



An ANGEL Flawed

Even sinners love

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PROLOGUE

Mthunzi

Mthunzi



Lumka : you're moving there ?

We both look at him , and he sighs probably knowing the answer to his question

Lumka : I can't move there

We just stare at him

I have nothing to say , I actually just want to get out of here

Lumka : I have a family here , or rather I'm trying to build one . Kelly is pregnant , and I don't want to miss a chance of being a present father . I can't leave her alone , or relocate to another place . Especially a village , that just won't do it for us or the family

Vuyo : we know that , and it's a city of some sort not a village

Lumka : and you're still leaving ? Even though I won't be there

Vuyo : Mthunzi has things to do there , we have to go

Lumka : and wena ? (You)

Me : he just can't stay away
from me

Vuyo laughs

Vuyo : what the hell ?

Me : listen , we have to go

Lumka : I guess that's that

Vuyo : yeah , we'll keep in touch
. It's not like we're saying
goodbye

Lumka : you look after each
other there

Vuyo : you're not our father ,
basically we're just the same
age . Stop this , we'll call you

They hug , we fist bump . Vuyo
grabs the car keys , Lumka walks
us to the car

Me : take care

Lumka : sure

I get in the car , they converse
for a bit before he walks back
and Vuyo get's in the car

He drives off

Vuyo : he's not okay

Me : we're not deserting him ,
he's a grown man he'll see to
himself

Vuyo : yeah , I know

I heave a sigh

Me : you can stay behind with him , if you see and feel the need for that . I'll manage on my own

Vuyo : I'll rather we don't have any more deaths there , so I'm going

Me : did you talk to Raps ?

He sighs

Me : Vuyo !

Vuyo : eish ! Yeah I did

Me : you're seriously going to
lie to me ?

Vuyo : I'm not , I did . He'll
deliver

Me : he better , I'm going back to that place after what I did for him . He must not dare start with me , better warn him if he thinks he can play me

Vuyo : he will deliver

He says nodding a lot , and even he doesn't believe what he's saying . But because it's him , I'll give him a chance to fix this

They better not fuck me over ,
I'll paint that place red with
them

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Paul

Paul



Me : why am I called here ?

Mom : sit down

I shake my head , grabbing a chair and I sit down

Me : what's going on ?

Mom : it's your dad

I sigh

Me : what ?

Mom : he's....

He walks in , and she leans back
on her chair

Dad : son

Me : dad

He sits down

Dad : what do you want ?

I look at mom , and her eyes are moving around a lot

Meaning he doesn't know I'm called here

Me : I just came to see mom

She releases a sigh of relief

Dad : I see

It goes quite for a bit , and I
can't miss the tension between
them

Me : is everything okay?

Dad : what's everything ?

He's back in his moods

Me : mom ?

She says nothing keeping quite ,
but her eyes says a lot

Me : okay , I'm leaving !

I get up

I won't be on their case like their small kids , when they're the parents and adults here

Dad : I want to find my daughter , your mother disapproves . But I don't need her say in this matter

Right ! We're back there again

Every few years we deal with
the same shit over and over and
again

And it's been what ? Two
decades now , doesn't he get
tired ?

Cause I for one am tired

Me : okay , I'm not getting involved in this

Mom : this is insane , why are you dragging this talk of your infidelity back into this house ?

I don't want to be a part of this , once dad gets like this he doesn't want to hear anything from anyone

I don't even give shit about that
fucking daughter of his

I don't even know how he's
never even found her or a slight
lead , even after all these years

But it's clear , he'll never forget
her . And he just can't let go

But I want no part in this

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Onthatile

Onthatile



Koko : take care of yourself ,
and be safe always . Stay away
from bad boys , don't bring me
babies either . Do what you're
going there to do and nothing
else , focus and leave other
things . You're still young , and
only 20 . Don't let the outside
world deceive you , you have
your whole life ahead of you.
Don't fall into pressure , and
bad influences . I'm only letting
you go with an open heart ,

because you've been home for
far too long . I know I held you
back , but now go out there and
spread your wings . Don't
disappoint me , you're all that
I've got and left with

I look at her , and smile

Me : I won't disappoint you
Koko (grandmother)

She smiles opening her arms for a hug , and I welcome it

Me : I'll call everyday , and I'll make sure you have airtime always . So you can call if something happens , we'll keep in touch all the time . And I'll come home when I can , I won't stay away for a long time . I promise , I won't lose myself there

Koko : don't worry about me ,
I'm okay . And I'll be okay

Oh but I have to worry about
her

I'm only going to college , to be
doing my first year at age 20

Because I couldn't leave her
alone in the village

But she didn't want to hear anything this year , and she told me I'm leaving .

That I've lost so many years , sitting at home while my peers were out there doing something with their lives . And it's true , but I just couldn't leave her alone . She's the only one I have , besides distant relatives

I long finished matric when I was 17 , all these years I've been home doing nothing

Well other than just selling fruits and vegetables for a living , and to make ends meet . Helping where I can

We also get her social grant , so that also helps . The situation is not that bad

Koko : you be safe , that place is not safe at all . Remember the big business man who was found chopped up in his house ? I don't want to bury you , so safety first all the time

I nod

She'll never let me leave without that story

But no one has forgotten about it , it happened like two months ago . It's still very fresh on everyone who heard about it

It was very horrifying , a man who owned supermarkets was killed in his own house right in the city . That's just two hours away from us , and most people knew the man

Chopped to pieces like some meat , and was just left there like that in his house

His wife was then admitted to a mental institute , after seeing the pieces of her husband's dead body

Its said the children are in state care , it's all just a sad situation and just inhumane

People are cruel out there , like
who can do such a thing to
another human being ?

Me : I have to go now , I
promise I will be safe at all
times . And I'll stay away from
trouble , and bad boys . I'll
behave myself trust that

She smiles

Koko : I love you

Me : I love you Koko

I take my bag , and look at her
one more time as I walk out of
our hut

I have to catch a taxi to the city ,
which is about two hours away
from the village

We're so not developed , this place just screams poverty .
There's just less development

But it's our life , and most of the youth just ends up in the city .
There isn't even many people left here

Not all make it far , because it's not that big of a city

So overpopulation , not
everyone can be
accommodated

I was very lucky to apply at
college and make it in , I didn't
even think I'll get accepted

Since it's not a varsity , they do
not even offer student
accommodation

So I'll be renting , just near college . There's rooms there , accommodating students

It's a safe place , there's security and all . So even the high rent , makes sense

I finally catch a taxi , taking a back seat . Plugging in my earphones , it's going to be a

long way before we arrive . And
I'm not one to just endure so
much silence

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INSERT 01

Onthatile

She opens the door , and smiles

Amo : I thought you were not
coming anymore , I've been
waiting and waiting . You were
just taking a while , and I
thought it'll get late

I laugh

Me : come on , you know the distance . And well , the taxi broke down

She rolls her eyes

You'd swear Tshiamo doesn't come from the same village , yet she does

But I guess , it's just not good enough for her anymore

Since this is her second year being in the city , and she's gone home like once

Amo : welcome , I tried making the place look cute

I laugh

I don't even care about how the place looks like , to me it's just a roof over my head . I don't care about much more

Amo : tonight.....

She laughs screaming , clapping her hands

Me : what ?

Amo : there's this club opening ,
and it's free cocktails for the
first 50 ladies

Me : okay , let's get one thing
straight . I came here to study ,
not to gallivant around . So
don't even think , I'll be taken
by those kind of things . I'm not
going anywhere

She sighs

Amo : really Thati ? You're gone from the village , your grandmother is not here . I know she probably gave you a long lecture about morals and whatnot , but babe she's not here

Me : doesn't matter what you say , I'm not going anywhere . Make peace with that , which bed is mine ?

She folds her arms , I let her be

I open the other wardrobe , and
I see it has her clothes

Amo : it's mine

Me : yeah I saw

I head to the other side ,
opening the wardrobe .

I unpack my bag , putting my clothes inside . And I don't have a lot , just enough to keep me going

I walk to the bathroom , just washing my feet

The place is not a big room , just that it's slightly fitting cause we're sharing

It fits two single beds , and two small wardrobes

And a small bathroom , that just has a shower and a toilet

There's also space , where the dishes and cups even pots are at . And there's a small cupboard for that

Well it actually belongs to Amo ,
even last year she was using this
room

I didn't bring much , except me
and my clothes . She said we'll
use her utensils

She's on her bed talking on her
phone , and seems quite
intense with who she's talking
to

I don't mind her , I lay on the
bed plugging my earphones

I called my grandmother as
soon as I got off the taxi , telling
her that I've arrived

I didn't want her worrying ,
because we took longer than
two hours

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Mthunzi

Lefa : we're dealing with it

Me : is Raps fucking with me ?

He shakes his head

Me : then what's this ?

Lefa : getting all worked up , is not going to help anything . Mr Biyela , you know we would...

Me : eh Lefa , le ta nyela le batho ba ba gao (you'll shit yourself with these people of yours)

He moves back

Me : I don't ever want to talk about this again ! Wa nkutlwa ? (Do you hear me)

He nods , fixing his tie

Lefa : understood

Me : ftsek ! (Fuck off)

His feet carry him lighter , as he
walks away

Vuyo laughs

Me : what ?

Vuyo : you didn't have to scare
that guy like that

Me : I want to know what's
happening with that tender deal
?

Vuyo : I called Morapedi this
morning

Me : and ?

He sighs

Me : I'm done playing games ,
it's been two fucking months . I
didn't take my sweet time killing
Thong

Vuyo : I know that

Me : then ?

Vuyo : let me call him

He takes his phone out , making a call and he puts it on loud speaker

Vuyo : working with incompetent people sucks , now you're getting a whole lot of us in shit . Even Lefa is clueless

Raps : Vuyo what is it now ?

He asks very much annoyed

Me : eh wena Raps o bata go
nyela monna ? (You want to shit
yourself man)

He goes quite

Me : ska ntira sematla (don't
make me a fool)

He sighs

Raps : Mthunzi , you have to....

Me : don't fucking tell me to
calm down ! O ta bona marete
monna (you'll see testicles man)

Raps : Vuyo I asked you nicely to
talk to him

Now his voice is all shaky , I
shake my head annoyed

If he's this fearful over the phone , why is he testing me ?

Vuyo : you can't do this , you're being unreliable right now . You wanted Tlhong gone , and he did that . You said he will get that tender , just give it to him before we all follow Tlhong . I still value my life , and I don't want to die for your or anyone else

Raps : waitthere's no need to act hastily

Vuyo : keep your end of the deal

Raps : 300 million is a lot of money , there's a lot of paperwork and red tape to go through . We can't just hand over such a huge and big tender

without..... listen just give me a bit of time , and I promise I'll sort it out

Me : bona fa , I'm giving you a two days . Just two days , and that tender better be mine . Or your daughter might just see a monster after her tennis practice , and she'll faint falling into a coma ! Don't poke me Raps , we don't fuck with each other (Listen here)

Raps : wait....wait you
don't.....we don't have to go
that far

Me : two days Raps

Raps : I'll make things happen , I
promise . But , the board will
need some kind of something to
trust you with . That you'll care
for the people in the city

Me : I don't have to do any shit
you say , just give me my tender

I drop the call

Vuyo : wow !

Me : bloody fool ! Next time ,
stop making me do business
with idiots

Vuyo : I believe , he will deliver .
Just maybe , he's right about
that trust . For no one to be
able to suspect you , you'll have
to blend in there . Become one
of those people , and look like
you actually care to uplift them

Me : I sell human beings for a
living , and you think I care
about uplifting their lives ?

He chuckles

Vuyo : sometimes you just become difficult and hard for nothing , and that's why you have me . See how you're the one who needs me , and not the other way around ? I'll find you a house in the city , you'll settle fine there

I won't argue with him , because I don't care . I just want the money

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Tshiamo

Tshiamo



On that tile has been sleeping since she arrived , I guess she's really that tired

And well , I'm not missing going out all because of her . Since she said she's not going there

Nor I'm a changing my lifestyle to accommodate her

Either she moves with me , or I
leave her behind . And that's
that

I won't force her for anything ,
she can just do her and I'll do
me

But I'll definitely advice her
better , because I know soon
she'll start understanding how
hard making a life is in this city

Sometimes the money from NSFAS doesn't come in time

We'll be hungry , without food .
Or maybe without electricity.

Or maybe even without toiletries , and that's definitely a need

Then she'll understand , and get
then hang of how things work
around here

Being a village girl doesn't work

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Paul

Cleo : so we're going ?

Me : yeah

I get up grabbing my car keys

Me : or are you driving ?

Cleo : no , I might even ditch
you middle of the night

We laugh

Me : alright , I'm better safe
then

We head out , my phone rings .
I check it out , and I see it's my
mother

I'm bored already

Me : mom

Mom : I can't deal with this ,
Paul I can't do this again

It's dad again

Me : what happened now ?

Mom : can you believe he's
gotten a private investigator to
find that bastard child of his !
Your father is really getting on
my last nerves , and I can't deal
with him

She's angry , even her voice is
so stern

Me : there's nothing I can do
about that , he's a grown man
he knows what he's doing

Mom : I swear , he will know
her out there by the streets .
Not in my house , because that
will be the end of us

She just drops the call on me

Me : okay !

Cleo : what's up ?

Me : just family drama , nothing
to worry about . Let's go

We head to the car

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INSERT 02

Onthatile

I wake up , Amo is still not here

The way I was so tired , I fell
asleep and didn't wake up last
night

And I didn't even hear her leave
, I only noticed middle of the
night she wasn't here

I thought she would be back by
now , but clearly not . Maybe
this is a norm to her

I make the bed , and call my
grandmother . It's still early I
know

I have to keep my promise of calling everyday , just so I know she's okay . And she knows I'm still okay , I don't want her stressing about me

We talk for just a bit , and I go take a shower

I put on just a dress , with flip flops

I'm hungry , and I don't want to
be seen somehow

I can't just eat Amo's food ,
without her permission first . I
don't want to offend her at all

She said I can use her things ,
but she did not mention
anything about food . So I can't
just take

I take R20 from my bag , and
walk out

I don't even know where I'm
going , because I'm not familiar
with this side of the city

I'm only used to town , where
we buy groceries . So I don't
really know the place that well

I make it out the gate , and
looking up and down the street

I just see a few people walking ,
nothing much happening

I don't know how far are the
shops from this side where I am

But I walk anyways , hopefully I
don't get lost

I finally come across a busy
place , where there are stalls of
people selling

I smile to myself

At least I'm not lost , and I'll find
something to eat here

I've always longed of coming
here , and selling my fruits and
vegetables

Definitely not something
someone my age would be
happy about

But when you're me , and you
have had to hustle for most
things in life

Anything that puts money on
the table , well that's to be
appreciated at least

And to think I do have a batch
at home , that I can sell and
make some money from . I just
wish it was nearby

But the way it's so full here , I
don't even know if I'll even find
space

I see a lady selling snacks , I
walk to her stall

And buy a packet of snacks

Me : this place seems busy

She smiles

Her : on some days , it's nearing
the 15th . So yes it's busy

I nod

Her : I'm Rethabile , I haven't
seen you around

Me : Onthatile , I've just moved
from the village . I'm here to
study

Retha : oh okay

Me : I used to sell vegetables
and fruits back home , I have a
very reliable supplier

Retha : now it explains it ,
maybe you should have your
own stall here

Me : But this place seems too
full , where would I find one ?

She points , and it's across the
road . It's pretty empty that side
, so basically I can just be the
only one

Retha : it's empty that side , you can put your own there . Next thing , you'll have neighbours . I'm sure people are just scared to move to the other side , I can even move with you

We laugh

Me : really ?

Retha : yes , we all have to make a living . And trust me , life in the city is expensive . You don't want to find yourself victim , to the life girls around here live

I nod

Retha : let's exchange numbers , you'll let me know . And when you're ready , I'll see you here

We exchange numbers , I stay a bit talking with her

Me : I'm hungry , where can I buy fat cakes ?

Retha : there's a guy by the corner there , he's very clean .
Don't worry

Me : okay , I'll be back

I get up walking towards the corner , and I see the guy

He has like 3 buckets , and they seem to be selling fast

I buy for me and Retha , she looks like a good person

Maybe I'll spend some time with her , just watching how it

works working here and
managing a stall

Who knows ?

I might actually just have my
own here , and make a little
money on the side

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Tshiamo

It's late now , in the afternoon

And she walks in , I've been
back for a while

Me : where have you been ?

Ontha : by the stalls , I told you
when I left you a message on
your phone

Me : told me ? Thati , you can't
just wander off

Ontha : okay , calm down . I'm not your child , don't raise your voice at me

Me : I.....

Ontha : mhm , you didn't sleep here . And you don't see me coming at you , so please

I sigh

Me : I just got worried

Ontha : okay fine , but don't talk
to me like that . I'm not your
child Amo

Me : okay babe I'm sorry

I get up , taking the burger out
of the microwave

Me : I saw that you didn't eat ,
so I ordered

Ontha : I had fat cakes , I didn't
want to seem forward just
helping myself to your food

Me : don't be silly , you can eat
anything you want to eat

Ontha : okay , I'll contribute
towards the groceries as well

I want to ask with what money
?

But it might just be to early

Me : we can go buy food
tomorrow , there's barely
anything in here . If you're short
of money , I'll cover most

Ontha : I do have maybe R500

Me : no , you have to save your money . I have R2000 , we'll use it

She looks at me in shock

Ontha : so much money ?

I smile

Me : don't worry about it

Ontha : wow , I guess I will
really need to have my own stall

Me : stall for what ?

Ontha : to continue selling

Lord please no !

Me : what ?

Ontha : the money will come in handy and....

Me : wait.....you're not about to embarrass us like that . You want people laughing at us ?

She looks at me

Ontha : well , Amo I don't care what people will say about me . I know my situation , and if

selling is what I have to do then
that's what I'll do

She gets up putting the burger
back in the microwave

Me : and now ?

Ontha : I'm not hungry anymore

Me : Thati come on ! I didn't.....

She walks to the bathroom

Me : great !.

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Mthunzi

Vuyo : so what do you say ?

Me : do you actually think I care about the house , or how it looks like ?

He laughs

I really don't care whether we move here or just find temporary accommodation , all I want is what I'm here for

Vuyo : at least....

Me : have you talked to those people ? I don't want any delays once the project starts , and trouble must be the last

Vuyo : mhm , the king wasn't feeling this . He didn't want to hear anything , but as soon as I mentioned how his people are going to benefit he listened . And I can say he's on board

Me : what's the catch ?

Vuyo : you have to hire men from the village , and not bring

men of your own . Since they're not really developed , it's hard making a living there

Me : I don't care , just as long as the people who matter are mine

He nods

Vuyo : that's covered , I made sure of that . Anyone who

needs to know anything , is yours . And we won't be adding anyone from the outside , just the villagers will be the construction workers

Me : then let's get to work

Vuyo : we have to drive to the site , and just see how they're coming along . I think the place is secured though , and the tender is awarded already

Me : Raps better not try and screw me over , because he won't like what I'll do to him

He chuckles

Vuyo : you threatened the man , he knows you don't play .

People are still traumatized by the death of Tlhong , I'm sure he won't do anything

My phone beeps , I take it out .
And it's a bank notification

Me : well what do you know ?
No more red tape bullshit now

I show him , and he laughs

Vuyo : 300 million all yours , I
guess he just wanted to be

reminded of who you are . Now
let's get to work for real

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INSERT 03

Onthatile

Amo decided to be in a good mood today

She's been singing all morning

I had to go to college and get
my books , but I didn't stay long

Amo : can we leave now ?

Me : I think , until I can
contribute I shouldn't share
your grocery

Amo : if this is still about
yesterday , I'm sorry

Me : no it's fine

Amo : on the real , I am sorry

Me : I do understand , not
everyone would be comfortable
with such a life . But I am , it's
mine and I've lived it . I
wouldn't mind living it again

My grandmother worked in farms her whole life , until old age caught up with her

My mother was a domestic worker , and she started from a very young age

Because she had me young , and she had to help her mother with money

When she passed on , there was
a space and it was felt

Hence I started selling fruits and
vegetables , I wanted to close
that gap

And I did

That probably won't be me ,
selling forever

But now while there's still a need to do it , I'll definitely do it

Amo : will it get me an apology , if I say I'll personally even help you set up your stall ?

I laugh

Me : you don't have to feel pity for me

Amo : I don't , I'm just sorry .
Because I know exactly where
we come from

Amo doesn't go home , and
having been here I can see city
life has changed her

So I doubt she understands very
well , and to her seems like all is
good and life is well

I should call my grandmother ,
to have the things brought this
side

Amo : now , can we please go
buy food . You haven't eaten
since yesterday

And I'm starving

Me : okay fine

I change the dress I'm wearing ,
into skinny jeans and a t-shirt

I take R200 , I don't know what
that would buy

But maybe bread and tea , also
sugar

Amo : we'll walk a bit to catch a
taxi

Me : a taxi ? Like how far are we going ?

Amo : like 30 minutes

Me : then we can walk

She laughs

Amo : hell no , we cannot

This just seems like a waste of money to me

We walk a bit of a distance from the gate , and we catch a taxi

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Tshiamo

We get to the shops

Me : let's go eat first

Ontha : I thought we're here to
buy food

Me : well , I'm hungry and I'm sure you're too . We might just faint , walking long queues

We walk to the restaurant

Ontha : this place looks expensive

We sit down

Me : don't worry , I'll pay . Just buy whatever you want

Ontha : I don't mean to sound somehow , but this money that you're just spending what's the deal ?

I laugh , calling a waiter over . I order a platter of sea food with a glass of dry white wine , and she just orders a salad

And I'm sure that's because it's
cheap

Me : you could have ordered
anything

Ontha : no , it's fine

Me : okay well , life in the city is
nothing like the village . And
when the tough gets going

around her , you adapt . You
better get on with that , or
you'll have a hard time

She just looks at me , but I take
my phone getting busy with it

She will understand exactly
what I mean , it's only a matter
of time

Poverty is no one's love

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Paul

I can't keep my eyes away from
her

I've never seen such beauty ,
she's just flawless

And when she smiles , she's just
perfection

Their waiter passes by , and I
call him over

Him : sir ?

Me : those ladies over there

He looks over them , and right
back at me

Me : is their bill covered ?

Him : not yet no , they still seem
to be enjoying their meal

Me : hand me the bill , I'll cover
it

Him : all of it ?

Me : yes , you'll get your tip

He smiles , with a nod

Him : alright sir

He walks away

I turn my eyes back to her , she
hasn't even looked my way not
even once

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Onthatile

The waiter walks over clearing
the table

I'm not an idiot , and I know
student stipend is not that
much

Amo is living lavish , and it doesn't make sense to me

I have savings , that's just set aside and separate for school . I don't have a bursary

I'm actually paying for myself , but she doesn't know that . She thought I'm getting NSFAS

But I'm not

They needed a lot of information there , of which I didn't know . Even about my parents

And my grandmother wasn't much help either

My mother passed away when I was 15 , and her and I weren't

that much close because she lived here in the city . I just know my father to be some man she was working for

I don't know him , I don't even know his name or last name

Amo : can we please get the bill

Waiter : uhm , your bill has been covered and paid for

Amo : oh ? By who ?

He looks over , behind Amo .
And the guy raises his hand ,
waving at us

As Amo turns and faces him ,
she waves back with a smile

Amo : oh well thank you

She says to the waiter

I look at the guy , as he gets up
walking to our table

Me : I think we should go

Amo : honestly , you should
have just ordered something
very expensive . Look at our
luck

Me : luck ? You call a strange man paying for our food luck , next thing we'll be drugged and raped or even....

Him : ladies

I get up , Amo looks at him smiling

Amo : uhm hi

Him : I hope you enjoyed your meal

She giggles

Amo : of course we did

Him : it would have been nice , if you actually ordered their best foods . And enjoyed yourselves

She laughs , and I just want to
be out of here

Amo : we didn't know

Him : hopefully next time ...

Amo : oh there'll be a next time
?

He smiles

Him : it would be an honour
really , so please just humour a
guy

I look at him , and I find him
looking at me . I'm quick to dart
my eyes

Him : I'm Paul , please forgive
my rudeness

Amo : I'm Tshiamo

It goes quite , I turn my head
and they're both staring at me

Amo : this is my friend Onthatile
, she's new around here and
very shy around new faces

Really ?

What business does she have
telling him my name ?

Paul : I completely understand ,
well I hope to see you beautiful
ladies again

Amo : if the universe lets us

Paul : or I could have your
friends number

Amo shrugs her shoulders

Me : I don't have a phone let's
go

Paul : well , I can give you my.....

I walk away from them ,
heading for the exist of the
restaurant

And I stand outside , watching
inside from the glass wall

And I see them laughing and all
, and he hands his phone to
Amo who takes it

And they're talking to each
other , as she hands him back
his phone

She finally grabs her bag
laughing , and coming out

Amo : wow that was rude !

Me : I don't know him , does he know me ?

Amo : don't be so slow Thati , these things happen here

Me : well , I'm fine as slow as I am

Amo : well , that's how we make a living in this city . Rich

guys like Paul fund our lives
here , and aren't you just lucky
he wants you

Me : well , I'll pass . Because I
don't want him

Amo : you.....

Me : are we still going grocery
shopping or what ?

Amo : of course

She sighs leading the way , and I
follow behind her until we get
to the grocery store

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INSERT 04

Onthatile

We were supposed to come together , checking the stall and all

But Amo decided to bail on me , said she has plans

She probably just lied , because she's made her feelings clear about this

But I've talked to my grandmother , she's not happy either

Because she thinks I'll be distracted , but I told her I'll do it for a bit and see how it's working

She agreed

Retha : I think this place , is
perfect

Me : yeah , I think so too

Retha : see , it's going to work
out just fine

I firmly believe so

My phone rings , and it's a
number I do not recognise

Retha : let me go back to my
stall , you'll find me there

I nod , she walks away . I answer
my phone

Me : hello ?

Voice : hi , how are you ?

Sounds familiar , but I don't even know that many males

Me : I'm okay , who's this ?

Him : it's Paul....please don't hung up , I begged and begged your friend for your number

Wow !

So Amo was busy laughing with this guy yesterday , only giving him my number

Paul : please , Onthatile can I see you ?

Me : no , and please don't call me ever again

I drop the call , deleting his number . A message comes through

And it's an eWallet of R5000 , I cannot believe my eyes

My phone rings , and it's him again . I need to block this guy

Me : I said....

Paul : did you get the money ?

Really this is how people live
here

Me : I don't know what you see
when you look at me , but I'm
not some cheap whore . I don't
want your money

Paul : there's more where that
came from , and I can take good

care of you . Please just give
me....

Me : I'll scream harassment ,
leave me alone

I drop the call , and block his
number

Me : Amo !

I call her , it rings for a bit
before she answers

Amo : babe....

Me : how can you do that ?

Amo : what did I do ?

Me : you gave that Paul guy my
numbers , and for what ?

Amo : oh calm down , is that why you're so angry ?

Me : Amo you had no right , please tell me now if we're going to have problems living together . Because I cannot live with someone I cannot trust

Amo : Thati , you're blowing this out of proportion now . It's not that big of a deal , Paul has money . And he's cute too , he

can take good care of you .
You'll never have to worry
about money , you won't even
need to sell fruits

Me : its my life , stop trying to
turn me into something I'm not
. If me being poor is a problem
for you , it's fine . I'll stay out of
your way

Amo : I

I drop the call

I'm going to give her that
money , I don't want that man's
money

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Paul

Me : fuck !

Cleo : whoa ! What's up ?

I place the glass down

Cleo : what's going on ?

Me : I thought you said money
will make her easy

He chuckles

Cleo : well , aren't these young
girls just after money ?

Me : she doesn't wanna talk to me , I sent her R5000 and for what ?

Cleo : go after her , maybe she's one of those who just want to be begged

Me : I don't have the patience

Cleo : do you want her ?

Me : damn ! I do

Cleo : then

He shrugs

I sigh , I guess he's right

That was first attempt , I can't
give up

Cleo : I have myself a regular ,
although she still entertains
other men . But she knows , I'm
one of a kind for her

I don't know about these things
of his he gets into , so I'm not
interested in that

I just want Onthatile

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Mthunzi

Vuyo : all this looks good

Me : mhm , I see

Vuyo : so what now ?

Me : what did they say , after
that village meeting ?

Vuyo : excitement , so I guess
that idea was a good one .

People will get jobs , good

paying jobs . They're happy , I mean this is helping them

I chuckle

Me : good , they can start working as soon as possible , because I want this done

Vuyo : they'll be thrilled , when are you moving ?

Me : tomorrow morning , I'll be on site the next day

Vuyo : it's okay , I'll watch things tomorrow

Me : my good man

Vuyo : the site is not close to the city , the men will camp there . Some were talking about food , and other things

Me : well , we'll figure something out . But it shouldn't lie on my shoulders

Vuyo : alright

Me : the plans are good , I'm impressed

Vuyo : I'm glad

Me : let's go

Vuyo : where to ?

Me : you'll see

He takes his car keys , and we
head to his car

He drives out

Vuyo : I don't even know where we're going

Me : take this route

He takes a turn , and within 10 minutes or so the stalls appear

Me : I knew there had to be something like this

He laughs

Me : village people are just predictable

Vuyo : I guess this solves our problem

Me : it sure does , we'll come here Monday . Maybe some will be interested , in going to sell on the site

Vuyo : especially those who sell
food

Me : yeah

Vuyo : okay , problem solved

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Tshiamo

Thati seems to be pretty upset
with me about the whole Paul
thing

But the guy was cute , and he seemed very interested in her

She had walked out already

I offered her number , of course he promised that she'll be taken care of

And I know if she's well maintained , that means I'll be as well

No friend would enjoy benefits
alone , and shutting you out

If only she was smart enough ,
Paul would spend money on her
without even thinking twice

But she's so slow , and just
stuck on the village girl lifestyle

Me : you know

My phone beeps , I check it .
And it's from her , she just sent
me 5000

Me : what's this ?

