

{WARNING :: EMOTIONAL TRIGGER , READERS DISCRETION ADVISED}

PROLOGUE





"You will marry this man , I was not asking you in case you missed it . It's an order , now pull yourself together and stop embarrassing me"

The words of my father ring in my head

As tears stream down my face , and I feel my chest closing up as I try so hard not to scream

It feels like just yesterday , when he said that to me So ignorant to my tears and cries, all he wanted was just money and nothing else

It's been two years

Two years of pain , misery and tears

Enduring abuse day in and out, more like a slave of pain This has become my life , and I can see there's no escape

I'm locked inside this hell hole

It's been two years since I've seen the sun , and just felt fresh air

Yes !

I haven't stepped foot outside this fortress of a house in two years

I'm chained on this bed , as if I'll run away

Every single bone in my body feels like it's going to break

I wonder how my sister is doing , she was only 4 when I left She's 6 now

She's the only good memory I have of home

I'm wondering if she's also being raised , just so she can be sold

My mother failed to stand up for me , she failed to fight me

She will fail her too , if she's ever dealt the same fate as me

I move my arm wiping my tears off

After two years , I still cry when I think about my pain

And how my father ruined my life

I still cry, when he beats me like it's a new thing

I guess I'm not that strong

I hear footsteps approaching, slowly I turn facing the other way

The door opens , and I can just tell it's not him

When he enters , the whole environment just changes

I heave a sigh of relief

Bones : madam

How ironic , I'm called a madam

Yet I'm chained like a dog

Me : yes Bones

Oh I have to oblige , and just cooperate

Unless I want trouble , of which I don't

I suffered enough beatings last night Bones : sir is ready for you , he would like your presence on the dinner table

He has his days , where he wants me eating with him

And on most days , I'm just brought food into this tiny room

Like some kind of a prisoner, but then I am one From day one of the so called marriage , he alienated me away from my family

Well, the so called family

Bones : you have less than an hour to get done

He unchains my feet

Me : thank you

He walks out , leaving the door opened

I guess those are orders

I get up from the bed , and take my bloody dress off

I wasn't allowed to clean up after the beating

I got chained on the bed bloody as I was

There's only cold water in here

But it'll have to do , because I have to clean up

I get in the basin , and start bathing as fast as I can

I can't take more than an hour

And the bruises stings

Oh !

I mean the new ones

The old ones have turned into marks, like permanent scars

I dry and lotion , using the ointment lotion

At least , it'll subside the pain and get me through the stupid dinner . I pull out a black formal dress , with black formal heels

I walk down , and he's already sitting down . His back turned on me

The dinning area , is an open plan

He doesn't even turn to look at me

I move over to where my plate is set

I greet pulling out a chair

He doesn't bother greeting back

He just orders Tia to bring food

Poor Tia , she just runs like a little child following orders

I wonder what kind of a woman gave birth to such a monster

I dart my eyes to him , and he just eats

I guess I should eat too

By the time I'm halfway with my plate , he's done eating

Still in silence he gets up , and walks upstairs

Right now , I don't know if I should continue eating or leave the food here I am hungry , I couldn't eat as fast as he did . He's the one who invited me on the table , now he's left

If I eat it all , I can get into trouble for eating without being told to

More like eating , not in his presence when he's the one who called me

If I leave it , I can get into trouble for being ungrateful

I sigh back on the chair , not knowing what to do

Zenkosi



Me : where is my daughter ?

Tears are just streaming down my face

My hands are trembling and sweating

I keep looking at the car that's following behind me

I am shit scared

I feel like this steering wheel will slip out of my hands

Me : pleaseI am begging you . Tell me where is my child

All I care hear is his breathing and nothing

Me : I am begging you , just give me my daughter and I will let you be

He says nothing

And after a few minutes , he drops the call

I let out a scream

The car behind me passes

I heave a sigh of relief

As tears blurry my eyes

I part by the side of the road

Just letting the tears flow

My heart beating so fast

I can't be weak now , I have to fight and get my child back

I take a deep breath and wipe my tears off

The door opens , I am startled by that

And there's this tall man

Him : Mrs Black come with ?

Without even thinking twice , I lean under my seat to grab the gun But he just grabs me , and it slips off my sweaty hands

I let out a scream , trying to fight him

He's too strong for me , as he pulls me out of my car

My forehead hits on the window , and it fucking hurts

He just carries me like a sack of potatoes to the black car on the road

I don't even see the car

I scream as he must throws me inside at the back

There's a man, and he's holding a gun

Him : make a fuss , I won't hesitate to blow your brains

Me : you're just bluffing

He chuckles annoyed

As the other goes to the drivers seat

I try to open the door , but it's locked

He gets in and just drives off

Him : try me

Me : lay a hand on me , and he will kill you

He laughs

I close my eyes

My daughter needs me , I cannot afford to act out like a fool

Kenan



He opens the door , and they walk in

She looks like a mess

One look at her , and my rage just boils

Me : what the fuck happened ?

Ace : she was

I draw my gun , and he moves to the door

Ace : we tried to be clean as we can , she was just difficult

I point the gun at him

Ace : I

I pull the trigger , and it lands on his forehead

He falls down blood gushing out

I look at Drew

Me : clean this mess

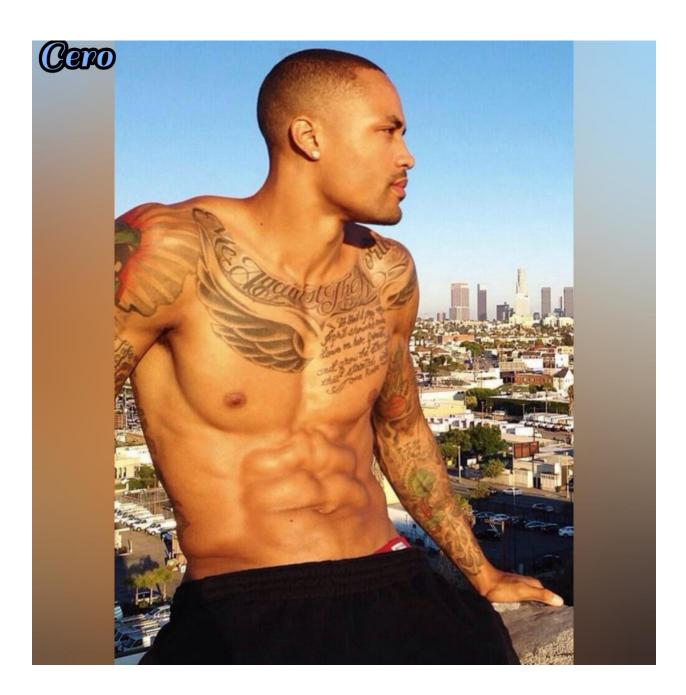
I heave a sigh , darting my eyes to her

She has one deadly stare on me , my heart just shutters into a million pieces

INSERT 01

TWO YEARS EARLIER

Cero



Me : what's this ?

They all look at me

Me : this is fucking nonsense, and I didn't pay for this shit

Leo walks in

Just annoying me worse than I already am right now

Without knocking , doing the same shit I'm always warning him about

He looks at the girls and shakes his head

Clearly disapproving , and not very much pleased

Me : take them to the dungeon , all of them . Let them die there , they're just useless to me . And get me Trevor on the line , if he doesn't want my money anymore he should just say . And not serve me mediocre work

Fuck Kenan for this shit , I don't know what he was thinking putting Trevor in charge

This one is always just full of shit

And not delivering what's asked of him

They nod quickly dragging the girls out

Leo : brother , what's wrong with you ?

Me : this is not your fucking kingdom , what so you want ?

I pull a chair and sit down

I am not in his righteous moods

Leo : you're better than this Cero , you have sister's and they have girls

Me : fuck off !

He sighs

Me : do you think anyone would be a fool to dare touch my blood ?

Leo : you need to stop this , what if one day the same misfortune befall them ?

He must not bore me , does he think I fucking care ?

Leo : you're better than this , these girls are people's daughter's

Me : well they're not mine

Leo : it's useless to talk to you , when you don't want to see to reason . And just to see how messed up you are . You're like a child who suffered some trauma

Me : would you like to see trauma ?

He just stares at me.

Me : leave , and don't ever come here again . Let this be the last time I tell you

Leo : I swear it's like we are not from the same womb

Me : spare me your righteousness

He nods slowly

Leo : I hope you're really able to live with yourself , with the pain you're causing the families of those girls . Karma has a way of repaying itself Me : it's not my fucking problem , that their so called families failed to protect them from men like me . Now brother , thanks for the lecture as always it was useless

He laughs shaking his head going out

Zara

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I look at him shocked , not believing what he just said . I'm thinking maybe he's joking

But he has this thing he does with his middle finger

When he's really saying something and he means it

That's how I know he's serious about this

Me : Babe ?

He doesn't move

I go sit next to him

Me : marriage ? But we've been together for a month

That's such a short time to get married , after being with someone

Trevor : I know , but I'm not counting . And a man knows the first day he meets his woman , that she's his . I don't see why we should wait

This is so sudden , and well unheard of

Who gets married after being together for a month ?

And mind you , in that month we've been dating

I've only seen him for two weeks

The other two weeks , he was just distant

And if this is how men sees things , then it's them

l'm not a man

So I don't see this like how he sees it

No !

I need time

Trevor : do you want to think about it ?

