

Xhanti : this wife of yours is dangerous , do you have any idea the things she can expose

Me : I'm tired of hearing that . It can all be exposed I don't care now leave

I return the same tone he just used on me

Xhanti : this homestead will burn

He walks out , as much as I'm disliking Xhanti at the moment . What he just said is scaring me . It becomes cold in the hut , like freezing cold my body shivers . I turn back and I'm faced with a Mvelo that has a rope on his neck his eyes are bloodshot red

Mvelo : I wronged you I know please forgive me , let MaJola let my child only she can raise her well don't leave her in this place .

I'm grounded where I am I can't even move

Mvelo : I will avenge myself , she will not ease her consciousness by keeping my child .

Me : who ?

Mvelo : their mother killed our mother just because dad had an affair and we were the result of that. And she had no problem with me being killed so she can keep peace between her precious kids , I will avenge myself dear brother

He disappears , I feel so light but my get carry me to the main house I burst through the door my parents are coming down the stairs

Ntsika : what's wrong ?

Zipho : Jola no

She whispers that , she must have known that's why she was so sure we will get Omuhle . I look at my mother . I already hated this woman this time she has gone too far there's no coming back from this

Me : Mvelo was not your child ?

Everyone looks at me , including my parents my brother's get on their feet

Them : what

Me : nozala ndiphendule (Mom answer me)

She cries , but I don't care right now

Insert 17

At the Bangani homestead

Tensions are rising , all eyes to Mrs Bangani
who has tears streaming down like the
Victoria falls has been opened

Mqhele : bawo ...what is this?

Me : are we even brother's ?

Zipho : Jola please

She's already besides her husband begging him , but he's too upset and that's the problem with Nqaba

Ntsika : what do you mean mom is not Mvelo's mother

Mrs Bangani : he was my son ...I don't care what any of you say , I raises Mvelo

Nqaba : because you killed his mother

He roars the whole dinning room comes to a silence . Mr Bangani looks at his wife and the

way she's crying confirms what Nqaba has just said , he lets go of her hand

Mpande : no...no Nqaba what is this

Mrs Bangani : I loved him like my own , he was my son

Me : yet you killed him along side lagqwhirha uXhanti (that witch Xhanti)

No one has ever seen Nqaba this upset expect Mqhele and Mpande , and the last time he was like this he killed a man

Mr Bangani : Nqaba stop

He can't bear to hear any of this

Nqaba : no I am tired , so we are all going to hear everything all out it today

Mrs Bangani : no one , no one has the right to judge me here

Nqaba : you kill and you tell us that shit

Mqhele : nozala is this true , Mvelo isn't your son?

They all can't believe any of this , how can their parents hide the identity of Mvelo for so long

Mr Bangani : Balingene did you kill the mother of my kids ?

He asks with a straight face to his wife , she looks down not being able to bare the stare of her husband

Mqhele : wait dad did you just say kids ? Who else and who is this mother of your so called kids ?

His tone sets Nqaba off in a bad way which runs off to Ntsika

Mr Bangani : answer me

His scream , sends the poor wives backing away closer to the door .

Mrs Bangani : I endured with the first two , I told you to leave her but no , you went on again and Mvelo was the results . Muzikayise I begged you to leave that woman , I told you how much your relationship with Boniswa was hurting me . But she meant more to you more than I did , we have been together for so many years . Did you really think a fling was going to make me leave my home ?

Mqhele : which kids ?

Now all the brothers are angry more especially Mqhele and Mpande . Nqaba is having such mixed emotions and he is fearful for his brother

Mr Bangani : you didn't have to kill her

When an old cold man like Muzikayise Bangani cries you know shit has hit the fan

Mrs Bangani : I begged you , I begged you over and over again . Not once but you had to give her more kids after I accepted at first

ones , a human can only take so much . I did what I thought was best for me and our family

Mr Bangani comes down leaving her there , he locks all the doors making sure it's just his family left in the house . The kids are out playing in the garden

Ziphozendalo doesn't like the whole scene that's about to take place right now . She sees and smells the blood and she knows someone is going to die in this house

Mr Bangani : you are going to sit down here and tell me detail to detail just how you killed her

She shakes her head her drags her down the stairs , she cries begging him to stop. She tripped her leg very bag which resulted in hurting her knee

Mpande : Tata you're hurting her

It falls on death ears he puts her down on the couch , he pulls the coffee table close and sits on it

Mr Bangani : I am listening

Mqhele : so.....

Mr Bangani : kwedini this is not your house
(boy)

Mqhele has never ever in his life heard his father shout at him . He knows he has to shut his mouth right now

Mrs Bangani : you will embarrass me like this? In front of the kids ? How about the fact that you cheated on me , I gave you 3 sons but that wasn't enough . And look at how all your kids turned out , monsters and animals . Their wives even fear them and...

Mqhele : this is not about us answer your husband

Qhawe : that was fast

They all look at their mother

Nqaba : it's us right ?

He's looking at the mother he though was his mother .

Nqaba : we are not your kids ?

Ziphozendalo cries silently the pain in her husband voice rips her apart, Nqaba was already broken . He's a man that killed his own uncle at age 13 , a man who saw his brother being molested by a grown ass man . Now he has to go through this again

Ntsika : who wait...when you say we...you mean me and you ? Like what the fuck no...no ma tell him it's not true

These wives have never seen nor head their husbands this broken

Ntsika : ma

Mrs Bangani : I am not your mother Ntsika the same way I am not Nqaba's mother and Mvelo's

Ntsika : h...how could you ?

He walks closer to her

Ntsika : so you lied to us all our lives and on top of that you killed our mother for a fucking cheating man who cannot keep ...

He doesn't finish as his father slaps him

Mr Bangani : I will not father a child then he will shame me like this

Me : you should have thought of that before you went out and cheated

His father turns his attention to him

Nqaba : I fucking dare you to put your hands on me and I will burry you alive

Mr Bangani moves back

Nqaba : I am so done with you whole lot

Mrs Bangani : Nqaba I love...

Me : don't tell me that shit , you killed my mother and my brother

He looks at his wife and she doesn't look okay and considering her condition she has seen and heard enough

Me : MaJola go get Omuhle we are leaving

Mrs Bangani : no...no one is taking Omuhle away from me

Me : why so you can sacrifice her too?

She gasps

Me : you're fucking with me

Mrs Bangani : everyone sees the wrong in what I did , what about your father who went out of our marriage and cheated

Mpande : is he even our father ?

Nqaba : you think I care about your fucking husband's infidelity ?

Mqhele : maybe we all should be told who our real parents are

Mr Bangani : you will not question me I am your father

Ntsika : how did you do it ?

His tears keep streaming down

Mrs Bangani : it...it was Xhanti he...he helped me with muthi ... My kids I am so sorry I ...

Zipho : Ntsika no....

Everyone looks at her , she's looking at Ntsika who is pointing a gun at the woman he thought was his mother

Amahle : babe please...please don't do this

Nqaba walks to his crying wife he holds her

Mqhele : Ntsika no...don't do this

Mrs Bangani goes down on her knees crying
her hands brought together

Mrs Bangani : I am so...

Ntsika : you killed her she didn't live for her
kids you lived for yours they're fucking grown
up men , all thanks to you we never got to
know our mother . Now tell me since you
killed her for your husband what did you kill
Mvelo for ?

They're all disturbed by the presence of
Xhanti

Xhanti : I used the spare keys I have

Ntsika : great your accomplice is here , you'll both tell me why you killed my brother

Mrs Bangani : no...no Mvelo killed himself because he was in love with his brothers wife

Mpande : seems like there's more secrets in the closet expose them

Xhanti : are you sure you want to know that ?

Mqhele : don't ask that , just fucking answer the damn question

Xhanti : I've been a seer for the Bangani family for so long before your father . And in all those years I have never dealt with what happened when Boniswa's blood was spilled by a Bangani wife . Her spirit turned on us very bad that once in every 5 years we had to make a blood sacrifice . A lot of people stuffed at our hand , but we had no choice

Mqhele : are you hearing yourself? You killed people and you say you had no choice ?

Xhanti : you make it sound like we were willing , Boniswa's spirit was haunting us and it demanded blood. The same way it happed with Mvelo , when we realised his love for his brother's wife I knew there was no way he was ever going to get her so I used some

dark powers on him to make him resent those feelings but he was pure it only ended up making him think the only way out was suicide

A gun shot startles everyone , the wives scream including Mrs Bangani . It quite down and everyone looks at Xhanti's lifeless body with a bullet through the skull

Qhawe : Ntsika....

They all turn and their father is the one who has the gun , it's no longer in Ntsika's hands he has no idea when his father took it

Mr Bangani : let's all sit down and I will finish this today

Everyone is reluctant to sit down but eventually they do , except Nqaba and his wife

Mr Bangani : I love Balingene I can't deny that but I also Loved Boniswa , we met just after Mpande was born . It was supposed to be a fling but the love was too strong soon after she fell pregnant with the twins . There was no way I was going to deny my kids or let them be raised by another man . Balingene found out about the affair and the pregnancy , she wanted Boniswa and I to end this that resulting with us raising the kids as our own .

Boniswa agreed only because her situation was bad , there was no way she was going to be able to take of them . But we agreed that when they got older we can tell them the truth and they'll have a relationship with her .

When Qhawelomzi was born the relationship between Boniswa and I was none existent .

Which gave me and my wife hope that we can work things about , but one night out of town I ended up being with Boniswa again and that is how Mvelo came about . We tried to avoid seeing each other but we loved each other

Mqhele : then why not marry her at least

Mr Bangani : your mother didn't want me to marry her as a second wife . Boniswa died

giving birth to Mvelo but I thought it was just complications

Ntsika : how can you be so heartless ?

Mrs Bangani : Ntsika...

Nqaba : you never cared about us , that's why you let that fucking bastard you called a brother to continue living with us knowing very well what he was doing

She starts crying again shaking her head , she's very much aware that her brother was molesting Ntsika sexually

Nqaba : all thanks to you I killed a man at 13

Mqhele and Mpande look down they're the only ones who know about this

Mrs Bangani : you...you killed him?

Mqhele : don't defend him

Mrs Bangani : he was my brother

Nqaba : and Ntsika is my brother

He shouts Zipho moves a bit away from him

Ntsika : wait...what are you talking about ?

Mr Bangani : I also want to know

Nqaba : you two disgust me and I am done with you

He grabs the key from his father and walks out

Ntsika : what was that all about ?

Mqhele : something are better left unknown
Ntsika

Mr Bangani : your mother and I failed you . I married a woman I did her bad in return she hurt me where it hurts the most , my heart with my kids .

Mqhele : no it makes sense , why mom always had to leave whenever we were told she was expecting . And you made us believe it was to protect her and the kids . She'll only come back when she's "given birth"

Mr Bangani : maybe in the afterlife we can be better parents that we failed to be

Zipho : nooooooo

She screams crouching down Amahle runs to her side while everyone focuses on her , gun shots are fired

Qhawe : Tata

He screams looking at his father and mother with bullets through their skulls

Mqhele : no

He goes down on his knees crying . Nolitha runs to his side crying

Zipho : take me out of here

Everyone is lost in their own thoughts no one is even hearing her . She feels hands picking her up the scent gives it away

Nqaba puts his wife in the car , Omuhle smiles when she sees her uncle carrying her aunt like that , the very same way he carried her to the car

Zipho : he ..

Nqaba motions for her to look at the back .
She turns and sees Omuhle who is smiling
Zipho smiles back Omuhle giggles

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Ziphozendalo

Lord I am tired like I am really tired, did Nqaba see that his father killed his mother well step mother in this case then he killed himself ?

Me : did you see that ?

I whisper

Nqaba : yes

Yhoh

Omuhle : Ndalo afun hamba wena? (Ndalo you don't want to walk)

I laugh trying to calm myself down

Me : hayhiii andifuni wethu (no I don't want to)

We both laugh

Omuhle : yhoh hoku saphi? (now where are we going)

Little human creatures are just too cute for their own good

Me : nam andaz (I also don't know)

Omuhle : yhoh

The dramatic head throw back she makes leaves us all laughing . It's a long drive to PE but we finally make it . Omuhle is fast asleep

Nqaba : I'll go put her down

I nod he carries her . I walk to the kitchen it has been a long day . Nqaba comes back down

Me : I am so sorry , I swear I didn't know until we were all in that room I only saw about

Mvelo , that's why I wanted us to take his child

Nqaba : it's okay

He hugs me I return the hug

Nqaba : he didn't tell me , that means he didn't know . He only knew about himself

Me : oh I'm so sorry Jola

Nqaba : how can they do this to us, and these damn ancestors what's the point of having them if they keep such things from me

Me : in anger we don't react , whatever our ancestors and spiritual guides do is to protect us

Nqaba : not in this case sweetheart i needed to know the truth

Me : the truth is not always what's best , look what has happened to this family . One secret brought out many we will never be the same again . If there's one thing I'm glad about throughout this whole disaster is that Ntsika didn't know what happened to him

A knock at the door disturbs the moment

Me : let me get it

I go open and I can't help but engulf him in a hug , he's too drained and tired

Nqaba : did you have to follow us ?

He says behind us , the little MaJola kicks we both laugh

Nqaba : share the joke

We pull out of the hug , he's so red no doubt he has been crying .

Me : I am so sorry

Ntsika : how can you leave me there with them ?

Now I feel bad , we shouldn't have left him

Nqaba : in this case I was thinking about my wife , I can't afford to lose my baby

Ntsika : our baby you idiot , and this is our wife

It goes quite if they won't then I will

Me : what's..what's going to happen now ?

Ntsika : I don't know Bhabha my head is spinning , did you see me I almost killed someone ?

I laugh I don't mean to but the way he's saying it hah

Nqaba : you were never going to kill her give it up

Ntsika : your pathetic father took that moment away from me

Nqaba : he did us all a favour

Don't let his words fool you he's in pain .

Ntsika : I...I left your brothers with their dead bodies there

Me : where is your wife ?

Ntsika : in the car , making a call to her family

Nqaba : and the kids ?

Amahle and Ntsika have two son's

Ntsika : in the city with Owentando

That's Mqhele's son he's about 16

Ntsika : I'm sleeping here

Me : these couches are Italian please go find a room somewhere

He kisses my cheek laughing and goes upstairs

Me : it has been a long traumatic day we need to go rest

Nqaba : with Xhanti gone is it over?

Me : I'm afraid not , Ntabeni is still here and well

Nqaba : I swear it feels like we are cursed

Me : I know

I take his hand we go to our room

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At the Bangani homestead

Qhawe : he is going crazy

Mqhele is busy burning Xhanti's hut to ashes with the bodies of their parents and that of Xhanti in there

Lihle : Nolitha talk to your husband this is not the way to do things

Nolitha : he didn't listen to his brother's what makes you think he will listen to me ?

Lihle : he's burning people in there , his own parents whom we should lay to rest in a respectable manner

Mpande : babe stop with your righteousness we didn't know the people called parents

Mqhele walks back to them he smells so bad

Qhawe : how are we going to explain this ?

Mqhele : they all disappeared and we have no idea where they went

People start coming to the homestead as they see the fire at the Bangani's

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Insert 18

Ndalo

Mom : what do you think happened there ?

It's a shocker , last night almost half the whole village went to the Bangani's just to see what was happening there ?

Luba : the hut family seer's hut was burning what else could be happening ?

My brother can be such an idiot

Me : can you just gasps everything you just said ?

Luba : what ?

Mom : a seer's hut burns and that's normal to you ?

Me : that can't be normal at all , something is wrong in that family

I'm so glad I let go of that silly idea of being one of them

Luba : Xhanti is human like the rest of us , people's huts burn all the time

Me : except that people don't heal in their huts they just live in them

Luba : forget that , wasn't it strange that the Ntabeni's were not there ? Yet their daughter is married to that family

Mom : why are we even gossiping about these people ?

Me : aibo ma we are just taking , I'm sure it's the talk of the village

Mom : talk of the village these dishes won't wash themselves

Talk about a mood killer

Mom : and we still have to prepare the
Christmas lunch

Me : aibo it doesn't even feel like Christmas

Mom : because you're so focused on other
people's affairs

Me : kodwa ma

Mom : get working Ndalo

Mothers are the death of us , or is just mine
alone .

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At the Bangani homestead

It's a sombre morning , everyone is in their own thoughts

Nolitha : what now ?

She breaks the silence

Mqhele : we move on

Nolitha : my love I mean , how do we pick up the pieces ?

Mqhele : what pieces Nolitha? Do you see anything broken here

His aggressive tone sends his wife quite

Qhawe : I have to go see my lawyer

He gets up and leaves

Lihle : will we have...maybe do something for Christmas ?

She asks a bit reserved , with the way Mqhele has already talked to Nolitha she doesn't want a taste of that

Mpande : leave me out of it

He also gets up and leaves . A short while
Mqhele leaves as well

Nolitha : what will happen of us?

Lihle : I am so scared , I didn't sleep the
whole night

She tears up

Nolitha : how did we get here ?

She is also defeated as much as she liked
acting like a mother figure, she sees her
failures and this is bigger than her .

Nolitha : it's still hard to believe that we all saw utata kill Xhanti , leave us with such a confession then killing himself and ma

Lihle : the blood , I still can't get that out of my head

They all went to bed last night and this morning it was spotless clean like nothing happened

Nolitha : I don't know how are we ever going to move past this

All they see are broken cracks because of how things ended . Nqaba is gone so is Ntsika and when Owentando returned from

the city he came alone . Amahle fetched her kids . The question is , is this the end of the Bangani brotherhood ?

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Ziphozendalo

Me : awusemhle (you're so beautiful)

She smiles

Omuhle : enkosi vha (thank you)

She kisses my cheek , I had to run around this morning like a headless chicken trying to find Christmas clothes . Thank god I found them , she's just took a bath and she's happy.

Just because we are sour doesn't mean we have to involve the kids in our things . More especially Omuhle

Omuhle : hoku aneke ambone tatam (now my father won't see me)

She looks down . I pick her up we sit down on the bed

Me : noma ungeke umbone uhleli apha kuwe (even if you don't see him , he's right here with you)

I put her tiny hand on her heart

Omuhle : manje wena no ta Mkhulu zo hlala nam? (So you and uncle will live with me)

Me : ewe (yes)

Omuhle : ndiyavuya ke (I'm happy then)

Voice : and umhle marn (you're beautiful)

She gets up off and runs to her uncle , he picks her up she giggles as they kiss each other's cheeks

Omuhle : yabona Ndalo ndeze mhle njani ?
Ndifana naye hoku (you see how beautiful Ndalo made me ? I look like her now)

I laugh , such a little diva

Nqaba : ngiyabona (I see)

Omuhle : yobona oHlihle (I'm going to see Sihle)

That's Ntsika's older son , she leaves going down

Me : the stairs

Nqaba : she's going to Sihle's room he's up here

I nod , he comes in and closes the door

Nqaba : sisi nomkitha (my stunning lady)

I smile he lays on the bed I lay on top of him

Nqaba : niyandisinda (you're too heavy)

I laugh

Me : it's your portion sir

He takes a huge deep breath

Me : how are you?

Nqaba : I'm an orphan now , I don't know the woman that carried me for 9 months . My father managed to keep such a huge thing from us . We are fucking grown men

Me : which is why you're going to tell Ntsika the truth

He tenses up I get off him and sit straight

Nqaba : sweetheart Ntsika is not me

Me : he's weak you can say it , but do you see what secrets do ?

He closes his eyes

Me : I told you about this death and blood hovering over the Bangani's.

We just buried Mvelo and now this

Nqaba : well my father chose the easy way out

Me : no , either way it was going to happen . Ntsika was going to pull that trigger and kill MaBalingene . What was going to happen between you and your brothers ?

He sits up straight and looks at me, now we are getting somewhere I'll rather have him face me than feel like I'm talking alone

Nqaba : their mother killed ours

Me : that's not justice , Nqaba you can kill in cold blood and live with it. But Ntsika it was going to haunt him to death

Nqaba : Sweetheart the truth will kill him

Me : haven't you learned something?

Nqaba : just yesterday you said you were happy he didn't find out

Me : true and a second later I regretted that statement . Secrets have a way of coming out. Look at me and the Ntabeni's whom I still have to confront with the truth . Your family with not telling you the truth about your mother . What do you think will happen when Ntsika finds out ? Because believe me Jola he will find out

Nqaba : I am just protecting him

Me : I'm sure that's what your parents thought they were doing

Nqaba : that's savage

I laugh

Me : but I'm being honest

Nqaba : I know , I know

Me : then do the right thing , right now we don't know where you stand with your other brother's or where they stand with you . What if confrontations happen and one of them burst it out ?

Nqaba : Ntsika will hate me

Me : we can deal with everything , afterwards

Nqaba : whatever would I be without you ?

I laugh getting off the bed

Me : I don't know , kalok nam andaz what you would do (I also don't know)

Nqaba : uyaphi ngok (where are you going now)

Me : it's my first Christmas married, in my own home , pregnant and with a little girl .
You think I'm going to spend it sulking over things that happened and I cannot change ?
No ways

Nqaba : oh ?

He wiggles his brows

Me : khayeke I'm taking my daughter out for dinner since there's nothing cooked in this house . I'll ask oSihle if they want to come with

I put my sandals on

Nqaba : what about Amahle ?

Me : that poor woman is traumatized . The plan is to make Omuhle happy she doesn't know what happened and there's no need to make her day sour .

Nqaba : I hear you

Me : while at it please order her some gifts ,
like anything pink and girly so we can have
presents to give her when we come back

He smiles and gives me a look I can't
comprehend .

Me : and now ?

He gets off the bed and walks to me

Nqaba : indoda mayibe no mqhele (a man
must have a crown)

I laugh , it's happiness this man is giving me ,
even with all the drama surrounding us

Nqaba : UMQHELE we ndoda umfaziwayo (a
man's crown is his woman)

Me : and you have yours

Nqaba : you know that better than anyone
else

He leans down , captures my lips into his .
We kiss for a while his groans are telling me
he's suffering my poor husband . I need to
take care of it . He finally pulls out

Me : your baby needs to come out of me
because I am being starved Jola yhoh

He burst out laughing

Nqaba : nam ndaz'khumbula impundu zam (I
also miss my ass)

He says grabbing it the way he owns it

Me : you're so nasty

I grab my handbag walking out to Sihle's
room , I say his because he looks like he's
settled in here . Owentando came to drop his

clothes off after their mother went to pick them

Me : can I come in ?

I knock at the door and Omuhle's laughter welcomes me

Sihle : ngena Dabawo (Come in aunt)

Me : whoa a selfie party without me

Omuhle : phone ya lo Hlihle (it's Sihle's phone)

Sihle : and awucelanga wethu (you didn't ask bruh)

Omuhle : hah Hlihle (hah Sihle)

She says with a frown

Me : anyways I'm taking the little miss out for lunch , do you want to come with ?

Sihle : that would be nice , mom and dad are just acting up .

Me : grown ups business boy

He laughs shaking his head

Sihle : I must say you're the youngest of them all but damn you're like mother figure , even aunt Nolitha doesn't do half the job you do

This child

Voice : I agree , can I come with dabawo ?

It's the other one , Simo

Me : the more the merrier

We all leave . I just want the kids happy it's Christmas day after all . And I'm sure they're not used to their Christmas being like this , more especially coming from such a big

family . They don't know what happened yesterday , until such time they're told , I'll make sure their lives are normal as possible

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At the Bangani homestead

It's later in the evening , Nolitha and Lihle have cooked . But everyone can't miss the tension in the room

Nolitha : can I say something ?

It's just the adults , the kids are eating in the lounge

Mqhele : what ?

Nolitha : I think we all need some kind of help

Mpande : enough of seer's the last one we had sacrificed people to keep away a haunting spirit

Qhawe laughs

Nolitha : no bhuti I mean professional help , like maybe a psychologist

Mpande : yhoh Mqhele talk to your wife

Mqhele is displeased by what Nolitha has just said

Mqhele : does your head work fine?

That offends her , the way their husbands have no problem putting them off without a care

Mqhele : I just said no one will know what happened to those three useless human beings and now you want us to go sit on couches pay a fucking stranger to listen to us while we air all that our

Mpande : I'm not doing that shit

Qhawe : nor am

Mqhele : no one is doing that , unless people don't want to be part of this family anymore

He walks off again

Mpande : stop pissing him off for all our sakes

Nolitha looks down , Lihle is so glad she didn't say anything this time around . All the brothers spent their day away home no one knew where they were , until they came back just before dinner

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Insert 19

Ziphozendalo

It's been a week since Christmas , and you can still feel the sombre mood . My husband is not okay more especially Ntsika , even though Nqaba tries to be strong like he's okay I can tell he's not okay . I'm not pushing for anything with time I hope they'll all be fine , not excluding all the other brother's . After all they're still brother's and the fact that they don't share a mother doesn't mean they're not siblings , the Jola blood runs through their veins

I'm in the kitchen trying to cook , I'm not good at this . I can only make basic food none of

those fancy what and what not , so far no one has complained even the kids . As for my husband he knows his wife really can't cook

Amahle : molo sisi

Me : uhm hi

She grabs a seat and sits and down

Me : can I offer you anything ?

Amahle : no , but I'd like to talk

Me : okay

Can I please not read this woman's mind nor hear her thoughts . I wipe my hands and sit down as well

Amahle : please bare with me

Me : okay

She is not okay , she even has eye bags . My heart goes out for her

Amahle : I'd like to apologize

Me : apologize ?

Amahle : for everything , how I played my part into making your presence in the family so messed up . And how I never tried to include you in anything

Me : it's okay , one thing about me is that I never need to fit in

I say with a smile so she knows there's no hostility there

Amahle : I can that now

I nod

Amahle : as we are married to the same brother's who shared the same womb at the same time , I should have been more of a bigger sister to you .

Me : that would have been nice

We both slightly laugh , and I mean what I'm saying I've never had a sister before

Amahle : I failed so bad , I'm so weak and I hate that about me . I go where the wind goes, I'm so easily influenced it's like I can't hold my own

Me : that is true

She gives me that really look

Me : yes I won't lie to make you feel better

Amahle : Sihle would say savage much dabs

She imitates him , we laugh

Me : and we are only a year and months
apart

Amahle : even my kids shame me , the way
they respect you as their aunt .

Me : at least in raising them you're doing a
good job

Amahle : you can't lie can you ?

Me : I think I can , but right now what this family needs is the brutal honest truth

Amahle : you're right

She rubs her hands together , she is too heavy , her energy that is

Amahle : how do you do it ?

Me : do what ?

Amahle : stay strong like this , be able to support ubhuti even when you're falling yourself

Me : since no one taught me , I taught myself that marriage is all about being there for each other . Selfishness doesn't work in marriage unless you have to bare nonsense like cheating and being abused , that I can never stand . We both have our own baggage's but if his gets more than mine , I shift mine at the back and we both focus on his . I'm overlooked a lot because I'm just a child , I can admit that even Jola did that a lot . He kept things from me in the sense that he's protecting me forgetting that I'm his wife not his child . The little things he let me deal with gave him that clear vision even the big ones

together we can handle them . The trust now he has in me is what keeps me going , knowing that when he has to come first I compromise

Amahle : I don't think ... In fact I know I am weak , as it is I'm already failing . My husband is a firmer shadow of himself . And there's nothing I can do or say to help him

Me : he just learnt the woman he knew as his mother was infact his step mother , he saw his father kill three people . That is hard on anyone , a lot of things are going through their heads right now . The least you can do is be there for him, if he doesn't want to talk don't push him to . If he's in bed all alone lost in his thoughts turn the tables do what he

would do , cuddle him . Give him the same assurance and safety that he would give to you if it was you in the situation

Just looking at her I know she will not be able to handle what Ntsika is yet to learn about himself

Me : Ntsika can't be a corpse and you also join him in that , wake up every morning bath put on your make up and be husband's anchor

Amahle : baby steps

Me : yes , you can't do it all in one full speed

She nods

Me : help me cook

We both get up

Amahle : congratulations on the baby by the way

My baby bump is there it's like I'm three months pregnant it's crazy because in few weeks this baby will be here

Me : thank you , we best get done now before I miss sulking to my husband

We laugh and get cooking

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Mpilontle

Doc : you're doing very good

I don't need to hear that because I don't feel good

Doc : and that's why I'm discharging you tomorrow

Me : what ?

Doc : you're in your recovery process there's no need for me to keep you here any longer

Me : can't you keep me here maybe for a few days ?

Doc : I'm afraid I can't do that

Me : but...

Doc : this is public hospital , someone else needs that bed as it is

Wow just wow , where am I going to go ? I still have my apartment yes but how am I going to get there and who will be helping me? I have no one

Me : I...can you please borrow me your phone ?

There's only one person I can think of right now

Doc : okay

He hands it to me , I still remember his numbers I punch them in the phone rings only after a few rings he answers

Nqaba : hello

Me : h...Nqaba it's me

He drops it , just like that . I call again and he's blocked this number

Me : what am I going to do ?

Doc : is there anyone else you would like to call ?

Do I look like I have anyone else to call ?

Me : still no one has come to see Lazola

Doc : I'm afraid not , and in this case we would have to look at other options as to where to take her

Me : you mean like homes and such ?

Doc : yes

Me : damn we are so fucked up.

He gives me a look like he's never heard anyone swear in his whole life , hand him his phone back

Me : can I please see her ?

Doc : are you sure ?

Me : about what ?

Doc : that you want to see her ?

Me : yes , and you shouldn't have asked me a question you should have just given me a simple yes or no

Doc : fine you can see her , I'll get a nurse to come help you

He walks out . Maybe seeing a familiar face can jog her memory or something

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At the Bangani homestead

The family here is having it hard , the brothers are heading for destruction . The are shutting everyone out including their wives even the kids can now see something is wrong

Owe : ma , where is tata and Makhulu ?

Those being their grandparents

Nolitha looks at her son , Owentando is old unlike all the small ones who can easily be lied to

Nolitha : they...we don't know

Owe : what do you mean ?

Mqhele : ndoda what your mother means is that we don't know where they are including lo Xhanti

Owe : are they missing ?

Mqhele : we don't know maybe Xhanti took them to one of those things of his

Owe : oh , and otanci bona ?

Mqhele : they're in PE

Owe : Tata I know , but why did they leave so sudden ? I mean even Sihle took all his things

Mqhele is getting agitated now and Owentando can see it , his father has never lost himself with them but he knows him he has his moments where questions annoy him, he's getting to that point now

Owe : Xolo I'll stop

Mqhele : it's okay , look we are just going through something with your uncle's it's nothing big soon everyone will be back home

Owe : oh that's better

Nolitha walks out she cannot stand how her husband can just lie through his teeth and not even have a single ounce of regret

Owe : and that ?

Mqhele : son women are women

Owe : a person is better off gay

He says that laughing but his father gives him a look of displeasure

Mqhele : boy you better not because I'll beat that homosexual mentality before you can even think of another's man's dick

His tone is off , Owentando looks down and says nothing

Mqhele : the universe better not test me I don't care who's child is gay or what not as long as it's not mine

Mqhele is a man that doesn't understand a lot of things , he's just confirmed that to his son

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Mpilontle

I thought I look bad with no legs but damn ,
Lazola looks worse . I wonder what did that
snake do to her

Me : hey

She looks at me , it's like she doesn't even
know where she is

Lazola : do I know you ?

Me : yes , do I look familiar ?

Lazola : I don't know you

Ah

Me : my name is Mpilontle

Lazola : I don't even know my name

Me : you're Lazola Bangani , married to Qhawelomzi Bangani you even have two beautiful kids and.....

Lazola : I'm not married

Me : but....

Lazola : I was made to sign divorce papers
few days ago

What the hell ?

Me : what who did that ?

Lazola : some guy with dreadlocks

So that Bangani bastard came here and made his wife sign divorce papers even in her state

Lazola : you said you know me

Me : yes

Lazola : how did I get here , what happened to me do you know ?

Me : I am not sure

Lazola : the doctor says dangerous poisonous snake venom was found in my blood it affected my cells and therefore my brain suffered

Me : this bloody Bangani ancestors

Lazola : what ?

Me : nothing

She looks at my none existent legs, the way it's making me so uncomfortable I won't be able to carry on living me this

Me : stop that

I shout a bit

Lazola : what...happened to you ?

Me : a sense crashed my legs

Lazola : that's impossible

Me : oh well ,here we are so it's very much possible .

I swear in getting married we Bangani wives we were dealt with the worst kind of men , just cold ruthless heartless bastards . You mess with them you're out in the cold like you were never even in

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Nqabayomzi

I walk in the kitchen and they're busy making a mess

Me : what are you doing ?

Omuhle : yapheka Ndalo (Ndalo is cooking)

I hate her working but with Ntsika and his family here my wife is busy doing wifely duties for what I don't know because as of late they've become best gossiping buddies with Ntsika

Me : oh okay , sweetheart uphi uNtsika ?
(where is Ntsika)

Zipho : outside

He's gotten to love the ocean breeze as well

Me : okay , get some rest and feed
umntanam (my baby)

She laughs

Omuhle : tamkhulu phi ntanakho ? (uncle
where is your child)

Me : umntana ka Ndalo (it's Ndalo's baby)

Omuhle : phi yena ntana lo ? (Where is this child?)

My wife laughs

Me : why does this child ask so many questions ?

Zipho : phendula umntana (answer the child)

I take her hand and place it on my wife's bump , and as usual my little princess is playing . This baby has energy for days

Omuhle : hah

She pops her eyes and moves back

Zipho : you're scarring her

Omuhle : yenza nton ntana ?(what is the baby doing)

Me : uyadlala (she's playing)

She puts her hand back and giggles

Omuhle : ntanakho Ndalo ?(it's your child Ndalo?)

Zipho : hayhiii (no)

Omuhle : ntana bani ke? (whose baby is it then ?)

Zipho : umntana ka Nqaba (it's Nqaba's baby)

She looks at me then back at my wife , the confusion on the poor child

Omuhle : ngene njani apha kuwe hoku ?
(How did the child get inside of you)

We laugh , I kiss my wife's cheek

Me : I am going to find Ntsika I'll leave you with all of this

Zipho : aibo Jola , she's too young for life orientation or life science

Me : andazi (I'm not getting involved)

I leave laughing , I spot Ntsika near the ocean front . I walk to him

Me : thinking hard ?

Ntsika : that's all I seem to be doing as of late

I hate what I'm about to do to my brother right now

Me : we need to talk

Ntsika : Nqaba I am tired , I'm tired of all this drama and the secrets I can't anymore

Me : I'm...I

I can't do this to him I just can't

Ntsika : what ?

Me : forgive me I thought I was protecting you

Ntsika : what ?

He raises his voice

Me : remember when I said I killed a man
when I was 13 ?

Ntsika : what , are you going to tell me I'm
actually the one who killed the man and not
you ?

Me : no , I killed him

He sighs

Ntsika : we were kids Nqaba how exactly did you kill a man with what? And what's that all about

Me : I stabbed him to death , with 47 stabs wounds I'll best forget that. It was just after our 13th birthday . You got sick because you weren't feeling well , I wanted to stay with you but mom , well the step mother didn't agree. During the day at school I left because I wanted to be with you . When I got home your cries and screams welcomed me from our room . The wasn't locked I rushed in and the man we knew as our uncle was busy molesting you , you were bleeding and crying begging him stop . Telling him you didn't like that, but he said he gave you money every time he did that so you can't he selfish even

mom didn't mind . Rage took over me because that only meant it wasn't the first time he was doing that and the woman we called mother knew what his brother was going to you , I grabbed a knife from the kitchen . Running back to the bedroom I don't know where I got the strength to get him off you but I did next thing I was on the floor on top of him . I stabbed him 47 times with the knife , even cut off his manhood. Mqhele and Mpande came home early from varsity , they walked in on that scene . You were traumatized because you weren't even aware of what was happening at that time you completely zoned out . They took you out , and came back to help me get rid of the body and clean the room . I...I was already aware of my gift and I manipulated herbs I made you drink those , and this bracelet it's not

completely pure . I used them to make you forget , for your memory of those things to be completely gone . That's why I made you believe this bracelet was a bond between us and if you were to take it off I'll die , if you take it off, everything will come back . You will have a clear memory of what happened to you . I am so sorry and I know right now no words will fix anything , I am just as the people we called parents and they lied to us . What I did makes just like them there's no difference and i

Ntsika : stop

I look at him

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Insert 20

Nqabayomzi

For a few minutes he's just staring at me
silent crying not saying anything , he's not
reacting there's nothing

Me : mkhuluwa I am sorry I...

Ntsika : I said stop Nqaba

I wipe my own tears , his don't stop streaming down . This is what I was scared of , scaring my brother like this for life

Nqaba : I am sorry

He walks away from me leaving me with nothing but hate for myself and failing him

Voice : he will be fine

I don't look back she holds me from behind , he hands rests on my abs

Me : how can I hurt him like this ?

Zipho : it's for the best

Me : you....

Zipho : don't you even dare raise your voice
at me yhoh

And then ? I turn back she doesn't let go of
me , I look at her she smiles

Me : what was that ?

Zipho : hayhiii nothing , come eat so we can
sleep I am tired

Me : okay

I take her hand we walk back inside the house

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Mpilontle

Thanks to the doctor , he got me transportation that brought me here. I wheel myself to the door and knock , I'm surprised by what I see outside . Clearly I missed a lot and I wonder what happened

The door opens its Lihle , the shocked look she gives me it'll take a while before I get used to how people look at me now

Me : please stop that

She moves her eyes from my legs and looks at me

Me : can...can I come in ?

Lihle : what happened...

Me : Lihle please

She doesn't move .

Voice : who is there ?

It's Nolitha asking from inside the house

Me : please

She moves out of the way I wheel myself in and come in contact with the whole family even the kids

Mqhele : ufuna nton apha wena ? (What do you want here)

He's angry

Mpande : Owentando abantwana (the kids)

Owentando gets up and all the kids follow him

Mqhele : I asked a question

He says as soon as the kids have disappeared

Me : I...I have nowhere else to go I..

Nolitha : Mpilo what happened ?

I look at Mpande and Qhawelomzi , they are giving me looks that tell me to breath a word and this time I'll be dead

Me : it was an unfortunate accident

Mqhele : do you look at us and see fools ?

What does he want me to say ? Cause clearly his brother's will finish me off

Mqhele : these two took you hostage and you turned out like that

What , so he knows ? But not their wives because they are shocked and Lihle is showing signs of fear , who can blame her though . Because at three occasions Mpande put her in hospital

Mqhele : what do you want ?

Me : I'm seeking shelter bhuti

Mqhele : do I look like your brother?

Mqhele is so full of himself , so high on some pedestal . I pray one day he gets knocked down

Mqhele : hamba (leave)

Nolitha : babe

She pleads with him

Mqhele : aibo Nolitha ndiyalibeka nawe uyalibeka (I talk and you also talk)

Nolitha : Xolo but she needs help look at her

The pity she gives me and Lihle

Me : it's fine I'll leave

What am I doing with pride when I'm so down and low like this ? Even the money I stole from Jay isn't enough to get me a better life

Nolitha : no matter how cold you are , I know you're still human please don't do this

Mqhele will never allow me to live here I can just see it in his eyes . I was just taking a chance as well by coming here , desperate times calls for desperate measures

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Ziphozendalo

Nqaba left early for the office beats me who works during December holidays , I know even always deserve some rest . Without a doubt he's running away from Ntsika who is avoiding him as well

I walk downstairs and find in laying down on the couches , he has his eyes closed . I move his feet off the couch he opens his eyes ready to kill

Me : hayhiii this is not your house Ntsika and you cannot be putting your cheap shoes on my Italian export couches

Lies

Ntsika : levels Bhabha

He laughs , it's so good to see hear him laugh

Me : ewe ngok respect tog

Ntsika : heh Bhabha this is my brother's house

Me : ubhut wakho ungene ngejazi apha
sundiqhela wethu (you brother is a husband
in-law don't get used to me)

Nqaba : you lie !

Me : not with such

Ntsika : damn you feel yourself

Me : he feels me too

He frowns I laugh at his expression

Ntsika : you're disgusting

Me : enkosi wethu (thanks bruh)

I sit next to him , lay my head on his shoulder

Ntsika : how's our baby ?

Me : good , I think in a week I'll be popping her out

Ntsika : a January child , so much hunger

I hit his arm

Ntsika : she better come cause we need something to cheer us up

Me : in this case someone

Ntsika : yeah

I look at his left arm he still has that bracelet
his brother said he used to block his
memories

Ntsika : you know right ?

Me : what ?

I know exactly what he's asking , but what I
know is that nothing beats talking . Taking
things out instead of keeping them in

Ntsika : what my...I don't even know what to call that man . What he did to me , that he was sexually abusing me ?

Me : yes he did

Ntsika : do you see me as less of a man because of it ?

Me : hell no I don't

Ntsika : speaking such doesn't suit you

We laugh

Me : I know , I'm meant to just speak clean language

Ntsika : I give up on you , is there anything you ever disagree on ?

Me : yes just that I have my ways of saying things in a so not offensive way .

Ntsika : you know I told Amahle , and she ...I don't know but I think she thinks and looks at me differently now

That woman will be the death of this man

Me : what does that say to you ?

Ntsika : it make me wonder if she'll still want to be with me knowing the truth

Me : what do you want Ntsikayesizwe ?

He blinks repeatedly a few times

Ntsika : I want to put everything behind me

Me : but ?

He looks at me

Me : listen to me , my heart goes out to you about everything . But one thing you will not do is hate my husband for doing only what he thought was best for you , let's consider that he was only a child when all this happened . You won't punish him now for this you just can't . He's besides himself with regret , don't add to it making him feel like he wronged you

Ntsika : look arts you heh , fighting his battles

Me : your Nigerian accents sucks and it's upsetting me because I live for Novel magic

Ntsika : yhoh

He holds the bracelet

Ntsika : I decided to keep it on

Me : I see that , so why ?

Ntsika : I don't want to relive a trauma my brother went out of his way to protect me from. It's better off with me not knowing , I know it happened because there's no way Nqaba would lie to me .

I close my eyes for a brief moment and I see those three burnt bodies I see Mvelo with a woman that looks exactly like him she has the eyes of Nqaba and Ntsika

Ntsika : hey...are you okay Bhabha?

He shakes me I open my eyes , he gets up on his feet

Ntsika : fuck Bhabha are you okay?

Voice : don't swear in front of my child Ntsika

Oh great he's back

Me : yes I'm fine and he's right don't swear in front of the baby

He shakes his head

Ntsika : your , eyes pure white like snow

Me : what ?

Ntsika : you freaked me out I thought you were dying

Me : what do you mean they were white ?

That scares me

Nqaba : they're a portal so they change

Me : but my eyes were closed

Nqaba : you think you're closing them , but in actual fact they're changing so they can transfer your sight

Me : how do you know that ?

Nqaba : yhoh ah

Aibo !

Ntsika : you two are creepy as fu....

Us : umntana (the baby)

He raises his hands up in surrender

Me : anyways your parents along with Xhanti they are burnt so you can forget about having a funeral . And Mvelo is with your mother I guess there won't be any blood spilled and he won't need to avenge his death any more

They both have looks of relief

Ntsika : are you like him as well ?

Me : no , do I look like him ?

Ntsika : well you're just as creepy as him

Me : thank you

He looks at his brother Nqaba avoids that look , my poor husband he's having it tough . I wish there was a way I can take his burdens and carry them myself

Ntsika : bawo can we talk ?

Oh lord here we go . I cannot wait for the day we don't have any of these talks in this family. I look at Nqaba he's so uncomfortable his body language says it all , Ntsika might have decided to take his brother's word about what happened and kept the bracelet on but it doesn't mean all is well

Nqaba : uhm...

Me : I'll go see Omuhle , I'm sure my baby misses me

Nqaba : I brought you ribs

Me : you're a husband

I get up and a splash of water runs down my legs , like right now really? Maybe she's saving her father from Ntsika

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Insert 21

Ziphozendalo

Me : guys

I'm calm as ever , but why are these two grown men just watching at me .

Nqaba : did you...

Me : Nqabayomzi Bangani I did not pee on myself your baby is coming.

Nqaba : what ?

Ntsika : yeah it's happening

Lord help me , for real

Nqaba : okay...now...

Me : calm down , and take me upstairs

Nqaba : shouldn't I be taking you to the hospital

Me : heh wethu , my water just broke I need to shower let's go

It's the first time today I see just how clueless my husband is

Me : and wena prepare yourself to take me to the hospital

He just nods and Nqaba leads me to our room

Nqaba : don't do anything

Shame poor man , I could laugh but no I shouldn't . I let him do everything he washing me in the shower and all . He takes out clothes when he's done and it's sweatpants

Me : a dress

Nqaba : huh ?

Me : a dress in case the baby wants to pop out in the car

His jaw drops , I hold the laugh in

Nqaba : she's not going to pop right?

I shake my head no

Nqaba : okay a dress

He walks to my closet I laugh I can't help myself , he comes back and helps me dress . We have a bag ready for my things but nothing for the baby . I didn't want to do things prematurely in my kind of way even though it was already too late , but I was thinking of going to buy the things for the

baby maybe next week . I didn't think she'll be wanting to pop out on the 31st

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Mpilontle

It took a whole lot of begging from Nolitha for Mqhele to allow me to stay here . She's just helped me settle in one of the rooms downstairs so I don't become too much trouble wheeling myself and all

Me : why help me ?

Nolitha : because of what I heard

Me : which was ?

Nolitha : that Mpande and Qhawe held you
hostage

Me : oh , okay

Nolitha : so I feel we do owe you some kind of
sympathy , you're in this situation because of
them

If only she knew that , that Mkhuseleli is the
one responsible for this . I swear that snake is
more than just a snake

Me : I'm thankful

Nolitha : but I must warn you Mpilontle don't cause trouble here , because one wrong move and Mqhele will have you on the streets. I won't make myself a selectable and beg him again , so behave yourself for all our sakes

Me : understood

Nolitha : good

Me : it's a pity Lazola is not offered the same courtesy

She shakes her head

Me : she has no idea who she is and Qhawe has served her with divorce papers , if no one comes to take her the hospital will be forced to make other arrangements for her
She's quite , with no reaction

Me : Nolitha did you hear me ?

Nolitha : yes I heard you and I know everything you've just said . Qhawe doesn't want Lazola anymore all thanks to you

Wow

Nolitha : so please help us all don't mention Lazola's name in this house or try to guilt trip us , we are already living with a lot of that

Me : what do you means ?

She gets up , clearly there's something here .
And something huge not a little small thing

Me : Nolitha , you know you can talk to me right ?

Nolitha : Mpilontle you're just a guest in this house nothing more

She walks out .

Me : I've lost my touch

I used to control all these Bangani wives now,
and now I'm just pretty much useless

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Nqabayomzi

We arrived at the hospital and she's admitted
but she's still a long way from being dilated ,
but my baby is on the way

Ntsika : will you be okay on your own ?

Me : yeah

I've asked him to go get things for the baby .
And surprisingly he agreed without even
putting a fight

Me : please call Amahle or the kids to look
after Omuhle , I won't leave tonight

Ntsika : okay I'll call them , but I'll be here
with you

Look at my 2 minutes bigger brother putting
away our issues and being here for me

Ntsika : let me go

He leaves I walk back inside the ward

Zipho : hey

It's like a whisper , she's not acting crazy or anything like that shouting at me or cursing . But she's in pain, you can tell that she's in pain . Worse she's had an allergic reaction her face is kind of swollen , they even had to give her eye glasses . I sit besides the bed and hold her hand

Zipho : we are almost there

Me : and I'll be here through and through

Zipho : she's one lucky little MaJola

We laugh

Me : thank you , for this beautiful, Beautiful...
beautiful gift and making me a father . At
some point in life I never thought that it'll
happen at all

Zipho : you're not infertile Jola , and a man
like you needs to leave a legacy behind

She flinches in pain

Me : should I call the doctor

She shakes her head no

Me : I want kids but seeing you in pain like this makes me rethink the whole idea

Zipho : don't be silly , just alert me next time you get me pregnant

Me : I promise

She smiles , I kiss her hand

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At the Bangani homestead

Nolitha walks in their roundavel , she's walking on eggs shell

Mqhele : what are you scared of ?

He asks coming from the bedroom

Nolitha : n...nothing

Mqhele : we lie to each other now ?

Nolitha : no...I just know you're not pleased with my actions today

Mqhele : vele what do you think ? You've made me betray my brother by allowing that whore stay here

Nolitha : I just felt pity , she doesn't have legs anymore and it's all because of one of our own

Mqhele : the fuck you talking about?

He raises his voice moving closer to her she moves back until she's pressed against the wall . Unlike Qhawe and Mpande who are physically abusive , Mqhele is physically round and yes maybe a bit abusive when it comes to sex . Something Nolitha has never gotten used to even after all these years , when stressed or angry he releases that one her through sex and he sure leaves a mark . She's never consent to any of it , but she's never wanted to label it as in like he forces himself roughly on her . She can cry and beg

him to stop , but until he's satisfied he doesn't stop

Mqhele : they didn't do anything to her , they left them there when I sent Mpande to go finish what they started he found them like that

As much as it's hard to believe , Nolitha knows Mqhele will never lie to her

Nolitha : I am sorry

Mqhele : I just hope you know what you are doing , because when Nqaba and his wife

find out you'll look like one that's against them
bringing that whore here

With that being said he gets in bed, leaving
Nolitha battling with her thoughts . Mqhele is
right she's just going to look like the one who
is favouring Mpilontle now . In the sense that
she has taken over Lazola's deeds .

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Nqabayomzi

12 hours of labour pain and finally my very
own female version is here. Pity her mother

passed out after giving birth , she's been sleeping since then .

My daughter is the perfect little human I've ever seen . When holding her for the first time I shed tears that meant something .

Ntsika : she looks like me

He came back last night and he spent the whole night here . He called Amahle to bring the kids , it's just a pity that the rest of my brother's are not here . But after learning Mqhele burned the bodies I don't know how to feel , yes our parents wronged us but that was fucking extreme it wouldn't have hurt to give them dignified funerals

Me : she looks like me

Ntsika : and you also look like me you idiot

He puts her down . She's so pink in the pink clothes , amazes me how a person even fits in them

Ntsika : welcome to fatherhood

Me : never even dreamt about it

Ntsika : you were married to the wrong woman kalok

We laugh , I respected Mpilontle's wishes not wanting to have kids . And with her record I didn't want her to abort any of the babies we were supposed to have

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Ziphozendalo

I've just taken a bath , it was a bit of a struggle but the nurse was so kind to help me. I've been moved to another ward . And I'm told my husband is no his way he went home to shower . I don't even want to know who got him to do that, knowing how stubborn he is

The door opens and I smile like a kid with a candy

Nurse : look who is awake

Me : I'm sure we are so hungry

Nurse : she's been sucking on her thumb

Me : what no

I sit up straight , the nurse hands her to me . I don't know what to say like

Me : her father saw her ?

Nurse : yes he did

I nod , I don't know how to feel . She opens her eyes and they're so black exactly like her father's , but they suit her more than they do him

Me : MaJola ka tata omncinci (Daddy's little MaJola)

Nurse : you can breastfeed now

Me : I don't know how to do that

This is just sad , now I wish I had a mother here with me to help me and show me all these things

Nurse : let me show you , you're so kind

She smiles gracefully and helps me, and my baby sucks like it's the end of the world

Me : ncoow bulambile (you were so hungry)

The father walks in , if only I've seen his reaction or know how he feels . I would say the proud father

Nurse : call if you need anything

She walks out , I'm so nervous I don't even know why but I'm scared of how he might react

Nqaba : how are my girls doing ?

I just smile it's not even real

Nqaba : being so fake

Me : hah Jola

Nqaba : someone has taken over my job , and is now feasting on my food

I laugh a bit , this man was so obsessed with my boobs

Me : did...uhm did you see her ?

Nqaba : I was the first person to hold her even though Ntsika fought me for me , he still says she looks like her but no she looks like me

Okay , I can relax maybe

Me : you and Ntsika look the same she's the version of that

Nqaba : my female version

He sits on the bed and tries to look at her I
move a bit

Nqaba : sorry I don't mean to disturb , but I
want to see her I just can't get enough

Me : she's...uhm she's an albino

I watch his reaction and it's blank like I've just
said the most crazy thing ever . My baby is so
perfect like she's perfection at its bestbut I
am scared because of how people react to
people born with albinism , even father's deny
their own kids because of that

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Insert 22

Ziphosendalo

He's just looking at me with a blank and
emotionless stare

Me : Nqaba !

Nqaba : what ?

Me : did you hear anything I said ?

Nqaba : yeah I heard you

Me : so ?

Nqaba : so what ?

Me : aren't you going to say anything ?

Nqaba : what am I supposed to say?

I didn't mean to offend him or anything but I'm just a mother looking out for her own , the last thing I want for my baby is to receive rejection from those close to us . Starting with him , we live in a cruel world

Me : she's just perfect , I've never seen a human this beautiful . I am just scared

Nqaba : scared of what ?

Me : your reaction towards her , father's do they their babies just because they're born with albinism

Nqaba : are you done ?

Me : with ?

Nqaba : breastfeeding , I want to take her

I retract my words and my questions in fact everything that just happened in the last

minutes , if anything this man is just going to spoil this baby and make her used to hands . Seeing that I don't answer he takes her , naye she just goes and doesn't even cry at all

Me : I'm sorry I even asked but...

Nqaba : yhoh sweetheart khame

Is he upset with me now ? But why because I wasn't even offensive when I asked . And most families in our black community have these crazy concepts about people born with albinism having some kind of powers which is not true at all , some even considers them curses .

Voice : Ndalo yena ntanakho lo (Ndalo is this your child)

She asks rushing to Nqaba and the rest of the family follows going to the baby not me , not even one person asks how I am absolutely nothing

Sihle : you two ruined this child with your looks

He says to his father and uncle

Ntsika : she took after me , this one will drive boys crazy

Sihle : no boys around our princess

I feel for my baby already

Omuhle : Ndalo bani gama lakhe
ntanayakho? (Ndalo what's your child's
name)

So the baby is mine but no one is even
paying attention to me , I am really sad

Me : buza utatakhe (ask her father)

She turns and looks at me

Omuhle : bani tatakhe? (who is her father)

Me : ngu tamkhulu wakho wethu (it's your uncle)

Omuhle : ntana Nsika lo ? (This is Ntsika's child?)

Aibo wathini Kanti lomntana heh , what is it with her ? Everyone laughs

Ntsika : yeah umntanam (she's my child)

Omuhle : hah Nsika , ntana tamkhulu lo (this is uncle's child)

Nqaba can never called by his name but as for Ntsika no one cares

Omuhle : tamkhulu Bani ke ? (uncle what's her name)

Nqaba : with everything that we've been through , all that my wife endured and in the end she still gave me the most precious gift ever, it's only fitting to name her Qhawekazi

What are the odds that he'll name her the exact same name that Ndlovukazi said Ngonyama blessed the baby with ?

Omuhle : hayhiii marn Ndalo bani ntana ?

The little miss is frustrated , she didn't hear any of that Nqaba was busy saying .

Me : ngu Qhawekazi Bhabha (she's Qhawekazi baby)

Omuhle : ah khona tamkhulu Qhawe (there's also uncle Qhawe)

Me : ewe (yes)

My husband is beyond the words happy , but you can see that void of him wishing that his family was her. Like all his brother's after all it's the 1st of the new year , but we are just going through the most . We received our baby exactly at 03:00 Am in the new year ,

hopefully this is bringing us good fortunes this year

Omuhle : nam untanam uKazi (Kazi is also my child)

Sihle : aibo

We laugh

Sihle : wazi nton ke wena ngokuba umama?
(what do you know about being a mother ?