Ontha : oh , that's the money
your so called friend sent to me

I scream , she shakes her head
so bored

Me : wait.....so why are you sending it to me ?

Ontha : because I don't want it , and don't ever do what you did Amo . Giving my numbers to strange men like that

Me : men ? Come on ! It was only Paul , why are you making this a big deal ? Just enjoy the

money , and I'm sure he's
willing to spend even more than
this

Ontha : I said , I don't want it

Me : oh well , I'll keep it for you
. Trust me , you may not want it
now . But soon , you're going to
need it

I lay back down on my bed

I hope she wakes up very soon ,
before she starts falling for
collage boys

Or stupid poor men !

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INSERT 05

A WEEK LATER

Onthatile

It's only been a week , but I
already feel like I want to move
out of here

It's Amo about Paul this , Paul
that like every single day

She doesn't get tired

It's so annoying , I don't even think we get along that well anymore

She's really pestering me about being with the guy

Just because he's rich , and drives an expensive car

He dresses well too , I can't take that away from him

But he's not for me

Me : when you're poor , and you run after rich men you just end up being a stats . Next thing you're found dead , and your case goes cold . Or you become some GBV victim , and fail to leave the very same rich man that's abusing you . Cause you're poor , he knows that and uses your situation to

manipulate you . I'm not
desperate , I'm fine as I am .
Now please stop with this guy ,
if you care so much about his
money then take him yourself

Amo : trust me , I would . But he
wants you , and it's just a
shame really

And all of that I've just said , I
guess went to death ears

I pick up my basket

Me : what time does your class
end ?

Amo : around 15:00

Me : okay , well since I don't
have any class today . I'll just be
at my stall today

Amo : right , I heard the construction has opened already . Those filthy poor construction men , will be coming there by the stalls to buy and whatnot . Don't find yourself fallen prey to them , while refusing to be with a whole man

Me : Argh !

I walk out , and start walking to the stalls . Just as I'm about to arrive , a car stops right next to me

I don't bother stopping , I keep walking . And it drives at a slow pace , keeping up with me . It's a bit creepy if you ask me

The window rolls down , I'm so annoyed seeing that it's him

Paul : hi , let me give you a lift

Me : I don't want it

Paul : but , why do you insist on hurting me like this ?

I ignore him

Paul : I genuinely care about you

He can go care very far away
from me for all I care

Paul : I won't give up , I just
want you to know that . I'll keep
on trying , until I get you

He finally drives away as I get to
my stall , and people have
already set up

Retha walks to me , we greet each other . And she helps me setting up

Retha : we might make better money today , the people who sell food have gone by the construction site . So there's less of us here today

Me : oh , I guess in that case that's good for us

Retha : it's good news for us ,
people get so tempted by food .
So when they don't see them ,
they won't mind buying a few
snacks

We laugh

I've been selling for like a few
days now , and it's not that
great . But it's not bad either

I've decided I'll come when I don't have class , or when they're in the morning

Then in the afternoon , I'll come here and sell

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Mthunzi

Me : they're coming along fine

He nods

Me : we need to head out

Vuyo : like now ?

Me : no yesterday

He laughs

Vuyo : where are we going ?

Me : to pick out something

Vuyo : okay

We walk out , heading to my car

Me : you drive

Vuyo : honestly , I think you
should get a driver . Pay him for
this

Me : I pay you , so you might as well be one

Vuyo : eh !

He drives out

Me : take the stall route

Vuyo : what's with you and this place ?

I caught a glimpse of something
, when I was passing here a few
days ago

I need to know my eyes were
not fooling me , and I couldn't
even stop the car

Me : slow down

Vuyo : what....

And I spot her , she's in a yellow
summer strap sleeve long dress

Just beautiful

Me : stop the car

Vuyo : what ? We're in

Me : stop the car , and keep
moving . You'll drive back and
pick me

He stops , I get out in seconds

Vuyo : what is

I run across the street , and he finally drives off as another car hoots behind him

I chuckle to myself

I can stay here all day long ,
eating these fruits

I mean , she's beautiful . And
these things of hers are so clean

Me : sawubona (hello)

She looks at me with a smile ,
and it just graces me in far
places

Her : I believe that was a greeting , but I'm afraid I don't know your language

I chuckle she smiles

Me : it's Zulu , what do you speak ?

Her : anything that's Sotho related

Me : ah it's okay , re ka no bua
puo ya gao (we can speak your
language)

She laughs

Her : wow the accent

Me : don't be like that , what's
your name ?

Her : Onthatile

Me : beautiful , just like you

She looks down blushing , I
wonder if it's me or just her

Ontha : can I help you ?

Me : my name is Mthunzi Biyela
by the way , thanks for not
asking . Can I have two apples ?

Ontha : of course , you can
choose for yourself

Me : how much is one ?

Ontha : wait....you didn't walk
all the way from the site . To
buy apples here , and you don't
know how much an apple cost

I don't even eat it

Me : I mean

I shrug

Ontha : yhoh ! It's R2,50

Where the hell am I going to get
R5 ?

I pat my pockets

She sighs , I look at her

Ontha : if I give you these apples , please don't run away when you have to pay me . I know you've just started working , and haven't been paid yet

Fuck !

These bloody overalls , now she thinks I'm a construction worker

Me : well actually I do.....

Ontha : times are tough , we're not this young selling fruits because we like it

She takes a plastic and puts in two apples , and three bananas inside . While she continues talking

Ontha : so I'm being nice ,
because I applaud a man who
can get up and go to work .
Than one who has riches , that
are just landed on his lap

Ouch !

I return the R200 note back to
my back pocket , it might just
ruin chances for me right now
with how the conversation is
going

Ontha : you owe me R5 , just for
the apples

Me : well , thank you

Now I have to act all
embarrassed

Me : can I have your number ,
so maybe I can....

Ontha : if you come here and you don't find me , just go to that lady over there . Give her the money

Me : but

Ontha : no but , ke ya leitse lena basimane ba moraka . Next thing you'll be asking me to date you (I know you farm boys)

What the fuck !

I wear overalls one day in my life , and I'm called a farm boy ?

Me : well would it be so wrong ?

She laughs

Ontha : very wrong

Me : Keng , motho wa gao wa becha ? (What , does your boyfriend give you allowance)

Ontha : can you be able ?

Me : ke ta pallwa Keng , aker wa bona ke ya bereka (what'll stop me , as you can see I'm working)

Ontha : a gona madi koo
(there's no money there)

She might just tell me I didn't
have R5 to pay right now

Me : yeah but the pay is good ,
it's not thousands and
thousands . But I think R7 500
pm is great

She nods

Ontha : yeah , but ake nyake
motho (I don't want a
boyfriend)

Me : eh go siame gee , ke ta
ntsha bogadi ke go nyale (it's
okay then , I'll pay bride price
and marry you)

She laughs

Me : re ta bona (we'll see)

I see Vuyo coming , I can't have
her see me getting in the car

Clearly she prefers men poor ,
so I'll just have to be poor

Me : I'll come back with your
money , but don't be surprised
if I go marry you first

Ontha : tsamaya motho wa
modimo (just leave)

It's her laughter and smile for
me , I smile turning away

I ignore Vuyo , and he laughs
shaking his head

I walk for a distance , until we're
out of view and I get in the car
as he stops

Vuyo : what was that ?

Me : here

I give him the plastic

Me : and from now on can we
just make sure I'm always
carrying cents

Vuyo : what ?

Me : just make sure there's
always change on me

Vuyo : I'm not your....whoa !
These look good

He takes out an apple and eats

Vuyo : fresh too , what
happened to you ?

Me : from now on , I'm nothing but just a mere construction worker . Let's get me another set of overalls , and well I must never look expensive . Another thing , I'm marrying that stall girl . Let's find....

He coughs , like he just chocked on something

Vuyo : marry.....

Me : yeah , let's find out who she is and where she comes from . There's a lady there she showed me , we'll pay her a visit . And she'll tell us what we need to know

Vuyo : are you....are you hearing yourself ?

Me : perfectly

He shakes his head

Vuyo : what....

Me : eyes on the road ndoda
(man) , and once we know who
she is call Lumka over .

Vuyo : oh shit , you buy fresh
fruits from that girl . Suddenly
you think she's fresh as well

Me : uhm....let's refrain from talking about my wife like that to me

Vuyo : you sound like you're bipolar right now

I chuckle

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INSERT 06

Tshiamo

Me : what's with you today ?

She seems happy , and it's very unusual to see that . She always has moods

There's been no talks of Paul
ever since she got back , and
she seems happy somehow

Ontha : nothing

Me : come on , I can see
something is up

Ontha : I just had a great day

She shrugs

Me : people must have bought a lot today ?

Ontha : that too

I laugh

Me : wait.....so you met a man ,
I mean that can only be what's
making you this happy

Ontha : I wouldn't say that , he came to buy and he was just a breath of fresh air

She must bore me again

She's probably smitten by a poor man , when she has Paul running behind her ass

Me : oh , is he cute at least ?

She laughs

Ontha : I wasn't looking at him
like that

Me : but if we can talk about
him , then it means you looked
at him somehow

We laugh

Ontha : what do you look ,
when a person is just in work
overalls ?

Me : waitoveralls as in like
the construction workers ?

She keeps quite

I laugh clapping my hands , I
knew this nonsense was going
to happen

Me : I knew it , like I knew this was going to happen . You are seriously rejecting a loaded handsome man like Paul , and you're smitten by a construction worker really ? Like Thati , I'm certain now something is wrong with your brains

Ontha : can we drop this now ?

Me : you're disappointing me ,
like even this is just beneath
you

Ontha : I didn't say I like him , or
that I want him . For your
information , I would rather go
for a poor man . Than a rich guy
, who'll think he owns me cause
of his riches

This is even beyond being slow ,
no lies

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Mthunzi

Vuyo : I can't believe this

I laugh

Me : what did she say ?

He sighs

Me : at least tell me you got something

Vuyo : she's from the village , lives with her grandmother there . But that lady doesn't know her home , she said they just met when she wanted to start selling there

Me : a surname at least ?

Vuyo : Mo.....Phikwe she said

Me : so what's Mo?

He laughs

Vuyo : you know these bua surnames, but she said Phikwe

Me : we're going there this weekend

Vuyo : you're insane , how do you even marry someone who doesn't even know you ? And you're deceiving her

Me : what do you know ?

Vuyo : that you'll stand no chance with her , when she finds out . And you can't marry someone without their knowledge

Me : actually I can , and call
Lumka

He shakes his head , and I drive
off

I saw her when I was driving
past there , but I didn't get a
clear picture . Cause I wasn't
really looking at anything , or
paying attention

When I came back , I used the
same route . Just she wasn't
there anymore

I knew I had to go past there
again

I've never been taken by a lady
like that , maybe I can say I
believe now in love at first
glance

And I'm not letting go of her ,
Vuyo can think I'm crazy and all

But in the end I'll have her

She might hate me , for going to
her home like that

But she laughed when I said I'll
marry her , getting her to like
me and take me as her

boyfriend might just take me
forever

And so many people pass there
, she can be taken any day

How long can I keep pretending
to be poor ? Eventually she'll
find that out , and I might lose
my chances

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Onthatile

Retha : thank you

I sit down

And we eat , I bought us fat
cakes

I just can't help myself , they're
just so nice . And it's like they
just keep calling my name

And I'm avoiding eating food
bought by Amo's money

It's been four days , and she
hasn't spoken about Paul

So it's peaceful , and I want to
keep it like that

Me : what did I miss ?

She laughs

I had classes yesterday , so I didn't come here

Today I had a morning class

Retha : now that you ask , there was some fancy guy here yesterday asking about you

Is the guy stalking me now ?

Amo better talk to her person ,
so he can leave me alone

I don't want to start living in
fear for my life because of Paul

Me : he annoys me , now I'm
not even interested to know
what he was asking about me

We laugh

Retha : he looked cute though

Me : aren't they all ? But I find absolutely nothing cute about rich men

Retha : very few are like you

I guess that's why Amo thinks I'm stupid

Voice : hi

I can never forget his voice , I
look up with a smile

And he's in his overall , but he
looks clean

Mthunzi : how are you ?

Me : fine

He looks at Rethabile , she catches on that and smiles getting up

She walks away

Me : I thought you ran away with my money

He smiles , and he has one dashing smile

Mthunzi : I would never , I came
by yesterday . And saw you
weren't around

Me : I told you to....

Mthunzi : I know , but I just
wanted to give it to you

Me : right

He reaches in his pocket and
takes out R20

Mthunzi : thank you , you can
buy magwinya ka change (fat
cakes with)

I laugh

Me : thank you , but you didn't
have to . It's so nice of you

Mthunzi : and you were nice to me , so two nice people deserve each other

I laugh

Me : I told you ga ke bate motho ne rra (I don't want a boyfriend)

He chuckles

Mthunzi : okay , I'm still keen on being monna wa gao (your husband)

Me : wouldn't you need to boyfriend me first , before you become that ?

Mthunzi : not entirely

We just look at each other until I can't hold his stare I look away

Mthunzi : a chance I can be the boyfriend first ?

Me : no

Mthunzi : ke bechitse ka R15 ,
at least ka bontsha gore ke ta
iteka (I've give an allowance ,
I'm showing that I'll try)

Me : still

He nods slowly

Mthunzi : okay , ke ta ntsha bogadi (I'll settle to pay bride price)

I laugh

Me : don't you have to get to work ?

Mthunzi : I'm leaving , ke ta go
bona MaBiyela (I'll see you)

He winks , and dashes me his
smile as he turns walking away

Me : modimo (lord)

I shake my head smiling , I
watch him as he walks away . I
find myself laughing slightly

The man is handsome alright !
Dark skinned , with the waves
and the clean beard

His walk , just commands
something . He just doesn't
walk for the sake of walking

I need to get him out of my
head

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INSERT 07

Mthunzi

They laugh

Vuyo : this is insane , and I
thought you being here you'll
instil some sense into him

Me : I have sense

Lumka : yeah perfect sense ,
when you want something you
go for it . He wants the girl ,
who definitely doesn't want a
boyfriend . So he can be her
husband

Vuyo : that's insane , and when this backfires . Don't say I didn't warn you

We get out of the car

We had to ask around since we didn't know exactly where we were going , but it wasn't that hard

But knowing her name and
surname helped us a lot

It's just after 05:30 , and we're
parked outside their yard

If this really is the right home

Lumka follows tradition and
what not , as for me I do not
care

Having no parents , and being moved from orphanage to orphanage at a very young age

The so called family members , all distanced themselves

From when I was 13 , I was already in the streets cause I couldn't take being abused in the orphanage

So when you don't have such structures like myself , you don't care to follow anything

You just do what you want to do

Vuyo : so now we gotta make noise here , and wake up the poor old woman ? Like how is this sane to the both of you ?

Me : according to me , old people wake up like very early

Lumka laughs

Lumka : how do you stand each other when you're always at each other's throats like this ?

Me : it's tolerance

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Onthatile

I turn , sliding my hand under
the pillow

I grab my phone and answer ,
without even looking at who's
calling

Me : hello

Koko : Onthatile

I force my eyes opened

Me : Koko , is everything okay ?
Why are you calling so early ?

I sit up

Koko : something strange is
happening

Me : what ? Are you okay ?

Koko : outside the gate , there's
three men there

My heart pounds , my poor
grandmother

Me : whatwhat

My chest closes you , as I feel
tears creeping in . And fear is
just striking in right now

Koko : they're busy screaming , I don't even understand what they're saying . They're speaking a very strange language , I don't think they're people from around here

Me : what ?

Koko : did you send people here ? Because if you did , you should have told me

Me : no...no I didn't send
anyone there , Koko o siame ?
(Are you okay)

Koko : ee ke siame mma (yes
I'm okay)

I release a sigh of relief

Koko : now who are these
people ?

Me : please.....

Koko : let me go see them and
hear what they want

Me : no ! Koko , don't go out
there to see strange men .
What if they hurt you ?

Koko : don't be silly

Me : Koko tthe (please)

Koko : I'm going out , don't drop
the call

Me : Koko ema.....(wait)

And I'm talking alone , I get off
the bed . And just pace around

Until I hear faint laughs in the
background

Me : Koko ?

Koko : oh , I have my
granddaughter on the phone

Voice : amme nka bua le ene ?
Gore hela aitse gore o siame
(can I please talk to her , just so
she knows you're okay)

The voice sounds so familiar

Like I know that voice , but it's a bit faint and I can't make it out

Voice : hello

Says a hoarse voice coming up

Me : who are you ? And what do you want there ? Please , just don't hurt my grandmother , I beg of you please

Him : call out your number , the
airtime is running out on this
phone

This voice , I know it . And I'm
trying to place it

Me : what

Him : your number now , if you
still want us to continue talking

I shake my head annoyed and
call out my number , and the
call gets cut

In a few seconds , my phone
rings and it's an unknown
number

I don't waste time answering

Me : hello ?

Koko : these gentlemen are here to ask for your hand in marriage

Me : my what ?

I scream , and hold myself as
Amo shakes

Koko : here is the phone , stop worrying about me . You should have told me about this ,

because you should be home
when such things happen

Me : Koko wait , I don't know
what you're talking about

Nothing !

Me : Koko !

Him : are you okay ?

Me : wait....you people must be lost , we don't....

Him : I told you if I can't be your boyfriend , then I'll definitely be your husband

What the hell ?

Now it makes sense , but his voice is much deeper on the phone

Me : Mthunzi please stop with this , this is not a joke

Mthunzi : I'm hurt that you think it's a joke

Me : give my grandmother that phone , and take your people leave my home !

Mthunzi : can you....

Me : give her that phone now !

I click my tongue , I'm boiling
with anger right now . What
does he think he's doing

Me : mosimana wa moraka !
(Farm boy)

Koko : you should come

Me : Koko , that guy is out of his mind . He's not my boyfriend , please tell those people to leave

Koko : that's rude , I'm making these men tea

Me : what ?

I sit down on the bed , I know she's nice but she should be hearing me right now

Me : tell them to go , and don't listen to anything they say . Just tell them to leave okay

The phone goes silent , I drop and call back again

Me : ah bloody network !

How can he do that ?

Like I thought I was dealing
worse with that Paul , he's gone
now

And I'm dealing with a mental
case

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Paul

With the drama happening
home with my parents

I'm just staying away

I've always been an only child ,
they don't have any kids

Except this daughter my father
keeps talking about

Of which no one knows about
except him

I've just been staying away from
home , and burying myself in
work

Since Onthatile blocked me

I don't know how to get a hold of
her now

But I'm not giving up , I feel like
what I feel for her is more than
just lust

I'll just have to up my game ,
and think big

I'll get her

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INSERT 08

Mthunzi

Lumka : we know this is not how things are done , we should have first sent a letter . Then waited for a response , and only send a delegation then

The man nods

The grandmother called her neighbour to come here , he looks like he's a good man though

Since she said we just ambushed her , and her daughter is telling her a different thing

Lumka : mhm , our brother here is really taken by your daughter . And he doesn't just want to date her , but he wants to make an honest woman out of her . We're orphans , we lost our parents very young . And we're

all the family we have , there's
no elder . We would like to
apologize for just turning up like
this , and we'll pay whatever
fine we're charged

Koko : my granddaughter is not
aware of what you came here
about

She says with a smile

Lumka : my brother has only mentioned his intentions to her in passing , not as a serious conversation . But he was very serious , which is why we would like to at least leave something behind . And when they've both agreed , then we can come back and finish things

Look at my boy making things happen for me

Lumka : we don't have much ,
just a little bit

The grandmother and the man
look at each other , I hope they
don't turn us away

Koko : okay , but if they never
get to agree to each other . Just
know you wanted to do this ,
not the other way around

Like can she just hype and bless
me , so that I get my chance

Lumka : we understand

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Onthatile

I've never been so anxious

Amo was on my case , and I
couldn't even tell her anything

My mind is all over the place , I
don't know what's what

I tried calling both my grandmother and Mthunzi a few times

Their phones were just not going through , I guess network is still bad that side and refusing to hold well

I still can't wrap my head around all of this

Like who goes and does such a thing ?

And how did he even know where I'm from or where I stay ?

I'm freaked out to be honest

My phone rings startling me , I answer

Me : hello

Koko : you sound

Me : Koko , please tell me you
sent those men away

Koko : I called Rragwe Kitso

Me : for what ?

Koko : I was all alone , I couldn't
talk to them alone

I sigh so defeated

Me : talkbut I told youI
told you to tell them to leave

Koko : and I couldn't be that
rude to them

Me : you don't even know them

I rub my eyes

Me : please tell me you didn't
take anything from those
people

Koko : well , they said they
couldn't leave without leaving
anything behind

Somebody bury me right now

Me : what did they leave ?

Koko : money , and they said they'll come back and finish when you and their son have agreed

I'm not agreeing anything with that farm boy , I don't ever want to see him anywhere near me he must play far away

He couldn't even buy two apples , where does he get money paying bogadi (bride price)

Even those people who went with him there , are not in their right minds

Me : how much did they leave ?

Koko : I ...I don't know , but I asked them to write it down

Me : okay , can you call the number out for me ?

Koko : wait

I'm taping my foot down , I don't know if it's nerves or what

Koko : are you still here ?

Me : ee mma (yes)

Koko : ke onele five , and
just zeros (it's... and)

I release a sigh of relief

Of course , only Mthunzi Biyela
can pay R1 500 . And call that
bride price

He can go to hell for all I care ,
because as a down payment I'm
very much worth more than
that

Me : okay , use the money

Koko : but you said

I laugh

Me : it's okay , use the money for whatever you'll need .

Koko : it's a lot of money , I'll be going to post it at the bank

So much exaggeration

Me : okay , but just know you can use it okay

Koko : okay , you're okay now ?

Me : yes I'm okay

Koko : I love you , and I hope
you're still behaving yourself
there . I didn't know you were
dating , until what happened
today

I laugh

Me : I'm very much behaving

We'll cut this call short , before
she starts addressing me as if
I'm someone's wife

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Mthunzi

It's late , we just got back

I left Lumka at my house Vuyo
went to his place , I drove to the
stores

I don't even know what will
make her happy

But now I have to do whatever
it takes to make sure that this
works

I take my phone and call her , it
rings unanswered

I'm sure she's just avoiding me

I call her again

Ontha : what do you want ?

Me : I know you're angry , can I see you ?

Ontha : no

Me : please

She sighs

Ontha : you know , just because
you suddenly paid 1.5 for me .
Doesn't mean you can ask for
meet ups and what not , I did
not ask you to go running there

Me : I know

Ontha : stop calling me

Me : but....

She drops the call

Feisty much !

I call again

Ontha : you.....

Me : I'm at the mall right now , I
got you a few things . I really
just want to see you , but if you

don't want to see me it's fine .
Tell me where I can drop them ,
and I'll just leave .

She keeps quite

Me : you can come get them
yourself , and I'll let you be . I
won't even say anything , if you
don't want to talk with me

I hear a slight sigh

Me : please , I'm not forcing you to be a wife . You'll act that part when you want

Ontha : I'll send you my address , tell me when the taxi drops you off

Me : I....okay thanks

She hangs up

I almost asked what taxi ?

Forgetting I'm supposedly poor
, and obviously I'm taking taxis

I drive out

And she sends the address , it's
rooms near the college

I park further away , and walk
by foot

I stand by the gate and call her ,
they have security here

She answers and says nothing ,
seems like I'll be dealing with a
lot here

Me : I'm outside

She drops the call

I wait for a few minutes , and
she finally comes out

Me : hi

She just looks at me

Me : here

I hand her the two plastics , she
takes them and turns away

So no talking to me for real ?

Me : wait

She doesn't turn , I walk closer
taking out R150

Me : here

She side eyes me and takes the
money

Ontha : you sure love one five
zero , thanks

And she walks away

I'm left smiling , at least she said
thanks . That counts

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INSERT 09

A FEW DAYS LATER

Mthunzi

Vuyo : how's your so called wife
?

He just walks in , and bores me
like this . I'm having it rough ,
and my feels are feeling it

Me : what do you want ?

Vuyo : you've been in here since
this morning

Me : I'm working

He grabs a chair and sits down

Vuyo : so how is she ?

Me : she's ignoring me , are you happy now ?

He laughs

Vuyo : I hear you have another tender in the pipeline

Me : I do

Vuyo : won't that call eyes , you've just been awarded a

millions tender . And you're
looking to secure another one

Me : either way , I get the job
done

He laughs

Vuyo : I don't know anything
about that

Me : you're crowding me right
now

Lumka left a few days ago

And I've been trying to reach
Ontha , but she's giving me the
cold shoulder

I don't know how long I can
take that , because as it is I feel
like I can't

Me : I'm going out

Vuyo : but ...

I shake my head , getting up

I've passed by her stall a few times , and she wasn't there

I stopped myself from going to her place , but now we need to

talk cause this silence is not
working

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Tshiamo

I look at her , as she packs her clothes away

Me : can I ask ?

Ontha : sure

Me : a few days ago , you had like all kinds of cheap treats

She looks at me

Ontha : what ?

Me : they were just treats ,
nothing expensive

She laughs

Ontha : wow okay

Me : so , was it your
construction boyfriend ?

She just looks at me

Me : surely that wasn't Paul , he
would never buy you such
cheap things

Ontha : it's really amazing just
how you're pushing this Paul on
me , like what's it to you ?

Me : what ?

Ontha : no , what's it to you ?
What do you care who I date

Me : well I ...mm

Ontha : right now , you're
judging a man that you don't
even know . He's not yours ,
you're not the one receiving

cheap treats , it's me . So give
me a break , you're just so full
of negativity . And it's annoying

I gasp !

Not believing that she just said
that

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Onthatile

I thought moving in with
someone I already know

And who's a friend in a way ,
that would make things so
much easier

But I guess I thought wrong

Because Amo is the total
opposite of that

She always has something to
say , and she doesn't even shy
away from that

And she's very judgemental , it's
just annoying

I don't care , I loved what
Mthunzi bought me

And I stayed away from her
food , it had nothing to do with
her

Voice : hi

I lift my eyes and look at him

Me : what do you....

Mthunzi : can we just talk
please

I'm at my stall , and I don't even
feel like being here today

Business is also slowly , it's just depressing . Especially with how my morning was

Mthunzi : I know you're angry , and you don't want anything to do with me . I told you the first time I saw you that , if I can't be your boyfriend then I'll be your husband . We men are idiots when we're in love , and we go all out

Me : I don't know what was going on in your mind , thinking I'll just be okay with everything that you've done

Mthunzi : I'm sorry , but I would do it again . And again , because all I'm asking for is just a chance . A chance so I can prove myself to you

He crouches down to my side , I turn and face him

Mthunzi : please give me a chance , and if I fail being your boyfriend . Then you'll make up your mind very well , not taking me as your husband

I smile

Me : I already told Koko to use that money , so don't even expect a refund

He chuckles with a smile

Mthunzi : okay

Me : get up , it's fine

Mthunzi : what's fine ?

I slightly laugh

Me : I'll be your girlfriend ,
just....

He takes both my hands into his

Mthunzi : you won't regret this ,
I promise

Me : as I was saying , don't ever
do that again . I didn't find it
cute

He chuckles

Mthunzi : yeah right

He lifts up a bit , his one hand
rubbing my cheek

His soft lips meet mine

The last time I kissed someone
was back in highschool when I
was doing matric

I just move in sync with him ,
the shivers down my spine

And the tingly sensation in my
stomach

I don't know , but I just feel like
this is right

He finally pulls out of the kiss
slowly

He holds my chin with his
thumb , we lock eyes

Mthunzi : I love you

Is me blushing ?

Mthunzi : let me get back to
work , can I come see you later
?

I nod , I do not trust my voice

He gets up , still holding my one
hand

Mthunzi : do you have money
for magwinya ? (Fat cakes)

I laugh

Me : I....

He reaches in his pockets taking out R15

This is just funny though

Mthunzi : don't mock me about the one five zero again please

We both laugh

Me : okay fine , I won't

Mthunzi : I'll see you later

Me : bye

He turns and walks away , I
can't take my eyes off him until
he's out of view

I smile to myself , putting my
R15 in my wallet

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Paul

Cleo : what's up ?

Me : can you help me with something ?

Cleo : what ?

Me : the girl you were with last night.....

He laughs

Cleo : wait.....wait , that's my regular girl . I don't give her to anyone , I spend good money there . And I don't want to know who else eats with me

I chuckle

Me : I don't want her , I want her friend . I just want her number , because I need her help

Cleo : and that's it ?

Me : yeah

Cleo : alright , keep it at that

Me : no offence , but she's not
my type okay

I hand him my phone , and he
puts her number in

Me : thanks

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INSERT 10

Tshiamo

My phone rings , I groan fiddling
for it

Me : hello ?

Voice : hi , it's Paul

What ?

Paul : I don't know if you still
remember me

I slightly laugh

Me : how can I forget you ?

He chuckles

Paul : I'm sorry to bother you

Me : no....no it's fine

I sit up slowly , seeing Thati
making her bed

Paul : last night , I saw you with
Cleo . And I asked for your
numbers from him

Me : alright , for what reason if I
may ask ?

Paul : it's about your friend

Me : ah

Paul : she's really giving me run-arounds , and I really want to win her over

I look at her and smile

Me : what can I do to help ?