He sound somehow not pleased

Me : I you know I love you

He gets up

Trevor : if you're going to give me speeches , about why you

can't accept my proposal please don't

He buttons his suit jacket

I get up holding his hand

I love him , as insane as it might sound

I do love him

Me : don't walk out on me

Trevor : I don't want to force you into something you don't want

I caress his cheek , touching his beard

Me : I want you babe , you know that . And there shouldn't be any doubts

He stares at me , for quite a while

He leans down giving me a kiss , I gladly welcome

His hand on my throat , slightly choking me

But not too hard to close my airway

After a few minutes he pulls out

Trevor : let me go , l'll call you later . I have business to attend to

Me : I love you babe

Trevor : I love you sweetheart

He moves back , and I watch him as he walks out

I heave a sigh

That was crazy

It's too soon for marriage , but I also don't want to loose him

The two weeks we've been together , have been amazing

And I got to fall for him

But marriage is a huge step

And I think we're rushing it

So it's definitely wise to hold off on that for a bit

I hope he can understand , and not pressure me

We still have time , there's no need to rush marriage

We should also be getting to know each other better

I mean , isn't that what people in relationships do ?

They get to know each other better , taking their time . And

not rushing such a huge and big commitment

He's so awkward , it just feels like I'm not in a relationship with a normal guy

And maybe I am not , but he's who I'm with

I turn back and continue with my laundry

He just walked in here

And I wasn't even expecting him that he's coming

But he always does this , it's a norm to him now

He just rocks up , without even saying a word

I used to confront him about that

But I could see , it offended him in a way

And he got suspicious of me , that maybe there's another man

And that's why I wouldn't want him coming here without saying To avoid drama and quarrels , I stopped asking him why he doesn't say when he's coming

But as for today !

That was a visit I did not even anticipate

A whole marriage proposal talk ? I hope we can put this aside , and just focus on us

And we can revisit the talk again , after some time

Just not now , it's too soon





I knock at the door , and the man of the house opens

He frowns looking at me

Me : Mr Zondi

He walks over closer to the door step

Zondi : yes ?

Me : I'm sorry to just show up at your home uninvited sir

Zondi : young man , who are you and what can I do for you ?

I smile

He looks like a greedy man

And a man who could appreciate some power

Me : my bad , l'm Trevor Nyathi . l'm here about your daughter Zara

At the mention of his daughter, that gets me his attention

It's the look he's giving

I know he's now eager to know what I'm about

Damn I'm good ! Should give myself a pat on the shoulder

Zondi : I see , well let's get in

He makes way, and I walk inside

He leads me to the lounge , we both sit down

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Trevor

Zondi : you say you're here about my daughter ?

Me: yes

Zondi : what about her ? And how do you even know her ?

I clear my throat

Me : she's my girlfriend

He stares at me

Forming some hard look

Me : well fiancé now , because I asked her to marry me and she agreed

The gaze slowly dies down

Zondi : I do not know this

Me : yes , I've been asking her when is she going to tell her family about us . And the fact that we're going to get married , but she has been very hesitant . It's like she's scared or something . I don't know , or maybe she's not ready . I took the liberty to come here , because I don't want to lose her . And I love her very much

Zondi : nonsense , this is very good news . Why should she be scared to share such with us ?

Me : I don't know

I rub my hands together

Me : I am sorry to just rock up into your home , it's just that I really do love her . And I don't want her changing her mind , maybe she's still thinking if she really does want to marry me

He shakes his head , very much disapprovingly

Zondi : nonsense ! She will marry you , what's there to think about ?

I let out a fading smile

Me : I don't have parents , I'm the only one left of my family . My uncle's live very far , and there isn't a good relationship there . I know I have to do things the right way , and bring family to come pay for things

Zondi : you want to pay ?

Bloody idiot !

That's the only thing on his mind

Me: yes

He laughs

Zondi : that's not a problem , just come on your own . I won't call family members either , so you feel comfortable

Fool!

Me : thank you so much , I appreciate this

Zondi : so , when do you think you'll come and pay ?

Me : I can even pay right now , just name your price . And please , don't hold back

He looks at me , slightly shocked

Zondi : without a doubt Zara is definitely marrying you

Me : you have no idea how happy that makes me

Zondi : yes , now let's get to it . My daughter is a jewel , so do expect me to charge you

I chuckle

Zara

Me : he asked me to marry him

Lizzy : what ?

Inod

She laughs , I am still taken aback by this

Lizzy : plug me with whoever you're seeing , because I've been chasing the same man for 3 years . He has 2 baby mama's , he has more side chicks I can count . And in a month , you're already getting married

I laugh , she's just being crazy right now

Me : well I didn't agree

Lizzy : why not ?

Me : it's too soon , we're rushing this

Lizzy : girl ! You're refusing marriage , while some of us are crying for it ?

Me : well , it's a lifetime commitment . I don't know Trevor that well , I believe we still need more time getting to know each other

Lizzy : you can do that , while you're still married

She doesn't get this

Me : what if we find out we're not compatible ? Then what ? Divorce follows , no !

Lizzy : don't cry when he goes , and finds another

Me : then it would mean , it's wasn't meant to be

l sigh

As much as I love him , I don't think rushing to marriage is a good thing

Trevor

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Ace : Cero wants to talk

I sigh , just already annoyed hearing that name

Me : about what ?

Ace : he doesn't sound happy about the girls we got him

Me : that fucker can go fuck himself , he's never happy . Does he think I fucking create these girls from a factory ?

l get up

Me : he's an ungrateful piece of shit

I pour myself a glass of whiskey

Me : he was on our case , he rushed us for those girls . He must deal with what we sent him

I down the glass

Ace : do I tell him off ?

Me : do whatever shit you must do , I don't have time for him . He can go run to Black for all I care

Ace : he can be a problem

Me : he's not my problem

Ace : all I'm saying is that , he's our biggest client . And if he's not happy , it reflects bad on us

Me : and who pays your pay check Ace ? Me or Cero ?

He sighs

Ace : of course it's you

Me : then stop bothering me with this nonsense , Cero is just unbelievable . He can go on Tue streets , and find what he wants

Ace : understood , I will talk to him

Me : I pay you after all , I won't entertain this nonsense of that Italian . I'm getting married in a few days , he can deal with his shit

Ace : marriage ?

Me : we're not friends Ace

He laughs walking out

Zara

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I look at my ringing phone

And it's been ringing for a while now

I grab it and answer

Me : hello ?

Trevor : hello ? Are we friends now ?

l sigh

His tone is just so off

Me : babe , I'm sorry . I was taking a shower , I answered my phone in a rush

He sighs

Trevor : dinner tonight ?

Me : perfect

Trevor : I'll come pick you up , let's say 19:00 Me : okay , what should I wear ?

Trevor : I booked at the Greats

I smile , that is my favourite restaurant . Even though I barely eat there , cause I cannot afford . Like it's quite expensive , but worth every penny

Me : formal it is

Trevor : I love you

Me : I love you too babe

He drops the call

I place my phone on the bed , and grab my lotion

I hope he doesn't speak about that marriage thing again

I just can't deal with that

Wouldn't my parents kill me , if I say I'm marrying a man I met a month ago

And have only spent two weeks with him

That sounds insane

I'm not ready for that marriage

My phone beeps , and it's a message from my father asking that I come home tomorrow

I respond him back that I'll come

I haven't gone home in a while , and I miss my mother and little sister

Work has me a bit busy

It's crazy being a nurse , sometimes I work insane hours and I hardly have time for anything



Trevor

Zara : dinner was lovely babe , thank you

She places a kiss on my lips, I pull her closer for a deeper kiss

Me : anything for you sweetheart

I fix her jacket

Me : I wish you can spend the night with me

Zara : I'm working tomorrow , and my father asked to see me

Good

At least he will finally tell her she has no choice but to just marry me, cause I paid that idiot a lot of money

Me : okay , I'll see you say later ?

Zara : of course

Me : walk in , I'll wait

She smiles

I give her a kiss , she walks away to her apartment

I wait until she walks inside, and I get into my car driving away

Her father better be calling her , to get her in line with this marriage nonsense

I did not pay that much money for nothing

He better make it worth my while

I don't have the so called time she needs , to decide

Whether she marries me or not

In this manner, I'll just take her

It's not like she'll have a choice

Zara

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I walk in , and strange enough it's very quite in the house

Where are people in this house ?

Me:mom!

I call out , but nothing

The door wasn't locked , and the small gate was also opened

I take out my phone to call her , but dad walks in

Me : oh , I thought the house was left empty and unattended

I laugh walking to him , we hug

Dad : you're so grown , I hardly see you anymore

Me : come on , it's work

Dad : and other things

Me : what things ?

He takes my hand we walk to the kitchen

Dad : we'll talk , that's why I asked you to come home

Me : oh

We sit down on the high chairs

Me : where is mom ?

Dad : they went out , I just wanted us to talk without disturbance

Me : what's going on ?

Dad : why didn't you tell me , someone has asked for your hand in marriage ?

l frown

Where does he get that ?

Me: what ? Who ?

Dad : are you not dating Trevor Nyathi ?

Waithow does he know all of this ?

Me : dad ?

Dad : he came here , and told me he asked to marry you

What the hell ?

Me : and I told him ...

Dad : that you will marry him

Hell no !.

When did I say that nonsense ?

Me : there must be a mistake here

Dad : what mistake ?

What's going on ?

Me : yes he asked to marry me , but I told him I'm not ready we should wait

Dad : why wait ?

And this man !