Omuhle : wena Hlihle , yobana mhle njani uKazi ? fana nam (Sihle do you see how beautiful Kazi is , she looks like me)

So everyone looks like my baby except me

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Nqabayomzi

We place the order , and sit down .

Ntsika : what's wrong ?

Me : what ?

Ntsika : something is definitely wrong and I'm asking what is it ?

Me : I know I'm a crap of a husband, but do you think I'm a crap of a father too?

Ntsika : it has only been a day

Me : and you should have seen the expression on my wife's face when she told me our baby is born with albinism

Ntsika : what ?

Me : I know she didn't mean any harm at all , there's a lot of myths going on about that and it doesn't help with the crimination happening,

but I'm her father shouldn't that count for something ?

Ntsika : well don't take offence but some men do deny their babies because of such

Nqaba : hayhiii Ntsika this is me we're talking about and bottom line is I love my wife now more than I've ever and that little angle she just gave me is my very own heart

He laughs

Me : really , I'm pouring my heart out here

Ntsika : those two girls of yours have made you so weak

Me : fuck off

Ntsika : but it's cute either way

Me : yeah whatever

Ntsika : listen to me , you know Bhabha loves you right , and she'll never say anything to hurt or offend you . Just out herself in her shoes , I know she's a size 3 but yeah just try

Me : ndoda do you know how creepy that is I don't even know your wives shoe size, and Ntsika stop calling my wife Bhabha

I know I have a brother for an idiot but this is too much

Ntsika : you and Amahle are just in-laws Bhabha is my friend more than she's an in-law and let's not forget I'm your twin she's also my wife I'm ought to know such things

I have heard it all

Ziphozendalo

Kazi is sleeping so peacefully on her father's chest , I want to advice against this whole thing of always having the baby in his hands . But with the way things are , I better not. He doesn't seem okay with me

And the doctor said he's discharging us this afternoon because there's no need to keep us here any longer , we've already stayed 3 days in hospital

My baby is good so am I , I can't wait to go home and be in my own bed

Me : Jola

He looks at me

Me : Xolo I....

Nqaba : it's okay , I kind of understand where you're coming from . But I'd think as your husband you'll have a little bit of faith in me

Yeah I messed up on this one

Me : I....

I don't know what to say cause clearly sorry is not even helping in this instance

Nqaba : you think I should tell my brother's ?

I nod

Nqaba : awusathethi (you don't speak now)

Me : I'm sorry

Nqaba : for what now ?

Me : not speaking

He chuckles

Nqaba : khawuthethe ke (speak then)

Me : am I forgiven ?

Nqaba : sweetheart

Me : okay fine , I think you should tell them .
At the end of the day they're your brothers
whether they come or not that's up to them .
Be the bigger Bangani for us please

He laughs

Nqaba : you two are the end of me

Me : we love you

Nqaba : ndixelele ngesiXhosa kalok (tell me
in Xhosa)

I can't help but laugh

Me : why ?

Nqaba : it sounds better that way , kalok I love you is very much cold

Me : ihaba Jola (such exaggeration)

Nqaba : thetha (speak)

Me : siyakuthanda Jola (we love you)

Nqaba : nam ndiyak'thanda vha (I also love you too)

Me : call your brother then , Mqhele is better

Nqaba : why him ?

Me : he's just better so call him

I'm lying Mqhele is not better , but he has an ego so huge he'll feel bruised and degraded if the other brother's are told about the baby and not him directly

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Mpilontle

I know one thing is for sure that something is going on in this house , the tension between

the adults is just too much . And I'm still so curious to know about the parents , where are they?

It's usual for their father to be away from home for so long but the mother , it's so unlike her . Also Xhanti's hut us burnt down , where is he ?

We are all having breakfast , except the kids because they eat on their own. It helps living here , because they've assigned someone to help me and it's very much helpful . I did good coming here after all

Qhawe : I am leaving later on

We all look at him

Mpande : leaving ?

Qhawe : yeah going back to Joburg

I knew something is wrong , Nqaba and Ntsika haven't been here . It was just new year they always celebrate that together here as a family

Mqhele : why so soon ?

That's just to make talk

Qhawe : I need to see what to do

about the kids , since ... Well we have no idea when mom and dad will be back

Back from where ? But I'm in no position to be asking them any questions at all

Mqhele : well.....

He's stopped by his ringing phone and he answers it , but with a bit of shock like he didn't expect who called him to call

Mqhele : bawo

Can he be talking to one of the twin brothers?

Mqhele : really when ?

He listens for a while

Mqhele : so we have a princess ?

What is he talking about ?

Mqhele : okay we'll come bawo , right away

He drops the call laughing

Qhawe : the baby is born ?

He's also happy I'm so lost who's baby is born ?

Mqhele : yes

Mpande : then what are we waiting for

They all get up even the wives I feel so neglected it's like I'm not even here . Amahle wasn't pregnant the last time I saw her . No ways it can't be that child , no it can't be . She would have given Nqaba the one thing I failed to give him and he longed for .

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Insert 23

Ziphosendalo

At least Amahle and her kids kept my house clean , not meaning it in a bad way thought but some people are a bit untidy and she's one of those . We are now home with my baby , and she's sleeping . This one sleeps a lot and eats more , she's just going to be one of those chubby babies .

Nqaba : why are you still in bed ?

He asks coming in

Me : and not doing what ?

Nqaba : sixabene ?(are we fighting)

I laugh

Me : don't come at me with your things

Nqaba : Mqhele says they're almost here

Me : right

He sounds excited , I hope they don't bring any drama here

Me : how do you feel ?

He just stares at me blankly

Me : it'll be the first time you see each other after the whole identify debacle

He laughs

Nqaba : is that what we call it ?

Me : heh

Nqaba : suthi heh undivile (don't say heh you heard me)

Me : Nqaba khandiyeke (leave me alone)

Nqaba : usemuncu nangok? (you're still sour even now?)

Me : your daughter is a betrayal okay , the least she could have done after I carried her for 9 months was look like me or better yet take one of my features

I am not happy at all , she looks like a child that was going to be denied by her father .
The ways she's his replica

Nqaba : she took your tiny annoying irritating voice

Me : that's not nice

Nqaba : you want me to lie ?

Me : ufuna nton? (what do you want)

He laughs

Nqaba : I love your voice either way, and it's perfect because she doesn't know how to cry

I laugh , she's such a tiny poor human being .
The sweetest ever

Nqaba : let's go

He takes my sleeping baby into his arms ,
Nqaba is abusing this child . I get up we walk
downstairs and his brother's have arrived
along with their wives

We exchange greetings and Mqhele already has the baby in his arms . I'm seeing a side of Mqhele I never knew it even exist , his facial expression is the most peaceful right now

Mpande : why are you crowding her?

Qhawe : I should be the one holding her right now

Nqaba : I thought you're scared of babies

Qhawe : this one looks like she's a month old

We laugh , except Ntsika he's the only odd one right now . And I understand why , I'll talk to him before I go to bed

Mqhele : uMaJola

My name has completely been stripped off
from me now

Nolitha : can I hold her?

I get such a headache , I feel like my veins
are about to pop , the expression on Nolitha's
face as she looks at my daughter it infuriates
me

Me : Ntsika...take her

I'm running out of breath , I feel like my chest is closing up

Ntsika : Bhabha ?

Me : take K...Kazi

At least he listens and takes her from Mqhele, now I know she's okay in his arms because Nqaba is paying attention to me . I close my eyes , and I feel so weak. I'm literally drained I go down , it all goes blank

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Nqabayomzi

Nolitha : I'll call an ambulance

Me : no

Ntsika takes Kazi from Mqhele , I carry my wife down the corridor to the room I use to communicate with my ancestors . I don't know if I should be bringing her in here or what ? she has her own powers so it's hard to know what is what right now

I lay her down on the grass mat , and light the candles and incense . They all go out like I didn't even burn them

Me : now what ?

A knock comes at the door I go open and
Ntsika

Me : Ntsika where is my child ?

Ntsika : relax she's with Sihle

He walks in

Ntsika : what's wrong ?

Me : I don't know

Ntsika : you're frustrated

Me : she was just okay , one minute she holds her head and she blacks out . What happened ?

Ntsika : did you....

Me : yes and they blew out like I didn't even light them

Ntsika : what ?

He is defeated but so am I

Ntsika : your wife is gifted isn't she?

We have never really told anyone anything at home about her

Me : something like that

Ntsika : what do you mean ?

Me : she's not exactly gifted

Ntsika : you're losing me

I sigh

Me : you won't get it okay , she just has certain enhanced abilities

Ntsika : I...

Me : Ntsika just go and watch my child please

Ntsika : our child wena you idiot

He walks out . I sit down next to her. I can literally see the veins on her forehead .

Me : you have to be okay for us

It's about time I ask my ancestors to let me move the Ndumba here , I'll feel much better with Mkhuseleli around

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Ziphozendalo

Voice : be careful Zipho

I turn back and it's Mvelo

Me : Mvelo

It's more like an ask than a statement

Mvelo : you can't fix everything and everyone

Me : what do you mean ?

I try to walk closer to him because he's a bit far from me but the grass is too dry and it hurts my feet I stop

Mvelo : I failed to have your back when I was still alive , but I will not fail you twice

His ghost or spirit whatever it is , can't be in love with me as well . I swear I'll die

Mvelo : feelings do just die

Me : Mvelo you're dead and...

Mvelo : I know that but feelings don't just die , you're with my brother I can respect that now.

But whoever hurts your or your daughter will face my wrath

This is not good no matter what it cannot be good

Me : why are you not resting ?

Mvelo : I can't , my heart is too heavy . My selfish father robbed me of my revenge and until I can avenge something or someone I will not be able to rest

Me : Mvelo surely there's something we can do to help you

Mvelo : I don't need help , if they hurt you I will kill them

He turns his back on me and walks away

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Nqabayomzi

I walk in the living room , and it's so quite

Mqhele : bawo how is she ?

Me : she's fine , a rest will do her good

Mqhele : are you sure ?

Me : yes , she's just given birth I guess she needs to take it easy . But she wanted to see you guys that's why she came down

That's a lie , something happened in this house and it caused my wife to blank out

Mqhele : we should head back home , the kids are all alone

Me : I completely understand

Nolitha : well Mpilontle is there we can stay to see MaJola...

Me : what did you say ?

She looks around like she's just uttered something she wasn't supposed or meant to say . I look at my brother's and Mqhele is fuming

Me : so you guys are harbouring Mpilontle at home ?

Qhawe : I divorced Lazola because I wanted nothing to do with this drama

Me : I asked a question

Mqhele : wena msamaria thetha into zakho ezi (the Samaritan speak , this is all your doing)

Nolitha : she didn't have any where else to go bhuti

Mqhele : thetha (speak)

He raises his voice a bit , so there's more

Nolitha : I begged your brother to let us take care of her , she has lost her legs . I didn't mean to offend anyone , just Mpilontle needs our help and staying at home with us it's the least we can do after

Voice : what ?

She just had to wake up when I wasn't there

Zipho : Mpilontle is staying at the Bangani homestead ?

My wife has had enough and she's hurting

Ziphozendalo

Nolitha : you have to understand we just couldn't leave her out in the cold like she was ever family

Me : Sisi Nolitha I am family yet I'm always left out in the cold

They all look at me shocked , as usual they didn't expect me to react

Me : but it's fine , I now completely know my place in this family . You all will help me and leave my house

I walk upstairs to Sihle's room instead I find Ntsika with Kazi

Ntsika : Bhabha are you okay ?

Me : yeah , I need to go sleep

Ntsika : what's going on ?

I'm not telling Ntsika any of this , clearly he doesn't know because he's up here with his daughter

Me : your brothers ghost is still in love with me

He laughs

Ntsika : Nqaba is going to lose it this time around , it was bad enough when he was alive and he almost killed him now this

Me : what's wrong with Mvelo heh ?

Ntsika : how am I supposed to know , and why are you talking to dead people ?

Me : he's your brother through and through no half nton-nton , and it's just a person just one

Ntsika : Mvelo , he's always been a special cause we just thought it's because he was the last born

Me : right , I need some cleansing this is not normal dead people don't fall in love with living human beings

Ntsika : I envy your life so much drama going on , and well with me it's rather hitting down rock bottom

Me : Amahle still hasn't talked ?

He shakes his head

Me : your wife pisses me off to the core , what's the use of being here yet it's like she's not here ?

Ntsika : calm down ,go get some rest

I really hate what Amahle is doing . I thought after I spoke with her she would change her behaviour towards her husband and be more supportive . Ntsika might not remember what happened to him but now he knows it happened and it's killing him inside

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Mpilontle

Having a helper is making things easy for me, it's not as bad as I thought it'll be with time I'll get used that this is my life now . I wheel myself into the kitchen I find Nolitha lost in thought

Me : care so share ?

I'm talking alone

Me : Nolitha

She breaks the cup she's holding

Nolitha : geez what the hell Mpilontle

She shouts

Me : I've been calling your name for a while
now

Once twice three more times what does it matter , fact is she didn't hear me talk to her the first time

Nolitha : it's fine

She cleans up her mess

Me : what's going on ?

Nolitha : nothing

Me : I know I'm the last favourite person around here but I'm willing to listen

She sighs

Me : it's fine don't talk

I try to turn back , I hate how I'm so clueless about everything that's happening in this house . And it's deeming hard for Nolitha to open up as for Lihle she's playing far from me, I'm sure Mpande threw in threats

Nolitha : her baby was born with albinism
Whose baby , I turn right back and look at her

Me : the baby you all went to see last night ?

She nods

Me : who's baby is it again?

She faces me , her look says it all

Me : so she gave him a child , and what an epic fail with a baby born with albinism .

Nolitha : I swear if that child didn't look like Nqaba and Ntsika we wouldn't think she's his

Me : she ? So it's a girl ?

Nolitha : yes

So the brat looks like Nqaba , it won't work trying to make him doubt the paternity . But

fact remains she's an albino and well , that works just fine for me

Me : so how is Nqaba with all this ?

I'm hoping he's besides himself

Nolitha : surprisingly happy , a whole proud father

Not what I wanted to hear at all

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Ziphozendalo

I didn't think I'll get any sleep but I managed and my baby was an angel she didn't bother me at all during the night

Nqaba : I didn't know

He's not okay , I'm sure he thinks I'm angry with him because once again his family has proven their loyalty to Mpilontle over me . And they still had the nerve to come here in my house look me in the eye like all is well

Me : I know

Nqaba : you're not upset ?

Me : no Jola I am hurt , it's clear now your family will never welcome me

Ntsika being an exception to that

Me : I only ask you one thing , whatever you do don't hurt me with your ex wife . I lived that life sharing you with her and I don't want it ever again . And one last thing until they show me even an ounce of loyalty I want them away from my child

Nqaba : okay

I look at him , he's looking right back at me

Me : no arguments ?

Nqaba : we never argue

I laugh

Me : but....

Nqaba : no buts , I understand why. And as it stands I don't even know where I stand with my brother's , and last night it just got worse

Me : I am sorry

Nqaba : it's okay , but I have an ask that we introduce Kazi to the ancestors and welcome her the sooner the better

Me : okay

Nqaba : no arguments ?

I laugh

Me : don't start with me

I leave him with his daughter . I find Ntsika downstairs alone

Me : where is my diva ?

Ntsika : morning to you too and Bhabha I'm not your daughter's keeper

Me : savage much

Ntsika : did you have any encounters with your ghost crush

Something is wrong with Ntsika his mother must have dropped him with his head as a baby

He laughs

Me : it's not funny that's your brother , and if anything I think he was actually warning me

Ntsika : against what ?

Me : I don't know , but whatever it is I'm tired , the sad thing is that he said if any harm comes to me or Kazi he will avenge that . Since your father robbed him the opportunity to avenge himself

Ntsika : that's messed up

Me : tell me something else

Ntsika : how about you tell me about yourself

Me : aibo Ntsika

Ntsika : Bhabha come on I'll even make snacks

What the hell , Nqaba is with his daughter so we might as well

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Nqabayomzi

I'm meeting with Mqhele he came around asked to meet .

Me : mkhuluwa

He gets up we shake hands and sit down .

Mqhele : thank you for coming

Me : what is this ?

Mqhele : you're upset I can see that

Me : get to the point

He sighs

Mqhele : I...I am sorry bawo about everything and how I handled things. I shouldn't have let you two leave just like that , and burning the bodies without talking to any of you, and most

importantly about allowing Mpilontle to live with us at home

Me : Mqhele I will never say this again , I am done with you whole lot until you know where my family and I fit into your lives

Mqhele : don't do that , because it'll get to a point where you have to chose which side you're on

I get up

Me : dear brother I think it's pretty much clearly , listen Mqhele I respect you but always know kwedini you're not my father and

you'll never be , I don't fucking dance to your
tune

I leave . I am really tired and I think I've
reached my limit , whoever wants to be with
us will be with us and who doesn't won't .

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Ziphozendalo

Preparations for Kazi's ceremony are coming
just fine . When Nqaba told me how his
meeting with Mqhele went I was left in awe ,
and having to be able to read minds I knew
he was done with his brother's and their
wives .

He feels so betrayed by how they always let Mpilontle into their lives. Amahle has decided to go back to Joburg , I am so bored with this woman acting like a bloody child , instead of being a woman and picking her family up

Ntsika is staying behind along with Sihle , it doesn't seem like Sihle wants to leave . He hasn't said it but I can just see it . As for my little diva she's as happy as always , and having a baby in the house keeps her occupied all the time playing mother .

Amahle : we shall take leave

Ntsika gets up hugs his son and he walks out. I should feel bad for her but I don't . It's only

been two weeks into the new year , schools aren't opening until the last week , she's only going back to work next week so why leave now argh

Amahle : thank you for having us in your home

I nod , without even a smile I am so tired of these wives

Sihle : let me walk you out

He takes his mother's bag his brother says goodbye to us we give him hugs back and he leaves

Nqaba : awusabandi (you're so cold)

Me : Jola khandiyeke (leave me alone)

Nqaba : uqumbele omnye umntana (you're upset at the other kid)

Me : wandinyanyisa uAmahle yhoh (Amahle has pissed me off)

Nqaba : Xolo bhabha ka Ntsika (sorry Ntsika's baby)

Me : he doesn't deserve this

Nqaba : I know but he'll be fine

Me : and you still owe him a talk , just because your daughter saved you by coming early it doesn't mean we shove it under the carpet

He sighs

Nqaba : I know

I want us to be okay , Because as it stands and looks we only have each other here in PE and those in Isilo have each other . We still have a long way to go before we make peace because we are so twisted and always overlooking each other's feelings

Sihle : dabs (aunt)

I'm only a year and few months old from him
but the respect he gives me it's commendable

Me : what is it ?

Why am I asking when I already know . He
looks at his uncle

Sihle : Singa thetha? (can we talk?)

Nqaba : kwedini ndiselapha (boy I'm still
here)

Sihle : and you scare me so I'll rather talk to
dabs alone

Nqaba gives him a stare that is enough to send any man running , let me save the poor child

Me : go ask your father and if he agrees , we will all sit down and talk vha

He looks at me like , how the hell did you know ?

Me : I just know

Sihle : o-kay

He walks upstairs

Nqaba : what is it ?

My poor husband is already defeated

Me : he wants to live with us

Nqaba : MaJola I'm not running an
orphanage apha

Yhoh

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Insert 24

Ziphozendalo

I left Nqaba as he is because I really don't understand what he meant by saying he's not running an orphanage here . First of all these kids are his brother's kids , so they are his . We don't know why Sihle suddenly wants to live here , the least we can do is try to find out why then take it from there

And Sihle us good with Omuhle he can be of great help kodwa hayhiii I don't want to pester Nqaba about this . So I let him be , even Sihle hasn't come back to say anything if his father agree or not

Nqaba : can we talk ?

Me : we do a lot of these as of late , isn't it tiring though

I'm not even looking at him , things haven't been that well this week . I don't know why but we are just off towards each other

Nqaba : we'll have to spend the next few days at home

Me : okay

He walks out ,I change Kazi .

Me : for you I'll do anything even if I have to go to that place face those people , I'll do it .

She looks at me like she can hear

Me : mommy loves you so much , and right now only you matter more than anything

Voice : she's perfect just like her mother

I almost scream my lungs out

Me : Mfihloyemvelo what is wrong with you ?

I shout startling Kazi

Me : Xolo bhabha , it's your ghost uncle

He laughs , where have you ever heard a ghost laughing because I have never . Okay I'm still new at this ghost talking encounters

Mvelo : why are you so upset ?

Me : since you know everything shouldn't you know ?

Mvelo : there's nothing my brother wouldn't do for you

Me : you know what ? Help me okay and stop talking to me , what do I care anyway ? Sihle is his nephew and not mine Argh

I pick up Kazi and walk downstairs

Omuhle : Ndalo

Me : Bhabha

Omuhle : yafun Hlihle (Sihle is looking for you)

Look now we have a little messenger

Me : uphi yena? (where is he)

Omuhle : andaz (I don't know)

Okay this is a lie

Omuhle : vukile ntanam? (is my child awake?)

I laugh

Me : wabakhona Omuhle Bangani

I will run an orphanage here if it means I will have such amazing beautiful human beings with me all the time

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Nqabayomzi

This has been delayed for way too long

Ntsika : I am not angry

That's a shocker

Ntsika : I just feel like I failed you in life

Me : you're loosing me

Ntsika : you killed a man because of me , how the hell do I ever repay you for that ?

Me : Ntsika don't piss me off , I'm your brother you never have to repay me for anything . We look out for each other that's us

Ntsika : fix things with your wife

We look at each other

Ntsika : I can see something is off with you two , you just said we look out for each other this is me doing my part

He's right

Ntsika : just do it

Me : well that's

Ntsika : don't lose what you have over what doesn't exist , let's go pack well me because I'm sure your wife has already packed for you

We are going back to Isilo today , it's Thursday so we'll be there until Saturday afternoon when we are done with the ceremony .

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Mpilontle

It's been around her and Nolitha has been scarce so I have no idea what's going on . I think she's avoiding me maybe Mqhele barked orders and it happed

I get in the kitchen it's easy wheeling myself in the house I don't require any help with that. The second I'm in Lihle gets up she was having a cup of something

Me : Lihle

Lihle : what ?

Me : have we really gotten here ?

She just stares at me

Me : like we are here where we don't talk to each other and can't stand each other ? We used to be close had...

Lihle : you know what you did Mpilontle , and being close to you is just trouble for the rest of us

Me : wow

Lihle : no don't wow me , you know it's the truth so do me a favour and stay as far as you can

Me : no just wow...Little abused scared Lihle has now grown a back bone , how nice surely you can stand up to you abusive ...

A hot slap lands on my cheek it takes a few seconds to register she's slapped me , I laugh

Me : you really have grown

Lihle : listen here , I can take any bullshit from Mpande but never from you like ever

She walks out , I hold my cheek it fucking burns . It's clear she's not team Mpilontle and with Lazola out of the picture .And Amahle not being here that leaves Nolitha alone as an

ally and I can't lose her

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Ziphozendalo

We are driving to Isilo and it's just bringing you memories of everything I want to forget about , but there's one person I don't want to forget and I long to see it's been two months now , I wonder if she's okay and where did she disappear to ? I miss my Bhelekazi good people and going to Isilo she's the only person I long to see

Me : can we go past Bhelekazi's place ?

Nqaba : okay

He's not even looking at me , I hate what's happening with us . But I don't know how to approach the whole situation whatever this is. He takes the route going to her place I just hope yo find her there , cause the last time I went she wasn't available

Omuhle : Ndalo phi apha ? (where is this place)

Me : Ndizobona uBhelekazi wam (I'm here to see my Grandmother)

Omuhle : ndiza nawe (I'm coming with you)

I won't argue with the diva sham I won't . I get off at the gate I go knock leaving Omuhle in the car after promising to come back get her .

She's home I just budge in throw myself in her arms , I don't know why but I cry my eyes out

Bhelekazi : oh sana lwam (my baby)

Me : it's all too much

Bhelekazi : remember who you are, Ngonyama and you shall overcome everything and anything . But don't ever make the same mistake going for days like this not paying attention to your husband , that man is

a broken should and this is killing him . You'll always be bigger than him

Me : I am tired

Bhelekazi : hayhiii a descendant of Ngonyama doesn't utter such , Zendalo was a strong willed woman who stood her ground with peace and humbleness at all times , yet still ruled with an iron fist . Now that's the woman that birthed you and you're her through and through, that's who you are not this weak little girl those bloody Bangani's are toying with

I laugh through my tears

Me : you can speak like that ?

Bhelekazi : yes because I hate what those people are doing to you ,and you keep taking everything

Me : then please come with me Bhelekazi

I wipe my tears

Me : I...I found out I was pregnant and I gave birth to a baby girl over two weeks ago and she's just the most perfect thing ever

Bhelekazi : Sana lwam I know

I don't know how she knows and I don't care to ask

Me : of course , and you left me hanging I even came back to check on you

Bhelekazi : you wanted your answers that you already got

Me : was it all through , like did I get everything I needed to know from Ngonyama and Ndlovukazi or there's something you know as well

Bhelekazi : child I know what they know

Me : Bhelekazi ?

Bhelekazi : something's are better left unsaid

Me : but you said you'll tell me everything
when you're back

Bhelekazi : you've already taken so much
trust me you're still yet to take more what you
need right now is just a break from it all

This doesn't make sense

Me : fine

Bhelekazi : go now , I'll be there before the sun sets

Me : will you really ?

Bhelekazi : it hurts how you're loosing trust in me

Me : Bhelekazi I'm taking my child there , and I need someone I can trust in my corner .
Someone who won't take their eyes off my daughter

Bhelekazi : as I said I'll be there

I get up walk towards the door but I stop and

look at her

Me : why didn't you tell me the truth?

Bhelekazi : it wasn't my place to , all I had to do was watch you and make sure you're safe at all times

I don't understand at all , not even once did she hint anything

Me : I'll just bring my daughter for a few minutes then we'll leave

I got get Omuhle from the car Kazi is asleep
Bhelekazi will meet her when she comes

Omuhle is thrilled and speaking non stop but nothing fills my heart like seeing her this happy . After a few minutes we leave

It sinks in when we get to the Bangani homestead that I'm back here and she's also here . What if Nqaba feels pity when he sees her and wants to maybe care for her , then what ?

Insecurities or not I'm human , these people were married for 8 years and were lovers before that , I was never a lover to Nqaba and that will always remain a fact . He knows Mpilontle more than he knows me and that can work in her favour

Sihle : I'll go see where Owe is at

Me : make sure you keep a close eye on Omuhle

Sihle : ewe dabs

He leaves we get off the car , Ntsika is to follow us later on . He's the one that called the brothers at the beginning of the week asking to use the home for the ceremony

Nqaba : we'll use the other roundavel no one uses it , I don't want you in the main house

Me : okay

We walk to the roundavel it's at the far back of the yard , get inside and at least it's clean

Nqaba : cover up we are going into the hut

Me : aren't you going to see your brothers first ?

Nqaba : no

This is how our conversations have become so cold , you ask a question and get an answer that's that . I put on a shawl on my shoulders

Me : are we taking her ?

Nqaba : yes

Me : is she fine this way ?

She's wearing a baby's jumpsuit

Nqaba : she's fine

I pick her up we walk to his hut , take our shoes off as we get inside. Kazi cries a bit which is very rare , my baby doesn't cry unless she's hungry or needs a nappy change

It amazes me how come this hut us always clean , because no one is allowed in here and

no one ever comes in here . I look at this man I call my husband as he takes his maroon njeti cloth ties it on his waist . He kneels next to us and lights the candles he prays I don't think I get this part where he prays to God and he's a Sangoma

When he's done he burns the incense and does his incantations , there's nothing sexy and such a turn on like seeing him doing his ancestors things . If they can see and read my thoughts they'll just have to forgive me because he's turning me on right now , and these cloths of his look hella sexy on him.

The hissing of the snake and I remember that scary huge thing , that these people acted like it was nothing .

Nqaba : don't be scared

Easy for him to say , I still don't know why he has a snake . Seems like there's a lot I still need to ask this man of mine about his gift and ways of doing

He calls the Jola ancestors and oNgonyama mind you I don't even know the clans of my very own roots such a shake and he does . He calls the old and young , those who died long ago and those who died now and also the ancestors that lives . That's another thing I don't get how can one be addressed as an ancestor yet they live

He opens the snuff and inhales it he also makes my poor baby inhale it , she sneezes like nobody's business I even feel for her . The snake appears and it comes straight to my child , I want to run out of here

Nqaba : Mkhuseleli won't hurt her she's a Jola , he's recognising her

Did he just call the freaking snake a he ?

He takes Kazi and it goes where he is , I look away I don't even want to see what it's going to do because the last time I saw it , it was wrapped around my husband I was sure he was dying

Nqaba : let's go

We get up he still has Kazi and she's quite as ever . We walk inside the main house and the first thing that welcomes us it's Mpilontle on a wheelchair with a blanket on her waist .

Imagine if I feel slightly for her then how about Nqaba ? I can't even look at him because I'm scared his expression might just break me , even if it's slight pity . He's human he's surely to have compassion but I don't want to see it , even the possibility of knowing that he feels for her .

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Insert 25

Mpilontle

One thing that's damming about this whole situation is how I am right now . My eyes haven't left him and he's not even looking at me not once did he even bother setting his eyes on me

Me : stop looking at me like that

I shout at the stupid wife , why is she looking at me when he should be the one looking

Mqhele : can you control that tongue of yours

He says coming in

Mqhele : bawo

Nqaba : mmmm

O-kay

Nqaba : come

He takes his wife's hand and they walk further in the house . Mqhele sighs and walks out , something is happening here and I just need to find out what

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Ziphozendalo

Morning I wake up , both my people are still asleep . I walk into the bathroom and it only has a shower , I take a shower dry and lotion. Wear a long blue floral strap sleeve dress with white flip flops

Nqaba : semhle ke

I look at him , he's standing at the door

Me : let Omuhle hear you say that

He chuckles

Nqaba : a fight , I'll never be prepared for

I walk past him he follows me

Nqaba : I hate this

I'm sure I hate it more than he does

Nqaba : this is not us Sweetheart

Me : I am sorry Jola , okay I don't know what I did but whatever it is I take account . But if this is about Sihle staying with us , then too bad because I will run the orphanage . These are your brothers kids , meaning they're yours. I won't discard them outside just because you feel that I'm crowding your

house . Sihle is old enough to help around , in few weeks I'll be starting with varsity . We can use the help , there's Omuhle also she's a child . I really don't know why Sihle wants to stay here but believe me you if he asks I'm going to say yes without even thinking twice . If you or anyone has a problem with that then it's your own baby to nurse

He takes my hand into his we face each other

Nqaba : this has nothing with Sihle going to be of great help , sweetheart you're just playing mother to all these kids

I am not

Nqaba : and it's fine even though Ntsika hasn't said anything to me about Sihle wanting to stay with us it's fine he can stay

Oh my poor husband

Me : he was going to stay either way

He kisses my lips and walks to the bathroom , his daughter is now playing with her feet in the air outside the blankets

Me : your father has zero chill , and I don't know why you're awake this early huh . Let me finish so we can go see Bhelekazi .

She arrived last night just before bed and she's staying in the roundavel next to us , she's with Omuhle in there

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Mpilontle

I spot Nqaba outside , he's alone and seems to be lost in thought . I overheard last that Nolitha speaking with Lihle , they're doing an introduction ceremony for the baby . I ask my helper to wheel me to where he is , his back turned so he doesn't see me .

Me : Nqaba

He doesn't even waste time walking away ,
not even laying a single eye on me

Me : mxm

Is this what it has really come to ? i've lost my
touch or maybe he doesn't want me anymore
because I no longer have legs

Me : I can't be the only one hurt , no I just
can't be

Now it's a struggle to go back inside the
helper left , I'm all alone now . I wheel myself
back but it's a struggle to get inside the
house. Voices catches my ears and it sounds

like Lihle and Nolitha , I eavesdrop

Lihle : you're playing with fire and sister in-law
you'll get burnt

What is she talking about ?

Nolitha : Zipho is already distant to us in fact
she was never close to us to even begin with

Lihle : and we keep pushing her away further

Mxm Kanti they're talking about having a
relationship with that bitch, I can't let that
happen at all

Nolitha : what has she done to be close to us? Nothing so why must we bother

Lihle : because we came here before her , it's our job to make her feel welcomed .

Nolitha : it's almost a year since she became a wife here , that's enough time to be welcomed

I should just scream for them to come help me out here , it's clear Nolitha will work perfect for me

Lihle : when all this ends up with Mqhele burning your body to asses like he did to

utata no ma and Xhanti , remember my words
this day

Oh what the hell ? Mqhele did what? No ways
no ...like they're no way . So he burnt his
parents along with Xhanti? But why

Okay who cares , I do most definitely I do and
I need to find out what happened

Nolitha : Lihle that's...

Someone must have walked in on them , I
wheel myself back further from the door . I
can't risk being caught or seen . So the
parents are dead all thanks to the brothers . I

will get to the bottom of this and my life will be set for life

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Nqabayomzi

This yard is no longer what we used to call home , it's just cold and full of tainted spirits and I really am not happy with my family being here at all

I did a small ceremony today at dawn , securing the yard just for their sakes . Our parents bodies being burnt down on this very same ground was a big mistake .

But who will dare tell Mqhele that , because
as always he'll shove whatever is being said
right where the sun doesn't shine

Qhawe : mkhuluwa

He stands right next to me

Me : bawo

We stand in silence there's a lot he wants to
say it he clearly has no idea where to start

Me : is this where we all draw the line now ?

Qhawe : why must we ?

Me : you tell me Qhawe , I can't help but keep wondering like how suddenly knowing we don't share the same mother has caused such a rift between us as brother's . You whole three have just distanced yourselves from me us two . Is this how it all ends , because I will not beg any of you for some kind of Brotherhood . If you walk away now just now there'll be no turning back, I really don't understand your sudden change towards us . Or is it maybe because our mother was the side chick that just didn't want to leave a married man ?

Qhawe : no , mkhuluwa that's not We don't know what happened between our parents besides what we were told , and if

dad really loved your mother as he says he did then she was more than just a side woman . That gives her equal love to him , we can't degrade her

Me : then balance me Qhawe , how is it that when I have to come home and do my things I have to call you three first and ask for permission ?

He looks down , these three are suddenly full of shit

Me : I know Ntsika called Mqhele and he did that because I said I will not ask for shit from any of your . This is my home as much as it is yours

Mqhele : we know that

He says behind us

Me : good you still know , pull this stunt again and this whole homestead will burn down the same way that hut burnt down with our parents . If Ntsika and I we'll be treated as outcasts in this home , it will vanish no one will have a say in it . Nisiqhela kabubi nina and that Mpilontle I want her out of here by tonight

I walk away from them , I love my brother's but if they don't regard us as brother's

anymore . We will break this bond forever to a point of no return

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Ndalo

I hate doing dishes with all my heart , but in my mother's house it's her rules all the way . The door opens my idiotic brother walks in all smiles

Me : who's heart are you going to break this time around ?

I have a whore of a brother , and he's very proud

Luba : I just saw Zipho

I haven't heard that name in a while. Since Lazola left me standing I kept my distance

Me : where ?

Luba : at the Bangani homestead

Me : oh

Luba : looks like they'll be having some ceremony it was packing when I passed there

Should I try to go see her , and maybe we still have a friendship . I doubt she knows anything about what we wanted to do to her

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Ziphozendalo

We spent the day with Bhelekazi , she's even the one who made the traditional beer . I'm clueless when it comes to such , having her here is such great help

We are asked into the house , I wonder what's going on I don't want any drama tomorrow is my baby's ceremony . I've avoided Mpilontle so far it has been good

All the adults are here including Mpilontle ,
what does she want here ? On what looks like
some kind of a family meeting .

Bhelekazi : I think I will excuse myself

I give her Kazi they walk out , I sit down

Mqhele : it's no lie we are going through
things , and instead of a solution coming up
we just seem to tear apart even further .

Nqaba has demanded that we kick Mpilontle
out of here tonight

Mpilo : what ?

What is wrong with Mqhele ? He just had to say it in that manner and tone

Mpilo : you don't even stay here , so why bark orders to have me kicked out ?

She asks starring at Nqaba who isn't even bothered

Mpande : I think it'll be best if you do leave

Mpilo : what no...

She fumes

Mpilo : I am not going anywhere

Oh we are so screwed , she knows what happened to the parents and Xhanti and that's her card that she'll use

Mpande : girl don't you have family?

She laughs

Mpilo : rich coming from you , but either way I am not leaving . In fact you all will worship the ground I walk on just for keeping your secrets

Nolitha : aibo Mpilo what secrets ?

Mpilo : do you really want to know heh ?

Mqhele : just say what you want to say

Mpilo : fine , you the mighty Mqhele I know
that you burnt you parents along side Xhanti

It does dead quite for a few minutes

Mpilo : so you all can't talk ? so you all knew
She laughs

Mpilo : this is even much better than I
thought, because in this room you're all guilty.
He's the murderer and you're all his
accomplices

The brothers are angry beyond words that's besides Nqaba and Ntsika who don't even look bothered

Nqaba : if you're done you can leave

Aibo this man did she just hear this woman

Mpilo : you must be crazy I just told you I am not going anywhere unless you want your family scandals all over the papers

Mqhele : Mpilontle what do you want ?

She smiles

Mpilo : that's more like it . I will get everything that was mine

And that everything already includes my husband

Mpilo : the money , the life , the house oh and the husband

Mpande : are you crazy ?

Mpilo : no dear brother in-law

Qhawe : Nqaba is married you know that

Why are they talking like they'll give Mpilontle what she wants ? At my expense

Mpilo : he was married when you all married him off to this tram...

She does not finish we word a slap lands across her face it sends the wheelchair moving back , I think I need to have my eyes checked no ways my husband has just laid his hands on Mpilontle .

Ntsika : bawo , calm down

Nqaba : you don't utter my wife's name out of your mouth associated with insults

No one can believe what we just witnessed
when did he even get up

Mpilo : you have no idea what you have just
done

She's crying

Mpilo : you will give me what I want and wena
you'll marry me back , whether you like it or
not . I will be your fucking wife again , or I'll
expose you whole lot . A fucking bunch of
murderers

They brought this woman here , she found out things that were meant to be buried and now she's haunting us . And I don't see any of them in the firing line , but just me and my marriage . She wants my husband

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Insert 26

Ziphozendalo

These people are going to drive me crazy , I don't care what happens to who and what but what I know is that husband is not marrying Mpilontle again , or I'll walk my flat ass out of this marriage no questions asked nothing . I

won't fight no other woman for a man . I will not settle to being second best again taking the back , hell no I have my daughter to think about not to mention my own sanity

Mpilo : so what's it going to be ?

Cwaka (silence)

Nolitha : Mpilo after I begged my husband to have mercy and

Mpilo : sweets I didn't ask you to

Hehayke tshin thiza

Mqhele : you see your doing Nolitha , you made us take her in now look at this

Qhawe : come on , we can't be fighting against each other over her

Well what are they going to do ?

Mpilo : what's it going to be ? I am waiting

Nolitha : give us at least time to....

Mpilo : I don't have time I need an answer now

All eyes on Nqaba , I am really being tested here

Nqaba : what ?

They better not ask him that nonsense to save Mqhele he's a grown man he can see how he'll get out of this one

Qhawe : what you are asking is a lot , the money and everything we can do that but Nqaba it's....well it's a complicated matter

Mpilo : there's nothing complicated apha , the same way you married him off to her , you can do it again

Mqhele : bawo

Ntsika : hayhiii don't you dare Mqhele ask my brother lo kaka (that shit)

Mpande : Ntsika khame (wait)

Ntsika : no Mpande you wait

Qhawe : we are faced with a problem here ,
are we really going to sacrifice one of our own

Yhuu bayandiqhele aba bantu

(these people are getting on my nerves)

Me : I am tired of you whole lot you'll dare sacrifice my marriage just to hide your own , Nqaba you will make your choice right here and right now .

Mqhele : is this what it comes to ?

Nqaba : you already said that one day I'll have to choose guess it came way too early

Nolitha : bhuti please ...

Ntsika : don't you dare Nolitha

Mpilo : enough all of you

Aibo uGirl shouts on top of her head

Mpande : yhoh I'm tired of this shit

He gets up and wheels Mpilontle out

Qhawe : and then ?

Mqhele : Mpande

We follow him , Mpande is heading to one of the roundavels

Qhawe : what are you doing ?

Mpande : look we have a ceremony tomorrow, can we all just focus on that and not this snake we've let into our home and is now biting . We only have one snake in this family and it's Mkhuseleli

Mpilo : so you're going to kill me too ?

Qhawe : that would be better

Mpande : look you have experienced this before it won't be any different . Until my nieces ceremony is done and I've thought of a way to deal with you , this will be your new home

He pushes her inside and locks the door
keeping the key with himself , he walks away
from us all

Nqaba : let me make something clear if it
comes down to it , I'll always choose my wife
over you all

He walks away as well

Ntsika : well that's that and it's done , y'all
deal with your shit and leave us out of it nc
Bhabha let's go

He takes my hand we walk back inside the
house

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At the Bangani homestead

It's early in the morning Nqaba has done all his rituals , calling on his ancestors to come and welcome the baby . All is well , his ancestors have agreed and accepted to the ceremony . Ziphozendalo is with Bhelekazi getting Qhawekazi ready for her big day

Bhelekazi : are you okay ?

She shakes her head

Bhelekazi : Zipho

Zipho : ma will I ever get a break ?

Bhelekazi : oh my child

Me : I am tired , you know yesterday I talked to Nqaba in a way I have never . I stood up in front of his family and told him to choose

Bhelekazi laughs , she thinks it's time

Ziphozendalo stands her grounds in this family

Zipho : ma

She says a not defeated

Bhelekazi : Sana lwam (my baby)

She lays Qhawekazi down on the bed and takes Zipho's hand

Bhelekazi : just because you're a child doesn't mean you have to take whatever they throw at you . It's time now you show them you can hold your own , you're a wife and a mother . Age aside you're a Bangani as much as they all are , and no one is better than you here .

Zipho : I just want to leave this place

Bhelekazi : I commend you for even coming here

Zipho : for my baby I'll do anything , but I can only take so much

Bhelekazi embraces her , she feels for Zipho for everything she has gone through and just seems to keep going through

Outside Nolitha is with Lihle

Nolitha : Mqhele didn't sleep in our room last night

She didn't want to say anything but it's eating her up

Lihle : why are you surprised ?

Nolitha : what kind of a question is that ,
kodwa Lihle?

Lihle : do you see this chaos , it's all on you
Sisi . We are here because of you , had you
not played a saviour Mpilontle wouldn't be
here .

Nolitha : so are you also blaming me for her
knowing ?

Lihle looks at Nolitha

Lihle : how did she find out ?

Nolitha's heart sinks

Nolitha : do you really think I'll stoop so low ?

Lihle : I don't know Nolitha , she knew something she wasn't meant to know . You're all buddy buddy how so what am I supposed to think ?.

Nolitha : I didn't tell her

Lihle : I don't know

She continues washing the dishes . Nolitha walks away to her roundavel hurt by Lihle's words . She finds Mqhele , now she has no idea whether to go back or go in

Mqhele : come in , don't just stand at the door like a fucking statue . His tone is off but she walks in

Nolitha : I didn't mean to cause trouble I...

Mqhele : Nolitha you're my wife , I love you so much . You have me three beautiful kids and I'll forever cherish and appreciate you for that but I swear if that whore gets word out that I burnt Xhanti alongside our parents , you'll

also be amongst the number of people I've burnt you'll be number 4

She knows that's no threat

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Mpilontle

These people are bloody psychos , who in their right mind will leave a disable woman locked up alone in a room .

I'm so pressed and hungry , I'm thirsty . They didn't even bother to at least give me good or anything . I spent the whole night on a

wheelchair , I couldn't even put myself on the bed .

But now I need the bathroom , I wheel myself to the bathroom the bloody wheelchair doesn't go through the door , I won't make it to the toilet

Me : god no

I try to push in further it's useless , I move forward maybe I can reach it. But I fall down as I try to touch the toilet

Me : Ahhhh

I scream , and it's also useless because no one will hear me . Just like how I've been begging them to open the whole night

This damn floor is cold and I feel so disgusted when I feel the pee coming down gushing down my thighs . These damn Bangani's they keep hurting me time and time again

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Nqabayomzi

We have introduced my baby to oJola , and they have accepted . I couldn't be a proud father and husband

Zipho : my poor baby

Me : it looks good on her

She frowns

Zipho : Jola this thing stinks and not to mention the fur

I laugh

Me : Sweetheart come on , I've even cut the fur so it's not much

Zipho : you tried , but just look at her she doesn't even mind

Me : of course she doesn't mind I mean I
joined her

Zipho : I don't understand why you had to put
it on as well

Me : to match with my princess

Zipho : yhoh

I laugh and kiss her cheek

Zipho : when are we leaving ?

Me : MaJola you do know that I wouldn't have agreed to any of that right ?

Zipho : you proved your loyalty Jola, and I hope it stands like now . This is no threat or to make you be fearful but if you dare put me in a position where it's me and another woman I swear I'll leave you

Okay I hear that loud and clear and my wife has endured enough that even grown ass woman can ever endure

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Nqabayomzi

Me : I hear you and I promise I'll never put you in such a position ever again , we did that first time it didn't work out . And the only woman my ancestors wanted for me was the one left , I love and like it this way . I don't want any change

Zipho : thank you my heart

Did we all hear that right ? I smile involuntary

Ntsika : look at you blushing

Mxm this idiot , he takes Kazi from me

Ntsika : what did you tell him ?

Me : Ntsika don't you want to leave us lovers
and you go find your own

Zipho : Jola hayhiii

Me : what ?

Zipho : Ntsika is married , why would you tell
him to go find his own lover ?

Me : I did?

Zipho : hayhiii don't do that with me I'm not your friend

I laugh but she's serious

Ntsika : but my wife kind of left me all alone and ...

Zipho : Ntsika don't you dare cheat on Amahle , as much as I disapprove of her actions she's still your wife

Us : okay

Zipho : if he cheats , you're joining him out in the cold

She leaves us , we laugh

Me : don't cheat

Ntsika : you get it every night I'm starving

Why is he speaking nonsense my wife just gave birth , there won't be any sex until our baby is 3 months . I'm also a starving man

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At the Bangani homestead

Sihle is with Owentando outside by the garden watching the little kids playing

Owe : you still in PE for how long?

Sihle : maybe forever

Owe : what ?

Sihle : that's if dada agrees and well dabs and uncle as well

Owentando laughs

Owe : dude there's no way your stone cold uncle is going to take you in

Sihle : why the hell not ?

Owe : come on man , he has a child a baby
and Omuhle

Sihle : yeah well , I'll try anyway if they say no
I'll look at other options for me

Owe : why not go back home ?

Sihle sighs

Sihle : things aren't great between my parents
and well , dabs is great to live with . She's like
the best coolest mom ever

Owe : she's 17

Sihle : I know that , but she's cool to talk to
and very much understanding

This gives Owentando some thought

Owe : how understanding?

Sihle : like the kind of understanding , you
can talk to me about anything and everything

Owe : really ?

Sihle : yes really

Owe : well seems like you've grown close with her

Sihle : because she makes it easy to be
Owentando nods , he's not sure just how accurate what his cousin just said is . But if it's true then maybe just maybe he can have someone in the family to take to and not be judged

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Ziphozendalo

The way I didn't want to be here , I hardly even unpacked our bags except taking out what we needed when we needed it

Me : thank you for coming , it felt like I have my mother here with me

Bhelekazi : I'm glad , and I'm happy to have meet my granddaughter

We laugh

Me : she's most glad to have met you , remember my daughter has no grandmother

She gives me questioning eyes

Me : uhm I meant like on my side

Bhelekazi : Zipho I wasn't born yesterday

Me : I know

Bhelekazi : your mother and father in-law weren't here to see their granddaughter being welcomed and introduced

Me : uhm

Bhelekazi : don't tell me things that don't concern me

Me : okay

Bhelekazi : and I know you slipped up
because it's me

I nod , she might suspect but I will not utter
anything out of my mouth

Bhelekazi : are you done ?

Me : yes we can go

Just then a knock comes at the door , I open
and it's Owentando

Owe : Dabs

Oh we are there as well

Me : Owentando

He smiles , these Bangani men and these dashing smiles

Me : can I hope , are you okay ?

Owe : ndiright mna (I'm okay)

Me : right so?

This is awkward I've never exchanged words with him before

Owe : oh there's someone asking to see you

Me : who ?

I'm tired of these people I just want to leave

Owe : some brown skinned mamacita

Why is he doing this , I laugh because he's so pathetic right now

Me : really ?

Owe : yeah a real beauty

Me : oh okay , I'll come now

Owe : alright

Me : and stick to your kind and types

His jaw drops I leave him there at the door

Me : can you please watch her for me ,
apparently someone is looking for me

Bhelekazi : okay but she will wake up soon ,
she's been sleeping for a while now

Me : whoever is it I'll be quick

I walk out , and who I see I am shocked .
Ndalo here after all this time why

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Ndalo

I finally gathered the courage to come and see Ziphozendalo . I am a bit scared to see her , I've done her bad and I wonder if Lazola ever uttered what I did . If she even knows what we were planning to do . I see her as she comes by , I better know my story

Zipho : Ndalo

That's cold

Me : hey friend uhm....

Zipho : friend , please stop there
Can she know ?

Me : how are you ?

Zipho : well and yourself ?

Me : been good just missing you

Zipho : let's not do that with each other
please

Me : do what ?

Zipho : Ndalo do you want to know how one evening my husband suddenly got a message from his ex wife and it's me and your brother, who by the way had his hand on my shoulders because he was begging me to come to his bash that you my supposedly friend got pissed off at me for

Shit

Me : I am sorry , it was all Lazola's plan she said if I can break you and Nqaba up I'll have a chance with him...

Damn the slap the comes , I was not expecting that at all . It has even attracted eyes of the brothers and they walk to us

Zipho : I am so damn tired with every skirt in that's close to me thinking my husband is on the market

The husband laughs I am so embarrassed right now

Me : it...I'm sorry I shouldn't have listened to Lazola

Lihle : hah another Lazola and Mpilontle scandal involving kids , when will we learn

She walks away

Zipho : Ndalo hear me very well you won't get my husband and no one will get him

She also walks away

Nqaba : leave wena

Say no more I actually run out while they all laugh at me . I'll leave forget this moment ever again , can't Cape town come sooner

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Nqabayomzi

My wife and I are ready to leave our bags are in the car . We are having one of these crazy meetings of theirs that are never ending

Mpande : Mpilontle is still in that roundavel

Don't we all know that

Mpande : I guess what I'm asking is what are we going to do with her ?

Me : whatever you do keep me out of it

Ntsika : me too

Mqhele : is this your way of you two distancing yourself from us

Me : brother you did that when you initiated an ultimatum of me having to choose between my wife and you all , when I had to ask for permission just to come home and make a ceremony for my child

Qhawe : you did what ?

Mqhele looks down

Me : I am done , sweetheart let's go

She gets up we walk out to the car Sihle is already in with the kids . Ntsika dropped Bhelekazi off at her place , a while ago

Sihle : is dad staying behind ?

Me : I don't know ndoda

Just then Owentando comes running out to the car

Owe : dabs a word please ?

I don't know what the fuck is wrong with these young Bangani boys with my wife

Owe : tanci don't kill me I just need her tens

Me : for what wena ?

Owe : I need to talk to Dabs

Me : you'll call me and talk to her

Owe : yhoh

Sihle laughs at him

Me : don't even ask for them from this idiot

Sihle : I'm the idiot now ?

My wife gets in the car laughing

Owe : dabs I'll call tanci ke

Zipho : okay

Me : okay really sweetheart ?

Zipho : yeka abantwana (leave the kids)

Hear her saying kids , I drive out

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Mpilontle

Three nights I'm still in this room still on the floor , I've peed on myself more than many times I can even remember or count . It's a miracle I haven't messed up on myself

I am so cold , freezing actually . I am hungry my body is weak . These people are heartless I don't know what I was thinking trying to blackmail them . Especially after I saw what they did to Lazola , how they discarded her off the second she lost her memory . Now I am suffering , I have cried even my voice is gone

Why hasn't anyone come to see me ? Or at least check if I'm okay or not ?

A sudden breeze comes in the bathroom , my
body shivers the hair on my body stands

Voice : you don't learn do you ?

I know this voice , and it can't be because
he's dead . There's no way here's here , I lift
my eyes and he's really here .

Me : you're....you're dead

Mvelo : yes

Me : leave....leave me alone

He's just scary there's no way he's come
good to me at all

Mvelo : I hate people who hurt people I love

His damn obsession with his brother's wife

Me : M....Mvelo

Mvelo : don't worry we have a lot of time in here , no one is coming . Let me give you a scoop right now of what's happening okay . They're all busy with their lives right now . Nqaba has gone back to his lavish lifestyle in PE . Nolitha is trying to make things work with her husband and well Mpande could care less about you , now Qhawe is gone back to Joburg to get his life back in order since you and Lazola messed us up .

Me : M...Mvelo ple...ase

Mvelo : see I'm dead now because of selfish people like yourself . My daughter will grow up not knowing me all thanks to such people . But I won't allow any of that to happen to Zipho and her child

Me : I'll leave...them I swear I'll leave

I'm crying , and he's expression is not helping . He is angry and you can feel the anger in his voice . I can't believe I am talking to a ghost and begging him

Mvelo : like I said you don't listen , and what you need is a reality check . I'm going to give it to you

Me : no.....please no.....

Even going home to my family would have been better than any of this , maybe they would have felt pity for me . And I would have been welcomed but I walked into the lion's den and now I'm suffering the consequences

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Ziphozendalo

I got my results yesterday and I passed with a Bachelor and two distinctions . With everything I was dealing with , I can't believe how I managed to pass so well .

Today I've sent the results to NMU, so they can finalise my acceptance. I can't wait for this new chapter in my life

Nqaba : sweetheart

I'm rocking his baby to sleep . He walks in plants a kiss on my cheek

Nqaba : how are my girls ?

Me : good

Nqaba : I'm hoping to make them even better

Me : really ? Did you bring wings ?

He smiles , turns out I'm a fan of Buffalo sticky wings it wasn't even about the pregnancy at all

Nqaba : even better

He reaches for his laptop bag and pulls out papers he hands them to me , I read

Me : no ways , please tell me this is real ?

Nqaba : just your signature you see mine is already there including that of the court and social services representative

Me : Jola

Silly me I tear up , Omuhle is finally my little diva legally

Me : this is double happiness

He laughs , taking Kazi from me

Me : oh my word , I thought you forgot about this or maybe put it behind . With everything that was going on

Nqaba : I'll never , your happiness comes first

Me : thank you so much

Nqaba : anything for you , and that along with your results deserves a celebration

Me : take me out on a date , the last time you did that we were married for about 4 months . And it was the first and last time , just be romantic tog

We laugh , he puts Kazi down in her cot . She sucks her thumb I've tried to get her stop that but she loves it

Nqaba : I am romantic

Me : in bed maybe , and I've actually forgotten that it's been two months now

Nqaba : actually three

Me : wow so much , does that mean we can

Nqaba : hell no , you still have two more months before we can do that

What kind of man is this?