Paul : I want to maybe have something romantic with her , can you organise something ? Go as expensive as you can , money is not a problem . Just get her there , and I'll do my bit

Me : mhm , so you saying anything ?

He laughs

Paul : yes , but make sure it sends the message .

Me : don't worry , I got you

Paul : I'll give Cleo my card , and he'll give it to you

Me : alright , no problem

Paul : thank you so much

Me : thank me once you've
gotten what you want

We both laugh

Paul : alright , cheers

Me : bye

I drop the call , and laugh

Ontha : and then ?

Me : you know some girls are
lucky , wait scratch that !
They're blessed

Ontha : oh

Me : like imagine a whole
expensive experience planned
for you , and the man is not
even holding on the bank
balance

She looks at me confused

Me : that was the guy who's
seeing some girl I know , and he
wants me to plan something for
them

Ontha : nice

She grabs her toiletry bag

Me : nice ? Just nice

She just shrugs going to the
bathroom

I sigh

Me : I hope all this won't be for
nothing

And she can finally see just how
much Paul is into her

And will give her a life she never
even thought of

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Mthunzi

Vuyo : so you got the girl , good for you . But how long are you going to keep up this poor charade ?

Me : o ska tlo mbora (don't bore me)

He laughs

Vuyo : what do you think she's going to do when she finds out ? Because she will find out

Me : and I will deal with that when we get there

Vuyo : okay poor man

He gets up , and looks at me
shaking his head

Vuyo : for now you'll keep on
wearing overalls , pretending to
take taxis . And giving cents as
allowance

He laughs

Vuyo : what if she wants to see where you live ? Like where exactly do you live ?

Me : don't you have something to do ?

Vuyo : wait....and how does she think you paid a R150 000 for lobola . Yet you're just a poor construction worker ?

Me : I don't think she knows

Vuyo : how ?

Me : she keeps mocking me
about 150 , I don't know what's
that about

He laughs

Vuyo : the granny must have
said you paid R150

Me : then she's not even taking
me serious

Vuyo : you you're in deep shit

He heads towards the door
laughing

Me : security is secured ?

Vuyo : yeah , the piles are arriving today

Me : alright , make sure it's really secured . The last thing I want , is people stealing things . And it actually comes out , how I built a clinic that's worth millions with just thousands

Vuyo : you're corrupt as they come , but don't worry

He laughs walking out

I grab my phone calling her

Ontha : hello

Me : lorato lame (my love)

She giggles

Me : I miss you

Ontha : I'm at college the whole day

Me : any chance I can come by later ?

Ontha : I'll be out by 16:00

Me : alright , I'll come around 18:00

Ontha : okay

Me : tomorrow , let's do an
outing

Ontha : are you not working ?

Eish !

Me : half day

Ontha : okay , my class is at
08:00 . I'll be out by 10:00

Me : I'll come by 12:00

Ontha : okay , I'll see you later

Me : I love you

Ontha : and I love you

I hang up with a smile

She hasn't said those words
face to face , she gets all shy
when I tell her I love her

But over the phone , she says
them right back

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Tshiamo

Ontha : wow that's beautiful

I smile

Me : I know right

I look at her

Me : come help me choose

Ontha : what's it for ?

Me : the date I was telling you
about in the morning

She nods

Me : if it was you , which one would you prefer ?

Ontha : all these things are just expensive for my liking

Me : I know that , you're all for cheap things that....

She gets up

Me : I'm sorry I didn't....

Ontha : you did

She grabs her jacket

Me : I'm sorry

She just looks at me putting on
her shoes

Me : where are you going ? I'm
sorry , I didn't mean to offend
you . I wasn't even talking about
that guy , I was just saying I
know you prefer simple things

And maybe that's exactly what I
should do , simple but still
expensive

Me : Thati

She just ignores me and walks
out

Me : great !

It's late now

Where could she even be going
?

I stand up , peeking through the
window . But I see nothing

Either way I'm doing this , I'll just refrain from mentioning that cheap guy

And when she goes on this date with Paul , he will be a thing of the past

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Paul

I hope that girl comes through
for me

I don't know how else I can
impress Onthatile

So I hope all works

Me : how are you holding up ?

She sighs

I can see she's not well , I guess
the tension in this house is just
taking a toll on her

Me : have you two talked about this ?

Mom : there's nothing to talk about , your father is so hell bent on finding that child

Me : but this is crazy , he doesn't know her . Does he think he will know her 20 years later

Mom : I don't care , the mere fact that he's busy looking for her just is the pits for me

This is just crazy

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INSERT 11

Onthatile

Me : this is beautiful

He smiles

The weather is just perfect , it's
sunny

And he has this cute little picnic set up , under the tree

I don't know , he might be some farm boy mental case who went to pay bogadi for me

And just annoyed the hell out of me , but then again he's slowly just creeping into my heart

Okay !

Maybe not slowly , but he's
there . What can I say ?

He's just doing everything right ,
and I love it

So I'm just letting things be

Mthunzi : lean over

I lean over , laying my head on his lap . He leans his head down looking at me

Mthunzi : you happy ?

Me : very happy

He pecks my lips

He just stares at me and smiles

Mthunzi : I just love , how the little things matter to you . This is nothing really

Me : means a lot to me , so it's more than nothing

He smiles , sliding his hand inside my t-shirt . I don't even get an urge to remove it , I'm too comfortable for my own liking

His fingers slide inside my bra

Mthunzi : you're amazing

I move up , getting in between
his legs . Laying my head on his
chest

He kisses the side of my face

Mthunzi : when is your birthday
?

I smile

Me : why ?

Mthunzi : I'm ought to know
these things

Me : next week Wednesday

I'll be 21 , that's a big age

Me : and I'm thinking of going home that weekend , cause I have classes on Friday morning

Mthunzi : so when will you leave ?

Me : on Friday after my class , my grandmother wouldn't be happy that I wasn't home on my

birthday . And I promised not to stay away for too long

He sighs

Mthunzi : I understand , at least then spend Wednesday with me

I look at him

Mthunzi : it's your big day , and I want to spend it with you .

And Friday you're leaving , I
won't see you the whole
weekend

Me : okay , I'll see you on
Wednesday . I don't have
classes anyways

He smiles kissing my forehead

Is it too early to say that I'm
happy here ?

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Tshiamo

Paul : how far are you ?

I hand him his card

I got it from Cleo , and he
wasn't happy that I'm suddenly
talking with Paul

What he doesn't get , is that
we're nothing

Just because he knows , we do
our business and part ways

He's married , with three
children .

So he gets somehow , when
there's men who don't have
scandals like him around me

Me : all done

The date is set for tonight

Paul : thank you for this , she'll
be there right ?

I nod

Me : might be hard getting her
to dress up and all , but I'll get
her . So don't worry about that ,
I do my part

Paul : even if she comes in rags ,
I don't care . Just as long as
she'll be there

Me : well in that case , she'll be
there

Paul : thank you

He gets up

Me : it was a pleasure

Paul : I hope that makes up for your time and planning

My phone beeps , I check it and it's a bank notification of R10 000

Me : whatand this is all for me ?

He smiles

Paul : enjoy

He walks away , I stare at the notification again . I cannot believe this !

I just bagged myself all this much money , just for organising a mere date ?

Damn !

Thati better make sure all this works out , Paul will give us one hella lavish lifestyle

Such men are rare , so we can't let them slip away once they fall into our hands

She's found herself one , and she better keep him

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Onthatile

Me : what are we doing here ?

She smiles

Me : Tshiamo !

Amo : relax , we're just going to
have dinner and leave

I sigh

She begged me and begged ,
just so I could come out with
her

Said she felt sorry about what
she said

But I don't believe that she is
sorry , and I don't believe she'll
ever think Mthunzi is enough
for me

Although I don't care

I'm the one who loves him , and
not her . So basically what she
thinks of him doesn't matter

She opens the door , and makes
way for me

I get in , and instead of
following she turns back

I open the door , she just stares
at me

Voice : hi

Lord help me !

I turn facing him , and Amo just
walks away just like that

Leaving me with this guy

Paul : I'm sorry I had to involve
your friend into all this

I look around , and now I see
what's happening here

A whole romantic set up , with
flowers candles and what not

There's even a bucket of
champagne on the table

Paul : On that tile please , give me a chance . Let's have dinner and....

Me : please leave me alone , or I'll have you reported

I turn and he grabs my arm

Paul : why do you have to play hard to get like this ? No girl can

resist all this , I'll take care of
you . I'm good for it

Me : I don't want you , and I
don't want your money . Please
stay away from me

I yank my arm , and run out
hoping that he's not following
me behind

It's late and getting dark slightly

I turn back , and I don't see him
. I slow down , taking my phone
out

I call Mthunzi , with hopes that
he answers . And it rings for a
bit

Mthunzi : Lo....where are you
walking this late ?

Me : I'm scared , please come
get me . There's this guy and
he.....please come

Mthunzi : where are you ?

I look around , just trying to see
anything familiar

Mthunzi : don't drop the call ,
calm down and tell me anything
that can tell me where you are

right now . Look clearly , take
your time and don't panic

Me : okayuhm ...

I hear movement from his side

Me : there's thethe chicken
something drive though

Mthunzi : the chicken I bought
on the picnic ?

Me : yes....yes that one

Mthunzi : don't go anywhere ,
I'm coming

He drops the call , and I can't
even stand still . I keep looking
around , just in case he's
coming after me

I'm messed up right now

I don't even know , where
Mthunzi will get a taxi that fast
and make it here

Its late

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Paul

All of that money spent , and all
this dinner date

And she runs out on me , just
like that . This was just a waste
of my time and my money , that
just went down the drain

I can't even sit here now , this was supposed to get her . Lure her in

Now I don't know what to do

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INSERT 12

Mthunzi

I had just arrived home , from
work

Just changed into sweatpants
and a t-shirt

I was changing as I got her call ,
and the fact that she was crying

Just evoked some rage inside of
me

I park the car , and get out
calling her

I see light flicking by the corner ,
and realising it's her answering
the phone

Me : I see you

I walk to her , she lifts her head
and just runs to me

I engulf her into my arms , and
she breaks into a sob

Me : I'm here

I just hold her tight , until she calms down

I take her hand and we walk to the car , I open the door for her

Jogging to my side , I get in . I put the heater on , seeing she's slightly shivering

It's quite for a few minutes , I look at her

Me : are you okay ?

She nods

I nod slowly , taking my eyes off
of her

Me : okay

She sniffs a few times

Ontha : please take me home

She looks at me

Me : are you sure ? I can take
you to my place , just to make
sure you're okay

Ontha : I'm okay , I'll be fine
there

Me : alright

I drive off , in silence . My mind racing , and I just want to keep calm for her sake

I don't understand why I had to be called this late

To pick her up , crying because of some guy . All of this , is not making sense to me . And my mind is not at peace

What was she even doing out there this late ?

I'm trying to keep calm ,
because I cannot lose myself
with her . I'm trying to contain
myself right now

We finally get to her place , I
park by the gate

I get out , opening the door for her

Me : should I walk you in ?

Ontha : please

I take her hand , and we get in together . Security just lets us in , without no hassles . And we're just quite

And we walk to her room , she did mention that she stays with someone

Me : I'll call

She nods , I bring her closer with a hug . And lean down giving her a kiss

Ontha : stay for a cup of coffee

I chuckle

Me : let me make you a cup

She sits down on her bed I think

And everything to make the
coffee is just here on the
counter

I make her a cup , and hand it to
her

Ontha : thank you

I pull the one chair , and sit
down in front of her

Me : I want to leave , but I feel
like I will bust . So my love , I'm
going to ask you very simple
asks . That I'll ask , we keep and
maintain them in this
relationship .

I hold her one hand , as she
puts the cup down

Me : never lie to me when I ask
you something , I just want the
truth as it is . And don't cheat
on me , if comes a point I'm not
enough anymore break it off

She places her other hand , over
my hand on hers

Me : when you called , you said there was a guy . Who were you talking about , and what were you doing out there this late ?

Ontha : thereuhm , Amo she asked me

Me : my love , calm down and speak sense

Ontha : okay , so when I arrived here Amo and I went to buy groceries . She insisted that we go eat , when she asked to pay our bill was paid for . And then this guy walked over to our table , Paul is his name . He seemed interested in me , but I shut him down and I walked out . I wasn't aware that Amo gave him my number , because I left her in the restaurant . The guy called , and I blocked he

number . After he sent me
R5000 , and I gave it back to
Amo

She sighs

Ontha : she's been pestering
me about him , even after I've
met you . From time to time ,
she would just make hints and
comments about him . Even
after I've told her I'm not

interested , and I don't want
that guy

Me : what happened tonight ?

Ontha : She.....she asked me out
, I didn't want to go but she
begged and I just gave in . We
got there , and she just turned
to leave . That's when Paul
came , and I saw everything
planned there .

She shakes her head getting emotional

Ontha : I.....she left me there with that man , even after I told her I don't want him . He's a stranger , and I don't even know him . I told him to stay away from me , but he grabbed me . I just ran out of there , and I was scared . I was really scared , I

couldn't think of anyone to call .
I'm sorry

Me : don't apologize

I get up sitting down next to her

Me : I appreciate the honesty

Ontha : do you have to leave ?

I smile

Ontha : don't get any ideas , I
just want to be cuddled tonight

She laughs

Me : and what about your
roommate ?

Ontha : she probably won't
even come back , this is her life

Me : okay

I lean over giving her a hug ,
clenching my jaw

When people want to provoke
you , they just go out of their
way to do so

That girl probably sees me as
some poor dumb guy , who
doesn't deserve her friend

Hence she wants to pimp her
out to rich guys

But if she knows what's good
for her , she'll keep her distance
out of our relationship

I hate to be bothered

Now I'll have to have answer
about suddenly driving a car

But we'll cross that bridge when we get there . For now I'm here , she's okay

And seems like I have a crazy situation at hand to deal with , like very fast

Irrespective of how things happened and all that , this is my wife

And even tomorrow I can go
back there and finish what I
started , everything happening
now taking a step back it's just
for her sake

And therefore I won't take
lightly to such things

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On that tile

I've taken a shower

And Mthunzi was still asleep
when I woke up

He was up for a few seconds ,
telling me to go back to bed

But of course that wouldn't
happen , cause I have an early
class . He didn't seem to want
to wake up then , and I just let
him be

Mthunzi : wait..... why didn't
you wake me up ?

He sits up , as I pack my books

Me : you decided to go back to
sleep , just because I couldn't

He sighs

Me : are you late for work ?

Mthunzi : no , why are you in a hurry ?

I laugh

Me : it was so nice sleeping in your arms , I enjoyed my sleep too much

He chuckles getting off the bed

Mthunzi : slow down , let me
take you to college

Me : uh-uh , there's no need .
I'll just rush my way there ,
please lock and keep my key
with you . Bring it by the stall if
you can , I'll be there after my
class all day

I lean over pecking his lips , and
heading towards the door

Mthunzi : lorato lame (my love)

He laughs , I turn looking at him

Mthunzi : kea go rata (I love
you)

I giggle blushing like nobody's
business

Me : le nna ka go rata (I love
you too)

He just stares at me smiling , I
rush out laughing

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INSERT 13

Tshiamo

My phone rings as I get through
the gate

And I'm just dying to hear how
last night went

With the possibility that Thati
spent the night with Paul

I decided to just go out and
have fun

I can't wait to hear everything
that happened

I answer my phone

Me : hello

Paul : what is it with your friend
?

Okay !

He sounds very annoyed , and I guess things didn't go according to plan

Me : what do you mean ?

Paul : she ran out of there , all of that money was just spent for nothing

He's really upset , even his tone is just scary over the phone

Me : I.....look you asked me to arrange and have her there . Of which I did , everything else that happened has nothing to do with me .

He chuckles

Paul : I didn't spend my money
for nothing

He drops the call

And that sounded like a threat
somehow

Could he hurt me or maybe
Thati ?

Maybe I'm just overreacting

I get to our room , I fiddle for my keys in my bag . And I hold the handle , but it turns on

Me : I thought.....

Whoa !

What in the world is this now ?

My jaw drops , my eyes just pop

There's this dark chocolate man
, with tattoos all over his back
and arms

He has a body of a God !

Lord !

He turns and the V-line is just so
out there , the abs don't even
get me started

He puts on his t-shirt , grabbing
what I think it's his phone on
the bed

And he heads my way , just the
way he walks . It's not just a
walk , but it carries power and
an aura

He hasn't taken his eyes off of
me , his stare is just blank

I clear my throat

Me : uhm.....hi , I'm Tshiamo . I
don't think we've ever met

I hold my hand out for a
handshake , but he just ignores

And pushes me out of the way ,
he goes out

Me : what the hell ?

I turn back , and he's headed to
the gate

Could he be the owner of that
Mercedes Benz outside the gate
?

But damn !

This doesn't even make sense ,
where would Thati even know
such a hunk ?

Isn't she dating some poor
construction guy ? Unless she's
busy on the side

And doing her deeds when I'm
not around here , trying to act
all holy around me like she's
better than I am

Well with a whole meal like that
, even I would ditch Paul with
his cuteness

I close the door , walking
further in . I look around hoping
that maybe I'll see or find
something

But there's nothing

But it's clear that guy spent the night here

And I know Thati had an early class today , which is why I was shocked the door just opened

Because by now , it's obvious I knew she wouldn't be here

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Mthunzi

Vuyo : what happened ?

I look at him as he sits down

Vuyo : you missed work just like that

Me : I was busy

He nods

Vuyo : I know this you , so what happened ?

Me : you know , it's too soon and too close . I already have a murder here , I can't commit another one . Especially if eyes will look my way

Vuyo : who did you what ?

Me : there's this guy , I just want him gone . He's seeming to be a thorn , maybe we can

find out what we can about him
. And just frame him for
something , something that'll
just stick and make sure he's
stuck in jail

Vuyo : whoa....wait a minute

Me : what ? Would you rather I
just kill him , cause I know I'll be
the first person she looks at
when she hears he's dead

Vuyo : stop ! You're not killing anyone , and I need to understand . What happened here ?

Me : I don't have the energy to recite the whole thing to you , just find that Paul guy . And maybe you can start with the stupid roommate , she'll lead you to him

He sighs shaking his head

Vuyo : who are you talking about ?

Me : the girl my wife lives with

Vuyo : okay , what's her name ?

Me : Amo or something , you know where they live just go there and let her lead you to

this Paul guy . See how you can
frame him , or I'll just do away
with him

He nods

Vuyo : okay , it would be nice
though if I knew exactly why I'm
doing this

Me : the fact that he bothers
me is enough

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Onthatile

Amo : who was the guy that I found here ?

I just look at her , putting the basket down

Amo : I didn't know you were seeing someone , besides the construction guy

I sit down on my bed taking off my shoes , it's been a long day

Amo : are you angry ?

Me : I don't know how your mind works , or if it even works at all . Because right now , it's proving to not be functioning well

She gaps

Amo : Thati that's not nice

Me : oh you're telling me ?
After you took me here
yesterday with lies , and just left
me in the presence of a man I
don't even know . Anything
could have happened to me ,
but of course you don't care .
Because all you care about is
money

Amo : Paul would never hurt
you , why would he do that ?

Me : are you naïve or just plain stupid ?

Amo : okay ! Enough with the insults already

Me : stay away from me , and I'll do the same with you .

You've shown me that you're not the kind of a person I want to keep

Amo : what ?

I take my toiletry bag walking to
the bathroom

This friendship won't work , I
clearly didn't know who Amo
was when I was in the village

And now that I'm here with her
, she's not shying away from
showing me her true colours

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Tshiamo

Thati is not talking to me

I don't even know how to start
by apologizing

I know she won't take it

I've tried making conversation ,
but she just looks at me

Despite everything else and just
how I view her , she's a good
friend . She has shown me that ,
even back from the village

That I really cannot deny , she's
always been a good friend .
Even back home

I'll think of something , to make
some peace offering

Because we can't live like this
with each other

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Paul

Dad : what ?

I sigh

Me : mom is not well

He sighs shaking his head

Me : why can't you just let this go ?

Dad : is my daughter "this" ?

Wow !

Me : how do you even acknowledge someone you don't even know ? Is she even still alive or....

Dad : enough !

He raises his voice

Dad : I will find my daughter ,
come hell or high water . You
and your mother don't have to
like her , or even care that I find
her or not

Me : okay

I get up

Me : I'll stay out of it , seemingly
your wife doesn't matter
anymore at this moment . Do
you

I head out

I'm dealing with my own things
right now , and I can't be paying
attention to theirs either

I've spent a lot of money on this
girl , and she doesn't even seem
to want me

Or even give me a chance

But if she thinks I'll back off ,
she has another thing coming

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INSERT 14

A WEEK LATER

Onthatile

It's my birthday today

I'm at my stall , since I don't have any class . I couldn't stay in that room doing nothing , I thought it best I come here

Mthunzi still asked to meet me later on

I just hope he didn't spend money , doing and planning unnecessary things

I don't even get the concept of
anyone being happy that
they're getting old

Just doesn't make sense

Things between Amo and I , are
still just awkward

The way there's no trust
between us anymore , I don't

even think it's safe that we're in
each other's spaces

But I can't just move out ,
where will I go ? Where will I
find another room ?

Especially one that's close to
college , so I'm stuck there , I
can only ask for an exchange or
swap with someone

Voice : better be day dreaming
about me

I smile , lifting my head meeting
his eyes he smiles back

I get up giving him a hug

Me : I missed you

Mthunzi : uh !

I laugh

Me : I did , you don't know my
feels

Mthunzi : okay , I'm sorry I'm
late . Work was hectic , I only
managed to get away now

Me : I thought I'm only seeing
you later on

Mthunzi : yes , but I bought you
this . It's for you to wear tonight

God ! Please no

He is spending money just for
me on this mere one day

Mthunzi : and this , so happy
birthday lorato lame (my love)

It's a PS chocolate

I blush , cause this is the one .
Just a cute present and I love it

Me : thank you

Mthunzi : at least you love it

I laugh

Me : today is just a day , there's
no need for a fuss over it

Mthunzi : I'll see you later okay
?

I nod , he leans over giving me a
kiss and a hug

I see the car , he was driving the
other day . To think I was so
distracted , I don't even think to
ask him about it

Me : who's car is that ?

Mthunzi : belongs to my boss ,
I'll see you later my love .

Me : okay

I won't ask any more questions

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Tshiamo

Me : wow !

I'm stunned , the dress is
beautiful

And it's hugging her body
perfectly

It fits her , like it was tailored on
her

Me : you look beautiful

She just nods , I sigh

Me : Thati I'm sorry about everything , I miss my friend back please . I will stop , no more mentions of his name here ever again

She just shakes her head slowly

Me : he hasn't called me in a week , so I guess he's finally left us alone , I'm sorry

Ontha : it's fine Amo , let it pass

Me : but can we be okay again ?

Ontha : I don't know , maybe
not

Me : Thati !

She puts on her heels

Me : I hope you'll be able to forgive me , and we can move on . I don't wanna lose you

She lifts her head looking at me

Me : that guy I found here last week , was way so much better than Paul . So either way , there's no loss here . You're winning either way

Ontha : everything is just about
men with you ?

Stupid me !

Me : no

She gets up , and grabs her
purse walking out

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Onthatile

I'm just stunned by the house

I've only seen such on TV ,
never mind stepping foot inside
one

And here I am , just walking into
one

As late as it is , the beauty of
this house cannot be missed

We walk inside and I'm just in
awe

As much as the colours are just
dull , with a bit of white here
and there

But it's beautiful

I dart my eyes around , and I
gasp in shock when I land my
eyes on the table

If I thought Paul went crazy with whatever set up he did

That comes nothing to this , I don't even know what to say

I look at Mthunzi , and he's just blank

Me : what.....what's going on ?

My mind is racing with thoughts

We passed two cars outside ,
not counting the one we came
with

And I remember him saying the
car belongs to his boss

Now who does this house
belong to ?

And today , he looks so
different . He's in a formal slim
fit suit

And just one look at him , and
this is his life . Not what I've
been seeing

Maybe I'm just overthinking
myself right now , but a lot is
just going on right now

Mthunzi : happy birthday , this is your night . So please lets enjoy it , and just be happy . You can open your presents in the morning , tonight it's just us

Me : presents ?

Mthunzi : come let's sit

He takes my hand , pulling the chair for me . And as I sit , that's

when I see the gift bags on the
floor

There's like tons of those ,
enough for more than 5 people

He pulls the chair next to me ,
and sits down taking my hand

Mthunzi : I love you , can you
just not overwork your mind

This is the same guy who gave
me a PS chocolate hours ago

And now we're here

So how do I not overwork my
mind , maybe he should just tell
me the truth

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INSERT 15

Mthunzi

This night started somehow

And I knew I had to get out
answers , but just not tonight

She loved her presents I believe
, because she wanted to see
them . And the dinner went
great

Because she ended it up with
laughter and smiles

And here we are , guess I did
something right

I lift her thighs up a bit , burying
my face deeper between her
thighs

She brings them together , as I
nibble on her clit

Sliding one finger inside of her ,
and slowly finger fucking her

She lets out slight sweet moans
, with her one hand on my head

Her thighs shake a bit , and I slowly pull my head out looking at her

Her one hand is cupping her boob , rubbing her thumb on her nipple

My finger still inside of her , I rub on her clit with my thumb

She whimpers , moving her lower body up

I stroke my dick slowly , as her walls close it . And she moves back , slightly pulling out my finger as she cums

I pull her down with both my hands , rubbing my dick on her entrance

She lifts her head looking down

And she gasps , lifting her eyes
looking at me . I thrust against
her clit

She bites her lower lip , not
taking her eyes off

I slowly slide down to her open

Ontha : please....be gentle

I part her knees further ,
positioning myself in between
them

I lean down , as she lays her
head down . I peck her lips

She runs her hand behind my
back , her leg over my thigh

Me : I won't hurt you

She nods , as I slowly slide my
dick in

She pulls out of the kiss , letting
out a slight scream

I deep groan as I go in deeper ,
and she parts her legs further
accommodating me better

I cup her face , we lock eyes as I slowly thrust in

A few minutes pass by , she closes her eyes wrapping her hands behind my back

I lean my face down pecking her lips , sliding to the side of her face

I suck hard on her neck , she fills
the room with her sweet moans

She moves underneath me ,
meeting my thrusts in my pace

She trails her hands to my lower
back , her body convulse
beneath me

As she cums , and I thrust
through reaching my end

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Onthatile

He slowly pulls out

I'm so worn out , I can sleep
right back again

Sex in high school wasn't like
this

My first time wasn't like this ,
nor was my second time

This is my third time sleeping
with a man , and I feel like I was
hiking Kilimanjaro

It doesn't help that he has this
huge back veined dick , the man
is gifted

I didn't even think he was going
to fit in there , and it's not just
the length

But thickness as well , I could
literally just feel him inside of
me

He brings me to , as he places a
few pecks on my lips

Mthunzi : I love you

I brush his beard

Me : I love you

He smiles , laying down next to me . His hand resting on my tummy

I have to get morning after pill , and get on an injection or the pill

I'm not having babies

Me : babe

Mthunzi : mhm

Me : can we talk ?

Mthunzi : yeah

I want to be quite , but it's morning now . And we're still in this house

Last night was great , it was just amazing

From my mobicel phone , I've gotten an upgrade to an iPhone

There were tons of gifts , a set of jewellery . And a spa voucher

A shopping spree whatnot , and a few accessories

I turn and face him , he doesn't
move his hand on me

Me : who's house is this ?

I hope the same honesty he
expects from me , he can give
me the same thing

Mthunzi : mine

Wow !

I just look at him shocked , not even knowing what to say next

Me : this is your life , and those cars ?

Mthunzi : yes , I'm sorry I lied .
You kind of

Me : I don't want to hear whatever you want to say

I remove his hand off of me ,
getting of the bed picking up my
clothes and putting them on

Mthunzi : can you just stop and
we talk !

He looks at me

Me : I have nothing to talk to
you about

He gets off the bed , putting on his briefs as I head to the door and going out of the bedroom

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Mthunzi

I'm fucked !

I take my phone and make a call

Shezi : sir ?

Me : don't let her out of that gate

Shezi : who....oh okay !

I drop the call , putting on my t-shirt and sneakers

I walk out , and opening the kitchen door . She's standing by the gate

And it's a damn walk , the sun is
out and it's already hot

I shake my head walking
towards the gate

Ontha : open the gate for me , I
want to leave

Me : let's talk first

Ontha : talk about what ? You
lied to me

Me : you wanted a poor man , I
just had to be one so I can get
you

She laughs annoyed

Ontha : well you got me , now
please let me go

Me : you did not just hint I
wanted sex only with you ,
because if you did you're
mistakenly wrong

Ontha : Mthunzi I want to go

Me : you will , but let's talk

She looks away from me

Me : let's go back inside the house

Ontha : I'm not going anywhere with you

I sigh , sitting down on the ground

Ontha : are you for real right now ?

Me : all I want is just for us to
talk

She says nothing , I lay down on
the grass

I actually just want to sleep

We hardly got any sleep last
night , middle of the night and
this morning

She clicks her tongue walking
back inside the house

I smile getting up , and
following her . I can't let her
leave , I might as well be
accepting being dumped

I find her in the kitchen

Me : I'm sorry I lied

Ontha : so you're not a construction worker , what are you ?

Me : the tender guy

I take a bottle of water from the fridge

Ontha : ah , no wonder you can lie like that you're also corrupt

Me : wait , that has nothing to do with what we're talking about

She shakes her head

Me : besides the lie , it's not like I did something else . And all this money , doesn't change anything

Ontha : really it doesn't ?