Me : we barely even know each other , and we haven't even been dating for that long

I defend

Dad : well you will get to know each other in marriage , do you know how many girls your age are longing for marriage ? Me : that's them , I am not in a hurry

Dad : you must know , you're going to marry him

Me : but dad !

Dad : I am not debating with you Zara , and he's already paid

What ?

l get up

Dad : sit down !

He roars

I sit down , all kinds of emotions just overwhelming me

How can Trevor do this to me?

He didn't even say anything at dinner last night

Tears stream down my face

I am feeling such pain and betrayal I cannot explain

How can my father also agree to this ? Doesn't he get that it's nonsense

He's failing me right now

This man is supposed to protect me , but right now he's failed me

It's like he's decided to just sell me off

I wonder how much Trevor paid him for this Why couldn't he just wait ?

It's not like I said I don't want to marry him

I just said , it's too soon we should wait a bit

I don't understand why he's doing this

Dad : what are those tears for ?

Gosh !

He doesn't even care

I wonder if my mother knows about this

She's my only hope right now , because it seems like my father has made up his mind and has decided

Trevor

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She has been calling , and I've been ignoring her calls . 20 missed calls , that's crazy

I get in taking my jacket off

As the phone rings again

I answer, pouring a glass of whiskey

Me : babe

I'm welcomed by sniffs and cries

No doubt she's crying

Me : what's wrong now sweetheart ?

Zara : how can you do this to me ?

I down the glass

Me : what did I do ?

Zara : oh please ! Don't act like you don't know

She's raises her hoarse voice

And I'm just wondering if she's been crying all day long

That's stupid and crazy

Zara : how can you tell my father I agreed to marry you , and pay him ?

Me : did you say no ?

Zara : no butI said we can wait

Me : if you didn't say no , then we can't exactly say you didn't agree

She burst into a sob

Me : stop crying , you'll get sick . Get some sleep , I'll come see you in the morning . I love you

I drop the call shaking my head heading upstairs to my room

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Zara

I open the door , surely I look like a mess

But I don't care

It's his fault

And I cannot believe he did this to me

And he looks like he doesn't even care

Trevor : babe , you look bad

Me : how can you go and do that ?

Trevor : I thought we spoke about it , I surely must have missed you saying no

He's fucking with me right now

Me : you know I didn't say no , but I also didn't say yes either Trevor : baby I am sorry , but it's done now . What can I do ?

I sigh turning , he grabs my arm

Trevor : I am sorry okay ? We won't make it a big deal then , I've paid the dowry . So why don't we just go to home affairs , sign and just leave it at that ? Like until you're ready for a wedding where you'll be walking down the isle This just keeps getting crazy and crazy

I barely slept

I just cried my eyes out , not wanting to believe this

Now he doesn't even care about a wedding

Even signing at court is crazy

Trevor : see ? I am talking to you , and you ignore me . Then what must I think ? That it's okay

I just look at him tongue tied

Trevor : okay , I guess it's fine . I will go and secure us a date at home affairs He lets go of my arm and pecks my lips walking out

I grab my phone and call my father

It rings for a while , and he answers

Dad : Zara

Still doesn't sound happy with me

Me : please don't make me do this , I don't want to marry

Dad : don't get on my nerves you child , you're getting married and that's that . Do you want to embarrass me ?

Like really ?

What about me , and what I want ?

He clicks his tongue dropping the call on me

I am such an idiot

Musawenkosi



Me : where is she ?

He laughs

Siya : you're still asking about her even now ?

I chuckle

Me: I asked a question ?

And it's just a question

Siya : they moved to Santorini in Greece

Me: mhm, when was that?

Siya : just a few months back

I nod slowly

Siya : give it up , she won't be back . She's pregnant

Me : really ?

He takes a sip of his beer and nods

Siya : yeah , probably at 6 or 7 months now

Me : I see

Siya : she just wasn't yours man

Crazy how my father is on my case now about getting married

He's like what king rules without a wife

I do get him though

There are other issues I cannot handle

And I'll ask my mother or my twin sister to intervene

And if I had a wife , none of that would be happening

But I am not in a rush



Cero : I am very disappointed with Trevor

I heave a sigh

I swear power has gone and gotten into his head , and it's annoying

Me : I could

Cero : no Black , ever since you left him there he's underperforming Me : what would you have me do ?

Cero : I will personally go there myself

This is crazy

Me : if it will please you to see the girls before they're shipped to you , it's all fine Cero : I will be in touch

I drop the call downing the glass of scotch

I can't deal with Cero and Trever , as if I'm running a creche here

Trevor

I sigh answering his call

Kenan : what is wrong with you ?

Me : what ?

Kenan : Trevor you're forgetting yourself, I cannot keep babying you like you're a child . This shit just never ends with you, it's fucking getting under my skin right now . Like what the fuck is wrong with you ?

Me : what did I do ?

He's pissed I can tell

Kenan : don't you get tired of Cero and the others always complaining about you ?

Fuck !

Whatever the hell is wrong with that Tuscan prince

Kenan : I have shit I'm dealing with , I cannot be running after your ass like this

Me : I

Kenan : don't fucking give me excuses I shake my head slowly

There's no talking to him when he's this angry

Me : I'll fix it

Kenan : you better , if this is too heavy for you just fucking tell me Me : it's

He drops the call on me

Me : great !

Just what I need

I just want to deal with this Zara issue first

Honestly business can wait

Cero just loves blowing things out of proportion and for shit

Zara

Me : did he tell you that he just married me off ?

Mom : he said you two are engaged , and dating

Me : mom , I barely even know Trevor to agree marriage to him

Mom : exactly what happened ?

Me : your husband just chose money over me

Mom : I'm sure it's not like that

Me : of course you will take his side , I'm your child ! For once can you just take my side , and hear me out

Mom : Zarathis is not about sides

Me : fine , it's clear who you have chosen

My parents though !

I drop the call switching my phone off

It'll probably piss Trevor off , but he can go take a hike

He went behind my back

And he doesn't even feel bad about what he's done

It seems so normal to him

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Trevor

She looks so pissed

Too bad , there's no turning back for her right now

We're here and it's all done

Her mother tried calming her down

After she made a spectacle of us , and almost embarrassing us with her stunts

Running away from her apartment

And her father found her , as she was driving out

She put on a fight

The man even has reddish eye to show for it

Zondi : take care of my flower

He's bullshiting me right now

What does he care ?

I paid a lot of money for this daughter of his

Me : I will

I look at her , and tears stream down her face

She's not happy , she's not even pretending

Me : babe , you're hurting me right now . It's like we are not in love

I wipe her tears

Me : I am sorry my love

Zara : all I asked for , was a bit of time

Me : I am sorry

She sighs

Zara : can we just go ?

I smile

Me : with pleasure

She just turns going to my car

Without even looking at her parents, or saying goodbye to them

And this is exactly what I want

She's playing right into my hands

Me : I am sorry , once she's better she will reach out

Zondi : of course , we will give her time

We shake hands and I walk away heading to the car

She's done crying now

Me : I love you baby

She says nothing

I drive heading to my house

Zara : where are we going ?

I side eye her

Me : to my place

Zara : I thought I'm going to my apartment

Me : you're a married woman now , and your place is where your husband is at

She keeps quite

And the rest of the ride is just in silence

Zara

He didn't spend the night with me

I have no idea where he slept

I've just showered now

And walking downstairs

I find him in the kitchen eating

He looks dressed like he's going somewhere

l sit down

He doesn't lift his eyes

I pour juice for myself

He continues to eat , until his place is half clean

Me : I need to go get my car and clothes , and my work uniform

Trevor : car and work uniform for what ?

Is he being for real ?

I look at him

Me : for work obviously

He chuckles

Me : and I just go see my friend , I will be back later . I don't know what time though

Trevor : what do you think this is ?

I look at him

He has such a cold stare I have never seen

Me : I

A lump gets stuck on my throat

Trevor : let's make this clear , you are no longer working . You don't need your car anymore , and there's no friend you're going to see Me : what ?

Trevor : I did not stutter

I know I don't know this man that well

But what he's showing me right now I have never seen

Trevor : where is your phone ?

Me : uhmit's upstairs

He gets up

And I'm just left stunned by his reaction and words right now

After a while he comes down

I'm startled as he smashes my phone on the wall

Me : what ?

I'm on my feet , my eyes popped out of their socket

Trevor : from today , this house is your work and whatever friend you need

He says and turns walking out

It takes me a few minutes to gather myself

I head to the lounge door and it's locked

I walk back to the kitchen

And it's the same thing

The door is locked

Me : wha.....

I try to wreck my head , like what just happened here

Zenkosi

He walks in

Me : babe are you okay ?

Kenan : yeah

He walks over and places a kiss on my cheek

Me : you have been looking somehow the past few days

He sighs

Kenan : it's just work

Me : are you sure ?

Kenan : yes my love

Me : mhm , if you're not happy that we moved here then maybe we

Kenan : baby , I am happy here . I don't care where I am , just as long as I'm with you

I smile

Me : okay , if something is bothering you . You can always talk to me

Kenan : I know , that's why I love you

I laugh

Kenan : how about we go out tonight ?

Me : I would love that

Kenan : great then , I am sorry I have been distant

Me : it's okay , just as long as we're okay

He holds my hand

Kenan : we're more than okay , this is us after all

This move was my plan

I just hope I didn't get him to do something he didn't want to do

It would really suck , to be halfway across the world

So far away

Away from family and all

To be stuck with a very moody and grumpy husband

It wouldn't be okay if he's not happy here

So I hope it's really work and nothing else

It was getting too much back home

With the cops and all

Like it was becoming a norm , like one thing after the other

Honestly we were not getting peace at all

So I figured just moving and staying away would be so much better

We've had peace here

INSERT 06

A FEW DAYS LATER



Me : what business did Cero have coming to South Africa ? Babysitting me like I'm a child , like I don't know what I'm doing

. Having me run the streets kidnapping girls , saying my men are incompetent

Kenan : either they're incompetent or you are

Me : what ?