Nqaba : I want you to heal completely and I read somewhere that women who just gave

birth have higher chances to fall pregnant , if they're too quick to have sexual intercourse right after birth as their hormones are really high

Me : wow Jola I just feel like you've taken me back in school behind a desk

He laughs shaking his head looking at me , probably thinking that I'm crazy in his mind . But I am happy good people finally Omuhle is mine, I passed very well . So far there's been peace in this house this week and I couldn't be a happier woman . I should make something special with my babies just to celebrate the good news

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Insert 28

Mpilontle

I am going to die in here with Mvelo's ghost watching over me , I thought I knew the cruelty of these people but I was just fooling myself

I lay awake most nights , because the tile floor is really cold I can't fall asleep . I try to turn and push the wheelchair from the door , maybe I can slide out . It goes back a bit and it's a bit of a struggle for me to drag my body

towards the door. Frustration and anger just takes over me

Me : come on Mpilontle you can do this

I take deep breaths

Voice : speaking alone now ? Aren't we loosing our minds a bit ?

Mxm his ghost self is mocking me now

Mvelo : even if you make it back to the bedroom , no one is still coming to get you off the floor

Why isn't his ghost self getting me off the floor mxm

Mvelo : but go ahead , while you're at it remember just how you're straining your already tired and weak body

He's right I haven't eaten nor had water for days now and it has taken a toll on me . I'm sure those damn Bangani's have forgotten about me. I drag myself to the bedroom taking long breaks to gather my strength , I finally make it . I'm still on the floor but the carpet is much better than the tiles

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Nqabayomzi

My wife is out with Omuhle to the spa , so Sihle and I are babysitting today . But it's no hassle for us because my daughter is an angel , she's never bothersome

Me : wena what does Owentando wants with my wife ?

Sihle : andazi tanci (I don't know uncle)

Me : Sihle

He sighs

Sihle : manyan I don't know , he never

mentioned wanting to talk to dabs to me
(honestly)

I have no problem with Owentando wanting to talk to my wife , but I have a problem if whatever he wants to talk about will create problems for her with Mqhele and the rest of them . We already have enough of that and I just want to have a break

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Ziphozendalo

The way I have been spoiled in this house the past few days , I feel the need to just do something for them. Maybe a dinner tomorrow night . Pity I can't cook that well , but I can always order

Nqaba : don't do that

We are in bed and I've just put my leg over his thighs , he literally removed it

Me : aibo Jola

I'm shocked , why would he remove my leg over him ?

Nqaba : really sweetheart you're going to rest your thigh over my dick ?

Aibo , unintended I laugh

Me : it wasn't ...

Nqaba : mmmm it was

Me : even if it was I'm not saying it was , but even if it was what's wrong with that ?

Nqaba : it's painful

Me : how can my thigh be...Ohhh you mean your thingy ?

He laughs

Nqaba : you're so innocent it's cute, and it's not a thingy it's a dick I'm not fucking 5 years

Me : right

Nqaba : you can say it

Me : I'll rather no

Nqaba : sigowisha sitshata (we do marry)

Me : I'm offended

He pulls me closer to him , and I feel his dick

Me : that's....

Nqaba : frustration has built up I need to release and I'm not going to masturbate when I have a wife

Me : can I help ?

Nqaba : I don't think you'll want to do that

Me : do what ?

Nqaba : help me by sucking my dick

I look at him and make a frown because that sounds awful not to mention disgusting

Me : Jola , your mouth lacks filter

Nqaba : sweetheart there's no filter when you're talking about sex with your wife

I am married , nothing I do with my husband can be sinful

Me : nda gowisha ndatshata (I did marry)

Nqaba don't use my words against me

Me : let me help you

I straddle him , and lean down I initiate a kiss
and he welcomes it

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Nqabayomzi

She's on her knees , looking into my eyes I'm
staring at her

Me : are you sure ?

She nods

Zipho : just don't choke me with your thingy

Me : it's a dick

She holds my dick in her tiny soft hands .
Giving me a hand job while we locking eyes

She licks the tip with her wet warm tongue , it sends messages . She puts it in her mouth slowly I deep groan .For a few minutes she sucks it while giving me a hand job not fully taking it in , but it's not long after she takes it in . I grab her head , thrusting in slowly making sure I don't choke her like she said . I stop when she gets the hang of what she's doing , in all my years of sex I've never

groaned this much . This woman is showing my dick flames , she's sucking it like a lollipop and licking like an ice-cream

Me : fuck sweetheart

My dick tightens I try to push her off she doesn't let go , she deep throats and gags . Sending me to cum in her mouth . And I didn't want to do that because she's never done this before . I reach for my t-shirt so she can spit on it , but she fucking gives me a sight to feed my eyes on , as she swallows

Me : mmmm come here

I help her get up , and capture her lips into

mine . We kiss for a few minutes I still have to control myself not touching her boobs because currently someone else is using them as her food carrier

Zipho : you should have taught me that a lot time ago

I laugh

Me : can I not do this with you right now ?
Let's sleep

This woman is my peace and my all, to this day I'll still say she's the best decision my family has ever done for me . I cuddle her on

top of me , we'll sleep naked as we are

Me : siphwo se zinyanya zam (my ancestors gift)

Zipho : Jola

Me : ndiyak'thanda (I love you)

Zipho : nam ndiyak'thanda (I love you too)

UMQHELE wam lona (this is my strength and power)

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Ziphozendalo

I wake up a bit late than usual my people are nowhere to be seen . I make the bed and take a shower , I dry and lotion . Wear black skinny jeans maroon t-shirt with black slippers. I walk downstairs

Omuhle : Ndalo

She calls me as I pass the lounge , I turn on my steps

Me : Bhabha

She's not happy , we have a moody diva this morning I wonder what happened

Omuhle : yabona ke Kazi afun vuka (you see Qhawekazi doesn't want to wake up)

The little MaJola is sleeping on the mat with so many blankets covering her , I swear my baby will suffocate from heat . Now how do I answer this like what do I say ?

Me : uhm

Omuhle : hoku enze njani mna? (now what must I do)

I don't know as well , because they both should be sleeping and not in my lounge. Ntsika walks in with bags , this sight doesn't please me at all

Me : and then ?

Ntsika : I'm going to Joburg

Me : what ...why?

Am I crazy that's his home

Nqaba : he doesn't live here

Argh , he walks in with Sihle

Ntsika : did you ask your uncle and aunt?

He asks Sihle , I guess they had the talk

Sihle : not yet

Me : did you agree

He gives me a confused look

Nqaba : we know he wants to live here and if you agree I'm forced to say yes . I have no choice and no say in the matter

Must he say it like that ? Anyways it does not matter . He walks into the kitchen

Me : so ?

Ntsika : he can stay

Me : that would make up for you leaving

We laugh

Ntsika : I'll be back

Me : you do understand that without you I
have no gossiping partner ?

Ntsika : askies (sorry)

Me : you better be back soon

Yaz some women are really blessed , your husband is going through the most you leave him all alone to deal with his demons and boom weeks later he's the one that follows you , so you can work out your marriage .

Yeah no Amahle got the golden Bangani , I'm sure Nqaba would never do that with me. He would let me sulk until I see my fault and come back growling

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Ndalo

I am leaving Isilo today heading to Cape town, I'm so excited for all the possibilities . But at the same time a bit sad , I lost a good friend over a dream I did not even get to have a small taste of . The whole separate them and you'll get Nqaba was just a total waste of my time and energy

Mom : one thing I don't want to deal with is a pregnant you , bringing me coloured grandkids apha

Lubabalo is first to laugh , is my mother for real

Me : ma there's a lot of people in Cape town and that's even besides the point , I won't be bringing you any grandkids

Luba : you better not I'm not ready to play
uncle and father to a fatherless cape town
baby

Me : who said the baby will be fatherless ,
anyways why are we talking about this ?

Luba : because mom said...

Me : fondin yadika marn ndivile (dude ,you're
annoying I heard)

He laughs the way he's so amused I wonder
if he'll get the same speech when he goes to
Isilo university

Me : ma I promise you , I'll be all books and no boys you have nothing to worry about

Mom : my baby all grown up

She hugs me I return it , no lies I'll miss home and my annoying brother .

Mom : I love you so much

Me : I love you so much more ma

Luba : she's still the mother

At some point one would swear Lubabalo is adopted ain't no way my parents gave birth to such a child

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Mpilontle

I am really loosing my mind , I'll scream out of nowhere . I thought talking to Mvelo was bad but now I hear more than just his voice . He hardly appears he just speaks but there's another voices that speak and I can't even make out what they're saying

I swear I won't survive any longer in here , it's even starting to stink because I'm always peeing on myself . I'm so constipated by

making sure I don't mess on myself. I'll never
redeem myself from that

Me : why...don't...they just kill me

They should really kill me , I am starved and
locked up . My body is giving up , I can't go
on for too long without water anymore

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Ziphozendalo

Sihle : thank you for dinner dabs it was really
great

I finally made them something special just to thank them , for being such great and amazing people . And helping with the kids

Sihle is registered at a school here in PE he will be in grade 11 this year . As for me I have to go do final registration tomorrow so I can get my things

Sihle clears the table , he's really great help

Nqaba : something is wrong?

Me : I don't feel okay

Nqaba : mmmm you look a bit worn out

Me : maybe I'm just tired

Nqaba : you should go rest we'll clean up here

Me : are you sure ?

Nqaba : yes and we'll put the girls to bed

See my boys are just the best , and my girls are sweethearts . It's all balanced

Me : okay thank you

We kiss briefly and I walk to our room , I undress pull his t-shirt put it on and get in

bed. Seconds in I feel like my soul is leaving my body, my intestines turn and hurt in such a way I feel them

Me : I...can't die

I don't know what's happening

Next thing I'm in the house I grew up in with the people I thought were my parents . I hear cries of a baby , by the tiny voice I know it's my child .

Me : Kazi

I scream for her suddenly laughter erupts from Ntabeni and his wife . They walk to an

outside hut , strange because there's no hut there . They open and get inside , that's where the baby is crying from. I see everything but my feet are still stuck in the house by the kitchen . I watch him as he ties her hands and feet together , I keep screaming her name and it's the more her cries get louder and louder

Me : p...please...don't hurt her

I beg , I can't move my feet where I am at . I watch as this man cuts my baby's wrist and sucks her blood like he's some blood thirsty vampire

Me : no.....no

Her cries piece my heart , why can't I walk there ? Why are my feet stuck . He takes some bottles and squeezes the blood from her wrist inside he puts ties the bottle with black strings

Him : she will give me all the power and riches , I will be feared

He keeps uttering those words , as he takes a butcher knife , he tears the white t-shirt she's wearing I scream my lungs out crying as he puts it on her chest . How can he harm such an innocent being , he's going to harvest my baby

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Nqabayomzi

As promised we cleaned and put the girls to bed . I walk in our room and my wife is sweating and panting like crazy

Her eyes are turned completely white , she must be having one of those visions of hers , her sight breaks me because it seems like she's hurting but I can't wake her up . That would be disturbing her . I take my clothes off leaving just my briefs I get in bed besides her, I sit up straight I won't lie down until she's okay . Few minutes later she screams crying opening her eyes , I engulf her in a hug

Me : it's okay I'm here

Zipho : Ntabeni wants to hurt my child Jola

Fuck no , I pull out a bit and look at her .
Without a doubt she's terrified she's even
shaking

Zipho : he...he wants to hurt her , it was so
scary they way he was...he...I couldn't....I
didn't help her....I he was...going to...cut
cut her

I can't hear anything because she's crying
and it's painful

Me : shhhhhh , I won't let anything happen to our angel okay

Zipho : I am scared

Me : I swear that man will die before he even lays his hands on her

I rock her back and forth , it's about an hour when she's settled . And seems to be sleeping , a few more minutes in my arms she falls asleep

I grab my phone and make a call sometimes
the only way to deal with a problem is to
remove it He answers

Me : I need your services

I drop the call , and cuddle my wife Whatever
she saw spooked her , and I refuse to have
her living in fear of our baby's life because of
power hungry people like Ntabeni . He's
irrelevant to me so his death won't bother m.

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Insert 29

Ziphozendalo

I haven't been okay since that dream . And it didn't help that when I called Bhelekazi to ask where Ntabeni is at ? She said he hasn't been seen in the village for a few days now

Without a doubt where he is he's busy plotting how to get my child . I don't understand why these people just can't leave me alone

I haven't been able to leave my daughter's side , I just can't . The fear is not letting me . I'm always watching over her , Nqaba thinks it's creepy but I don't know care . He may understand but he did not see what I saw

Sihle : dabs ndiyahamba (aunt I'm leaving)

He has school today

Me : okay

Sihle : Omuhle is watching tv

He walks out I pick Kazi and follow him

Me : do you have money for lunch ?

I know how it was for me when I first moved
in with the Bangani's

Sihle : I'm sorted

Me : okay

He kisses Kazi's cheek and Omuhle

Sihle : I'll see you later

He leaves , I sit down next to Omuhle we watch TV together . I can't lose any of my kids , like I don't even want to imagine that

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The Bangani homestead

The brothers are heading to the roundavel they've kept Mpilontle in . Mpande opens and the smell that welcomes him sends him back

Mqhele : tell me she did not die in here

Mpande : I doubt she's dead

Mqhele : it sinks in here

Mpande : yeah she hasn't bathed in das and who knows maybe she...

Mqhele : don't fucking say it I'll puke all over you

Mpande laughs and walks inside , the sight of an unconscious Mpilontle graces his eyes

Mqhele : is she dead?

Mpande : man no , yini do you want her
dead?

Mqhele laughs outside

Mpande : she peed on herself and shit

Mqhele : hayhiii marn Mpande voetsek (piss
off)

Mpande laughs

Mpande : relax she didn't shit on herself , I
wonder how she managed that one . She still
has some dignity left at least

Mqhele : nc just bring her out , in fact what are we going to do with her ?

Mpande : nothing for now

He walks back to his brother

Mqhele : what do you mean nothing ?

Mpande : we'll leave her in here for a while

Mqhele : for what ?

Mpande : until she's learned her lesson

Mpande walks back in the room , he fills a bucket with water and spills it all over Mpilontle

She opens her eyes slowly , she's so weak even her voice won't come out .

Mpande : I'll bring you water , you can consume that while you think about everything you have done

She opens her mouth to talk but nothing comes out , Mpande leaves Mqhele and walks to the main house , their wives look at him hoping he can say something . But he just takes three bottled water and walks out

Nolitha : do you think she's still alive ?

Her heart goes out to Mpilontle still because
at the end of the day she's still human

Lihle : I don't care

She really doesn't , she'll rather have Mpande
hurt and torture anyone else rather than her

Mqhele : just water ?

He asks his brother as he gets to him ,
Mpande passes him and gets inside . He puts
the bottles next to Mpilontle

Mpande : you're human so trust me your body will make it without food for a while the water is enough

He walks out he locks the door

Mqhele : that's that

Mpande : yeah

They walk back to the house . Mqhele and his wife plan to go back to Joburg this week

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Nqabayomzi

I walk out the door she calls me out I turn back

Zipho : uyaphi ?(where are you going?)

She has Kazi in her arms , Sihle has already left for school and Omuhle is somewhere around the house . My wife was supposed to be at varsity today but she's chosen to miss orientation . I hate how she is right now

Me : to see someone

Zipho : aibo Jola ngubani u'someone ?(who is this someone)

Me : a man

She frowns

Zipho : I wasn't saying you're

Me : I am going to meet a guy that's going to help me deal with Ntabeni once and for all

Zipho : Jola what do you mean once and for all ?

Me : I mean exactly

I walk out the door

Zipho : don't kill him

She screams behind me , it's this good heart of hers that's going to keep us always in the firing line . I can't have that

I drive to the restaurant we agreed to meet at, I arrive park my car and walk in inside . My phone rings it's my wife , I switch it off . She'll be pissed I know

I spot him by the far end at the corner , I walk to the table and sit down

Lubanzi : mkhuluwa

Me : bawo

Lubanzi : you called , sorry I didn't answer sooner

Me : you're a busy man I understand

Lubanzi : so give it to me

Me : Ntabeni I want him gone to a point of no return , he's posing to be a threat to my wife and my family I can't have that

Lubanzi : do you want to see it or should I just leave you out of it ?

He says with a smirk , I'll never understand what's so exciting and fascinating to him about killing people

Me : so that's a yes you'll do it ?

Lubanzi : say no more , when it comes to one of Ngonyama there's nothing I wouldn't do

Me : I see

Lubanzi : relax I don't want her like that

I chuckle

Me : I think I know that now

Lubanzi : sorry about your brother and that it pushed him to suicide

Me : I guess Mvelo was messed up

I don't want to visit that again

Lubanzi : don't worry about Ntabeni I'll sort it out myself personally

Me : thank you

Lubanzi : you can always count on me

We shake hands I get up and leave . I have to be at court the whole day .

I call my wife she doesn't answer , I keep calling until she switches off the phone
ndiyaqheleka apha

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Ziphozendalo

Nqaba will be the death of me , Ntabeni is a problem but I don't want my husband to have his blood on his hands . He's a spiritual person , this will cause problems for him

After he avoided me I took my girls and I out for some girls day out . Spending his money shopping and buying unnecessary things without worrying about the balance

I switch my phone on , the driver is driving us back home . Messages come flooding in from him . listen to the voice message he left

Nqaba : MaJola uyandinyanyisa lo mnfazi o thetha njalo xandik'founela . Mamela ndiyaz ba uqumbile kodwa uzondinceda sisi endincamisana naye xa ndifika ekhaya ndik'fumane ukhona nabantwana bethu . Ndiyanithanda njalo (that lady that's busy answering your phone when I call is pissing me off . Listen I know you're angry but you'll help me lady that I'm dating with , that when I

get home I'll find you there along with our kids. (I love you)

I laugh after listening to it , this man is dramatic . I'm sure he's already home by now

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Insert 30

Nqabayomzi

I've called and I'm still not giving up

Sihle : uphi udabs? (where is aunt)

He puts his bag down

Me : she's acting up

Sihle : wenze nton ? (What did you do)

Me : why must I have done something ?

He laughs

Sihle : it's always the man's fault

I call again , it rings but another call comes in its Lubanzi . My wife doesn't answer I answer Lubanzi's call

Me : mmmm

Lubanzi : where is your wife ?

Me : hayhiii nton ngani with my wife? (What's it with you)

Lubanzi : because she's in danger wherever she is , this idiot has sent men to tail her

I drop the call , and call Lwazi first ring he answers

Lwazi : bawo

Me : you do whatever you have to do to
protect my wife and kids

Lwazi : understood

I drop the call .

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Ziphozendalo

We should be approaching home now but the driver keeps taking turns , that are just delaying us .

Me : what's taking so long

Him : Mrs Bangani please just watch the girls make sure they're okay

With that being said gunshots are fired everywhere and you can feel the car is taking hits . Did I just not see my so called driver take out a gun and firing it killing 5 men all at once . Then he stops the car and gets off , he opens the door and checks on us . We are fine even Omuhle has woken up . My little angle didn't hear anything

Him : I'm sorry you had to see that

He's emotionless , I say nothing he closes the door and drives us home. His phone rings again he answers

Him : bawo

He listens for a while

Him : I took care of it

He drops the call , my mind is all over the place , Sihle and Nqaba are outside on the drive way

Nqaba : take the kids

He says to Sihle and just engulfs me in hug , I don't return it I'm still stunned .

Nqaba : sweetheart

He pulls out of the hug a bit worried

Nqaba : you're okay right ?

He kind of inspects my body

Me : I'm fine

Nqaba : okay uhm....

Me : Jola you care to explain to me why do I have a driver who carries a gun , and has just gunned down 5 men in mere seconds like it was nothing ?

Nqaba : Lwazi is not a driver he's an assassin assigned to protect you , by Lubanzi before you even bite my head . I was against the whole idea in the first place

Me : I should have knows it's that thugs face friend of yours

Nqaba : he's your cousin

Me : no he's not

Nqaba : you mothers are siblings

Me : no they're not , and leave me with that
Lubanzi of yours like me take a wild guess
he's the one sent to kill Ntabeni right ?

Nqaba : Ntabeni is the one who sent those
men

My life has drama for days and it just never
ends . I leave him there and walk inside the
house

Sihle has Kazi in his hands and Omuhle is eating , never amazes me how this child can eat so much .

Me : did you eat ?

Sihle : yeah , I cooked

Me : this is why I love having you here . You look out for the rest of us

Nqaba : I'm still here

Me : I wasn't aware

He raises his brow , I walk to the kitchen he follows me . His phone rings he looks at it and back at me

Me : hayhiii don't do that to me answer your phone

Nqaba : you know I'll never cheat on you ?

I move my eyes all over the place

Nqaba : I've hurt you , maybe I'll probably still do but not with cheating

Me : answer your phone

He answers putting it on speaker

Nqaba : kwedini ufuna nton? (boy what do you want)

Owe : tanci ndingam'fumana udabs? (uncle is aunt available)

Nqaba : hayhiii call some other time ndoda

He drops the call on the poor kid

Me : really ?

Nqaba : hayhiii sweetheart , Owentando can wait okay . We have a pressing matter here at hand

Me : like why all this time I didn't know that my so called driver is an assassin .

Nqaba : for your sake

Me : he kills people for a living

Nqaba : we all do something for a living

Me : is this a joke ?

Nqaba : hell no , but I lie everyday
representing criminals , rapists and murders .

Ouch , I sulk because he's also not so clean
after all . These people break the law and he
gets them off argh

Me : leave me alone

Nqaba : go take a bath , I'll bath Kazi and
Omuhle put them to bed . Then I'll come tuck
you in

I laugh

Nqaba : you're still my baby

Me : always

Nqaba : mmmm and don't forget to bump milk for Kazi

Me : thanks for reminding me

He holds me putting his hands on my shoulders

Nqaba : I know today scared you , but you're okay and the girls are okay that's what matters

Me : I know , I just don't know what I would have done if I lost any of them or they got hurt

Nqaba : they didn't so don't even think about it

I nod

Nqaba : and sweetheart please non of that switching phones off again business

I laugh remembering his voice message

Me : you shouldn't have started with me Jola

I peck his lips and walk upstairs .

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At the Bangani homestead

Mqhele and Nolitha along with their kids are all packed and ready to go except Owentando, who has asked to stay behind

Nolitha : I don't understand this

She's not happy that he's staying behind

Owe : ma just a few days I'm coming

Nolitha : why are you staying here? We've already spent a whole two months here

Mqhele : just let him be

He takes their bags to the car , Nolitha keeps quite because Mqhele has spoken . She doesn't want to push the matter any further especially in front of their kids

Owe : I promise I'll be home soon

Nolitha : what about school ?

Owe : it's athletics season , hardly any studying is being done

Mpande : rich private school kids

He can hear that his uncle is mocking him

Owe : all schools uncle , January and February are just useless when it comes to school

Mqhele : let them be useless remembering just how much I pay monthly

Owe : just a few days tata

Mqhele : whatever you're staying here for better be good and worth it

Owentando just nods

Mqhele : let's go

Nolitha : Sisi please ...

Lihle : you don't have to ask he's my son as well

The wives hug , Mqhele pulls his brother aside

Mqhele : I hope you have found a plan

Mpande : she's still alive , and well soon I'll let her out of there

Mqhele : it's been two weeks

Mpande : I know and like I said I'll get her out of there

Mqhele : better , and Qhawe ?

Mpande : I don't know , since he asked for the kids to come maybe he's found a solution as to what to do without Lazola around

Mqhele : okay , watch this one

Mpande laughs

Mpande : Owentando is a young man he can...

Mqhele : Mpande I don't want complains or reports following me back

Mpande : understood

Mqhele : I don't understand what's the deal with this kids staying around here . Did you hear Sihle has decided to stay with Nqaba ?

Mpande : yes Amahle cried to Lihle about it ,
apparently she feels like MaJola has taken
his child away

Mqhele shakes his head

Mqhele : the drama of these fucking women
we married

Mpande : at the end of the day we love them

Mqhele : and they love us , that's why they
put up with all this shit we put them through

Mpande : true , but what about the situation with Nqaba and Ntsika ? They're still our brothers

Mqhele : I don't deny that's they're , but Nqaba needs to cool down as rethink his decisions . I love Nolitha but I don't act love struck just to prove my love to her , when it comes to it she knows her place in this family and she knows my family first and most importantly she knows her place

Mpande : are you saying MaJola doesn't know her place ?

Mqhele : did I ?

Mpande laughs

Mpande : brother you implied that

Mqhele : well however you take it

He leaves his brother going to the car , as
they get ready to leave

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Nqabayomzi

Lubanzi called to say he has Ntabeni , but for some whatever reason he's still keeping him alive I don't get that

My wife is now attending at varsity , and she's loving it . She's my very own version of beauty and brains , we'll have an accountant in this family . She's been studying for a while now , even Kazi has fallen asleep right here next to me . She's sleeping in our bed tonight not in her cot . I don't know why but my baby is cling I don't get it for someone who is just 6 weeks old

My wife takes her clothes off and she takes a throw heading to the couch

Me : come to bed

She looks at me surprised I'm still awake ,
there's no way I was going to fall asleep
without her next to me

Zipho : where ?

Me : what do you mean where ?

Right where you sleep every night

Zipho : Jola look at your daughter there's no
space apho

The little MaJola is asleep her legs and feet are all the way there taking space and her head is right next to me

Me : how does a baby sleep like this?

I move her on to my chest

Me : MaJola daddy has a queen and two princesses you all have to learn to share me

Zipho : she won't fall right ?

Me : no , did I ever fall with you ?

She smiles

Zipho : she's tiny I'm a full grown human
being

She gets into bed , I pull her under my arm

Zipho : Kazi want's to replace me

Me : she won't

I cuddle my two girls and we sleep

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Ziphozendalo

It has become a norm that I wake up alone , almost everyday Kazi wakes up early like her father

I get up make the bed and clean around the room , I go into the bathroom take a shower dry lotion . I wear a yellow above the knee high waist umbrella skirt white short sleeve vest with white flip flops . I walk down and everyone is eating by everyone I mean all of them , I should be ashamed as a wife

Me : we eating cereal ?

I ask and Sihle laughs

Omuhle : yea (Yes)

We all look at her

Sihle : yea nton sisi ? (yes what)

Omuhle : cereal le (this is cereal)

Nqaba : yes of course you didn't hear a question was being posed

He laughs with Sihle

Me : don't do my kids like that , anyways Jola
I think we can get some help

Nqaba : I'm not going to eat food prepared by
another woman

Me : akho mntu ozokutyisa Jola (no one is
going to give your love portion)

Sihle chokes

Me : serves you right for listening to things
that don't concern you

Sihle : but si apha Sonke (but we're all here)

Me : shut up

Sihle : done

Nqaba : sweetheart when last did you take a good look at your man ?

Me : just bow

Nqaba : well look clearly , anyone can feed me love portion so please save us the drama

Me : okay fine , I'll do cooking classes

Nqaba : at a cooking what not right?

Me : why not here ?

Nqaba : I spent millions on this house and well sweetheart we have kids here if this house burns down they'll be homeless

Sihle gets up and burst out laughing heading to the sink

Me : wow

Nqaba : I still love you

I married an idiot , and there's no getting out of it . I guess I better eat cereal as well .

Nqaba is going to the office a bit late after my class because he has to watch the babies

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At the Bangani homestead

Qhawe just arrived , they were not even expecting him

Mpande : who did you leave the kids with ?

Qhawe : with Nolitha just for the weekend

Mpande : okay

Qhawe : you still keeping that woman here ?

Mpande laughs

Mpande : yeah and I'm giving her water just so she stays alive

Qhawe : that sounds a bit psychotic

Mpande : hey

Qhawe : don't take offence

Mpande : death is just going to be easy for Mpilontle and I think being locked up in there and starved is driving her insane

Qhawe : what makes you say that

Mpande : half the time she's talking alone , saying he's got a rope and wants her to kill herself

Qhawe : who ?

Mpande : that's the thing she never says . Just that she messed with the one he loves

They laugh

Qhawe : that's crazy

Mpande : lunatic I tell you

Owentando comes out heading to his car

Qhawe : and him ?

Mpande : he stayed behind it was supposed to be just a few days but here he still is and Mqhele is loosing it

Qhawe runs to him before he drives out

Qhawe : uyaphi? (where are you going)

Owentando he looks at his uncle and thinks about lying but he knows it won't end well for him

Owe : I'm going to PE

Qhawe opens the door he gets in ,
Owentando looks at him confused

Qhawe : aibo drive

Owe : uhm you're going to PE with me ?

Qhawe : you have problem with that ?

Owe : no but....

Qhawe : if you're going for umjolo pha it's fine, you'll just leave me at your uncle's house (dating there)

Owentando doesn't like the fact that his uncle is now coming along this was his chance to talk to Ziphozendalo

Owe : ndiya khona nam (I'm also going there)

Qhawe : qhuba ke (then drive)

Owentando drives out now he can't back out

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Nqabayomzi

I walk in this house it's nothing fancy but nor is it old , it's just big like how a four room house would be

Lubanzi : finally you arrive

Me : why did you call ?

Lubanzi : come see this

We walk a bit further in the house and there's Ntabeni tied to a chair naked , he's badly beaten

Me : the hell ?

Lubanzi smiles

Lubanzi : I have a surprise for him , I hate men who inflict pain on women . I want him to understand and feel what it feels like to have other men inflict pain on him

Me : Lubanzi balance me here ... Why are you still keeping Ntabeni alive ? I thought I said kill him

Lubanzi : he's going to die either way ,
because I'm going to harvest his body parts

This guy is sick

Me : for what ?

Lubanzi : I'll sell them in the black
market

Ntando walks in with three guys who look so
buff in a way that it's disturbing

Lubanzi : ah you have arrived , this is present

Hell no , he's not

Before I even finish that thought these guys take their clothes off , this is not happening . They rip Ntabeni's clothes off . He's crying and begging them to let him go and not to hurt him . One guy pins him to the floor . I turn to look at Lubanzi as the guy penetrates Ntabeni , his screams are too much for a man

Me : really ?

Ntando laughs , I guess he's used to this twisted nonsense Lubanzi is all about

Lubanzi : don't worry it won't traumatize you

How is seeing three men rape another not going to traumatize me

Me : I beg to differ

He laughs . I can't stand this the way Ntabeni is crying and begging these guys to stop , it'll be a while before I forget this nonsense

Lubanzi : don't worry after this he won't be alive for too long , I'm going to cut him open and take everything I can while he's still alive

Lubanzi is sick . And he has no problem whatsoever with the kind of person he is , inflicting pain on others and actually enjoying it

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Ziphozendalo

The bell is persistent

Me : Sihle get the door

I shout , I'm studying here

Sihle : Kazi won't let me dabs

Really , and it's a lie I'm sure he's busy playing with them . I get up and walk past his room , the three of them are laying down on the carpet watching videos on YouTube

Me : really guys ?

Sihle : if I try to get up she cries

Yhoh uSihle good people that's a lie , I let them be and attend to the door . The shock it's Owentando and Qhawe , I'm more shocked to see Qhawe . I thought he was still in Joburg

I make way for them they get in . We exchange greetings . And I only hope no drama is coming , but as I'm still busy wondering I hear those thoughts and read their minds . I didn't intend to . I have my work cut out for me , the question is am I going to be able to help them?

Me : uhm Jola went out a while ago

Them : I came to see you

They say same time and it even shocks them both I guess they didn't know that , no one told the other why they're coming here

Owe : dabs you remember lanto and I said I'll call but never got to it?

I nod , such lies

Owe : well that's why I'm here

I don't know what's lanto because he never said why he wanted my numbers

Me : okay , uhm Owe your cousin's are upstairs let me talk to your uncle and them

Owe : okay

He runs upstairs I lead Qhawe to the kitchen

Me : can I get you anything bhuti ?

This man is just bringing me heaviness with his aura and energy right now he's carrying a lot and he needs to offload

Qhawe : just an ear Makoti

Even his voice is pained , I pull a chair
besides him and sit down .

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Insert 31

Ziphozendalo

This is so awkward considering I've never
exchanged any words with Qhawe , well
except greetings here and there and not
directly at him alone . I pull a chair and sit

down opposite him . He rubs his hands together , guess this is not easy on him

Qhawe : I'm sure you're wondering why I am here , and what do I need to talk about

Me : well I won't lie and say I'm not wondering because I am

He sighs

Qhawe : I know like everyone else in the family you're very much aware of my dilemma and my problems with my wife

Me : I suppose

Qhawe : and that we are divorced

Me : yes

That was no question but I needed him to know that yes I am aware of such

Qhawe : knowing her situation , it kinda worked in my favour . Because I made sure those papers were signed and the divorce was processed , it only even took a few days for it to be finalized .

I nod , so he can continue talking

Qhawe : I am sorry to bother you with my problems right now , but MaJola there's no one else I can talk to . My brother's are just too diverted right now , and well if I'm honest out of all the Bangani wives you're the only sane one . The rest are just not the kind of people one can sit down and hold a deep conversation with .

That's a compliment from him , I return a thank you with a smile . Even though I wish he hadn't come to me , Qhawe's issues are deep

Qhawe : after everything Lazola has done , there's a huge part of me that hates her so much

Me : but at the end of the day she's still the other of your kids

I find myself looking at him and he's looking right back at me

Me : I'm... sorry I...

Qhawe : no , please don't be sorry because what you're saying is the truth . And there's not a day that passes by where I don't look at my kids and think about how just maybe I was too quick and to ignorant , when I made the decision to divorce their mother . Like how I did not consider my kids in all of this

Me : Bhuti , if there's one thing being a mother has taught me is that when it comes to my kids I'll never be selfish . Forgive me to say this but Lazola did no one wrong except me the outcast and

Qhawe : we.....

Me : I'm sorry to cut you off , but I know where I stand with the Bangani family and you know what that's fine . It's fine because the man I'm here today because of acknowledges me enough and assures me of my place . And that it's with him , so I'm not longer bothered by how I am treated .

He looks down , and this is exactly

how the truth looks like when it hits you on the face

Me : as much as Lazola has her faults , so do you . And right now your decisions have become so selfish towards your kids that they'll grow up without their mother

Qhawe : no one would understand

Me : that's the problem right now you're concerned about what your brothers would say . What do you care what they say ? Because right now they're all occupied with their lives . And I tell you no one cares enough to ask how are you and how are you dealing with the possibility of being a single

father , while their mother is in hospital with no memory whatsoever . If one day your kids decide to ask where is their mother what will you tell them?

Qhawe : I don't know

Me : is that what you're going to tell them ?

He sighs

Qhawe : no , I don't know what I'll tell them

Me : right now you're consumed my regret , so why don't you fix this ? And stop caring about who will say what and who will not understand . It's your marriage yes not a

Bangani family meeting holding place . If you want Lazola back do right and get her back

Qhawe : but that's also worrying , she has no memory whatsoever of us . She doesn't even know me

Me : then help her . Don't you think that maybe being with her would help trigger something in her mind and she'll maybe remember

He rubs his eyes , I hope he's not crying because I can't deal with that at all

Me : if Jola does me wrong right now , my kids would be my first thought . Before Omuhle and Kazi I was the only one who mattered but now it's different . And I can't be selfish and disregard them . Your kids don't even know what their mother did . One thing about you Bangani men is that you're all selfish and you look out for your own , by your own I mean your own families and not each other as others . I'll even make myself as an example , we all saw how it didn't even take Jola seconds to think his decision between choosing me and his family . Another man wouldn't have chosen but instead came up with a way to make both parties get all . And the way he reacted that's how you all are . Not even one of your brothers talked you out of divorcing your wife , they all were for it . What does that tell you ? I'm not saying

Lazola is a saint she's far from it , but with her memory gone doesn't she deserve a second chance ? Mpilontle is stuck on a wheelchair with no legs she has gotten more then one second chances with the Bangani's . The very same woman you all saw with your own eyes having sex with another man . If you guys cared for each other , Mpilontle wouldn't be welcome in your home and lives , it's disrespectful to me and it shows just how much you don't respect uJola and his decisions . All you brothers are just too arrogant and rude for your own good , now use that to mend and fix what's broken. Forget everything and everyone but your kids

This man right here is crying and I don't know what to do . Thank god I'm saved when

Nqaba walks in , but his thoughts disturb me for days to come .

Me : bhuti only you can fix this

I get you walk to Nqaba I hold his hand

Nqaba : Qhawelomzi what do you want here?

His tone is very off

Me : talk to your brother please

I plead with him emphasising on the brother part . All these men are broken but they can't

even help each other because they're arrogant

I kiss his cheek and walk out leaving them alone

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Nqabayomzi

I sit right where my wife was sitting

Qhawe : mkhuluwa I know it looks bad that I just rocked up here and without you being here , I meant no disrespect

Me : I asked a question

Qhawe : I came to see uMaJola I needed her advice

Me : mmmm

That's for him to go ahead and tell me what he's on about

Qhawe : I'm not so sure about the decision I took divorcing Lazola

Me : right so let me get this straight Qhawe you came all this way to get marital advice from my wife ?

Qhawe : yes

Now I've heard it all

Qhawe : and now I'll take my leave

Me : no , I found you here so don't leave on my account bawo

Qhawe : I'm leaving because I hope I can arrive at Isilo while it's still visiting hours at the hospital

Me : right

He gets up and leaves after saying goodbye .
I go upstairs to our room passing Sihle's room
I hear Owentando's voice

I get in our room my wife is in bed cuddled up
with a throw , I take my shoes off and get in
bed cuddling her

Me : how much do you charge?

She laughs

Zipho : for what ?

Me : these consultations you're holding up
here in our home ?

Zipho : free of charge

I chuckle

Me : lonto ndingayithandi cause you could make money from this and we would be rich , and I can even afford taking you on dates .
(That's what I don't like)

She laughs

Me : I am telling your , and that idiot is going to be back here again seeking more advice

Zipho : he can't , yhoh it was sad to see your brother cry like that

Me : wena why would you make a grown ass cry ?

Zipho : like I intended to , you know how my mouth gets once I decide to open it

Me : so tell me all about it , before I go see my girls

She looks at me with a smirk and I know gossip is coming . It's very nice gossiping with your wife

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Ziphozendalo

Owentando ended up sleeping here last night, not because we needed up not talking but because Qhawe took his car and left with it . This morning I woke up and made breakfast , I've found a chef who does private lessons teaching people how to cook . My husband thinks a private chef is better than going to school , I disagree with him but them again Nqaba is Nqaba so the private chef it is. After all it's his money not mine

Sihle : dabs (aunt)

He's first to sit down with Kazi , the second she was up this morning he came knowing to our room to get her

Me : Sihle do you have baby fever?

He takes Kazi's bottle and give it to her , he's so good a this big brother role . I feel like he's my kid as well , it ends up with me because the last time I said that to Nqaba he laughed at me until it wasn't funny anymore

Sihle : what's that ? A new sickness that's in for babies ?

Argh

Me : I mean do you crave having a baby being a father

He frowns , he must have taken that from Nqaba . Ntsika doesn't do any of that

Sihle : please , don't go there with me

Nqaba : go where ?

He's with Owentando , I set the table up

Sihle : the bees and the birds , I know all about that . Don't worry I won't bring you any grandkids I'm still fine with being big brother

Everyone looks at me awkward , understandably so . Sihle is what 16 and I'm

just a year and few months older than him .
Imagine me having sex talks with him

Me : I asked if he has baby fever

Owe : Ohhhh

He gets it thank god

Sihle : I took this one because she just
wanted to be with me

Nqaba : she had just woken up

Sihle : uncle you don't understand this thing ,
currently little sisters are obsessed with their
brother . And you guys don't make her watch

videos when she wakes up , she loves that kind of a thing

Nqaba : and you're only in grade 10 it'll be too soon until you corrupt my kids

I leave them eating I go check on Omuhle , she's still asleep it's so unlike her . She's an early bird this one . I let her be

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At the Bangani homestead

Qhawe parks the car he sees Mpande going to the roundavel where Mpilontle is kept he goes to him

Qhawe : mkhuluwa

Mpande turns and looks at him

Mpande : bawo you're back ?

That's an inquiring question

Qhawe : yes I am back

Mpande : right ? You care to say where have you been because even yesterday you left

with the boy and never came back . Today again you took off and you're only coming now

Qhawelomzi sighs , he looks at his brother and Zipho's words ring in his ear . And he knows she's right

Qhawe : to see Lazola

Mpande : what ?

He turns to his brother like the speed of lighting

Mpande : I heard you right ? You went to see Lazola for what ?

Qhawe : what do you care Mpande?

Mpande : you're divorced and wasn't it you who said you want nothing to do with her ?

Qhawe : it's me but she's still the mother of my kids

Mpande : we are fucked

He is displeased with his brother's actions

Mpande : so you went to see her and what ?

Qhawe : I'm hoping she'll regain her memory
and we can fix things

Mpande : damnit Qhawe

Qhawe : look I don't expect you to understand
and I also wasn't asking for your opinion

Mpande chuckles for the fact that Qhawe just
dismissed him like that

Mpande : when it all goes wrong remember
the words you just uttered to me

He opens the roundavel and the smell has gotten bad , a faint voice of a crying and begging

Mpande : it's time she gets out of here

Qhawe : who is she talking to ?

Mpande : her demons haunting her

He shrugs his shoulders

Qhawe : sounds like she's loosing her mind

Mpande : she better not , not that I care because even if she goes crazy I'll just drop her at a looney bin

Qhawe knows he means that but having his own problems to deal with , he also doesn't care what happens to Mpilontle

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Ziphozendalo

Sihle is somewhere playing with the girls along with Owentando . Nqaba went out we didn't even get to talk about what I read in his thoughts that was so disturbing . And he's not

okay that's why we need to talk about that .
That Lubanzi is a lunatic

Owentando walks in and I can't help but see
how conflicted he is . These Bangani men will
be the death of me I swear

Owe : dabs (aunt)

Me : Owentando

He sits down on the highchairs by the
counter, I'm just busy cleaning in the kitchen

Owe : I have to go home today like dad
expects me to be back in Joburg tomorrow

What a way to start a conversation

Me : okay

Owe : can I ask a question ?

Me : I'm listening

Owe : remember when that girl came to see
you at home ?

Me : yes

Owe : I made some slight comments about it and you said something like I should stick to my types what did you mean by that ?

Me : Owentando I remember my words very well and I also remember your “how did she know” expression

Owe : uhm well

Me : did you come here to talk about that or what ?

Owe : honestly I don't know , but how did you know ? Because I try my level best not to show , dad would kill me if he found out I'm bisexual

Ohhh even I did not see this one coming ,
thought he was going to say gay . Not both
sides

Owe : you're the first person I've ever told

Me : okay let's take a moment ...and
remember me that I'm not very much aware
of these things and broad sexualities and
what not

He laughs I think only because I said with a
smile and a confused face , not to offend him

Me : I thought you're gay

Owe : gay is still fine , but if I label it bisexual it is

Me : okay so you love both girls and guys and help me here , how did you find this out ? Like how did you realise you're bisexual

Owe : let's just say I'm 85 % attracted to women and 15 % to men

You see me sitting down right next to him at looking him in the eye so I can get as understand this

Owe : it all started when I first had my first girlfriend

Me : you're 16 when did you have your first girlfriend ?

He laughs , I know for a 17 year old I'm behind with these things

Owe : when I was 14 well almost 15

Me : I wasn't even thinking about boys then , until I got married and realised I have a husband now

Owe : dabs you're too perfect in a way that's why

Me : oh wow , anyways continue before you tell me just how behind I am like chicken feet

He laughs

Owe : yeah so a few months into the relationship I got attracted to a guy , finding out he was eyeing me too we kind of hooked up

Bawo help me

Me : okay

Owe : and since then it's been like that , I'm no longer with those two but it happens almost all the time I'm in a relationship

Me : so you date girls and boys at the same time ?

Owe : more like I cheat on the other with the other

Yhoh my ears are not ready good people but I'm so eager to hear and know about this

Owe : let me not confuse you , I have never been in a relationship with a guy alone . It's always with girls

Me : Ohhh and during the course of the relationship you'll cheat on the girl with the guy

Owe : yes

I'm beyond speechless

Me : so much greediness Owentando , why can't you just settle for one side why do you want it both sides?

I can't believe my mouth right now

Me : forget that , sexuality is sexuality and so is yours

He sighs

Owe : dabs I don't know how to come out to my parents about this

Oh poor child must he come out ? Mqhele will have his head

Owe : you know dad and the last time I made a joke about gays in passing , he told me straight up that he'll beat that mentality out of me

I feel for him having Mqhele as a father is the worst thing ever for Owentando right now

Owe : I can hide this , but that would mean I can never be publicly in a relationship with a guy

My heart goes out for him for real

Me : why aren't you my child heh ? Because right now I would ask you to invite your boyfriend to dinner

Voice : what boyfriend ?

Yhuuu bad luck , when did he get back that I didn't even hear his car . Owentando looks down I turn slowly to face him and his expression is as blank as ever

Me : Jola uhm you're back

Nqaba : don't give me your fake smiles I asked I question

Yhuuh , I'm caught now what do I say ?

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Insert 32

Ziphozendalo

Nqaba : I asked a question

I don't understand why would he just jump into a conversation that wasn't meant for him
aii uNqaba yhoh

Nqaba : kwedini uJola namanye
amadoda wena ? (Boy do you date other
men)

Utsho uNqaba ephole apha entloko mntaka
dad , and he's just making Owentando
uncomfortable . I get up and walk to him . I
get way too close our bodies touch , he leans
down looking at me

Me : can we go talk ?

It comes out as a whisper , I beg him with my eyes he takes my hand we walk to our room . I close the door and lock he's still holding my hand

Me : I miss you so bad

I get down on my knees unbuckle his pants he chuckles

Nqaba : sweetheart you're seducing me so I don't ask

Owentando what...

Me : please leave the child alone , he doesn't need this . But I need you right now

Nqaba : I'm still not having sex with you , we're still a month and a week away

I'm going to die from draught season in this marriage

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Nqabayomzi

This woman can give a head like damn . I'm besides myself right now , my dick inside her

mouth her tongue doing things to my tip her
tiny small hands playing with my balls

I release in her mouth a and she swallows I
bring her up we kiss her hands not leaving my
dick

Me : mmmm sweetheart

Zipho : Jola please

She's begging me for a fuck , I pull out of the
kissing smiling she's sulking

Zipho : it's not funny

Me : kodwa sisi nomkitha (but my stunning lady)

Zipho : please

I pull her dress off the smile she gives me

Me : mmmm sweetheart

She laughs I lay her on the bed she parts her legs and I fucking missed this coochie I get in between her thighs

Zipho : don't deny me my rights Jola

Me : your rights count in this bedroom
sweetheart

Zipho : then please fulfil your duties

Me : I swear before Kazi can even say tatam
we would be pregnant again

Zipho : pull out

I laugh

Me : I don't do that , I won't waste my kids no
ways

I rub my dick on her pussy , she's so wet and fucking ready pity I can't penetrate I will not penetrate . I'm sticking to my word that we'll have sex when our baby is three months

I lean down we kiss , she moves her hips meeting my thrusts

Zipho : you teasing me ?

She mumbles through the kiss

Me : I'll give you an orgasm

She giggles holding tight to my back , her moans increase I move my hand to her coochie my finger goes in

Zipho : ohhhhh

I pick my pace inside with my finger she meets my pace moving her hips

Zipho : Ohhh my word ahhh

She throws her head back pulling out of the kiss as she orgasms on my fingers

Me : fuck

There's no sight that tops seeing my wife
loosing herself in pleasure , I let her calm
down take my fingers out .

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Ziphozendalo

We are just cuddling now , I can't believe I
dodged answering questions about
Owentando using sex

Nqaba : so Owentando dates other men ?

Oh bawo ndincede (lord help me)

Me : I thought we are past that

Nqaba : hayhiii njani? (no how)

Me : because Jola it's not for us to talk about hawu

Nqaba : we talk about everything and everyone he's no different , so he dates other men ?

Me : yhuh uOwe athi yena uBisexual si'slungu eso ke (so Owe said he's bisexual that's English)

He laughs

Nqaba : explain further I'm a bit slow

Me : a whole lawyer wow , anyways so he dates both genders but according to him he's more attracted to women than men

Nqaba : but there's attraction ?

Me : yes

Nqaba : so he was telling you this now or you've always known ?

Me : I suspected he's gay so I only found out that that he's bisexual when he told me today

Nqaba : and why was he telling ?

My poor husband he's so uncomfortable right now and I think it's because of what he saw

Me : we all know who his father is

Nqaba : ah

Me : yeah I don't get how these other sexualities work or whatever , but I don't think I'll have a problem if any of our kids are Bisexual , gay or lesbian

He moves uncomfortable , I laugh

Nqaba : hayhiii sweetheart

Me : no Jola look at Owe he wants to come out but he's scared of his father . And I don't get why he needs to come out

Nqaba : what do you mean ?

Me : I mean that when Kazi or Omuhle discover their sexuality and come to a realisation that they're not straight , I don't want them to feel the need to come to us and be like mom and dad we are lesbians no ways . The same way they would introduce their boyfriends if..

Nqaba : my kids won't have boyfriends while I live

Typical men

Me : as I was saying the same way they would introduce their boyfriends without saying they're straight . I want them to have the same freedom in a way to just come home one day with another woman and be like mom and dad this Bianca my girlfriend
He burst out laughing like I've just cracked the biggest joke ever

Nqaba : you've already given her a name ?

Me : Jola I was just saying marn

Nqaba : aiii ndiyakuva (I hear you)

Me : I feel for Owe

Nqaba : I have no say about this because I don't even understand nor get how another men can have feeling for another it's just bizarre , but I'm not judging what I don't understand . One thing though I hope that boy doesn't think just because he can talk to you freely I'll adopt him into my house as well

Kanti utheni uNqaba (what is it with him)

Me : Jola

Nqaba : hayhiii we already have three kids living apha nditshilo ba I'm not running an orphanage and we are not turning our home into a creche

Wow

Me : let me go see my babies I'm done with you

I get off and , walk to the bathroom while he's laughing

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Mpilontle

Me : ple...ase leave me alone

He laughs

Me : please

He's just tormenting me and I've had enough
I can't go on anymore . Mpande has moved
me into another roundavel he has me tied to
a chair . I've lost so much weight you can
literally see the bones on my body

Mvelo's ghost is not leaving me day and night
he's here . Even death is better than this . I

swear messing up with this people was so not worth it . The door opens the two brothers walk in

Me : please....let me go

Mpande : you don't listen

Me : I'll...stay...away I swear I'll disappear

Mpande : how about I just make you disappear ?

It takes a lot for me to talk as I'm weak

Me : it's....it's...better than this

Qhawe : death is too easy for you

Me : please...I beg of you...I'll stay away ...
I'll never bother any of you again I swear

The left strength I have is drained by my
crying , being locked up for weeks starved
has messed up with my mind in a bad way . I
even feel like I've lost touch with reality

Mpande : when we let you go where will you
go ?

I don't know but anywhere is better than
being here

Me : anywhere , far away from here

Qhawe : that's why I think you'll be better off
in Somalia

What the hell ?

Me : wh...what?

Qhawe : don't worry I've made arrangements
for you so you'll leave tonight

They sold me off ? And who in their right mind
would buy an invalid like myself

Me : please

Qhawe : it's the only way to keep you away from us . You've caused enough damage and drama we've had enough

When will life spare me , I swear Kevin was my worst mistake because since after him I've had bad luck after bad luck . Nothing is ever going right for me

Mpande : trust me he's doing you a favour I wanted to do worse , I hate you and even despise the sight of you

They walk out , leaving me crying . Maybe this is the fate the universe has for me

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At the Bangani homestead

Lihle is just watching by as they load Mpilontle in the car , she did not even ask questions as to where is she going . She looks like she's lost the meaning of life and has given up

Mpande : that's done

Qhawe : and I'm going to see Lazola don't wait up

He leaves , Mpande is still not pleased about his sudden change of heart towards Lazola

Lihle : are they back together

Mpande : I hope not

Lihle : hawu babe ngoba ?

Mpande : we've had enough of dramatic wives here we don't need her back

Lihle : but she's Qhawe's wife isn't it up to him to.....

Mpande : Lihle just stop right there okay . I hope he's not bringing Lazola back here . And it's time we go back home

Lihle : okay , we've stayed here for too long anyways

The Bangani brothers all run a Business of imports and exports back in Joburg they're all shareholders in the company . That's how they manage to take as much time as they need to be here in Eastern Cape and not have to worry about business . They can run it anywhere they are

Mpande : and Mqhele wants Owentando back in school

Lihle : okay we will leave

Mpande and Lazola only have one kid , and she's still 3 years

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Ziphozendalo

School is taking so much of my time .

Sihle : you know I can babysit for tomorrow

Me : heh ?

Sihle : like it's uncle's birthday tomorrow and

Me : Ohhh say what now ?

He laughs

Sihle : please don't tell me you forgot

Me : I wasn't even aware

He laughs

Sihle : so you have nothing planned you
didn't even buy a present nothing

Me : Sihle Bangani stop making me feel bad

Sihle : sorry

Me : anyways keep that babysitting in mind ,
I'll make a plan

Sihle : so what will you do ?

Me : hayhiii nothing you don't need to know

Sihle : dabs

He laughs walking upstairs . How can I forget
my own husband's birthday . The first
birthday he gets to spend with me

Me : what am I going to do ?

Kazi is now 2 months and 1 week . I can plan something just for us two , but what ? Maybe going to the salon getting myself all dolled up

I ask Lwazi to drive me to the mall , he's still here . And still driving me , a whole assassin. I call Nqaba while we are in the car , he answers

Nqaba : sisi endincamisana naye

I smile

Me : am I not disturbing ?

Nqaba : not at all , uyaphi ? (Where are you going)

Me : how

Nqaba : car sound sweetheart

Me : oh okay , I'm going to the salon . So I was wondering what colour should I go with on my nails ?

Nqaba : mmmmm , well wena sisi nomkitha I wouldn't mind to have my dick wrapped in glow in the dark

No marn I wasn't dealt and given a man apha

Nqaba : awusa'blush ke

Me : I am not

He laughs

Nqaba : please tell me you'll humour me

Me : that's why I called to ask

Nqaba : enkosi vha you just made my day ,
ndiyak'thanda

Me : uthandwa ndim Jola

We hang up , one thing down . Now I need to figure out what present to get cause Nqaba is so closed off he doesn't even look like the kind of person who likes fussy things . I can't believe that in a year of marriage I still haven't gotten my husband a gift . In a week it's our anniversary

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Insert 33

Ziphosendalo

Me : are we ever going to talk about what you saw ?

Nqaba : that being ?

He puts Kazi in her cot and comes to bed

Nqaba : I love your nails by the way

I laugh

Me : well thank you my husband has great taste

Nqaba : mmmm

He brings me to his chest

Me : Jola

Nqaba : sweetheart unlike you , I cannot read minds so if you want to talk say it so I know what we are talking about

Me : what Lubanzi had those men do to Ntabeni

He goes quite

Me : I was talking to Bhelekazi today ,
apparently my so called mother is besides
herself . Not knowing where her husband is

Nqaba : it's not my problem

Me : oh

Why is he so cold ?

Nqaba : yeah wena why are you making it
your problem ? Your husband is right here
next to you so

Me : enough I was not there

Nqaba : then where were you ?

Okay , I think I get the message and I won't bother myself any further let me just let him be . I turn away from him

Nqaba : and now ?