Me : yes , I still love you the same if not more . This doesn't break us , we can just talk about it and have an understanding . We're technically married you know

Ontha : don't tell me that nonsense , who marries a wife with R1 500 ?

What the hell ?

Me : what ?

I chuckle

Ontha : you paid nothing for me
, so please stop annoying me .

Because I told my grandmother
to use that money , so it's all
gone . Let's just see how it
counts

Me : so a 150 000 is suddenly called 1 500 , when did that happen and what did I miss ?

Ontha : what ?

She pops her eyes

Me : I paid 150 000

She looks down , I guess she
really didn't know

Now the 150 makes sense

Ontha : I want to go please

I sigh

Me : I love you , and this
changes nothing . I'm sorry
about the lies

She keeps quite , I take my
phone and make a call

Shezi : sir ?

Me : please take uMaBiyela
home

Shezi : alright

I drop the call

Me : it's fine you can go

She walks out , and I can see
she's not happy with me at all

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INSERT 16

Tshiamo

I can see she's not okay , she's just moody and all that

I've tried talking to her , but she's just shutting me out

I don't know what's her deal

Our friendship , just doesn't
seem to be what it was

So I guess she won't tell me
anything , unless she feels like it

Me : where....

She just walks out , just like that

I can see she's going to her stall
probably

I just wanted to make
conversation

Anything that can just help us
be what we were before all this

I don't know what to do or say
anymore , clearly she's so over
us . I guess to her , we're no
longer friends

Unless this is about Paul ,
maybe he's back to bothering
her again

Like he's been quite for a while ,
I thought he was really gone

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Mthunzi

I tried calling , she's ignoring my calls

I texted , and got no reply

I tried talking to her , and she
shut me down

But I'm not giving up , I'm not
letting go . Because I love this
woman

Vuyo : why am I here ?

He closes the door

Me : my woman is furious with me , and you're going to help me get a chance to talk to her

He laughs

Vuyo : what did you do ? So early in the relationshipnever mind , what are you even doing marrying this girl because all you do best is just fuck ?

Me : I love her

He laughs

Vuyo : why am I here ? You
called me from work

Me : I went to talk to her , and
she told me she's working

Vuyo : and she is

Me : here

I reach out in my pocket taking
out money

Me : take this , give her and buy
all of that stock

He burst out laughing

Vuyo : what the hell ?

Me : yeah

Vuyo : so.....what the hell am I supposed to do with all of those fruits ?

Me : take them to an orphanage , give them to the guys at the site . I don't care , just don't throw them away . You see how fresh they are

Vuyo : and clean too

Me : now get on with it

He sighs shaking his head , and
he walks out of the car walking
over to her stall

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Onthatile

Mthunzi is a lot

I cannot deal with him right now , because right now I feel lied to . I just assumed a lot as well , and he just let me be

And it just frustrates me that I still love him , maybe I'm even insane for thinking so much

Voice : hi

I look up , and it's this tall guy .
And for a second there , his complexion and hoarse voice are just so similar to his

I almost said it's Mthunzi and he's back , cause it's not long since he left

Me : uhm hi

Him : these looks very fresh

He says with a smile , I don't know but it reminds me of Mthunzi

Me : very fresh , I get them
from the village farm

He nods , still smiling

I can't take my eyes off him , I
swear there's so many
similarities between them it's
insane

Maybe it's because he was just
here a few minutes ago

Him : can I have all of this ?

I look at him a bit confused

Me : sorry ?

He smiles again

Him : I want to buy all of your
stock , how much is it

Me : I.....I don't.....I'm not sure
how much it is

Him : not a problem , let's do
this .

He takes a roll of money out ,
and hands it to me

Him : I think that should cover it

That's a lot of money , and a mere few R2,50 doesn't make that much

Me : it's.....it's a lot

Him : and worth all of this

Me : you're serious ?

Him : yes

Me : what....are you going to do with so many fruits ?

He laughs , and I'm holding myself from asking if he knows Mthunzi or maybe they're related or what

But I don't even know this man , and he'll probably think I'm crazy . Cause even this laugh , it's so lazy like his

Him : I'll keep some for myself ,
and give some to the guys I
work with

Me : oh okay

I look around

Me : let meuhm ask for a
box , so I can pack them for you
inside

Him : alright

I leave him there , going over to Retha . I ask her for the box , and she gives it to me

Me : thank you

Retha : not a problem

Me : I'll find you a box
tomorrow

She laughs

Retha : don't worry about it

I head back to my stall

Me : sorry to keep you waiting

Him : not a problem

I start packing , and my emotions are just all over

This is shocking , and exciting as well

I know this money is more than what my stock is worth

And I've never sold all my stock in one day

So this is something else

I'm finally done

Me : uhm....thank you very
much

Him : no thank you

He takes the box , and walks
away smiling . I don't even pay
him attention

I start counting the money , and
it's over a 1000 rand

Me : what.....

Voice : MaBiyela !

This one

I look at him , and put the
money in my bag

Mthunzi : my love , please lets
talk

Me : I have nothing to say to
you

Mthunzi : okay fine , but I have
a lot to say to you

Me : well , I'm leaving

Mthunzi : I came and you said
you were working , now you're
done and you say you're leaving
?

Me : yes , I'm leaving

I pick up my bag and basket

Mthunzi : can I walk you ?

Me : no , why walk when you
can drive your fancy cars

I say turning my back on him
leaving

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Mthunzi

Vuyo : you owe me

I sigh

Vuyo : but the guys loved the
fruits

Me : it doesn't matter now , she
didn't even listen to me

He laughs

Me : stop being an idiot

Now I don't know what must I
do to get her to talk to me

Vuyo : I did my part

Me : mhm , now you can leave
me alone

He gets up laughing , as he
walks out

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INSERT 17

Onthatile

Surely this is not a big deal right
?

I mean he's rich so what ?

But then I have my own
insecurities about dating a
person that's rich

And I'm only here , picking my
life trying to make ends meet

Next thing he'll be spoiling me
with money , taking me to
places I've never been to

Expensive clothes , and
anything you can think of

Then it'll be gifts and whatnot

Then as time goes by , I'll be all
dependant on this man

He will make it seem like he's
made me , and that he owns me

Or that I owe him , because of
what I have because of him

I don't want to find myself in
such a position , not now and
definitely not ever

I may look overreacting , but I
have reasons

That not many would
understand

I don't wanna be changed ,
especially by a man

Doesn't matter how strong one
may think they are and all that

Men have a way of just creeping
into your head

And manipulating you
psychologically

I don't want to feel trapped in a relationship , I want to have my own voice and be heard

Honestly dating a guy that seems that well established , just doesn't seem like it's for me

Next thing I'll even he scared to leave the relationship

Just because of the benefits
from it

Me : Koko

Koko : I was outside

I smile

I haven't spoken to her since yesterday , and we didn't talk about the money

I've never been that shocked

Here I was busy mocking the guy , only to find out he paid that much money

No wonder my grandmother said it was a lot of money

Me : it's okay , I just have a question about the money

Koko : what money ?

Me : the money the Biyela's paid for bogadi (bride price)

I can't believe I just said that

Koko : I haven't spent it , it's at the bank . I told you I'll be taking it there , I believe you'll need that money when they come back to finish . And we have to do certain traditional things

I sigh , shaking my head

Me : Koko , I don't think there'll be a marriage

Koko : what do you mean ?

Me : Mthunzi and I , wewe
tried being together . But I just
don't think we'll make it work

Koko : what happened ?

I don't think I'm going to discuss
relationships with her

Me : I'll be coming home
tomorrow , we'll talk better
when I get there

Koko : okay , but you're
worrying me

Me : don't worry , we'll talk .
And I'm sure we'll have an
agreement

Koko : okay

Me : bye , I love you

Koko : I love you

We hang up , I sigh rubbing my
eyes

I just think we should return
that money back

I get up , grabbing my basket . I don't even have a lot to sell today , I don't want to go there

But for an hour or two , I can make some sales before I come back

Amo walks in , and puts her bag on the bed

Amo : how are you ?

Me : I'm fine

Amo : I'm starving , can we go
out get something to eat

I ignore her

Amo : Thati !

Me : do you really think I'll go anywhere with you , like ever again after what you did ?

She sighs

Amo : you're still....

Me : yes , I'll never forget what you did Amo . You put my life in danger

Amo : come on ! We don't even know Paul that well , so how can you just assume he could have hurt you ? Because here you are , and nothing happened

Me : exactly that ! We don't know him , and yet you were okay to leave me with him

She sighs

Amo : I've apologized , and
what more can I do ?

Me : nothing , I told you to do
you and I'll do me

Amo : wow ! So much
exaggeration

I just look at her

Amo : anyways , can we just pass that at least ?

Me : don't keep bringing us back to it

Amo : okay fine , I'm sorry . Can I ask ?

Me : what ?

Amo : that handsome chocolate man , that I found here....

Me : oh , he's the poor cheap construction worker . Definitely not your type

I grab my key , opening the door leaving her shocked with eyes popped out

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Mthunzi

Here I am to beg again , cause
what else can a man do ?

I don't want to give up on my
own , I just don't see myself
doing that

Me : MaBiyela wami omuhle
(my beautiful MaBiyela)

She looks at me

Me : my love , can you please
just hear me out . I'm willing to
do anything

I couch down taking her hands
into mine

Me : I love you , and I don't
want to lose you . Please , give
me a chance to explain myself .

The silence is killing me

Me : let me cook dinner , come over . And let's talk , please

She sighs

Ontha : get up

Me : my love please

Ontha : you're just causing us
stares

Me : I don't care

She looks away

Me : if after tonight you still
decide somehow , I'll just
respect your decision . But
please , don't be so quick to
leave us

Ontha : okay

Me : okay , okay I can come pick you up ? And we'll talk

She nods

Me : thank you

Ontha : now get up

I chuckle getting up

Me : I'll see you in two hours

Ontha : okay

I peck her cheek , I don't know
how safe I am to initiate a lip
kiss

Me : I love you

For those few seconds , I just
know I won't get it back

So I turn walking away

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Tshiamo

I'm just laying on the bed ,
watching movies on my laptop

I have classes tomorrow
morning , that's why I'm here

Otherwise I would be out there
, having fun like there's no
tomorrow

A knock comes at the door , I
look over at Thati . She's not
even moving

I sigh getting up , and I open

God !

This creature of a man again !

And he's in suit , one hell of an expensive suit

And he's said to be some poor construction guy , who bought cheap treats . No ways , it's a lie

Me : uhm ...hi

Him : is Onthatile here ?

Me : she.....

He just pushes me out of the way !

Like what's with the rude behaviour ?

He walks to her bed , and uncovers her . Girl is in sleepwear , and already in bed

Him : MaBiyela , gane ne re
buile kang ? (What did we talk
about)

Ontha : I don't feel like it

He sighs

Him : I'm here let's go

She says nothing

And I'm trying to establish , like
is this some kind of a
relationship or what ?

He gets up , pulling the sheets
off of her

Him : should I pick you out of
here , or you'll walk ?

She sighs annoyed getting up

Him : let's go

Ontha : I'm going to change

Him : no , you decided to dress like this knowing I'm coming .

So let's go

He grabs her phone

He takes her hand , and she just follows suit as they both pass me out going out

Me : wow !

Like what the fuck was that ?

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-
-
-

INSERT 18

Onthatile

He doesn't seem happy , the
whole ride he was just quite

He didn't even say a single word

And I've just been quite as well ,
what will I say ?

He opens the door and walks in
, I follow him inside

And it's a bit dark , not scary
dark . But romantic mood dark
scenery

Turning to the lounge , I see a
beautiful picnic set up

Reminds me of the first time ,
he took me to a picnic

That was simple and so lovely

And this is just romantic , and
efforts . Crazy expensive efforts

I get some emotion , like he did
all of this for me

And I wasn't even interested to come , cause I just felt like distancing myself from him

I turn back , and he looks at me . I open my mouth to say something , but I'm caught

I feel so bad , that he even had to drag me here

Mthunzi : I'm going to bed

He turns and walks upstairs , I'm
just left holding my tongue

Because I don't even know what
to say to him

He looks pretty hurt

But we're here , so surely we
could just sit and enjoy all this

I'm even scared going up there

I sit down , the candles smell so nice . Just everything is beautiful here

See me eating all alone , because I feel bad I ruined all of this

And I keep looking up , hoping that maybe he'll come down

But he doesn't

So I guess he's really sleeping

I couldn't eat and finish
everything on my own

I get up , switching the lights on
. And I switch off the candles

I clear up , taking most things to the kitchen . I cover the food that's left

I walk upstairs , and open the door . He's really in bed

I walk in further , and get in bed . I'm even scared getting closer to him

I don't know where his feels are
right now

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Mthunzi

We're here again

Her slipping out of bed , and
waking out

Today I'm not running after her

No matter how bad I want her ,
and I want this relationship

I'm not running after her , I'm not telling anyone to stop her

She can leave if she wants to , and I won't stop her

I took her the way I did yesterday , because she agreed to coming

And then she goes and does that !

I wasn't angry , just slightly hurt
. Cause it felt like she was giving
up on us

But I don't wanna believe that
at all

She can come talk to me , when
she's calmed down and ready

I say nothing , until she's out of
the room . I sigh sitting up

I get up , grabbing my phone I
make a call

Vuyo : sure

Me : will you be on site today ?

Vuyo : I wasn't , but the director is coming . And knowing you , I have to be there

I chuckle

Me : right

Vuyo : behave , the meeting is really important be there

Me : I know , I'll be there

I drop the call , going to the
bathroom . I take a shower

This girl is going to drive me
insane , because she's stuck in
my mind right now

I get out of the shower ,
wrapped in a towel . Walking to
the closet , I pick a suit

Walking back to the bathroom ,
I finish getting ready

And I make the bed when I'm
done

I grab my laptop , and phone . I
don't see her phone here

I don't even remember what I
did with it last night

I walk down , as I'm passing by
the lounge . I'm just welcomed
by an aroma from the kitchen

I head back , and I see her
moving around in the kitchen .
It's a damn sight , I smile for a
few seconds

I slowly walk in the kitchen , and
she's making a feast in here

Me : what are you doing ?

She turns and looks at me

Ontha : baby

Oh okay , I'm baby this morning
?

Me : what's all this ?

Ontha : I'm sorry , I'm so sorry about last night . I know I hurt you , I didn't know you had something that special planned . Please forgive me

I walk closer to her , she sounds and looks so sincere . It's just a fulfilling feeling

Ontha : I cooked , hopefully it can make up for last night . I

know it's not as beautiful as
yours

I smile , placing the laptop bag
on the table

She leans against the counter , I
stand in front of her

Ontha : please forgive me

I hold her waist leaning down

Me : am I forgiven ?

She nods , I chuckle

Me : lorato lame (my love)

I tilt her chin with my fingers ,
we lock eyes

Ontha : I forgive you

I peck her lips , she pulls me in
for a deeper kiss

Ontha : I really do forgive you

She mumbles through the kiss

I pick her up , placing her on the
counter

Ontha : breakfast

I chuckle

Me : now , I want you . The food can wait , it's all beautiful . And I appreciate the effort , I really do

I lift her top , cupping her boobs rubbing on her nipples

She slightly moans , I pull her top off . Trailing my hands to her thighs , rubbing them up

Ontha : we.....

Me : here

I lift her ass up , pulling her
shorts off

Me : now

I unbuckle my pants , lowering
the zip . I take my already
erected dick out

Me : I fucking love you so much

I slide her panty to the side , I
rub my dick on her parting her
legs getting in between them
closer to her

Me : don't ever doubt that

Ontha : I love.....

I slide my dick in slowly , she gasps letting out a moan throwing her head back

She places her hands on the counter , I hold her lower waist thrusting in

Enjoying the view , watching her
moan my name softly as she
enjoys the pleasure

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Onthatile

He's rubbing his finger on my back , I have my one hand rubbing on his nipple

We've just been cuddling in silence for a few minutes

I feel so content , with a man I
never thought I would

I pray and hope he never turns
on me , just because of his
status

Mthunzi : I'm sorry , and I also
wish you could have just told
me your fears and concerns

I blurted those out

Mthunzi : I'll never change you ,
I'll never use money to have a
hold on you . I mean , you're my
wife , allowance should really go
higher from R15

We laugh

Mthunzi : but I can still keep it
at that , if it makes you happy .
If I send you a million tomorrow

, don't overreact about it . Don't try and think I'm just buying you , it'll just be me being a man and taking care of my wife . Money is just money , and our love has nothing to do with that

Me : I'm sorry

Mthunzi : all is forgiven , cause I'm also forgiven . Being poor didn't even suit me , time do you have to leave ?

And there's that

I lift my head looking at him , he
looks at me

Me : I should already be on the
way , I doubt there's that many
taxis to the village

Mthunzi : let's go shower , we don't want to worry your grandmother

And she will worry , if the sun rises and I'm not home

I mean we've been busy since all morning , and it's after 12:30 right now

I won't deny intimacy is nice
and all , but the whole thing is
just tiring

And Mthunzi just seems to have
hunger and stamina I cannot
keep up with

He just goes on and on , the
orgasms take a toll on me

My muscles are painful , I
actually could use some sleep
right now

Me : I'm sure I'll get a taxi , even
if it's the last one

Mthunzi: I'm taking you , let's
go take a shower

Okay ! That was not an ask

Me : can I sleep for 5 minutes ?

He deep chuckles

Mthunzi : no , we still have to
pass by the shops and buy
groceries

Me : groceries for what ? I'm
sure Koko has food at home

Mthunzi : it's not about that

Me : then ?

Mthunzi : see , you're basically a
Biyela wife

He smiles

Mthunzi : so when you visit
your home , you cannot go with
nothing in hand

Me : what ?

Mthunzi : that's just how it's done , every time when you go home you must always have something

Me : but why ?

Mthunzi : uwasemzini (you belong to the in-laws)

Me : baby , let's stick to things I understand

He laughs

Mthunzi : let's go shower

I wonder if Koko knows about this of bringing things home

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Paul

I haven't had energy to deal
with the whole situation of
Onthatile

But I'm certainly not over it , I
can't spend all that much
money for nothing

Me : how are you holding up ?

She sighs

Mom : your father is insane

I chuckle

Mom : can you believe he's gone back , to tracing that woman he claims to have left carrying his daughter ? A fucking maid , that I picked up from the streets

Me : just let him be

She shakes her head

Me : this is taking a toll on you ,
is it worth it ?

Mom : he's ruining our family

Maybe their marriage

Me : I think it's best you just let
him be , let him chase ghosts

Mom : I've been nothing but
loyal to him

Me : he's never hid the fact that when Anelisa left , she was pregnant . Just that he found out very late . And he didn't know where or how to find her

Mom : so are you saying he must go find her , and bring a bastard child into my home ? To remind me of his unfaithfulness

Me : all I'm just saying is , this has been going on for far too long . Every few years he gets like this , doesn't it tire you ?

She keeps quite

Me : maybe it's best to let him do this , maybe he'll finally stop . That's just me saying , whatever you do or he does has nothing to do with me anyways

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INSERT 19

Onthatile

Me : come greet Koko

He smiles

Mthunzi : I can't

Me : why not ?

Mthunzi : this is your home , I'm
a son in law here . I can't just
walk in there

Me : you've been in there

He chuckles

Mthunzi : and that shouldn't
have happened

Me : but it happened

He sighs

Me : I'm taking these things
inside , hopefully when I come
back you'll be ready to walk in

He frowns , I get off the car .
Taking the grocery , walking
inside

Me : Koko

The door is slightly opened , I
walk in and she's already on her
feet

Her smile graces me

Koko : I thought.....

Me : I didn't even call , why
must you always be thinking the
worst ?

I put the plastics down

Koko : it's good seeing you

Me : I told you I won't stay away
from home long

Koko : you did , and I hope
you're still on your promise

Me : yes , no bad boys

She laughs

Koko : what's all this ? I have
food

Me : apparently since I'm
slightly married , I can't come
home empty handed

She smiles

Me : what ?

Koko : nothing

Me : Koko !

She keeps quite

Me : wow okay ! Cancan
Mthunzi come in just to greet ,
before he leaves ?

I say looking down

Koko : the very same man you said , you're not working out ?

Must she ?

Koko : of course , I'll make him a cup of tea

Me : he won't stay

Koko : last time he was here , he asked for seconds

Me : that's embarrassing

I walk out the door , heading to the car by the gate

Mthunzi : let me get my kiss , and leave

Me : Koko says you must come
in

Mthunzi : did she ?

Me : she's making you tea

He smiles

Me : wow

Mthunzi : let me be

He gets out of the car , and we
walk back inside the house
together

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Mthunzi

Spending those few minutes ,
with her grandmother was
actually amazing

She's one kind of a woman ,
who doesn't shy away from
anything

So it was bliss , I don't regret
going in and having that cup of
tea with her

Although , I know if things were
done well the right way

I wouldn't just enter her yard ,
never mind her home

I'm driving back now , and I
already miss my woman like
crazy

I call her , and she answers after
a few rings

Me : please dodge your
grandmother for a while

She laughs

Ontha : dodge her for what ?

Me : I'm lonely , driving two hours alone . It's going to be a long drive

Ontha : you drove here in less than an hour , like we have extra lives . We know you'll be in the city in no time

Me : don't drop the call , get away from her and let's talk just until I'm home

Ontha : that's.....wow !

Me : go in the bedroom , or behind the hut or something

Ontha : you're serious ?

Me : yes

Ontha : you're being a big baby
right now

Me : your baby

The silence , I'm sure she's
smitten

Ontha : okay , it's fine . Let's talk
, I don't know about what .

Because we might even end up
running out of things to say

Me : no worries , you'll sing for
me or something

We both laugh

Me : you're a terrible singer ,
but I'll still listen to you anyways

Ontha : terr....you haven't even
heard me sing

Me : there was a shower
moment

She laughs

Ontha : no one ever sings
perfectly in the shower , that's
your me time . And you just lose
all senses , and be yourself

Me : of course

Ontha : you're a terrible human
being

Me : but it's still fine

Ontha : yeah , video call rather .
I'll rather see you

That melts my heart

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Onthatile

Koko : you seem to be deep in
thought

She sits down next to me

It's the next morning , and I
hardly even slept last night

I just couldn't

A lot was just going on in my
mind

And I found myself thinking long
and hard about our lives

Here I've given Mthunzi this
chance , and now I'm so
conflicted as to is he my
boyfriend or some kind of a
husband ?

As much as cultural things were not done , but bride price was paid

So what does that actually say ?

Me : I'veI thought Mthunzi and I won't work , because of just a certain problem

Koko : and it's over now ?

Is it ?

Well it probably is . I'm just choosing to give us a chance , because he said it shouldn't change anything

Me : I feel like we're moving now , and I barely even know anything about him

He lied about being poor , made
me believe he just was a worker

While he's the man in charge

I know nothing about him ,
absolutely nothing

I don't know his age , where he
comes from . Generally
anything about him

Any siblings if there's any , and
parents

Koko : doubts should be
addressed , sit down with him
and ask him all of those
questions you have

I may be wanting answers , but I
don't even know how I'll begin
asking . One thing about me ,
maybe I lack in communication

Not that I'm scared

I just need a better approach

Me : I hear you , we'll talk when
I get back

Koko : but tell me something ,
what has changed from the last
time we spoke about him ?

I laugh

Me : nothing , except that
maybe he's let me in on who he
is slightly . Terrifying for me ,
because I have fears about all of
that

Koko : but you love him ?

Are we really having this
conversation ?

Koko : we're just talking

We laugh

Me : I'm not telling you that

Koko : your mother and uncle
didn't just fall from the sky , I
knew and did things in my times
as well .

Me : uhm okay

Koko : you know , as young as you may be . But the two of you , can actually just be there for each other . His brother said , they're orphans . And those boys didn't strike me like they're married , you might just be that clue for them . So please , behave yourself . And build that family , you need growth and maturity for that

I'm stuck on that , they're
orphans

I don't even know that , he's
never even mentioned it like
once

Goes to prove just how I don't
know anything about him

Or the fact that he has brother's
, and now I remember that guy
who came over and bought all
of my stock

Who resembled him so much , I
could have sworn they were
related

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INSERT 20

Mthunzi

He walks in , I don't even bother
looking at him

I've been ignoring his calls , and
now he's here

I know he's not happy

He pulls a chair and sits down

Vuyo : how's the wife ?

Me : gone home for the
weekend

Vuyo : right !

He sighs

Vuyo : you missed the meeting on Friday , not just any meeting . But a very important meeting with the director , and you knew.....

Me : don't give me a lecture man , I was busy . How far are you with that Paul business ?

Vuyo : you're dismissing me ?

Me : I'm trying to find out if you've deemed yourself useful

He shakes his head

Vuyo : I know the roommate

Me : you know her ?

Vuyo : like I've had an
encounter once or maybe twice

Me : you fucked with her ?
She's a whore ?

He laughs

Vuyo : don't call her that , she's just making ends meet . College students are poor

Me : my wife is not poor

Vuyo : because she's your wife , and chowing tenders money . We cannot compare her to others

Me : so what are you going to do ?

Vuyo : I'll just have a talk with her , she'll tell me what I need to know . I already have a plan and means to frame the guy

Me : good , now that's what I want to hear

Vuyo : be honest , you ditched
the meeting for pussy didn't
you ?

Me : me and you don't discuss
my wife , like we just don't

He laughs

Vuyo : it's great to know , that
you'll miss important things just
so you're

Me : ftsek you're done now ,
and you can leave my house
(fuck off)

Vuyo : it's Sunday

Me : and I'm going to the village

Vuyo : why ?

Me : I'm going to fetch her

Vuyo : it's fine you'll find me
back here

Me : just

Vuyo : it'll be nice to actually
just meet her , while you're
gone I'll be going to meet with
Tshiamo

Me : at least you're doing something useful

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Tshiamo

He pulls a chair and sits down

Tee : how are you ?

Me : I'm fine

Tee is just some guy , I met a
while back

And we've had some kind of a relation , if I can even call it that

Although it was just three times , just sex and nothing else

I was shocked hearing from him

Because the last time , he made it clear he was done

He was very unimpressed when he found out , that I'm open to whoever has a fat wallet

Me : you called ?

Tee : I need some information , and I'll pay you whatever amount you want

Me : what.....what kind of information ?

Tee : a guy named Paul

I move back on my chair

Tee : who is he exactly , and
where can I find him ?

Me : uhmwhy ? What do you
want with him ?

Tee : I said I'll pay you , so I don't expect you to be asking me questions

I sigh

Me : what can I possibly tell you about Paul ? I hardly even know the guy , he just wanted my friend . And now he's backed off

Tee : anything , even a number
will do

Me : okay , I do have his
number . I haven't used it , he
hasn't called in a while . So I
don't know if it still works

I take my phone out and call out
the number to him

Tee : thank you

He gets up , and he reaches into his pockets

Tee : here

He places a small brown envelope on the table

Me : thanks

I grab it , and he walks away

I open it , and the sight of
money inside sure puts a smile
on my face

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Onthatile

He places his hand on my thigh

I look at him , he's just quite
focusing on the road

Me : I didn't think you were
going to come

He side eyes me and smiles ,
turning his attention back to the
road

Mthunzi : I wasn't going to let
you take taxis

I smile

Me : I'm glad you're here , I
missed you

He chuckles

Leaning over , he places a kiss
on my cheek

Tightening his grip on my thigh ,
just making me feel this

My body just reacts to his touch
, makes me feel somehow

Mthunzi : I was feeling
depression

I laugh

Me : you're a dramatic man

Mthunzi : you're just a mean
person

Me : oh wow !

And he laughs

Mthunzi : you're sleeping over
right ?

Me : am I ?

Mthunzi : yes please , you'll go
to your place tomorrow
morning

Me : okay

I won't say no

I missed him as much , and
spending a night at his place
won't hurt no one

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Tshiamo

Was a day well spent

I sure did myself good , spoiled myself with some good shopping therapy needed

I can't lie though , I'm very curious as to why Tee wanted Paul

And exactly how he knew that I know Paul

But I can't call him and ask ,
because the last time I spoke
with Paul it wasn't pleasant

I thought he was throwing a
threat somehow

But I'm glad nothing has
happened , so surely it was
nothing

I'm glad he's staying away
though , because his presence
just bought drama

And now I lost a friend

I'm still hoping we can mend
our friendship , and still be
friends again

Surely that can only happen
with no Paul in sight , or his
name in mention

So it's best he's away from us ,
with his cute self and his money

I unpack my bags , as my phone
rings

I look at the number and frown
seeing who's calling

I let it ring , until it stops . But it
rings right back again

I stare at it , until it annoys me
and I just decline the call
switching off my phone

I left home for a reason , and I
don't go back for one

I'm better off here on my own ,
and I want nothing that reminds
me of the village

Or the life I left back there

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Paul

My phone rings , and it's an
unknown number

Me : yes

Voice : Mr Paul Daniels

Me : who are you ?

Him : Tee

Me : I don't know any Tee

Like what kind of a name is that
?

Me : don't waste my time ,
what can I do for you ?

Tee : well , I have a business
proposal for you sir...

Me : I'm not inter....

Tee : please , just spare me a
few minutes of your time .
That's all I need

Me : like I said

Tee : I'll make it worth your
while

I keep quite for a bit

Tee : I know you're a busy man

Me : I'll give you 10 minutes ,
don't waste my time . When
and where ?

Tee : Whenever you're available
, even now will do

I sigh

Me : right , where are you ?