He chuckles

Kenan : you heard me , Cero is our biggest client . He pays a lot of money for these girls , if you don't give him what he wants he ought to pull out or put you in line . And I am not loosing money because of you

Me : I am not a child Black , you're just like him . You uprooted your life , you're living well in Greece . All you know is just throwing and shouting orders, if you think you can do better than me come to the streets and kidnap these women and girls yourself

I drop the call on him

Me : is this it ?

He nods

Me : and you're certain there's no record of this stupid marriage anywhere ?

John : yes

Me : if my name ever pop up anywhere , if her family start

looking for her . I swear , I will kill you

He swallows hard

John : I erased everything , there's no marriage that's existing . Or anything tying you to her

I hand him the envelope with money and turn walking away

I get into my car and drive to my house

I know she's still alive

I have been checking the cameras inside the house

Zara

This must be a very bad nightmare

I keep hoping I'll wake up from it

It's been days now

Without Trevor in sight

I'm all alone in this house

With no way out

All doors locked , and I'm just shut out from the outside world and everyone else

I have no communication whatsoever with anyone

It feels like a dream

I don't know what to do with myself

I just feel stuck here , with no way out

Actually it feels like I am caged

My phone is completely shuttered

There's really no using it

And there are no landlines in this house

Most rooms are also locked

Trevor

I get home and find her sitting in the lounge

Zama : you're back

She gets up and comes to me

Zara : babe what's going on ?

Me : what are you talking about ?

Zara : you locked me in here , for over a week . And you just left me Me : left ?

She sighs

Me : I'm back am I not ?

Zara : what's going on ?

I close my eyes and take a deep breath

I look at her

I hope I didn't just buy a thing that's going to annoy me here

Zara : I need a phone , so I can call my parents

I chuckle

Me : you think they give a shit ? Your father sold you in a snap , he doesn't care if you live or die Zara : if he knew a monster you were , he wouldn't have taken your money

Me : he took it , so what does that make him ?

Zara : you lied to him !

Me : you're his daughter , and nothing of mine

Her jaw drops

Me : I need to go freshen up

I walk past her

Zara : Trevor I am talking to you !

She raises her voice

I turn and slap her so hard , she falls down on her ass

Crying out in pain

I just stare at her , tears stream down her face

She looks at me shocked as hell

Zara : youyou slapped me ?

She asks in shock

Zara : did you just slap me ?

She gets up , still holding her cheek

Me : this is your new reality , damn make peace with it

Zara : you cannot keep me a prisoner here , and think you

can put your filthy hands on me

I land a punch on her face , blood comes gushing from her nose

She wails

Me : do you want to see what I can do to you ? Keep trying me , and you won't live for long

She lifts her t-shirt , placing it on her face

Me : go clean yourself up

I click my tongue going up to my room

Zara

What have I gotten myself into ?

I look at myself in the mirror

And I look like shit

The mark on my cheek

And my nose is painful , it even feels like it has shifted

I can't stop the tears streaming down my face

Who is this man ?

He's definitely not the man I thought loved me

I feel like a slave or a prisoner of some kind fight now

He has put his hands on me , something I never thought he could do

And definitely has alienated me from everyone

I can't even call my family for help

Right now I'm just wondering , if anyone is even worried about me

Like have they gone to my place

Or maybe tried calling me

After hearing nothing from me in a week

Or they think I'm busy enjoying this marriage

My father got me into this

Even after I tried to get away

He dragged me from that car, to home affairs

And made sure I marry Trevor

After begging him over and over again

He didn't even know this man enough to take his word

Or his money for that matter

INSERT 07

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Zara

I hear the door opening

I'm in one of the rooms

He just shoved me in here last night

I didn't even sleep a wink

I was in pain the whole night

My nose is really hurting bad

I was even scared to cry to him

Scared that he will hit me again

Footsteps walk in

I want to turn and look who it is

But I am scared

I only have a fleece on

And I jump off the bed , as ice water is poured on me

I shiver like hell looking at him

Who is this animal that's standing before me?

My teeth are gashing together

I try hugging myself

Half side of my clothes , is wet

Trevor : this is not your father's house

Well I know that

I want to respond , but I'm scared that might get me a slap

Trevor : now that you have gotten the memo , this is your life now . No more working for you , no more friends . No more going out , and most definitely no more your pathetic family . Is that clear ?

I stand still , not saying anything back

He walks closer , throwing the bucket down

I shake a bit

I move back slowly , as he keeps walking towards me

He chuckles shaking his head

I'm stopped , when my back hits the wall

He raises his hand , I raise my arms to stop whatever slap is coming covering my face

But he chokes me instead

Trevor : do you understand ?

Do I really understand ?

Like am I understanding that this is my life now ?

Am I understanding that this is how I am going to live ?

That there's no escape here

That I am just giving in

Without even a fight

I am a human being after all

I am entitled to my life

To live it however I want , and not be subjected to anything

I try holding his hand , trying to push him back

But he tightens his grip on my neck

Tears stream down my face

Trevor : don't make me ask you again ?

I try opening my mouth to plead with him

But nothing comes out

He's really closing my air way

Just choking the life out of me

Is this really how I die ?

In the hands of this man

He slams me so hard against the wall

That the back of my head makes such a loud thud

If it was anything hard

I swear my head would have made a crack on this wall

I close my eyes , just crying in pain

As I feel like my head is spinning , and cut in half

I just nod numerous times

In hopes that he lets go

Because I can't bare the pain now

He finally let's go

And I drop down on my knees coughing , like my insides are coming out

Trevor : you look like a mess , clean up and come eat . I'm glad we could understand each other

He clicks his tongue and walks out

I just curl down on the floor crying , my hand on my burning throat

Trevor

She walks down in the most skimpiest short dress I have ever seen

One look at her , and I focus back on my food

I side eye Ace , and he hasn't taken his eyes off of her

Now I know , if he's ever in my house and I'm not around

He will definitely fuck her

She sits down

And she doesn't even bother eating

When I'm done eating I get up

Zara : can we please talk ?

Her voice is so hoarse

I look at her

Zara : what

She looks at Ace , and he doesn't move a muscle

She swallows hard

Zara : what changed ?

Me : what are you wearing ?

Her eyes glisten

Me : you're parading yourself like a whore right now

She looks down

Me : the second you saw I wasn't alone , you should have

turned up and changed the dress . You wanted him to see you like this ? What Do you want to fuck him ?

Zara : Trevor pleasewhat you're saying is hurting me . Please stop , you've never had a problem with how I dress

She sobs

Me : just tell me if you want him to fuck you , I can make it happen

Ace gets up and walks out as fast as he can

Bloody fool !

Zara : whatever I did , we can talk and I'll apologize we can fix things . This doesn't have to be

this way , you're hurting me Trevor

Me : don't ever walk around my house dressed like this , I don't keep whores I sell them and make money . If that's what you want , it can happen

I grab my car keys off the table

And turn looking at her

Me : eat , don't be wasting my food . You don't buy it , and if Tia dare tells me you didn't eat . We'll have serious problems

She places her hands to her face wailing

I walk over and head out

I find Ace leaning by the wall

Me : dare touch her , I will bury you alive

He swallows

I head over to the car . And he comes after making sure the door is locked

Zara

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Has God forsaken me?

Like what kind of a life is this ?

Is this how a human being is supposed to live like ?

Like I'm meant to live this life and be okay with it ?

Be okay with this misery

Since he left with that guy with an ugly scar on his face earlier on

And he hasn't come back

The whole day I haven't had anything to eat

This Tia woman told me she was told not to give me any food

So I can be able to appreciate what I am given

Without a doubt , I am sure that was about the breakfast . I didn't eat at all

I am hungry

I won't even lie

My stomach is grumbling like nobody's business

And I'm in pain

I haven't stopped crying

Like when I think about my life

Just since from yesterday , I just can't help but cry

In a space of two days , already it feels like I won't survive at all

INSERT 08

Musawenkosi

Musa : when did you get back ?

She places a kiss on my cheek

I chuckle

Me : a few days ago

She pouts

Musa : and you didn't tell me ?

Me : Princess come on , I was busy

She sighs

Now I have a lot of begging and begging to do

It's not easy being born with someone else

Like , we're the oldest but no . Not her

It's like she's the last born baby

And I'm all alone being the first born

She doesn't play like that

Me : let's go out , tomorrow

She smiles

Just bribe her , with anything that has to do with spending money

Just as long as it's not hers , it's fine

I blame the dad's for this

Mom always said , my father was very jealous

Because Musa turned out to be a Phakade

And my dad got me

When we were three , she was expecting again

And she knew it was Phakade who had scored , and not my father

So my father said , she better give Phakade a boy

So they can be able to share Musa equally

And well, Cele's dreams came true

The one after us , is a boy

Then came the twins , both girls

But Musa is just a special case of the family

Being the first born girl

Also being a fraternal twin

And we're not even identical

So she can basically get away with murder

We would all just take it for her

Musa : great ! I saw dad coming in

It's crazy

Cele is dad

And Phakade is daddy

That's how we've always called them growing up

And it just stuck

At least it doesn't make us confused at all

Me : mhm , he came for the council meeting

It hasn't been easy being king

Especially taking over from my uncle

Who only has girls , he wasn't happy

But there was no one in his linage to continue with the throne

But I have my parents support more than anything

Musa : oh !