Me : akho nto ndiyalala (it's nothing I'm sleeping)

Nqaba : kalok bendithi siyathetha nje (I thought we are talking)

Me : utsho ukuba mna ndiyathetha and you just keep shutting me out (you mean that I am talking)

He sighs and holds me turning to face my back

Nqaba : Xolo (I'm sorry)

Me : ah don't bother

Nqaba : MaJola do you really think I want to talk about how I saw other men rape another

Me : yeka Jola (leave it)

If he wants to acts so macho let him be

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Nqabayomzi

I'm so tired trying to fall asleep last night was hell , the fucking bed was so cold it felt like I was all alone without my wife even though she was next to me

I hate that she slept not happy with me , I tried to talk it out but she wasn't having any of it . Understandably so because I did give her the impression that I won't want to talk about what I saw

Right now I just want to sleep but Kazi is not letting me have it . I really don't get this baby , she's too clingy it's like I'll run away or something

Me : you're too cute for me to run away from you

She smiles with her tongue out , cutes thing ever my baby does

Me : I love you too

I close my eyes she puts her hands all over my face

Me : MaJola come take your child please

Where is she by the way , I skipped work today so I can rest not to be abused by a month old baby

Zipho : Jola why are you sour on your birthday ?

Me : please take her

Zipho : is it old age or what ?

Me : what ?

She laughs

Me : sweetheart please take her I want to sleep

Zipho : but it's your birthday

Me : so ?

Zipho : what do you mean so ?

Me : it's posed as a question like yes it's my birthday as you and so what ?

Zipho : aibo what happened to you ?

Me : nothing , can you please take Kazi even if it's for an hour ?

She looks at me and suddenly she has changed

Me : Sweetheart

She takes Kazi and leaves

Me : great now I'm ignored

I really don't have the energy for this .

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Ziphozendalo

No marn Nqaba knows just how to rub me off.
Who in their freaking own birthdays acts out
like that Argh

But then he started this nonsense of his last
night . I will not help him , when he's done he
will tell me he's done . We can go back to
being fine , if we ever will be

Me : Sihle where is Omuhle ?

Sihle : in her room

Me : please call her so she can eat

Sihle : okay

I take Kazi's bottle and feed , one thing I always make sure is that my babies are fed .

Sihle : your daughter says she's busy

Me : aibo with what ?

Sihle : video call with dad

I smile

Me : I so hate your father right now

Sihle : hey love and hate there's a thin line

Me : you know I called him this morning to wish him happy birthday and he didn't answer my calls , now he doesn't even bother to return them wow . What's with the Bangani twins today

Sihle : they're very strange on their birthday trust me , I don't get it either

Me : oh okay

Suddenly I don't even feel like making that dinner for him . What if he just shuts me out

Me : maybe we should all go out ?

Sihle : thought I'm babysitting

Me : well I don't think Nqaba would even want to celebrate his birthday he's justwell I don't know how to put it

Sihle : can we just not let his dull mood taint yours please

Me : I don't know

Sihle : come on plan your day as you had initially planned it

Me : fine

Sihle : great because I have a special all
Disney princess night planned

We laugh

Sihle : my girls love those kind

Me : all thanks to you

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At the Bangani homestead

Qhawe is still around as he goes to visit
Lazola everyday , she still has no idea who
she is . But him being there helps a bit ,

because he tells her about their lives together their kids and shows her their pictures . He's on call with his brother's Mqhele and Mpande

Qhawe : shouldn't we at least call them ?

Mqhele : and say what ?

Mpande : not happy birthday of course

Qhawe : I don't know , maybe just to check if they're okay more especially Nqaba

Mpande : you're still there do you mind to go check on him ?

Mqhele keeps quite

Qhawe : last time I went there he wasn't that pleased to see me

Mpande : well then maybe just call

Qhawe : why am I the one who calls ?

Mqhele : because you're the one who started this whole thing

He says without a care in the world

Qhawe : what is wrong with you ?

Mqhele : nothing , look we know this is not the happiest day for them more especially as you said because Ntsika just acts out because his twin is acting up . There's nothing we can do about that

Mpande : they're our brothers , Qhawe just go and see Nqaba or call whichever one you do just do something

He drops the call on his side leaving the two talking , and Mqhele scraps that calling or seeing their brother talk .

Mqhele : tell me what's this I hear about you visiting Lazola ?

Qhawe : okay so we are not talking about that either so goodbye

He drops the call . He knows Mpande told him and how he disapproves and obviously Mqhele disapproves too . He doesn't need to hear their opinions because he heard what Ziphozendalo told him very well . Ntsika arrives he's all alone . He walks in the main house and find his brother having a drink

Ntsika : bawo (little brother)

Qhawe is surprised to see him

Qhawe : Mkhuluwa good to see you (big brother)

Ntsika : indeed so you're all alone here

Qhawe : yeah and I'm actually thinking of moving here since well there's no one anyone

This catches Ntsika off guard , Qhawe and the village he never saw that one coming . This is the very guy that married a slay queen of some sort

Ntsika : really ?

Qhawe : we cant close this house , and
Nqaba's ancestral hut is here . I don't think
that's something to be left where no one lives

Ntsika nods he didn't expect to hear any of
this from his little brother

Qhawe : anyways how is he ?

Ntsika : I'm sure he's his sour self as always

Qhawe nods

Qhawe : I was hoping to call or maybe go see
him

Ntsika : rather tomorrow , we can go together
maybe have a few drinks

Qhawe : that works just fine , but it doesn't
mean we can't have a few drinks here
together

They laugh

Ntsika : it's just us so , why the hell not

Qhawe : that's more like it

They hug , that's Qhawe's way of welcoming
his brother and passing birthday wishes

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Ziphozendalo

Here I am all dolled up , dinner ready there's even cake only one thing missing . The birthday man

Nqaba has really bored me today , being cooped up all day in our room . I can't even pick up anything I swear you'll think I'm blocked or something . He finally comes out , and his look doesn't tell me he's happy or even likes what I've done

Me : thank you...

Nqaba : what's going on here ?

Me : uhm your small birthday celebration ,
so.....

Nqaba : I can't do this

What does he mean ?

Me : if you don't like we can always

Nqaba : sorry you wasted your time and
energy on this

Did he just turn his back on me and walk away ? Yes good people he did . I have never felt so humiliated . It's like I'm a girl who just asked a man out and he turned me down that's exactly how I feel right now .

Me : I am not crying no

Argh , who am I fooling ? These damn tears just fall . See me again ever doing something for Nqaba kill me and bury me deep . This is why I didn't even bother to celebrate the stupid Valentine's day because he doesn't even seem interested in it , and now this ? He's just taken it too far I don't care whatever the hell he's dealing with . He should have at least let me down nicely not just to walk away from me . And the nerve to even say I wasted

my time and energy , and he doesn't even care

I clear up everything the last thing I want is for Sihle to see all of that . When I'm done I go in our room , I take a shower and put on a blue tracksuit with black half socks

I go downstairs and watch a movie in the lounge , cover myself with a throw on the couch . I'll sleep here tonight , I don't want to see Nqaba

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Nqabayomzi

I drove around not knowing where I was heading until I found myself on the far end leaving PE , I stayed on the veld for a few hours and drove back home

My phone rings it's Lubanzi I sigh and answer, I'm still in my car

Lubanzi : mkhuluwa (big brother)

Me : ndoda

Lubanzi : you don't sound too good

That's more a statement than a question

Lubanzi : where are you ?

Me : Xaluva you don't need to do this

Lubanzi : there's nothing wrong with checking up on you

Me : how convenient that you only check up on me on this day

Lubanzi : Ohhh is it ?

Me : don't do that shit

He laughs

Lubanzi : maybe it's just a coincidence

Me : I doubt

Lubanzi : where are you ?

Me : home , now stop

I drop the call and switch off the damn phone before anyone else calls me again . I get inside and find my wife sleeping on the couch , but by the way she's breathing you can tell she's not asleep

Me : can we go to bed ?

I'm talking alone and I don't blame her

Me : sweetheart I'm sorry I...

Zipho : Nqaba please just leave me

Do you want to know the pain I feel right now in my heart , I literally feel it physically not emotionally . It's like I'm being stabbed right in my heart .

In almost a year I have never like ever not even once heard my wife call me Nqaba yes it's my name but she's never used it . Not even by chance or mistake maybe when we're making love like

Me : MaJola

I plead with her but she's really ignoring me
and not in my moods

Me : can we go to bed then at least then
tomorrow we can talk ?

Still nothing

Me : okay I guess we are sleeping here today

I go by her feet lift them up and sit down . I
put her feet on my thighs

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Ziphozendalo

He stayed up on the couch the whole night .
And this is as far as how bad things have
gone between us and it hurts because we
have never been like this

But I'm human I have feelings they just can't
be disregarded because Nqaba doesn't feel
like regarding them . I get off the couch and
go check on my kids , they're still asleep I
take Kazi to change her

Sihle : I'll do it

He says in his sleepy voice

Me : are you sure ?

Sihle : yeah

I leave them and go to make breakfast . I know they'll be hungry when they wake up . The bell rings I attend to it and it's Ntsika

Ntsika : Bhabha

He says with his dashing smile I return a bored look

Ntsika : okay , I'm in the dog house

I leave there at the door he follows me behind

Ntsika : what did I do now ?

Me : you know I called you yesterday morning and not once did you answer my call , and then you did not even bother to return them .

Ntsika : but...

Me : but you were able to spend almost 2 hours on video call with Omuhle

Ntsika : Bhabha you're breaking my heart

Me : mine is already broken anyways I guess you were also acting up , I just wish I got the memo

I leave him downstairs and go up passing Nqaba by the stairs he grabs my arm not painful through

Nqaba : can we not do this please

Me : we are not doing anything

Nqaba : I apologized

Me : yes and everything is fine because Nqaba apologized , now what do you want ?

Nqaba : can we talk ?

Me : no

He looks at me frowning

Nqaba : no ?

Me : I said no and I did not stutter no we can't talk

Nqaba : but

Me : no buts , this is how it's always is with you . Shut me out whenever you feel like it and when you're ready you pull me right back

in . Well I'm tired of that , you didn't want to talk so let's not talk not now not ever

I yank my hand off him and continue walking up . I get in Sihle's room they're still sleeping and looks like he's just changed Kazi

Me : when you guys wake up we'll go out I'm not cooking

Sihle : dabs can you please order and we can have breakfast at the beach

Me : can we take a month old baby to the beach

Sihle : she almost two and yes we can

Me : okay then

I walk out to it room

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Nqabayomzi

One thing about my wife she's never raised her voice at me , well maybe on a once or twice occasion . Right now I've pushed her far and she's angry but even now she's not raising her voice at me . Her calm and quite spirit has that inner peace

I find Ntsika in the kitchen

Me : awusemuncu (you're so sour)

Ntsika : what did you do to her ?

I sit down

Ntsika : she's hurt and I'm also to blame but
I'm sure you did something

Me : what did you ?

Ntsika : didn't return her calls yesterday

Me : mmmm

Ntsika : so ?

Me : hayhiii Ntsika yiyeke (leave it)

Ntsika : whatever it is fix it okay

I nod

Ntsika : Qhawe suggested we go have drinks today

Me : not happening

Ntsika : but....

Me : heh ndoda my marriage is on the rocks
and you think I want to go out drinking

Ntsika : did you just say on the rocks ?

Me : this is not me and my wife okay , we
don't do this shit . We don't fight we fucking
have no idea what this is

He smiles

Me : am I amusing you ?

Ntsika : it's just cute married for a year and you don't know what fighting is , damn some honeymoon phases last longer than others

They walk down , looking like my perfect family

Omuhle : tamkhulu

She runs to Ntsika he picks her up

Ntsika : awusemhle (you're so beautiful)

Omuhle : fana no Kazi lo wam mna (I look like my Qhawekazi)

Ntsika laughs

Ntsika : ungu mama njalo (you're a mother now)

Omuhle : yea (yes)

Me : can I ?

I ask to take Kazi from her mother she just hands her over , no I am not okay at all . If I could cry I would . I can't have my wife this angry at me . I take Kazi , she looks at me with her eyes they're so lazy

Me : k'theni ingathi uvusiwe nje(why does it look like they woke you up)

Sihle : we are going to have breakfast at beach , if we had to wait for her we wouldn't leave now that means no eating

Me : well you could have just left her with me

My wife gives me a look that says are you out of your mind , I kiss my baby and return her back to her mother

Sihle : tata how long will you be here ?

Ntsika : a week maybe

Sihle : okay I'll see you when I get up

Ntsika : okay

They leave , and we are left behind

Ntsika : what are we going to eat ?

Me : are you asking me , am I your wife ?

Ntsika : yours just left to feed her kids and
starve us

Me : Ntsika don't bore me order in or eat whatever you find

I have to fix this but how do I even start when she said we will never talk about this again

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Insert 34

Nqabayomzi

My wife is still upset with me , the sad part is that I can't even get a word in

Ntsika : what's eating you up ?

Me : do you see anything eating me up ?

He laughs

Ntsika : just hear how nasty you sound

Me : fuck off

Ntsika : your wife is still upset with me , it's so bitter being in this house of yours

Me : she's your friend , yeka ukundibalisela
(stop complaining to me)

Ntsika : okay fine I'll sort my issue with her

Me : good for you

Ntsika : and wena uright?

Me : ewe (yes)

Ntsika : don't snap at me

Me : hayhiii Ntsika leave me marn

I click my tongue and walk away from him .
The only thing that can distract me right now
is work .

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Ziphozendalo

Omuhle : lena (this one)

Why can't this child make up her own mind ,
we've been choosing an outfit for today and
she keeps changing so I'm sitting down on
the floor with Kazi sucking on my breast for
dear life

Omuhle : Ndalo lena yona ? (How about this
one)

Me : yeeeh wethu andaz noba yiphi
oyithandayo wena (I don't know , whichever
one you like)

Omuhle : uKazi yena zofaka nton ? (What
will Qhawekazi wear)

I think it's time I start buying matching outfits ,
but the big question is where will I find
matching outfits for such big gap different
ages ? Unless I have someone to sew for
them . That might work

Nqaba walks in , I still haven't talked to him .
And I don't want to , it's been a few days
since his birthday in just two days it's actually
our anniversary and believe me you when I

say I'm not doing anything , I won't even bother myself .

Omuhle : tamkhulu (uncle)

Nqaba : Nana

She laughs , it always makes her happy when her uncle calls her Nana . Without a doubt it makes her special

Nqaba : sweetheart

His daughter stops feeding and looks at him

Me : gama lam elo hayhiii lakho (that's my name not yours)

They're amused how nice

Nqaba : please lets talk

I get up and hand him his daughter

Nqaba : and now ?

Me : that's your sweetheart she's the one who looked at you , so you can talk now

Nqaba : how long are you going to punish me kodwa ?

Me : hayhiii punishment yanton Nqaba ?(for what)

Nqaba : stop calling me Nqaba yhoh

He's frustrated

Me : that's your name when your

Nqaba : khame it's not my name to you (stop)

I want to laugh but I won't dare give him that

Me : then what's your name to me ?

Nqaba : ngu Jola wakho mna (I'm your Jola)

Omuhle : Jola ka MaJola lo tamkhulu (uncle is Jola's MaJola)

Aibo what happened to girl power ?

Nqaba : yeah nana siphiso se zinyanya zam Lo (she's my ancestors gift)

Argh where were those ancestors when he was pushing me away , I don't understand why they don't punish him nje even just once. Okay not a lot right but just a bit

Nqaba : please talk to me

Me : hayhiii (no)

I walk out and they all follow me like puppies

Me : stop following me

Nqaba : I'm following you I don't know about them

Me : Nqaba I am...

Nqaba : I said stop calling me that

I hold that laugh in

Me : a grown man following me around like this , it doesn't paint a good picture

Nqaba : that's fine , I don't care

Me : khabe ne pride (have some pride)

Nqaba : and that's why I'm in this sh...

Me : abantwana (the kids)

Nqaba : okay Xolo , but masithethe mntu wam (sorry , let's talk my love)

Me : hayhiii ngok (not now)

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At the Bangani homestead

Qhawe walks in with Lazola , he has decided to take her out of the hospital . Because she's well besides her memory being gone she's all good

Lazola : is this our home?

He puts her bag on the couch

Qhawe : the family home , we live in Joburg

Lazola : so when you say family home you mean like your family ?

Qhawe : yes

Lazola : but it's so quite

Qhawe : remember I told you all of us live in Joburg except Nqaba he now lives in PE

Lazola : oh ...yes

They walk to the kitchen , she keep looking around .

Lazola : I've been here before ?

Qhawe : yes many times

She nods and sits down

Qhawe : I'll make you some good

Lazola : just a sandwich would be fine

Qhawe : you used to hate those

Lazola : really ?

Qhawe smiles

Qhawe : yes , but I'll make you one

Lazola : must he staying at the Hispanic for far too long

Qhawe : what should I add ?

Lazola : cheese and tomato

Qhawe : I'm sure we have those

Lazola : when can I see our kids ?

It feels strange to her saying "our kids" when she doesn't even have a memory of them

Qhawe : for now I think we should focus on you getting better first , because if they see

that you don't remember or recognise them
they'll be confused

Lazola : okay , you're probably right .

He gives her the sandwich

Qhawe : but you can meet my brother's .
Ntsikayesizwe is in PE so we can visit just to
see them

Lazola : they know right ?

Qhawe : about your situation yes they do

Lazola : okay I guess we can go see them

She eats while Qhawe just watches her ,
behind it all he still loves her and he hopes
they can fix things once she remembers .
Because he doesn't know how she'll react to
when she finds out he's also the one that
locked her up in that house

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Ziphozendalo

It's our anniversary today since I have no
classes I'm in bed . Sihle is with the kids he
missed school today because they're busy
preparing for March exams

I suddenly feel hot I push the covers off me but it's still the same . I close my eyes I guess it's one of those times . I'm walking with Nqaba in a green veld a figure it a person appears and by the shape of it it's a woman. But I can't see her face clearly it's a bit blurry, Nqaba let's go of my hand I suddenly feel cold . I try to take his hand back but he pulls it away

Me : Jola

He doesn't even look at me , and he walks away from me towards the woman

Me : Jola

He keeps getting further and further , I'm calling his name he doesn't turn back . My feet are stuck and I can't get to him

Me : Jola no....

I feel hands shaking me I open my eyes and I'm literally crying , he's the one shaking me

Nqaba : what's wrong ?

He's really worried I wipe my tears and look at him

Me : I want you to listen to me and we will never talk about this . Jola if you think when we have problems it means you go out our

marriage and betray me . I swear dare do that
to me you'll live to regret it

Poor man he's so confused

Nqaba : sweetheart I'll never do that

That's not what I saw

Nqaba : please lets talk

Me : not this again

Nqaba : I'm not letting this go

He walks to the door and locks it he throws the key outside , how stupid is this ?

Me : are we prisoners now in this room

Nqaba : until we talk yes

Me : talk and get it over and done with , because I want to go see my kids and you better make sure I get out of this room . How I don't know you'll figure it out

Nqaba : so you just wanted me to act dramatic before you give me a chance ?

Me : you had a chance and you walked away

And it just brings me back to the dream or whatever is it

Nqaba : for 15 years I haven't celebrated my birthday it The day I killed Vusi was on our 13th birthday

What ? I'm even beyond shocked

Nqaba : since then I never found the reason to celebrate it , because it's the day I saw a grown ass man raping my brother and I killed him

Okay I feel for him but why didn't he tell me when he told me this whole issue ?

Me : why didn't you tell me ?

He looks at me I'm sure he expected some kind of sympathy or something . And believe me you I have that for him but right now he needs to understand that we can't keep talking about the same thing over and over again , his lack of trust and communication when it comes to me

Me : when you told me what happened to Ntsika why didn't you tell me it happened on your birthday and that you don't celebrate it because of that ? Didn't you think I deserved to know that ?

Nqaba : sweetheart

Me : no make a decision Jola , either we communicate in this marriage or we stop altogether . We can't be going two steps forward then take five back . What's the point?

Nqaba : I'm trying okay , I'm not used to this . Having someone to lean on and to offload whatever I'm bottling inside

Me : please do me a favour from now on , either you talk or you don't .

Nqaba : let's talk starting now . I was wrong not to tell you and most importantly I was wrong to walk away from you like that

Me : do you have any idea how much that hurt me ? Seeing you walk away from me like that and only to see you today in a dream walking away from me going to another woman

A tear escapes my eye

Nqaba : I'll never do that , sweetheart I said this before that I've hurt you and I'll probably still hurt you . But never with another woman I'm a crap of a husband yes but never a cheater

He holds me

Nqaba : I love you so much , and I know at times I make that doubttable . Truth of the matter is that 13 year old boy who killed a man is just hidden behind this man who has on a facemask . I'm weak sweetheart , at times everything gets so hard that I just want to break down , but no this stupid mentality "you're a man , you can't show vulnerability" . These social expectations we live by , like indoda maybe so and so (a man must be)

His tear drops on my arm

Me : I did not marry social expectations Jola , I married you and I want you to trust me enough to know that you can cry , have a meltdown lean on my shoulder . That you can be vulnerable with me and I'll be here for you, I'll pick you up I'll wipe your tears I'll hold you and hug you . And the next day I'll look at you see my husband , the father of my kids and the man of this household . I'll never not even once look at you and see a weakling , you're human not God. Even he cried . You can't be wanting to be a brick with me Jola . My shoulders are not that broad like yours but they're here for you

Now this is a conversation of a mess , he's and my own tears are betraying me . But I don't care

Me : what do you want ?

Nqaba : just hold me

We exchange positions now I hold him in my arms his head lays on my chest . I move his dreadlocks from his face

Me : you're such a beautiful man

I don't understand how he's laughing yet he's crying

Me : you're my big baby remember that ?

He nods , we stay in the same position for a while in silence

Nqaba : I love you so much

Me : and I love you

I lift my face capture his lips and we kiss until he touched my boobs I pull out

Nqaba : wow

I laugh

Nqaba : look at you taking charge

Me : yes and now how do we get out of here?

Nqaba : call Sihle tell him to go look for the key

Me : you call him , since you're the one who threw the keys out

Nqaba : my phone is with your diva

I reach for mine and hand it to him , he calls Sihle on loud speaker

Sihle : dabs (aunt)

Nqaba : kwedini go outside , on the left window of our bedroom look for keys there

Sihle : keys ? What keys ?

Nqaba : just do what I said

He drops the call

Me : shouldn't you be less arrogant when asking for help ?

Nqaba : Sihle is not my wife I have no reason to beg him

Yhoh , after a while a knock comes at the door

Sihle : dabs the key

Nqaba : what did you feed him ? I'm the one who called

Me : yhuh , Sihle unlock the door

He unlocks but doesn't open it , I let go of Nqaba and get off the bed . He gets up and holds my hand

Nqaba : I'll never cheat on you

That's assurance

Nqaba : I don't know why you would see what you saw but I would never do you bad like that MaJola

Me : I hear you

He kisses my forehead we go wash our faces and walk downstairs

Ntsika : anyone care to explain how you got locked inside your room and your keys outside ?

Nqaba : what's it to you ?

Me : ask your brother , he decided to lock us
in

Ntsika : aibo Nqaba into ngento zo act'a heh
into zama films? (what is it with acting
things?)

Sihle laughs

Ntsika : wena MaJola you were dealt the
wrong Bangani I tell you

Me : ndiva ngawe (you're telling me)

Nqaba : kalok you don't agree with him

Me : anditshongo (I didn't say)

He raises his brow I walk into the kitchen . I'm trying to take that dream or whatever it was out of my head but I'm failing . Nqaba can't put me through that he just can't

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Insert 35

Nqabayomzi

Ntsika : why have you been married for a year and yet you didn't do anything special for your wife ?

He says opening the study door

Ntsika : like nothing , instead you lock her and yourself in your room and throw the key out

Me : Ntsika don't you miss your own wife ?

Ntsika : we are having one of those

Me : shouldn't you be there fixing those ?

He sits down

Ntsika : ndoda you can only fix what you need to fix when the one is willing

Me : don't tell me you two are breaking up

Ntsika : I don't know , but we live like strangers , I suggested to move out , she was against it

Amahle is full of shit , and there's only one reason why she's acting this way

Me : does your wife know who she married ?

He laughs

Me : a manwhore , and when you start doing your things she'll be crying to us that you're cheating and what not

Ntsika : I haven't cheated in a year that counts for something

Out of all my brother's , Ntsika is the one who has this tendency behaviour of once going outside his marriage to please himself .

Mqhele maybe yes , but that happened once and it was like many years ago . With Ntsika it's a constant thing , but he keeps it away from his wife . And she's never found out

Me : if this continues it means trouble for you both

Ntsika : well.....

His phone rings

Ntsika : it's Qhawe

Me : mmmm

He laughs

Ntsika : between you and Mqhele I don't know who's worse

He answers the phone , I mind what I was doing when he came in

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Ziphosendalo

I have been restless the past few days , even my baby is feeling it she doesn't even want to feed as usual . I don't know why I'm letting what I saw bother me so much , but I can't lose my husband and not like that

It's so frustrating because unlike him , I can't do anything to maybe get answers . Instead I'm overworking my mind to figure it out

Me : Jola

They're sitting in the lounge , Kazi is asleep on the floor . Omuhle is watching tv Sihle looks busy on his phone and Ntsika is eating

Nqaba : mmmm

Me : can we talk ?

Ntsika : wenze nton ? (What did you do)

Nqaba : unlike you , when my wife asks for a moment to speak it doesn't necessarily mean I've wronged her

He gets up takes my hand we walk into the kitchen

Nqaba : what's wrong ?

Me : but you just said ...

Nqaba : Ntsika is an idiot

I laugh

Nqaba : ingathi ungu Makoti efika emzini (it's like you're a new bride arriving at the in-laws)

As if he's never seen me dressed like this

Me : can we go pray in your room please ?

I mean the room where he keeps his ancestral things here

Nqaba : okay

No questions no nothing , thank you because I wouldn't have known what to say

We walk to the far end of the corridor and take our shoes at the door , we walk inside .

He takes his maroon njeti cloth ties it on his waist , and he holds the blue one in his hands

Me : I'm sorry to have bothered , but I don't

feel okay . I am worried and I need to offload a bit , I just don't know how

I said communication right ? So I better start . Because I can hear his thoughts he's asking why I asked to come and pray in here

Nqaba : okay

He lights the candles

Me : first can I ask? I've been meaning to ask you this

Nqaba : you can ask sweetheart

Me : you're a sangoma why do you pray and to God at that ?

I'm very much clueless when it comes to African spirituality , well not any spirituality at that

Nqaba : don't we all pray to God ?

Me : I don't know , maybe but I just never thought Sangoma's pray to God

Nqaba : okay sweetheart let me explain this , first and foremost God created men . Even the same Dlozi (ancestor) that I have with me was created by God . There's no way that

God can create and human being then when the human dies it becomes superior to God

You see me kneeling comfortable so I can hear this clearly

Me : if you pray to God and Phahla to your ancestors , like how you do it what does that mean ?

Nqaba : it means I believe and worship God and only pray to him . I respect and acknowledge Idlozi and I talk to them

The misconceptions we have that traditional healers worship ancestors and not God , don't judge I was one of those until this very

present moment . It's just lack of knowledge and being judgemental over what we don't understand . I never dreamt of getting married to a Sangoma but here I am and very much in love

Me : I'm asking because I never really understood , and you don't even use imithi (herbs) you just use water and candles . As for impepho (incense) I know most traditional people use it

Nqaba : so I initiated in water you know that right ?

I nod

Nqaba : even the ancestor that I have is not a
bloodline ancestor

Me : don't lose me

He laughs

Nqaba : let me explain , most traditional
healers get their gifts through lineage like their
grandparents and great great grandparents
and so forth . Those are blood line ancestors .
As for me I have a foreign Mdau ancestor ,
and he's connected with water but all carries
all the Mdau spirits and gifts . See my red and
blue beads symbolise that I am what is called
an ancestral prophet . So this ancestor is a
foreigner and he came into the Bangani

family through my great great great great great grandfather . Who happened to kill this Mdaun man during war , his spirit came into the family now as an ancestor and unfortunately in a fortunate way he chose me

I don't think I have ever been so confused yet so intrigued . I don't know much about Nqaba's gift or what he does but I'm hooked to know more now . Good people there's nothing sexy like my husband when he gets into his ancestral things like this .

Nqaba : there's Mdaun people in parts of Africa like Zimbabwe mainly Mozambique and others , they speak they Ndaun language

Oh wow I didn't know that

Me : do you speak it as well ?

Nqaba : no but the ancestor does , so whenever I'm in trance or he comes out he speaks his language . Like personally I don't drink I don't smoke , but he drinks and only beer and he smokes , so when he comes out you'll find me drinking beer and smoking .

Me : what ?

Nqaba : yeah fascinating isn't it ?

I knew this man of mine doesn't drink ,

because I've never seen him not even once

Nqaba : I am not ighedla (traditional healer who knows herbs) I don't know herbs much infact I'm very clueless about them . That's why I only use water because it connects me and the Mdau

Me : and the candles ?

Nqaba : the white candle is regarded as ingelosi (angels) nesthunywa sicela ukukhanya ne mpumelelo nokubona indlela ngayo (we ask for light , prosperity and to see the way)

Me : sorry ...I need to understand so every candle here has its own meaning

Nqaba : mmmm it does , the blue one Idlozi lakibobaba izidalwa zakhabo baba (paternal ancestors from the father's side) the yellow one Idlozi lakibomama izidalwa zakhabo mama omalume (maternal ancestors from the mother's side , the uncle's) the purple one Idlozi and iletha impumelelo (an ancestor of prosperity) the green one as umntu womoya likuphethe impilo yakho ngoba ilo Idlozi lakho (as a spiritual person, it owns and controls you it's the ancestor that's within you) and the red one silwa izimpi nezimo ngayo (we fight the fight and situations) it's also for protection but when using it one has to be very careful because it can also be very harmful to an

extent of killing

Me : heh ?

He smiles

Nqaba : you don't call out people's names when you're blocking battles , you don't point fingers at whoever . You can find out things are going wrong in your life and you're to blame for it , if you blame other people using the red candles it'll have dire consequences

Me : wow

Nqaba : I should take you to the river soon so

we can go pray and phahla khona .
Remember a couple that prays together

Me : it stays together

Nqaba : indeed now let's pray

Now I've even forgotten why we came in here
in the first place . He take my hand into his
and we pray . But my heart just gets heavy
and I feel like crying . I don't even know if I'm
supposed to do that emsamo (sacred
ancestral place)

I keep quite , so much for wanting to pray I
listen to him pray and it's the most beautiful
prayer ever . He prays for protection for his

family , success and prosperity, for peace of mind and life . For strength and wisdom .
When he's done we both say Amen . Even though I couldn't utter much I do feel better

Nqaba : why are you looking at me like that ?

Would it be a sin if I tell him ?

Me : there's nothing attractive like seeing you so into your ancestral things

He laughs

Nqaba : the thoughts you have about me , I

swear one day you'll want to have me right here

Me : aibo Jola

Nqaba : true , but there's nothing wrong with that . If anything ancestors and sexuality same WhatsApp group . There's a time where we mourn and we don't have sex . But in marriage Idlozi requires for a wife and husband to have sex , you know for so long it has eaten me up that I never talked to you . I never asked if you're ready if it was okay for me to take your virginity , to you it came as if I slept with you so you wouldn't go to work .

Me : wasn't it ?

Nqaba : not really no , being home and that close to you my ancestors required for me to sleep with you . As much as Xhanti was fucked up and all one day he ended up telling me that my ancestors are asking why am I not having sex with you

Nqaba is telling me things I would have never thought are appropriate to be spoken in the ancestral room . We are misunderstanding traditional healers and I'm learning starting right now

Nqaba : you know they were human before they became spirit

Me : true

Nqaba : there aren't a lot of taboo things to them , hence it'll come as an offence and personal attack to me when someone says I have demonic spirits and I'm possessed . I have nothing against Christianity and all , but can your mother carry you for 9 months raise you until your old and when she does suddenly she's a demon like how ? That's your fucking mother how is she a demon ? So your parents die and you just forget about them ?

Me : I don't think we forgot about them , just that most we thought you worship them

He laughs

Me : I think we should start teaching the kids the ways of the African spirituality while they're still this young . I don't want them to be as clueless as I am

Nqaba : we can do that but we'll only take them to the river

I've always noticed how such sensitive topics cause havoc in between people , quite frankly I just think belief is belief . And if it's works for you it works for you that's fine , just don't try and shove your beliefs into another person . Let them have their own choice and choosing just as much as you had yours .

If I'm wearing beads and all , let it not bother

you . They're not yours they're mine and if you deem me demonic because I go to the graves of my loved one , it's fine it's me who's demonic not you .

Nqaba : silungisa amaphutha enziwa abo gogo noMkhulu bethu (we are fixing the mistakes that our grandmother's and grandfather's made) some denied their callings and well it can't go away , so it passes from generation to generation . Some like me their forefathers killed foreign Ndaun people some were friends and that's how they came into the family .

I have heard and it's loud and clear . I'm still hoping to learn more about this

Nqabayomzi

Now that my wife and I we are okay I've decided to give her , her anniversary present . I really ruined things with my stunts and we never got to celebrate it

Sihle : but she can't...

Me : that's why she's going to learn

Sihle : wow like now ways

He puts his hands on his head

Sihle : like really wow

Me : do you think she'll like it

Sihle : knowing dabs she'll be like "oh Jola it's so expensive"

He says mimicking her voice

Me : don't ever do that shit again , my wife's voice is too unique

He laughs

Sihle : either way she's going to lose her mind

Me : not literally I hope

Sihle : yhoh like.....

He stops when Qhawe parks his car

Sihle : is that..?

Me : say absolutely nothing

Last thing I want is us offending Qhawe about his wife , if he feels the need to have her back then let him . It does involve us , they walk out of the car

Sihle : I am going inside

I follow him , they can meet us inside it's no problem

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Ziphozendalo

Ntsika : Bhabha you know I am sorry right ?

Me : I don't know

Ntsika : kodwa

The door opens and Nqaba walks it with Sihle followed by Qhawe and Lazola

Ntsika : why is she....

Me : don't

Nqaba : bawo

Qhawe : Mkhuluwa

Ntsika : we were talking why didn't you say
you'll pop up ?

Qhawe : spur of the moment thing

I do not like the way Lazola is staring at
Nqaba the woman is literally lusting over my

husband . The nerve when she has her won
dreadlocks man right next to her

Qhawe : so these are my brother's ,
Nqabayomzi and Ntsikayesizwe .

Lazola : the twins

Ntsika : we do look the same you know

This idiot

Lazola : well I'm please to meet you

That's awkward considering she knows them
well sort off

She tries to hug Nqaba he moves back

Lazola : uhm ...

Nqaba : what was that ?

Qhawe : I must have forgotten to mention that our wives are not that close with the other brother's in a way

Ntsika : speak for yourself

He squeezes my cheeks , I think this is a minor abuse in a way

Lazola : oh

Ntsika : just passing of greetings no hugging

Lazola : okay

She's not happy , the nerve wanting to hug my husband .

Ntsika : we are making lunch don't you want to help ?

Lazola : okay

We walk to the kitchen she follows

Ntsika : put her in place

He whispers and leaves us alone

Lazola : this house is very beautiful

Me : thank you

Lazola : we have met ?

Me : yes

Lazola : oh okay , and you're ?

Well since her ex husband didn't see the need to introduce me let me do it myself

Me : Ziphosendalo uMaJola Bangani the wife of Nqabayomzi

Does she pop her eyes out

Lazola : oh he's....he's married

Me : yes and some friendly advice , if you think loosing your memory was bad you haven't had worse . Stay the hell away from my husband Lazola or I swear you'll cease to exist and you won't even be missed . You're here because you involved yourself in battles that didn't concern you and tried to separate

Nqaba and I . Don't do it again , stick with Qhawelomzi and focus on getting your memory back . I don't do well with sharing trust me I did that and it went south .

That was a mouthful . I hope she heard me has she no shame lusting over a man her man just introduced as his brother hah this woman

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Insert 36

Nqabayomzi

Me : what was that ?

Ntsika laughs , we are outside

Me : Qhawe ?

Qhawe : she...we have to remember that her memory is not what it used to be

Me : it doesn't excuse her trying to hug me

Ntsika : that was a sight to see

Me : in front of my wife ?

Qhawe : apologies for her

Me : Qhawe I don't care what you feel now towards her or whatever . But she's the same woman that tried to separate me and my wife. Helping Mpilontle someone who slept with a man in my house . Keep her in line for all our sakes

Qhawe : I will talk to her

Me : do it fast

Ntsika : poor Lazola

He's still laughing

Me : there's nothing poor about her

Ntsika : I wonder what was going on in her mind when she tried to hug you

Me : I don't even want to know , what in-laws hug each other more especially brother and sister hayhiii

Ntsika : I hug our wife

Me : Ntsika don't piss me off , you two are friends

Qhawe : don't worry mkhuluwa , I'll talk to Lazola and explain the situation to her

Me : you better

I walk inside , they're still in the kitchen
cooking

Me : MaJola

She looks at me I head up she follows , we
get to our room

Zipho : what happened ?

Me : tell me you saw that

I am really uncomfortable by what Lazola did and something tells me it won't be the last time she does that

Zipho : what ?

Me : that woman trying to hug me

She goes to sit on the bed

Zipho : she wants you

She has to be kidding me

Me : what ?

Zipho : remember I said you walked away from me and went to another woman

Me : sweetheart that doesn't even make sense

Zipho : well I didn't see the woman's face , but the way Lazola reacted when she saw you without a doubt it's her . Her eyes weren't leaving you , she literally stood there and lusted over you

Me : this is messed up

Zipho : tell me about it , how am I supposed to feel knowing your brothers ex wife wants you ?

Me : we are fixing this shit right now

Zipho : can you please not act out of character

Me : out of character for what ? That woman has really lost your mind

Zipho : Qhawe is trying to fix things with her

Me : then she needs to know her place and know that Qhawe still wants her . If he didn't make that clear then I'll help him

Zipho : I'm tired of these fights

Me : well I am tired of these women thinking they can get in between us . Who knows what she will do now

Zipho : Jola there's nothing we can do

Me : don't tell me that sweetheart . Come let's go

We walk back down , my brother's are now in the kitchen with her

Me : Qhawe

He looks at me

Me : tell us all something right now , do you want Lazola back in your life and not just as the mother of your kids ?

Qhawe : I made that clear

Me : did you make it clear to her ?

Qhawe : well....

He looks at her she turns and looks at us

Me : well what?

Qhawe : we haven't gotten there yet

Me : make that yet now

Lazola : hawu Nqaba is something...

Me : I am not Nqaba to you don't you dare address me with my name like I'm your friend

Ntsika : this is some messed up shit

Lazola : I didn't mean any...

Me : whatever you didn't mean you just meant it

Qhawe : mkhuluwa can you please just calm down

Me : don't tell me to calm down

Qhawe : I am asking

Me : how about you tell her your intentions , so she can get whatever the hell crush or lust she has on me

Qhawe : come on that's taking it far

Me : is it ?

Zipho : Jola

She pleads with me

Me : no , let it be clear that I love my wife I have no intentions to leave her for Lazola or any other woman out there

Qhawe : just a fucking mere hug that didn't even happen you're making such a big deal , like she tried to seduce you

He's defending her

Me : believe me you , when she strikes you'll remember this day and live to regret it

Qhawe : is that a threat ?

He walks up to me

Ntsika : don't do that shit

Me : let him do what he wants to do

Ntsika : I'm not ready to bury yet another brother so please , Qhawe stop

Qhawe : so you're all ganging up on her , and for what ?

Me : do me a favour get the hell out of my house

Qhawe : gladly

He takes her hand and they leave

Ntsika : that wasyeah

I walk out

Zipho : I should have kept quite

I hear her saying . And it breaks me , she's hurting with these thoughts that I'm going to cheat and leave her for another woman . Only

to find out it's this one with a memory loss .
She tried this shit before and she got to live .
Memory loss or not this time around I'll
remove her

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At the Bangani homestead

Qhawe arrives with Lazola they go inside the
main house , it's where they've both been
living since she moved in . Qhawe thought it'll
be much better than having her in the house
and he stays in his roundavel

Qhawe : I am so sorry about what happened
there

Lazola : I feel bad I caused drama

Qhawe : don't feel bad if anything Nqaba is the one who should be feeling bad right now . How can he even say you want him ?

Lazola looks down because Nqaba was right . She did look at him with eyes that suggested she wants him

Qhawe : just because in the past we had problems with such doesn't mean everyone now wants him , he must just get over himself He's really angry and at his brother.

Qhawe : let me take a walk

Lazola : don't do anything harsh

Qhawe : just a walk to cool down

Lazola : okay I guess we can talk when you get back

Qhawe : okay

He leaves . Lazola gets lost in her own thoughts , thinking about Nqaba

Lazola : I have never seen such a man with an aura like that . Can they blame me for lusting over him ? I'm sure he gets the kind of

attention from woman all the time and I'm not exception

She smiles picturing him in her mind

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Ziphozendalo

I really don't know how to deal with an angry Nqaba , because he can't even pray when he's like this . And I don't want to let him be , I want us to talk so he can be okay . I think now that I'm aware of where the threat is coming from we can prepare for it

It's been almost a week and he's not himself and this constant fighting going back forth with his brother's it's not helping . First it was Mvelo , then Mqhele now it's Qhawe . Who will be next Ntsika or Mpande ? It's all too much for us both , and it doesn't help that I'm in the centre of all this . Instead of building this family I feel like my being a part of them is just tearing them apart

Ntsika : can I take the girls out ?

Sihle : and me

That's a statement and not a question

Ntsika : why you ?

Sihle : we are a package and Kazi knows me
not you

Ntsika : listen to you feeling yourself

Me : a quick question ?

Them : yes

How cute

Me : why do you even think my two months
old baby can be taken out

Ntsika : she's almost three months

Me : Ntsikayesizwe almost doesn't count

Ntsika : I do not understand how your husband get to tell other not to call him with his name but I'm called Ntsikayesizwe like out of nowhere

Sihle : you're not Jola

Ntsika : boy I'm a Bangani

Sihle : but not Jola

Ntsika : that's our clan name

Sihle : tata you're still not Jola

Ntsika : that doesn't even make sense

Voice : it makes perfect sense

I don't even turn to look at him , he wraps his arms in my waist and kisses my cheek

Ntsika : I can't have all three of you ganging up on me

Nqaba : we are not even starting , sweetheart I need you to come see something

Me : what ?

Nqaba : let's go you'll see

Sihle : can I come ?

Ntsika : I think I'll go on your behalf and you watch the girls

Sihle : no they come as well

See the crazy family all walking out to the garage with Kazi in Sihle's hands

Nqaba has three cars besides the one that Lwazi uses to drive me and the kids , but

there's another car brand new in metallic
Black a whole R8 V10 Plus

Me : are you some kind of a car collector ?

I don't understand why he'll have this man
cars , when I was actually thinking that he
sells the other two cars and just keep one and
the one Lwazi uses for us

Nqaba : just take a look at it and tell me what
you think

Me : I'll tell you what I think right now , you
should have just brought a family car

Nqaba : sweetheart

Me : don't soften me I am alive serious

They laugh

Nqaba : we have the SUV that's big enough
for our little family

Me : hayhiii kodwa

Nqaba : just take a look at the car please

Just to humour him I look around the car and
inside and it's so beautiful nothing like any of
the cars he has , this one is even custom
made on the inside

Nqaba : and ?

Me : it's so expensive Jola

Sihle laughs

Sihle : what did I tell you uncle ?

Nqaba : shut up

Me : o-kay what am I missing ?

Nqaba : the car is yours

I laugh , because this is crazy . But I stop laughing as I see just how serious my husband is

Me : wait...no

Sihle : your expression is priceless

Ntsika : you're an idiot lets go

They go back inside the house with the kids leaving us alone

Me : this is not a joke ?

Nqaba : no , if you don't like the car we can..

Me : I love it okay

He releases a sigh of relief

Nqaba : you had me worried there

Me : why would you buy me a car when I don't even know how to drive ?

Nqaba : the good thing about not knowing is that you can always learn

Me : oh Jola when ?

I'm defeated

Nqaba : schools are closing soon , you can start then and get a learners first . Once you get it you can keep studying for your licence

Me : you thought about everything

Nqaba : I spent so much money here not to be able to

We laugh , I hug him he returns the hug

Me : you're not the most romantic husband but this is beautiful so thank you so much

Nqaba : I'll take the compliment and leave the other statement

I laugh

Nqaba : this was your anniversary present

I pull out of the hug and look at him , he bites his lower lip

Me : you again?

Nqaba : I messed up the birthday

Me : we are over that and lesson learned

Nqaba : we'll get over it , I need to understand that now it's no longer about me but my family and them wanting to celebrate me

Me : we still have more to come

I hope he will let us celebrate his birthday and just enjoy himself as well

Me : we save it for the big 30

He frowns

Me : you're old hayhiii

We laugh

Nqaba : it's bizarre I'll be 30 and you'll only be 19 not even 20

Me : let's leave me alone

Nqaba : and me as well , here are you keys

I take them and now I realise the number plate it's personalized MaJola , what a husband I have

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At the Bangani homestead

Qhawe is on the phone with Mqhele , only now he's telling his big brother about what went down in PE

Mqhele : how true is that ?

He scoffs

Qhawe : that is not true

Mqhele : are you sure ? Because the last thing you want to do is provoke Nqaba and he proves you wrong in the end

Qhawe : it won't happen okay , Lazola was just giving him a hug

Mqhele : since when do our wives hug our brothers

Qhawe : can we remember she has no memories of us at all and how we do things

Mqhele : it's been months now will she ever regain her memory or she's ...

Qhawe : don't even assume that , she'll never pretend

Mqhele sighs

Qhawe : say what you want to say

Mqhele : and you won't stop me again ?

Qhawe rubs his face with his hand

Qhawe : I'm just frustrated Mkhuluwa

Mqhele : let me frustrate you some more

He chuckles knowing his brother will definitely rub him off

Mqhele : you've been married to Lazola for years , and I know how it has been throughout your whole marriage . And the way you're suddenly defending her , do you even know where you stand with her and why the sudden change ?

Qhawe : I love her

Mqhele : right , but you were so ready to finish her

Qhawe : that was then this is now

Mqhele : heh Qhawelomzi o then and now , brother I hope for your sake you're right , because I'm tired fighting Nqaba for nonsense

Qhawe : Nqaba just has a big ego that needs to be brought down a bit

Mqhele : well you walked away keep it like that

Qhawe : I have no intentions to bother him

Mqhele : good , listen I have to go . I'll call once I'm home so you can talk to the kids

Qhawe : okay

They hang up . Lazola has been meaning to talk to Qhawe about what she learnt when

they went to PE , but at every turn and chance he ignores her

She knocks in his room and it's silence she walks on only to find him undressing

Lazola : I am sorry

She turns to walk out

Qhawe : it's okay , it's not like you don't know anything

She's not even moved by hearing that nor seeing him naked , but she surely wouldn't mind to see Nqaba this way

Lazola : I'll be downstairs when you're done

She walks away leaving Qhawe with all sorts of emotions that make him question his decision to get back with her . Because she clearly doesn't even show any signs that she's keen . He takes his shower when he's done he goes downstairs , he knows he can't ignore her forever they live together

Qhawe : what are we watching ?

She turns and looks at him

Lazola : how about we talk ?

He chuckles to ease his nerves

Qhawe : women and talking in one sentence
is never a good thing

Lazola : come and you can make your own
judgement of this one

He sits down next to her but she moves a bit
further and he notices that

Qhawe : so ?

Lazola : at your brothers house , you said you love me and you want us to work on our marriage

Qhawe : I do

Lazola : how did we get divorced ?

Qhawe : I don't think we should talk about that like it's irrelevant

Lazola : I think if we stand a chance together then it's very much relevant

Qhawe : well , you tried to separate Nqaba and his wife

Lazola : is that why he acted the way he did ?
Assuming I still have feelings for him even
now ?

Qhawe : Lazola you didn't have feelings for
Nqaba

Lazola : but you just said , I tried to separate
him with his wife

Qhawe : yes you did , but not for yourself but
for his ex wife

Lazola : his ex wife ?

Qhawe : Mpilontle

She nods looking like she's thinking hard

Qhawe : anything you remember ?

She quickly looks at him

Lazola : no , nothing

Qhawe : okay

He says with a small tone , he was thinking that maybe she remembers something

Qhawe : not to push , but do you think we can work on us ?

Lazola : I don't know , with me not remembering anything . It's just going to be hard

Qhawe : I know but maybe we...

Lazola : please give me some time

He's disappointed , he was not expecting a yes but a maybe instead he got literally nothing . Not knowing where he stands

Lazola switches her thoughts back to Nqaba , she thinks what a fool she was to have tried to separate him for another woman and not herself

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Ziphozendalo

Who can drive now , me yes me how that's fantastic . I'm not Nqaba's favourite person right now and simply because he taught me how to drive for a week and I told him to stop. Why do you think I have Lwazi as a driver ? Because my husband drives like we have 10 life's and we are promised tomorrow

I got my learner's permit yesterday I'm so happy , even though I have a 29 year old baby sulking , he's still so happy for me . All thanks to who , Sihle yes the best teacher of driving

I'm a bit sad because he's going home for the holidays and he's taking my diva with , because Ntsika asked . He left a week ago

Me : I'm so sad

Sihle : we are coming back

Me : you have to

Nqaba chuckles , he doesn't get it I'm the mother he's the father

Me : Bhabha

She looks at me she has a small handbag in hand ready for the road , she's my little lady now . With lady like tendencies

Me : ndizok'khumbula (I'm going to miss you)

Omuhle : ndizo founa nje (I'm going to call)

See what I mean

Me : okay , ndiyak'thanda (I love you)

Omuhle : thanda nam mamam (I love you too mommy)

Did we all hear that , she just called me mommy I tear up all because of happiness like I never ever thought she can call me mom or anything besides Ndalo or MaJola . She's only 4 going on 5 but she knows that I'm not her mother .

Omuhle : sulila hoku (don't cry now)

I crouch down and hug her for dear life , for a few minutes then she hugs her little sister who's laying down on the floor . My baby is lazy good people

Me : Sihle you take care of my baby , and if she says she wants to comeback how tell me I'll be there to pick her up

Nqaba : maybe the whole car and learning to drive wasn't such a good thing

Me : hah don't start with me , it's okay she can visit but if she wants to come back they shouldn't keep her there

Sihle : understood dabs

I give him a hug and we see them off , Nqaba has Lwazi taking them to Joburg

Me : I'm going to miss my baby

Nqaba : she said she'll call

Me : hah my little diva

He laughs

Nqaba : you're such a baby

Me : ndiyeke (leave me alone)

I pick my little angel , she'll make me feel
better I know

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Insert 37

Nqabayomzi

I'm hardly at the office with my wife sulking because she misses her little diva

I had court today and I hated leaving here alone , but work is work or else they'll starve

I arrive at home , I left the office early . Just to spend time with two girls . I walk inside the house and it's empty , like there's no one . I

head upstairs to our room and I get stuck at the door

Zipho : welcome home

Me : don't tell me I forgot anything special please

Zipho : it's officially three months today

I smile very much amused because I did not expect to come home and find this . A whole romantic scenery in our very own bedroom

Me : damn it is so you kept count ?

Zipho : that's what happens when one has
been starving

I laugh

Me : I've been taking care of you as of late
sweetheart

I walk in the bedroom not closing the door

Zipho : a finger and a tongue is nothing like
oJola

I give up on this woman

Me : before we continue with this , where is my angel

Zipho : sound asleep , already bathed changed and ate

She even shows me the baby monitor , so we'll hear if our baby wakes up or makes a sound

Me : then take what's yours sweetheart

She closes the door and reaches for my suit jacket she takes it off

Me : damn you're sexy

She giggles

Me : I've appreciated this enough now can I ?

I touch her lingerie on her boobs , she nods I reach for the top part and tear it she gasps

Zipho : but it's new well was cause now.... Ah Jola

I pick her up and pin her against the wall

Zipho : don't let me fall

Me : never

She takes my shirt off along with the vest ,
unbuckle my pants she pushes them down
and my briefs . She takes my dick and rubs it
on her coochie

Me someone missed me

Zipho : you have no idea

She wraps her legs on my waist , I insert my
dick inside her coochie she moans in pain

Zipho : be gentle

Me : I'm sorry

I thrust in slowly , her hands rest on my shoulders , as her moans get a bit louder I pick up my pace . I fucking misses my wife it's been a long time . She finally meets her my thrusts moving her hips

The way it's been so long I don't last my dick tightens she screams a bit in pain , I cum and remembering how young our kids are I hope she's not pregnant .

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Ziphozendalo

His deep thrusts are hitting the spot , the room is filled with my moans his groans and the sweat from our bodies . He's making love to me slowly taking his precious time , and I'm loving every second of it .

But I won't lie I am tired , dog dead tired

Zipho : Jola....please...

Nqaba : what

He thrusts in deeper

Zipho : I....ple...ase I can't...I can't ...

He doesn't listen to me , I feel a hot flush sensation in my coochie I try to close my thighs he parts them . I use all my strength to push him off , and I squirt he looks at me pleased with himself . While I move trying to control and contain the pleasure it's too good and yet painful I even feel like crying . We've made love but nothing like this . After a while I calm down he lays down and flips me over him

Nqaba : ndiyak'thanda sisi nomkitha (I love you my stunning lady)

I smile and nod against his chest , I hold him tight his hand goes down to my ass he grabs it and I just close my eyes

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Nqabayomzi

Me : sweetheart wake up

She's been sleeping since last night , I've been trying to get her to wake up for hours now it's middle day

Omuhle called this morning and my wife could only speak for 3 minutes what a shame

Zipho : is Kazi okay ?

How sweet , but what about me ?

Me : mna ?

Zipho : Jola

Me : get up so we can all go out

Zipho : but I'm tired

Me : do it for us

She groans frustrated , I put Kazi on the bed
and she makes those cute baby sounds

Zipho : you're so wrong Jola like so wrong on
so many levels

She sits up and takes Kazi

Me : you're beautiful

She looks at our baby

Me : the ears still work fine

She laughs

Zipho : siyaphi ? (where are we going)

Me : anywhere you want to go

Zipho : okay take her so I can go bath

I take Kazi from her , we leave her to get ready because we have already bathed

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Ziphozendalo

I'm one happy woman right now , sending the time with my little family out was just great pity Omuhle wasn't here with us . Kazi is asleep now we are heading back home , my poor baby is tired

I reach my hand out and rub Nqaba on his neck , he side eyes me . I don't mind him and continue doing what I'm doing , he puts his hand on my thigh

Nqaba : sweetheart stop doing that

Me : what ?

Nqaba : come on ...don't

I laugh

Nqaba : you won't like what you're doing , just this morning you were crying ba you're tired and what not

Me : okay I'm sorry

He laughs

Nqaba : thank you for coming out with us
anyways mommy

Me : don't make me miss my baby Jola

Nqaba : she loves you that one

Me : Mvelo gave a precious gift for life there

He squeezes my thigh . The rest of the ride
home it's quite . But we are welcomed by a
car I don't recognise

Me : who is that ?

Nqaba : looks like a cab

He drives in and whoever is on that cab comes out and my good mood and spirits are damped

Nqaba : I'm being tested here , what does she want ?

I get out of the car and take Kazi

Nqaba : really you want to leave me with her?

I don't have the energy for this , I wait she finally gets to us.

Lazola : molweni

We just look at her , she lets out a laugh

Lazola : I am sorry to rock up at your house unannounced

Me : what do you want Lazola ?