Tee : across Rhodes in town , I
just had a meeting

Me : I'm across there , let's
meet in Rhodes . Remember 10
minutes

Tee : noted

I drop the call

Getting up , and heading to
Rhodes

And it's not even packed , I get
a table and sit down

Time goes by , and no one
comes in . I don't see anyone in
here who's alone

I sigh , checking my wrist watch

I shake my head , getting
annoyed . Seems like I've just
been played

I call the number back , and
there's no answer . I text , and
still nothing

The 10 minutes passes , and I
get up heading out

Me : bloody wasting my time

I get to my car , I'm leaving I
won't waste my time for
nonsense

I drive off , until I'm stopped by
the cops as I reach the off-ramp

I'm just shocked , as to what's
going on . Like why am I being
stopped

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INSERT 21

Mthunzi

Me : and ?

Vuyo : I called him and asked to meet . I said it's some business proposal , and I wanted him on board . He wasn't keen at first , I begged though . He said he can spare me 10 minutes , I took that . He got to the restaurant , and I headed to his car planting those things .

Me : he didn't see you ?

Vuyo : he was inside , I watched him when I was done . He called quite a few times , and texted obviously not pleased . After that 10 minutes he left , and I followed behind he was caught . He's still with the cops even now

I nod

Me : none of that will come back to me right ?

Vuyo : no , the product is as good as yours . But I tempered with it , so they'll never even suspect . He won't get off easily , because it looked like he deals m so he has time inside , even with a lawyer

Me : alright , you did good

He clears his throat moving
back , I turn my head looking at
her coming down the stairs

I hold my hand out for her as
she gets down , she takes it . I
bring her closer for a hug

I plant a kiss on her forehead

Vuyo : I'm still here

Me : leave

Vuyo : Makoti , can I please
have breakfast here ?

She smiles

Me : no

Ontha : it's just food , let me go
cook

She walks to the kitchen

Vuyo : I like her , I really like her
. Big ups to marrying her

Me : says you ?

He laughs

Me : you told me whatnot , and now it's big ups because you'll be eating my food ?

Vuyo : it's just food

He walks to the lounge , sitting down

Me : we are not a charity case , we don't offer free foods here .

Tsaa marete a gago o tsamaye
(take your testicles and leave)

He laughs , I click my tongue
walking to the kitchen

And damn !

The aroma that just welcomes
me , I won't starve here in all
kinds

I peck her cheek she smiles , I pull a chair just looking at her move around the kitchen cooking . She just owns this place and it suits her

Ontha : you two are brothers ?

I nod

And she goes on to say nothing , asking nothing

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Paul

Me : what the hell ?

Officer : we found these in your car , in your possession

He shakes his head

Me : I've been telling you , the same thing over and over again . I don't know anything about those drugs

Officer : drugs that cost over a hundred thousand

He chuckles

Officer : we can do this the easy way or the hard way , Mr Daniels it's your choice

Me : I want to call my lawyer

Officer : words of a guilty man

Me : say whatever you want to say , I'm not saying anything without my lawyer

He smiles

And now my mind is just rushing with thoughts , I get called for a stupid meeting

And no one pitches up , minutes later I'm caught up by cops with drugs in my car

Ain't no way that all this is just a coincidence

I've been set up , and whoever called me is either responsible or knows

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Tshiamo

The look on her face , it's just
shock as she gasps

I want to ignore her , we're
beginning to live like strangers

But I don't want to give up on
her

Me : what's up ?

She just shows me her phone

I take a look

Me : what ?

Ontha : yes , that's the drug dealer you left me with . And you thought he wouldn't hurt me

Me : Paul was arrested yesterday , for possession of cocaine

She holds her hand , I give her
phone back

Me : I'm.....but they didn't say
he deals drugs

Ontha : doesn't matter , could
be he's dealing or doing . Fact
remains , he's a danger to
society

Me : come on ! There's drugs everywhere

Ontha : and do you know what those drugs do to the youth of today ? Anyone who deals drugs , is just inhumane

She lays back down

And I'm just shocked , like I didn't take the guy for someone

who could be involved in dodgy
shady things

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Mthunzi

Me : and ?

Vuyo : everything is ready , the girls are heading to the airport this evening

Me : and our contacts at the airport ?

Mthunzi : ready , they've been paid so all is set

Me : let me know once Santiago gets his package

Vuyo : sure , we had to make slight changes with one girl

I look at him

Me : why ?

Vuyo : she swallowed two balls ,
and she couldn't take more

Me : don't tell me there's a
shortage of those drugs

Vuyo : no , we just had to
replace her

Me : I don't want problems

Vuyo

Vuyo : there's none , the girl is good

I nod

Vuyo : I'll stop by the factory , and check how the operation is coming along

Me : with this thing of the guy , I don't want any sniffs . It could

mean trouble , especially with
20 girls disappearing

Vuyo : everything is fine and
legit with them , and they're
going to 4 different countries .
No one will be suspicious of
that , and also they just think
they're mules transporting the
cocaine . They have no idea
they're being sold

Me : good , I might have to go
to Limpopo very soon . Look
over things here

I get up

Me : the girl you switched up

He looks at me

Me : where is she ?

Vuyo : uhm.....

Me : I want her dead

Vuyo : what ?

Me : she couldn't swallow the damn drugs , she's of no use to me . So I want her dead , I cannot afford to have loose ends

Vuyo : but don't you.....

Me : Vuyo , get it done . If you can't , let me know I'll handle it myself . Find her and kill her , make us money sell her organs . She failed to make me money this way , at least she'll get to give me something with her death . You only have this day

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INSERT 22

A WEEK LATER

Onthatile

Mthunzi : my love

He pulls my hand , I look at him

Mthunzi : what's gotten you so
focused , while I'm right here ?

Me : stop being jealous

He chuckles

Me : this is just sad and
gruesome

Mthunzi : what ?

Me : this , what I'm reading on
the news . There's this girl who

was found dead , by the bush .
And her organs were missing ,
seems like it's been a few days
she died . Or rather was killed

Mthunzi : wow

Me : they suspect that it could
be ritual killings

Mthunzi : mhm , in such places
such things are a norm . I mean

a lot of people just want wealth
, they don't want to work for .
They just make means

Me : but this is gruesome , and
how can anyone do such a thing
to another human being ?

He shakes his head , I sigh

Me : such people do not
deserve to live amongst humans

, they're just monsters . And the
worst kind of sinners

He clears his throat , I look at
him

Me : I'm sorry , I'm just going on
and on right ?

He smiles , I place my phone
down and get on top of him

Mthunzi : you know I don't
mind you going on and on

I smile pecking his lips

Mthunzi : when can I go and
finish bogadi ? (Bride price)

Me : mhm

He chuckles

Mthunzi : I'm serious , I've been doing this boyfriend thing

Me : how do we do a marriage in just a short space of being together ?

He laughs

Mthunzi : we do it

So far everything has just been
great between us

I have no complaints , and
there's nothing giving me any
doubts

I just don't know about
marriage though , because I feel
like it's too soon

Mthunzi : think about it at least
, I mean I'm willing to wait . Just
I think I'm ready to go all in ,
I've been ready though

Me : am I holding you back ?

Mthunzi : I want you to move in

I gasp

Me : what ?

Mthunzi : yeah , but we're here first at the finishing of bogadi (bride price)

Me : you paid a R150 000 , isn't that enough ?

Mthunzi : Koko will be the one telling me that

I laugh

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Paul

This is just insane

It's been the worst week ever

Spending two nights in jail , and having bail denied . Life on the inside is not pleasing , I got beat this morning just for using the shower . I look bad

Now I'm just stuck here , over
nonsense and something I know
nothing about

Dad : what are you doing
dealing drugs ? Your name is
splashed all over the news

Mom : I know you , I know I
raised you to be a better man
than this

Me : I don't know anything
about those drugs

Dad : they were found in your
possession

Me : I'm being framed

Dad : by who and for what ?

Me : I don't know

He shakes his head

Me : this doesn't make sense at all , I need help getting out of here . That lawyer is useless , he couldn't even get me out on bail . I cannot be stuck here , especially for something I didn't do . I can barely walk , because of getting beaten up this morning . I don't want to die in here

Dad : you created this mess ,
now you need us to bail you out
. I'm already dealing with a lot ,
I can't....

Mom : oh enough ! He's your
son , and he needs you . Right
now , you can put aside your
dealings , and just deal with this
for him . Or does he suddenly
not matter anymore ?

Me : guys , come on ! Can we not fight each other here

He gets up

Me : dad !

Dad : I'll see what to do

He walks away , and goes out the door

Me : can't you just....

Mom : I'm sorry , but I'll make
sure he stands up for you and
helps you get out of here

I nod

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Mthunzi

Lumka : you two spoke about this ?

Me : well , I mentioned it in passing to her last night

Lumka : she agreed ?

I sigh

Me : not in so many ways , but
she didn't say no either

Lumka : won'tcan't you just
wait for a definite yes ?

Me : I feel like I've wasted
enough time

Lumka : I get that , but don't
rush her

Me : I didn't call for advice , just
write that letter to her
grandmother . And if she's not
ready yet , we don't get a
response and I'll know

Lumka : that could be a
problem

Me : don't worry about my
relationship , just do what I'm
asking from you

He sighs

Lumka : okay

Me : thank you !

I drop the call

Vuyo : why are you bullying him
?

I get up , staring at him
grabbing my car keys

Me : I'm going out

Vuyo : but....

Me : deal with Raps when he gets here

I head out , bumping into Morapedi

Raps : Mthu....

Me : don't , see I'm on my way out . It's so I don't get my hands on you , do your shit and leave

He moves back a bit

Me : o ta nyela Raps , you seem to forget yourself from time to time (you'll shit yourself)

Raps : monna(man)

Me : we're not friends , don't mistaken that

Raps : you're bringing a lot of heat , the board is talking .

Word has it you're about to be awarded a 10 billion tender to build a mall , that's

Me : kare o ta nyela , o tsena kae wena koo ? (You'll shit yourself I'm telling you , how's that any of your business)

Raps : I made sure you were awarded this tender of the clinic

, any heat you bring will cause them to open eyes and

Me : deal with them , don't make your problems mine

I walk past him heading to my car

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INSERT 23

Onthatile

For the past few days , I've been
doing nothing but just thinking

And I think a lot of things are
just becoming too much now

I'm trying my best to hold on ,
and just do the best I can

The last thing I want , is putting
a relationship before everything
in my life

As much as I love Mthunzi , I
don't want this to distract me

And I most certainly do not
want to find it being the only
one thing in my life I see matter

I can't deny the past that has
happened , and also the
possible future that's to happen

So sitting on this , doing nothing
as well doesn't help anything

I've never been to the site
before , it's my first time

And I guess I'm just in luck ,
because he's not here

Voice : MaBiyela

I turn and look at him

Me : uhm....abuti Vuyo

He smiles

Vuyo : sorry to keep you waiting
, I was busy . And your husband
is not here

Me : I....I was told , but I'm not
here for him

Vuyo : oh ?

Me : I'm sorry , it's just that I
need access to his house

Vuyo : mhm

Me : I just don't want him
knowing I'm there

He chuckles

Vuyo : he's a lot of things , but
definitely he doesn't cheat

I laugh

Me : last thing on my mind , I
just want to plan something
special for him

Vuyo : right !

Me : I...I was wondering if you
could help me

He smiles

Vuyo : that's basically your house , you should be having access to it . I'll give you the key I keep , no need to bring it back

This one is a character

Me : thank you so much

Vuyo : no worries

He gives me the keys

Vuyo : do you have a taxi
waiting outside ?

Me : no , I walked here

He shakes his head

Vuyo : he wouldn't approve of
that

Mthunzi loves exaggerating

Me : it's okay really , it's not a long distance

Vuyo : where to now ?

Me : where I stay

Vuyo : let me take you

I guess they both just
exaggerate

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Tshiamo

I'll be damned !

Today of all days , I just had to
see him

It's been a while since I last saw
him

Actually , it was when he came
by and left with Thati

I've never seen him again

And I've always wondered who
he is and whatnot

But today , here he is

And I never thought , I could
ever seen him in such a place

But then again , he does strike me like the rich type that just fucks and passes

I've been looking at him , and it's so hard taking my eyes off of him

Just the way he's even holding that cigarette , I wouldn't mind being it . Tasting those lips

I down the glass of wine , and
gather myself

I get up and walk to where he is
, with two other gentlemen

Me : gentlemen

I say with a seductive smile , the
two look at me

But not him

This is the kind of a club , where
women just throw themselves
at men

What I'm doing is no shocker at
all

Me : uhm , mind if I join you ?

One smiles , and I take that as a
yes

I sit down next to this yummy
thing of a man

I turn and face him , lord he
smells so divine

Me : Tshiamo is the name ,
remember me ?

He side eyes me , placing down
the cigarette

Me : see , it's a sight for sore
eyes seeing you here . I never
thought I'll see you anywhere
else again , but here we are

He picks the glass of scotch , his
eyes still stuck on me

He downs it , and places it back on the table

Me : I don't blame Thati for lying , and painting you as some poor construction worker . I mean , you're just a whole full package . And any girl would be lucky to have you , and definitely lie to keep you all to herself . I wouldn't mind even just a night

I brush my hand down his tie ,
trailing down to his lower
stomach

He trails his eyes to my hand ,
and they stop right where my
hand stops

Me : I wouldn't mind you , even
just for a night . I just want to
indulge in all of this , and if
she's anything close to your

regular . What she doesn't
know won't kill her

He slowly lifts his eyes , and
looks back at me

Me : even free I'm willing

He sides smiles , and looks at
the two gentlemen

Him : madoda (guys) , please
excuse me

They both nod , as he turns his
attention back to me . I grace
him with a smile

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Onthatile

There's nothing that special
planned

It's not even a romantic dinner
whatsoever

I just wanted to cook a nice
meal , have a homely
atmosphere

Because I just want us to talk

If I'm to consider his ask , then I
don't want to marry a stranger

I want to be with a man that I
know , a man that I'm certain of

We've never talked about our
lives , our past or anything like
that

And I want us to be over that

I check the time , I thought he'll
be back by now

It is pretty much late

He doesn't even know that I'm here , I'm wondering if he'll come back

What will I do if he doesn't ?

Maybe I should call him

I dial his number , and it rings

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INSERT 24

Tshiamo

I get up , and he grabs my hand
so roughly I let out a scream of
pain slightly

Me : that's..... you're hurting me

I look around , everyone is
minding their business

Even the two guys on the table ,
they're just minding their
business

It's like they're not here , they
don't see what's happening

Me : please.....

Him : don't ever put your hands
on me ever again

Within a split second , he snaps
my arm I damn feel it twist

I cry out in pain , crouching
down . I don't even care we're
in a club , I wail

As I feel the pain shoots up ,
through my whole arm

I swear it's broken

I try touching it and it's like I'm
just making it worse , I'm trying
to balance it

I lift my eyes looking at him , he
slides his phone and answers

Shaking hands with the two
guys , and he just walks out just
like that

Me : please.....please help me , I
think my arm.....is broken please

Guy 1 : next time , play far from
married men

What the hell ?

And they both get up just
ignoring me down on the floor

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Mthunzi

I walk in , and well it's just a sight being welcomed at home by my wife

Me : MaBiyela

She smiles , I lean down giving her a kiss taking my jacket off

Me : sorry , my meeting was just dragging . And I got in a situation , that delayed me . I'm sorry you had to call me , so I can come home my love

She giggles

Ontha : what's with the drama ?

Me : there's no drama , I'm just being what a man is to his wife

I pull a chair and sits down

Ontha : you didn't know I was
here

Me : my heart is fulfilled , I
mean I could get used to always
being welcomed home by you

She smiles

Ontha : I'll go dish up , or did you have something to eat ?

Me : even if I ate , I would still be down for your food

She gets up walking to the kitchen , after a while she comes out

Handing me a plate of food , and she sits down with hers

Me : thank you

I don't waste time eating

Ontha : you know uhm....I don't know my father

I side eye her , still eating . And she's looking at me , I focus back on my plate

Ontha : my mother passed away when I was 15 , she was a domestic worker . And she had me very young , it was said to be with her boos . The white man she was working for , of which I don't know . Koko has always been a mother to me , more than my own mother . She raised me , until today . I also have an uncle , who's just out there with his family living a better life than us and he

doesn't care . From what I know , I don't have any siblings it's just me . I'm the only child my mother had , I don't know on this man though . For me there's no other family , besides Koko . I'm 21 now , doing my first year at college . Because I couldn't leave Koko alone , when I finished matric and I was 17 . But she finally put her foot down this year , and told me I'm going to school . I'm not all that

brains , just doing graphic design . But I love it , and I believe even if I don't find a job after graduation. I can still have my own business , so it's better than nothing

I lift my eyes and look at her ,
my plate is almost half done

I didn't stop eating , and look at her . But now she has my

attention , not that she didn't
before

Ontha : I'm that child who
knows who she is , and where
she comes from . What she has
, what she wants and what she
needs . I stand for my own , and
I'm a firm believer in myself .
See there's a reason why I
didn't want to date a man with
money , I don't want to be
controlled . I don't want to fall

in love with the money and everything else , and end up loosing myself in the relationship . I want to be treated like a human being , have my voice and let it be heard . I don't want to be seen as some trophy girlfriend or wife

She goes quite for a bit , before she lifts her eyes and meets mine

Ontha : life has been hard , as far as I can always remember it has been hard . And I'm not saying I want it to remain like that forever no , I want change as well . But I want to bring about that change myself , not because of means of a man

I get up , pulling the chair next to her . I hold her hand

Ontha : I wouldn't say , I'm one perfect human being . I also have my flaws , and what you see is just basically what you get with me . It's black and white , no grey colour's

I smile

Ontha : here is this man , a whole total opposite of who I would be with . But I cannot deny the fact that I love you ,

yet I have my fears . Because I don't want what I've said to come to pass , I want you to let me be . And don't try and change me with your money , don't change me . If I dress poorly , let me be . Don't try and introduce me to labels an whatnot , I like cheap . Leave me with that , don't drag me to suddenly be all for expensive . I know nothing about you , as content as I feel . This is just

scary , I could wake up
tomorrow and find out you're
nothing I've seen you as . There
isn't much to tell about myself ,
because there's not much to
say . I'm not restricting you
from saying anything

We're so there

And I don't know , maybe I'm
crazy

But it feels like being a wife is
finally being considered

Like that's big

And it's making me happy

Me : I love you

She smiles , I peck her lips

Me : it's a pleasure to finally
know about my wife , I
understand everything and
more you said

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Onthatile

We put the plates down , and
he takes my hand into his

Me : it's late

Mthunzi : we're going to talk ,
don't fall asleep

And he carries me into his arms
, walking upstairs

Me : don't let me fall

He laughs

Mthunzi : at least trust my
capabilities , even if you don't
trust me

We get to the bedroom

Mthunzi : I'm lazy for a shower ,
can we just get to bed and talk

Me : okay

He gets me undressed , and
opens the sheet

Me : tuck me in

He chuckles

Mthunzi : I'm going to cuddle
you

Me : okay

He takes his clothes off

Mthunzi : what's with the smile
?

I shake my head giggling , I
know the cuddling will end up in
a intimate session

Mthunzi is very weird , I don't
even understand how he sleeps
naked

I'm just left with my panty , he
literally just prefers us sleeping
naked

I don't mind that , only if we have sex and just fall asleep after that

He gets in bed , and brings me closer . He cuddles me

Mthunzi : I'm 27

Okay , that's not bad right . It's just 6 years apart

Mthunzi : I'm an orphan , I lost my parents very young I was probably 8 or so they were brutally attacked . And they both didn't make it , from there I can basically say I've been on my own . Their families didn't want me , and so I was passed around from orphanage to orphanage . Until I was 12 or so , and I ran away starting to live and hustle on the streets . I don't have much to say about

my family , because there's
none . I have two brothers you
know Vuyo and there's Lumka ,
we just share a father . I've
always known about them , but
we didn't grow up together .
We met at a later stage , when I
was like 19 or something . And
from there , we've just always
been in each other's lives .
They're the only family I have

I lift my head and look at him

Mthunzi : I'm a hustler more than I'm anything , all of this means nothing to me . The money , the cars and the houses . It's just materialism things , that I didn't grow up with . Living in the street for all those years , just made me this man that I am today . I wasn't spoon-fed , my parents were not rich . We just lived a basic life , in an RDP house . So all this

, is not what I grew up with , or
say it's a life that was created
for me .

Me : I'm sorry about your
parents

He smiles

Mthunzi : my father was going
to love you

I giggle

Mthunzi : I'm not ashamed of who or what I am , it's me my love . And I promise , I'll never change who you are . As much as I don't expect you to change who I am , because that will never happen . So don't even think , at some point if you suddenly hear something about me or see it . And you'll be expecting me to turn into some

church mouse , because I'm so far from being perfect . If anything , I'm just a sinner with so many flaws . And I would like you to just let me be , just as I am . Doesn't mean I don't love you , but I'll never change the person that I am . Not even for you , because if I can love you as you are . Surely you can love me back as I am

I slightly nod

I guess I understand what he's saying , but it scares me

If you hear something that makes you wanna leave everything , then it means it's bad

But I'm stopping right there with my assumptions , one thing he said crystal clear is he

won't change . Basically he just said there's bad that he does

Me : I know you have a tender , but besides that what else do you do ?

Mthunzi : I have no education , I left school in grade 4 . I never went back , I didn't go to a college . I'm just business minded from the streets , fuck I stole a lot and did a whole lot of

other bad things to get to where I am today . And I'm probably still doing some bad things , because this business world is cut throat . I have a filling station , and three trucks that do transportation at the diamond mine . Then there's another tender I've just gotten , for building a mall here . The trucks do make money , but not as much as I would like . The filling station , is much better .

Honestly , the tenders is just to patch up where there's a shortage

I'm just left stunned , I mean I didn't expect to hear all of this

From him being an orphan , living in the streets and all

Me : thank you

I place my hand on his cheek ,
pecking his lips

Mthunzi : I love you

I smile

Me : and I'll marry you

He chuckles

Mthunzi : no kidding ?

I nod

Me : I'll marry you

Mthunzi : you should have just told me to tell you all of this a while back , so that I can have my wife

I laugh , cuddling him laying my head on his chest

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INSERT 25

Tshiamo

I open the door , and it's a
damn struggle

I don't know how I'm going to
function with just one arm

Like I had to be admitted to
hospital , because my arm is
broken

That guy did a number on me

The way he just snapped , I
don't know what happened
there

I was so sure that he was
leaving with me , even if we
were going to his car

I was so excited , I mean who
wouldn't have been

Only to snap my arm like that

I sit down on the bed , trying to
balance myself with another
arm

I take my phone , and scroll
through . I dial her number

It rings for a while before she
answers

Ontha : Amo

She sounds so bored

Me : hi....hi , sorry to bother you
so early . Can you please come
see me

Ontha : come see you ?

Me : I'm...I'm in hospital

Ontha : what happened ?

Me : I.....broke my arm , and I need a few things . Pass by town first , and get me some food and.....

Ontha : Amo how do you break your own arm , what were you doing ?

Me : it's a long story , I'll tell you when you come

Voice : MaBiyela , can you just
put your phone away and come
back to bed

What the hell ?

It's him , like that's his voice

Me : Onthatile !

Ontha : uhm.....I'll call you

Me : wait....he's the one who.....

Did she just drop the call on me
?

And why the hell is this guy ,
busy calling her MaBiyela ?

Like what's going on between
these two ?

One of the guys last night said
he's married , I wonder if Ontha
knows that

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Onthatile

Me : really ?

Mthunzi : I'm happy today , I
just want you in my arms

Me : but I'm here

Mthunzi : you were there
answering a call

I laugh

Me : that was Amo , she says
she's been admitted in hospital
. Apparently she broke her arm ,
she wanted me to see her . She
needs and I'm guessing
toiletries maybe

Mthunzi : you'll go see her
when you can , I mean you
didn't send her there

He says without even a care

Mthunzi : I spoke to Lumka
yesterday , the letter is being
sent to your grandmother

Me : you're not wasting time

He chuckles

Mthunzi : I'm not , I've been
waiting my love

Me : not that long , you're just
an impatient man

Mthunzi : I don't know about
that , I've been very patient
with you from the beginning

Me : don't lie , you ran and
married me just because I said I
don't want a boyfriend

He chuckles

Mthunzi : okay , don't be like
that

Me : so much for being patient

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Paul

Mom : I'll go run you a bath

I nod

She walks to the bathroom , I sit
down

I don't know how my father
managed to get me out

I didn't even think he was going to , but he did

And here I'm out of jail , just like that

He walks in , and looks at me

Me : I....thank you so much

Dad : Stay out of trouble , I can't be saving you when I should be

using all that energy looking for
my daughter

That again !

Me : uhm.....have you made any
progress ?

Dad : I'm meeting with the PI ,
he tracked Anelisa but she's no
more

Me : oh ?

Dad : the daughter is alive
though , and believed to be
here

Me : you're.....you're very close
, I guess you'll find her

Dad : if I wasn't dealing with
your shit , I would have long
found her

Me : dad....

He shakes his head walking
away

Me : great !

My reputation is ruined , I'm
loosing clients

I have to get back to work , so I
can try and salvage what I can

I need to find out who set me
up , and whoever it was they'll
pay for it

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Mthunzi

Vuyo : Paul is out

I look at him

Vuyo : his father.....they played
dirty . And now he's out

Me : he's out to be running
after my wife again ?

Vuyo : I....I mean I don't know

I chuckle

Me : you better know , or he's
done for

He sighs

Vuyo : right ! How was your meeting ?

Me : got the tender

He laughs

Vuyo : and the corrupt always win

I chuckle

Me : speak to Lumka , he said
he's done with the letter . I
ordered a ring today , should
arrive in a few days . I'm hoping
we get to go there soon

Vuyo : wow , what happened ?
Like how did we suddenly get
her to agree ?

Me : she loves me you idiot

He laughs

I grab my phone , checking with Lefa I have him watching her

Now that this guy is out of jail , I can't just be relaxed . He better know his place , because this time he won't spend a few weeks in Jail he will die

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INSERT 26

Onthatile

I walk in , my heart is just
feeling heavy in a way

But I'm also scared

I don't know , but since
yesterday I've been feeling like
someone is following me

And it's just creeping me out

My phone rings , I answer

Me : Baby

Mthunzi : where are you ?

Me : uhm....in hospital

Mthunzi : okay , you're coming over tonight ?

I don't think it's wise being in our room , especially feeling this way

Me : yes

He chuckles

Mthunzi : tell me when visiting hours are over , so I can come get you

Me : okay

Mthunzi : I love you

Me : and I love you

We hang up , I haven't even
told him this

I walk closer to the bed , and
she's sleeping

I haven't come to see her , not
even once . And she called me
like three days ago

I sit down , I'll wait until she's
awake . Hopefully she'll wake

up before visiting hours are
over

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Tshiamo

I look at her

I can't believe she only decided
to come today

After I called her days ago to
come

Me : I didn't think you'd come

Ontha : well I am here

Me : after three days ?

Ontha : doesn't matter , I'm
here aren't I ?

I sigh

Me : you know I'm like this
because of that married man
you're busy running after

She looks at me

Me : we met in a club , he was
there with two other guys . We
had fun okay , and at the end of
the night . This is what he did to
me , after his friends said he's
married

She just stares at me with a blank expression

Me : I could swear , you've been with him the past few days . And that's why you couldn't come to see me , but he's not all of that . And if you know better , you'll stay away from that man . He's abusive , and I have a good mind to report him for this

She sighs

Ontha : I'll see you when you
get discharged

Me : wha.....

She turns and walks out

Me : Onthatile !

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Mthunzi

Me : your mind is not here

She looks at me.

Me : and you don't look okay

She turns her head and looks
outside the window

I could have just said , I don't
want her going to the hospital

But that would have caused
talks

And now I don't know what that
whore said to her

Maybe she told her I'm the one
who broke her arm

Now of course my wife is not
happy

But she hasn't asked me
anything , nor has she
confronted me

Me : is this about that guy being
out of Jail ?

I take her hand into mine

Me : my love you're worrying
me right now

Ontha : I feel like I'm being followed

I side eye her

Me : when did this start ?

Ontha : a few days ago

Me : and you didn't tell me why ?

She sighs

Me : MaBiyela

Ontha : I just thought I'm being
paranoid , but it's starting to
creep me out

Me : look at me

She turns her head

Me : I'll take care of this okay ?

She nods

You never ignore your gut , or intuition . So definitely something is going on

I grab my phone and make a call

Lefa : monna (man)

Me : o ta nyela o raa monna o
raa nna ? (You'll shit your self ,
you're saying man addressing
me)

He sighs

Me : I'm not your friend Lefa

Lefa : I'm.....

Me : who is following my wife ?

He keeps quite

Me : I need an answer now

Lefa : uhm.....

Me : o bata go nyela Lefa ? (Do you want to shit yourself)

Lefa : no , I'll get on with it

Me : you have an hour , not
more than that

I drop the call

Ontha : what was that ?

I look at her with a smile

Me : it's.... nothing

Ontha : that didn't sound like
nothing

Me : well

I dart my eyes , focusing on the
road

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Tshiamo

I take my phone and call her

She's been ignoring me since
yesterday , she's not answering
my calls nor my text

I have no one to bring me
anything

I can't even call Cleo , we have a
deal he calls me not the other
way around

I need food , and soap

The hospital food is just
nonsense

The phone rings until it goes on
to voicemail

Me : wow !

Could she be ignoring me
because I told her the truth
about that guy

Or she's just being bitter , that
he looked my way

I call again , and still no answer

Me : Thati you're being selfish
right now , and not being a true
friend . I've been nothing but
good to you , ever since you
came here . And you've just
been so ungrateful , I wouldn't

be leaving you in hospital all alone . But look at what you're doing to me , you're not a true friend . And all because of that man who's married , and abusive . Sleeping with whores in clubs , you must be thinking you're all that to him . Let him use you , when he's done you'll remember me . And you best believe , I'll remind you of this day . Mxm !