I look at her with a smile

She has a frown

My sister is cute

I don't even want to lie

She took mom's complexion

And she has freckles

They just make her look like the cutest thing ever

Me : you sound disappointed

She laughs

Musa : I thought he was here to talk about a wife

I chuckle

Me : your father must not start with me

That's one topic I never want to talk about

I'm not afraid of marriage

But I'm also not there yet

And well , I am not rushing anything

Musa : what if he organises one for you ?

Me : he will marry her

Musa : let mommy hear you say that

We laugh

She would skin me alive

That woman is very greedy , and territorial

She's okay with her husband's sharing her

But she doesn't want to share to share them with anyone

But that has been working for her

I am okay right now , without a wife or a girlfriend . Like I am fine , I haven't committed myself to anyone

Just fucks here and there

I was bummed when I was in Joburg

To hear that Zenkosi moved away

But marriage is not something I'm rushing for

Even though the council and elders have been on my case about that

They want a king with a queen

But I won't do shit just to please them

When I get there , I will gladly take a wife

Just not now

Because I am so not there

Zenkosi

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Doc : see , this is the feet . We have all ten toes , and thisah the hands . All ten fingers there

I smile with a slight chuckle

Kenan : it's a girl

He says with such a huge smile

Me : waitthe doctor did not tell you that

He laughs

We hadn't asked for the gender

Today , we just felt like we want to know

So we can start preparing

The buying of clothes , and décor for the nursery

And everything else , that this person is going to need

Kenan : my love , this is 3D . I can see that

Me: I saw nothing

Kenan : she's lazy , she doesn't move the legs too much

We laugh

Doc : true she is very lazy and doesn't play much , but you're right . You're having a little Black princess

Kenan : see ? I told you

Me : fine , I guess I missed that . I was caught up on this huge ugly face

He laughs

Kenan : that's your face

Me : wow , thank you very much . At least now I know how you see me He smiles placing a peck on my cheek

Kenan : no lies , she took after you . I'm sure there are my features , but not that strong

That's pleasing to know

I am not carrying someone who will come out as a traitor

Kenan

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Me : thank you for that appointment

I've always wanted to give her a 3D scan

And when she said we have an appointment today

I just took that opportunity

And I'm thankful

Because after seeing my baby girl

I feel so much better , I won't even lie

I am happy

Like , my mood has been lifted up

For now , I don't give a shit about Trevor or Cero and their nonsense

Or any of the clients

Zenkosi : are you happy we're having a girl ?

Me : my own flesh and blood , girl or boy . It doesn't matter , I am more than happy

She smiles

I lean over giving her a kiss

Me : I love you

Zenkosi : I love you

Moving here , just might be the best decision ever

We really are in a better and happy space

Without having to worry about cops

Making an arrest every two weeks Yet I still walked

This is so much better than what we had back there

INSERT 09

Zara

Tia walks in , with a tray of food

I slept with an empty stomach

I tossed and turned , and cried like someone was beating me up

Just because of hunger , that was just painful

I have never gone to bed without food , ever in my entire life Especially after starving the whole day

It was just painful

Even when I tried to sleep

l just couldn't

Because my stomach would just rumble

Tai : please , don't eat or touch anything before Mr Nyathi gets here

Wow !

What kind of a woman is this ?

Has she no mercy upon me?

Like , she's not blind

She can see what's happening in here

Me : please help me ...

She gives me an evil ugly eye

Me : your Mr Nyathi , is keeping me here against my will .. please

She turns and walks to the kitchen

I sigh looking down , I feel tears burning my eyes

My stomach grumbles

And the way the food is smelling , it's just so hard to ignore

I keep looking up if he will show up

But he doesn't

I heave a sigh , and grab a plate dishing up for myself

I am not starving while there's food in front of me

leat

And if only I could eat enough, and be full for days on end

I would do it

After a while , I hear laugher

And my insides just go cold

I push the plate away from me, and put my hands down

The door opens , he's definitely not alone

But with that scar guy

They walk to the table

Trevor looks at me , and it's like he wasn't laughing not so long ago They both sit down

He looks at the plate

Trevor : Tia

With such a stern voice he calls out

And within a second she's here

Tia : sir ?

Trevor : what did I say to you ?

She looks down , and looks at me

Tia : I told her not to eat , until you get here

I am screwed

Trevor : I see , you can leave

So quickly she walks away

Trevor : enjoy the food sweetheart , because you're going to pay for that

I go cold instantly

Just dreading to even think what that payment would be

They dish up and just start eating

Right now , I don't even want the food anymore



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Me : we should just start looking for another supplier

Bones : won't Black feel betrayed ?

Me : he got Trevor in charge of his business , he's nothing but a fuck up . I cannot always be looking over his head

I shake my head slowly

Me : Trevor is very inconsistent

Bones : maybe Black can talk to him

Me : mhm , maybe . But I think I want Trevor out

Kenan will just have to understand

I pay them a lot of money for these girls

Only for me to kill them when they get here

Because they're not what I specifically asked for

l'm not a ritualist

I really don't need to be killing so many girls

Zara

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He slams me so hard against the wall

I scream out in pain

He lands three slaps on my cheeks

Just turning my head

Roughly, he just pulls me down

Taking out his dick

I cannot believe what's happening right now

Trevor is about to rape me , this feels like a dream . A whole nightmare with monsters

This is what I have been subjected to

He grabs the back of my head

Making me look at him

Trevor : if your teeth dare come anywhere near my dick , I will fuck you up so bad

Just then , he roughly slides in dick through my mouth

He deep grunts as he fucks my mouth so hard

Without mercy

I gag , and feel like throwing up

I try to push him off , but he doesn't budge

Instead he lands a slap on my cheek

Tears just stream down my face , I am feeling so much pain

I'm sure I look like a mess right now

But he doesn't care

He goes in deeper , standing still

I feel the vomit coming

Trevor : fuck

He moves back annoyed as I splash all over his pants and the floor

I cough like hell , curling up

Trevor : this is not done

He clicks his tongue , taking his clothes off

And he throws then down on the floor

Walking out naked as he is

Trevor

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Me : we can just secure this place

He looks at me

Me : we don't need to move anywhere

Ace : is it not risky having her here ?

Me : no one gives a fuck about her being here

He sighs

Ace : if her family says something , you know cops will be on you . They will come to you first

They wouldn't dare

Right now , they should just be focusing on spending my money

Me : we will deal with that

Ace : you're taking a risk , if we move away no one will ever know what happened Me : and what about business ? We cannot move into other people's territories , and start kidnapping girls to be trafficked . That's just trouble

Ace : I just feel like being here , and having that woman here is just a liability

He opens the door and walks out

I heave a loud sigh

INSERT 10

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Ace : see what I was talking about ?

I give him a death stare

We walk closer to my gate

Where the two cops are

A male and female

I gather myself , as we get to them

Being calm as possible

Me : can I help you ?

They both turn

Him : we just have a few questions for you Mr Nyathi

I clear my throat

Me : what questions ?

Him : uhmwe have received a report of a missing woman , Zara Zondi

Ace is like, I told you so

Who the fuck is so stupid to go report a supposedly married woman missing ?

Me : who is that ?

Her : your wife we believe ?

What the hell ?

Me : my what ?

Him : it is believed that you and Ms Zondi got married ...

I chuckle

And shake my head

Me : where did you hear that ? Do I look like I'm married to you ?

They look at each other , the female moves her eyes around

Me : I don't know this woman you're talking about , and clearly you have the wrong information about me being married to her Her : her friend reported this , after she missed work . And her phone wasn't going through , also her car slightly parked away from her apartment

Me : mhm

Him : we had to ask her family , of course they also confirmed that you're married to her

Those bloody idiots

Me : you can check records , and see if I'm married anywhere

. But right now , if you think I'm harbouring her in my house then you can just come through

. Check for yourself , but if you don't find that woman in here . I swear , I'm going to sue all of you . The friend , the family and you two Him : we

Me : I don't want to hear it , move away so I can open my gate

Her : we will be on our way , thank you for your cooperation and answering out questions

I shake my head slowly

They turn and walk to their van

Ace : see what I was talking about ?

I heave a sigh

Ace : we have a boat going out tonight , we can just get on in and ship out Today might have been easy

But next time it won't

Me : let's go

I open the gate , and we walk in

Zara

I don't think I've ever been in such pain

I'm just sitting down on the floor by the window

Just looking outside

Barely even seeing anything

The high walls have everything outside of this place hidden

I'm startled by the door opening

And from the window reflection , I can see it's him

Trevor : get up we have to go

Where are we going ?

I want to jump and ask him that

But I don't want to be in trouble

I get up , and turn looking at him

I wipe my tears off

Trevor : let's go

He opens the door wider

I walk past him

He leads the way downstairs

It doesn't look like a move

I mean, everything is just as it

And only this scar guy and Tia are here

Trevor : we're forgetting everything about this place , no one is taking anything . Even identity documents

What ?

I look at him as it registers

We're leaving Joburg

But where are we going ?