Lazola : I came to apologize for my behaviour when I came here with Qhawe , he explained the situation to me and I realised why you acted the way you did

There's no apology here like nothing at all

Me : can you do me a favour please , get those thoughts out of your head . You won't have my husband not now not ever , and if you think your tactics will work you have another thing coming

Cat caught her tongue now she can't say anything , yes she did not expect me to know how she plans to seduce Nqaba . Because he's a man and like every other man his sin starts with seeing

Lazola : Zipho that's....

Me : don't play me for a fool , you don't want Qhawe . And you think you'll have this one , wrong mistake Sisi

She walks closer to us

Nqaba : leave

His tone is enough to scare me , she doesn't even waste she leaves

Me : the devil lives I swear

Nqaba : what did I say to Qhawe ?

Me : your brother thinks you're lying Jola he doesn't believe a thing you said to him

Nqaba : he better deal with this thing of his before I do it myself

I fear what's to come , Lazola is brave enough to come back here all on her own. She's a woman with a plan , and she's willing to see it through

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Insert 38

Ziphozendalo

Is Nqaba making this a habit to just wake me up this days

Me : holidays are meant for people to rest

He smiles

Me : good morning

Nqaba : morning sweetheart

Me : where is she ?

Nqaba : the very same words I asked when I woke up from a deep sleep after three months

Why is he saying that ? He'll have to forgive me for laughing

Me : really ?

Nqaba : yeah , anyways someone is here to see you

Me : not oLazola so early in the morning please

Nqaba : I didn't say it's her either

Me : who is it ?

Nqaba : just come you'll see

Me : will I be happy to see whoever this person is ?

Nqaba : I think so

Me : okay , then I need to shower first

Nqaba : okay

He kisses my forehead and walks out . I get up make the bed and clean around the room a bit . I settle on taking a bath instead of showing , when I'm done I dry and lotion put on a long black tight body hugging summer strap sleeve dress with black sleepers . I walk down and Kazi is on a good mood today , making so much noise I wonder what's making her so happy . It can't be that Omuhle is back . I get the shock of my life walking in the kitchen , but I am so happy I even want to cry . It's these hard times I always go through that make me wish I still had a mother

Me : Ndlovukazi (my queen)

She graces me with her smile and it's that hope that everything will be alright

Ndlovukazi : Ngonyama , look at you mother hood is treating you very well

Outside appearances are so good but on the inside it's another thing

Ndlovukazi : I am here now , and I should have come sooner . But duties kept me busy and I got held up

Me : thank you for coming

Ndlovukazi : come give me a hug

Say no more , she engulfs me in a heart warming heart that leaves me wanting to cry

my eyes out , but not in front of my child so I keep myself in check . Kazi makes the sounds , and it's like she's fighting

Me : that's very aggressive

Nqaba laughs

Nqaba : she's jealous

Ndlovukazi : oh come here

Do you see the smile on my daughter's face when Ndlovukazi takes her , without a doubt she's looking to replace me here as well .

This one is competitive

My phone rings and it's Bhelekazi I answer

Me : Bhelekazi

Bhelekazi : unjani sana lwam ? (how are you my baby)

Me : I'm better than I was the past few days ,
how are you ?

Bhelekazi : besides having Ntabeni's wife coming and crying to me everyday I can't complain

And there's that again , I totally pushed it at the back of my head . When Nqaba didn't want to talk I figured why am I bothered ? Let me just let it be

Me : what's ...what's wrong with her?

Bhelekazi : you know Ntabeni is still not found

I look at Nqaba

Bhelekazi : so now she says maybe he's dead , and she wants to have a funeral right this weekend

Me : isn't that a big crazy ?

Bhelekazi : she's a grieving woman

True that and my husband is responsible for that , and that Lunatic Lubanzi

Me : yeah , pity knowing what I know now I don't think I want to be there for her

Bhelekazi : and I don't expect you to Sana lwam

Me : anyways thank you for telling me

Bhelekazi : I'm your ears and eyes in this village , but with those two gone and you won't need me any longer

Why does it sound like she's saying goodbye
and forever ?

Me : don't say that I still need you okay

Bhelekazi : oh sana lwam you're a woman
now a mother and a wife . I couldn't be more
proud

Me : Bhelekazi why does it sound like you're
saying goodbye

She laughs , but it's too heavy

Me : you're leaving me ?

Ndlovukazi takes the phone from me she drops it

Ndlovukazi : something's cannot be controlled nor stopped Ngonyama .

Me : but what do you mean ?

Ndlovukazi : Bhelekazi played her role in your life , she took care of you like a mother . She protected you against any evil , but now it's time she goes back to her home land

Me : what...where is that ?

I don't think I'm ready for Bhelekazi to leave me just yet

Ndlovukazi : let it be

Me : no

I walk upstairs , I will drive to Isilo and talk to Bhelekazi myself . She can't leave me now with oLazola busy lurking around

Nqaba : sweetheart

Me : Jola please don't tell me to leave it be as well

Nqaba : are you going there now ?

Me : there's no better time than now and it's still morning , I'll make it back in time

Nqaba : let's go

Me : huh ?

Nqaba : it's me and you

Whatever I did for his ancestors to deem me good enough for him and suitable , I thank them

Ndlovukazi agrees to watch Qhawekazi while we go to Isilo , and she'll be staying with us for a while . I am happy about that

With Nqaba driving us in just 2 hours we make it to Isilo

Nqaba : now that we are here I need to see Qhawe

Me : yhoh can you leave me with Bhelekazi when you do that ?

He laughs

Me : the drama that's way brewing where your family is concerned , is too much

Nqaba : isn't this where Bhelekazi's hut is supposed to be ?

We are at that gate , but there no gate it's where it used to be . And where the old hut used to be there's nothing like absolutely nothing

Me : what ?

I get out of the car , this stand looks like it has been empty for decades

Me : this doesn't make sense

If she left earlier when she called , the place would show that she was her . But now it looks like no one has loved here recently

I take my phone and call Ndlovukazi , she doesn't answer

Nqaba : getting frustrated right now won't help okay

He holds me and I just tear up

Me : Jola tell me I'm not crazy okay , you've been here before

Nqaba : many times sweetheart , I don't know how to explain this but you need to calm down

Me : was she even real ?

Nqaba : Ndlovukazi is home , remember she's the one who shed some light about Bhelekazi and why she was here maybe she can explain when we get home okay

I nod

Nqaba : let's go

Me : I want to go to the river , you can go see your brother

Nqaba : no , Qhawe can wait you're more important right now . It's fine we can go to the river then we'll go home

We walk back to the car and he drives to the river .

At the Bangani homestead

Qhawe is still trying to get Lazola to pay him attention , but it's deemed to be a failure . She's not budging it seems like she's not interested, and he doesn't know how to deal with this . He walks in the kitchen she's busy cooking he grabs a seat and sits down

Lazola : I thought you're still asleep , sorry the food will be ready soon

Qhawe : it's okay I'll wait

He takes his phone out and chats with Mpande , explaining this situation to him .
And his brother is not happy that he's subjecting himself to such

Lazola : can you make peace with Nqaba ?

The mention of Nqaba's name again ?

Qhawe : what ?

Lazola : like can you make peace with him ? I hate how things turned out between you two and it was all my fault

Qhawe : I told you not to worry about that

Lazola : but I still feel bad

Qhawe : and I'm the one who's supposed to make peace why ?

Lazola : he's your brother and he's older I'm sure his ego is bruised so he won't be the first one to apologize

Qhawe : I'm not apologizing either

Lazola : kodwa...m

Qhawe : leave it will you , and what do you care ? Nqaba is the same guy that said you're lusting over him and that you want him .
Knowing very well that you're mine

That you're mine part bores Lazola to death she ignores him and guess back to cooking , trying to get the brothers to make peace was her only way to get Nqaba closer . Now she'll have to use other means

Qhawe calls Mpande walking out of the kitchen

Mpande : uthi kwenzwe nton? (what are you saying happened)

Qhawe : I don't think Lazola wants me back

Mpande : and you're surprised ?

Qhawe : you're supposed to be helping me here

Mpande : help yourself by kicking that woman out of there

Qhawe : why would I do that ? Maybe she'll come around

Mpande : it's useless talking to you when you don't want to listen

He drops the call on Qhawe , he walks back in the kitchen . And puts his phone on the table , Lazola sees this as her chance

Lazola : can you please get us a bottle of wine

Qhawe : red is fine ?

Lazola : yes it's perfect

He walks out to where they keep the wine collection , while Lazola opens his phone and

lucky for her it has no password . She takes Nqaba's phone number and puts Qhawe's phone back

Lazola : now we are getting somewhere

Qhawe : what ?

She gets startled a bit

Lazola : just that the food is getting somewhere

Qhawe : oh okay

He sits down

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Ziphosendalo

At the river I just stood there and nothing happened , I didn't even feel anything

Ndlovukazi : stop crying you're going to get sick

Me : where is she ?

Ndlovukazi : Jola please get her some of your water

He just leaves surely to get the water , but I don't need water I need answers as to where is my Bhelekazi

Ndlovukazi : I need you to calm down as we can talk

Me : I am calm

Ndlovukazi : no

Nqaba comes back with water in a transparent glass and somehow I feel drawn to the water like how I was with the river

Me : what's going on ?

Ndlovukazi : you can feel the connection ?

I nod , my poor husband is lost

Ndlovukazi : take and drink

I take the water and drink and I feel funny
somehow

Ndlovukazi : you're going to be fine

Because she says so , I'll just believe and
trust that

Ndlovukazi : remember I told you how
Bhelekazi came about to be with you ?

Me : yes

Ndlovukazi : I might have left a few details

Me : clearly

She smiles

Ndlovukazi : she was a midwife at Ngonyama
yes , but the difference is that when she
found you she was already one of the fallen

So she was dead?

Me : no.....

Ndlovukazi : she just came to you in her human form but she was a spirit

Me : but...like how ?

Ndlovukazi : remember when you're a Ngonyama whatever you think you know you must forget and what you think is real and not

Now I have heard it all . I was busy interacting with a dead person like all was perfect in the land of the living

Ndlovukazi : I am sorry but now she has run her course Ngonyama , that's why she had to leave

I nod as if I understand when I don't at all

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Nqabayomzi

With Ndlovukazi being at home I left knowing my wife will be okay , she's really great help

I'm in the office and my phone rings it Lubanzi
I answer

Me : Xaluva

Lubanzi : Mkhuluwa , are you at the office ?

Me : yes

Lubanzi : okay well I need to come see you

Me : about ?

He already told me Ntabeni died a long time ago after he cut him open and took his parts

Lubanzi : better yet , why don't I just send my guys over and please don't give them problems

Me : what guys and for what ?

Once he says my guys or men he means his criminal skivvies

Lubanzi : just trust me for once

Don't I always trust him ? Even when I thought he wanted my wife

Lubanzi : they'll be there in 20 minutes max

He drops the call , that's Lubanzi for you . I try to call but I'm disturbed again by my phone it's a message

I check and it's nudes

Me : what the hell ?

This is not my wife , besides being a woman of integrity who would never do such I clearly can see this is not her

I scroll down the pictures and it's Lazola . I don't have the number but there's a picture what's she shows her face at the end , I forward the whole message to my wife . Minutes later she calls I drop the call and call her

Zipho : Jola

She's calm as ever

Me : did you see that ?

Zipho : she sent you those ?

Me : yes

She goes quite and it scares me because I don't know what she's thinking . We ended up not going to see Qhawe because my wife wasn't okay at all and there was no way I was going to prioritise our issues over her own wellbeing

Zipho : please don't do anything you'll regret

Me : Qhawe needs to know about this so he can put that thing of his in line . Where did she even get my numbers ?

Zipho : leave them alone please , and I'm sure she stole the number from his phone

Is she okay , she's really worrying me right now

Me : are you hearing yourself ?

Zipho : yes , just leave them alone

Me : you know what ? I am coming home
you're way too calm for my liking

She laughs and I'm expecting her to fume

Me : MaJola I love you

Zipho : I love you too Jola

Me : and I can't lose you

Zipho : you won't lose me

I need to be with my wife right now , maybe
she'll react when I'm there with her .

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Ziphozendalo

Nqaba left his phone today and for what I don't know , he's been acting strange the past few days . But not in a bad way and I'm sure it has to do with those pictures from Lazola

We talked it through and I told him not to worry about it , he was surprised why I didn't act out . But I had no reason to do that , he did nothing wrong

And before the message came through I had a talk with Ndlovukazi , the woman was giving me the ins and outs of marriage . I felt like a new wife arriving at her in-laws being guided by her mother , the mother in law and aunts . Which is something I never got

The most important thing she said to me was, do not be quick to react . And just then Lazola tempts my man and boom I use the technique, I can't fault Nqaba on something he didn't initiate . And getting upset or angry at him was going to be useless

Maybe his mood will lift up since Sihle and Omuhle are coming today , I can't believe my baby stayed in Joburg for two weeks and not once did she cry for her mother . She's

growing up and I don't like it one bit , I still want to mother her and I want her to want me

Nqaba's phone rings and the number is that of Lazola , so now she's calling I answer and say nothing

Lazola : you can't be that loyal that even those nudes didn't tempt you one bit

I say nothing

Lazola : well one day and soon I'll have you Nqabayomzi Bangani and there's not a damn thing that child you call a wife can do and you'll gladly leave her for me

Okay that stings like it stings knowing that I saw him leave

Lazola : a woman determined can get anything and everyone she wants , even a married man

She drops the call , I wipe the tear that fell down . The door opens its Nqaba it's only been three hours since he left for work

Nqaba : why are you crying ?

Me : why are you are back home ?

Nqaba : I realised I left my phone now answer me

Me : she said you're going to leave me for her
He sits down next to me

Nqaba : who ?

Me : Lazola Jola

I raise my voice a bit

Nqaba : when did she say that ?

Me : she just called you

I hand him his phone

Nqaba : I don't know what you want me to say , because you're the one who told me to leave them

Now is he blaming me ?

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Insert 39

Ziphosendalo

Me : Jola do you blame now that Lazola is not giving up ?

He gets up and walks towards the door , I so hope we are not going back to that place where we didn't even talk to each other . Because that would be him going to Lazola

Me : Jola

Nqaba : you should have let me deal with this

He walks out leaving me defeated with a heavy heart , something will horribly go wrong here . This whole situation is messed up beyond words

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At the Bangani homestead

Qhawe is frustrated beyond himself , he's not getting through to Lazola yet he doesn't everything he thinks will help him to get her back and for her to see that he's serious but nothing is working . Not the dates , the gifts and the money he gives her weekly .

While on the other hand Lazola is saving that money for rainy days because she knows if Qhawe finds out she wants her brother she'll

be out of here before she can even say
memory loss

Qhawe : I was thinking you can meet the kids
now

They're having dinner , this catches Lazola off
guard and it'll mess up with her plans .
Because seeing her kids she'll want to
resume that motherly duty

Lazola : I thought you said we should focus
on me being better first ?

Qhawe : yeah and since it's not happening
who knows how long it'll take , you'll just miss
out on all their milestones

Lazola : I doubt it'll take years not remembering anything

Qhawe : well it's possible

Lazola : well I have hope it won't , so give me some time

He pushes his plate away

Qhawe : it's always being given time Lazola , I can understand for me maybe you don't love me anymore but our kids what about them ?

His tone is off and she knows it , she remembers how he'll get with her when his voice was like this

Lazola : you're not being fair

Qhawe : and are you being fair ?

Lazola : I don't even remember

He slams the table , scaring her

Qhawe : oh fuck that ! Maybe you won't remember and this is fucking useless

He walks away , she gets a minute to compose herself

Me : it's now or never

She's running out of time , Qhawe is acting out and soon she'll have no place here .
Unless she remembers or rather tells him she remembers and is ready to work things out , but only one thing would be a lie there because she doesn't want to work out things with him

Voice : don't , he's going to kill you

She gets startled and looks around , but she sees nothing

Voice : he's going to kill you

The voice keeps saying but she sees no one

Lazola : who....is anyone here ?

She knows she's not loosing her mind , the voice echoes like it's walking away

Lazola : what...what was that ?

She's scared , and who will kill her ? Can I be Qhawe

Me : I better get my plan in motion

She leaves the dishes on the table going upstairs she passes Qhawe coming down , he looks like he's going out

Lazola : where are you going ?

Qhawe : what makes you think you can ask me that ?

No kidding he's upset and changing she gets that

Lazola : it's late I...

Qhawe : it's late yes and a fucking grown ass single man like myself can go out

He passes her bumping her a bit . She sighs ,
he's done playing and begging and it'll get
ugly for her if he finds out what she's up to .
Unless he finds out when she's already in
Nqaba's bed because he will surely protect
her

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Nqabayomzi

I'm on call with Ntsika , he's thanking me for
letting the kids visit them . And my wife is
happy to have her diva back home

Ntsika : Mqhele came to see me yesterday

Me : mmmm

Ntsika : apparently ...

Me : don't start with your apparently scenarios

Ntsika : can you just listen ?

Me : mmmm

Ntsika : so he says your brother is gong crazy out of his mind because his woman doesn't seem interested

I know he's talking about Qhawe

Me : I'm sure that's not all

Ntsika : apparently you're the reason because you accused her of wanting you

He laughs

Me : so by accusing her as you say , I caused her not to want him ?

Ntsika : apparently

Me : you're annoying me

Ntsika : anyways I'm giving it to you as it is okay , what will you do about this ?

Me : nothing

Ntsika : you're not being serious

Me : I'm serious as it gets

Ntsika : come on Nqaba I know you

Me : and ?

Ntsika : there's no way you're not going to do anything about this

Me : and why not ?

Ntsika : you love your wife too much and this is hurting her

Me : Ntsika you know nothing , I love my wife yes but she told me to do nothing

Ntsika : and since when do you listen to her ?

Me : all the time

Ntsika : really ?

Me : what do you want to say ?

Ntsika : I remember very well how you said she told you to leave Ntabeni alone and what did you do ?

Me : what did I do ?

He laughs

Ntsika : you fucking killed him

Me : Ntsika don't fuck with me , and I didn't kill Ntabeni okay and another thing I only told you this to offload not for you to use it against me

Ntsika : emotions are not your thing

I chuckle

Ntsika : on a serious note I hope you don't do something that'll haunt you

Me : mmmm

Ntsika : I guess my words are useless right now

Me : I did not say that

Ntsika : you know what only your wife can get through to you so I'll leave this right here

Me : bye

I drop the call . This time around I think it'll be a Ntabeni situation where I just do what's best and leave my wife out of it . I won't let Lazola or any other woman destroy my marriage .

One thing is that I'm a man and I can resist temptation to a point , and I don't want to see myself crumbling and giving in . I can do anything and everything but not to cheat on my wife , ancestors put aside her pain is mine . So hurting her would mean hurting myself and I love us both so much to hurt us like that

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At the Bangani homestead

Things are these between Qhawe and Lazola, he's hardly paying attention to her . He is out almost every night and to top it off he brings girls around ,today he excelled with two that pissed Lazola off . She might not want him back but seeing him with other women and not paying her attention stings

Lazola : is this how things will be now?

He's in the lounge laying down on the couch , hang over us doing the most

Qhawe : lower your voice

His eyes are closed his hand is on his forehead

Lazola : you'll bring in whores here like I'm not even here ?

Qhawe : last time I checked I was a single man very single

Lazola : you're acting pathetic right now

He chuckles and she moves back a bit

Lazola : all I'm saying is , you want us to fix things and I'm still the mother of your kids

Qhawe : kids you don't even fucking care about right now

Lazola : Qhawe

Qhawe : hayhiii you're making noise fucking leave me alone nc

He gets up and walks upstairs

Lazola : I have to act now

She follows him and tries to open his room door but it's locked

Lazola : Qhawe please open the door

She continues knocking

Lazola : Qhawe

Lazola : if you know what's good for you ,
you'll walk away

She sighs defeated and walks to her room ,
she takes a shower when she's done she
puts on her makeup and takes a red lace
lingerie with 6 inch stilettos and red lipstick

Lazola : there's no way he'll resist me today

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Nqabayomzi

My phone rings it's my wife , I shouldn't be at the office right now . But this case I'm working on is draining me and there's nothing that I hate like loosing a case whether a client is guilty or innocent I just hate loosing

I drop the call and call her , this frustrates her but she just lets me be

Zipho : Jola

She sounds so down and is worrying me now

Me : what's wrong sweetheart ?

Zipho : please come home ?

Me : is something wrong ?

Zipho : I don't know...but I just need you to come home please

She's literally pleading with me right now

Me : I'll be home now

Zipho : Jola I love you

That's more an you have my heart don't hurt me

Me : I love you

She drops the call , I pack my things the door opens and I'll be damned I'm really being tested here .

Me : what the fuck do you want ?

Lazola : we'll have a blast tonight , you can't ignore me forever . Nor can you resist this

She removes her jacket exposing we body in nothing but a red lingerie if I can even call it that because she's literally exposed . She catwalks towards me

Lazola : it's been hell living with your whore brother pretending not to remember , when I have gotten my memory back the minute he came back to that hospital

She stands in front of me just inches away

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Insert 40

Ziphozendalo

Nqaba is supposed to be on his way but the way I'm feeling something is wrong

Sihle : don't you want to lie down?

Me : please call Jola ask where he is

Sihle : okay , but please sit down

He looks so worried I sit down just for his sake . My heart is beating so fast and it's a bit heavy

Sihle reaches for his phone and call on speaker , it doesn't even ring he it goes straight to voicemail

Sihle : I'm sure he's okay

Me : please try again

He calls again and same thing . I hope and pray he's not about to do me that bad , because the way I'm feeling right now . Whatever it is its bad

Sihle : please go lie down , dabs you don't look too good

Me : I don't feel good Sihle

I feel short of breath

Sihle : dabs please

Me : get me water please

He walks to the kitchen and brings me a glass of water , I down it

Sihle : I'm sure tanci is okay

Without a doubt he's okay , but something else is off

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At the Bangani homestead

Qhawe wakes up and he's alone with no Lazola to be seen anywhere

Qhawe : where could she be ?

He takes his phone and calls her it goes to voicemail , since he's the one who bought the phone for her he made sure to put a tracker

He goes to the app and tracks the phone and it leads him straight to his brothers office

Qhawe : what the fuck ?

He runs out to his car and drives to PE like his life is guaranteed to him for a lifetime

His mind is racing with thoughts , what is she doing there and how did she even get there ?

Could Nqaba have been right by what he said?

Qhawe : no , he couldn't have been right

After the way he acted and defended Lazola in front of his brother , how would he even start to apologize and fix things with him ?

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Nqabayomzi

Lazola : you want me I know

I chuckle she smiles

Me : really ?

Lazola : you've been dealt oMpilo and Zipho ,
but now you can have all of this

She motions to the whole of her

Me : right , so balance me here . You
remember ?

Lazola : I came here looking this good and
you want to talk about me

I give her a stare

Lazola : okay I remember but not a lot , just most of my recent life I do remember a bit of the old

This bitch

Me : you remember your deeds exactly with Mpilontle ?

Lazola : that is all over now me and you could be great

Me : right

She smiles and puts her hand on me , within a split second I turn her around . My arm on her neck

Lazola : Nqaba ...you're...you're hurting me

The door bursts open and it's a fuming Qhawe he pops his eyes when he lands his eyes on us

Qhawe : how could you ?

He's broken and hurt , that's what happens you trust women like the likes of Lazola over your own family

Me : dear brother I'm ending this shit

Lazola : Nqaba ple...ase no

I snap her neck , and he looks down I let go
of her she falls down

The door opens Lubanzi gets in he passes
Qhawe like he's not even there , he crouches
down next to Lazola's dead body

Lubanzi : I knew this was going to happen ,
you better take the footage and show it to
your wife the second you get home

He takes out his phone and makes a call

Lubanzi : come through , we need to clean up

He drops it

Me : this can never get out

Lubanzi : have I ever let you down

I shake my head no

Lubanzi : I won't start now

Two guys walk in ready to clean up as he said , one of them hands me a memory stick I take it . And I take my bag and walk towards

the door

Qhawe : bawo I am sorry

Me : Qhawelomzi better pray this doesn't make my wife leave me because I swear you'll follow Lazola

I walk out , get to my car and drive home .
When I arrive the energy in the surrounding is unsettled

Sihle : tanci , we've been worried sick

My wife gets up and I hate the way she's looking and I feel she even feels worse

Me : Sihle , please excuse us

He nods and walks upstairs

Me : sweetheart

She walks to me slowly

Me : I am so sorry

There's no reaction from her not with emotions or actions absolutely nothing . I take the laptop and put it on the table I put the memory stick in and let the footage play . She moves her attention to it

It starts from when Lazola walked in my office, I guess this is where I have to thank Lubanzi because had he not come to put those cameras I'll be in shit right now with my wife . The door bell rings I really don't need visitors right now .

Zipho : please get the door

Right now I'll do whatever she says , I go open the door and its Qhawe

Me : the fuck you want wena ?

Qhawe : Mkhuluwa ...

Zipho : just let him through

Okay now she's abusing me and her powers because I feel so bad , I make way for Qhawe he gets in . And his eyes trail to the video playing as well . I let them watch until it's finished

Zipho : Jola you killed again ?

She better not start with me , I did what I had to do because it was either Lazola dies or I lose my wife and I made a choice .

Zipho : now what ? How do we fix this because I know you've made it disappear

I did not make anything disappear his cousin did

Me : then what ?

Zipho : your gift Jola

Oh that , well I have to go cleanse in the water and I can go for days , weeks or months even a year the longest . How will she take that

Me : we'll talk about that and I'll fix it okay

Zipho : talk to your brother

She leaves us

Qhawe : mkhuluwa ...

Me : Qhawe I don't want to talk to you right now , I don't even know what you're doing in my house

I walk upstairs and follow my wife to our bedroom.

Zipho : I thought you are talking to your brother

Me : he can go fuck himself for all I care

Zipho : how do we fix this ?

Me : I'll go get cleansed at the river but it might be a while

Zipho : how long is a while Jola ?

Me : days , weeks months

Zipho : not years

Me : hopefully not

She comes to me and just hugs me for dear life

Me : I'm so sorry I put us here

I am sorry but then again at the same time I'm not sorry . Lazola was becoming a pest and I dealt with her the best way I know how to remove a bother

We let Mpilontle run free now everyone thinks they can do as they please hurt my wife , bring destruction to our lives . I did say that her good heart will become a problem , because she always sees the good in people even when they do her wrong

Zipho : you have to come back , we need you here . I need you our kids need you and most importantly this family needs you Jola

Me : I'll come back

She pulls out of the hug , and looks at me .
Her red eyes break me

Zipho : do you see how broken you and your
brothers have become ?

It's their choice , since they heard we don't
share the same mother things have changed .
And they seem okay with that

Me : there's nothing I can do about that

Zipho : please fix this family , for all our
sakes. Before you all kill each other . A

person you thought was your mother killed your brother , your father killed his wife the family seer and himself . How much more blood will the Jola's spill of each other ? This is wrong

Me : okay , I'll do my best okay

She nods

Zipho : when are you leaving ?

Me : as soon as I fix things at the firm , allocating my duties to the lawyers

Zipho : spend as much time with the kids ,

because there's no guarantee how long you'll be gone

Me : okay I will

Hear me agreeing to everything like I'm a 5 year old child

Zipho : you know I was scared that she will win and get you , I was so scared that I was going to lose you . For once I was so selfish that I realised I wanted you all to myself and no one

Me : I've put you through shit and hurt you , but hurting you with another woman I'll never

do that to you

Zipho : I see now and as much as I'm thankful
I never want you taking another life for us

One thing I'm certain of is that I'll always and I
mean always do whatever it takes to protect
my family

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Ziphozendalo

I couldn't sleep last night I kept tossing and
turning , Nqaba tried to help me sleep but it
was worthless

I wake up head to the shower wash my face ,
brush my teeth grab my gown and walk
downstairs

I find Qhawe sleeping on the couch and it's
not a pleasing sight . This is his brother's
house , he should have slept in a room
there's many spare rooms here

Me : bhuti

He looks at me , his eyes are red either he
was crying or he didn't sleep like me

Qhawe : Xolo sisi ba I crashed on your couch

Me : you should have gone upstairs and slept in one of the rooms

Qhawe : my brother is already not happy with my presence being her

Me : he's just frustrated

Qhawe : and I understand

I sit down next to him

Qhawe : how can I be so stupid ? I came here seeking advice and now look what I've done . I've lost my brother and possibly messed up

the last chance I have of building a proper relationship with you as my family

I feel a bit guilty as well because I also said to him , he can fix things with her .

Me : we are family no matter how messed up we are and how much we fight , fact remains we are family

Qhawe : how do we fix this ? Can we even fix it

Me : singo Jola there's nothing we cannot fix anything

His eyes glisten and I don't want to watch
Qhawe crying I really don't

Me : when your brother gets down here
please fix all of this and...

The door bell , this early ? My stomach goes
cold . What if it's the cops . I swallow hard
and go open the relief sigh I heave when I
see all the Jola brothers

I move out and make way for them they get it.
And it's just them without their wives

Mqhele : sisi

Me : molo bhuti

Ntsika just hugs me I hug him back I need this comfort cause we have seen and been through a lot

Ntsika : it's okay

Is it really okay ?

Me : I am tired

I whisper that so only he hears it

Ntsika : I know but we are putting this to an

end

I pull out of the hug and look at him

Me : really ?

Ntsika : yes

That's assurance his eyes say it all

Mpande : we are sorry to budge in this early

Me : it's not a problem

Mqhele : we heard what happened . Is he

okay ?

Does that mean he's asking about his brother
the one that's my husband ?

Me : Jola is fine

He nods

Mqhele : we need you to help us fix all of this

What does he mean they need me ?

Me : I ...don't understand

Mqhele : it's time we put our differences aside and focus on building this family . For the sakes of our children

Okay that makes some sense , but I still don't get how grown me need me a child to help them

Mqhele : we would like to have a meeting here of course if you let us and we would like for our wives to come

Is that a good idea ? And why here why not at their family home ? Especially with those wives of theirs . I'm still not happy with Amahle leaving when Ntsika needs her the most

Voice : your beds have bedbugs ?

Yhoh , he is with his morning angel

Mqhele : bawo

Nqaba : Mqhele nifuna nton apha? (what do you want here)

Kodwa uNqaba unjani heh

Mqhele : we come in peace and to talk

Nqaba : couldn't you say before you turned and rocked up here ?

Ntsika : hayhiii say for who and what ?

He just ignores his brother but it's just Ntsika and they both don't care

Me : I'll go make breakfast

Ndlovukazi comes down and I'm so thankful a saviour because me cooking for these brothers hayhiii , I fear they'll get food poisoning

Mqhele : the queen of Ngonyama ?

How does he know her ?

Ndlovukazi : the Bangani brothers

She graces them with her dashing smile , the others are just taken by her beauty

Ndlovukazi : it's good to see you all together

Heh naye

Ndlovukazi : Ngonyama let's go cook for them while they talk

She takes my hand we walk in the kitchen ,
Qhawekazi doesn't even make a sound to
want her mother . This child hurts me hayhiii

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Nqabayomzi

I sit down Ntsika takes Kazi from me

Mqhele : I think I should start by apologizing

Me : don't do it if you don't want to

Ntsika : can you just let him talk?

I lean back on the couch

Mqhele : I was the first one to pull this family apart , from the beginning I should have made things right . Instead I added fuel to an already burning fire . It was wrong of me , as

a big older brother I should have played my part and did right by all of you . Including uMfihloyemvelo , I failed you all . More especially now you and Ntsikayesizwe when I let you walk out after finding out our mother isn't the woman who carried you , and I went further let things escalate . I am sorry Jola to you and all of our brothers here .

He puts his hands on his face , now I've seen each and everyone of my brother's cry except Mqhele

Mqhele : we all did wrong and it's about time we take account and responsibilities of our actions . We learnt the truth saw our father kill three people in front of us , we hated them for what they did but now how different are we

from them ? We are doing the same thing they did to us , now we are the ones hurting each other . If we were still the same Bangani brothers we have always been none of this would have happened , you wouldn't have Lazola's blood on your hands because we would have stood together and got rid of her together . It wouldn't be your guilt but it'll be ours . My brothers I am sorry

Ntsika : I think we can all say we are sorry , same mother or not at the end of the day we share the same father . The Bangani blood runs through our veins

Mpande : we are one , we always have been and always will be . If only we can talk things out and fix our family .

Mqhele : my brother's you saw me burn our mother and father to ashes , they're gone now and there's nothing we can do to bring them back . But what we can do it's build the Bangani family home again and make it what is has been . With pride and dignity and it all starts with admitting our faults in all of this

Qhawe : mkhuluwa , no words can explain how sorry I am . For reacting the way I did and defending a woman that once hurt you and your wife . I won't even lie and say I was blinded by love , maybe guilt yes because of how I treated her and playing a role in having her memory lost . But now knowing that she regained some of her memory and kept lying to me because she now wanted you , it

makes me feel like the worst idiot of them all .
I am sorry mkhuluwa

I nod , after all this much talk I don't know
what to say

Mqhele : we all thought that one last bad
family meeting with all the wives then later the
kids , so we can talk and establish what we
once had will do . And if you agree we would
like the meeting to be here in your home
because if we are all honest MaJola is the
only Bangani wife with a sane mind , then
later on we ask that you go cleanse our family
home so we can rebuild it

What does one say to that ? I just killed the mother of my brother's kids who are my kids as well because they're my brother's , but here are my brother's gathered in my house asking and seeking that we rebuild oJola .
What a fool would I be if I said no

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Insert 41

Ziphozendalo

I managed to get a chance and go bath , so now I'm dressed decent . That's what happens when people just invades your

house so early in the morning and you're not expecting them

Ndlovukazi : are you okay ?

Me : those 5 together in one room I don't know anymore

She puts her hand on my shoulder

Ndlovukazi: worry not , they don't come in bad

I really hope so , because when I say I'm tired I really mean it

Ndlovukazi : except that husband of yours ,
he scares me a bit

Me : really?

Ndlovukazi : but I'm sure we have nothing to
be worried about . Let's finish here

Sihle comes down with Omuhle and he's
already ready for school

Sihle : dabs , morning my queen

She told him to stop saying that but he just
can't

Ndlovukazi : you're bright as early this morning

He laughs

Sihle : first day after holidays and all , and my beautiful dabs is taking me

His eyes are stuck on me , and I was not aware that I'm taking him to school . Because he always uses public transport all the time

Me : I am ?

Sihle : yes

Ndlovukazi : well breakfast is ready , we'll serve your father's first

These Bangani brothers are Hella damn lucky, here in my house being served by my very own Ngonyama queen

Sihle : why are they all here ?

He whispers , I don't think we ought to gossip this early

Sihle : dabs (aunt)

Me : yhoh wethu andaz , they're your father's go and ask them (bruh I don't know)

Sihle : we are not in trouble are we ?

Me : who is this we ? And why is she so grumpy this morning ?

Sihle : we us the older kids , and your daughter is just dramatic

It's like she's not even here , even Kazi is better cause she's making sounds in the lounge busy speaking her own language

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Nqabayomzi

My phone rings and it's Lubanzi I walk away from my brother's and answer

Me : Xaluva

Lubanzi : mkhuluwa (big brother)

Me : are you good ?

Lubanzi : I know you actually don't care but let me humour you , I am all good

Me : mmmm

Lubanzi : and I've taken care of everything , so you can sit there and relax focus on your

family now and making the descendant of
Ngonyama happy

This one is strange beyond the words strange

Me : you can say you're cousin you know

He laughs

Lubanzi : I told you she's not my cousin

Me : your mother's are siblings

Lubanzi : no they're not , and why is
Ngonyama there busy taking care of grown
ass Bangani men ?

Me : jealous much aren't we ?

Lubanzi : don't go there Bangani

Me : why haven't you come to see her anyway ?

Lubanzi : she came there to see her granddaughter and your wife I hate imposing

Me : prideful much

Lubanzi : take I wild guess where I get that

He laughs dropping the call on me . Crazy how I can trust Lubanzi to take care of murders for me and not even be fearful that one day he might just turn on me and use whatever he may have on me

I walk back to my brother's , they're still here . And waiting on their wives to arrive , since they're so keen and eager to fix whatever issues we have now and not a day later .

Ntsika : everything okay ?

Me : yeah

Mqhele : bawo a word ?

He better not start with me , I'm not in this
moods peace or no peace . I'll beat the shit
out of him right here and right now .

We walk away from the others

Mqhele : you know I really am sorry

When a person has never apologized when
they say it , it's kind of hard to believe

Me : mmmm

Mqhele : and you might not believe me yes I
know , but I want you to know that I regret

everything . And now I want is for us to be what we used to be

Me : can I just clarify something here ?

I love Mqhele and respect him as my older brother yes , but once I feel like my family is threatened I retaliate bad . I've realised that MaJola and our kids matter more than anything and everyone , so I'll never prioritise my brother's so they feel important and above my wife to a point where they think it's okay to just overlook her because she's younger than the rest of us

Me : we might have had our issues and all , but I doubt we lost what we had or used to be

as you say . It became a problem when now you didn't see my wife enough to respect your boundaries . Mkhuluwa my marriage is off limits when it comes to any of you , unless I come and seek advice regarding it you say nothing and do nothing . That means you keep your distance and opinions to yourself

Mqhele : understood

Me : let's never revisit this again . Just because you're older doesn't mean you get to tell us what's not and what . Telling me to choose between my wife and you , I'll always choose her and it's a no brainer . Mqhele I don't fuck you , you don't warm my bed at night so I'll never beg you

He looks at me not believing , I chuckle he laughs

Mqhele : I respect MaJola enough and I'll stay away and keep my distance

Brothers fight and I think any other siblings fight , but damn we are just too much our drama just exceeds

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Ziphozendalo

Qhawekazi is acting up now , not wanting to sleep . I believe black kids don't know what

routine is , or its just mine . Maybe she just doesn't want to learn or live by it

Me : you and your sister are driving me crazy today

She doesn't even want to feed , Omuhle is also not herself even when her uncles tried to talk to her and all . She was just a two word , one word answer

Me : what's wrong ?

She makes those baby sounds and giggles

Voice : how are my girls ?

I turn and look at him

Me : acting up on me and grumpy

Nqaba : they really don't like all these people here

I laugh

Me : aibo Jola

Nqaba : nyan , they're crowding my kids

Me : ayikho lonto (there's no suck)

Nqaba : let me help you , Nolitha and Amahle have arrived

It's late actually after 21:00 . I don't get why we must hold meetings at night , like we are some kind of a cult I don't get it at all

Me : must I be there ?

Nqaba : apparently they need you there

Me : a one Ntsika is enough , why must you ?

Nqaba : well

He laughs

Me : you've bored me for the whole year

Nqaba : and your daughter is asleep let's go

Me : she's yours too

Nqaba : and I don't deny

Qhawekazi is being too much and not fair ,
how is she able to fall asleep just because
her father put her to sleep ? But when I tried it
was all for nothing

We walk downstairs , and I don't know how I
feel about going to see these wives . Nolitha

doesn't like me , and Amahle is not my favourite person right now .

We sit down I greet them they greet back .

Mqhele : it's late so I think we should just get this over and done with ?

Great he can see it's late , and some of us have school tomorrow . Reality that slaps so hard to show what a child I am compared to them all

Mqhele : I think we all know and have seen just how distributive we have become . And I think it's about damn time we sit down like adults and throw our issues around this table,

so that when we leave everyone walks with an open heart

Ntsika : can I just say Bhabha and I we have nothing that we holding against anyone

Aibo mna futhi (me again) , but who said I have no issue with anyone ? Well I really don't but yeah even if I did I would never say it

Qhawe : I really have no issues I just want to apologize to you Mkhuluwa , for everything recent that has just happened . How I chose to believe Lazola over you even after knowing how she is and how much damaged she caused last time

Nqaba : it's okay I think we can put that behind us

Just like that , wow my husband is making me proud right now

Mqhele : like I said bawo I caused a rift between us and I'd like us to forgive each other and move past it . Because I did wrong you as a brother

Why is everyone apologizing to Nqaba as if he has nothing to apologize for

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Ziphozendalo

Hours have gone by and we are just sitting here listening to these men go at each other about who's wrong and who's not like , I'm tired I have school tomorrow I should be sleeping right now and not this

Mqhele : can we just agree as brother's to out everything behind us and rebuild the Jola household ?

Ntsika : I think we do

He looks at his brother's

Mpande : yes we do

Qhawe : I agree on that

They all look at Nqaba who is suddenly looking bored , I don't understand my husband and this expressions and mood changing what not

Mqhele : bawo (little brother)

Nqaba takes a sigh

Nqaba : ewe bawo (yes big brother)

Mqhele : thank you , now I hope our wives can do the same so they can help rebuild this home as sister and not enemies trying to bring each other down

Why isn't Lihle here ? I don't understand

Ntsika : kodwa Bhabha has no issues with anyone

Aww my twin brother in-law though

Amahle : I don't think I have issues with anyone either

Really ? But I won't say anything nor even ask

Nolitha : I just want to apologize for making Zipho....

Nqaba gives her a stare Ntsika chuckles

Nolitha : I mean MaJola for not being welcoming towards you , and just how I treated you . I really should have done better , set an example for our sisters in-law . I am sorry for the part I played in hurting you and all

What's and all ? But I want this done and quite frankly I only cared about these brothers to make peace that's it

Me : it's okay sisi

Nqaba : now can we all just end this ?

Mqhele : yes

Nqaba gets up first

Ntsika : I guess we'll find ourselves rooms to sleep in since we are not allocated

Nqaba : and help me be gone first thing in the morning , you've overstayed your welcome

Aibo

Mqhele : your home is our home bawo , we will leave when we feel like it

Nqaba : I hope you're ready to contribute towards groceries and house bills

They laugh , he takes my hand and we leave. Surely they'll find rooms to sleep in I know I'm such a bad host but I am tired and they're family

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At the Bangani homestead

The brothers are home including Nqaba and his wife . He's soon to go to the water and cleanse . It's been a few days since the brothers talked and fixed their issues but Qhawe doesn't seem okay and his big brother has noticed this

Nqaba : what's going on ?

Qhawe : I called the kids last night and they kept asking me about their mother

Nqaba looks at his brother and he feels his pain

Nqaba : I am sorry

Qhawe : no don't apologize , if only I had listened we wouldn't be here

Either way Nqaba feels like Lazola was going to be a problem and he would have still taken care of him

Qhawe : maybe my kids are better off without a mother

Nqaba : there's no such , I might have taken their mother away from them and who knows? Maybe someday they will find out the truth and hate me . A mother is a mother she might be a pest and a nuisance to others but not her kids .

Qhawe : do you know she said she doesn't remember ? And when I asked that she sees the kids she said no . Mkhuluwa what mother does that ?

A fucked up mother like Lazola does

Qhawe : they'll grow up fine . Nolitha has asked to look after them . I think it's best I

move this side and be home , so your hut is not left alone

Nqaba is touched by his brother's words , he didn't think anyone cared about the hut or not having anyone here . He still hasn't gotten his answer from his ancestors if he can move it or not

Nqaba : we are all here , me and my wife included . We'll play our part and role in raising the kids as well

Qhawe : enkosi mkhuluwa (thanks big brother)

The two brothers hug , Mqhele is on the balcony look at them and he's pleased by

what he's seeing . He still had his doubts knowing Nqaba he's not the kind to just let things go instead he keeps in and holds everything inside

Voice : babe

He looks at his wife and smiles

Mqhele : are you okay ?

Nolitha : yes I'm okay but are you okay ?

Mqhele : my little brothers are getting along I couldn't ask for much more

She nods

Mqhele : babe please do me a favour

Nolitha : what ?

Mqhele : try by all means just to accommodate MaJola in everything that you and the other wives do

She takes her eyes away from him , which doesn't please Mqhele

Mqhele : Nolitha I don't want drama anymore

Nolitha : and I won't be the starter of it

Mqhele : no one will be starting drama , we've had that for many months and it's enough

He raises his voice a bit

Nolitha : I didn't mean to upset you

Mqhele : you will help me and help us all .
What's the point of us brothers making peace yet our wives don't get along ? I hope we all saw that Nqaba has no problem whatsoever choosing his wife over us all , and I will not lose my brother over your petty issues . If you can't be civil to MaJola or fails to be then stay away from her

He walks away leaving her alone , Amahle comes up and sees her

Amahle : Nolitha are you okay ?

Nolitha : are you asking as a concerned sister in-law or you're also team perfect MaJola ?

Amahle : I don't understand

Nolitha : you can be so slow at times .

Amahle takes offence at that but doesn't say

Nolitha : Mqhele just gave me an earful right now about how we must always include her in what we do at all times

Amahle : how can we do that ? Because she stays in PE

Nolitha : I don't even care about where she stays , she not entirely innocent in everything. She can also try to reach out to us if she so badly wants to be a part of this family and a recognised Bangani wife

Amahle : well I don't want to say much about that already she's taking care of my son for me

Nolitha : are you incapable of taking care of Sihle ?

Amahle : of course not

Nolitha : then why the hell is he staying with her ?

Amahle : don't make an issue of it , Sihle can think on his own . And I won't poke Ziphosendalo so he doesn't turn against me

Nolitha chuckles bitterly

Nolitha : when Sihle came to visit when he came for the holidays I found out Owentando stayed behind when we left only to go to PE .

I asked him what he was doing there and he didn't want to tell me . I will not roll over and let her take my child as well . Isn't it enough she took Mvelo's kid and yours

Amahle : Sihle will come back to his senses and come back home

Nolitha : oh yes and that's why he you let him study here . Forget about getting him back this year

Amahle : Nolitha please just stop , Ntsika didn't see anything wrong with him staying there and I couldn't oppose my husband .

Nolitha shakes her head , she's clearly displeased by something concerning MaJola

Amahle : you're married to a Bangani as well and without a doubt you now the kind of man we married . Please don't try and paint me as a bad mother or be like if you were in my shoes it would have been different

She leaves Nolitha alone

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Ziphosendalo

I don't get this pretending that Nolitha is busy doing around here . I can't wait for the weekend to be done so I can go back to my house

I enter the room she changes , when everyone is around it's all good and all that , yes like she said

Nolitha : don't you want to go out maybe have some tea ?

Me : no thank you

She rolls her eyes and I don't miss that , yet again stunned why she's acting

Nolitha : don't say I don't try to include or involve you

Me : with all due respect Sisi , I remember very well my husband once said I'm not here to make friends . Believe me you even now it still stands , you don't like me that's fine . Just stay out of my way and I'll do the same .

She folds her arms on her chest with a smirk clearly amused

Me : there's no need to pretend , and I only cared about our husbands getting along together fixing their relationship . As for me I know I can never be forced down your throats

so you can accept me , unless you want to which is clear that you don't want to and you have no intentions to . But guess what I'm fine with that and it doesn't even bother me

Voice : yabona the way you're standing up for yourself right now ? I wish you had done that from the beginning with that idiot you call a husband that whore he married and the crazy psycho Qhawe gave kids

He did not just say that , next thing they'll be saying that's what Ntsika and I say about them when we gossip .

Ntsika : if you're too quite these wives will play on your head , don't let them do that . You're too little yes but you still have a voice .

And it's still tiny and all but a voice is a voice
as long as it comes out and can be heard ,
believe me you're heard today

Nolitha walks out not looking too happy

Me : really what is wrong with you ?

He laughs

Me : it's not a joke

Ntsika : you're too cold to crack a joke ,
Nqaba has rubbed off on you don't worry I
know

Me : oh we are there ?

Ntsika : Bhabha I always got you and I mean always , I just had you there . That Nolitha is a lot

I just hope she doesn't become a problem as well because I am tired of these wives

Me : what exactly did you hear ?

I need to know just for control

Ntsika : everything

O-kay

Me : can you just not say a word about any of what you heard ?

Ntsika : best believe my lips are sealed

Me : that's a lie

He laughs , and I know he won't keep quite

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Nqabayomzi

Mqhele : when will you be able to cleanse the home ?

I'm going back to PE with my wife

Me : as soon as I'm back from the water

Mpande : must you go there first ?

Me : yes , there's no way I can cleanse the home when I myself am not cleansed

Mqhele : makes sense

Me : it should have made sense in the beginning

They laugh

Mpande : must you always be so cocky

Me : well

Ntsika : some classic punk he is

Me : fuck off Ntsika

Qhawe : must you always fight

Ntsika : he starts it you know

I shake my head , Ntsika is really an idiot pity he's my twin we shared since from being conceived

Mqhele : before you leave can we touch base on business

The family company that we all own , I honestly don't know if I still want to be a part of that .

Me : what about it ?

Mpande : we have the shareholders meeting coming soon , we need to know what to say for you if you're still not back by then

Me : I don't know

Them : what ?

Mqhele : do you want to leave ?

I haven't really put on much effort in the business , maybe I should discuss it with my wife and hear what she says then I can make an informed decision . The law firm is taking my time and being a new dad to two small kids is not child okay , not forgetting being a husband .

Me : I don't know

Ntsika : what...what's that ?

Me : can you give me maybe a few days then I'll have an answer for you . Just know if I do consider to sell my share , I'll make an offer to you all first

Qhawe : are you considering that ?

Maybe I should and just focus on my own business and being a a healer

Me : a few days

Mqhele : I hope you won't leave us , and we still have Mvelo's share

Me : that's going to Omuhle without a doubt and a discussion

She's my child now yes but she'll still get what she's deserving and belongs to her father

Ntsika : okay , I think a few days is fine . We'll wait on you

He could see I was getting frustrated , there's no way we're sharing or dividing Mvelo's shares amongst us

Me : thank you

My wife comes out of the house . I know she missed out babies , we left them with Ndlovukazi and she didn't mind in fact she offered and Sihle being there is of great help

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Insert 43

At the Bangani homestead

The brothers are having dinner without their wives

Mqhele : what do you think he meant?

Ntsika : can we just trust that he will make a sane choice that won't affect us all

Qhawe : this is Nqaba we are talking about ?

Mpande : and isn't he soon to go to the water?

Mqhele : but he's coming back

Mpande : that's if the ancestors accept his apology and cleansing

Ntsika : whoa wait , you don't mean that they'll take my brother now are you ?

Mqhele : he's our brother

Ntsika : I know that but he's my twin okay it's different

Mqhele : we are not doing that with you okay , either way I think one of us has to find out what he intends to do

Ntsika : as if he's going to tell anyone that

Mpande : he can tell you that

Ntsika : he won't , and like he asked let's give him time

Mqhele : okay you're right let's not get ahead of ourselves

Qhawe : yeah let's not jump the gun

Mqhele : before we cause unnecessary fights and all

They all agree to give their brother the time he asked for

Mpande : I just hope he doesn't sell , we started that company together for a reason . To build the Bangani legacy

Mqhele : and we'll still make that happen , for our kids and the next generation to come

They all nod , Ntsikayesizwe smiles

Qhawe : and now ?

Ntsika : nothing Mkhuluwa except that I'm just happy , to see us all here .

Mpande : getting together like this ?

Ntsika : yes

Mqhele : nothing beats us being together and actually agreeing on something

Mpande : true that

Ntsika : now let's stop worrying and trust Jola

Mqhele : he's one of our own

Mpande : our blood

What a pack between the brothers

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Nqabayomzi

The door opens he gets in , and grabs a seat
he sits down

Lubanzi : I have your documents

Me : thank you

Lubanzi : are you going to tell me what's
going on ?

Me : a storm is coming and I'm not ready for
it, nor is my wife . But I have to do what I
have to do and need to

Lubanzi : which is ?

Me : leaving my family right now , and doing what's needed

He nods , and pushes the documents towards me . I go through them and everything is just as it's supposed to be , the way I wanted it to me

Lubanzi : I'm no lawyer , we are all aware of that right ?

Me : yes , but Lubanzi I want you to take care of my family . No matter what happens to me now or in future

Lubanzi : you'll never claim your assets back from her will you ?

Me : I won't

He looks down then back at me

Lubanzi : I understand

Me : protect them at any case from any danger even if it comes from me

He sighs

Lubanzi : you need to understand something that if we make this agreement , I'll do anything and everything in my power to protect them . Even if it means removing you Nqabayomzi Bangani

Me : do what you have to do okay ?

Lubanzi : understood

I sign the papers and he also signs

Me : you'll take these to my brother's

Lubanzi : they better not give me shit

Me : I don't care what you do , just as long as my family is taken care of and protected at all times

We shake hands

Lubanzi : your family is my family mkhuluwa

The assurance in that he gives me , I know I have nothing to worry about as long as he's here they'll be taken care of and my wife will never be ripped off or robbed of anything that I own

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Ziphozendalo

I'm in bed , I'm so tired had a long day at campus today . All I need is to sleep and get

some rest. Nqaba walks in and gets in bed he snuggles me closer to him

Me : I want to sleep

He chuckles and kisses my neck

Me : Jola ...

Nqaba : I just want to make love to you tonight like it's the first time ever

Me : I don't like that

I turn and face him , his eyes are communicating and I fear the message I'm getting

Me : Jola please no

Nqaba : I love you so much

Me : don't

Nqaba : you and our kids mean everything to me

Me : Jola please no , if you love us then don't okay

He wipes my tears , I can't help but cry .

Me : I need you here , our kids need you .
You'll come back you have to come back

Nqaba : look at me

He cups my face , I can't keep my eyes on
him . Because he's just hurting me right now

Nqaba : I want you to do something for me

Me : Nqabayomzi

It even sounds so awkward calling him with
his full name

Nqaba : hayhiii don't call me that , listen I want to sign over everything that I have in your name . My brothers and I were talking and I was thinking of selling my shares in the company we have together

Me : Jola please just stop okay

Nqaba : I decided against that because one day those shares will come in handy for you and our kids

Me : with you as well ?

Nqaba : right now we have to think about you and the kids , I'm just not a certain thing right now . So I want you to take care of our assets

Me : tell me you're coming back ?

Nqaba : However long it takes I'll be back

Me : that's all I need to know , and then maybe we can put the assets and what not on hold for now . And if it takes longer then I can make a plan

Nqaba : no , there's no plan you can make .
And I don't trust anyone to make sure you get everything as you're ought and supposed to

Me : this doesn't sit well with me

Nqaba : trust me okay just trust me

Me : okay , I trust you

He leans over to his side and hands me the documents

Me : you came prepared ?

Nqaba : I'm leaving in the morning

Me : so soon ?

Nqaba : we don't want to anger the ancestors best I do it now than later . I can't pray now I can't communicate with them , and I can't go a long time without doing that

Nqaba : please sign that so I can have it finalized

He shows me where to sign and I don't like what I'm doing , it feels like I'm giving up on us and our life and him being here with us . It's crazy I know but it's how I'm feeling . I sign he's already signed

Nqaba : thank you sweetheart

Me : Jola I love you

Nqaba : I love you the most and always remember that . I can come back same day , or the next maybe a few

Me : or days maybe months I get that even years

Nqaba : I'll be back

He says with a smile and somehow it's assuring me that he will be back

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Nqabayomzi

Zipho : you're leaving ?

I insert my dick inside her coochie she gasps and moans in pleasure

Zipho : should we be doing this even today ?

Me : what did I say about ancestors and sex ?

She smiles , I capture her lips into mine she returns the kiss and clings to my back . I thrust in slowly she locks me with her legs and moves her hips meeting my thrusts

Me : I love you

Zipho : don't...say goodbye

Me : I'll never

My cheek gets wet from her tears , she breaks me . The way we are making love today feels like a goodbye and we both feel it

Zipho : ah.....