I drop the call , and sigh laying
back down

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INSERT 27

Mthunzi

Me : I'm listening

He sighs

Lefa : it's some PI guy

I frown , at the slight confusion

Not understanding why would
she be followed around by a PI

Me : are you certain ?

Lefa : yes

Me : do you know why ?

He sighs

Lefa : uhm....no , but I can find
him and ask

I chuckle

Me : you think he's just going to tell you why he's following her around ?

Lefa : everyone has a price

Me : he's a PI , I'll take care of it

Lefa : alright

I drop the call

Vuyo : what was that about ?

I look at him

Me : MaBiyela told me she feels like she's being followed , I had Lefa check it out . He says there's a PI

Vuyo : uh-uh

I sit down

Vuyo : doesn't make sense ,
why would a PI be after her ?

Me : could it be Paul ? Maybe
he's after her

Vuyo : would he dare ?

Me : he doesn't know me ,
anything is possible

Vuyo : should I pay him a visit ?

Me : no

Vuyo : no ?

Me : let's go finish paying
bogadi this week

Vuyo : wait.....

Me : let me be

He sighs

Vuyo : if you say so

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Paul

Mom : I will be going away for a
bit

We both look at her

And she has a bag , looks and seems like she's going as in right now

Me : what ?

Mom : just for a bit , I really need a breather

It pains me , that even today they're still not okay with each other

Dad is obsessed with finding his daughter , and mom just feels neglected

I can't even do anything to help

I don't even know what I would do to help them

I'm also dealing with my own shit

That arrest messed things up
for me , I lost clients

And everything is just crumbling
down , I'm even considering
moving back home with the
parents

With the way things are going ,
it doesn't seem like I'll be able
to maintain myself

I need a plan , and right now I
have none

So I'm not even there for either
of them

I'm going through my own
things

Me : wait.....where are you
going ?

Mom : best if you don't know

Me : mom !

Mom : Paul it's okay , I'm doing
this for my own sanity and
peace

I look at my dad , and he looks
like he doesn't even care

Me : dad ?

He sighs

Dad : your mother is an adult , if she wants to leave then she can leave

Mom : I did not say that , if you think I'll be out of my own house this easily . Then you have another thing coming

Dad : honestly , I'm not even interested . I have a lead on my daughter , that's priority right now

Mom walks towards the door

Me : guys really ?

And she walks out the door

Dad : I won't beg her

He goes back to focusing on his phone , as I hear the car drive out outside

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Tshiamo

I'm really feeling the struggles
of being alone

Being stuck here , and having no
one come see me

Or bring me anything , it just sucks

I've been calling Thati , clearly she's cut me off . She's not responding to me

Even after that message I left her , I haven't heard anything from her

I just want to be out of here

I don't know how I'll manage
out there with no help

But being in this place is not
doing me any good

My phone rings , and I try
reaching for it . And it's a damn
struggle , but I do get it

I don't know the number , I
answer anyways

Me : hello ?

Voice : this whole time I've
been away , have you thought
of a way of how you and your
friend are going to repay me
back my money ?

Oh shit !

Me : P.....Paul ?

Paul : you don't have a lot of time to give me run-arounds , you do and deal men for a living . So you know better how this works , you don't just get or receive money for no reason . I gave your friend money , and even spent money on her . And I paid you , for a job not well done . I want my money back

He drops the call , and I'm left shaking . I swear this guy is instilling some fear into me

He's like some mental case

Thati better have a way of getting us out of this mess , because I don't have one . It is our mess after all

And I long spent that money ,
even the R5000 she gave me

Had she dated him , we
wouldn't be here

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Mthunzi

Me : I want you to go home this week

She looks at me , but says nothing

Me : did you hear ?

Ontha : why ?

Me : why what ?

Ontha : should I go home ?

Me : uhm....Lumka already sent the letter . I'm hoping we can have a response soon , so by weekend we can come over

Ontha : so soon ?

Me : we agreed

She laughs

Me : don't do me like that

Ontha : it's okay , I don't have
classes tomorrow I'll leave in
the morning

Me : I'm going to take you

I want to find out exactly why
the PI is following her

I need to do that without
distraction , hence I need her
away from here

Especially if I'll be killing people

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INSERT 28

A FEW DAYS LATER

On that tile

I look at him , and he looks
somewhat

It's like he's worried or stressed
about something

We didn't speak the whole of
yesterday

And today he just doesn't look
like himself

I didn't tell him nor even ask
about what Amo said , some
things are just not worth
causing drama about

Mthunzi : we got a response
back

I nod

My grandmother asked Rragwe
Kitso to send them back a
response

And that was yesterday , the old
woman sure took her time .
Maybe she thought I'll say

something , or maybe change
my mind

Mthunzi : we'll be coming down
tomorrow

Me : you don't look okay

Mthunzi : I miss you

Me : if there's anything please
tell me

He smiles

But it doesn't wipe away my
worry right now

Mthunzi : I miss you

I sigh

Mthunzi : the past few days ,
I've just realised it's hard being

without you . After negotiations
, I want you to move in . I don't
want to live without you
anymore

I smile

Mthunzi : it's hard , Vuyo is
mocking me . I just can't wait to
see you

Me : now I'm convinced you're
okay

He chuckles

Mthunzi : I'm not , I miss you

Me : I miss you too , we.....

Koko : Onthatile !

Me : Koko is calling me

I get up

Mthunzi : okay , I love you

Me : I love you

I drop the call going inside

Me : sorry I was on call

Koko : sit down , we need to discuss things we still need to do before tomorrow

Me : what....things?

Koko : your in-laws are coming , as much as it's not a wedding we should celebrate a bit . By tomorrow this time , you'll be a Biyela bride

I laugh

Me : what's with the drama
mma ?

Koko : there's no drama here ,
you've made me proud . And I
want to celebrate this day

There's no arguing with her

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Paul

Dad : I have found her

He seems and sounds happy

Me : your.....daughter ?

Dad : yes , and she's been right here all along . She's at college doing design there

I sigh

Dad : I really found her , I can't wait to just meet her finally

At least he's happy , that's more than I can say about mom

Who's been gone for days , and we still don't know where she is

Me : uhm....I need to go out

He just looks at me and says
nothing

It hasn't been pleasant living at
home , especially when I'm
used to just being on my own

But now my circumstances
don't allow me

I haven't heard anything from
Tshiamo , since the day I called
her

If those two think they'll ignore
me , they have another thing
coming

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Tshiamo

I'm even scared being here on
my own

I tried calling Thati , it's just voicemail

She's not responding my texts

And by the look of things , it looks like she hasn't been around here in a while

The room is a bit stiff

After that phone call from Paul ,
I think I'm just paranoid

I can't keep still , I'm scared
he'll come after us

If only Thati was here , so we
could talk and come up with a
solution

I don't know , but that guy
sounded like he was mad angry

And who knows what he'll do
when he sees either of us

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Onthatile

Me : thank you for coming

She laughs

Retha : it's a pleasure , I can't believe you're getting married

Me : technically , I mean it's just bogadi (bride price)

We laugh

I asked her to come over ,
knowing that my cousin's
wouldn't even care being here

Cause we're poor , and they're
living better lives

We've prepared everything for tomorrow

I'm a bit excited , even though I'm scared

I mean I never saw myself being someone's wife at age 21

I don't even know what being a wife is , or how one has to conduct themselves

What if I mess this whole thing up ?

I don't want to get married this young , and only to be divorced at age 30

That scares me , a whole lifetime with someone just seems so peaceful . I can't possibly think of separation

Retha : you must be excited
though

Me : well I am , I mean I love
him . Although I don't think with
my low standard , I belong to
his

Retha : you overthink this , he
loves you . And he chose you ,
he could have taken anyone

I guess she's right

I don't want to have any regrets

So I really do hope that both
Mthunzi and I , know what we
are doing

Things will no longer be the
same now , he wants me
moving in with him

We'll be in each other's spaces
24/7

We'll get to know each other's
flaws and whatnot

What if we cannot stand one
another ?

I mean it's one thing living apart
, and just spending nights

It's another living together ,
learning and seeing each
other's habits

This just creeps me out

What if we cannot stomach it ?
Then what , does that mean we
part ways and go our separate
ways ?

I do have fears and all

But nonetheless I'm doing this ,
I love that man

And I want this to work

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INSERT 29

Tshiamo

Me : what.....

I gasp in shock , as I go through
her WhatsApp status

And it's just one picture

I'm stunned , like clearly this is
her

The ring on her ring finger is so
beautiful , and I cannot miss just
how expensive it is

Then there's the bride attire
that she's wearing

This is clearly back at the village
, so she's home

And by the look of things ,
seems like she's getting married

I'm struggling to get by , there
isn't food . And it's hard doing
things for myself

Since she's ignoring my calls
and texts , I wanted to check on
WhatsApp if she's online or
what

And this is what I find ?

I call her , and it rings
unanswered

I cannot believe she got married
, and didn't even tell me

Right now a lot of things don't
even make sense

Could it be the construction worker ? Or maybe that married abuser

I mean it's possible , she could be a second wife

I cannot wait for her to come back , and explain all of this to me

And now it's clear just how she
hasn't been around for a while

A knock comes at the door , I
get up slowly to open the door

And I'm shocked , moving back

Paul : hi

I look at him , from head to toe

Me : uhm.....hi

Paul : mhm , do you have my
money ?

Shit !

Me : I....I don't have it

I move back , he keeps walking
forward

Paul : and where is your friend ?

Me : she.....she's not here

Paul : right , well call her . Cause
you two owe me

Me : I.....she's notshe's back
in the village

Paul : you think I'm an idiot ?

Me : no , she's not here . She's getting married

He frowns

Paul : what ?

Me : I....I didn't know

Paul : are you fucking with me ?

Me : no....no I'm not

Paul : I will be back , don't get too comfortable

And he walks out leaving me shaking like hell

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Mthunzi

She looks so beautiful , and this
Makoti wear suits her so well

My mind wasn't functioning at
all without her

I didn't even bother doing anything , about that guy who was busy following her

I'll deal with it when I get back home

This woman is my all , there's literally just no me without her

Me : hi

She giggles shying away

Me : come on !

We laugh , I take her hand into mine

Me : I'm your husband now ,
and you're suddenly shy ?

Ontha : stop , you had me leave from helping around . What are you doing in a veld anyways ?

Me : I missed you , and I wanted to see you away from everyone

Ontha : I told Koko not to make a big deal out of this , now people are there like it's some wedding . Just unnecessary drama

I chuckle

Me : let the woman be , she's proud

Ontha : I'm glad all this is done

Me : can't wait to going to be a wife in your home ?

She laughs , I peck her lips

Ontha : I was given an earful
about being a wife and whatnot

She shakes her head , being all
cute

Ontha : like shouldn't that be
done when we get married ?

Me : we're married , but I want
you walking down the isle .

Taking my surname

She blushes , placing her head
on my chest

Ontha : I love my ring , I didn't
see this one coming . It's so
beautiful , so I do feel like I'm
the wife that I am . You sealed it
with that

I tilt her chin , leaning down and
we kiss

Ontha : how much did you pay ?

I laugh pulling back

Me : what ?

Ontha : like

She shrugs

Me : Nana (baby)

I cup her face

Me : you're not supposed to
know such things

Ontha : but I already know what
you paid first

Me : yeah , and that wasn't
even supposed to come out

Ontha : but it did , and this can
come out too

Me : no

I shake my head

Ontha : you left a paper again ?

Me : stop snooping around , just
know there's no amount of
money that's worth more than
you

She smiles

Me : leave it at that

Ontha : I don't know

She laughs

Ontha : I'll be telling Koko to use it again , thinking it's cents

I chuckle

Me : what ? So 1500 it's cents ?

Ontha : according to you

I frown

Me : don't traumatize me like
that , I almost lost myself when
you left me just because I
pretended to be poor

She laughs , hugging my lower
waist

Me : I love you

Ontha : I love you

I place a kiss on her forehead

Me : feels good being a wife ?

She giggles

Ontha : yeah

Me : thank you for making me a
husband , I swear I'll make sure
you never regret it

Ontha : we must never hurt
each other

She pulls back , and we lock
eyes

Me : I should be the last person
to ever hurt you , I swear I'll lay
my life down for you if it ever
comes to it

She smiles

Me : this is an honour for me , I don't think twice when it comes to you

Ontha : I hope I'll be a good wife to you

I chuckle

Me : you're going to be the best , don't put these pressures on

yourself . You're only 21 , be 21
and don't be 51 . I can never
deal with all of that , I'm your
husband . You do you for me ,
not what those women said . I
did not marry them , I want you
just as you are . Be yourself in
your house

Ontha : you're.... corrupting me

She laughs

Me : I know you're lazy , I don't want you suddenly overworking yourself because you were told as a wife you cannot be lazy . I don't mind your laziness , I know you love sleeping . Don't suddenly wake up at 06:00 , we won't get along very well

Ontha : if only those women can hear you right now

Me : mhm , they must never try
and change my wife for me

I bring her closer with a hug , I
can't wait to go back home and
have her move in

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INSERT 30

Onthatile

I'm back in the city , I came back
yesterday

And I slept at his house

I really wasn't feeling going to see Amo , like she drains me lately

From the long message she left me , and just everything else she said

I can't keep up

Mthunzi : when are you going to get your things ?

Me : like today , now

He smiles

Mthunzi : let's go

Me : I....I'll go

Mthunzi : but I'm taking you

Me : right , I'll call you when I'm done . I still have to pack

Mthunzi : yeah but I'll wait

Me : uhm....no

I get up , he grabs my arm

Mthunzi : you don't want me going there why ?

I shake my head slightly

Mthunzi : Nana (baby)

I laugh

Me : I.....I think Amo wants you ,
I don't want you in her
presence it annoys me

He laughs

Me : let me go

Mthunzi : wait.....wait , you're
jealous ?

Me : I'm not , you're my
husband and I don't appreciate
her feels towards you

He keeps on laughing

Me : can you stop

Mthunzi : no , this is cute

Me : bye

Mthunzi : come and give me a
kiss

I turn back and lean down giving
him a few pecks

Mthunzi : call when you're done

Me : okay

Mthunzi : wait....let me walk
you to the taxi

He gets up , grabbing the house
keys and we leave

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Tshiamo

I'm shocked seeing her , and
she really has the ring on

Me : where have you been ?

She goes to her wardrobe ,
taking out her bag

Ontha : home

Me : and the ring ?

Ontha : what about it ?

I sigh annoyed

Me : well , what's it for ? You didn't tell me anything , and I had to find out from your WhatsApp status that you're getting married

Ontha : well you saw , I owe you nothing to tell you anything

Me : what's with the attitude ?

Ontha : why you coming at me
with one ?

Me : well....I thought we were
friends

Ontha : were exactly that

Me : wait.....why are you
packing your clothes ? Like
where are you going ?

Ontha : I'm leaving

Me : what....why ?

Ontha : we've long been toxic for each other , I just didn't have a place to move to . And I've already spoke to the landlord , I'll pay rent for three months if no one moves in that's my notice

Me : what ?

She keeps quite

Me : Paul wants his money back

She turns and looks at me

Ontha : excuse me ?

Me : the money he sent you ,
and the date expenses that you
wasted

She laughs

Ontha : give him back his
money sis

Me : me ? Did he give it to me ?

Ontha : I gave you that money

Me : exactly you did , and so
you'll be the one to pay for it .
Because I didn't ask you to

She drags her bag , heading to
the bathroom

I take my phone out , sending a
text . And I walk out

I won't be here for this

I don't even want to know how
it's going to end

I won't stand for someone who
doesn't consider me as a friend
, why should I care or bother
myself with her ?

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Mthunzi

Me : who are you ?

He looks at me

Me : don't make me ask again

Him : Kevin

Me : mhm , what the hell are you doing following my wife around ?

He looks around

Me : tell me the truth , and walk
out that door . Or lie , and die
it's as simple as that

He rubs his hands together

Kevin : I'm just a PI , I've been
hired by Mike Daniels to find his
daughter

Me : who's that ?

Kevin : I'm not at liberty to discuss my client , but I found out the girl I've been following is his daughter . I swear I wasn't going to hurt her , I was just doing my job

Me : and your job is done , stop following her around .

I reach to my back , he gets on his feet

Kevin : you saidyou won't kill me . I told you the truth

Me : you creeped her out , and she was unsettled . So I didn't like that , you'll have to pay . I won't kill you though

I pull the gun out , pointing it at him

Kevin : please.... I'll stop.... I'll
stop

Me : yes

I shoot him on both knees , he
falls down screaming in pain

Vuyo walks in , he shakes his
head

Vuyo : what did we say about killing people here ?

Me : I didn't kill anyone , I have to get home . So that when my wife calls I'm home , deal with this take him to a hospital or something

I head towards the door and walk out , going to my car

I had to deal with this , just so I know that my wife is okay and that there's no one behind her

I mean she did say that she doesn't know her father

Maybe the guy is right , but that's something I'll deal with

Just as long as there's no one after her , then I'm at ease

Her refusing that I go to get her things along with her , just gave me a chance to deal with this

And now I'll just wait for her to tell me to come and get her

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Paul

I open the door , without even
knocking

And she's startled seeing me

Me : look at you

I smile closing the door , still
looking at her

Me : you're a very hard girl to
find

I walk closer further in the room

Me : I've been after you for so long , and finally I've found you .
All thanks to your whore roommate

She texted me , and I left whatever I was doing rushing here

Said Onthatile is here , and seems to be packing her things like she's leaving

And lucky me , I just found her

Me : you know , I gave you money . And I planned a romantic dinner for you , but what did you do ? You just threw all of that in my face , like it was nothing . You didn't care to appreciate my efforts , or to even give me a chance . To let me fail on my own

I walk closer to her , and she's still on the same spot

Me : then I hear you're married , like you led me on . I chased you with hopes that I'll have you , you never said you don't want me because you're getting married . Pay me back my money , and every single dime I spent on that stupid dinner you ran out of

Her silence is just annoying me ,
she's making me sound like I'm
insane

Talking to myself

And she just finishes me off ,
when she grabs her bag

Me : I'm talking to you

I raise my voice at her , and she
doesn't even look fazed

Me : you.....you don't want to
anger me

She ignores me , and walks past
me

Me : walk out that door and
you'll live to regret that

She keeps on walking , I turn
and face her taking my gun out

Me : I swear I will kill you

She turns and looks at me as
she reaches the door

She throws her bag down to the
floor , now she looks scared

Me : I'm not kidding with you ,
come back sit down let's talk
and stop making me feel like I'm
insane

Just one look and she crouches
down taking her bag

Me : don't

She lifts up , as I see she's
turning . I shoot

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INSERT 31

Onthatile

I open my eyes that are failing
me

I have an urge to cough , I fear
the cough

I'm smelling a lot of blood

I fiddle for my phone in my back
pocket , it's even a struggle just
to move my hand

I get hold of it , but it slips off to
my back

I take a few deep breaths ,
trying to turn

After a while , I finally turn and
fiddle for it with my hand

I can't turn my head to look for
it

I'm losing strength

I finally grab it , slowly opening
my eyes and it's blurry

I guess it did me good , putting
his number on speed dial

I slowly lift the phone to my ear
, and it's ringing

Mthunzi : I'm

Me :

pl....ease....come.....hurry....I'm...

..I'm.....

The phone slowly falls , as I
lose strength closing my eyes

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Paul

I ran out of there

Realising what I've done

It wasn't my intention to hurt
her like that

I didn't go there to hurt her

Just the ignorance she kept
giving me , it was off

And I snapped loosing myself

I don't know if she's alive or
what

But the way she was bleeding ,
I'm sure she won't make it

I've just gotten out of jail , I
can't have a murder on my
hands

My gun is registered and
licensed

There's no way I can deny ,
once they run ballistics on it

It'll show

And they'll demand the gun ,
my prints will show I fired a gun
recently

Even if I were to wipe off the
gun

I cannot stand going to jail again

What happened was a mistake

I need to leave , I need to get
away from here and go as far as
I can

I don't even know what I'll tell
my dad , but I'm sure he won't
even care

Because he's busy caught up on finding his daughter

It would be nice being here once they meet

I mean she's my sister after all , if she really is his child

But I need to save myself , I know he won't get involved

again . Especially with mom not around

Who will beg him on my case ?

He won't listen to me , he'll just straight out tell me to see myself

I'm not even waiting to be caught

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Tshiamo

Knowing the kind of state I left
her in

I can't believe I sold her out like
that

I don't know what Paul is
capable of , or what he did if he
went there

But I know , he did go there .
The way he was after us
wanting his money

I feel like crap right now

I don't know how safe is she in
his presence

I can't even bring myself to go
back , because I'm fearful of
what might welcome me

I'm scared , I'm really scared .
And maybe , just maybe telling
Paul she's there wasn't a good
idea

And leaving her there alone like
that

What if something happens ?

I can never be able to forgive myself if something happens to her

It'll be all on me

I just saved my ass , and left her to deal with whatever Paul will say or demand

Even this alcohol is not helping me at all

I thought I'll just get drunk , and
I won't give a damn about
anything

But here I am , in a bar and my
mind is not even here

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Mthunzi

I look at him , and his eyes are
reddish

He's just staring at me , and not
saying anything

I'm scared to ask him , because
I'm fearful of what he might say

But the silence is killing me

A million thoughts are running
through my mind

I feel like I'm loosing my mind

I can't even close my eyes to
hold the tears back

Every time I close my eyes , I
just keep seeing the pool of
blood in that room

Her sight , lying on that floor

I shake my head , slowly

Vuyo : please go....get some rest

He slides down by the wall , and sits down . Burying his head between his knees , putting his hands on his head

He lets out a sigh

I dart my eyes to the bed , a tear slides down my cheek . I walk closer to the bed

I can barely even recognise her

Her face is covered , I close my
eyes

But that sight of hers , laying on
the floor in that room in a pool
of her own blood

I open my eyes , wiping my
tears off

Me : I should have been there

Vuyo : come on , don't do that

Me : I.....I should have been there , I wasn't supposed to let her go there alone

Vuyo : I'm not letting you blame yourself for this , this is not your fault

I hear his footsteps behind me

Vuyo : I'm so sorry

His voice is pained , and I can
hear he's holding his tears back

Vuyo : I.....she lost so much
blood , and I couldn't save.....I'm
sorry about the baby

He burst into a cry

I turn back and look at him , I
feel like my heart is being
ripped apart

Me : whatbaby ?

He lifts his head , with tears
streaming down his face

Vuyo : she was just....a few weeks pregnant

Is this me paying for all the bad things I've done ? Loosing the most precious thing ever I've ever had in my entire life

I turn my head looking at her , and I let the tears flow

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INSERT 32

Mthunzi

Vuyo : that's enough

He comes to my side

Vuyo : she's responding well ,
her vitals are stable . I'll come in
an hour to see how she's
responding to your blood , I
don't think her body will reject
it though

I get up from the chair , holding
her hand

These damn machines make it
look like it's not even her

I can't believe , I'm rooting for
them to keep her alive so she
regains her strength

Vuyo : can you.....

Me : I'm not leaving this room ,
give it up .

He sighs

Vuyo : she's going to be fine

He pats my shoulder

Vuyo : I'm sorry about the baby
, there was nothing I could have
done . The damage was already
done , and the bullet on her
stomach didn't missI'm
sorry

I nod and he walks out , I really
have nothing to say

We didn't even know she was
pregnant , and now our baby is
gone just like that

I'm beyond hurt , this is pain

I pull the chair closer sitting
down

Me : I'll make whoever did this to you pay , I want you to live and be okay . Because I'm not going to go out there and kill people while you're stuck on this bed , we already lost our baby . Without you there's no me , when you die I die too . So you better not die on me

I kiss her hand

Me : singo Biyela thina ,
oMenziwa we don't back down
from anything or anyone . Fight
this , and I'll finish what they
started . They better be believe
, I'll finish it

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Tshiamo

The blood I had to mop in this
room

My hands can't stop shaking
even now

I've never seen so much blood

I've been trying to call Ontha , I
can't get a hold of her

I've tried Paul , and it's the
same thing

He's worse , because his
number is not going through

Actually it says it doesn't exist ,
which doesn't make sense to
me

I'm wrecking my head with
questions of what happened
here exactly

Is he the one who hurt her ?
And if he did then where is she
?

Where did he take her to ?

Her bag is here , and blood
stained it

I'm so conflicted , I don't even
know what to do

Should I be calling the cops ?
And reporting this

No one has said anything , so I doubt any of the students saw or heard anything

It's way too quiet here

What will I tell the police ?

But I cannot stay quiet about this , what if she never comes back or worse if she's dead ?

What will I tell her grandmother
?

I get up

I can't keep quiet about this , I
have to go tell the cops . I must
report this

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Paul

Dad : where are you going ?

He catches me off guard

I turn and face him

Me : II'm just going away for
a while

Dad : running away ?

I clear my throat , I can't even
look at him in the eye

Me : from what ?

Dad : you tell me , it's middle of the night and you're leaving

Me : II didn't plan this , it's just a spur of the moment thing

Dad : if there's trouble , don't expect me to bail you out

He turns and walks away

I sigh , grabbing my car keys

I'm leaving , I don't even know
where I'm going . But I'm not
staying here

I'll figure out what to do next
once I get away

I'm not even telling my mother
that I'm leaving

Unlike dad , I know she will ask
me a lot of questions

Of which I don't have answers
for

I cannot tell anyone why I'm
running away , not even my
mother

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Tshiamo

I sit down on the bed

I don't know what to do now ,
or where to go

I went to the police station , and
I didn't even get any help

After they asked me questions ,
and I answered them

They said , there's not much they can do because I cleaned the crime scene and wiped the blood off

So there's nothing they can do

I mean that sounded crazy , they could have come here and checked for anything

The best they could offer , was opening a missing person case

And I thought maybe they'll want to see Paul , because I told them what happened

I didn't leave his name or him out

My friend could be dead wherever she is right now

And I have no one to blame but myself

I shouldn't have called him , or left her with him alone

I burst into a sob , as I think of what I've done

Me : I....messed up , I messed up big up

I wipe my tears , but they keep falling

Me : Thati where are you ?

I call her again , and still her phone is on voicemail

I call Paul , the number doesn't exist

I slide down , hurting my arm in
the process

Me : what have I done !

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INSERT 33

TWO WEEKS LATER

Mthunzi

The door opens , he walks in

And he's just in his clothes
today

Vuyo : uhm....mma Phikwe
would like to talk to you

Me : I can't

Vuyo : come on ! The stress is not good for her , her high blood pressure is very high

Me : you're the doctor Vuyo , so attend to her

He sighs

Vuyo : there's only so much I can do

Me : what do you want me to say to her ? It's been two weeks , two damn weeks and her granddaughter has been stuck on this bed . I brought her here , because I thought it'll be better if she was close by . But seeing her kills me everyday , because I don't know what to tell her . I don't want to lose hope , and I won't give up because she's my wife . But I see her grandmother slowly

loosing that hope , with each
day passing by

He nods slowly

Me : you can leave

Vuyo : you don't have to shut us
out , we're here . And I'm doing
the best I can to keep your wife
alive

At least the two machines are
off her

So that gives me that hope

Me : I failed her , I failed them

Vuyo : don't beat yourself like
this

I get up from the chair

Me : she trusted me with her
life , and look at what happened
?

Vuyo : maybe what we need is
to go out there , and find out
who did this

Me : I know who did

Vuyo : what.....who ?

Me : Paul !

Vuyo : what ?

I nod slowly

Vuyo : butwait , if you know
then where is he ?

Me : he left

He looks at me right in the eye

Vuyo : and you let him ?

Me : he's dead walking , Cape
Town is just a two hours flight
away

I look at him

Me : I'm not leaving this room
until my wife is awake , there's

nothing and no one that's more
important than her right now

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Paul

I've shut all communication
with everyone back home

Lost my number , and my car

I didn't want anything with me ,
that can help them be able to
trace me

I sold my car , and my house .
As well as everything else I
could sell

Just to give me a new life , a
new start . Far away from
everything that happened

I have no idea if she's alive or
dead

I've been following the news ,
keeping myself updated

But there's nothing about her

A part of me wishes she's okay ,
and recovering . That I didn't
cause her much damage

But another part , just wishes
she's dead

Because if she's alive , then she
will get me in a whole lot of
trouble

She will not keep quite , I think
that much I know

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Tshiamo

I'm slacking , everything is just a
mess

I'm slowly just slipping away

I can't handle what I've done ,
this is all my mess

Paul has been nowhere to be
found , I even asked Cleo

And he said he left , no one
knows where he is

He even sold his house

Without a doubt , he's the one
who hurt my friend

And he ran away , who knows
what he did with her ?

She's also nowhere to be found

Her grandmother came after a
few days

And she told me to go to the
police station , and stop that
missing person report

I didn't have a choice , I thought
maybe she knew where Ontha
was

But I haven't heard anything

My biggest fear is that she's
dead , and only God knows
what he did with her body

I've done bad things in life , but
this one just takes the cup

And I never thought after all
these years not coming back
here

That I would find myself back
here again

But life in the city , is no longer
for me anymore

Not after what I've done

I take a deep breath , knocking
at the door . I knock a few times
, and the door opens

Mosa : wena ? (You)

I move back a bit from the door

Mosa : o bata eng ? (What do you want)

Me : uhm.....uh.....

I rub my hands together

Voice : Mosa ke mang ? (Who is it)

He turns and looks back in the house

Mosa : ke Tshiamo (it's)

It goes quite , and he just turns going back inside the house

I'm left outside scared of going inside

What if she kicks me out ?