Right now , even if people were to try and find me if they cared enough

Then they wouldn't even know where to begin

Me : Trevor please just take me back home , I am not your possession . You cannot Within a split second , he has my face banged down on the table

I bite my lip so hard , that it bleeds . And my nose is already aching bleeding

Trevor : give me that

My vision is just so blurry

But I see him taking something from the scar guy

He grabs my arm so painfully

And now I see it's a syringe

Me : please

I shake my head , I feel the cold metal poking me

And slowly my vision just gets worse blurry

My eyes are too heavy to be opened

They just close , and everything just goes blank

Trevor

I look at my wrist watch

Ace : we will leave soon

Me : make sure that crate is secured , and she won't escape

Ace : she's chained in there , both hands and arms . She won't do anything

l sigh

Ace : relax

I wish I could

But I don't want to even stand a chance for her to see an escape

I didn't even tell Kenan about this

I know he will be on my case

I really just need a breather away from him and his annoying lectures

It sucks working for another man

It's not like I'm incapable of doing this on my own

But he has more Intel than me

And he knows the business and market better

His men would never betray him

So it would be very hard to find buyers

Hence I'm just stuck , working for him

Zara

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Without a doubt , we're in water

It's the nausea I am feeling right now

I cannot stomach the sea

I can't move anything

My hands are chained , my hands are chained

And my mouth is covered with a duck tape

Really there's no escaping this , we're leaving South Africa and I'm definitely being shipped Just thinking of this , brings me to tears

I thought he loved mehe said he loved me

Today I find myself chained

INSERT 11

TWO WEEKS LATER

Zara

He leads me into the room

And it looks as shallow as ever

Nothing I've ever seen

More like a room for a slave

With a single bed by the corner

A wardrobe

And that's it

There's nothing else in here

Not even a bathroom

Trevor : you have familiarised yourself with the house , but it's not for you . This will be your room from now on , the space that's yours

I look at this room

It doesn't even have a window

Nor a light

It looks so dark , and just scary . It looks like a cage for real I might as well just be placed in the basement

There's chains on the bed

Trevor : you will stop wandering around the house , unless I tell you to . You won't eat anything , unless I order you to eat . And you won't go anywhere outside this room , unless I tell you to It's official now

He has moved me oceans away from home

From everything and everyone I know

There's no escape from this

Trevor : and to keep you intact , you'll be chained on that bed

Why even bother ?

It's not like I will run away

Where will I even go ?

I don't even know where we are

Even if I were to run away at a chance

I would just wander around

With nowhere to run to

Me : I curse the day I met you , and I let you into my life . I curse the day , that I allowed myself to love you

He laughs

And it's so painful

Because he doesn't even care one bit

Now it's clear he never loved me to even begin with

He lied and deceived me

Lured me in , so I can let him in and open myself to him . So he can turn me into this Trevor : I will shape and mould you , until you understand that this is your reality now

He walks out with a conniving smile

I sink down on the floor , bringing my knees up

Just letting the tears flow

Kenan

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Me : what the hell is wrong with you ?

He sighs

The attitude he has fucking grown

It's too much

Me : you moved

Trevor : since you're saying it means you know

I am starting to hate this back and forth with him

It's like we're just women

Me : I hope you know what you're doing , and this whole business of yours ends up fucking in my face . Locust will feed on you

I drop the call

Just then Cero calls

The last thing I need , is this one calling me

Me : Ferrari

Cero : where the fuck is Trevor ?

I close my eyes briefly

Me : Right there in Italy

Cero : what ?

Me : Trevor is a fuck up , I can admit that

Cero : he's your fucking fuck up

Me : I get that

Cero : cut Trevor off , if you still want my business

Great

I drop the call

Honestly Trevor is not worth all this shit

He is gone

As much as I hate it , but I don't have a choice right now

He will see what to do with himself

Clearly he thinks that he has got it

So he can go right ahead and figure himself out without me

Before I do away with him

He's just a liability right now , one that has become a problem to me

Zara

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It's middle of the night

And I am just covered with just a fleece

It's even hard to sleep

Because I'm scared being in this room

I feel the door cracking open

It's when he grabs my legs

I open my eyes looking at him

Me : Trevor....

Fear just strikes me

Me : nono pleasedon'tno

He says nothing , but just tears the silk nightdress I am wearing

And parts my legs

He has never done this , nor even tried it

It was just that mouth penetration that time

But he didn't try anything after that

Today , he's walked in here naked

And his intentions are very much clear

I scream as he slides his dick through

And he's not being gentle at all , he doesn't even care

I am not even wet , I'm dry as the Kalahari desert

He just pounds in , without giving me a break

Not caring or giving a damn about my cries , he's just oblivious to them

I can't even move much because I am chained on this bed

It's even pointless to try and fight him off

l can't

I just lay on the bed , as he gets to have his way with me however he wants to

It feels like forever , when he finally deep grunts

And his cum lands on my tummy

I feel so disgusted

Without saying anything , he just turns and walks out closing the door

I let out a heart wrenching sob

My heart is aching

Trevor

A whole family man , calling me like this

I click my tongue , declining the call

Kenan is a lot

Worse he has that Cero behind him

Now he wants to be behind me

I still need to find a way of how to get under him and get out

I can't keep being dictated to like this , I am not a child

I walk into the shower, and taking a quick shower

INSERT 12

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Zara

l sit down

Since I've been called out of that room to come eat

He's alone today

No scar face , and the rude mean maid

I am not even hungry

Okay, I am hungry

But I don't have that appetite

I don't want to eat

I don't think I can stomach anything right now

I just don't see how he rapes me

And then today , I have to sit on this table and have a meal with him

It doesn't make sense to me

I just watch him as he eats

Until he's done

And he gets up , walks away without even saying anything

After a few minutes , I get up and walk back to the dungeon room

I sit down on the floor

I even bled last night

I can't bring myself to be on that bed

If only I knew better

If only I knew what kind of a man Trevor is

He's not even a man

He's just a whole monster

I would have stayed away from him

I never wanted this marriage to even begin with

Look where I am right now ?

I hope my father is happy where he is

And enjoying the money he got , selling me off

He shouldn't have agreed to this

He should have listened to me, and understood what I was telling him He should have heard my pleas, and understood when I said it's too soon

Maybe by the time I figured out , that I would be ready for marriage

Trevor would have long left me alone

And gone to trap another woman

I feel like my father sold me off

Like he deserted me as a father

Kenan

She looks at me and I smile

Zenkosi : what's up ?

I chuckle

Me: why?

Zenkosi : you have been staring at me this whole time , without uttering a word

Me : I'm just enjoying watching you eat , that's all

Zenkosi : baby , talk

l sigh

I don't know how she'll feel about this

Me : I have to travel to Italy

Zenkosi : when ?

Me : as soon as possible

Trevor just needs to fuck out

He's being a lot right now

And I just can't deal with him

Even the sly move to Italy, without even telling me

I don't know if he thought I wouldn't know Zenkosi : business ?

Me : yeah , but not a big deal . Just a day

Zenkosi : okay , that's not bad

She's taking this better than I thought she would

Me : I thought you will be angry

She laughs

Zenkosi : for what ?

Me : maybe you would like to come with

I don't want her coming

Right now I am just trying not to be suspicious I am still trying to keep her away from this illegal business as far as I can

Me : that I am leaving

Zenkosi : baby , you said it yourself . It's just a day , we won't die

Me : I am going to miss you

Zenkosi : we will miss you too

I walk over and sit down next to her

Me : I love you

Zenkosi : and I love you

I lean over pecking her lips

Zenkosi

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I just got back from dropping Kenan at the airport

And the house is really lonely without him

But I guess it's not that bad

Cause he will be back tomorrow evening

I answer the call from Thuto

Me : hey mommy

She laughs

Thuto : not you

Me : girl I'm sorry , I was driving

Thuto : okay , I'm just checking in on you

I laugh sitting down

Me : I couldn't be better

Thuto : that's good

Me : I miss home

We laugh

Thuto : you should visit once baby is born , Wenkosi doesn't believe you're pregnant and gone

Just hearing his name , I involuntary smile

Me : where is he ?

Thuto : back at his Kingdom , but you know him and coming this side

Me : still not married ?

She laughs

I don't even know why I am asking about his marital status

That's suspicious

Thuto : I don't see that happening

Poor man

Thuto : you should have his number and call him sometimes

Call him for what ?

Thuto is too forward

And what do you know ?

She sends the number through

Me : what do I need his number for ?

Thuto : call him sometime , and just talk

She's crazy

Me : about what ? It's not like we're friends and all

We laugh

Thuto : I don't know , just have it . You might need it one day

This is crazy

Don't ask me nothing

And I'll tell no lie

Zara

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He walks in

I'm still sitting on the floor

I didn't even bother getting up

Hours back , I even fell asleep right on this cold floor

Trevor : I served you , and you didn't eat

He doesn't sound happy

But when has her ever sounded happy?

Ever since we so called got married

It's like I've met the devil in the flesh

Me : I wasn't hungry

He walks closer

With his sour expression

Trevor : when I give you food , you eat . You don't get to waste food that you don't buy

I look at him

Me : I

Trevor : this fucking damn loud mouth of yours

He kicks me to the side , I lay on the floor holding my ribs

As I look at him , he puts his boot on my neck

I feel like I am dying right now

Tears are streaming down to the side of my face going into my ears I try grabbing his foot off of me

But it's useless

I pass out with his foot on my throat

INSERT 13

Kenan

I push Ace opening the door

Ace : uhmSir

Me : where is he ?