Me : just do it sweetheart

She whimpers and shakes as she orgasms , I pick up my pace she squirts I take my dick out . She rubs her coochie , I put my dick back in . And thrust in harder and deeper my dick tightens she flinches in pain as I cum inside of her

Right now more than anything I hope I've left my seed inside of her . Our babies are still young but right now I need to leave my wife with a part of me . Something to always remember us and what we have as always will have , no matter what happens . We might break yes but we will find a way and be back together , better and stronger than we have ever been

Zipho : I don't like this
She's just calmed down

Me : I know

Zipho : Jola just tell me that no matter what ,
we'll always remember what's important

Me : remember this a couple that prays
together

Zipho : always stays together

Us : even apart

She hugs me I hug her back

Zipho : go be with your kids before you leave

Me : come be with us

She giggles , I kiss her forehead

Zipho : let's go bath first

Me : let's go shower

She laughs

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Ziphozendalo

Spending time with our kids has been the most amazing thing yet sad and heart-

breaking . It surely feels like my husband is saying goodbye to us

Ndlovukazi : take heart Ngonyama

Nqaba is already in his sacred room , taking what he needs before he leaves

Me : I'm not strong enough

Ndlovukazi : you'll need all the strength you can get because the worst is yet to come . Forces are coming together and they cannot be stopped

Me : Ndlovukazi please no , I can't take any more of fights and drama

Ndlovukazi : this is worse than the worst child. Believe me you've been through nothing compared to what is coming

Not being sure when Nqaba will be back or what will happen how the hell am I going to deal with this whatever it is ?

Me : will he be back at least

She looks at me with eyes full of pity

Me : Ndlovukazi ?

Ndlovukazi : sometimes what comes before is never worse than what's to come

Me : you're loosing me

Ndlovukazi : you thought you understood your visions but you did not . What happened was not what you saw , it was just similar and looked like it but it wasn't

What does she mean and what visions is she talking about ?

Me : I don't understand at all

Ndlovukazi : keep those who are close very much closer

Them being who ?

Me : I am tired

Ndlovukazi : you're a Ngonyama it feels like a curse , you're about to get your own piece right now . And always remember what your husband said to you . Ungu Mqhele Wakhe (you're his strength and power)

Nqaba comes out , with just his cloths .

Ndlovukazi : Bangani take heart

He nods and she walks away , seems like
he's clued up and I'm the only one who's
clueless

Me : don't go

Nqaba : sometimes to get to what is to be ,
we need to let things in life take it's course

Me : what are you not telling me

Nqaba : nothing I know about sweetheart

Me : Jola !

Nqaba : I can't leave our home with us not in agreement

Me : I'm sorry

Nqaba : it's okay , it's okay . Just trust me

Me : always

He takes my hands into his , we lock eyes for a few minutes

Me : I love you

Nqaba : I love you

What a bittersweet moment to see my husband walking out of our home .

Me : please be my strength now

I say as soon as he's out . Tears stream down my face , what am I without my husband ? What is coming and why does this feel like the end ?

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Insert 44

Ndalo

Cape town has been nothing but a blast for me , and as soon as I got there I forgot everything my mother ever said about not disappointing her and studying leaving boys alone . I party like crazy doesn't matter what day of the week it is , as long as alcohol is available I'm there oh and sex let's not forget about sex . That rural little girl who knew nothing about life is long gone .

Pity today I'm heading home since I haven't gone in months , but I plan to just stay for a few days nothing much . I'm so over being rural and obeying rules , I have no parent in Cape town hence I can do everything I want . I don't want to be tamed here at home , that's why I can't stay long

I've just arrived in town I'm heading to the rank so I can catch a taxi home . I bump into someone and something falls

Me : I'm sorry

I lean down to pick whatever they dropped and it's a crochet , and this person doesn't have legs . Eyes are eyes and they stare , like how are they even walking ? Yes the crochets helps but it still must be difficult

Voice : stop that

She shouts , so it's a woman . I get up and look at her . She's beautiful and somehow it's like I've seen her somewhere but I don't know where

Her : you're Ndalo right ?

What now ? How does she know me , does this mean I know her as well ?

Me : and you're ?

She smiles , and that smile is carrying a lot .
There's pain , there's hurt and most importantly there's revenge

Her : Mpilontle Jana , used to be Bangani .

Can it be ? Nqabayomzi Bangani's first wife

Me : I'm sorry , I dropped your...

Mpilo : it's fine , tell me how have you been ?
After your failed missions with Lazola to
separate your best friend and my husband ?

She knows about that as well ?

Me : I....I....well I'm fine

Mpilo : I see , care to join me for a drink ?
Why ?

Me : I need to get home

Mpilo : can I ask a quick question ? Because I don't believe in coincident

Me : meaning ?

Mpilo : are you so over the fact that you couldn't get Nqaba right after you were promised ?

Is this woman sane asking me such ? The man used to be her husband

Me : I didn't get him , he is happy so I really don't care

She laughs just mocking me

Mpilo : lies , I see right through you . There are days where you wish you could have succeeded because then you wouldn't be sleeping with married men and blessers for money . Because Nqaba's money would be taking care of it , the same way it's taking care of Ziphozendalo

She's right about that , I do live with the regret of not getting him . In varsity life is hard it's not like anything in high school . You meet all kinds of kids there from all kinds of walks of life , and believe me kids in varsity have money . They wear expensive label clothes , drive expensive cars they own apartments . I don't have a car or an apartment because I reside in res , that's why I had to do

something to try and fit in . That's where dating older men comes in

Mpilo : I can help you

I laugh not her again , Mpilontle promised the same thing and look what happened she went MIA on me

Me : been there done that , so thank you but no thanks

Mpilo : do you see me now ? I used to have my own two legs , I was able to do everything for myself and those bloody Bangani's did this to me . Fear not I don't want Nqaba back infact more than anything I want to inflict so

much pain on him , that he'll never be able to live with himself when all is done and said . Because of how much he would have hurt his dear Ziphosendalo . They broke me , took my legs and shipped me off to Ethiopia . But I'm Mpilontle I survive anything and everything

The Vernon in her voice can't be missed

Me : how can I help you ?

She smiles again

Mpilo : I'll get you Nqaba and have him hurt Ziphosendalo while he's loving you

That sounds so far fetched and impossible

Me : how can you do that ?

Mpilo : anything and everything is possible in this world never underestimate the power of the universe

That can't be good it doesn't even sound good coming out of her mouth . What powers can the universe simply hold?

Mpilo : if you want to stop selling yourself and just have everything that you want be done for you without going through what you go through , there are things you'll have to sacrifice and deny yourself in life but also be

willing to do certain things you wouldn't willingly do

She's scaring me now

Mpilo : you can relax and think about this , then when you have an answer let me know . But you don't have enough time because I can take any other file . I really don't care I just want them to suffer who I work with to make sure that comes to pass doesn't matter, bear that in mind

She reaches out her phone

Mpilo : phone

I hand her my phone she punches her numbers in

Mpilo : I won't call you , you'll call me

She walks away

Me : what was that ?

The woman didn't look like a normal person at all , there's something with her and it's dangerous

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Ziphozendalo

It's been only a few days since Nqaba left and I'm trying my best to hold on and doing right by our kids . I'm just thankful Ndlovukazi is still here and I hope she won't leave any time soon , with Bhelekazi gone I really need a mother by my side because I'm about to face things u don't know and don't understand . And the sad thing throughout this whole thing is that I keep seeing butts and pieces , it gets worse when Nqaba cries and tries to reaches me but he can't because it seems like I've turned my back on him . I'm just a walking shadow of my former self , I need my husband back . What is this family without us being together ?

Ndlovukazi : you're not going to school ?

Me : Mqhele asked to see me today and I don't know why

Ndlovukazi : do you think they've heard something from him ?

Something is wrong here and the worst is that not even Ndlovukazi can see it , neither can I but I feel it .

Me : no I doubt

The door bell rings

Me : that must be him

Ndlovukazi : okay let me give you space , I'll go check on the kids

She leaves I attend the door and it's Lubanzi , he's only showing up now ? After all this time with Ndlovukazi being here . I swear this man is very strange

Lubanzi : molo (hello)

This man though , I still cannot get over his cuteness and it's funny how when it's been a long time without seeing him I feel like I'm seeing him for the first

Lubanzi : I know you're crushing on me , but
can you not make it so obvious

His arrogant and rude self yes , that's why I'll
always love , respect and honour my husband

Me : Jola is not here so what brings you by ?

Lubanzi : you

He pushes me aside slightly and walks inside.

Me : what do you mean me ? I don't
understand

Lubanzi : let's go to the study , walls have ears they listen and hear everything even that is not supposed to be heard

So we are in movies now how nice , yet the study is also walls . We walk to the study he closes the door and lock . It's uncomfortable being in a closed room alone with Lubanzi

Lubanzi : take a seat

He's telling me what's what in my own house wow , but I sit down and he also sits down

Lubanzi : we have business to discuss

Me : what...uhm what business?

Lubanzi : I know Nqaba gave you his shares and signed everything he has over to you and that as of right now you're the sole owner of his assets

Who told him that ? He's a thug I know but there are something's he shouldn't know like this one , I believe Nqaba is coming back and everything will go back to normal

Me : yes , but as soon as he's back he's going to take back what's his

Lubanzi : right , now it's all yours

Me : can we just understand each other here that I'll never betray Nqaba over his money and businesses

Lubanzi : and I wouldn't expect you to , but can it sink it that everything is yours . Say it and believe it because it's about to get tough , you'll need to know how to stand your ground and not succumb to the pressure . You'll need to make tough decisions and be able to stand by them , you can't afford to be weak right now or the cut throat business will chew you and spit you out like used chewing gum

Must he be like this ?

Lubanzi : now I need to know that you won't fall even if you fall you'll always get yo ,

because I'll be with you throughout the whole things until Mkhuluwa is back to his senses

Back to his senses ?

Me : back to his senses , what does that mean ?

He doesn't answer me . I remember Nqaba's words that I must bring those close even closer . Is Lubanzi one of those ?

Me : are you here to help me ?

Lubanzi : I'm already starting . Now rely on me to take care of whatever you need taken care of and I mean everything

Whoa does he think I'll want him to kill people now ? He's right

Lubanzi : my loyalty lies with you now and no one else including Nqaba

Me : I don't like you talking like that , as if he's an enemy

Lubanzi : forget everything you thought you knew , go get ready for you meeting with the brothers and please be decent sexy and yet

still say powerful and make a statement

I don't even know what he means by that .

Lubanzi : we have an hour to leave

His way of telling me to go do what he says . I get up and walk to my room , nothing hurts like feeling like you're blind and cannot see what's happening or coming in your life . That's exactly how I feel right now

I take a shower dry and lotion put on black slim fit formal pants white vest tucked in black slim fit suit jacket roll the sleeves to the elbows . I put on 6 inch red bottoms and

apply matter rouge lipstick , that's just about how far make-up goes for me

Me : Jola I hope wherever you are , you're watching over us

He's not dead I know , but he's in a spiritual space right now and I'm sure his third eye is very enhanced where he is . I'm hoping he keeps watching out for us

I stand in front of the full body length mirror and take deep breaths . I don't know why Mqhele wants to see me and yet I'm scared

Me : it's going to be fine , maybe not today or

tomorrow but definitely someday

I nod assuring myself of what I'm saying

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Ndalo

Few days been home and nothing has been on my mind like Mpilontle's offer . Whatever she is mixed with is no good thing . But what's a little bit of bad when the results will be good ? I take my phone and call her , it rings and for a while she doesn't answer but eventually does before it takes me to voicemail

Mpilo : you took your own damn time

Me : I was....well...

Mpilo : I need an answer yes or no . We're not friends let's not forget that

That's harsh

Me : yes

Mpilo : good now remember what I said ?

Me : yes and as long as I don't have to kill anyone then it's fine , I'll do anything

Mpilo : good meet me by the dark woods right behind the palace come at dark tonight and no later than tonight , if you don't come don't bother coming after today

Me : the....the dark woods ?

I ask scared , that place is scary and why must it be at night

Mpilo : girl seems like you'll be a problem forgot this okay

Oh now I've pissed her off

Me : no I....

She drops the call on me.

Me : oh Ndalo

Now I've missed out on having a handsome man as my own , but have I really missed out ? She told me the place right so I can still go there and see if I can find her or not

Me : yes , not so dumb after all

I will go there , I'm not failing and missing out on this again I refuse . Maybe second time will be a charm

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Ziphozendalo

We arrive at the restaurant it's halfway through PE and Isilo . We walk inside and I see the brothers all of them , Mqhele didn't mention that they'll all be coming . I thought it was just going to be him alone .

Lubanzi : remember what I said ?

I nod , this tall man next to me is giving me some kind of a boost . We walk to the table and the looks I'm getting are not that pleasing. I greet them they greet back but it's not that happily or such . Lubanzi and I sit down

Mqhele : thank you for coming

I look at Ntsika he's not looking like himself
and I wonder what's wrong

Mqhele : we noticed something that our
brother has signed over his shares at the
company to you

Oh it's about that

Me : yes

Mpande : why ?

What does he care and I'm his wife

Lubanzi : they're married in community of property at that meaning what's his is hers and right now he's not here to look after his interests and assets but she is

Mpande : and what are you , her spokesperson ?

Lubanzi : don't fuck with me Bangani , you all should be ashamed right now . Ganging up on her for what ?

Ntsika : I'm not ganging up on anyone

Why didn't he call and at least alert me of this?

Lubanzi : Mqhele why did you ask to see her?

Mqhele : we just want to understand why Nqaba signed his shares to her

Lubanzi : I think I answered that

Mpande : no offence but she knows nothing about business and there's no way that he can trust her to handle his shares

Wow

Lubanzi : so what are you saying ?

Mpande : we would like to see the original document

Lubanzi laughs and I forget everything that's happening here . His laugh is so contagious I'm sure it's because he hardly laughs

Lubanzi : get used to it and soon because as it stands she's now a shareholder

Mpande : this is nonsense

He gets up and walks out

Lubanzi : you're all fucking full of shit , and better expect her to be at the upcoming shareholders meeting

Qhawe : that's taking place in Joburg

Lubanzi : if you can be in between then better believe she can as well , so she'll be there

Mqhele : why are you talking as if Nqaba is not coming back ?

Lubanzi : do you see him anywhere here ?

Aibo this guy

Me : he's coming back bhuti

That doesn't please Lubanzi which brings me a few questions

Mqhele : I guess we'll see you in Joburg

He gets up and leaves with Qhawelomzi following him

Ntsika : Bhabha can we talk ?

Lubanzi looks at him Ntsika's eyes are on me

Lubanzi : I'm no threat

He gets up and walks away but I still see him from a distance

Ntsika : what's going on ?

Me : with ?

Ntsika : everything I feel so excluded between what has occurred between you and Nqaba

Me : so unlike your brothers you don't believe that I tricked Nqaba to give me his shares ?

Ntsika : of course not , you don't think I believe that shit now do you ?

Me : why didn't you tell me they plan to ambush me about his shares

Ntsika : you think if I knew I would have allowed them to ? Mqhele didn't tell us anything except that he wants us to meet with you . I really thought it was about Nqaba going away , it's been days now almost a week

He's telling the truth , I don't know how I just managed to read his thoughts and discern

Me : I'm sorry

Ntsika : you know you can count on me ,

always and on everything . I have your best interests at heart , remember my brother's family is mine

He's one of the close one I need to bring closer , my gut can't be wrong about this . Even when his brother's turn against me and my family he will stand by me

Ntsika : I don't know what's happening or what's going to happen , but I trust my brother's decision and I'll stand by him and support it . My loyalty is with you because that way it'll always be with him

Me : thank you

Ntsika : let's go I want to see the kids before I leave later today .

We both get up

Ntsika : I don't like this prince

Me : Ntsika.....

Ntsika : but I've seen his heart is in the right place always he's looking out for you and my brother trusts him enough . So count on him as well but I'll be watching him

I laugh

Me : I think I'm safe enough

We walk to Lubanzi

Lubanzi : I'll take my leave now and see you
when we leave for Joburg

He walks away

Ntsika : is he going to follow you everywhere
now ?

I laugh

Me : I doubt

Ntsika : seems like it

We head to his car since Lubanzi left with his

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Ndalo

I'm so scared I even feel like returning back ,
this forest is scary as hell and I don't get why
Mpilontle would want me to come here . I
don't even know where she is

I keep walking around and these creepy
sounds are not helping either , suddenly a

slithering sound from the trees up high
comes. I look up but I can't see anything , of
course it's dark I can't see anything

Voice : you came , not a coward after all

It's Mpilontle's voice but it's echoing like it's
far and it doesn't sound human at all

Me : y...yes I came

I shiver and a great wind blows , all I can
smell is blood

Me : help...what...what's going on

Mpilo : don't be scared

She's right here in front of me and the strange thing is that she has feet , like how because I know I'm not crazy she didn't have feet she uses crutches

Me : what...

Mpilo : stop staring at my feet

She roars it actually scares me , looking at her made her uncomfortable

Me : I'm sorry

Mpilo : remember this is the sacrifice you're making for greater good

Me : I...I don't understand

She smiles and takes my hand we walk further into the woods the more we walk the wind gets better but it gets more and more creepy . We get to place still in the woods and it has a black three legged pot with smoke coming out of it

Mpilo : kneel and get undressed

She instructs and I do as told

Mpilo : now don't be scared

Just then a huge black snake with green glowing eyes emerges from the pot and heads straight to me . What have I gotten myself into , in my life I have never seen such. The snake surrounds me and it's tongue goes to my nipples

Mpilo : don't be scared , this is to make sure that Nqaba lusts for you and ends up sleeping with you . That way he won't be able to resist you , this is how we are going to get him to leave that Zipho and be yours .

I don't get how that will hurt Nqaba because

he'll be under the spell or this influence in a way he won't care about Zipho anymore

Mpilo : stop being so slow , he will hurt her .
And that will eat him up everyday but you'll be having power over him so he won't be able to act on his guilt

The snake licks both my nipples and it hurts so bad , I scream a bit as it goes down to my private part .

Me : wha....

Mpilo : there's no turning back now

As soon as the tongue of the snake is in there
I feel such pleasure I have never felt before ,
I've had sex but nothing like this

Me : oh...ahhhh

Tears escape my eyes as the please intensify
I can't stop myself but orgasm I scream my
lungs out my whole body shakes . I've never
felt anything like

Mpilo : good , good . Now we are done , time
for you to go on with our plan . But remember
you report to me everything

I calm down and the snake has disappeared

Mpilo : are we clear ?

Me : yes

On what ? I don't know I don't think I heard anything she said

Mpilo : get dressed let's go

I take my clothes put them off my mind still trailing to that orgasm

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Ziphosendalo

He humps in her , yes he's not enjoying himself you can tell it's like he's forced but she's clearly enjoying herself to the core

Me : Nqaba

I call him out crying but he doesn't hear me , it's like my voice is not even coming out

Me : please stop

It's useless because he's not paying attention to me except pleasuring her and she's getting the pleasure . I feel hands shaking me , it's a struggle to open my eyes but eventually I do and it's Lubanzi . I'm not crazy nor lost this is

my bedroom what is he doing in my bedroom

Me : what are you doing in here ?

I don't think I've ever been this upset and it's not even about him but it's about seeing my husband sleeping with another woman when he clearly promised and assured me that he'll never hurt me in that way ever

Lubanzi : you can't afford to fall apart by dreams the real thing will paralyze you

Me : I asked what you're doing here ?

Lubanzi : you have any idea just how loud

you were screaming ? Just look at yourself
you're a mess

What the hell is he upset for ?

Lubanzi : go fix yourself , your daughter
needs you

He walks out , I kinda feel bad . Having
Ndlovukazi here has made me neglect my
girls a bit . I'm just worried and stressed it
doesn't help with these damn dreams . I
swear I have lost Nqaba as much as I don't
want to believe it I can feel it

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Insert 45

Nqabayomzi

The only thing in my mind down here is my family nothing else but just them , my wife and our kids and it fucking hurts me that such betrayal is coming their way

I honestly don't know what it is but before I left home I saw them and the sad part is that I wasn't there , and that only meant me leaving means a storm is coming and somehow I'll be responsible for it in a way

My ancestors have finally accepted my

apology and have cleansed me , but they're still not letting me go home . And I don't know why but it's not like I can run out of the water and head home unless they take me out of it

And they've agreed to let me have my ancestral hut at my house , that's one good thing the cleansing has brought me

It's deep underwater but this place is dry and it has just tons and tons of caves , I can breath just fine down here and it's perfectly fine for me .

I'm here with all my ancestors from the Bangani family and the Mdau ancestor that I have , they're all not in human form . They're

all water creatures in different forms and sizes , but in a way I know who is who . And Mkhusele as my protector is also here

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Mpilontle

I'm just a bitter scorned woman coming back with a vengeance for those who have wronged me

I loved Nqaba so much , that I was willing to do anything and everything to have his apology back

But what did he do ? He just discarded me like used trash . Even after seeing me on a wheelchair he didn't care , not once did he show a single once of pity or any emotion

So for that and that alone I'll make him feel so much pain that he'll never be able to live with himself , knowing how much he hurt and betrayed his wife

I found out just how much she means to him , she's literally his everything and neither of them have any idea just how much she has his heart .

Nqaba cheating will hurt them both , but it'll break him more than it breaks her . She may

forgive him in the end , but one thing is for sure he'll never be able to live with himself

Ndalo is coming along just fine , our plan is in motion now all we need is Nqaba to be back so she can play her cards . I'm so ready to destroy those Bangani's and all I need is Nqaba and it'll be the end of them all

As strong and United as they seem , when one is weak it's hard for them to retaliate .

They're much stronger when together , as for their wives only Nqaba's wife is sane and strong . As for the rest they're just pathetic and they know it , right now she's the only one strong . But with no moral support she's

deemed for failure . I reach for my phone and call Ndalo , after the dark ritual I haven't seen her . She picks up and answers

Me : tell me you're ready ?

Ndalo : yes I am , but when can I see him ?

Me : soon , he'll be coming out of the water in a few days .

Ndalo : okay this better work , I'm missing school for this

Me : relax and just have faith , remember you have to see him before he sees his wife .

Because if he does then there's no way he'll
fall for you

Ndalo : I know

Me : you better know and deliver

I hear slithering sounds , I know it's time for
me to pay

Me : we'll talk soon

I drop the call , the snake appears . I hate
sleeping with it but that's how it feeds and
that's the only way it gives me my legs .
When I have to perform the rituals in the

woods , because I can't take the wheelchair there

I got to escape from the man who bought me from the Bangani brothers . It was hell of a few months

He raped me and beat me up at every turn and chance he gets . I couldn't take that life anymore , it was hell and no human being could have endured such forever . I was not exception

That's why I made plans and used my womanly features to get what I wanted which was the help to escape

His servant helped me escape and lucky for me I might say it's luck because he also slept with me , by forget his words was that he helped and I had to repay him .

By doing so that's how the snake came about, he was cursed with it . And sleeping with me he unleashed it because of my hurt and pain . The darkness in me attracted the snake , it killed the guy but never left me

I was given two choices to keep the snake have it give me my heart desires or have it kill me

And of course I had no desire to die and I still don't , but now the only way to fulfil it is to

sleep with it . That way it stays happy and keeps giving me what I want

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Ziphozendalo

My phone rings it's Ndlovukazi I answer

Me : ma

Ndlovukazi : how are you ?

Me : scared as ever

And I really am scared , we spent the night in a hotel . We came to Joburg yesterday for the meeting that's taking place this afternoon

Ndlovukazi : you have nothing to be scared of

If only

Me : how are my babies doing ?

I miss my kids and Kazi has grown the way she doesn't mind me or her father not being around , I'll be lying if I say it doesn't even bother me

Ndlovukazi : Omuhle is with Sihle and Kazi is

taking her nap

Me : please kiss them for me

Ndlovukazi : you'll be home tomorrow

Me : I wish we were coming back today after the meeting

Ndlovukazi : you need the rest and I'm sure Lubanzi needs it as well

Me : I understand , let's talk later maybe call when Omuhle is not so occupied so I can talk to her

Ndlovukazi : alright , she'll be glad to hear from you

Me : I love you all so much

Ndlovukazi : we love you more

I feel so alone even though I know I'm not alone because I have all these people around me . Being Lubanzi , Ntsika and my kids with Sihle and Ndlovukazi

Ndlovukazi : remember Ngonyama take heart

She drops the call , a knock comes at the

door . I go open and it's Lubanzi looking as handsome as ever

I make way for him he walks in , we stand a few feet away from each other and look at each other

Lubanzi : you okay?

The way he cares amazes me

Me : yes

Lubanzi : you're going to be fine , I won't let anything happen to you there

If only it was Nqaba saying this I'll feel so much better , but I don't even know when he's coming back .

That's if he's coming back , I'm just keeping the faith and hope

The staring now gets a a bit uncomfortable , not in a bad way but it's damn is if you're married one like myself

Me : I should finish getting ready

Lubanzi : it's still early , come join me for lunch

I doubt that's a good idea

Me : uhmm.....

Lubanzi : you need to eat

And I'm a bit hungry I can use some of that

Me : okay , I'll put on shoes

He watches me as I put on shoes and take my phone . We walk out together heading downstairs at the hotel . We have lunch together and I must say Lubanzi is nothing like who I perceived to be

Yes he's cold and all that , he'll crack a joke with a straight face but he's one hella human being to be around . After lunch he pays and we leave taking a walk around the hotel garden

Lubanzi : Nqaba is just one lucky blessed man , to have gotten a woman like yourself

I feel like he's saying he wouldn't have minded a woman like myself

Me : you reckon ?

Lubanzi : yeah and one thing is that he knows it , that's why he's so jealous . And fucking overprotective to a point that he'll do anything

and everything to have you okay and happy
at all times

He sure does tries his best that much I can
give it to him

Lubanzi stops walking and he looks at me , I
stare right back at him . I hate this feeling of
welcome I suddenly have for him

Lubanzi : don't worry I'll never act upon what I
feel for you

Me : I...I don't understand

Lubanzi : don't do that with me , I like you and from the first time I met you I never hid that fact

I'm beyond shocked , I never not even once suspected that Lubanzi might like me . Yes I have a silly crush on him I can't lie and say the man is not pleasing to the eye because he is . But that's where it ends a crush and nothing else

Lubanzi : if I take you from Nqaba he'll never survive and trust me you'll never go back to him , so I'll keep my feelings at a distance . He's much more of a brother than he is a friend

He keeps walking , and I'm left stunned by his words . Won't this affect me now ? I mean I have a crush on this man and he just said he likes me . I have no idea if my own husband will ever come back to me or what . This scares me what if I act of these feelings ? Knowing what I know now

Lubanzi : don't be left behind

He's a bit far from me now . I gather myself and follow him

Me : Jola wherever you are give me strength to keep going and having the faith that you'll be back , no matter how long it'll take .

I whisper that to myself , and something tells me to get the seven candles he uses and pray with them . Even before I head for the meeting

I get to Lubanzi

Lubanzi : don't be uncomfortable around me

If he was me wasn't he going to be uncomfortable ?

Me : is there anywhere I can get candles around here ?

He smiles like he knows something I don't know

Lubanzi : candles ?

Me : yes like seven different colours

Lubanzi : let's go

We turn back going to share our rooms are .
We arrive at his room

Lubanzi : you can wait here

I wait at the door when he goes in after a few

minutes he comes back with seven different colours candles . And it's the same colours Nqaba uses

Lubanzi : don't take long in an hour we are leaving for the meeting

He hands me the candles and goes back to his room I head to mine

Struggles of being in a hotel , I dress appropriate in a long dress , wrap my head and cover my shoulders . I walk barefoot .

I put the candles on the floor , they'll just have to forgive me . I light them up and pray to God

When I'm done I do as my husband always does , but seeing I'm so clueless about Ngonyama I call on oJola

I ask for strength and ask for guidance and for them to give me knowledge and wisdom . I ask they protect me and my family amongst the storm that's coming , I'm not saying don't let it hit but can it have mercy upon us .

Strange thing I call Mkhuseleli and I just ask for him to always look out for us .

Me : I know I cannot stop what's coming but I ask you all bare it with me through it all . May you intervene where you can

My words sounds so useless right now to me
but I can only hope they have heard me . I
switch off the candles using my fingers as
well

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Ndalo

I'm walking around in town awaiting a Nqaba I
don't even know when he's coming if he's
ever coming , from wherever he is . It's been
such a drag staying at home . This village
lifestyle is not my life anymore

Voice : uxolo (excuse me)

I turn to my right and I'll be damned seems like this damn dark thing is working just fine , how the hell did he get here ? Walking barefoot with traditional cloths wrapped on him

Me : hi

Nqaba : this is Isilo Kingdom right ?

Wait does he have memory loss now or what?

Me : yes

Nqaba : okay , can you help I'm looking for the Bangani homestead

What the hell ? How can he not know his own home ?

Me : you're one of them , how is it you don't know where home is ?

He laughs a bit

Nqaba : believe me you I might be one of them but that's certainly not home

Now I'm lost like really lost

Me : yes you live in PE now but the Bangani homestead is where your home is

Nqaba : look can you help me or should I ask someone else ?

Me : how about I take you there ?

Nqaba : I think directing me would be just fine

Still arrogant even when he has no idea where his home is at

Me : with memory loss don't you think it's best someone who knows takes you that's

He laughs , I end up feeling like an idiot .
Either I'm loosing my mind or this person is
not Nqaba . But who could it be because they
look alike and even speak alike . I don't know
his voice that well but I've heard it before and
it's the same as this one

Me : okay fine , but can I give you my
numbers so you can call me ?

Nqaba : call you ?

Me : yes you know , just to tell me that you
arrived okay and safe where you are going

Nqaba : a man like me , looking lost

wandering around clearly that tells you I don't have a phone

Is this really him ? I'm so confused and quite frankly getting annoyed

Me : okay take mine

I look around my bag and luckily finds a pen and paper . I write the numbers and hands them to him and he takes them

Me : do call

Nqaba : right now can you show me the way?

Me : of course

I lead him to where the main road leading to Isilo Kingdom is at .

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Ziphozendalo

This boardroom is so man dominated there's only one woman being me .

And had it not been for Lubanzi being here explaining things for me , I would have been really lost . I don't understand business like I know nothing

And right now I'm just glad the whole thing is over . The brothers are happy about the money their shares have generated just in this year alone . The company is doing well , even though I don't get much but that one I understood

Mqhele : thank you all for coming

He gets up and shakes hands with his brother's

Lubanzi : aren't you forgetting something ?

Why is he talking ? Already they're not happy with him being here

Mqhele : I doubt I am

Lubanzi : you have a new shareholder and someone who is also holding the proxy of Mfihloyemvelo Bangani's shares

Mpande , Qhawelomzi and Mqhele's faces changes

Mpande : did you say she has the proxy of Mvelo ?

Lubanzi : Mr Bangani you heard me and had you started by addressing important matters such as that you would know

Qhawe : what did you do to make him give you this much power ?

Ntsika : she's his wife can we stop questioning his decisions and...

Mqhele : right now his decisions are very much so questionable

Ntsika : that's your view

Mpande : you mean our ?

Ntsika : that our doesn't involve me Mpande

Lubanzi : if you're all done going back and forth , just know from now on Mrs Bangani will get informed by everything going on in the company as she's the majority shareholder right now

Qhawe : you must be kidding

Lubanzi : I kid you not , her husband's 16,6 percent of shares combined with Mvelo's 16,6 percent of shares makes her the majority shareholder holding 33, 2 percent of shares

Mpande walks out

Mqhele : MaJola I hope you do enjoy the

fruits of your doing ripping this family apart

Amazing just how few weeks ago I was good enough to bring his family together , now I'm the one ripping the same family apart . I think Mqhele needs to make his mind about which is which

Ntsika : we will do right by her just like every shareholder in this company

Lubanzi : Mr Bangani thank you

Ntsika wants to laugh cause we know Lubanzi is just mocking him

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Insert 46

Nqabayomzi

I'm to go home in a few days , but I'm not even keen to go .

Mkhuseli has left and all I was told was that a plea was made and he's gone to fulfil it , I have no idea what it is

I'll be going to the homestead instead of my house , I need to cleanse the place as soon as I arrive . Then I can move my things and go build another ancestral hut in my house

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Ziphozendalo

Voice : you're one of them now , it's good to ask and seek help from them they'll hear you

I'm busy packing my things , we are going back to PE today .

I look around hoping maybe I'll see who is talking but I don't see anything , and I don't even understand who they're talking about

A knock comes at the door I open and it's Lubanzi he's all done and ready . This guy is always wearing formal clothes , I wonder if he ever wears anything casual

Lubanzi : how much longer before you're done

Me : just a few minutes

I turn my back from him and finish packing , it's so uncomfortable with him in here

I prayed and cried last night that I don't ever fall into temptation with this man

Yes all that good looking yes I can't deny him that , but he's not Nqaba he can never have me or my heart

Me : I'm done

Lubanzi : let's go

He takes my bag as well and we head to his car . It'll be a long drive from Joburg to PE

I just can't wait to see my babies , I miss them so bad . Qhawekazi dropped the call on me this morning , not deliberate I'm sure . But her tiny hands are just too busy

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Mpilontle

My phone rings and it's Ndalo , I answer

Me : what ?

Ndalo : you won't believe but I saw Nqaba yesterday in town

Me : really ?

Ndalo : yes really , but I must say he looked very stranger .

Me : strange how ?

Ndalo : like he had lost his mind or something

Me : and what makes you say that ?

Ndalo : because he was asking for directions to the Bangani homestead

Me : okay , and what makes you think it was Nqaba ?

Ndalo : I'm not stupid I know Nqaba , and that guy looked and spoke like him and to top it off he had on traditional healers cloths on

There's no way that was Nqaba , I would have felt that he's come out

Me : where are you now ?

Ndalo : at home

Me : I need to see you

Ndalo : please not at those dark woods ,
anywhere but there please

Me : mxm stop being a coward and I'll tell you
when and where

I drop the call .

Me : someone is messing with me , and
whatever I initially planned might just not
work. If whoever this person Ndalo thinks is
Nqaba got the scent of the snake from her ,
then I'm in shit . Because they saw what I did
to her and what I plan to do using her

I think it's time I meet with my own snake , so
I can see who it was that Ndalo saw
yesterday . I can't afford to lose I refuse , I
have come so far to lose

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Ziphozendalo

It feels good being home although Nqaba is
missing but home is home . It's been a few
days since we got back from Joburg . Ntsika
makes sure to call everyday . It feels good
knowing that at least I still have him , because
it has become clear the brothers have turned
their backs on me now

Right now June exams are nearing my focus needs to shift there and nowhere else , I don't know how I'll manage with all my drama but I'll have to make do

Ndlovukazi : your stay was well with Lubanzi?

She sits down opposite me with Kazi in her arms , my baby loves Ndlovukazi I think she sometimes even forgets that I'm her mother

Me : yes

I feel her eyes on me I lift my head and she's staring at me

Can it be she knows what went down ?

Me : nothing happened it was all just so innocent

Ndlovukazi : child I said nothing

Me : your eyes are bothering me

She smiles

Me : Lubanzi said he likes me

Ndlovukazi : he did now ?

Me : and I admitted to myself that I've always had a crush on him

Ndlovukazi : and I don't blame you , he's a whole human perfection

We laugh

Me : but that's all it is a silly crush nothing else , he's managed to stay in his lane for so long . And there's absolutely no reason for us to act on anything , just because we now know

Ndlovukazi : I'm glad to hear that , I'm trusting in your word

Me : I will never betray Jola , and I'm sure he didn't trust Lubanzi to take care of us so I can fall for him

Ndlovukazi : it's because he trusts him

Me : and I don't ever want that to change .
With the Bangani brothers who needs enemies

She laughs

Ndlovukazi : that bad ?

Me : you have no idea , but I'm done caring

for people who don't waste time to discard me
. At every second things don't go their way

Ndlovukazi : you did your best , the ball is
now in their court

Me : and they've decided

Right now life had dealt me cards and I'm
about to play my hand

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Mpilontle

Him : one thing you must remember is that she's the ancestors chosen wife , so if she calls and cries on them they will answer

This is nonsense . I'm in the dark woods trying to figure out who is that man Ndalo saw

And learning there's a possibility he's not even human , it pisses me off

That little girl can't be so powerful that she'll make the forces dance to her tune , with just prayer .

Me : this doesn't make sense

Him : she asked for protection for her and her family , remember they're married so he's her family . The spirit came to suss out what your attacker has on her

Me : so they can counter for it ?

Him : they'll fail miserably I'm too powerful for them

One thing I hate about witches and all is the arrogance they have , thinking they're powerful nothing can defeat them

Me : I hope you know what you're doing because failure is not an option

Him : you will get your revenge

He groans so loud his crusty voice echoes
through the trees

Him : he's heading home get your weapon
ready

Say no more , I get yo and run back to the
village . Until I get my hut it's on the far end of
the village , no one will even pay attention to
it

I arrive and lock myself in and get on the
wheelchair , it doesn't take long until the dark
magic disappears and my feet are gone again

Me : Nqabayomzi Bangani this is all your doing , and you'll fucking pay for it

I call Ndalo she picks on the third ring

Me : you will go to the Bangani homestead and do what I need you to do

Ndalo : so it was him ?

Mxm , even if I explain she won't understand

Me : what you need to know is that he's heading home and you need to be there when he arrives

Ndalo : understood

I drop the call , the plan will pan out just perfect , I smile to myself at that thought

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Ndalo

I'm looking my best and I made sure to sneak out of home so my mother doesn't see what I'm wearing

I arrive at the Bangani homestead and looks like I made it early . I'll wait and look around , I don't even see the family here

I wonder who will be welcoming Nqaba home, I don't understand why he's being welcomed today and not the day he arrived on

Some of the villagers are here , they've become so good and accustomed with these spiritual things . They know when one is coming home . And seeing that the family is not around , they'll help just to welcome him

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At the Bangani homestead

The brother's were called and they flew in last minutes when they heard their brother was coming . Since their family seer is no more

Mageba the royal chief priest is the one who relayed the message to Mqhele . Since the Jola ancestors were able to communicate with him

Qhawe : it's been an hour now

Mpande : don't worry he's coming

Mageba has prepared everything for Nqaba's arrival . As soon as he got the message he made sure to run here and help , as required and requested by the ancestors . And the king let him come because it's his job to heal and save

Mqhele : that's him

He points to the gate and something is strange he's alone without Mkhuseleli, he's never alone coming from the water

He walks until he meets everyone, people dance and sing. To show it's a celebration and that they're happy he's back, so he doesn't return back to the water

Nqaba feels strange and it's like something is pulling him to shift his attention, but it's a battle because something within him is refusing but the force is too powerful for him

Nqaba : oJola please be with me , alone I will not be able to fight . Please help me I cannot hurt my wife

He turns and locks eyes with Ndalo she smiles and he returns the smile

Ndalo : got him

Ntsika : something is wrong here

Mpande : what ?

Ntsika : look at him , he's starring at that girl and he's not even looking around for his wife and kids

Mpande : don't we know her ?

Mqhele : it's MaJola's friend the one who wanted him

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Insert 47

At the Bangani homestead

Ntsika : what the fuck is she doing here ?

Not a lot of people are around

Mpande : don't cause drama here

He says bored and they walk away from Ntsikayesizwe who is not pleased at all seeing his brother going to Ndalo

He takes his phone out and calls Ziphozendalo she picks up on the second ring

Zipho : Ntsikayesizwe

Ntsika : lord I hate you , and where the hell are you ?

Zipho : at home

Ntsika : really , and your husband is here

Zipho : I know , Lubanzi told me I'm actually about to leave right now

She sounds so calm Ntsika doesn't like her tone at all

Ntsika : you should be here by now

Zipho : can you calm down , Kazi was acting up I couldn't leave my baby rushing to see your brother

That hits on Ntsika

Ntsika : I'm sorry

Zipho : yeka I'drama (stop being dramatic)

He laughs and they drop the call , he turns to look at where his brother was at but he's nowhere to be seen

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Ndalo

I watch him as he walks to slowly , not breaking eye contact . He gets to me and flashes a smile

Nqaba : hi

Me : hey

Nqaba : wanna get out of here ?

Well this is working better than I thought

Me : sure

He takes my hand and tenses a bit , that can't be good at all but he doesn't let go

We walk to the far end of the homestead where there aren't a lot of people

Ndalo : you ...you don't mind being seen with me like this?

Nqaba : no why would I ?

This man is strange every time I meet him

Me : your...wife

Is that a good thing ? Maybe I shouldn't have said anything . What if he recalls now and wants to go to see ? And it's a good thing she's not here

Nqaba : let's not involve people who aren't here in our talk

Should I relax ? Because things seem to be working my way right now

Me : okay done

Nqaba : it's been a while since I last saw you, how have you been ?

So he knows and remembers who I am ? Or is he talking about the whole town situation thing

Me : I've been great

Nqaba : and varsity ?

Me : good too , but it's a bit hard here and there

Nqaba : mmmm , I hope you're studying hard

Me : I certainly am , I even lack a social life

He chuckles , some women are just blessed .
Ziphozendalo has all of this all to herself

Nqaba : no social life meaning now boyfriend
nothing ?

Me : nothing at all , after all varsity life with
boyfriends requires one to be financially
stable

Nqaba : mmmm , is that so ?

Me : yeah and well I haven't been that lucky

He looks at me , his eyes are not full of love or any affection it's just eyes . And that kinds of hurt a bit . I've seen him look at Ziphosendalo and his eyes were full of love , and adoration

Nqaba : I think you're in luck right now

Me : really ?

Nqaba : yes , how about you just let me be your financial taker

Mpilontle's stuff really works , it wasn't even that hard

Me : you'll do that ?

Nqaba : yes

Me : wow that would be ...wait what do you get out of it

Nqaba : why would you think I want anything out of it ?

Me : well because no one does anything for nothing

Nqaba : well how about we just see how far we get and what you would care to offer .

Disappointing

Me : how about I just tell you what I'd like to offer ?

He side smiles

Nqaba : interesting , so let's hear it

Me : we can be together

Nqaba : together as in , lovers maybe ?

Did he just say lovers ? Couldn't he simply say boyfriend and girlfriend and possibly end up as husband and wife

Me : yes

Nqaba : then it's settled

Voice : what's settled ?

Shit , I'm first to turn back and the hurt on her face can't be missed

Me : hi...hi Ziphozendalo

Zipho : looking cosy with my husband traitor
of a friend

She's still bitter I see

Nqaba : there's no need to talk to her like that

Whoa , her face changes to pain

Zipho : what ?

Nqaba stands next to me

Nqaba : you heard me

This is going even much better than I expected , he's doing all the hurting just by himself

Me : I should leave

Nqaba : no

He takes my hand into his

Zipho : right so what's going on here ?

Her voice is full of pain , and it makes me feel a bit guilty but I want Nqaba and I want Ziphozendalo's life

Nqaba : your eyes can see clearly

Me : Nqaba here was just asking me to his girlfriend , well more like lover yes that's how he put it

She looks at it

Zipho : is it ?

Tears escape her eyes , I want to look down it's a painful sight . But I want to remember her hurtful painful face with tears when I'm enjoying her life and she gets kicked out

Zipho : is she telling the truth?

Me : you think I'd like in front of him , come on girl don't be desperate

Zipho : andithethi nawe (I'm not talking to you)

Me : well mna ndithetha nawe (I'm talking to you)

She slaps me so hard I was not expecting it

Nqaba : I think you should leave

He says at Ziphozendalo , inspecting my cheek and it's damn burning

And his words are a final nail to the coffin ,
she breaks down and in all the years knowing
Ziphozendalo I've never seen her break
down. She's done for

Zipho : Nqaba you're hurting me , you
promised . You promised that you would
never hurt me with another woman

Me : promises are meant to be broken

Zipho : I see

She leaves crying and I must say it's a
pleasing yet hurtful sight

Nqaba : let's get one thing straight

Okay he's not pleased with me now

Nqaba : I'm not your varsity or high school boyfriends . You don't talk for me like I can't speak for myself

Just then Ntsikayesizwe comes and punches his brother twice now attracting attention to us

Ntsika : the fuck is wrong with you ?

He's fuming , I don't think I've ever seen anyone this angry

Ntsika : you'll hurt your wife for some fucking whore really ?

Nqaba punches Ntsika back

Me : please don't fight

Nqaba : don't you dare ever put your hands on me boy

Ntsika : you know what until you get your fucking head and mind in the right space , you're no brother of mine

The family is falling apart now I see what Mpilontle was talking about

Nqaba : if you so fucking care about her ,
then why don't you follow her ?

Her being Ziphozendalo , I'm stunned and
amused by that . Cause now almost everyone
is watching us and they're clearly hearing this

Ntsika : you know what I'll fucking just do that

He leaves , I hold Nqaba and he doesn't
brush me off . This has truly worked

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Ziphozendalo

I look so bad , I cried myself to sleep I didn't even see any of my babies . I know Nqaba is not doing this deliberately but damn it hurt honestly and I couldn't stomach it

Ntsika : can you open this damn door

Argh he slept outside my door , he followed me here yesterday and I didn't want anyone to bother me .

I get up and open the door , and just get a shock of Lubanzi at my door as well

Lubanzi : you look like shit

He walks in and Ntsika follows

Ntsika : what is he doing in your bedroom

Me : ask him yourself

I get back in bed , I really don't understand why do I have two men in my bedroom and none of them are my husband

Lubanzi : so are you done ?

Me : with what ?

Lubanzi : crying your eyes out

Does he have to be this cold right at this moment ?

Ntsika : you told him ?

Lubanzi : she didn't need to

Ntsika : then

Lubanzi : I know everything I need to know

Ntsika : well just excuse her because she's hurting right now

Lubanzi : a Ngonyama doesn't dwell on hurt

and pain , your brother is fucking pathetic

Ntsika : well let's rather agree on that

Me : enough both of you

I shout and actually scares myself , I feel their eyes on me and I look at her and smile

Me : I'm sorry

Lubanzi : no woman raises their voice at me

Ntsika : give her a break

Me : guys please stop , okay

Lubanzi : so how much time to you need to cry and all that

Me : I don't need time to cry last night was enough

Ntsika : what do you mean ?

I am hurt and I won't lie nor pretend

Me : Ntsika I have two little children who need me more than anything . I won't waste my time crying over a damn grown ass man who

just chose another woman over his own family

Lubanzi smirks , I don't know whether he's pleased by what's happening or by what I've just said

Ntsika : please don't give up on him

Lubanzi : Nqaba is not a child

I'm trusting on him , to at least fight this and still want us back

Ntsika : you love my brother I know that and

Me : sometimes love is not enough and Nqaba just showed me that . Now he can do whatever he wants and I'll do what I need to do , which is taking care of his house and kids. Do what he married me to do

Lubanzi : you're no domesticated wife

This one , what's wrong with him

Ntsika : don't give up on him please , I don't know much about anything spiritual of witchcraft concerned . But I tell you Nqaba is not himself

I know he's not and I'm not giving up the hope

that he will fight for us . I'm just saying
whatever I'm saying right now for these two to
just leave me alone , it hurts talking about this

Ntsika : I think I'll stay around for a while

He walks towards the door

Me : take your friend with your

Lubanzi shoots me a stare

Me : Ntsika you can't seriously leave another
man in my room

Lubanzi : he didn't invite me in

Ntsika : he's fucking cocky you can stay with him

He walks out

Lubanzi : what are you going to do ?

Me : about what ?

Lubanzi : your husband's whore

Me : don't say that

Lubanzi : what ?

Argh

Me : can you leave ?

Lubanzi : no I'm not leaving you're getting up and bathing we are meeting with your company executives in two hours

Me : what company ?

Lubanzi : the law firm

I don't want anything to do with these things , but I guess I have no choice . It puzzles me if Nqaba knew he was going to leave me for

another woman , then why give me his assets? Won't he need to spoil his woman ?

After all that's what I picked after reading Ndalo's thoughts yesterday . The girl wants my life , my husband and his money .

Well she can have him and nothing else

Lubanzi : I'm giving you an hour to get ready

He goes out , I lay back down .

Me : I was never ready for this

The whole thing plays in my mind like a stuck record , how Nqaba defended Ndalo and told

me to leave . Like did it have to be with someone I used to call a friend ?

Me : this love thing hurts

And maybe it was never meant for me , all my life I've never been truly happy nor loved what did I really expect

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Mpilontle

I'm so pleased by the results , yet it's still early days I can't celebrate as of yet . I will tear those Bangani's apart to a point of no

return , they'll never know what hit them . And
when I'm done with them my name will never
leave their lips

They'll regret everything they've ever done to
me . And how they discarded me out like I
wasn't one of their own for fucking 8 years

The door opens Ndalo walks in , I told her
where I live because I can't always use it
powers to go meet her in dark woods

Me : don't get used to this

Ndalo : but you called

Me : sit down

She sits down on the bucket I have no chairs
in here

Me : when are you seeing him ?

Ndalo : soon

Me : that's not an answer , you need to sleep
with Nqaba because if you don't all this is
useless

Ndalo : okay look I already delivered on the
first part , he hurt that wife of his just for me

She says with a smile that “just for me”

Me : don't dare fall in love here , remember I want my revenge and you just want his money

She looks down , she's fucking falling for him

Me : don't be stupid , I won't hesitate to get rid of you

Ndalo : I heard you and I will deliver , but he must also do his part of providing for me

Me : Nqaba has money I'm sure he will do that

She smiles , such a naïve girl

Me : now make sure you get him into your bed sooner rather than later

Ndalo : I will do it

If she doesn't sleep with him , it won't be of use to me

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At the Bangani homestead

It's been a few days since Nqabayomzi got back , and his brother's are still home

They still haven't gotten over what he did during his welcoming home ceremony

It's been all talks and whispers about it around the homestead not to say the village , but most people did not see that it was Ndalo

Qhawe : he's been fed

They laugh as he walks in

Nqaba : how famous I've become

He sits down next to Mpande

Mqhele : is this really you ?

Nqaba : what do you think ?

Qhawe : you've become so fucking arrogant as of late and dissing your wife like that for a whore

Nqaba : can we refrain from calling her name's

Mqhele : wow , if you've suddenly over grown your MaJola then how did you give her your shares ?

He looks at his brother's and their expressions tell him it's true and they're not pleased

Nqaba : doesn't matter

Mpande : so you did give her your shares ?

Nqaba : mmmm

Qhawe : what's that ?

Nqaba : just leave it only

Mqhele : you really messed us up , that child knows nothing about business

Mpande : you're really out of your mind

Mqhele : you're back now for whatever reason you made that crazy decision I hope you reverse it now

All the brothers agree with Mqhele

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Nqabayomzi

This girl has been calling me nonstop and she's really annoying me . I don't love Ndalo heck I don't even like her , but whatever the

fuck is pulling me to her has got me by the balls

My heart is with my wife and always will be , I remember my life very well . I have no memory loss whatsoever , but some details are just fuzzy

Like me giving everything I own and have to my wife , even my offshore accounts that she doesn't even know . They all now belong to her

I don't get nor remember how I did that , or even why . But in a way in glad I did because one thing is for sure , whatever the reason may have been it must have been good

Now I have this annoying girl busy calling me and I'm sure she wants money , I don't even have a cent with me like nothing . I don't know what I was thinking promising her that I'll finance her

And there's no way in hell I'm borrowing money from my wife or my brother's for that matter . I just need to come up with a good damn excuse why I can't give her money right now

I don't understand what's going on with me , seeing my wife cry like that fucking broke me like I've never been before

But something just kept pushing me to push her away , I couldn't even fight it and believe me you I am trying

She calls again and I answer

Me : Ndalo

Ndalo : hi babe

Did she just not bore me right now

Me : are you okay , sorry I was busy

Ndalo : I miss you

Lies she just wants money and pity she's not getting any , where the fuck am I going to get it ?

Me : mmmm and I miss you , what are you busy with ?

Ndalo : nothing , I'm bored

Me : well let me come see you maybe let's do lunch

She giggles and it's so fucking irritating

Ndalo : lunch would be great

Me : let's meet by the main road

Ndalo : aren't you picking me up ?

Hell no , so I can embarrass myself any further than I've already done

Me : I'll explain why I can't , and besides I'll be using Qhawe's car

Ndalo : why ?

She sounds a bit disappointed , my wife is the first woman I've ever met who doesn't like money . She literally doesn't even care about it , and you'll never not even once hear her

ask me for money . That woman of mine
doesn't even mind paying for a bill at a
restaurant

Me : all my cars are back in PE and I don't
want to go back there

Ndalo : okay , okay I understand but you must
at least send one of your brothers to fetch
your cars

Me : right , but not today because I want to
see you

Ndalo : okay come then

I drop the call , and scratch my forehead

Me : what nonsense is this ?

I laugh

Me : these fucking ancestors are messing with my mind

Right now I'm in my thoughts right , but something is influencing me and pushing me towards this girl . I swear something is being used on me , and it's fucking frustrating because I don't know what it is and how to fight it . I walk out Qhawe's car is right next to Mqhele's , I could take his but he'll make a fucking issue about it . I walk inside the main

house and they're all having beer , my brother's drink except me .

Me : Q can you borrow me you car keys

Qhawe : why do you want my car ?

Me : because I don't have a car , you idiot

He laughs

Mpande : you have 3 cars

Me : don't be stupid do you see any of them here ?

Mqhele : go fetch them

Me : why don't you go fetch them ?

Mqhele : am I borrowing anyone's car right now ?

Me : fuck off , Q

He throws me his car keys I walk out head to his car . I drive out to the main road and she hasn't arrived yet , I wait a bit until she appears wearing the most skimpiest dress ever

Me : fuck no

She's fucking trying to lure and tempt me in .

Me : oJola give me strength for this

There's no way I'm sleeping with this girl , my spirit protector is fighting with her . Meaning something of the same nature as that of Mkhusele is within her , and Mkhusele doesn't approve . I will not fall for this

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Ziphosendalo

We are watching tv Sihle is with Kazi in his room , these two have become inseparable. My poor Omuhle is starting to sulk now asking for Nqaba , and I don't even know what to tell my child

I'm just glad to have Ntsika and Ndlovukazi around , as well as that bully Lubanzi . He's doing his part which is making sure I'm running the businesses great

He's teaching me and ins and outs of business and I'm learning gasping as much as I can , all this I'm doing for my kids

I'm very selfish and this whole situation with my husband has shown me that , yes I want

Nqaba back but before him I'll put my kids first. If it means I have to let go and forget about him for the sake of my babies then so be it

Voice : go pray

I look at everyone and clearly I'm the one hearing that

Me : excuse me

It's not an urge but I've learnt not to ignore these voices that speak within me

I go into our room I've made my own umsamo (ancestral sacred place)

After that prayer I did in Joburg I felt a whole lot different , so I have my seven colours different candles and impepho (incense)

I wrap my head and cover my shoulders , I'm wearing a skirt that's long and below my knees . I kneel down and start off by praying to God . This is one thing my husband left me with , that I will use to fight whatever battles I come across

I don't have the strength nor the power , and all of that I ask from God . One thing is for sure I will not embarrass myself and fight Ndalo for Nqaba , but if this is not his will and he's not willing to leave us for her . Then I ask

they give him the strength to fight with all that he's got

When I'm done praying I talk to oJola , somehow I feel like his ancestors do hear me. Maybe I'm crazy but I'll do anything for us , and this is my way of knowing how . By going down on my knees

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Ndalo

We are at Oceans Eats , I've never been in this restaurants . It's so expensive and everything is to die for

Me : these things are expensive

Nqaba : just order anything you want okay

This is my kind of a man

Me : okay

I call a waiter over and we order , I even feel ashamed because Nqaba has just ordered the most expensive meal on this menu

The waiter leaves

Me : thank you for bringing me out

Nqaba : we need to talk , I know I made a promise to take care of you

I was beginning to worry about that

Me : yes

Nqaba : and as you know my situation with ...