I haven't been taking her calls ,
not coming home , basically I
cut them off as soon as my life
took off in the city

She appears from the door , and
looks at me

She doesn't look good at all ,
she looks very sick . Like gravely
sick

Me : mama (mom)

I just break down , just at the
sight of her

Even I'm not this skinny , you
can literally see her bones
sticking out

I place my hand over my mouth
muffling my cries

This is not how I expected to
see her

Mom : o re tsentsha matlho a
batho (you're causing us stares)

She balances herself with the
door frame

I've been so caught up , in my
own life . And I wanted nothing
to do with them

Imagine waking up the next day
, and hearing that she's no
more . I didn't even know she
was this sick

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INSERT 34

Onthatile

I slowly move my hand , and it's
a bit heavy

It's hard opening my eyes

I feel so drained

My hand stumbles upon
something , I fiddle around a bit

And I smile , I move the hand up
to his head with a bit of a frown

I slowly open my eyes , and I'm glad the room is not too light

I move my eyes around , and no doubt this is his house . The grey and black colour , just that I don't think I've ever been in this room before

But then this house is huge , I don't know every other room

I tilt my head and he has his
head , on my arm

No wonder it felt so heavy

I brush his head slowly

My chest feels like it'll close up ,
my abdomen feels like it's
burning

He slowly lifts his head and
looks at me , the look in his eyes
is just priceless

He gets up from the chair ,
taking my hand into his

Mthunzi : Nana (baby)

His voice is so strained

I feel like tearing up , as tears
burn my eyes

He's been through the most ,
even his face is showing that

Mthunzi : are you....in pain , are
you feeling okay ?

I want to speak , but I feel so
blocked

Mthunzi : please , just say something . Anything

He sounds so desperate , and very concerned

Me : you....look bad , very bad

He smiles leaning down , I lift my hand brushing his cheek . I've never seen him like this , he's wearing his pain

Me : I don't....like the...fade , get rid of it . Bring back the....the waves

He chuckles shaking his head

Me : you....lost weight

And which is why I'm sad

Mthunzi : I'm so sorry

He pecks my lips

Mthunzi : I'll get myself in check

I smile nodding , I missed him so
much

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Mthunzi

Vuyo : you have to tell her

I down the water , placing the
bottle down

Vuyo : she deserves to know

Me : yeah

Vuyo : that's not convincing

Me : Vuyo ! Give me a break , I'll tell her

Vuyo : now would be the best time , and her grandmother is

still here so she'll have the
enough support she needs

He's right

But I don't know , how I'll tell
her she was pregnant and lost
the baby because of the
shooting

I'm happy she's okay , and out
of danger

She didn't even want to stay
hooked to the drips anymore

Vuyo : it's....

Me : fokof ! (Piss off)

He raises his hands up

Lumka : what's with the....

Vuyo : let's leave him alone

They both look at me , before
turning and walking away

I sigh shaking my head slowly

Voice : talk to her , she will need
you . Don't wait only to bring
her pain later

I have my head bowed down

Koko : tell her the truth , it won't be easy . And it'll probably break her , but even the best way to deal is to tell her the truth . You can't let her lose her child , and not know . She will heal , and you'll have another kid . Because that's the only way , she'll get past the loss of this child . Let your brothers be there for you , because you're going to be

there for her . And you also need support , don't let anger consume you that you push them away . They're only understanding because they care and love you , and also because they know you need support to get through this . You lost a child , and you almost lost your wife . That alone , is enough to take a toll on anyone . Don't harbour things , you'll destroy yourself . I want a

husband for my daughter , a man who will let his guard down and let her in on his emotions . A man who will cry and break down in front of her , and let her see he's human . I don't want a monster for her , a man that's holding on to so much that he'll forget he's also human . Don't be strong for her , be you and let her be there for you . Because one day , this anger might just turn you into a beast

and you'll unleash on her . Your
brothers mean well

I hear her footsteps walking
away

I'm on the verge of tearing up ,
cause those were some wise
words

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On that tile

He walks in , I get off the bed
and slowly walk towards him

Mthunzi : Vuyo said you should
take it easy

I smile

Me : I'm okay

There's a slight sharp pain that's
hitting me on my lower
stomach

Vuyo wasn't happy with me
leaving that bed

But this is not a hospital , and
they have that room in the
basement that's a fully
operating hospital room

I don't know what's that all
about , but it's raising flags

Me : baby what's wrong ?

Mthunzi : I have something to tell you

Me : what ?

Mthunzi : let's sit down

He takes my hand , and we sit down on the couch near the balcony

Me : I'm listening

Mthunzi : I....

He sighs

I can tell whatever he wants to say is hard for him

Me : it's okay , take your time

I rub my thumb on his hand

Mthunzi : I asked your grandmother to come here because.....uhm...after Vuyo took out the bullets and everything . He said....he said you were pregnant , and the baby didn't make it . The bullet.....there was nothing he could have done . I'm so sorry

I lose half the things he's saying
, because he's crying and it's
painful

It's very painful

I look at him , he has his head
bowed down . But I'm stuck on
that I was pregnant and lost the
baby

Me : I.....I lost the baby ?

It comes out as a whisper , as
my own tears betray me

He lifts his head , and I've never
seen this man this broken

Me : I....I didn't know I....I was
pre.....I didn't know

He engulfs me in a hug , I cry my
eyes out

I was hoping I can console and
comfort him

But here I am breaking apart

How can this be ?

I should have just died with my
baby , like how do I carry
someone and I don't even know
?

How do I pick up life right now
?.

And did it have to happen this
way , that I lose my baby and I
wasn't even aware that there
was a baby

Like what kind of pain and hurt
is this ?

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Tshiamo

Mom : what are you doing back here Tshiamo ?

I look down

Mom : after two years of leaving home and never coming back

Me : I'm....sorry

Mom : exactly what are you
sorry for ? Are we maybe now
suddenly good enough for you ?

She's breaking my heart , it's
bad enough seeing her like this

Me : I....I could have done
better , I know that I

Mom : Mosa called you , I called
you . And you always ignored

our calls , and I know it's was
deliberate

Me : I have no excuse

Mom : what are you doing here
?

Me : I....

What do I say ?

What do I tell her ? When I'm running away from the fact that I got my friend killed ?

Do I tell her that ?

Mom : this is your home , if we're suddenly good enough for you it's fine

She gets up and walks to the bedroom , Mosa gets up

walking out . He's so angry with me he's not even hiding his feelings back

I wipe my tears off

I get up , the house is clean . My brother has always been a neat freak

And I have no doubt he's been taking good care of mom

I look around the cupboards ,
and my heart breaks

There's no food , even the
fridge is empty . There's only a
sack of maize meal

This is why I never came back ,
the poverty here

And as I made money , I
thought they'll want to depend
on me and always ask me for
money

Hence I decided to stay away

But now , that doesn't seem like
the best decision I've ever made

I guess I'm not good with those

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INSERT 35

Onthatile

Me : you look handsome now

He chuckles

Me : I need to get better , so I
can start cooking for you . I
don't like that you lost weight

Mthunzi : I'm sorry , I was very
worried

Me : we'll get through this right
?

Mthunzi : yes , we have each other

I think I'm digesting everything that happened

I'm sad , I'm hurt and feeling an unexplainable pain

I was only three weeks pregnant

I'm just wondering how my
baby would have looked like

If it was a boy or a girl ?

Like what kind of a mother was I
going to be ?

As much as I didn't know , I'm
sure I would have been happy
when I found out

The way he's so hurt , without a doubt he was going to be excited hearing he was going to be a father

But know that's gone

I haven't even properly sat down with my grandmother

We spoke a bit , and it wasn't about anything much

We've just been in this room ,
cuddling and just holding each
other

I'm glad in a way , that we're
sharing this pain together

So that we heal together , and
don't end up blaming each
other for this

Me : I wanted to get an IUD ,
but I was on the pill . I really
didn't think I would get
pregnant

Mthunzi : sometimes when
things are meant to be , they
just happen . Even with
precautions in place

I guess he's right

Mthunzi : lorato lame , who did this ? (My love)

Me : it was Paul

I don't even want to look at him

Me : he came by , after an altercation with Amo and she left . He said she's the one who called him there , and he demanded his money that he

sent me . Even that he spent on that date , the night I called you . He said a lot of things , and that I played him . Because I'm married , and I didn't tell him that . I....I wasn't interested . So I was quite , I said nothing . And that angered him , worse I took my bag and turned my back on him . He called me out when I got to the door , and that's when he shot me

I take a deep breath

Me : he was just aggressive as he got there , and I was scared . Fearing that he might hurt me , he had his eyes on me . I couldn't even reach for my phone , to call you or anything . I regret telling you to stay behind , surely our child would still be alive . I doubt he would have done anything if you were

there , nor would Tshiamo have
told him to come

He sighs

Mthunzi : it's okay

I don't know , but that "it's
okay" sounds like he will make
this right

I don't know how , or with what
. But it's giving me assurance

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Mthunzi

Me : I'm sorry

They both look at me

Lumka : is everything okay ?

I nod

Vuyo : he just uttered the words
sorry , so no

They laugh

I sit down

Me : I do appreciate you both
being here , I probably would
have long fallen apart . So I'm
sorry for being impossible

Vuyo smiles

Lumka : we got your back , no
matter what

I nod

Vuyo : don't worry , it's all good

After what Koko said , I saw my
weakness

And I just had to apologize ,
cause truth be told my

brother's have been my support
system

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Onthatile

Koko : how are you feeling ?

It's the morning after

Me : better

Koko : ke itumela go bona o
tsogile (I'm happy to see you
awake)

Me : I'm so sorry I scared you
like that

I didn't tell her what happened

And because we come from the
same village with Amo , she
knows her

I don't think it's wise to tell her
the truth

Koko : you will have to come home and get cleansed , for the loss of the baby

I nod

I'm just trying my best not to think about that

Because that whole thing just breaks me

I wouldn't wish this on my
worst enemy

Because you're just wondering ,
and beating yourself up with
thoughts and questions

Worse I didn't even know , and
this is how I find out ?

Me : I'm so glad you're here

She smiles , I lay my head down
on her lap . She caresses the
side of my face

Koko : you're growing up ,
remember now you're
someone's wife . You will go
through fires , you'll go through
hardships . You'll see and
experience things , you never
even thought of . Let your
husband be your strength , and

you be his . Don't use the African mentality on him , gore monna ga lle ke nku (a man doesn't cry)

She sighs , but it's not worrying

Koko : you don't want to have a toxic husband , who can't even cry to his wife . A man must be babied , you should be praying that he be gentle and soft .

When time's are tough , he

should know his wife is his place of comfort . Don't see it as weakness , don't use it to degrade him . A man who builds up emotions is an enemy to his wife , because when he finally burst she'll be the next thing closer to him . I don't want you to fall into such things , because I'm not loosing you at the hands of man I trust your life with . Let him lay here

She pats my boobs , I smile
shyly

Koko : baby him , cuddle him
brush his head . Let him open
his heart to you , let him cry if
needs be . And then console
him , let him know it's okay to
be human . Walk out of that
bedroom , and let him know
he's not less of a man . That he
can still be who he is at home ,
and still go out there and be the

men that he is . Be his safe
space

I nod , I'm just getting all
emotional

Koko : right now , he lost
himself seeing you on that bed
for two weeks . He didn't leave
that room , even when his
brother was operating on you .
He insisted on being in that
room , he's never left your side .

For those two weeks , he had to deal with the loss of your child alone . See how much he was hurt , and still is ?

I nod

Because it's no lie

Koko : you're hurting as well I know , but don't shut him out . Don't put your hurt before his ,

because there's no hurt that's greater than the other . Support him , the same way that you would like him to support you . The two of you have such a beautiful marriage ahead of you , build on that . You're still very young , years down the line you'll look back to this and see how it was a strength for your marriage . Don't let this pain and hurt destroy you two , accommodate your husband in

your pain and hurt . I'm saying
this , not because I saw
something . It's just that I know
how we women are , and I don't
want you doing the same thing .

I wipe my tears off , as Mthunzi
walks in

The way he gets all shy in front
of Koko , it's so funny

I wonder how they managed to
stay together for two weeks

Maybe it wasn't awkward ,
because he was in the
basement

Koko : let me leave you

I lift my head , and she gets up
walking out

Mthunzi : why are you crying ?

Me : we were just talking

He raises his brow , I slightly
laugh

What could possibly be making
me cry , when I'm just talking to
Koko

Mthunzi : I'm going to the site ,
just 30 minutes I'll be back .
What should I bring you

Me : Pizza

He smiles

Me : don't bore me

We laugh

Mthunzi : two weeks not eating
Pizza must have felt like a
lifetime

Me : please leave me alone

Mthunzi : come give me a kiss

Me : come help me up

He chuckles shaking his head ,
walking further in

He takes my hand , helping me
get up

Mthunzi : I love you

Me : where is my ring ?

Mthunzi : sorry

He reaches in his pocket taking
it out

I realised yesterday later on ,
that I didn't have my ring when
I woke up

Mthunzi : it had to be taken out
, and after the surgery for a few
days you were swollen slightly .
I kept it with me

I hold my hand out , and he puts
it on my ring finger

Mthunzi : I love you

Me : and I love you

He leans down , as I trail my hands to his lower waist . And we kiss

He deep groans as his dick throbs , I feel it against my stomach

I'm getting drenched , I missed
him I don't wanna lie

Me : must you leave now ?

He pulls out of the kiss slowly
and stares down at me , and he
smiles

Mthunzi : what do you want ?

Me : just 10 minutes of your
time

He chuckles

Mthunzi : you haven't healed , I
don't want to hurt you

He's so right , I don't want his
huge and thick inheritance of
his inside of me

I won't be able to handle the pain it brings, I always feel like he's opening me up every time he penetrates

Me : don't worry , come

I pull back taking his hand , and we go upstairs to our bedroom

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INSERT 36

Mthunzi

I lean by the wall , as she trails
down getting on her knees

She unbuckles my pants ,
lowering my zip . One thing
about this woman , she doesn't
shy away from anything

She pulls the pants down , along
with my briefs

My dick spring's up right on her
face , I've never seen such lust
and excitement

She licks the tip slowly , teasing
with her tongue . She lifts her
head , and looks at me as we
lock eyes

Her one hand trails to my balls ,
she plays with them in her hand

She lowers her face , going
underneath . And she sucks on
my balls

Causing me deep grunts , just
feeling a massive pleasure . Her
tongue doing wonders

Her one hand trails to my dick ,
she strokes it and uses the
precum as a lubricant on the
dick

I trail my hand to the back of
her head , as she lifts her eyes
looking at me

And still maintaining eye
contact , she slowly slides my
dick inside of her mouth

Taking it deeper , and she gags .
I get the edge just seeing her
struggle to breath , closing her
eyes with tears streaming down
them

Just the sight of my dick on the
side of her face

I hold her head in place , as I
slowly thrust in

Both her hands holds to the
back of my ass , she grabs on

I let out deep grunts and groans

She opens her eyes looking at
me , I pull her head back tears
streaming down her face

As my dick tightens , and my
cum shoots through

Her one hand squeezes my balls

She moves back , as some of the cum drips on her chin

Her eyes are bloodshot red , and still glistening with tears

Me : you okay ?

She nods with a smile

I hold my hand out , she takes it
I help her up

I don't regret marrying this
woman , I've never been taken
care of like this

She just went out of her way
right now , just for me

I wonder if all married men ,
consider themselves lucky

Ontha : you can go

Me : you're not getting rid of
me

I pick her up , carefully making
sure I don't hurt her

I place her down on the bed ,
pulling her pants along with her
panty down

I look at her , she stares right
back

I pull them off , parting her legs
getting in between them

My dick throbs at the sight of
her wet coochie , glistening

I rub myself on her , as she
flinches

I won't penetrate , it'll be a
while before she can take me
and I won't hurt her

But I just had to grace her , her
sweet moans are just tempting
me to go inside

I move back crouching down ,
getting in between her thighs . I
pull her closely to the corner

Burying my face between her
thighs

She lifts her knees , placing her
hands on my head

I lick her a few times , and lift
my head looking at her

Me : o monate autwa ? (You're so sweet you hear me)

She giggles letting out soft moans

I suck and nibble on her clit , sliding one finger inside of her

She moves her lower waist , I place my hands on her waist .

Just to keep her still , making
sure she don't move too much
and ends up hurting herself

Her thighs shake against the
sides of my head , I move my
hands to her ass cheeks

I lift her up a bit , and she
pushes my head off closing her
thighs tightly

Letting out a loud moan , as she
cums

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Onthatile

Mthunzi left a while back

He didn't even want to leave ,
because according to him we
could have just used that time
pleasuring each other

But I know he's been missing
work for the past two weeks ,

and I don't want him neglecting
his job

As much as I loved him being
home with me , I know he has
to go and work

I got rest and slept after he left

It hasn't even been long , and
I'm sure he's on his way back
now

I'm hungry , I'm not waiting for
him and Pizza

I'll see what's in the kitchen ,
and make myself something to
eat

I walk in the kitchen , and
there's a lady by the fridge

Me : hi

She turns , and her baby bump
just graces me

I don't know her , I've never
met nor seen her before

Her : hi I'm Kelly Biyela

Biyela as in relative or what ?

Me : oh , uhm.....

I want to ask exactly who is she
? And what is she doing here

I wasn't told about this

Kelly : so.....

I pull a chair sitting down

Me : uhm sorry , exactly who
are you here ?

Kelly : oh , I'm thee wife

Thee wife ya mang ? (Who's)

I take my phone out of my
sweatpants pockets , and call
him

Mthunzi : lorato lame , ke eta
(my love , I'm coming)

Me : Mthunzi Biyela , who's
Biyela's wife is this in my house
? Calling herself thee wife in my
house ?

Kelly : I.....

Mthunzi : that's Kelly , she's
Lumka's baby mama . They're
not married , I'm sorry I didn't
tell you that she's there . He
didn't want to leave her behind

, not knowing how long he was
going to be there for

Me : bye baby

He laughs

Mthunzi : wait....

Me : just get home I'm hungry

The laughter , I'm sure he's
having a blast

Mthunzi : marrying you was the
best decision I've ever made

I blush , I mean

Me : did you not make mistakes
,I got something from you . And
I'm shocked

Mthunzi : no mistakes , I left the house in such a happy mood all thanks to my wife . That was just to thank you

That much money !

Mthunzi : you'll spoil yourself , those are the fruits of your hard labour

I laugh

Me : you're being silly bye

I drop the call

I woke up to a bank notification
, and I just thought maybe he
made a mistake

Me : uhm....

I look at her and she smiles

Me : I don't know , but please next time when you're in other people's homes . Know your place , and keep at that . I'm the wife here

Kelly : what I meant was

Me : don't explain

I get up , taking an apple and a pear . I walk to the lounge

I just hate how she said “I’m thee wife”

Like in my house ?

Why didn’t she just say she’s Lumka’s baby mama ?

I don't know her , I've never met her

And she had to say what she said , must be having a loose screw somewhere

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INSERT 37

Tshiamo

Mosa : I don't know what you think you're doing , because we're not in need of you

I look at him

Mosa : you should go back to your city life

Me : Mosa.....

Mosa : you're just here to annoy us , we don't need you . Stop buying us things , we've been surviving and doing just fine for two years without you .

Me : Mosa I'm just trying to.....

Mosa : who asked you ? Just
leave , because honestly I hate
having you here

He gets up and walks out

I sigh

Mom is not talking to me , and
clearly Mosa doesn't want me
here

I've been trying , buying
groceries and all

But they both don't care about
that

I don't know how I'm going to
fix things

I don't blame them for being
this way , because I messed up
badly

And now that I'm feeling the heat , I come back to the same people I walked away from

I take my phone calling Thati , it rings and I'm shocked

I mean her phone hasn't been ringing , for like two weeks

And it gets answered

Me : uhm...friend I'mI'm so glad you're okay , I'm really sorry about everything . There was just so much blood , I thought.... I thought he hurt you . I couldn't get a hold of him , he lost his number . I'm really sorry that I called him to come there.....I didn't thinkthat he'll hurt you . Please forgive me , I even went to report this to the police . Your

grandmother knowsI....I'm so
sorry . I'm back at the village ...

I take a deep breath , wiping my
tears off

Voice : I am going to rip you
apart !

The call does dead

Me : oh my word !

It's that man , it's him . The man
who broke my arm , like he's
the one who answered her
phone

Why....why does he have her
phone ?

Where is she ?

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Mthunzi

Me : what ?

Vuyo : who was that ?

Me : your whore

He frowns

I delete the call log , placing the
phone down on the table

Me : we're going there tomorrow for the cleansing ceremony , when I leave that village I want her following me back

Vuyo : whoa !

Me : my wife was shot , because of her . I won't let her get away with that , she will pay for her sins .

Vuyo : can't we just torture her and....

Me : I wasn't asking for your opinion , I lost a child . Do you have any idea , what it's like looking at MaBiyela every single day . And watch her cry and mourn for her baby , she lost and didn't even know she was carrying ? Don't let that smile fool you , my wife is not okay . It

won't be any time soon that she'll be over this , and I know killing them won't bring our child back . But it's an eye for an eye , my child's life for theirs . I'll never forgive myself for not being stubborn enough , and insisting on taking her there myself . None of this would have happened , but I let her go because I was smitten that she actually gives a fuck about me . That she saw right through her

friend , and she was acting territorial . If I went there our baby would still be alive , I will live with this for the rest of my life . I won't let them be

He bows his head

I wasn't quite because I'm an idiot , or maybe I wasn't going to retaliate

I wanted to see if my wife was going to get better or what

Because had she died , then we would all be dead . Because I wasn't sparing no one , not even myself

There's no life without her , I don't know how I would have been able to carry on with life without her

That's why I didn't bother doing anything , going after anyone

Now she's better , even though emotionally she's drained and all , dealing with loss

But I can finally avenge my wife and our child

The door monitor goes off , I
get up and open the door

And it's the bastards father

Me : what do you want ?

Mike : I'm Mike Daniels

Me : I know who you are , the
question is what do you want ?

After hearing what I heard from
the PI , I looked him up . And I
found the guy , and I'm not
impressed

Mike : I don't think we've ever
met , but I've heard big things
about you . The man who's
bringing about big changes in
our small town

I lean against the door frame

Me : you're annoying me , I
asked you a question

Mike : I....can I come in ?

Me : for what ?

Mike : I have reason to believe
that , my long lost daughter is
here

Me : here ?

He nods

Me : who told you that ?

Mike : Kevin , the PI I hired and
now is stuck on a wheelchair
because he was shot on his
knees

I laugh

He thinks he will get to me , so surely Kevin told him the truth about what happened to him

But if they think I give a damn !
They're mistakenly wrong

Mike : something amusing ?

Me : don't gain attitude , I'm
very good at what I do . You
don't wanna follow him too

He swallows , he better not
think I'm joking with him .
Because I'll be sending him his
son very soon

It will be pleasant

Mike : is my daughter around ?

Can I see her

Me : she doesn't know you ,
stop saying my daughter . Call
her Mrs Biyela , and don't put
pressure on her for whatever
reason you landed on our
doorstep . I don't like you , your
fucking bastard of a son shot my
wife . And I'm going to tell her
exactly who you are

Mike : what.... What do what
do you mean Paul shot....

Me : mhm come in , and I'm
going to kill him .

I make way for him

Me : Vuyo look after him , he
looks lost .

Vuyo laughs

I leave them heading upstairs

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Onthatile

I wipe my tears off

I didn't even hear him coming in

I sit up , pulling the fleece up a
bit

I'm even ashamed to look at
him in the eye

I'm in pain , not physical pain
but emotional

I'm okay when I'm with
someone in the room

But once I'm alone , everything
just comes trembling down

If I'm feeling this much hurt ,
I'm wondering how it feels
loosing a baby you've seen or
held

Even just knowing that there's
someone in your tummy

I feel robbed

I've never felt this much pain
and hurt

He sits down next to me , and
places his hand on my hand

I haven't lifted my head to look
at him

My tears fall to his hand

Me : what....what did I do ?

I shake my head that's
pounding like crazy

Me : I just....want it to stop ,
baby it's too painful

I lift my head and look at him ,
his eyes are reddish

And I know he's also going
through his own pain

I close my eyes for a brief
moment , as tears just stream
down

He engulfs me into his arms

Mthunzi : you're strong , I know
you are . Because there's no me
without you , here I am today .
Because you're holding me
down , and I draw my strength
from seeing life in you

I hug him back , with my weak
self

Mthunzi : one day at a time ,
you're going to be fine . I know
that , it's okay to cry and feel
hurt and pain . Don't hold on to
it

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INSERT 38

Mthunzi

I look at her

She's calmed down , and seems
so much better now

Even though I know , she will
have these moments from time
to time

But I'm here , and I'm not going
anywhere

Me : there's a man downstairs ,
that's if Vuyo hasn't sent him
out already

She turns and looks at me

Ontha : what man ? You can go
to work baby , I'll be fine

Me : it's not work

Ontha : then....?

Me : he says he's your father ,
and you're his long lost
daughter

Ontha : what ?

I nod slowly

Me : and he's Paul's father

She frowns

Ontha : the very same Paul that
shot me and killed my child ?

First time ever , I hear this
woman raising her voice

Ontha : you have got to be
kidding me !

She heads for the door

Ontha : tell me this is a joke ?

Me : how can I joke about
something like this ?

She just looks at me once , and
I've never seen that look like
not even once . She walks out

I sigh following her out ,
heading downstairs

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Onthatile

He gets on his feet

And I just cannot miss the
resemblance with Paul

He really must be his father

And if he really is mine , where does that put me ? Can I let him be a father to me , after everything ? Where was he all this time ?

Mthunzi : listen , now is definitely not a good time for you to be here . Maybe you can

leave your number behind ,
and....

Me : am I really your child ?

Mike : your mother Anelisa
worked for my family , for many
years as a helper . As time went
by , I developed a relationship
with her . But she left when she
saw she was pregnant , and I
tried finding her without any
luck

Me : I'm 21 now , I've lived my life without you . She died when I was 15 , and you're only showing up now . Like for 21 years , where were you ? I'm married now , so quite frankly I don't need you

He gets up

Me : is Paul your son ?

He moves his eyes looking at us
all

Me : if he is , I want nothing to
do with you and him . And I so
wish he can die , the same way
he shot me and killed my baby .
Do me a favour and stay away
from me , I hate your son . I
hate him so much , there's no
relationship that will ever
happen here

I look down , tears just come out

Mthunzi : leave , I won't have you upset my wife in her home .
Just leave

Mike : I think there's been a misunderstanding here , Paul is.....

Mthunzi : there's no mistake ,
Paul Daniels your drug dealer
son shot my wife and killed our
baby . All because he couldn't
take rejection and walk away ,
what mistake is there ? I told
you I know who you are , tell us
if he's not your son . Maybe
we're the ones crazy , but I
really have no desire having you
two anywhere near my wife . I
already told you this , same way
as I told you I'll tell her exactly

who you are and I did . These
are the results , so leave

I look at Mthunzi , wiping my
tears off

Me : take this man out of my
house , I never want to see him
again

Mike : I please.....

I turn back , and walk upstairs . I
get to our room , and get in bed

Where was he all along ? Clearly
he knew about me

So why didn't he find me all
these years ?

And now I'm just supposed to
welcome him back into my life
along with his son

The same son who shot me and
killed my baby ?

I don't know , but I don't see
how I can have a relationship
with those people

We're better off away from
each other lives , he surely had
means to find me then if he was

able to find me now . But he
didn't

I swear I wish nothing but death
upon Paul , I can never accept
him as a brother

They better stay away from me

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Mthunzi

Me : mommy

She looks at me and smiles

Me : you ready to go ?

She nods

Me : I'm sorry okay ?

She sits down , I head to the
bed and sit down next to her

Me : I'll make sure he stays
away from you

Ontha : I don't want him

She shakes her head

I bring her closer side hugging
her

Me : I promise

She sighs

Ontha : I swear I feel cursed

Me : don't say that

Ontha : just see how bad things keep happening to me , it's all just misfortunes . First Amo turned on me , then Paul shoots me and I lose our baby . Now I find out we're siblings , and well

there's this man now . It's just
bad

Me : heyyou're not cursed ,
don't say such things .
Sometimes before things open
up , they just dim a bit

She looks at me and smiles

Ontha : I can't stop thinking
about the baby

I hold her hand

Ontha : I.....I'm breaking down ,
I feel this wasn't fair

Me : it wasn't

Ontha : how do we move past
this ?

Me : I don't know , but we have each other . We have our family , and they're here supporting us . We're going to be fine , I know we're going to . And after the cleansing tomorrow , we'll pick up pieces

She nods

Ontha : I love you , and I'm here for you . I'm sure you were going to be the best dad ever

She laughs

Ontha : I would have loved to
see that

Me : with a little princess and
you driving me insane

We laugh , she pecks my cheek

Me : I'm here for you as well ,
and I'm sorry I wasn't there
when you needed me the most

Ontha : we don't do that

She caresses my cheek

Ontha : had I not insisted on
going there without you , none
of this would have happened .
Blaming ourselves doesn't help

either , because what's done is done . And we didn't do this , we're not to blame . So let's not do that

Me : when did you get so smart ? You're definitely not the same woman who ran out of me and ...