He says nothing , and just then Trevor walks down the stairs

He has one annoyed look

Me : lose it

He chuckles shaking his head

Trevor : you should just retire , and give me the operation . I am tired of being dictated to by you and that fool Cero

I chuckle

Me : you have grown some balls

Trevor : don't look down on me like that Kenan I dart my eyes up the stairs , as this petite woman walks down

Trevor moves his eyes around

And now I get it

He has kept himself a toy

That's why he's being this unruly

He wants to prove so badly that he's a man

I look at her , until she gets down

And I notice all the bruises on her face and arms

The one on her neck looks fresh and fresh

It's a last night thing surely , it's just hard to miss it

Me : where did you get this woman ?

Trevor : she's none of your business , don't get involved . Like stay out of it

I chuckle , there's something here

She's more than just a toy

Judging by his tone , and the way he was just so quick to stand in

Me : this is why you ran away from South Africa , it's because of her . You fucked up as always

He scoffs

And she eyes begging eyes

Like I can just be her saving grace from this hell hole

Me : I am taking my operation back , so go fuck yourself

Trevor : you can't do that , I said give it to me . You can't just cast me out , not after everything I have done for you . I worked my ass off , and made you millions of money

Me : go fuck yourself , I don't give a shit

Trevor : I will challenge you Kenan , I won't just give up

Me : good luck

I turn , facing the door

And the woman screams

Her : please help mehe kidnapped me sir please

Trevor turns to her, with a slap

I walk out the door

I get into the rented car and drive out

Making a call

Cero : Black

Me : he's out , I'll take care of whatever you need

Cero : about damn time

l sigh

Me : he might be a problem , do away with him if needs be

Cero : gladly

Me : he has a price possession in his house , you might wanna repay yourself

I drop the call

And drive out heading to the airport

Cero

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Bones : anything good ?

I put my phone down and chuckle

Me : that was Black

Bones : mhm , he finally got his lapdog into check ?

Me : even better , he's back . And seems like Trevor kept a little dime for himself in his house

Bones : is it now ?

Me : I am very much tempted to see how this will unfold , and see if she means anything to him

He smiles

Bones : hah ! And if she is , then we will definitely hit him where it hurts the most

I chuckle

Me : exactly

Bones : now that I like , it's even better than killing him

Me : send Black something , as gratitude . He's a good man that one

He gets up

Bones : I'll get on with it

He walks out

Zara

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After that slap, more came

And when I was down on the floor

The kicks kept coming

Like someone was busy pushing his leg

I'm bleeding on the floor

As Ace walks up to me

Me : pleaseplease don'tdon't hit me I so regret pulling that stunt with that white man

But I guess he's one of them

But on the other hand , I don't regret what I did

If I die in the hands of this monster , then I better not die having given up

I flinch as he helps me up

Ace : stop provoking him , he will stop beating you . These marks will stay forever in your body , you're ruining yourself . Just let him be , and let him feel like he's in control. Just do what he wants , don't come out unless you're told . If he offers you food, make sure you eat and finish. We can't avoid that you're here, and he's got you

captured . This is not life , but rather avoid getting the beating

I cough , and it's just blood

Ace : sorry , let me help you to your room . Clean up , and get some sleep before he's back

I want to ask why he's helping me

But I don't want to offend him

Zenkosi

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I turn as I feel him sinking down , getting in bed

Me : you're back

I ask with a sleepy voice

He places a kiss on my forehead , rubbing his hand on my tummy

Kenan : I told you I needed just a day

Me : hold me so I can sleep

He chuckles

Kena : I love you

I smile , as he holds me into his arms

Kenan : you must never forget that

Me : you're not dying are you ?

He laughs

Kenan : I am very far from death

Me : so Mr Black , what's with the sentiments ?

He deep chuckles

Kenan : I just want you to know that

Me : I know , and you show me that everyday

Kenan : you deserve all the love that there is there

I laugh

Me : can we just sleep ?

Kenan : you didn't miss me ?

I missed him for that simple one day

Not even a day , just those hours

Kenan : I know I missed you

Me : I missed you more

Kenan : we can sleep now

I laugh , snuggling to him

INSERT 14

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Zara

My face is a mess, I am even swollen on one side

One eye is shut completely

The kicks marks on my ribs , just make everything worse

My lip is busted

Yesterday , I sure got a beating of my life

One beating , I don't think I will ever forget

I thought he would come at night and just rape me But he didn't

I don't know if I should even be grateful for that

I am so hungry right now

I could eat for 5 people

But I'm taking Ace's words that he said

I won't go out of this room unless I'm told

It's evident , these beatings are what will kill me

That day he placed his boot on my neck , I passed out

And came to , when I was thrown by ice water

I really don't know what kind of life is this

What kind of abuse is this ?

And how much more can a person take

I know I am not strong enough for this

I will not survive this much pain

I blamed my father for this

But as he was beating me yesterday

And he left me bleeding on cold tiles like I'm a dog

I just grew some hate for my father

Such hate I never even thought I have within me

He sure is enjoying his money now

Money he got selling me off

I am sure he doesn't even care

He's not even bothered to look for me

And that's what kills me even more

Because I know , no one will ever come knocking looking for me



Bones : what's on your mind ?

Me : with Black back , Trevor is left exposed and very much vulnerable

He sits down

Me : this can give us an advantage

Bones : I am listening

Me : I want you to find a way to infiltrate him

Bones : be one of his ?

Me : yeah , find out what you can . Be on the inside , and see what you can get out of that woman . I will strike him when he least expects it

Bones : I will see what to do

Me : do it Bones , you must get into his territory

He nods

Me : a lesson , he must be taught . And if that woman means nothing to him , then most definitely he will get rid of her . In that case , we can leave him alone

Bones : understood

He takes out his phone making a call , putting it on loud speaker

Trevor

Me: yeah

Bones : can you talk ?

Me : what do you want ?

He sighs

Me : if Cero sent you , I am not in his moods and he can fucking go fuck himself

Bones : I couldn't agree more with you

l frown

Me : what ?

Bones : Black told Ferrari that he's back

I click my tongue

Bones : I want in , I believe you're certain that whatever operation you're going to start without Black backing you up will work

Me : who said I am interested ?

Bonus : this is all that you know , nothing else . You need the money

This must be a prank of some sort

There's no way that Bones will betray Cero

Bones : as much as you're tired of Black , I've had my fair share with Ferrari . I am not like you , I can't venture on my own . But we can join forces

I am not trusting this

They could be setting me up

Bones : you can think about it , but don't take too long . Cause if you want me , I need to gather all the information I can . Something we can use to get us started

He drops the call

Me : what the fuck ?

No ways !

Bones cannot leave Cero after so many years of working together

But what if he's being for real

And I refuse , then I lose out on making it on my own ?

Because I know it's going to be struggle to secure clients alone

Also most of these people being Kenan

If Bones can be on my side , then maybe just maybe he can get me enough info to take some of the clients

They're most connected to Cero

But what if he's fucking me up ?

I could be signing my death warrant

Men don't just switch like that

In our line of work , loyalty is everything

With me Black had it coming

Kenan

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Me : Ace

Ace : sir , please spare me a minute

I look over at Zenkosi , and she seems occupied

Me : talk

Ace : I don't know what's happening , but I just heard Trevor and Bones on the phone right now . And it seems I might just get replaced by the Tuscan , we were who we were because you had us . Without you on his operation , I need a job Bloody Cero

And clearly Trevor is not catching in

That Cero is just sending a mole in his operation

I am so disappointed in myself

Clearly I taught him nothing

He's so stupid !

Me : don't get out of there dead

Ace : I'll report at the base tomorrow

I drop the call shaking my head

Trevor is really stupid more than I thought he was And all these years , I had him as my right hand

He clearly learnt nothing

But I don't give a fuck what Cero does to him

It will be on him

If he was smart , he wouldn't let Bones anywhere near him But he probably will think it's his way of making it without me

I just need to find out who is that woman

And why he's keeping her like that

If Cero was to keep her , I would understand

He would keep her as a possession he took from the enemy

But with Trevor , it doesn't make sense

And I am never wrong

There's more to that woman, and I will find out

Zara

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Me : is he back ?

I'm on my feet as he walks in

He has a sad expression , one I cannot make out

I look at him

Me : I am hungry , I haven't eaten anything in three days

He sighs

Me : please tell me he's back

He shakes his head

Gosh !

I am going to die of hunger in here

I haven't left this room in three days

This is the fourth day

I haven't had water or food

Ace : I just came to let you know that I am leaving

Me : what ?

Ace : you won't see me again

Me : he didn't fire you because you helped me the other day ?

Ace : no

Me : then please take me with you

He drops his eyes

Ace : I can't do that

Me : please Ace

He sighs

Ace : I am going to a man that's ten times worse than Trevor , he will sell you to ruthless men .

Men who will put you through worse things, things you cannot even begin to imagine. Right now you just have Trevor, with him you will have more than ten men just pleasing themselves with you . He will make you do despicable things, trust me. I am sparing you. Trevor is just rookie with a big head , who doesn't even know what he's doing

No !

Even God has turned his back from me

Ace : remember what I said ?

I nod with tears streaming down my face

Ace : I am so sorry

He turns and walks out

Right now

I just have an urge to run out of this room

Grab a knife and hurt myself in the worst possible way that I will not survive

Death is even better than this

Death by my own hand is better than having Trevor one day decide to finish me

But I know that Tia is probably in there

Ace was starting to be nice to me

Something Tia will never do

INSERT 15

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A YEAR AND FEW MONTHS LATER

Zara

I knock in his room

It's quite for a while

Until he opens the door

He's shirtless

Me : l'm sorry

Trevor : for what ?