Me : please don't say your wife it'll make me feel like a side thing

He smiles

Nqaba : fine that situation , our joint accounts are tied up I can't access those without her consent .

I'm doomed

Nqaba : but worry not I've cashed on the offshore accounts , just that it'll take a while

Offshore that can only mean tons and tons of money

Nqaba : a few weeks , a month the longest

Me : I can live with that

What's a month or few weeks for me to have access to unlimited money

Nqaba : thank you for understanding

Our food comes and we eat , just conversing about nothing serious . When we are done he asks for the bill

He takes out a card to swipe

Waiter : uhm sir , it has declined

Hell no

Me : well try it again

Waiter : mam I've tried it twice

Me : don't...

Nqaba : it's okay calm down , try this one

He hands the waiter another card and guess what it fucking declines again . I've never been so embarrassed

Nqaba : this is all her fault

His tone changes

Nqaba : she must have blocked all my cards

Yhuh that Ziphozendalo is not a child

Nqaba : I'm really sorry about this

Now what ? The bill is over R1 500

I have only R2 000 in my card , the money I worked so hard for and opened my legs to get it

Nqaba : maybe we can wash the dishes or...

Hayhiii

Me : no , I'll pay

Nqaba : are you sure ?

The fucking waiter wants to laugh , this is really embarrassing

Me : yes I'm sure

Nqaba : I'll reimburse you okay

Me : I know you will

I say with a smile , so he knows I trust him and I hope he sure pays me back . I pay the bill and we leave

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Mpilontle

A knock comes at the door , and I'm so fucking drained and tired . That snake has just fed and it took all my energy

Me : what ?

I shout wheeling myself to the door , I open and it's Ndalo

Me : I told you not to make this a habit

She gets in

Me : what's your deal ?

Ndalo : my deal is that your ex husband took me out for lunch , and guess what ?

Me : you clearly don't look good so you are not happy

Ndalo : would you be happy having to pay a bill of over R1 500

I'm getting lost right now

Me : what do you mean you paid the bill ?

Ndalo : his cards declined , imagine the shame and embarrassment . And that's not it

Me : what ?

She chuckles shaking her head laughing slightly

Ndalo : with no way out he fucking suggested that maybe we can wash the restaurants dishes

Did I not just burst out laughing , no ways that's Nqaba he would never . That man is

too prideful even the money thing I don't even believe it , not once has his cards ever declined

Ndalo : wow so that's funny to you ?

She's really upset , but any woman would be unless she's a willing blesse . And in this case she's not , she wants to be the one blessed not to be the one blessing

Me : I'm sorry , it's just ...that doesn't sound like thee Nqaba I know

Ndalo : well then clearly you know nothing now

She raises her voice shouting a bit louder and it irritates me

Me : don't do that here okay , I'm not your friend

Ndalo : I'm sorry okay , it's just that I'm just hurt . Nqaba is supposed to spoil and give me money not the other way around

I really don't give a fuck , whether she gets the money or not I don't fucking care

Me : well did you at least ask what's the story with his cards ?

Ndalo : I didn't need to

She sighs and sits down

Me : I'm guessing you know ?

Ndalo : he blamed his wife for it , said she must have blocked his cards

That doesn't make sense , it's even impossible actually . That child is not that clever

And to block his cards she would have access to them , could it be that he has given it to her ? That would be just another bruise

8 years of marriage and not once has the ever gave me access to his cards

Me : do they use the same accounts ?

Ndalo : how am I supposed to know ?

Me : well you should have asked

Ndalo : well I didn't , either way he did look upset by the whole thing

Me : so why are you crying ?

Ndalo : I just didn't think I'll pay for our first date , and more especially that much money

Me : well you did now get over it and tell me , how far along are you with getting him to sleep with you ?

Ndalo : well if you must know , he couldn't take his eyes off me on our date so soon I will have him

Me : that's not what I want to hear

I shout , she's wasting time , precious time trying to get a man's money when she could be using it to seduce him

Me : Ndalo we don't have much time , soon you'll have to leave for Cape town

Ndalo : I've already lied to my mother , if my brother doesn't disturb the whole thing , then I'm all good to be here for a bit

Me : you better deliver

Loosing this battle is not an option for me , I refuse to fail

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Ziphozendalo

Life is hard and everyday is prayer and ukuphahla for me nothing else . Having to hear Omuhle ask me about Nqaba everyday and I have no answer breaks me

Sihle is always in his room he avoids me , because apparently my sight hurts him . I'm in my room studying I just wrote my first June exam , and I don't even believe in them that I'll do any good

First year of varsity has surely been hell for me , trying to fight this battle and stand by my husband . Being a new mom , a student and

now a business woman . It's all too much for me I don't want to lie

And worse part Lubanzi is not giving me a break . Right now he's making sure that I try to be involved in the day to day running's of the law firm . And I know nothing about that , but for my kids I'm just a mother striving

A knock comes at the door it can only be Sihle or Ndlovukazi . Omuhle doesn't knock she's just like Ntsika and Lubanzi , I swear when my husband comes back we are changing rooms

Me : come in

She comes in and her aura just darkens my heart , haven't I cried enough though ?

Me : please don't hurt me

It's a plea , I'm tired of being hurt and always crying . I still cry to this day for Nqaba , so much for saying I am done guess it was all lies

Ndlovukazi : you know this is a test and it will pass

That's a statement and not a question ,

unfortunately I can't say yes I know . Because I don't want to know I really don't , if anything all I need is him and our life

How will I ever get over this , was she more beautiful than me . When they made love was she better than me ? I'm so clueless to a lot of things that Nqaba is my first of everything and all , I'm sure Ndalo is very much so experienced

Ndlovukazi : you're a descendant of Ngonyama you'll overcome this

Me : even if I do , will everything ever be the same way it was ?

Ndlovukazi : only you can answer that

Me : I doubt it will

I close the books in front of me

Me : this has spiked a lot of insecurities for me , on top of my already low self esteem .
Ma I'll never get over , my husband promised that he'll never hurt me with another woman and he just did . This has just made me question my being as a woman

Voice : this is the problem with fucking blessed men , they never know what they have

We look at the door and it's Lubanzi he has become a regular around here , and he's too comfortable

Ndlovukazi : I didn't know you were coming

Lubanzi : well

With that he walks away . I've never seen nor met such a strange guy like him

Ndlovukazi : listen I need to head back to Ngonyama

Me : I asked that you don't hurt me

Ndlovukazi : please allow me , as much as I know you're going through the most right now, I still need to take heed of my duties back at the kingdom

I nod , because I do understand and I know she can't baby me forever . She had a life before she met me , and it's not about to stop just because of me now

Ndlovukazi : I'm just a phone call away

Me : I know and thank you for being with me , and being the mother I never had

Ndlovukazi : Zendalo was a sister to me , so her child is my child

Hearing her say this , makes it so disgusting to even picture Lubanzi in any other way besides being a brother or a cousin

Ndlovukazi laughs

Me : can we please not invade my thoughts and mind

Ndlovukazi : oh child unfortunately I can't do that , I'm not blessed as you are

Me : but.....

Ndlovukazi : I'm very good at reading faces

Me : right

I get up and sit next to her , she embraces me

Ndlovukazi : you're stronger than any windows and storms , remember you're your husband's strength and power

I get all of that but who is my strength and power ? I'm also going through the most

And if I'm being honest as much as I know he's not doing this deliberately , I can't wonder but ask myself if he's not happy ?

That he's with another woman and not me ,
isn't he enjoying and loving that ?

Me : when are you leaving ?

Ndlovukazi : tomorrow

Me : that soon ?

I loved and enjoyed having Ndlovukazi
around , it felt like I have a mother here

Ndlovukazi : unfortunately

Me : I understand

Ndlovukazi : I'm going to miss you and my grandkids so much

Me : Kazi is going to miss you so much more

My baby is so fond of Ndlovukazi , she doesn't even mind me when she's around

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Nqabayomzi

I have been trying to avoid Ndalo , since that disastrous day . But the girl is persistent , she doesn't want to give up

Right now I've asked to meet her by the open veld , somehow my heart tells me I can't parade Ndalo like she's my wife

She's coming on feet , I used Qhawe's car . There's no way I'm going to PE with a fuzzy mind like this

Ndalo : kodwa babe you should have just picked me

She says as she settles next to me , I'm leaving against the car

Me : and risk your mother seeing me ?

Ndalo : well...maybe she should just know

She faces me and puts her hands on my chest , I've never felt so uncomfortable in the presence of a woman

Me : mmmm , we ain't rushing that

Ndalo : well can you just assure me , that while we're not rushing you won't turn your back on me

She trails her hand down , I hold it before it reaches my pants

Ndalo : and now ?

Me : I'm not having sex with you , in a veld like I'm some high school boy

She looks down

Me : is this how you want our first time to be like ?

Lord forgive me because I have no intentions sleeping with this girl , it's hard resisting and whatever is pushing me is not giving it to me hard

Ndalo : I thoughtI just don't want you to leave me

I'm not even yours to have

Me : let's wait until I get my things in order

That doesn't please her at all , her facial expression says it all

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Ndalo

Am I not sexy enough for him to want me ?
What men turns down a free pussy meal

Me : it's okay I'll wait

I don't want to wait , getting him to sleep with me works for us all , he won't be able resist me . Then he will give me what's due to me , Mpilontle will get whatever she's seeking to get

I get too close to him , I'm tall almost the same height as him . The plan is to kiss him , as I close my eyes and get on my goes so I can reach his lips

A slithering and hissing sounds comes , right from the grass . Even the damn grass is moving to show there's something in them .

Me : do....do you hear that ?

He looks so calm , I'm just the only one panicking

Nqaba : hear what ?

The hissing gets too close , I open the car door in high speed and get inside locking it

Me : I'm not about to be eaten by a damn snake

He takes a while before he comes inside the car

Nqaba : what's wrong ?

Me : I'm not crazy , so I'm sure you heard those hissing snake sounds as well

Nqaba : well I'm sure you're not crazy but I didn't hear any snakes

That's almost the same as saying I might be insane

Me : can we please just leave ?

Nqaba : okay

Me : and never to meet on a veld again

He just nods and drives off , I'm actually scared . Could that have been Mpilontle's snake ? But it wouldn't scare me because they want me to seduce Nqaba , and that kiss was going to lead there . Maybe it was just a snake nothing sinister about it , we were in a veld after all

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Ziphozendalo

Exams are really taking a toll on me , trying to balance everything going on in my life it's really impossible to shift focus into one day . I keep hoping that maybe I'll see my husband walk through the door , saying that he's back

Yes it won't be roses and all but at least we would work on things right

Sihle : dabs (aunt)

Me : nice seeing you today

He smiles

Sihle : you look better

Me : I feel better

I'm lying , but he doesn't need to know that .
Sihle is like our older child

Sihle : so Owentando is coming home

Me : home ?

Sihle : to the homestead

Me : oh that's nice , do you want to go visit ?

Sihle : I was hoping so

Me : that would be nice

Sihle : yeah so any chance that you might go there ?

Me : no

I say without even thinking twice , I might have said I won't cry for Nqaba and I cried . But I did say I'm not going to run behind him and I will it

Sihle : okay , can I take Omuhle

She's been missing Nqaba , maybe it'll do her good to see him. But what if Nqaba rejects my child there ? I can't take chances , and believe me you I'm not using my kids to hurt him . I did say I'm so selfish when it comes to my babies , they come first Nqaba can take a back step and just relax right there

Me : I don't know Sihle , what happens if he's not himself there and she gets hurt by all of that ?

Sihle : I'll watch her dabs I promise

Me : don't let her out of your sight , unless you see that Nqaba is okay then you can let them be together vha

Sihle : okay , I won't let you down

You never know with these Bangani men

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At the Bangani homestead

Nqabayomzi has just cleansed the homestead and all his brother's were present without Ntsikayesizwe

Mqhele called to let him know but he wasn't interested . The others didn't see a need to wait for him if he didn't want to be present

Mqhele is leaving along with Mpande , they're already packed . Their brother's are seeing them off

Mqhele : is you plan to stay here still on ?

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Insert 49

At the Bangani homestead

Sihle walks in with Omuhle , Zipho finally agreed to let her come as well . Even though it was with a heavy heart

Omuhle : Hlihle manje phi tamkhulu ?(Sihle where is uncle)

She was told when she left PE that Nqabayomzi is here

Sihle : ukhona (he's here)

Owe : ah MaJola's kids

Sihle laughs , they shoulder bump

Owe : how are you ndoda ?

Sihle : you're like your father's right now

They laugh

Owe : they're driving me crazy being here

Sihle : they all here ?

Owe : except your dad of course

Sihle nods

Sihle : where is tamkhulu ?

Owe : your father ?

Sihle : yeah

Owe : outside by the hut

Sihle : with his spiritual things ?

Owe : oh no

Sihle : let me take Omuhle to him so we can chill

Owe : alright

Sihle walks out with Omuhle , the second she spots Nqaba she runs to him .

The smiles he gives her sends her laughing , he crouches down and picks her up . Kissing her all over her face

Sihle : this is the Jola ka MaJola that I know

He says to himself

Nqaba : Bhabha (baby)

Omuhle : mamam biza mna njalo (my mother calls me like that)

That pierces Nqaba's heart , he now can't even see his kids and he has no one to blame but himself .

Sihle : tanci (uncle)

Nqaba : ndoda

Sihle : I came to see Owe , I thought I can bring her over . She's been bothering dabs asking about you

Nqaba nods he doesn't even know what to say to Sihle , because he knows the older kids are aware of what's happening

Sihle : I'll leave her for a few hours if you're not busy . I'll come get her when we leave

Nqaba : you're not sleeping ?

Sihle : uhm no , Ndlovukazi left we can't leave dabs with Kazi alone

Nqaba nods

Nqaba : please leave her

Sihle : okay

He walks away leaving the two chatting a storm , Omuhle is not leaving anything behind. Including Lubanzi being at the house almost everyday

And that somehow doesn't sit well with Nqaba, his memory is fuzzy . He really doesn't remember what his last words were to Lubanzi , nor does he even remember meeting with him

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Nqabayomzi

My daughter tell me about everything that happened and I missed broke me . How am I ever going to recover from this ?

I've missed so much , my angel has even gained a bit of speech here and there . She's almost 6 months now and I'm missing all of that . Omuhle made sure to fill me in on everything . And it was just great to spend the day with her

I so wished that they could sleep over , but Sihle is very much overprotective of her aunt . I've asked to take Omuhle out , he had to call his aunt first and luckily she agreed . So now we just had late lunch , at wimpy it's her favourite . I'm treating her out with the money I made from clients . That money is sacred I

hardly even touch or use it , but for kids especially my kids I can

Kids are pure and innocent they know nothing, so sacred things can be given to them. It's late now , we need to get back so I don't get in trouble with my wife for keeping her kids late this side . I pay and we walk out I bump into Ndalo . I pick Omuhle up

Ndalo : fancy seeing you here

Well it's the villages town , how fancy can it be

Me : how are you ?

Ndalo : all the better now seeing you

Me : mmmm

Ndalo : are you in a hurry back ?

Me : why ?

Ndalo : maybe I can catch a lift with you

Not with my kid around no she can't

Me : oh

She can sense my tone is off , her face fills of disappointment

Ndalo : if you can't it's fine I...

Voice : Nqaba do whatever the hell you want to do with whoever but not with my kids around . Don't disrespect me like that

After all this shit I need a crying therapy , because her words have just ripped me apart

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Ziphozendalo

I was having a meeting in the city , and when Sihle called that Omuhle is still with Nqaba . I told him to come around so we can get Omuhle and go home . We spotted them as soon as I parked the car, and seeing him with my child and his side chick really annoyed me

Nqaba : it's not

Me : I don't want to her

I take Omuhle from her , Ndalo take his arm into hers with a smirk on her face

Me : you keep my kids away from you side chicks

Ndalo laughs , Sihle takes Omuhle from me .
This is what I don't want , having the kids to
see us fighting

Nqaba : can I at least say goodbye ?

He's literally begging

Me : you go say goodbye to her at the car

He yanks his arm off Ndalo , and that pisses
her off

We all walk towards the car except her . He
says goodbye to Omuhle while he straps her
in her seat , Sihle also gets in .

I go to my side Nqaba holds my hand I
remove it

Me : don't do that unless you're willing to
come back home and end all this madness

Nqaba : I...

He looks at Ndalo and suddenly he changes
to that Nqaba who has no care in the world
hurting his wife

Nqaba : look can you just not give me a hard
time when it comes to the kids

Me : I never did

Nqaba : can I see them ?

Me : seeing that you cannot be trusted with my kids , you can come see them at my house

He raises his brow , I've never seen the need to refer to our home as my wife but now I damn see it

Nqaba : you can't....

Me : I can , either that or you don't see my kids . I will not let you expose them to your filthiness Nqaba

I get in my car and drive off to PE leaving him there alone

Me : Sihle

He looks at me , he's sitting at the back with Omuhle

Sihle : dabs (aunt)

Me : I'm sorry about what you witnessed

Sihle : it's okay I totally and completely understand

I hope he sure does , I don't want them in our affairs and squabbles

Seeing Nqaba with Omuhle all over again , it sure opened the wound again

I don't know what to think , whether this thing of theirs is real now or what ? Does he even want to fight this ?

There's that part in me that says I know my husband and his place is with me and our kids , but I don't know . I could be wrong but things do change

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Mpilontle

Voice : she's taking her time

This damn snake is not pleased , and the more it's not pleased the more it gets to feast on me

If Ndalo doesn't sleep with Nqaba soon , then I'll die . No human can take sleeping with a snake for so long

It's always different women not just one , but in this case it's just me . It doesn't want Ndalo, I could have easily offered her

I give shit about that damn girl , because she also wanted Nqaba . A man that was just meant to be mine

Me : I'll get her to get it done

Voice : you better do it fast

Me : I will

I don't know how I'm going to get her to sleep with him , because she just seems to be so dumb . What woman fails to lure in a man into bed , I don't care how loyal Nqaba is to Ziphozendalo . He's a man at the end of the day , he gets tempted

Ndalo

I am beginning to worry Nqaba is becoming distant , when I call he doesn't answer

When we are supposed to meet he makes senseless excuses , I don't even understand

Luba : what's going on with you ?

He grabs a seat in front of me , I put my phone away I've been texting Mpilontle

She's also not answering me , I hope she's not planning to do a Lazola on me

Me : nothing

Luba : since you've been home , something is going on with you

Me : really ?

Luba : I'm not an idiot

Me : yes Lubabalo and no one said you're an idiot

Luba : so ?

Me : stop prying into my issues uninvited

Luba : so there's issues ?

I don't know if everyone who has a brother they get so much annoyed by them or its just me , I was dealt the worst

Me : leave me alone yhoh

Luba : when are you leaving vele ?

He better not start with me , because if he dares questions me in front of my mother I'm in trouble

She's not bothering me about the issue , unless she can hear about it again

I get up and walk to my room , it's the only way I can avoid Lubabalo

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Ziphozendalo

Ndidikwe finish ngu Nqaba mna hayhiii tshin
(I'm so damn tired of Nqaba)

I don't even want to see or hear anything from him for a while , meeting his side nton-nton in front of my child that was the straw

What is he teaching my daughter ? Omuhle is too good for her own good and what would

have happened had she asked who that woman Nqaba was with is ? What would he have said ? Like how was he going to explain her ?

I don't care about his shenanigans anymore , as much as it hurts . But when it comes to my kids that's where I put a stop

Ntsika : my people

He says walking in , he literally took leave from work just to be with us . I just adore Ntsikayesizwe for what he's doing for my family right now , while his exact photocopy is having infidelity issues

Me : our person

He takes Kazi from me , she's been her clingy self as of late . Since Ndlovukazi left

Ntsika : you still upset ?

Me : no , about what ?

He laughs

Ntsika : then why did you say no ? If you don't know about what

Me : I don't really remember being upset

lately

Lies

Ntsika : Sihle told me you know

Me : aha

He sits down next to me , I put Kazi's bottle
away

Ntsika : what's going on with your husband ?

That one has just deemed to be my husband
on paper

I can't get over the fact that a person I used to call a friend is now getting a huge part of my life , my whole husband

It'll be while until I can forget all of that in fact I doubt I ever will , if I'll even consider being back with him

I don't want to be haunted by thoughts of him being Ndalo every time I'll be with him

Me : heh wethu andaz (bruh , I don't know)

Ntsika : that one has been fed , there's no way Nqaba can act this way

Well whatever is happening with Nqaba is beyond my control and so there's nothing I can do about it . And I just can't take the pity , Ntsika is feeling around me I actually hate it

As for Lubanzi all he cares about is me learning about the business nothing else . As if I'm planning some hostile takeover , of taking over Nqaba's businesses and andikho apho mna (I'm not even there)

That man is going on like life is just perfect , and maybe just maybe we all need to start moving on

Me : why don't we all go out to the beach ?

Some fresh air will do me good , it's just been exams , business and Nqaba's shenanigans this side and nothing else

Ntsika : we all , is just us three . Sihle and Omuhle are sleeping

I look at the time and indeed it's their midday nap time . Qhawekazi is the starrng , my baby doesn't like sleeping like she used to when she was younger

Me : okay we go , but we won't be long Kazi is cranky

Ntsika : let me change into something comfortable

He gives me Kazi and he jogs upstairs . I'm done putting my life on hold , if my husband can go gallivant then I can also go out

My life doesn't revolve around Nqaba and his drama , I can't be focusing on them day and night . I just can't , and they can't always be the talk like there's nothing else to talk about. Even in trouble and all , life still goes on

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Nqabayomzi

Being with Qhawe alone has given me a better chance to just pay more attention to my ancestors and my spirit guides

Nothing is clear , I pray and phahla everyday but it's a damn dead end . And that's frustrating me more

I'm loosing my life , my family and all . I've never been so confused , have so much go wrong and have no idea how to fix it all

Qhawe : can we talk ?

He sits down and he has a beer in hand , while he looks like he's a had a few already

There's nothing I hate like a person who would want to address me while they're drunk

But then again , that's when people speak their truth

Me : since you're already here

He laughs taking a sip of his beer

Qhawe : I'll tell you this , out of all my brother's there's no one that loves their wives even closer to how much you love your wife

Okay

Qhawe : and I'll admit today , that we all have treated our wives like shit but never you .
Maybe you have but you just never showed it to us . And you know what Mkhuluwa ?

He looks at me expecting an answer for his question

Me : I'm sure you're going to tell me

Qhawe : I was expecting to to say "what"

I laugh , it never ends with drunk people

Me : well I didn't say what so you might as well tell me

Qhawe : we are fucking abusive , all in our own way . We cheat , we beat them we make them submissive in the bedroom . But all of that is not you , you don't do any of that to your wife . Well you never used to do any of that , because right now you have stabbed her when she least expected it and you fucking twisted the knife . You just watched her bleed like that instead of being a man owning up to you fall , and picking yourself up

Am I really such a fuck up that I'll even get a lecture from Qhawe

Qhawe : I don't care shit about any of these women you married , but you see that one . She's a jewel a fucking rhinestone and not a diamond . See many men seek diamonds and

all but you my brother were dealt the best , she's a rhinestone and some people prefer diamonds and that's fine . And the sad thing is that she fucking knows it , that she's rare . She can only take so much of your shit before she walks out , and trust me the second she leaves she'll be gone and never doing a return . Go on keep playing like this and you're going to lose that woman . And if you think your brother falling for her was the worst, think again .

He gets up and walks upstairs . He's drunk I know but he just said irked something in me . I grab his car keys and drive to PE . I don't know what I'll do or say when I get there . I don't even know why I'm going but I'm going
Ziphozendalo

Our day at the beach was amazing , if there's one thing my baby is found of is sea shells .

I don't get the obsession with them , but Kazi is a lover . So we ended up picking a few

Now I'm making dinner while Sihle baths her , since Omuhle is a big sister she's turning 5 tomorrow she wants to bath herself

Ntsika is somewhere on a call with his wife

I'm just making a macaroni salad with grilled chicken strips

The door bell rings and whoever it is just walks in without even being told

Voice : what are you doing ?

Argh it's this one

Me : molo nawe Lubanzi

Lubanzi : you tired of having all these people in your house , so now you want to get rid of them quickly ?

Me : wow really ?

He sits down

Lubanzi : you should stop trying this cooking thing it doesn't even suit you

Me : says you ?

Lubanzi : you're not that slow after all

Someone tell me why I'm not taking offence to his words

Me : what brings you by ?

And it's late , I have no desires to talk business with him . He walks towards me and gets way too close he damn smells amazing .

Oh worry not I always remind myself that he's family in a way he's my brother and cousin . I turn my back on him , worst mistake because I feel his eye feasting on me

Me : I....

Lubanzi : I'll taste that and tell you how it is

He holds his hand out in front of me

Voice : how cosy

That feeling you get when you've just been

caught stealing , I turn slowly and he's not even hiding his anger . Lubanzi even doesn't move , I try to push him off . He chuckles

Lubanzi : mkhuluwa

Nqaba : I'll rather not accuse anyone right now so sweetheart why don't you follow me and we walk

Hell no , so he can kill me alone no ways . Can he kill me though ? No ways he can't he's my husband ah

Nqaba : now must I beg ?

I shake my head no , good people a serious
Nqaba can make anyone feel like they're
back to being 5

He walks up I take a huge sigh

Lubanzi : he won't hurt you

Me : you don't know that

Lubanzi : I'll fucking kill him if he dares lays
his finger on you

Okay that's no kidding , but when did I start
fearing Nqaba ?

Me : let me go

Why am I even asking him yhoh ? I run upstairs and regret that decision the minute I get in the room

Nqaba : I...

Me : ah...give ...me a minute

I catch my breath and the second I'm up he pins me on the wall , and just smashes his lips on me

For a second there I lose myself I kiss him back all these feelings come flashing back .

And lord I've been starved , but no this is no happening

Me : Jola...

Nqaba : now you know who I am ?

The nerve of this man , I push him off a bit .
But he's still right here his body pressed on mine

Me : like you know who I am ?

Nqaba : I damn know very well

Me : then damn act like it

Nqaba : sweetheart you'll help me , don't you fucking dare give that that boy my coochie

He grabs it like he owns it , slides his hands underneath my skirt slides my panty to the side .

Me : stop

He slides a finger in I gasp a bit

Nqaba : mmmm , this is all mine

He sucks hard on my neck , the devil lives and his name is Nqabayomzi Bangani . He

takes his finger out and fixes me up , we lock eyes

Nqaba : I'm glad this is still home . Keep my goodies mine

Me : you're not being fair , you're busy pleasing yourself pleasuring another woman

Nqaba : I am not fucking sleeping with her okay

He grins his teeth

Me : don't get upset

Nqaba : how can I not ? Do you see what's happening to us ? And it's all my fucking fault

Me : then fix it

He wipes my tears , I don't even know why I'm crying but I'm hurting

Nqaba : I don't know how to , one minute I'm okay the next I'm all fucked up . Something is being used here and the worst is that I have no idea what or who

My husband is hurting , and I can feel it but I

want Nqaba to fight this for us . Not me I want him to fight and earn back my loyalty and trust

Nqaba : I don't love her I....

He holds his forehead like he's getting a headache

Me : then what's this you and Ndalo have....

Nqaba : stop

He changes just at the mention of his name , whatever that girl is using on Nqaba is working indeed

Nqaba : help me

Me : no , you help us

Nqaba : ungu Mqhele wam (you're my strength and power)

Does he kill me with his words .

Me : there's only so much I can do

Nqaba : if you can see or hear anything tell me

Is he crazy , would he even believe me ? Or

he'll be possessed with whatever and tell me
I'm jealous and all

Nqaba : I'll go see my kids and leave

He kisses my forehead and walks out . These
damn feelings of love

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Insert 50

Ziphozendalo

Me : Lubanzi a word

He turns and looks at me

Me : can we please just understand each other , don't ever do what you just did ever again

Lubanzi : what did I do ?

Me : well since you seem to have a short term memory loss , let me remind you

He raises his brow , and he just looks hella too cute

Me : getting that close to me

Lubanzi : oh that

Me : yes that

How is it that I'm this angry and this man is calm as ever

He walks closer to me , I keep moving back .
He grins

Lubanzi : I just fucking saved your marriage

He walks past me and leaves . Why do I feel

so guilty ?

Sihle : dabs (aunt)

Me : yes

I hope he didn't witness anything that just happened right now

Sihle : uncle just put those two to sleep

Me : okay

Sihle : is he joining us for dinner ?

Me : I...I don't know

Sihle : okay

He walks into the lounge . I dish up for us including Ntsikayesizwe

I walk upstairs to find Nqaba but he's nowhere to be seen , not in our room or the kids room

Me : where could he be ?

The door to our room opens he comes out , but I looked and he wasn't in there

Me : I...I looked for you in there and you weren't in

Nqaba : you have your own msamo now?

Oh he was snooping around

Me : yes

He nods

Nqaba : thank you for letting me spend the time with the kids

Me : they're your kids Jola

I'll never use our kids to fight my battles with him , even in this case I'm not battling with him per se

Nqaba : I should leave

Me : aren't you joining us for dinner ?

I'm hoping he stays

Nqaba : no

Such a bummer . He walks past me I hold his hand , he doesn't even turn to look at me

Me : can we please pray ?

Nqaba : you pray

Me : together please

Can he just say yes to this . I don't know why I'm asking but my gut never leads me wrong

Me : a few minutes of prayer is all I'm asking for

He walks towards his praying room , I follow him as my hand is still in his . We take our shoes off , and walk inside . He looks around like he's searching for something

Nqaba : has Mkhuseleli been in here ?

Is he crazy ? How can that snake of his come here ? How would it even get here ? And most importantly does it even knows where we stay ?

Me : no...

Nqaba : it's too clean in here

Isn't his hut the same way ?

Nqaba : he's been here

Okay , I'm not about to help Nqaba with his craziness . The thought of that snake of his being here creeps me out

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Nqabayomzi

Listening to my wife pray has to be the most amazing thing I've ever heard , besides my angels senseless words

I don't know what to say , I have a lot to say and ask but I just don't know how to put the words right . Feeling that my Mkhuseleli has been here , tells me that my wife has been fighting . And somehow my ancestors are

favouring her , not that I'm surprised . They chose her as my wife , they'll always come to her rescue and request

If only she knows how much power she holds over the Jola ancestors right now , she can do wonders . And her gifts can come to their full power

She'll be able to use them to their full potential , I hope my ancestors at least help me . Cause they seem to be failing me

When she's done we both say Amen , we get up and walk out

Zipho : thank you

I nod

Me : I saw shells in the kids room

I can't leave without asking , I could be wrong with my assumptions

Zipho : oh yes Kazi is a fan

Me : meaning ?

Zipho : she likes or rather loves them , they're hers . She plays with them

So my angel is gifted like her father , the only difference is that she understands and can read shells . As young as she is

Me : okay , I should leave

My phone rings and it's that Ndalo , my wife sees the name and the mood changes

Not that there was anything going on , but now it's sour and tense and you can feel it

It's gets damn hella cold . She walks away from me , I really should leave

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Mpilontle

I'm dying and that fucking Ndalo is taking her own damn good time . I take my phone and call her , she doesn't answer it rings unanswered

Me : fucking bitch

The snake hisses , I control myself and my anger

I call her again , she answers

Me : w...

Ndalo : I'm busy I'll call you later

She fucking drops the call on me , does this girl have any idea what's at stake here ?

Me : what the hell ?

If she doesn't sleep with Nqaba I'm going to die , this damn snake wants his powers

And the only way it can get them is if she sleeps with Nqaba , that's why it slept with her . That's how it's going to be able to possess him , and that's the only reason why it's helping me get my revenge on him

If he sleeps with Ndalo there's no way that child wife of his will forgive her , and the snake would have absolute control and access to his powers

I get my revenge , and it gets what it wants as well . Nqaba will never be able to live with the pain he would have caused her

I've lost so much weight , I'm sick and so weak . Even bones are sticking out . Sleeping with a snake has its own consequences and I'm suffering those

Those damn orgasms cannot be compared to any orgasm with a man , but they have dire consequences and it sure takes a toll on you

I'm running out of chances , those damn Bangani's . Everything that has anything to do with them always has to leave me suffering in the end

It's like they haven't hurt me enough , brought me enough pain to last me a lifetime . Look at how my revenge plan is going ? Ndalo seems to be failing and that time I'm here loosing days of my life

I'm not ready to die , infact I don't want to die and definitely not like this

I do want to hurt Nqaba , but not if it's failing and possibly killing me . I might have nothing to live for , but dying is not an option for me

Maybe this isn't worth it after all , but isn't it too late to just back off from it all ?

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Nqabayomzi

I've spent the past three days in my hut day and night , praying and talking to my ancestors . Hoping that maybe I'll get something , but it's damn quite

This has been going on for too long , and feeling so useless and like a failure is not helping me or anyone else for that matter

What the was the whole point of going to
cleanses ? For the blood I've spilled , if it still
feels like I'm being punished for it

A knock comes at the door , I don't want to be
disturbed . As much as I feel like being in
here is not helping

I get up and open , indeed the braveness of
this girl is accompanied by stupidity . Without
a doubt

We stand at the door , I won't let her in here .
No woman is allowed in here unless she's a
client and except my wife

And this one is neither , I'm so annoyed seeing her yet happy at the same time . What craziness is this ?

Ndalo : babe I've been trying to reach you for days

Me : I know , I've been busy

Ndalo : babe I missed you so much , couldn't you call or text at least ?

I could've , but I didn't want to

Me : I'm...sorry

It's so forced , it took everything for me to say. I've never uttered sorry to anyone besides my wife and I actually meant it

Not the pathetic apology I've just spitted . I spot my wife getting out of my car , she's driving my R7 fuck the damn confidence of this woman I married is on another level

So we are already there ? Where she drives my cars ? That's fucking damn hella powerful

She walks towards us gracefully , she's wearing a long peach summer strap sleeve dress with flip flops . It's winter yes , but today the sun is out

Zipho : molweni

Ndalo : girl you're here to embarrass yourself again ?

Zipho : what ?

Ndalo : The man doesn't want you anymore , get it through your thick skull

Zipho : oh that , well sweets the lady time I was this is my in-laws home . And it's nothing of yours , I'm a daughter in-law here and you're what ? You don't matter here okay my bad , maybe you do matter to him that is and no one else . That's where it stands with him ,

not in this homestead vha ?

Okay that stings , Ndalo doesn't have a come back for this

My wife walks away from us

Me : what brings you by ?

I ask my wife , she turns and looks at me

Zipho : am I not allowed to come anymore ?

Do say if that's the case , I don't really like forcing things . Besides I'm here on business, nothing that concerns you

Ouch ! She walks into the main house , when did my wife get like this ? She's a fucking force to be reckoned with

Ndalo : mxm what does she know about business ? Anyways babe tell me , how far along are you with your affairs ?

Me : what affairs ?

Ndalo : your money affairs

Heh , what money ? Because I have no money

Me : no , it's a lot of money . That needs a lot

processing before it can be released

Ndalo : but...

Me : no buts Ndalo , there's nothing I can do to speed the process . We just have to wait and be patient

Ndalo : okay , I'm sorry if I sounded like I'm being pushy

I wonder how long I'll keep lying to her , before she realises I have no money . And if that will make her leave me ? And if she does leave will that break whatever hold she has over me ?

Insert 51

Ziphozendalo

There's no business I need to discuss , what can I possibly discuss with Qhawelomzi alone. AndAnd besides if I came here for business , Lubanzi would be here as well

Qhawe : your husband is out at the back

Me : yes with his girlfriend I know , I just saw them and I guess I can leave

Qhawe : oh

He's so confused I'm even confused myself , I don't even know what I'm doing here or why I came

Qhawe : I'm sorry about all this

Me : yeah I'm sorry as well

I leave , what a waste

Arriving home I find my kids playing in the lounge with Sihle , Kazi is crawling now . 6 months is a big thing . And the way Sihle over works my baby , he's teaching her how to walk . I always tell him that comes naturally , he says at 8 months she should be walking

Sihle : looking beautiful MaJola

I laugh the way he's saying it , you'll swear
he's my high school boyfriend

Omuhle : semhle ke MaJola mamam (you're
so beautiful my mommy)

Aibo what now ?

These little human beings know how to put a
smile on my face , after a long dull day

Me : enkosi bantu bam (thank you my people)

Ntsika : why are they replacing me now ?

Kazi crawls to him , she's very found of these Bangani male species in this house . Ntsika picks her up

Me : sukhweleta wethu (don't be jealous bruh)

He looks at me , more like inspect me

Ntsika : should I be worried ?

Me : about what ?

Ntsika : you being taken from my idiotic brother , other men aren't blind out there

Me : yhuuh khandiyeke wethu (leave me alone bruh)

I will never do what Nqaba what he's done to me no matter what , instead of cheating I'll rather leave his sorry ass

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Ndalo

I knock at the door , there's no answer but it doesn't look like she's not here

Me : Mpilontle

I call her out , nothing

Me : okay , I'm not standing out here forever

I open the door and the sight that welcomes me , sends me right back outside

Me : oh....my word

I cover my mouth with my hand , she didn't see me nor did she hear me . I can't risk being caught , but this damn curiosity gets to me . I even now can hear her moans

I peek through the door , and they're still at it . In all my life I never thought I'll see this.

Especially after it happened to me , but I was so out of thought and sane mind when it happened

Seeing the snake feats on her pussy like this , it takes me back to the day it was happening to me . I can never forget that day

Me : shit

My hand is touching my own pussy , I'm feeling so hot . I wouldn't mind to be the one feeling this pleasure right now . I go back a bit as her moans get louder , she even cries having her orgasm . When was the last time I had sex ? Nqaba is my boyfriend but he's

never even kissed me never mind , fucking me . This never used to be me in Cape town

Sex was my daily food there not this . I turn back and leave , that time I'm so damn fucking horny . Having an orgasm is the only thing on my mind right now , nothing else and only one person can help me . I take my phone out and call him , for once he answers

Nqaba : hello

I hate how he never uses any pet names with me

Me : babe I need to see you

Nqaba : I....

Me : please it's urgent , I wouldn't bother if it wasn't

I don't need to hear him say no right now

Nqaba : okay

Me : can I come over ?

Nqaba : mmmm let's meet somewhere

Today he will fuck me whether he likes it or not , even if he has to fuck me in a veld or his brother's car he will do it . I'm done waiting

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Ziphozendalo

I'm struggling to breath , and if I keep struggling like this I might not make it

Me : h...help

It's so useless because my voice is gone no one will hear me . I don't know what happened or what's happening , I'm very

much well aware of my surroundings . I'm in my bedroom and few minutes ago I was praying

I was writing my last exam today , I got home spent time with the girls . We went to the beach and came back I came here in to Pray since Sihle was back from school as well

Next thing I'm laying on the floor , I can't move an inch it's like I'm stuck here . My voice is gone it's useless calling for help

I'm suddenly walking in a dark forest , it's so scary here . There's not even an ounce of light , it's just darkness hovering over this place

I see two human figures , there's also a three legged pot with smoke coming inside of it

My feet carry me closer , a huge black snake comes out of the pot . The people are Mpilontle and Ndalo

I can't hear what they're saying , but I see their mouths moving .

The snake sucks on Ndalo's breasts , going down to her private part . I hear her moans and screams very well

How sick are these two ? Everything they're doing is now clear , I see very well . Mpilontle even has legs , what kind of witchcraft is this?

From there I'm at the Bangani homestead ,
Nqaba's welcoming home ceremony

Where he met Ndalo , everything plays out
exactly how it happened . To the point where
I'm involved

Me : this is the past

I don't even know how I'm able to speak , so
this is all that happened .

The whole thing plays for me like a video
being played , I see and watch every moment
Ndalo spent with Nqaba

Through it all it's a relief to know that he hasn't slept with her nor kissed her , even though she has tried . He's been able to resist her but for how long will he be able to ?

I open my eyes I'm still on the floor , I try to get up I just got dizzy . I close my eyes it goes all white grey like my eyes

I see Mpilontle sleeping with this snake , the very same snake from the dark forest . She's in a hut , and it seems to be a daily thing that she does

The snake feeds on her , by sleeping with her pleasuring it's self . She also feels the pleasure but it's taking a toll on her

I open my eyes and everything goes blank , I shiver from the cold

Voice : what are you doing sleeping on the floor like this ?

Argh ! His arrogant self is here

He picks me up and puts me on the bed , the way I'm so weak I don't even have the strength to question him . He covers me

Lubanzi : another blanket ?

I nod , he puts on another blanket on top of me

Lubanzi : if you're tired of living , this is not the way to kill yourself

I'm not suicidal , how stupid is he mocking me like this ?

I close my eyes and I see Nqaba sleeping with Ndalo , it's like his mind is being controlled . I don't know how I'm able to get into his mind and understand how much he's hating what's happening and how he's regretting everything

He's even crying , this doesn't make sense to me at all it doesn't

Me : Nqaba please stop

Somehow hearing me say that , something snaps in his mind and right there and there he chokes Ndalo to death

I scream my lungs out crying , Within a split second Lubanzi is next to me . And I'm really crying , I sit up straight on the bed

Lubanzi : don't rush it Ngonyama you now have all the answers , take your time

He soothes me , I take a deep breath . And everything I saw comes to mind

Me : it's Mpilontle she's behind all of this .
She's using Ndalo to get to Nqaba to break
us up . And the snake she's using wants
Nqaba's spiritual power

Lubanzi : what else ?

Is there still more ? I try to think but it's blank

Lubanzi : don't think , open your mouth and
talk

Look at me listening to him

Me : Nqaba's gift is good yes but it can also
be used for bad , because of Mkhusele . He's

a snake he can't be turned but his power can be . If Nqaba sleeps with Ndalo he will be possessed and lose himself , and I'm going to leave him . Mpilontle and the snake wins . Ndalo is going to die , the snake is going to use her to pleasure it's self and that is going to kill her

Lubanzi : you're doing good and what else ?

Me : Nqaba , he listened to me when I told him to stop .

Lubanzi : to stop what ?

Me : what he was doing sleeping with Ndalo

Lubanzi : he heard you and listened ?

Me : yes

Lubanzi : Ngonyama you can control minds and this means you can be able to control Nqaba's mind .

He sounds amused by this , and I don't get how I can control minds now . And how is it going to help us

Lubanzi : get up we are leaving

He walks out , and I drag myself off the bed . I don't even know where we are going

Walking out the door I step on one of Kazi's shells , something is strange about it . It's like it's saying something but I don't know what

I pick it up and walk to their room , I look for the other shells . Lubanzi will have to wait

I finally find them and they're in a corner scattered in a way like they were thrown

Me : strange

I put the one in my hand down , I put my hand over them . I get a shock like I'm being electrocuted . I scream a bit that forces me to close my eyes I see Ndalo sleeping with

another man , and that's it . I open my eyes
and I'm lost , I don't understand this at all

Voice : listen Ngonyama

It's that soothing voice of my ancestors from
Ngonyama . I take a deep breath and close
my eyes , a few minutes analysing everything

Me : I know what to do

I get up in a hurry running down , I hope
Omuhle doesn't see me because I always
scold her for doing the exact same thing

Lubanzi : that took your long

He scares me a bit

Me : stop that , and let's go

I'm now leading him , I can't believe I'm the one running to save my marriage after everything I've said . But I can't have Nqaba have more blood again on his hands

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Nqabayomzi

Ndalo called again and said we can meet in town at some hotel , it puzzles me how a whole fucking university student doesn't know

the difference between a motel and a hotel . I
knock at the room , since she's already
booked it . With what money I don't know and
I don't care . Because it's not mine besides I
have none

How the mighty have fallen , a whole me
Nqabayomzi Bangani poor . The opens the
door in just a gown and smelling so cheap

Ndalo : hey handsome

I sure am damn handsome I know

Ndalo : come in I've been waiting

Me : should I be with you in a room alone ?

She laughs seductively , but these things don't work with me . Because my wife doesn't even lure me , I just lust over her and we make love . She never has to work , so I don't know these things

Me : okay move then

I walk inside , she closes the door and locks

Ndalo : I hope you like

I turn and face her she's taking the gown off

and she's naked with nothing covering anything . I suddenly just get pisses seeing her naked body , instead of being aroused

Ndalo : is something wrong ?

I walk close to her in rage , she moves back scared her facial expression says it all

Ndalo : Nqa....Nqaba please don't hurt me

It's not worth it , seeing the fear in her eyes I know I'm going to hurt her .

Mkhuseli : Jola how much blood are you going to spill

I can hear him communicating , I keep walking towards Ndalo she's pinned on the wall now

Mkhuseli : enough

He hisses and it hurts my ears , liquid comes out of one of ears . I touch it and it's blood

Me : fuck

I unlock the door and leave , what the fuck just happened ? Mkhuseli hurt me , how is it possible he hurts one of his own ? These bloody ancestors

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Ndalo

I slide down on the floor and cry , Nqaba just turned into a monster and had his ear not bled he would have hurt me in a bad way . No doubt he was going to kill me

Me : I'm done

Trying to get Nqaba leave his wife is not going to benefit me , what have I gotten so far? Nothing that I've been promised

No money , no luxury life and worse he's still married to his wife . I'm done doing this shit , Mpilontle can do her own dirty work

I get up walk to the bathroom and wash my face , to think I stole Lubabalo's money to book this room . And all for what ? I put my clothes on , grab my bag and walk out . I won't get a refund just because I'm checking out and I booked for the whole night

But it's fine , I'll rather go home and face my deeds . I know Lubabalo will be pissed when he finds out his money is gone , but he's my brother and he'll forgive . Waking into the parking lot , I bump into someone . I've made this a habit

Me : I'm sorry

I lift my eyes and it's a guy , he was smiling

but the second he saw my red eyes his face changed

Him : are you okay ?

He sounds so worried , how cute . He's old okay but early forties

Me : I'm fine

Him : do you need help maybe ?

Poor man must think I'm in trouble

Me : yes , but I doubt you can offer the kind of

help I need

I say with a smile , his face relaxes

Him : oh well , what kind of help do you need?

I move closer to him , hold his left hand he has a ring . I look around just looking for any kind of woman that might be his wife

Me : married huh ?

He chuckles

Him : well

Me : okay then , a married man can't help a lonely single woman like myself . Who is just in need of pleasure and nothing else

He smirks , I let go of his hand and walk past him he grabs my waist

Him : I can help you anyhow you need and want

I smile alone , Nqaba can go fuck himself with his dick . He's not the only man with a dick

Him : and lucky for you the wife is away , so I look at him

Me : let's hurry get us a room because I don't want to wait

He takes my hand into his we walk back inside .

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Ziphosendalo

Today is not my good day , and coming here was clearly a mistake

Mqhele : the nerve to bring another men into our family home

I didn't know they were here or else I wouldn't have come , knowing Nqaba is not around. He's just accused me of dating Lubanzi , just imagine

If I dare do cheat would I be so stupid as to bring my lover to my in-laws ? Hell no

And where was all this righteous talk , when Nqaba was busy courting a girl right here in their family home ?

I am so done with these Bangani brothers , they're such hypocrites

Me : we should leave

Lubanzi : no

That just annoys Mqhele even further , but his problem is with me

Mqhele : Just because you have given yourself the motherly role in their family , doesn't mean it's yours

What is he talking about ?

Mpande : you guys have given her the power, she's raising your kids for you

Oh so it's also about that ? But I'm not raising anyone's child

Omuhle is my child , legally I adopted her . As for Sihle he's soon to be 17 he made his own self choice

Lubanzi : you're fucking incapable parents , that's why she's raising your kids for you

Hearing that Mqhele gets up and he just man handles me , aiming to shove me out of the door . Out of nowhere he's pushes off me he hits down on the floor

Mpande : Nqaba don't you dare lay your fucking hands on Mqhele

When did he get here ? But that's not important . Mqhele just put his hands on me like I'm some rubbish

Nqaba : you don't do that shit , not to my wife you don't

A whole world war II erupts , Mqhele charges for Nqaba and they fight like there's no tomorrow

Mpande wants to carry for Mqhele , Lubanzi just shoves him out the door

Qhawe is left not knowing what to do , and
I'm just left speechless

Watching these two brothers beating the hell
out of each other , Lubanzi sits down and
drinks a beer

Me : do something

Lubanzi : for who ? Usile uMqhele nx

Aibo ! He doesn't care

Qhawe : guys please stop

Mqhele has a shut eye he's bleeding through his nose , Nqaba's lip is busted

I am not getting involved , these two will beat me as well

Me : guys...please stop them they'll kill each other

Lubanzi : that's exactly what they need

This is the worst biggest idiot ever

Me : Lubanzi can you please be serious

Lubanzi : after this , they'll be done forever

No one will stop these two , Mpande is hitting the door outsider cursing and all

I can't open for him because he wants to help Mqhele , Ntsika is not here to carry for Nqaba so I guess we'll just watch this fight

Well Qhawe gets brave enough to get in between his brother's , suffering a fist on the cheek from Nqaba

Qhawe : the fuck ?

He shouts in pain , poor guy . I grab Nqaba's hand he doesn't fight it . He's bruised on his cheek as well , his lip is busted and bleeding

Me : can we just go

Lubanzi opens the door to a Mpande that comes flying in to Nqaba . He pushes me behind him

Lubanzi : try shit and I'll break every single bone in your body boy

He says to Mpande who stops halfway with his fist to Nqaba

Mpande : this is not over

Nqaba : you better believe that

He clicks his tongue and pulls me out , we
leave . With Lubanzi driving

I'm so confused , so Mqhele was going to
shove me out just like that ?

And Nqaba fighting his brother for me , does
this mean he's okay now ? But it can't be not
this easy anyways

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Mpilontle

The bloody whore just had to open her legs to some guy , she doesn't even know .Now the snake is furious , and it can go on a killing spree . I don't need tons of bodies bitten by a snake to be all over this village

That would cause stares and eyes on me , no one is aware I'm here . And I'm planning an escape plan , since I seem to be failing to do what I came here to do

It's best I leave , there's nothing here for me . Ndalo failed , and Nqaba doesn't seem like he'll leave that child wife of his

My phone rings and it's that Ndalo , I answer

Me : what ?

Ndalo : I need to see you

Me : you know where I live

I drop the call , she better come here so she can see just how sick I am

And all this because she just couldn't open her legs for Nqaba , but she was able to do so for another man

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At the Bangani homestead

The brothers have fixed things and cleared the broken things

Qhawe : this is what you have degraded yourself to ?

Mpande : who the fuck does Nqaba think he is ?

Mqhele : he put his hands on me , I'm sure that makes him feel like some kind of a man

You can't miss how angry he is

Qhawe : you put your hands on his wife

Mpande : his fucking wife that's making an idiot out of him ?

Qhawe : do you think MaJola would be that disrespectful ?

Mqhele : Nqaba disappeared for weeks and that boy was always around his wife , and you'll say we are overreacting

Mpande : that wife of his is fucking that royal boy

Qhawelomzi shakes his head , he can hear his brother's are angry . But he also doubts that Ziphozendalo is dating Lubanzi

Mqhele ; whatever shit she fed him is too strong

Qhawe : come on now

Mpande : he was married to Mpilontle for 8 years and not once did he ever lay his hands on any of us

Mqhele : but for her

Qhawe : as if you wouldn't have done the same in his shoes

Mqhele : pick a side boy , because it's about to get fucking ugly

He roars at Qhawelomzi

Qhawe : it's already ugly , incase you're still blind and not seeing . We Bangani brothers are done

It hurts him seeing how much they've broken up and he doesn't see a way forward to mend this anymore

Qhawe : I swear either we are cursed or our parents are haunting us from the graves , for watching you as you burn their bodies to the ground right in this homestead

He walks out , leaving Mqhele wondering if all his brother's blame him for what he did

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Ziphozendalo

He flinches

Me : stay still

Nqaba : it hurts

Me : well that's what you get when you throw punches around

He just stares at me , I finish cleaning his lip

Me : I appreciate you protecting me like that

He says nothing , and I'm just testing waters here . I need to know what's happening with him

Me : but you just lost yourself , with your brother again . And all because of me

Nqaba : are you done ?

He's annoyed

Me : yes

He gets up and puts on his jacket

Nqaba : thanks

He walks out , there's no way that Mpilontle's things are done with Nqaba

But how did he just manage to fight for me like that ? Because Nqaba didn't want anything to do with me as of late ? I'll burst my brain trying to understand all of this .

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Ndalo

The man from the parking lot made sure to make my night . I am telling you , I'm done running after young men , because these older man are so fucking mature in the bedroom

He did things to me , if they talk about old missionary styles . Those that are filled with passion and loving sex . That's what he gave me , moments and memories I'll cherish forever

I get home and my mother is nowhere to be seen , I put my bag in my room

Walking out I bump into Lubabalo , he was coming in my room

Me : hi

He doesn't look happy nor okay .

Me : is...

I don't finish as a hot slap lands on my cheek,
causing me to make contact with the wall

Me : what...

Luba : you steal from me ?

He's slapping me because of his money I
stole ?

Me : I'm sorry , I'll repay it

Luba : uyandiqhela wena (you're getting used to me)

He gives me one hell of a beating , with his hands and not even a belt .

Me : Luba...please stop

It falls on death ears , he beats me until I'm down on the floor .

Luba : I want my money Ndalo all of it , while you're at it pack your shit and get the fuck out of here

My body is hurting , and aching I'm in so much pain . He sure gave it his best

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Nqabayomzi

I slept in one of the spare rooms , I couldn't bare being with my wife on the same bed

Ntsika walks in , I'm alone on the kitchen having coffee . Seeing me he turns right back

I don't blame him , and I know he's still upset with me . And knowing Ntsika it'll be a while before he forgives and let's this whole thing go . And that's if he ever lets it go , it can be a grip that he holds forever

A little while later Sihle walks in he seems to be in a good mood

Sihle : tanci (uncle)

Me : ndoda

Sihle : good to see you

I chuckle nodding

Sihle : with a busted lip and bruised cheek
and all

Me : mmmm

Sihle : anyways mna I'm gone

He grabs an apple

Me : schools are closed

Sihle : not mine , only today

I nod he walks out meeting his aunt at the
door

Sihle : dabs ndimkile (aunt I'm gone)

Zipho : bye

He leaves , she walks in the kitchen

Zipho : morning

I nod

Zipho : you slept well ?

Me : mmmm

I didn't sleep at all

Zipho : anything specific to eat ?

Me : no

Lubanzi comes through the door

Zipho : what did I say about this ?

Lubanzi : what ?

Zipho : don't you know how to knock ?

He sits down opposite me , and pours himself coffee

Nqaba : we need to talk

I say to them both

Lubanzi : are you taking things back ?

Hell no , I think I'm better off this poor and broke

Me : I told you I won't take anything back

He sighs in relief , it may seem questionable but I know he's just looking out for his cousin

Nqaba : what's happening here ?

Zipho : here ?

The way she's asking it's like I'm accusing her of something

Me : I'm not accusing you of anything , I'm asking about this whole Ndalo situation . I'm going out of my mind trying to understand all of this

Zipho : I don't know

Me : we lie to each other now ?

She looks down and sighs

Zipho : would you believe me when I say , your Mpilontle is back . And she's dealing with dark magic , she has a snake that she's using . Actually they both use each other , it sleeps with her in return she gets her revenge on you . By separating us using my so called friend Ndalo , who by the way also slept with the snake so it can possess you and take your powers when she sleeps with you ?