She hits my shoulder getting up , I laugh

Ontha : don't bore me , bring
my bag let's go

She puts on her slippers

I think we're going to be fine

And now after tomorrow , I can
finally avenge my child

Then we can move on with our
lives

I'm sure they're relaxed where
they are , and thinking they've
gotten away with what they've
done

They got it wrong

I'm not one person , to let
things go

And right now , I've just felt
some crazy pain and hurt I've
never

So I don't just let such go ,
especially where my loved ones
get hurt and affected

They have another thing coming

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INSERT 39

Onthatile

The ceremony went well

It's a pity we can't stay long
here

We have to go back to the city

I must go back to college , and
catch up . Already I've missed a
lot

So we'll be leaving today

Mthunzi : you okay ?

I nod

Mthunzi : I'm worried , don't
you think that maybe you
should go for therapy ?

Me : no

Mthunzi : I'll go with you

Me : baby !

He sighs

Mthunzi : okay , I've already
said goodbye to Koko . You'll
find me in the car , we'll revisit
this talk again

He pecks my lips walking away

I stand alone for a bit before I
go back inside

Kelly is having tea with Koko

Me : we.....have to go now

Koko : you take care of yourself

I nod

Me : please don't worry , don't
give yourself too much stress . If

there's anything wrong I'll let
you know

She nods

Me : we will be okay , thank you
for performing the ceremony
for us

She smiles

As heart-breaking as it was , and
having to name a baby you
didn't even hold into your arms

Not knowing if it's a girl or a boy

I think it was a boy though ,
Mthunzi says it was going to be
a girl

And he named her Asanele

I know we can never forget this
, but I hope with time we'll
move past it and find ourselves

A knock comes at the door , and
I pop my eyes with just rage
coming over me as I lay my eyes
on her

Amo : d....dum....

Me : o bata eng kwano ? (What do you want here)

I get up

Koko : Onthatile

She rubs her hands together

Amo : I....I heard you were here
, and I wanted....to uhm....I ..can
we please talk ?

Me : I don't want to talk to you ,
and I don't want to hear
anything from you . So please
leave , and stay away from me

She tears

Me : save those tears for
someone who actually cares ,
because I don't

I look at Koko who's just shocked

Me : we have to go now , it's a long drive to the city

I side hug her

Me : I'll call you as soon as we arrive

Kelly gets up , and says goodbye
to Koko

Amo : Thati please.....

We push her off the door
walking out

Ami : Thati I'm so sorryplease
I'm ... it was him , he

Me : I don't want to hear anything from you , and whatever you want to utter out of your mouth about my husband please keep it to yourself . Especially if you know what's good for you

I get in the car

Me : baby please lets go

Mthunzi : what does she want ?

Me : I don't know , and I don't
care

Mthunzi : you're okay ?

Me : yes

Mthunzi : okay

Lumka drives out first and we follow them , we came in two cars

Mthunzi is crazy , he didn't want us driving with them in one car

Mthunzi : calm down

I sigh

I never thought I'll see Amo
again , and I hate how angry I
just got seeing her

We're nothing to each other
anymore

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Tshiamo

I messed up

I messed up big time , and
there's no going back now

There's no fixing anything

I just heard some girls talking
about Thati that they saw her at
her home , and I couldn't
believe my ears

So I had to come and see her
myself

I don't want to lie , I was very
happy to find her alive and well

At least she's alive

Even though she doesn't want
anything to do with me

And she didn't even want to
give me a chance to apologize

That left me with questions ,
seeing her well and alive

So who's blood was that ?

I know for a fact she couldn't
have hurt Paul

And the shock is actually her
saying that guy is her husband

Like that guy is not some
construction worker , he's way
more than that . Meaning she
lied , and they're even married

Voice : Amo !

I turn frightened just hearing his voice , as the car stops next to me

Me : uhmmm....Tee ?

I'm surprised seeing him , I'm just wondering where he comes from

Tee : how are you ?

Me : I'm okay , what are you
doing here ?

He smiles

Tee : had a meeting with the
king

Me : oh okay

Tee : what about you ?

Me : uhm....it's...

Wait should I be telling him the truth ?

Me : I'm just visiting relatives

He nods

Me : I...should go

Tee : when will you be coming back ?

Me : I don't....know

Tee : right , let me drop you off

Me : no , it's okayit's not far
I'll just walk

Tee : come on , for old times
sakes

I sigh

Tee : come on

He opens the door , I get in

Me : thank you

Tee : no sweat

Is it not so awkward as we don't say anything to each other

But I get startled when I see him just driving , and heading towards the main road

Me : uhm you can leave me here

He says nothing

Me : Tee my home is that way

Still nothing , but he drivers
faster

Me : Tee !

I start panicking , holding the
car door but it's locked

Me : Tee please

I tear up begging him to stop ,
but he's just quite and just
ignoring me

I try grabbing his arm , but he
slaps me so hard I make contact
with the window

Bitting my lower lip , and tasting
blood . I wipe with my hand ,
and come back with blood

And I must have bit myself hard
, as more blood oozes out

I turn and look at him , I've
never see him like this

This rage , scares me . It makes
my insides turn . And if I dare
stand a chance to live , I'll keep
quite and not saying anything
anymore

And there's nothing I can do , as
he drives out of the village
heading to the city

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Mthunzi

I tuck her in

Placing a few pecks and a long
one on her forehead

Me : I love you so much

I move her hair from her face

Me : after this , I promise you nothing but peace . I will never let anyone hurt you ever again

My phone beeps , I move back taking it out

And it's a text message from Vuyo , I read it . And slide my phone back in my pocket

Me : just an hour , that's all I
need . I'll be back

I peck her lips , switching off the
side lamp

I walk out

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INSERT 40

Paul

I don't know how these people
got me

How they knew where I was

But clearly they knew

And they didn't go there looking
or in search of me

They knew exactly where I was

There was no running away , I
couldn't even defend myself

Next thing , I woke up and
found myself in this room

Clearly I blacked out , because I have no clue whatsoever about where I am

And these men are not saying anything

A while back one walked in with Tshiamo

And she was out of it , she still is on the floor

I tried calling her name , asked
them what happening here

But I got slaps and punches for
even opening my mouth

I don't know what this is

But I already know it won't end
well , by the look of things it's
not hard to figure it out

These men are thugs

They just have that written on
their faces

And they look so scary

Even I am scared looking at
them , I have my head bowed
down .

I am really scared I don't want
to lie

As if that's not enough

One walks in , and I can tell that
it's late at night because it's
dark very dark

He has a bucket of water with
ice I believe , it's making the
sounds

And just like that , he pours the whole damn bucket on Tshiamo

Some of the water trailing to where I am , and I get wet feeling the coldness from it

She gets up abruptly , screaming a bit . And there's laughter from some of the guys

I guess they didn't hurt her

If she can still stand up on her own feet , and this fast as well

She darts her eyes my way , and she looks at me shocked

Amo : P.....Paul ?

I just stare at her

I say nothing in response

It's a shame really that today
she gets to see me in this
manner

When I used to call shot to her
and her friend

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Tshiamo

I'm beyond shocked

Seeing Paul like this , he looks like a wet chicken

He's just shaking on the floor , rocking himself back and forth

He's not the same rude and arrogant Paul

After waking me the way they did

I haven't stopped shaking , and
shivering

I'm freezing cold , and it doesn't
help that the floor is also wet

I don't even know where I am ,
as Tee kept on driving

I was nagging him , I was
screaming and shouting

Not to mention kicking and
slamming his car windows

He lost it , and choked me until
I lost consciousness

There's commotion as the door
opens , and the men get up

There's like 5 of them

And I'm shocked as Tee walks in
with the same guy I saw with
Thati the husband as she said

Now I know I'm in deep shit , I
don't even need to hear or
know anything

But this man being here , it
cannot be good at all

Tee : good , you're both up

Me : I....

He walks towards me , and slaps me so hard I swear it feels like my jaw has just dislocated

I fall down crying , he doesn't stop there . But he starts kicking and punching me

Until I smell blood

Tee : no one said you can say
your two cents

I muffle my cries with my hand ,
I'm in so much pain

Tee : you two are just basically
whores , you ran after your own
sister . And in the end you shot
her , you really should be
ashamed of yourself

Paul : what.....what ?

Tee : oh you didn't know , she's your half sister . The daughter daddy has been so obsessed in finding ? It's her , but it doesn't matter now . Because she doesn't even want your father , definitely she doesn't want you too . Considering you know exactly what you did .

Paul looks like someone that's
lost right now

The way he's shaking his head
and crying

Tee : and you , you sold
someone who was supposed to
be your friend . Just for the sake
of fucking around , I'll help both
of you . Menziwa here , would
appreciate a show , before he
does away with you two

He nods , and the guys that
have always been in the room
with us get up

And they walk towards us , I
move back in fear . Tears
streaming down my face

I scream my lungs out , as one
just tears up Paul's pants . Poor
guy he tries fighting them

And I see others taking their
pants off

I swear , I never wanted to see
such . I'm asking if the same
fate awaits me

The two men , just gun him
down as one takes his dick
shoving it inside Paul's ass

The blood that comes out of it ,
it has my skin crawling . As Paul
cries and scream his lungs out

He screams , his screams are
piecing and echoing in this
whole room

One of the guy , positions his
dick in Paul's mouth

And you can't miss just how
he's in pain , his face his
changed pink

One of the guys touches my hair
, and I look at them

Now I see how the same fate
awaits me

With three guys !

Wouldn't they rather just kill us
?

Than to hurt us like this

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Paul

I thought I felt pain

But her cries are echoing , even
still now

I don't know how many times
she passed out

And they still continued having
their way with her

She cried , screamed and beg
with them . Pleading for her life

But it fell on death ears

I've never seen nor met such
ruthless and heatless people

Same way they had two guys
raping me , they have three
with her

And this other guy said , every
hole of a whore must be
penetrated

Even now she's laying in a pool
of her own blood

So am I

That's just how bad they hurt us

She hasn't moved an inch

I know we're not getting out of
here alive

This is it for us

I doubt they would hurt us like this , only to let us walk out of here

That's not going to happen

In all my life , I never thought that something like this would happen to me

That I would be molested by
other guys

My ass hole is on fire

I don't know how many times I
threw up

Amo bit the guy who was
fucking her mouth , and that
got her a few punches

It was just sad and heart-breaking to watch

Only a human with no heart can do this to other people

Does my father know what happened ?

Does he know that I shot Onthatile ? Who's now claimed to be his daughter

I mean I can't deny that

She did look mixed

I just never even thought we
could be related , I will take this
regret to the grave

Knowing my father would never
forgive me for this

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INSERT 41

Tshiamo

I open my eyes , hearing
excruciating screams of pain

My whole body is numb

I can't even feel my legs

I swear it feels like I'm paralyzed
, that's how bad those three
guys did me

They didn't have mercy on me ,
I cried and begged and
screamed until my voice was

gone . Upon passing out , they
would beat me up so I can come
to

At the orders of Thati's husband
, while he just leaned against
the wall and watched

I lift my head slowly

And what my eyes see , sends
me into shock . My heart beats

so fast like it'll stop any second
if I don't calm down

I can't even sit up , because I'm
in pain . My body is not allowing
me to move much

There's so much blood , and
he's just laying there screaming

Even the screams are fading ,
meaning it's been a while

And his wounds , prove they
long started cutting him and
opening him up

He was a jerk and all , I fucked
up . But what's happening to us
now , do we really deserve it ?

Tee : for messing with the
wrong woman , this is the fate
you get . You don't go around

fucking up with people ,
messing them up and hope to
live and see the next day

He says as the husband the one
who broke my arm , opens
another whole into Paul's chest

I don't know , they're not just
killing him . But they're opening
him up like some animal , and
worse with a knife

I've never seen a human so
cruel

His face is just full of rage and
he clearly doesn't care about
the pain he's causing

The tears and screams

I don't know what kind of
cruelty is this

But it takes the cup

After having guys rape us like that , to a point that we bled so much and i passed out

They're still going ahead doing this , still hurting us even more .
There's no way Paul is going to live after this

I never thought I would see
such things with my eyes like
ever

Another man brutally getting
raped by others , and now I
have to see this guy doing this
to him

My whole body cringes , as he
lifts his hand up with a heart
that's clearly still beating and all

Tee hands him something like a cooler box

I close my eyes , tears streaming down my face

The body of Paul , cut opened with a knife and ripped on some parts of his body . I cannot even imagine the pain he went through , while he was doing

this to him . He must have
begged , but obviously the aim
was just to kill him

I'm sure I'm to follow , and I'll
suffer the same fate as him if
not worse even

And his manhood half cut , just
dangling

Is a picture I'm just left with

Voice : send this to his father ,
it's a little something

No doubt it's that guy

There is no way that he's
human

How can he be human and yet
do such to other people ?

How is Thati married to such a man ?

Tee says we're being done like this , because of what we did to Ontha

But what's to say , this guy won't turn one day and do the same to her

I wish I can just talk to her one
last time

Even if it's her forgiveness that I
would get it's fine

Because right now , I've met my
end

I tear up , just hurting my self
even worse as he walks towards
me

With the knife dripping of Paul's
blood

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

He presses his foot on my neck
blocking my airway , as he
crouches down and the knife
hours through my stomach

I can't even scream

His foot is really pressed

As he slides the knife to my side
I feel it , he's cutting me open
on my stomach

I open my eyes slowly , as they
keep moving back

And he's staring down at me ,
with one cold look . And I know

, he's finishing me in cold blood
whole staring into my eyes

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Mthunzi

Vuyo : I've never seen so much
blood in one night

I drop the knife

I'm drenched in blood

Because after every single stab ,
she tried fighting

She couldn't lie still

Maybe she thought I'll spare
her , or that she'll make it or
what

That's why I needed up slitting
her throat , having her blood
splatter all over us

Me : take that to Daniels

Vuyo : and her ?

Me : take her useless body back
to the village

Vuyo : whoa ! Do you know how
you traumatized those village
people , with the death of
Tlhong ? Imagine this now , and
they'll be hearing about Paul

Me : those people better know
not to mess with me

He sighs

Me : I mourned my baby , let
every parent mourn theirs . I
don't give a fuck , how
traumatized they'll be left
seeing their kids like this . I
picked my wife on a floor ,
laying in her own blood . That
was my damn child there

Vuyo : I'll call the guys , and
we'll clean up

Me : yeah , I'm going home

I turn heading to the door , the
cold breeze hit me as I walk out
heading to my car

I drive home

I arrive , parking the car outside
on the drive way

I get inside , going to our room

She's still sleeping

I take my clothes off , they'll
have to be burnt . I cannot risk
having her see them . I'll take
them down to the basement

I head to the shower , just using water . She will smell the shower gel , when I get to bed

I scrub well , leaving no trails of blood whatsoever

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Onthatile

He places a kiss on my neck

Placing his hands on my
stomach

I smile

He snuggles closer , and I feel
his dick pressed hard against my
ass

My clit throbs

Mthunzi : good morning Mrs
Biyela

I giggle

Me : baby , you left me alone
last night

He places a kiss on my shoulder
blades

Mthunzi : I did ?

I don't know , but I have a
feeling at one point he wasn't in
bed

Me : I swear , there was a point
you weren't on this bed

Mthunzi : mhm , I'm here

Me : but.....

He lifts my leg up , now I regret
sleeping with just a panty on

Cause he's naked , and very
horny

His hand rubs on me , he deep
groans

Me : I....thought , we're not
doing....this until I'm better

I'm loosing my breath

Mthunzi : mhm we're not , just
the tip

I feel his dick , between my
thighs . As he slides my panty to
the side using it

I let out a slight moan , as he
thrusts in to my open with just
his tip

And now I feel like I want the
whole of him

The more he thrusts , the more
I just want to feel him

Like all of him inside of him

I trail my hand to the back
holding his dick

And he grunts

Me : baby please

I turn my head looking at him ,
he takes my lips into his we kiss

I slowly slide his dick further in ,
he holds my hand stopping

Mthunzi : wait.....

Me : baby no !

I peck his lips

Me : please fuck me

I peck his lips again

Mthunzi : you want it ?

Me : I want all of it

He bites my lower lip , removing
his hand on mine

It's so fulfilling feeling his dick
throbbing and thrusting , on the
inside of my hand

Mthunzi : it's all yours

I bring my leg over his , as he
slides all of it . I scream a bit in

pain , as I feel him stretching
me up

I gasp for air , as his balls tap on
my ass stopping him from going
in further

He slowly slides out , for a
second and he trusts in .
Leaving no space

I trail my hand to his ass
grabbing and holding on his ass
cheek

He slides his one hand
underneath me , and takes my
other hand intertwining our
fingers

I lay my leg across the bed , so it
opens up a bit

His dick slides out , our hands bump each other as we both attempt to bring it back inside

He laughs , placing a kiss on the side of my face

Mthunzi : you never cease to amaze me

I laugh

He goes in deeper and faster , I feel like he's shifting and poking things inside of me

I feel a hot tingly sensation coming , I tear up as my body shakes and I cannot control it

He takes his dick out , tapping it on my coochie my whole body vibrates as I squirt

As the last few drops drop , he
slides back in nibbling on my
earlobe

Mthunzi : I love you

I look at him , he pecks my lips
leaning in for a deeper kiss

He doesn't even mind my messy
tears

His one hand trail to my lower stomach , as he pounds in for deeper strokes

Lord I asked for it , and when he's done I'll be asking for a mirror to see if my pussy is still intact

This man fucks me , and he fucks me thoroughly through and through

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INSERT 42

Mthunzi

She sighs again , right after she gasped

I put the plate down , and get on top of her

I cup her face , placing a kiss on her forehead

Ontha : baby did you see this ?

Me : what ?

She holds her phone out

Me : what's that ?

Ontha : why don't you just read
?

Me : I'll rather you tell me

She laughs

Ontha : this is sad , but I don't even know if I feel sad or what

Me : what ?

Ontha : It is said , Tshiamo's body was found in the village

Mthunzi : the roommate ?

I nod

Me : they say , she was badly hurt . Stabbed and carved with a knife , her breasts were cut off . And her lips , were just ripped with a knife . Her throat was slit , oh God ! This just some terrifying things . Worse theysay she was gang raped according to just how her body was found

She puts her phone down

Ontha : like who would do such a thing , and like why ?

I shrug

Ontha : I know I said I wish death upon them , but this....

She shakes her head

Ontha : you know her mother was very sick , I swear that

woman will not make it after
this . And her little brother will
be left all alone

She sighs

Me : okay , I don't know this girl
. And quite frankly I didn't like
her because she got you shot ,
but that's that . Please eat , and
stop worrying yourself about
dead people

Ontha : you know , this place is just creepy as of late . Like first it was that business man who was chopped , his family left in a state . Then the girl who was missing body parts , now it's this with Amo . Maybe they were right , this is some kind of ritual killings , cause what sane person would kill other people in this manner and for no particular reason ?

She sighs

Me : lorato lame please eat (my
love)

Ontha : okay , I'm sorry . I've
been talking a lot , I'll eat

I hand her the plate

Ontha : you're taking care of me
, it's so cute and so nice . I love
it and I love you

She smiles , I chuckle pleased .
Damn it's fulfilling giving love ,
and receiving it back

Me : I'll always take care of you
, always

She pecks my lips

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Onthatile

I look at him

Me : what did I say about him ?

He sighs shaking his head

Mthunzi : what do you want ?

Mike : it's you isn't it ?

He's angry alright

Mike : does she know the kind of monster she married ? You killed my son , or were you both involved in it ? Tell me , it's no coincidence that you said you're going to kill him , and I find his body missing parts ripped apart and chopped dropped at my doorstep . You told me to my face that you're going to kill him

Lord !

My knees go weak immediately
, I feel dizzy like I'll just fall and
drop dead

Mike : you killed him , you

And he cries

I'm so lost , I look at Mthunzi
he's not even fazed

But please , somebody tell me
that it is a coincidence

That Tshiamo is found dead ,
and so is Paul . On the same
morning

The very same two people who
made us loose our child

What am I even thinking ?

Is he capable of such ?

Exactly what am I asking myself
?

My knees are failing me so bad

Such cruel murders of two
people who hurt us , okay !
What kind of a coincidence is
this ?

I'm just trying to act all strong in front of this man

The second he notices my reaction , he will know even I think he's telling the truth

Mike : I won't let this lying down , I will take you to account for this . You will go to jail , I'm the calling cops

Me : my husband has been with me , all day and night . Ever since your son shot me , he hasn't left my side . So when exactly did he go out and kill Paul ?

At the mention of cops , I got my act together in seconds , stood up . Uttered anything to save him

Me : go ahead , call the cops .
But please , be able to prove
that . Don't ruin his name , for
nothing . I can prove that I was
with him , for two weeks going
on three . Here's never left this
house without me , we went to
the village together and came
back yesterday .

Mthunzi smiles , holding my
hand

Bloody bastard , he knows I've just saved his ass right now

And he's feeling all manly and macho

The fear in me , my heart is beating so fast like it pop out of my chest

Mike : he was your brother , and you're protecting him ?

He shakes his head

You cannot miss the hurt in his
eyes and voice

Me : Paul was nothing of mine ,
what happened to him is sad
and all . I know the pain of
loosing a child , because of him .
But I would never wish that on
any parent , I'm sorry for your

loss . But I cannot allow you to take the only family that I have , and pin your son's murder on him . If it's just accusations and speculation , please leave . But if you have proof , then by all means come in and call the cops . He will answer to his sins

I look at Mthunzi , and he's looking at Mike with a smirk

He doesn't even regret what
he's done

He has no remorse absolutely
nothing

And right now , it's like I've just
applauded him

Mike : I know it was you , I know
it

He wipes his tests and turns
walking away heading to his car

Me : oh.....

I take a deep breath tears
streaming down my face

I go down , and he holds me

My stomach goes cold , I feel
like my intestines are turning

Mthunzi : my love.....are you
okay ?.

The panic in his voice , you can't
believe he's the same guy who
was smirking seconds ago

He helps me sit down on the
couch , I place my hands on my
knees rubbing them

I hold my head , shaking like
crazy

Mthunzi : my love please calm
down , what's....should I call
Vuyo ?

I shake my head , my voice
failing me.

He sits down next to me , and
gives me a hug

I break down

I was literally shaking , and so
horrified when I was reading
about Tshiamo

And what Paul's father said

I can't comprehend that my
husband , is the one who did
that

Is he that monster ?

Me : baby

I hold tight on him

Me : you You weren't in bed
the whole night , baby you left

He nods against my head , and I
am defeated

He's basically just said yeah , he left and definitely he killed those two

I slowly pull out , and look at him

Mthunzi : thank you

He's just finished me

I stare at him intensely , but I
don't see any of that in him

I don't see a man that can kill
brutally like that

Mthunzi : I just have flaws , I'm
a sinner but I love you

I close my eyes , he places a kiss
on my forehead as more tears
stream down

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INSERT 43

A YEAR LATER

On that tile

I park the car , grabbing my bag and phone . I look at the portfolio and I'm lazy to grab it from the back

I get out walking towards the door , and these damn heels are doing a number on me

The things we endure just because we want to look beautiful

I open the door , dropping my bag on the couch

I head upstairs , taking my heels
on the way

I sigh getting on top of the stairs

Me : damn !

I open our bedroom door
dropping the shoes inside

And I lean over opening the
opposite door

He lifts his head , and my heart
melts as I smile

He shakes his head

I want to laugh so bad , he just
looks cute

I'm on my toes walking in , I
look over at the cribs and laugh
slightly

I look at him

Me : oh Menziwa I love you

I lean over giving him a kiss ,
and he pulls me in for a deeper
one

Me : please don't get me horny

He chuckles , we slowly pull out

Even after a year being married
, I still melt and lose myself in
his arms

Mthunzi : I tried

He's nodding a lot , Vuyo does
the same thing

Especially when they're nervous
about something

Me : the house is still standing ,
people are sleeping and you
look like hell . You did amazingly
great

He smiles side hugging me ,
planting a kiss on my forehead

Mthunzi : lorato lame (my love)

He takes my hands into his , we
lock eyes and I still want to
burst and laugh

Mthunzi : please , don't ever
leave them with me alone again
. It's really scary , and I can't
even look away . When you
change one , another needs
changing as well . When you
feed one , another needs
feeding too . And you have to
pick them together at the same

time , and then they can't keep their hands to themselves .

They want food together , like it's a lot . And I have to watch them like every two seconds , to make sure they're still breathing when they're sleeping

Now it makes sense why he's standing between two cribs and they're sleeping

I chuckle

Me : we're never making babies again

Mthunzi : but

He shakes his head shrugging

Me : and you can leave them to sleep on their own, that's why we have a baby monitor in here . So we can hear when they're

awake , your kids sleep for 30
minutes max . Maybe after that
when you hear nothing , you
can come and check on them

I pat his chest

Me : not 2 seconds

He frowns

I take my suit jacket off

Mthunzi : Wait.....were you
mocking me ?

Me : never

And someone lifts his tiny hands
in the air

Daddy sighs

Mthunzi : I just put them to bed like 10 minutes ago , why is he waking up ?

Me : you know he's clingy , he knows mommy is back home

I pick him up , and he's clean even the diaper is clean

Me : please hold him , let me pump first

He takes him

Mthunzi : what if she wakes up
too ?

Me : not with that thumb in her
mouth

This girl loves food , she just
cannot be without food

I head to their bathroom
pumping

Koko taught me this , that if I go
out or meet people

I should pump the milk first ,
before I breastfeed

I walk back and sit on the single
bed , he hands him to me

Me : hi baby

He shakes his head giving me a smile , my baby is a charmer

Me : did you give Zano yoghurt ?

He looks down , I laugh

Knowing very well that he did

Me : baby , she's too young for
such

Mthunzi : her hands were
grabbing , I thought she wanted
it

Me : Zamo grabs more than she
does , you just fed her cause
she was chewing

Mthunzi : there was nothing in
the mouth

Me : she always chews nothing ,
that's why she sucks her thumb
. She loves food

I fear how she's going to use my
husband

Because he just gives in

He was so happy when we found out a month later after everything occurred that I was pregnant

And well finding out it's twins , a girl and boy he was just ecstatic

I was scared , and didn't want to rejoice . But he reeled me in , I found myself so found of motherhood

I embraced it with my all

He named them Zanokuhle and
Zamokuhle

Soon after we got married , had
the traditional wedding and the
white wedding

Those were the proudest day
for Koko

I don't know what to say
honestly , when I'm to talk
about my husband

I found out that on top of the
150 000 he initially paid

The second time they went for
bogadi , a whole 1.5 million was
paid

I was just shocked , and it was
when he built Koko a home
back in the village

Cause she didn't want to move
away

So he said he will make sure
she's we'll taken care of and
comfortable there

She even has a helper , that
woman is living soft life

Vuyo goes there a lot , I'm sure
he's dating at the village

Koko loves all the Biyela
brothers , and they love her as
much

It's their home there

We haven't forgotten our little angel Asanele

After getting married , we actually got matching tattoos of her name on our ring fingers

We have the name carved out , and on the wall in the twins room

Mthunzi : how did it go ?

I turn and look at him , and
they're both looking at me

I laugh

Zamo is clingy , he's a mommy's
boy

The sister loves daddy and big
brother more than me

Me : it went great , they're doing an amazing job baby

Mthunzi : at least this was worth it all

Me : mhm you did great daddy

My husband outdid himself , on his first time babysitting the twins on his own without my help or the nanny

They're only two months old ,
and just a lot to handle

I have a boutique , college
didn't even work out

I'm only resuming again for that
degree this year , cause I
dropped out a week after going
back there

But 6 months ago , I opened by boutique . Of course sponsored by hubby

And I've been managing it home , since I was already pregnant

But I had to pop in today , checking on designs I sent a week ago for a very important client

I mean 8 evening gown dresses
, that's a lot of work

And I have to oversee that
they're being done exactly how
I had them designed , and the
way the client requested

He didn't even hesitate , when I
was busy stressing about what
I'm going to do

Cause I don't want to expose
the twins outside this soon

He just said he'll stay home and
watch them

I knew he would do well , and
call if anything happened

Mthunzi is the best father ever

He can leave and go to work now , an hour later he'll walk through that door and says he's come to be with his family

Vuyo is actually handling most of the businesses now

Cause his brother is not reliable , he's still doing tenders left right and centre . I still say he's corrupt even today

When he wants to come home ,
he doesn't even think twice

I find it so funny

After all that happened , and I
got that glimpse that he's this
cold hearted killer

Of which I've never even asked
him about

I don't want to know , I don't
even need to know

Cause that damn scared me

To me , he's just something else
. And has shown me another
side

He's nothing but just a flawed
Angel in my eyes , and mhm

until to this day to his words
he's a sinner that loves me

And now he's gained more
people to love , he hasn't failed
to love them

Mike left me alone , I guess he
hates me for siding with
Mthunzi

But he never called any cops ,
and last I heard of him he was
divorced from the wife

As it is , I have no idea where
he's at

Mma Amo , got a stroke after all
that happened . And the poor
woman didn't make it

Two months later she passed on
, Mosa left the village and no
one knows where he is

I had pleaded with Mthunzi that
we take care of him

And offer him assistance even
with school

He agreed

But when we heard that he left ,
Mthunzi scrapped the idea off

And he wasn't interested in
going out there and find him

I let it go , because asking him
to go find him that would be
another thing

So life has moved on

I only hope and pray that he's
okay wherever he is

I look at him , and he's staring
at his daughter

Me : bring her she'll lay on their
cot , while I get busy with
supper

Mthunzi : okay , let's hope I
don't wake her up

I laugh getting up , and he picks Zano up following us out

We get downstairs , and he places her in their cot

I hand him Zamo as he sits down

He picks him up , brushing his back so he can burp

I smile just looking at them

A year ago , I never thought we
would be here today

But here we are , with this man
and his flaws

I chuckle at that and he looks at
me

I don't know , but he sure does
loves me . Despite the way he is
, I have no doubt about that

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THE END