I look at Lubanzi as usual he's cold as ever and his blank expression . I look back at my wife and her face is full of disappointment

Zipho : I thought as much , of course you won't believe me . So why bother

She walks upstairs

Lubanzi : you're suck a dick , I don't like you very much

Me : I'm not gay and neither are you

He laughs

Me : find Mpilontle

Lubanzi : let me kill her , you already have enough blood on your hands mkhuluwa

I remember Mkhusele's words , he's right I

can't kill again

Me : fine , but remove her

Lubanzi : I'll get it done

Mpilontle has always been a problem and now she's worsened , she needs to be removed the same way we have removed every problem

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Ziphozendalo

Nqaba has never annoyed me like he has done today , and you know what ? I've reached my limit

I'm only human and I can only take so much , I am tired

He doesn't seem to want to do anything about all of this , so I'll do it for him

Then he can decide if this family is important to him or not

I check on my kids and they're still asleep , I won't disturb them .

Sihle will be back from school in an hour , I'll leave him with the kids and go do what I need to do

I'm done being played and toyed with , like I have no feelings . Nor do I not hurt

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Insert 53

Nqabayomzi

It's late now and my wife is nowhere to be seen . Since she left earlier on , she didn't say where she was going

And somehow I didn't feel the need to ask where she was going , I felt like I'll be disrespecting her in a way

Sihle : Kazi is grumpy

He's holding her , and she seems to have been crying

Me : MaJola ka tata

She just looks at me and blinks

Sihle : uphi udabs ? (Where is aunt)

I don't know how to answer that

Me : I'll take her

Sihle : her bottle is

Me : I know

He nods and hands me a grumpy sulking
Qhawekazi

She lays her head on my chest , and sucks
her thumb

Me : nton heh ? (what's wrong)

She feels hot , her temperature is too high

I suddenly get this uneasy feeling , I don't know how to shake it off

Me : uphi umamakho ? (Where is your mother)

As if she can answer me , but I'm damn worried right now

My phone rings it's Lubanzi I answer

Me : wh...

Lubanzi : where is your wife ?

He bores me when he starts getting like this with me , especially where my wife is concerned

Me : I don't know

Lubanzi : fuck

He exhales

Me : Xaluva what is it ?

Lubanzi : you better prepare yourself , for the worst unless you're prepared to break the law and do a whole lot of fucking hiding and burying things

He drops the call and I suddenly don't like what he just said

Me : Sihle

I call him , he comes down

Sihle : you called ?

This boy , of course I called

Me : watch the girls

Sihle : oh ?

I hand him Kazi , I would rather be with my baby right now . But her mother needs me more . I grab my keys and run out to my car , driving to Isilo like a maniac

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At the Bangani homestead

Nolitha arrived with Owentando after hearing what happened between the brothers

Nolitha : I can't believe you two fought

She's looking at Mqhele's bruises

Mqhele : he provoked me

Nolitha : that's not what Qhawe said

Mqhele : what does he know ? He's just
confused right now

Mqhele is clearly still upset with his brother
Nqabayomzi

Nolitha : confused about what ?

Mqhele : which side he should take and pick

She looks at him confused

Nolitha : now I'm the one that's confused

Mqhele : Nqaba is no longer a brother of mine, what's fucking confusing you there ?

His tone changes

Nolitha : I'm sorry

She doesn't like that he's decided to cut his brother off , just because of a fight

According to her brothers fight all the time and there's no difference here . As brother's who happen to be orphans they should come together , and not keep this fighting

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Mpilontle

I'm all ready to leave before this damn snake finishes me off in here . It went to feed it's almost noon , and mostly at these times it's not around me . I wish I had feet right now , but I can't use the magic because I'm not about to perform any rituals . I wheel myself to the door and get the shock of my life

Me : you

She pushes me back inside , I have never been so scared more especially of her

Me : what do you want here ? And how did you find me ?

Zipho : you're not all of that you think you are

Her tone is heavy

Me : whatever brings you by , let me go

She nods

Zipho : you just don't give up do you ?

I wheel myself back

Zipho : it was your self , then you involved Lazola now she's dead . And then it was the wives , but that still wasn't enough for you right ?

She walks closer

Me : Zipho stay back

I never thought in a million years that this little girl can harm anyone

But right now she's looking way too damn fierce and fucking dangerous

Zipho : you had to use someone I called a friend , and adored like a sister

Fuck , how does she know ?

Zipho : oh I know everything and you want to join me in knowing ?

Hell no

Me : I want to leave

She laughs

Zipho : you'll leave don't worry , and when you do you won't ever come back ever again

What the hell does that even mean ?

Zipho : this is the last time any woman thinks my marriage is a playground

She looks at her wrist watch

Zipho : your friend is to join us soon , and then we all Nqaba's women can end this .
Right here

I'm fucking screwed , I've never wished for that damn snake to be back so fast like I do right now

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Ndalo

My mother has decided that she won't include herself in my squabble with Lubabalo

That's what she called it , her son beat me up and she disregarded that

It was just a few fucking thousand rands and nothing to cry about

And that Mpilontle asked to see me , I'm so not in her moods . I've given up trying to sleep with Nqaba because I got nothing out of him , and I'm done playing that revenge game of theirs

I knock at the door , she doesn't answer . I hope I don't find her fucking with her snake again

I open the door and get inside , she's by the corner and she doesn't look okay

Me : before you even go any further , I'm done I no longer want to be a part of your schemes and revenge plots . I failed to seduce Nqaba okay time and time again he

refused me , clearly he loves that wife of his .
So there's no breaking them apart . And for
your information now I've found another man
and I'm happy with him , so I'll be living for
Cape town tomorrow

Something is strange , she's not focusing on
me but behind me . I hope it's not that snake
of hers

Me : I hope you heard me , I'll take my leave
now

Voice : that was very nice

Shit

I turn back , the door is locked there's no way out

Me : I.....Zipho I'm...

Why am I suddenly scared because I disrespected her in any way I could

When I was busy fooling myself thinking that her man loves me

Zipho : now that we are all here , we can get started

This is not the same Ziphozendalo that I know, or rather that I knew

Me : sta....

Zipho : sit down

I move closer to Mpilontle who is shot scared
just as I am

Me : what's this ?

Mpilo : shut up

Ziphozendalo takes her heels off , that's not a
good sight at all

Zipho : Lazola did the same thing you did ,

and we all know how that ended right ?

Oh hell no , I am not dying . I've learnt my lesson it's enough

Me : can I just say.....

Zipho : no you can't say , you've said enough

Teas escape her eyes

Zipho : you both just kept hurting me over and over again , now I'll just ask what did I ever do to you both ?

She did me nothing , absolutely nothing . It was just jealousy from me

Zipho : Mpilontle you can say I took your man, but I did not . Nqaba treated me like rubbish a while 3 months as his wife . All because he didn't want to hurt you his beloved wife , and what did I do ? I never retaliated I took it all , because at the end of the day I knew he was yours before he was ever mine . I was okay to live and share him as a second best , you just didn't want the first best position did you ? No you wanted the only position and unfortunately for you that wasn't meant to be

How have we broken her ? This was not

worth it at all

Zipho : and Ndalo what did I ever do to you ?

Me : n...nothing Ziphozendalo I'm so sorry .
Now I see my mistakes I...

Zipho : Mistakes ? Mistakes you say ? Two
times not once but twice , you tried to take
Nqaba away from me and for what ?

I look down my own tears stream down

Zipho : I'll get rid of you two for good , I'm
tired fighting women for a man that's mine

Me : Zipho please...

Mpilo : I'll never and never come back I...

Zipho : yes you both won't ever come back

Is she planning to kill us ? Is she even capable of such ?

The hissing of a snake I look around can it be Mpilontle's snake ? Now Ziphozendalo will find out all our plans

Zipho : I already know everything and unfortunately for you both it's not her snake , but it's the great Mkhuseleli

What the hell , who is that ? And whoever it is sends Mpilontle peeing on herself

Mpilo : not again please , he already took my legs . Wasn't it enough ?

Zipho : I don't know he can decide himself

A huge black snake with a greenish colour slides down the wall

Me : no.....

I cover my mouth with my hand tears streaming down my face , Mpilontle is also crying and Ziphozendalo is calm as ever

Zipho : you know all these Bangani people don't like me , but it's fine because they don't matter . And those who matters the most love me so much , I called and Mkhusele here answered .

The snake comes towards me and Mpilontle , I close my eyes I don't want to watch anything

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Nqabayomzi

Lubanzi : this is the place

I stop the car and don't even park it well , we

run towards the hut

Lubanzi : wait

He says and stops me as we get to the door ,
I feel dizzy and close my eyes for a second

I see Mkhusele biting both Ndalo and
Mpilontle , his Vernon is poisonous yes

But it takes a while before it takes effect , he
has drained them and took all of their strength
and functions . He wasn't even in his thought,
but his mind was being controlled while he
was doing all of this

I open my eyes

Me : impossible

Lubanzi : what ?

Me : she can control minds that's how she got to Mkhuseleli . He didn't make me bleed through the ears she did

He smiles clearly amused , and I am not . I don't need to know that my wife is a psycho , I'm scared of her now

Lubanzi : respect a descendant of Ngonyama

Me : fuck this shit

I open the door and she's sitting on the floor crying , while the two look like their bodies are decomposing

Lubanzi : it stinks in here

All this happened in a just a few hours , how dangerous is my wife ?

Mpilontle and Ndalo are out of it , like they've lost their mind more like their bodies have disabilities

Me : sweetheart

She has her head bowed down , only
because she's crying

Me : this is enough okay , you don't need to
hurt anyone

I feel her emotions , she's hurt that she's had
to resort to such just to get rid of them

As much as Mkhuseleli was being controlled he
was also willing , I don't get how he was
controlled anyways

He's a snake and a protector at that , how did
this happen ? And how can I not be scared of
my wife seeing all of this now

Zipho : this is what pains , hurt and tears bring to one . They change a person no matter how good and sweet one is

Fuck I've hurt my wife , and I've failed her . Not once but many times , I don't deserve this woman .

My ancestors were selfish to have chosen such a soul , for a man like myself who has failed her countless times

Voice : don't have blood in your hands , let me finish this for you . Remember I told you that I'll kill and avenge on whoever hurts you? Now I've come to deliver on that , so my soul can rest as well

I lift my eyes and it's Mvelo , he's looking at my wife . He's right behind Mpilontle and Ndalo . Seeing how much he loved and still loves my wife , I don't know how to feel .

But somehow a part of me is happy that Mvelo is dead because I swear I was going to end up killing him for this shit

Lubanzi : your brother is a ghost lover

He says laughing , which just annoys me . This is not funny . Within a snap he snaps both Ndalo and Mpilontle's necks , and they're done for

Lubanzi : I hate it when people get to take victory over killing , and I have no hand in that

This is another blood thirsty psycho

Me : Mvelo can you do me a favour , go fucking rest whether in peace or what dear brother I don't fucking give a damn . But leave my wife the fucking alone okay , find another ghost to love or crush

Lubanzi : ukhweletela ispoki ? (You're jealous of a ghost)

I won't listen to this nonsense , I pick my wife from the floor

Walking out the door there's a huge black snake dead by the door

Lubanzi : ubuqhrwirha (witchcraft)

He shakes his head , I take my wife to the car and go back to Lubanzi

Me : what are we going to do about all this ?

Lubanzi : relax she didn't kill anyone herself which is what we feared . I'll clean this up don't worry yourself about it

Me : enkosi bawo (thank you little brother)

He nods taking out his phone , probably to call his guys or men as he calls them

I head to the car , and my wife is curled up on the back seat . Seeing her like this is really a wake up call for her , it's time I start doing right by this woman

I get in the drivers seat and drive off to PE , I wish I can sit with her at the back but that can't be

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Insert 54

At the Bangani homestead

Owentando walks outside and find his mother sitting on the shade

The others are coming today because it's holidays and the kids are not at school

Owe : ma

Nolitha is hard in thought , she can see Owentando and hear him but her mind is wandering around

Owe : ma

He calls her again , she sighs and looks at him

Nolitha : I heard Owe

Owe : but you were quite nje

Nolitha : I just have a lot in my mind

Owe : oh okay , I need to go to PE

Nolitha : can we not provoke your father with that

Owe : but ma.....

Nolitha : no buts , Owentando

Owe : so just because he fight with tanci I'm not supposed to go there ?

He asks his mother who ignore him

Owe : wow , well I am going he can fight me as well if he likes

Nolitha : don't...

He walks away from his mother , Nolitha sinks back to her hair and just cries

Nolitha : how did we all get here ?

She doesn't like what's happening between the brothers at all . There's no way that Mqhele's beef with Nqaba won't affect everyone

And it clearly seems like now everyone has to choose , which brother's they go with

For once Nolitha is bothered by her husband's impulsive behaviour and decisions

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Nqabayomzi

I don't know which one has made me more happy . The fact that my sanity is back and I'm back home with my family right where I belong

Or the fact that my wife once again showed me just why she's my ancestors chosen wife. I'm one blessed man who just failed to always count his blessings

But now I will fix all of that , starting by doing right by her . Last night she couldn't stop crying , she felt guilty because of what happened

Even though she really did nothing in my eyes , and I was scared

I was scared that we would get there and find her in a compromising manner . And I'd have to cover up her doing , because no way in hell I was going to be a lawyer where my wife is concerned

If she had really killed those two herself , I was going to hide the whole thing . The mother of my kids , wouldn't go to jail for taking care of her family

That's why Lubanzi said I needed to be prepared to cover up a whole lot , and be willing to break the law . She let me in bed yesterday , although she didn't say much . But I at least got to hold her the whole night

She was finally able to get some sleep , and I left her to go into my praying room . I do feel like my ancestors failed me here , but somehow I'm thankful they didn't fail my wife

After praying and talking to them , I made breakfast for her . And unlike her I actually can cook . It's all done now I just need to go serve her , but I need to take care of something first

I grab my phone and call Lubanzi , it rings for a while before he answers

Female voice : but babe...

Lubanzi : fuck off

I lack timing , calling the man while he's giving and now the girl is whining

Lubanzi : mkhuluwa (big brother)

Me : I'll be short

He laughs

Lubanzi : ndoda ufuna nton? (mna what do you want)

Me : I need Ndlovukazi's number

Lubanzi : what do you want ?

Me : I just told you

Lubanzi : don't play that lawyer mind shit with me , what do you want from Ndlovukazi ?

Me : it's about my wife something that has nothing to do with you

Lubanzi : she's family , so I think it concerns me very well

Me : you don't even know what she is of yours

Lubanzi : yeah but still

Me : I'm not doing this with you , send those numbers today . And better yet now before you go back to your girlfriend

He laughs

Lubanzi : I picked a stray I'll get rid of her right now

He drops the call I put my phone away and take my wife's breakfast to our room

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Ziphozendalo

Nqaba : sweetheart vuka (wake up)

I don't want to wake up , he's been trying to wake me up for a while now

Nqaba : sixabene ? (Are we fighting)

I shake my head that time it's covered with sheets

Nqaba : vuka ke (wake up then)

How am I going to live with what I did ? And I

was of sane mind and thought . How could I be so stupid and careless ? I didn't even think or consider anyone at that time

Me : am I going to jail ?

Nqaba : what why ?

He pulls the sheets off my face

Nqaba : why would you ask me that ? And why would you go to jail ?

Me : Jola you saw what I did I....

Nqaba : I saw nothing

Now I'm lost

Nqaba : sit up I made you breakfast

Food is the last thing on my mind right now

Nqaba : can you not worry yourself about that? It's done and it's over

Me : but those bodies , how will they be explained and...

Nqaba : there can't be any explanations without bodies , please lets stop talking about this

I should have known with his thug friend
Lubanzi , they'll get rid of these bodies

Nqaba : when last did you have your periods?

Isn't it too early for such questions ?

Me : don't start with me for two months my
husband was away

He frowns

Nqaba : so you're still getting your cycle ?

Me : I don't know Jola

And I really don't know

Nqaba : we should get you checked up

Me : for what and why ?

Nqaba : I wanted to leave you pregnant

My ears are not death

Nqaba : I didn't know how long what was going on was going to take , and I just wanted you to have something of mine that will always remind you...

Me : I have someone of you Jola aibo

Nqaba : Xolo now that I think about it I see ba
okay I overdid it

Me : you pray and hope I'm not pregnant

Nqaba : but...

Me : I thought you weren't running an
orphanage

He pops his eyes , I can't hold the laugh in

Nqaba : that's not nice

Me : and you think it was nice when you said it to me ? Twice

He puts the tray of food on the bed , that's his way to shut me up

Me : thank you

He nods , I feel just how heavy he is . He's a broken man living with so much regret over everything that he did

It actually saddens me . I take his hand into mine , we lock eyes

Me : it's okay we are okay .

I'm not about to lose my husband to guilt and regret that he feels

We might say we won , but right now reading his thoughts and feelings everything he's feeling . Mpilontle managed to get to him , and if this continues he won't live with himself

I refuse to lose him , I didn't fight this much just so he can leave us and never come back

Nqaba : I'm tired of saying sorry to you over and over again , as if it doesn't mean nor carry anything

Me : you have nothing to be sorry about ,
listen to me you did you part ...

Nqaba : I failed you

He tried to fight , can I not at least commend
him for it ? I think I can

Me : Jola right now I need you to understand
that you're a father before you're a husband

My kids need their father , and maybe so
more than I need him

Nqaba : I made a promise and said I'll never do that to you , I said anything but that

Me : you weren't willing

He gets up from the bed and walks towards the window , it's like I'm talking alone

He's not hearing me instead he's beating himself up about this

I get up and walk to him , I'm wearing just his t-shirt and it's a bit chilly .

I snuggle myself behind him , hug him from the back lay my hands on his stomach

That evokes some feelings and I just feel like
I need his touch right now

Me : I missed you

I trail my hands down to his short , it's sweat
shorts they stretch . I put my hands inside
and his dick is throbbing

Me : you can endure pain

I touch it a bit , he groans Slightly . I know it's
painful right now

Nqaba : sies marn you're going to use those
hands to eat

I laugh , he's trying to get me to leave him . I
tease his tip with the pre-cum on it

He keeps groaning , I slide his shorts down

Nqaba : sweetheart...

Me : I refuse to live without you , I went to
lengths to protect what's mine . And if I must
I'll protect you from yourself

His shorts are done , I give him a hand job .

Cross my legs to suppress the feeling
between my thighs . Within a second he turns
and picks me up , I wrap my legs on his waist.

We lock eyes . I feel his tip entering me and it's been a while , his whole length goes in I whimper in pleasure

Nqaba : look at me

He's thrusting in slowly , I force my eyes open to look at him

Nqaba : ndiyak'thanda (I love you)

I don't doubt that , even after everything

Me : ndiyak'thanda nam (I love you too)

As if I was saying he can do as he pleases now , he picks his pace thrusting in . I close my eyes throw my head back , my hands clinging tight on his back his hands grabbing on my ass . I let the pleasure in to take place as my husband makes love to me , like only how he does and knows

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At the Bangani homestead

Mqhele walks in the lounge fuming and he charges to Owentando with a punch that knocks him over the couch , causing the wives to scream and Nolitha running to see her son

Qhawe : and then ?

Mqhele tries to get to Owentando but Mpande is quick to stop him

Mpande : what the hell ?

Nolitha : Mqhele what is this ?

Owentando is bleeding through his nose , his mother helps him up

Mqhele : what is this nonsense you're doing sleeping with other men ?

The room goes quite but Nolitha doesn't let go of her son

Mqhele : a whole fucking gay , my own son ?

He's so angry , they've never seen him like this

Mpande : calm down , we can't talk about this when you're like this

He's shocked by what his brother has just said but he doesn't want him to hurt his own son

Mqhele : I will beat that shit out of you

Nolitha : you're not laying your hands on my son again Mqhele , I swear that would be me walking out and leaving you

Mqhele : you're a fucking woman Nolitha you're not irreplaceable

That hits hard , Nolitha feels it . So he doesn't even mind to lose her

Nolitha : okay

She says dragging Owentando , but as they pass past Mqhele he manages to get off Mpande . And he beats Owentando , hitting

Nolitha in the process of trying to protect her son

Both Qhawe and Mpande grab their brother , Owentando and his mother walk out to her car . They drive out with no one knowing where they're going

Inside the house Amahle and Lihle are shocked beyond words , yes it's hard for some parents to accept their children sexuality but to beat them that's a bit extreme

The two wives think to themselves

Mpande : I swear something is wrong with you

Qhawe : just days ago you were saying Nqaba is what , and today here you are worse than he is

Mqhele : don't fucking dare compare me to him

Mpande : what do you call what you just did to your own damn son ?

Mqhele : I have no son who sleeps with other men

Qhawe : I don't understand this , how did you ever find out because clearly he did not tell you

Mqhele goes to sit down his brother's follow him

Mpande : you went snooping into his room didn't you ?

Mqhele : it's not called snooping when you're a father

Qhawe : well then fucking father you got what you wanted

Mqhele : I'll be damned to accept that nonsense

Mpande : then be damned to lose your wife

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Ziphozendalo

I feel so much better and it has nothing to do with the sex , but just having my family back. I've just showered Nqaba is sitting on the bed reading whatever on my phone . A slightly thud comes at the door , I smile he laughs

Nqaba : it's her ?

I nod , he gets up to open the door with a such a smile

Me : be careful she might be leaning on it , if you open to fast she'll fall

Nqaba : okay

I watch him as he opens the door making sure it's not too quick , he laughs

Nqaba : she doesn't even wait

She crawls in and laughs seeing her dad , she used his legs to balance herself standing up

Me : now that he's back I don't matter anymore hah

He picks her up , and kiss her cheeks does
she try and kiss him back it's just too cute .
Warms my heart

Nqaba : xelela umamakho ba niyandisherisha
sana (tell your mother that you share me
baby)

Kazi : ta ta (daddy)

No , like now I am going to cry . She cannot
do this to me again , it was worse that she
came out looking like him

And now she's going to say him first , how
come heh ? The sight of Nqaba has
happiness all over himself , I sit down on the
bed I am so sad

Nqaba : MaJola omncane (little MaJola)

She giggles looking at her dad , right she loves taking my spots even my name

Kazi : ta ta (daddy)

Me : ah not again

Good people I am not happy at all , this child is a traitor

That “ta ta” sounds like she’s saying goodbye but you can hear she’s saying daddy

My phone rings and it's my own Ndlovukazi , I answer to spare myself more pain

Me : Ma

Ndlovukazi : why are sulking ?

Me : this little creature ka Nqaba who just called him daddy

She laughs

Me : I don't understand , babies say mama before they say anything else

Ndlovukazi : ah that one is her father's daughter

Me : yhoh akase wrongo uQhawekazi (she's so wrong)

Ndlovukazi : Xolo vha (I'm sorry)

Me : I won't heal anytime soon from this

Ndlovukazi : well maybe this will help you

She sounds so excited and happy now I can't wait what's going on maybe she's coming to visit , that would be so amazing

Ndlovukazi : we received a letter this morning, asking for your hand in marriage

Okay I'm lost now like very lost

Me : but I'm married and what letter is that like where did it come from ?

Ndlovukazi : from the Bangani elders in Eastern Cape

What elders ? Oh wait she said oBangani , so they're family that's a relief but still doesn't make sense to me because I am married

Ndlovukazi : will it be okay for you for us to accept their letter for this coming weekend

Me : wait , how can they ask for my hand in marriage when I'm already married

Ndlovukazi : remember how things were done for you ?

How can I forget

Me : yes

Ndlovukazi : your husband wants to do right by you , and as a descendant of a fallen Queen of Ngonyama your home is here . So

he's well within his rights to come and pay here

Wait so this husband of mine wants to pay lobola for me again ?

Ndlovukazi : if all goes well we will have the gifting ceremony right on the day . Then they can take you as their wife

I don't know what to say , I stare at him and he's not even looking at me . He's taken my his daughter

Me : okay I'll come home

Ndlovukazi : so we can accept and reply the letter ?

Me : yes

Ndlovukazi : Zendalo will bless us all

How I wish I knew my mother , the way the queen speaks so fond of her . She sounds like she was an amazing person

We talk for a while about nothing serious and hang up but my phone rings before I even put it down

It's Amahle , I don't have her numbers but True caller says so , I answer

Me : hello

Amahle : MaJola when is my husband coming home ?

Aibo , why is she asking me that ?

Me : did you

Amahle : I'm asking you since you've been harbouring him in your house , wasn't it enough you took my son as well ?

Tables are being turned I'm telling you

Me : first of all I may be Ntsika's friend but I'm not his keeper

Amahle : wena you're capable of killing a person nxn (you) . Your husband is back home you can return mine now , he kept you company for far too long . Your sheets aren't cold anymore

She drops the call I'm left shocked , like she just said Ntsika was here keeping my sheets warm .

Me : what is wrong with these people ?
Only now Nqaba looks at me , and he's worried

Nqaba : what's wrong ?

Me : not your sister in-law saying Ntsika was keeping my sheets warm , and now she wants her husband from me

I won't even lie because I'm not doing this with his family again , I'm done with those people

A knock comes at the door before he can even say anything

Sihle : dabs (aunt)

He shouts from the door outside

Me : yes

Sihle : kukho abantu apha for wena (there's people here for you)

Sihle is a whole depression what kind of talk is this one now

Me : bani ? (who)

I hope it's not Lubanzi yhoh

Sihle : uhm

He goes quite

Me : Sihle

I shout a bit not too loud , Kazi looks around looking for her Sihle but he's nowhere to be found so cute

Sihle : ah ngu Owentando kanye no dabawo
(it's Owentando and aunt)

Me : which aunt Sihle ?

I call his name just to tease Kazi

Nqaba : stop doing that

I laugh

Sihle : umama ka Owe (Owentando's mother)

Nolitha in my house , wonders never cease to amaze

Me : ndiyeza (I'm coming)

I wait until I hear he's gone

Me : ndidikwe I'family yakho mna Jola (I'm so tired of your family)

I put on slippers and walk downstairs , what welcomes me is very much displeasing

Nqaba : what happened ?

So he followed me ? Sihle gets up quick and takes Kazi from Nqaba he goes upstairs with her

Nolitha : Mqhele

Yhuuu that man is going to be the death of us all , how in the hell does he get to beat his wife and child ?

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Insert 55

Ziphozendalo

I'm not doing this again , I'm not getting involved in the Bangani issues again . More especially that involves the brothers and their families or wives . Since now they're even demanding their husband's from me

Nqaba : where is he now ?

Me : why are you asking ?

He's angry , and if he wants to go and fight Mqhele again I'm staying out of it

Nolitha : he's home if he didn't follow us back

I doubt , not Mqhele he'll not and never follow anyone

Nqaba : I'll be back

Me : hayhiii (no)

I'm not living here with a terminator of a husband

Nqaba : hayhiii ? (No)

Me : uhm lets....

The door bell rings I go open and it's the whole of Bangani homestead within Mqhele

Mpande : MaJola

Hehayke , I make way for them they get in

Qhawe : sorry to come unannounced

They're not sorry , they love doing this .

Rocking up at my house

I pull Nqaba to the kitchen

Me : deal with this , as for me I'm packing my bags and taking my kids . We are going to Ngonyama first thing in the morning

Nqaba : what ?

Me : don't what me , I'm not doing this with your family . When things go sour everyone comes to MaJola , but when all is well MaJola is rubbish . They're using my house like it's a refugee camp

He pops his eyes

Me : ndiyahamba mna (I'm leaving)

Not so long ago Nolitha was so against me ,
today she comes to my house hayhiii .

I have no problem with the kids at all but as
these adults I'm done with the whole lot of
them

Me : and when they leave make sure to tell
Amahle to take her husband with , I'm done
taking accusations from your family . First it
was Mqhele with Lubanzi and now it's her
with Ntsika ah

I turn to walk out and Amahle is standing at
the door

Amahle : Sisi I...

Me : I don't wanna hear it

I walk upstairs and Nqaba follows me

Nqaba : manje you're taking the kids with ?

Me : you don't think I'm leaving them now

Nqaba : but...

Me : no but , go deal with your family drama

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Nqabayomzi

My wife is still upstairs , we haven't talked about her leaving . But I know why she's leaving and I'm happy that she's welcoming the whole idea of us no getting married traditionally

So she can be welcomed and introduced to the ancestors , by the elders the right way

We are all downstairs , in the lounge
Owe : I know you all have questions

Poor boy

Owe : I.....

Me : you don't need to explain yourself to anyone

I can't put him through all of that , my wife would kill me . I still remember her words very well

That she doesn't want any of our kids to feel nor see the need to explain their sexuality to us

Owentando is my nephew that makes him my child , so he's fine with his gay self

It doesn't change that he's our son

Mpande : this is messed up

Me : you again ?

Mpande : Nqaba I'm not fighting you

I shake my head , this is what pisses my wife

Mpande : I'm sorry okay

Me : you're sorry now , because you realised your brother is.....

My heart beats so fast and a piercing pain hits

Qhawe : what's wrong?

My wife comes down running the stairs

Zipho : you need to go home now

One look at her I know shit is going down

Mpande : why ?

I grab my car keys , the pain eases I rush out
I don't even know who is following me

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At the Bangani homestead

When everyone left following Nolitha and Owentando , Mqhele found comfort in booze

The kids are with their nanny's . He is stumbling he can't even walk properly

He walks to what used to be Xhanti's hut , he sits down

Mqhele : you two were so fucking messed up, and you made us all your replicas . You put on such a great and perfect family picture , while on the inside it was fucking rotten . Look how we all turned out huh , we fucking throw punches and fists at each other at every turn

and chance we find . You my father gave me the responsibility to be a leader in this family , but never taught me shit . I thought that gave me the right to boss them around and they'll listen and obey to my command . But I was wrong and you two were also wrong , you were wrong to raise us in a web of lies . Giving me responsibilities while you were still alive , you watched me mess everyone up even the wives we married . I tried , I really tried to make peace with my brother's and bring this family together . But I failed miserably I can't anymore , it's always one thing after another . Now I have a son who is gay , how am I supposed to love a son that loves and fucks other man ? This is nonsense, I'm sorry but I can't accept what Owentando is . And if that means my wife leaving me , I won't live with that . And maybe

just maybe this whole family is better off without me , the very same way it has become better off without you two . We have ruined and hurt these kids , living doesn't deserve us . We are to leave everyone and let them live their lives as they please .

Tears are streaming down his face , he downs the bottle of beer in his hand and throws it down

Mqhele : I failed as a husband , a brother and a father . But one damn thing I made sure never and not to fail at was being your son . That's why I'll join you right in hell

He draws his gun out , and wipes his tears

Me : I'll die out like the fucking coward of a son you made me , masked with arrogance .

With one shot gun at the forehead , his body drops to the floor

Nqaba parks his car running out with his brother's . They see him running where Xhanti's hut was , they follow him

Nqaba : Mqhele

He calls him out , but his brother's dead body welcomes him

Mpande : no

He goes down on his knees crying .
Qhawelomzi puts his hands on his head tears
escape his eyes . Nqabayomzi crouches
down next to his brother , he takes the gun
puts it on his waist.

He closes his brother's eyes , and picks him
up in his hands . He walks to the hut that no
one uses he lays him down on the bed

Qhawe : how could he ?

Nqaba : until it happens to you don't judge
and throw accusations

Qhawelomzi shakes his head

Qhawe : he was just fucking selfish

Nqaba : you don't understand , Mqhele was carrying a lot . And we didn't make anything better with our fights

Qhawe : he killed himself because his son is gay , don't even try to defend him

Nqaba : I'm not doing this shit with you

He walks out to his hut , leaving Qhawe alone with Mqhele's corpse

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Ziphozendalo

Every time something goes wrong my baby will always sulk . Its like she feels it , it's almost midnight now and she's wide awake. My phone rings and it's my husband , I answer

Me : Jola

Nqaba : give her some of the water from my praying room

So he knows his daughter is not sleeping

Me : okay

He sighs and I feel everything he's going through right now

Me : he's gone

Nqaba : I arrived late

Me : and you're not going to blame yourself , maybe you weren't meant to save him

He goes quite for a while

Nqaba : I won't come home sweetheart

Me : I understand

Nqaba : please don't leave tomorrow until I
come see you

Me : the negotiations will have to be put on
hold , your brother just passed away

Nqaba : no , we are not putting anything on
hold . I'll come in the morning to bid you
goodbye

Me : Jola

Nqaba : MaJola you will leave or I'll get
Lubanzi to take you home

This is crazy

Me : no , not Lubanzi . I know my way to Ngonyama

He laughs , I don't want Lubanzi anywhere near me . Especially now that he's given me a break even about the whole business thing

Nqaba : I love you all my girls

Me : we love you too

Nqaba : let me talk to her

I put the phone and Qhawekazi's ear . Her father talks with her I don't even hear what he's saying

But she's clearly hearing , and she keeps responding not making sense

Kazi : ta ta (daddy)

She pushes the phone off , Nqaba has dropped the call .

Me : okay let me get you your water hopefully you sleep

I'm not telling anyone anything , the brothers will break the news to their wives tomorrow. I'm just surprised Nqaba still wants to go ahead with the lobola negotiations

They have a funeral to plan and yena he wants to go marry his wife . I've never heard of this

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Nqabayomzi

Mpande was up the whole night , the death of Mqhele hit him hard . Understandably so ,

because they were so very much close to each other

Qhawe : mkhuluwa (big brother)

Me : ndoda

He sits opposite me , and for once he's sober and not dealing with his grief by alcohol

Qhawe : this is enough

I look at him

Qhawe : first it was Mvelo , then mom and dad . Lazola and now Mqhele , who will be

next ? And all these blood so much death all caused by the hand of a Bangani

I remember my wife's words when we were at Ngonyama , she said the most exact same thing

That so much blood spilled , so much death at the Bangani . And now all of that has come to pass

Qhawe : please , we can't bury any more of our own , unless God decides so

I nod

Qhawe : Mpande is hot headed like Mqhele was if not worse , all I'm asking as your little brother is that please step up and bring us back together again .

Me : Q

Qhawe : no please , unite us again . Make us what we used to be . How many times will we keep apologizing yet keep taking steps back?

Shit we are messed up

Qhawe : it's a lot to ask but I don't see anyone doing it besides you

Mpande : the coroner is here

He says coming in and sitting down next to Qhawe

Seems like no one will be showing the people where to go . I get up and find them at the door , I lead them to the room roundavel where he is

Me : no like we said , he shot himself . We got here it was too late he was laying out there in his own blood , as per the law we know we shouldn't have moved him . We should have called the doctor and police we know , but it was of no point . He was already gone we don't need the details of his death out there

for anyone to know about , so I'd really appreciate it if this can just be kept to yourselves

They all nod and assure me

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Ziphozendalo

I'm eating breakfast with Owentando and Sihle , my house is still full of these Bangani's

And having to not say anything about Mqhele being dead , it's hard work

Nolitha walks in and the mood changes , from
Owentando . I feel for the poor child

This is why I'll never make my kids feel this
way ever , and if anyone dares try they'll have
a big problem with me

Nolitha : good morning

Sihle : morning dabawo (aunt)

Sihle never ceases to amaze me

Me : morning

Nolitha : Owe can we talk ?

He doesn't even look at her

Me : Sihle let's go check on the girls

We get up

Nolitha : please MaJola stay

Hah mna futhi ? (Me again)

Me : it's okay , we'll give you space

Owe : dabs please stay

Shame , my poor baby . See me sitting down
only because of him

Sihle : I'll go

He leaves us , Nolitha sits down

Nolitha : I am so sorry baby

Being a mother my good people , you'll call a
17 year old boy baby . It's so sweet

Nolitha : I should have defended you and
stood up for you . I am so sorry

She tears up and I don't understand why
she's blaming herself . Because as we speak
she has a black eye all thanks to Mqhele ,

and she got it because she was defending her son

Nolitha : gay or not you're my son , and I love you so much . Nothing is ever going to change my love for you , I carried you for 9 months and only I know the bond I built with you . And its not a bond that can be broken because you're going to being me a son in-law instead of a daughter in-law . Baby it doesn't matter to me as long as you're happy, then I am happy . As your mother I can never be ashamed to have a gay son never , so I don't want you to even think for a second that I don't approve or support you okay

Now we are all in tears , oh bawo this is so beautiful .

Me : sexuality is sexuality and one good thing about it it's that it's not contagious

Owentando laughs

Owe : kodwa dabs (but aunt)

Me : your mother spoke so beautiful I couldn't shut up

We all laugh

Nolitha : you're my baby still , being gay doesn't define you .

Owe : thank you so much ma , and for the record I'm not gay . Well like gay , gay I'm bisexual

Me : you still prefer men more than woman

Owe : dabs (aunt)

Me : xolo wethu (sorry bruh)

Nolitha : you knew ?

Oh , I'm never out of things am I ?

Me : yes

Owe : I....when I stayed behind and came here , it was to talk to dabs . I just wanted someone I could talk to , and there was no one better at that time to talk to who could be easily approached

I don't need drama not today

Nolitha : it's okay , I understand . We have become such strict parents even our children can't talk to us

At least I'm not blamed , or she's just pretending not to act out in front of her son. Either way , I'm just glad she's not lashing out on me right now

The door opens the Nqaba walks in with Mpande and Qhawe . Did they have to come through the kitchen door ? And they look so bad , only my man is better and it's not a lie sham

Mpande : molweni (good morning)

We greet back they sit down

Nqaba : why were you crying ?

He's looking at me , and then I remember I was crying just now .

Me : Sisi Nolitha was just having a talk with Owentando , it got me crying

He looks at me like he doesn't believe me

Me : really Jola

He shakes his head

Nqaba : Owentando go call your uncle and aunts along with Sihle

Owentando goes upstairs to call them . I feel like I should excuse myself but I know Nqaba won't like it

After a while they come down and everyone sits down , we exchange greetings

I never knew my kitchen was this big until right this moment

Nqaba : we left in such a hurry last night , after MaJola said we should go home

Ntsika : what's wrong ?

Nqaba : it's....it's Mqhele

Nolitha : bhuti is he okay ?

She asks concerned like any other wife would be

Nqaba : Mqhele has passed on , he shot himself . Right where Xhanti's hut was , we arrived too late Sisi I'm sorry

I can't even look at anyone because the look on Nolitha alone is enough to break anyone

Owentando gets up and Sihle follows him , I hope he can comfort his brother

Lihle : Nolitha I'm so sorry

Poor Nolitha is a crying mess I can't stand this . I get up and walk to our room closing the door someone opens it , it's Nqaba

Nqaba : come here

I wail on my husband's chest as he engulfs me in his arms , I cry until I feel drained

We sit on the bed and he makes me sit on top of him

Nqaba : don't ever cry like that , you'll get sick

Me : I hate your brother even in his death he's hurting this family , how can he take the cowards way out ?

Nqaba : sweetheart

Me : no , Mqhele was wrong all he needed was to apologize to his wife and child . And talk to them , all this would have been fixed . He didn't need to take his own life

I'm so angry

Nqaba : I'm sorry , okay I'm sorry

Me : no it's not okay , Mqhele is the one who needs to be sorry

Nqaba : alright

We stay in silence for a bit

Nqaba : what time are you leaving ?

Me : Jola I don't think...

Nqaba : my uncle's are ready okay and this whole thing is not stopping anything

He's crazy this one

Nqaba : on Friday I'll be coming to Ngonyama, Saturday we are getting married

Me : when is the funeral ?

Nqaba : sometime next week

Yhoh now I've heard it all , I thought they'll bury him on weekend

Nqaba : let me go see my girls before you leave

Me : come with Kazi so she can eat

I touch my boobs he laughs

Nqaba : so we are ignoring what I asked ?

Nqaba must not start with me hayhiii

Me : Jola my child is only 6 months I can't be pregnant

He walks out . Clearly he thinks I'm pregnant and I'm the crazy one who thinks I'm not

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At the Bangani homestead

The Bangani brothers have arrived with their wives , except Nqaba who has taken his wife and kids to the airport

Amahle : I'll prepare the room downstairs where we'll light the candles

Lihle : the mattress is already in there

Nolitha can't believe that her husband is gone and their last conversation wasn't that pleasant

Now there's no chance to fix things and be okay he's gone

Lihle and Amahle fix the room for her so she can sit in . The brothers are busy making arrangements and calling other family members . Owentando is outside with Sihle , leaving PE they came here already

Owe : he's gone

Sihle : boy I'm sorry

Owe : do you think it's my fault ?

Sihle : what no... why ?

Owe : he couldn't deal with having a guy son
so he thought it best kill himself

Sihle : boy don't do this , don't blame yourself
like this

Owentando wipes his tears

Owe : he hated me that much

Sihle : we are your family , and we love you

He sighs and throws a stone on the far side of the homestead

Owe : I just wish dabs was here

Sihle : yeah I know , only she would know how to make you feel better . Maybe we should call her later

Owe : yeah

Sihle puts his hands on his cousins shoulder

Owe : how is my mother going to cope with all of this ?

Sihle : she's going to be fine , the other aunts are there

Owentando laughs at how Sihle says the other aunts

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Ziphozendalo

I slept like a baby , being in Ngonyama always soothes me . My girls are somewhere I've even forgotten that I'm a mother , the

prince's of this Kingdom have taken my babies

I spoke to Nqaba last night and this morning , he's also having it hard but my husband is trying . The boys also called me this morning and I felt so happy , knowing that even when I'm so far they still know I'll always be available for them

Ndlovukazi : are you happy ?

We are taking a walk around the kingdom

Me : about ?

She laughs

Ndlovukazi : the fact that your husband is finally acknowledging you as his wife

We are married legally yes bit traditionally not really , the only thing that acknowledges me as his wife and a Bangani wife is the fact that his ancestors accepted me as one of their own

Ndlovukazi : but ?

Me : his brother just passed on , I don't understand how we are getting married and celebrating at such a time

Ndlovukazi : Bangani has finally realised where his priorities lies . And that's what he's doing right now . He's just doing what he should have done a long time ago , it's way long overdue

Me : won't his family fault me in this ?

Voice : they probably will , after all you're the only sane Bangani I know

Aibo , when did he get here ? We look at him

Lubanzi : Ndlovukazi

Ndlovukazi : Nkosana yami (my prince)

She says with such a smile

Lubanzi : Zendalo

Should he even address me with my mother's name ?

Me : Lubanzi

He joins us on our walk

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Nqabayomzi

The death of Mqhele has spread throughout the whole village

And people have come in numbers to support us . I just hate the pity they give us

We have also told the younger kids , it's not like we can lie to them forever

I'm with my brother's and their wives in the room where Nolitha is sitting on the mattress

Me : I will be leaving for Ngonyama later on

They all know I'm marrying my wife tomorrow

I might seem inconsiderate about this , but Mqhele decided to kill himself when he knew very well I had already sent a letter

I will not put my plans on hold just because he decided he's done living

Mpande : alone ?

Nqaba : the uncle's and aunts have already left , I'll meet them there already

Ntsika : I'm not staying behind

Ntsikayesizwe is an idiot and so I will not argue with him , because at the end of the

day he's going to do what he wants either way

Qhawe : I'll come with

Me : you're needed here

Nolitha : bhuti it's okay

We look at her

Nolitha : I mean anyone who wants to go is welcome to go , there's nothing to do here . And besides I have my family around . We are welcoming our Bangani wife , so the Bangani's need to be there supporting you

and welcoming her . If I wasn't sitting on the mattress I would go as well

Amahle : Sisi that's big of you

Lihle : we will go to welcome MaJola on your behalf

I wonder what they ate or what side of the bed they woke up on today

Mpande : as the elder brother I can't stay behind

Not him too

Me : Mpande.....

Mpande : I'll be there negotiating for us to get our wife back

Heh , now I've heard it all

Nqaba : Nolitha can't stay alone here

Nolitha : it's okay bhuti , it's just today .
Tomorrow you're all coming . And the whole Bangani family will be together . This is the elder Bangani wife we needed from Nolitha all these years , where has she been ?

Amahle : I will go pack

She gets up and Lihle follows her , I wonder how my wife is going to react towards this

She wasn't happy that I'm going ahead with this already , and now everyone is heading down there

Me : Nolitha you are a part of this family and I must thank you , for being the bigger person in all of this

Nolitha : I'm sad bhuti , that it took so many deaths in our family for all of us to grow up

She's right about that , somehow we are all responsible for this mess that is happening and that has happened .

Me : We need to stop not for our sake but for the sake of our kids and the next generation of oBangani

Mqhele killing himself is an eye opener for us all

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Ziphozendalo

oBangani have arrived and the second Omuhle heard his father is here she ditched everyone and went to him

Ndlovukazi : you're so beautiful a true definition of a Ngonyama descendant

Heh this woman , has a way with words and making one feel so special . Without even trying

She's helping me dress , they finally let the Bangani family in . After leaving the poor people at the gate for hours and hours . I'm getting dressed in Ngonyama royal attire , I hella feel royal today

And she made sure to tell me that I'm a Ngonyama princess and not a half blue blood

Me : I wish Bhelekazi was here

Ndlovukazi : ithongo lakho (she's your guardian angel)

She sure is , that woman was always there for me

Ndlovukazi : there

She stands next to me , I'm standing in front of the full body mirror

Ndlovukazi : Zendalo is a proud Ngonyama fallen Queen today

How I wish I knew that woman and met her

Ndlovukazi : don't cry you're going to be ugly

We both laugh , a knock comes at the door
she gets it

I'm shocked when Lihle and Amahle walk in ,
and they look like new Bangani brides

What are they doing here ? They exchange
greetings with Ndlovukazi

Ndlovukazi : I'll come back when all is done to
get you

Me : don't give them a hard time

They all laugh she walks out

Me : uhm should I even ask ?

Amahle : we came to get our bride

Is everyone at the Bangani family crazy ? We
have a funeral people

Me : who is left back home ?

Lihle : Nolitha

I sit down defeated , how do they leave a grieving woman alone sitting on the mattress?

Amahle : relax she's actually the one who sent us here

Me : she did ?

They both nod

Lihle : she asked us to bring our Bangani wife home with us today

Wow , everyone has lost their minds .
Lubanzi was right I'm the only sane Bangani

Amahle : you're so beautiful

Me : thank you

I welcome it because she means it

Lihle : I can't believe you're a princess

Me : yeah I know me too

We laugh

Amahle : your family is scary , the way they're keeping the uncle's and Mpande on their toes

Me : wait...Mpande is here as well ?

Lihle : everyone

I give up

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Nqabayomzi

I'm in the car with my girls and Lubanzi and Ntsika along with Qhawe

Mpande wanted to be inside , and that actually scared me . I'm shocked Lubanzi decided to sit out of this one

Lubanzi : do you have enough money ?

Me : what do you mean ?

He laughs

Lubanzi : you're marrying a princess they're going to fucking tax you , until you feel your pockets bleeding

Ntsika : your family is already making us feel the heat

They kept us at the gate for 3 hours . Where have you ever heard of that ? And now they've been inside for 5 hours . That's 8 hours already gone

Qhawe : Mpande is calling

He answers and puts it on loud speaker

Qhawe : we are all listening

Mpande : we are broke like very broke

He says laughing , Lubanzi burst out laughing

Mpande : we will now see your wife and you
can come in

Lubanzi : they won't come in . I'll bring them in

Ntsika : shut up

Mpande drops the call , one thing I'm happy about is that all is done

Omuhle : mamam tshata yena ? (Mommy is getting married)

Me : ewe (yes)

Omuhle : tshata nam (I'm also getting married)

We laugh

Me : that is never happening sisi

Marriage is beautiful and amazing , I won't deny that . But the challenges that come with it , make me wanna shield my girls from it for as long as I can

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Ziphozendalo

A beautiful ceremony people are dancing , drinking and eating it's all joyous . We have done the gifting ceremony , and because of

the funeral back at home , we also gifted everyone from the Bangani's here

Voice : sphiwo se zinyanya zam (my ancestors gift)

He says behind me , it takes me back to the first time I had a dream about him and I was at the river back at Isilo . And he said the same exact words

I turn and his left hand catches my eye ,the only difference this time around is that there's no wedding band on his finger

Just his red and blue beads and the red and blue beaded wrist bracelet I made for him

Me : Jola

Nqaba : MaJola

I blush like I'm about to be courted right now

Nqaba : awusa'blush ke (you're blushing)

Me : ndiyathandwa (I'm loved)

Nqaba : ah Sisi endincamisana naye uvuyo
ondipha lona kodwa nje ngoba ubona finally
uk'ba uyathandwa ma wengane zam (the lady
I'm dating , the joy you giving me now that
you see how much you're loved the mother of
kids)

He hugs me I return the hug

Nqaba : sweetheart

Me : mmmm

He laughs

Nqaba : tell me your have money

I pull out and look and him smiling

Me : for what ?

Nqaba : for us to live on and to maintain our lifestyle

Me : aibo iphi eyakho imali? (where is your money)

What money ? Cause I know he signed everything of his to me except a few investments he had . Lubanzi made sure to dish out everything

Nqaba : your royal family took every single cent I cashed out on the investments

I laugh

Me : I feel for you , get ready to sell two of your cars

Nqaba : hah

Me : you sir have a wife and two girls and a son to take care of

Amahle : sorry to interrupt , the aunts would like to see you

Such a mood killer yhoh hayhiii

Nqaba : hamba I'll see you when you're done (go)

I leave with Amahle we go into one of the chamber's , and it's full of old woman some I don't even know

The others are my aunt's from Ngonyama and the others are the aunts from the Bangani's

We sit down on the floor , Ndlovukazi covers me with a blanket . I want to cry because it's so hot hayhiii

Ndlovukazi : we have asked you to come here so you can be advised now as a wife and a mother

I have my head bowed down , I listen to almost everyone dishing out advices

And if marriage means being a doormat then I was better off without it . The things these women are saying are just crazy , I swear

Don't question a man , if he cheats don't blame or fight him just fix your faults . Aibo I will never survive . Ndlovukazi didn't say anything and I know it's because she would never tell me all of this as an advice

One of the Bangani aunts sits next to me she holds my hand

Aunt : Sana lwam ndingu Makhulu ke mna kuwe Kanye no Nqabayomzi . I want you to listen and listen to me very well , apha kwa

Bangani unyamezela akaphangeli , you don't endure nonsense . If Nqaba lays a hand on you , you leave you don't wait for him to blame you and say how much you pushed him to hurt you . If he cheats you leave you don't wait for him to explain to say how sorry he is or what a mistake it was . You're his wife and not his friend , he doesn't sleep out and you have no idea where he is . You question him because you're his equal and not his submissive . Respect him because he respects you . It goes both ways

My good people you see the expressions on these women faces , Ndlovukazi couldn't be prouder and well as for me I'm dancing inside

This aunt right here has just gone against everything these women said . I'm officially a wife now and it damn sure feels like it

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At the Bangani homestead

A small cerebation that's not causing eyes and stares took place , as the Bangani family welcomed their new bride

It didn't take long out of respect for the funeral

Everyone has been here at the family home including Nqaba and his wife

As they lay Mqhele to his final resting place today

Zipho : they tell me you're not eating

She's holding a tray of food , take outs .
Nolitha smiles as she sees the food

Nolitha : I can't stomach anything

Zipho : your kids need you , you love Mqhele
yes but he's gone and never coming back .
You love your kids and they're here alive and
well

Nolitha : harsh but the truth

Zipho : I don't know the feeling of loss to this extent , so I can never even try to pretend like I understand . But I can only imagine what you're going through right now , the difference between life and death is that one life has ended yes but the others still have to go on

Nolitha holds her hand out , Ziphozendalo takes it

Nolitha : now I understand why these kids are so fond of you .

They both smile

Zipho : now eat so we can go lay your husband to rest

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Ziphozendalo

The funeral was dignified and everyone who came was respectful . Now it's all done , everyone can start with their healing process

MaNtabeni is with Ndalo's mother , I feel so bad knowing what happened to their loved ones . And to this day they both have no idea what happened to them

MaNtabeni did have the memorial serve for Ntabeni , as for Ndalo's mother they say they believe Ndalo left for Cape town after she fought with Lubabalo

Unfortunately I can't do anything about their pain because their loved ones also caused me pain

Owe : dabs (aunt)

He makes me shift my eyes from the two women to him

Me : you're so skinny

He laughs

Owe : maybe I should move in with you , look how chubby all your kids are

Nqaba will never let me hear the end of it

Me : let's see that next year , now you're still at school and in a week you're going back to Joburg schools reopens

Owe : thank you for everything

I don't know what everything is or what he's talking about

Owe : this family has fallen apart so much , I can admit that . But without you there wouldn't even be this bits and pieces to fix and mend

Aww kodwa

Sihle : he's right you know

He also stands next to me , so now I'm in between them

The other kids are going and probably don't understand much , but these two are old enough to see and understand things

Me : I hope you two learn from all of this , and you gasps and take whatever you can take . So you can be able to teach the young ones coming after you . Don't control and want to lead with an iron fist , but teach them . We've had so much loss and tears , and all we caused each other . The Bangani's suffered at the hands of their own , you two need to make sure that will never happen with the others . And remember to always keep in mind , don't control but teach

They both nod

Me : Owentando I know how much you're blaming yourself , thinking that your father took his life because he couldn't deal with the truth of finding out your sexuality

He looks down

Me : I want you to get rid of that sad pathetic thought as soon as you can , you're the child here he was the adult . It wasn't your job to please him but his to teach and guide you . He made his mistakes however he made them , it was his duty to let you make yours however you were going to make them . It wasn't his place to correct them for you .

Owe : enkosi dabs (thank you aunt)

The last thing we need in this family is death again in this way , we've had enough to last us a life time

Voice : uMqhele we ndoda umfaziwayo (the crow , strength and power of a man is his wife)

Says my husband right behind us we turn and everyone is behind us

Mpande : I remember I was only 15 and he was 17 when our father gave Mqhele and I the pep talk , only difference is that this one is nurturing warm and kind . His was harsh and cold . Look how it turned out , it destroyed us badly . Hear me well I'm not entirely putting the blame on him but us all as well , because we let it happen

I look at these men and woman as each one is next to his and her partner

Except Nolitha and Qhawe as well as Nqaba because I have these two handsome young men next to me

And this is the Bangani family mended .

Me : I hope the ones we lost watch over us , that they guide and protect us . And mostly importantly they keep correcting us from making the same mistakes they have done and made

Ntsika : because it's you Bhabha they heard

We all laughs

Nqaba : you're such an idiot

Ntsika : right a whole me , how about his
damn single self ?

He points to Qhawe who frowns

Owe : our queue to leave

He leave with Sihle

Mpande : are you looking ? We can hook you up

Qhawe : hell no , I need to raise my kids and that's it

Ntsika : a meaningless fuck here and there wouldn't hurt . But of course that doesn't apply to you Nolitha until maybe after a few years

Now we all see why Nqaba says he's an idiot

Nolitha : Ntsika

He shrugs , he seems to be working things fine with his wife . I hope it all works out for them for the better

I hope Lihle finds herself in this marriage and stops fearing Mpande like he's her God

I wish nothing for Qhawe and Nolitha but to heal and live for their kids who are alive and well needing them , more than their partners that are no more

Mostly importantly I wish oJola bahle njalo will give me the patience to always remember when it gets tough and hard that I married no ordinary man

A mere 17 year old thrown into a marriage with a man 11 years older than her , married at that

Today she's 18 and a mother of two beautiful girls , a proud wife finally welcomed into her in-laws

A whole Ngonyama descendant a princess , a product of the fallen Ngonyama queen Zendalo

A gifted soul who can see the past the present and the future and oh yes can read minds hear thoughts and control minds

18 months of a life that has certainly felt like a lifetime

Being given such a responsibility , a whole crown strength and power of a man .

UMQHELE WE NDODA the saying goes

INDODA MAYIBE NO MQHELE

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THE END