Me : what happened last night

I didn't sleep a wink

And I thought he was going to come in

And just beat me about what happened in the dinner

Trevor : you just never learn

Me : I am sorry , it won't happen again

He just stares at me

Now I feel like just turning and leaving

I slowly move back from his door

But he just pulls me in , grabbing tight on my arm

Trevor : don't do it again ?

I nod rapidly

Me : I promise I won't

He lets go

Bones appears

Trevor : leave us

I nod and turn walking away

As much as it was hard , not seeing Ace because he was starting to be nice to ne

Bones never hurts me

He doesn't even talk much

So him being a replacement didn't matter

It's just sad how two years has gone by

And this is my life

Still chained by this man I so called my husband

And over time , he actually told me how the marriage was just a show for my parents He said no one would ever find a trail of us getting married

So basically , I just went off the face of the earth

And I'm sure my family never cared

Zenkosi

I look at him

I am actually just boiling inside

Honestly this marriage is draining now

There's always things that are just happening and I do not understand

Every time I ask him , he lies

And one thing I've learnt about Kenan is that he's a liar , like a liar

He lies through his teeth

Sadly , he lies so much that you see him believing his own lies

You can't help but believe him too

But I am not stupid

I can see something wrong is happening here

He has changed so much

I barely even recognise the man I married I cannot fault him on being a father though

Because he is the best

Me : what's this ?

I am holding his white shit

Just last week , he came with a t-shirt that had blood stains

They were so small , it really wouldn't have been easy to spot

But I don't really rely on the maid

I clean and do our laundry

And I even cook

Because I understand that I'm a wife and a mother , a whole married woman . I do my duties

Now here I am , with a white shirt

Smudged with lipstick

I know my husband is not a cheater

That one I am very much certain about

Me : tell me some woman bumped into you , and her lipstick graced your t-shirt

Kenan : I did not cheat on you

Me : I did not even start to accuse you

Kenan : I don't know how that got there

Me : just like the blood

He keeps quite

Me : it's fine , it wasn't a question anyways

I turn walking to the laundry room

Whatever Kenan has been doing for the past year and eight months is big

It's no little thing

But I am tired now

I feel like I am living and married to a stranger

But that will come to an end

I will find out exactly what shit he's doing



Me:so?

Bones : their relationship is very different , however she's more of a chained price more than anything

Me : it's been almost two years Bones

Bones : I am telling you , he holds her dear . Otherwise , she would have long been sold or dead

Me : perfect

Bones : when can I expect you ?

Me : soon

I drop the call

It's been a long time , and it's time now that I collect

Kenan

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Fuck !

Ever since I've taken things back

It's been a bumpy ride , and just been too much

Things haven't been easy

Because now I am more hands on

And that means less time at home

Even though I try so much

But I can feel it , and I can tell

Things are not the same with my wife

She also can see just how fucked up I am right now

It's these small mishaps that keep happening

And she doesn't miss on them

I lean by the door frame

Me : my love

Zenkosi : Kenan , I am not in the mood for your lies

I sigh walking in

I hug her from behind

Me : I am not going to lie , I just want to say I am so sorry about everything Zenkosi : I don't know what's everything

l sigh

Me : I so wish I can tell you

Zenkosi is not a naïve woman

One thing I know is that if she ever finds out the truth

We're done

And I cannot have that

I love my wife so much

And it pains me , that I'm the one who's going to drive her away

INSERT 16

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Trevor

The shock opening the door

Me : what do you want here ?

Cero : are you going to let me in or what ?

Me : you haven't answered me

After that betrayal from Ace

Leaving me going to join Kenan

I wasn't so sure about Bones anymore

But he's been around and very loyal

Even though things have been tough

Because I don't have as many clients as Kenan used to bring

Cero never came here

He never wanted Bones back

Even after taking three of his clients

He stayed still

So why now ?

Cero : be nice to your guests

And he invites himself in

I sigh turning back closing the door

To the surprise of my life

Bones has Zara chained

She's a crying mess , but her cries are muffled by the tape on her mouth

He has a gun pointed at her

Me : what the fuck is this ?

Cero chuckles

Cero : I am just here for her

l laugh

Me : like hell you are , she's mine and I'll drop dead before you take her . She's not going anywhere , tell your lapdog to leave her

I should have known , I should have just damn known that this was too good to be true Bones leaving was all just a plan

Kenan always said , a right hand will never betray his own

Unless he's gotten big for his own boots

I had grown big for mine , and Bones just wanted to lean against me

I should have known

Fuck !

I have been stupid

Me : it will rain blood

Cero : that can be arranged , and you're not even worth the energy of a brutal one

He draws his gun as I draw mine

And pain stings me as I hold my arm

Seeing that he has shot me

Cero : you think this is a joke ?

Me : it will be a blood path Ferrari

Bones walks closer with Zara

Sure I never loved her

But I got to relieve that pain and hurt I've been through

And all because of a woman

She doesn't know this

I never told her

And I'm sure that woman thinks I am dead

But she had me when she was 14

And she decided to throw me in a fucking dustbin

But she went on to have kids

And I know just how much she loved Zara

I didn't care that she's my half sister

I just wanted to relive that pain of her mother on her

It wasn't nothing personal

But she was just paying for her mothers sins

Now this one thinks he can walk in here

Make demands and take what belongs to me

He's fucking out of his mind

We will rather all die in here

Cero : I said

I take a shot as Bones turns

I just see blood gushing

And I know it went to her

I would rather she was dead , so we both loose her

Because then I wouldn't have had her

And nor will Cero

I dart my eyes as another gun shots loudly goes off

l pop my eyes

Slowly loosing consciousness

I look to my chest , and he fucking didn't miss

I hit the floor so hard my head pounds

Blood gushing out of my mouth

Cero : really was a blood stain

The last words that I make out

As I take my last breath

Zara

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Is this my saving grace ?

Am I out of that misery ?

Like was Bones sent here so he can save me?

But if he was , then why did he take so long ?

It didn't even take them 5 minutes to kill Trevor

So why take a whole year and months ?

I can't even look at this man

He looks so cute , but seeing him kill Trevor like that

I can tell , he's not to be messed with

I can't stop my tears

They still have the chains on my hands and feet

My mouth is taped

I just hope , I didn't get away from the hands of a monster

Only to fall in the hands of another

But it seems like that

The car window are tinted

I really don't even see much

Even now , I still can't tell where we are

The truth is , I wasn't saved

I'm still going to be chained if not worse

Kenan

Ace : the shipment has arrived

Me : where are you ?

Ace : at the Base

l sigh

Me : okay , I will be there just now

I drop the call

It's fucking middle of the night

But I have to leave

I don't have much of a choice

I didn't select the girls myself this time I wasn't there

I just couldn't leave

Not with the suspicions that my wife already has

I walk in the bedroom and she's in bed

I know she's asleep

I put on a jacket , and place a kiss on her forehead

I walk out , and check Royal in her room

She's also sleeping

I place a kiss on her cheek

And walk out

Grabbing my car keys , I walk out heading to my car

I get in and drive out heading to the base

Zenkosi

Sneaky bastard of a man

He awaits us to be asleep

And decides to sneak out

Only to come back with lipstick

And blood stains

Well, not today

They clearly didn't guide him well

If he has ancestors

I put on my boots and a jacket

I grab my car keys and rush downstairs

Evenly walks in

Me : thank you , I'll be back soon

Evenly : madam please be safe

Me : I will

I had already told her , to stay on the look out

And that if she hears my husband leave

She must come in here and watch Royal

I rush out to my car , and drive out

Tracking his car

Hopefully he doesn't catch on that my tracker is live

Before I get to him , and see exactly what the hell he's up to

INSERT 17

Zenkosi

Exactly what is Kenan doing in such a shady place ?

And I can't even say I'm lost

Or maybe mistaken

Because this is his car

I'm looking inside , and there's no one

I move back slowly

And almost let out a scream, when I bump into a metal on my back

Without a doubt

I have a gun pointed on my back right now

Me : don't you dare touch me

Whoever it is , just roughly grabs my back

And I lean down biting his arm with my all

He groans

And places the gun on the side of my forehead

Him : pull that shitty stunt again , and I will kill you

My heart is beating up so fast

I am so scared

There's no body part in the whole of me that's not shaking right now

He drags me as we walk towards the door

And he just kicks it open

My eyes land first on my husband

Anger just graces his face , he turns pink same time

Kenan : what the fuck ?

He walks towards us

The one holding me , doesn't even move an inch

Him : I found her snooping around in your car

Kenan : boy who the hell do you think you are handling my wife ?

Just then , a gun shot goes off

I close my eyes for a brief moment

And open them as I feel his touch

I turn back , and the guy who was holding me is on the floor

With a bullet between his eyes

He turns his gaze to me

And now I am looking at these girls in here

I am in shock

So young , they could all be under 16

But what is Kenan doing human trafficking girls ?

It all comes back

All the pettiness , from the cops back in South Africa

The arrests , and the accusations

He's such a good liar , I never even doubted him

Not even once

Kenan : I am so sorry you had to see this

Is he for real ?

I slap him so hard , but he doesn't even move an inch

Me : let these girls go

My hand hurts , and now I feel like crying

This is who I am married to

Me : let them go !

I raise my voice

Kenan : no

Me : whatwhat ?

He says nothing

Me : wewe have a daughter , have you no shame ?

Kenan : and my daughter is protected

Me : don't tell me that nonsense , these are other people's kids and you're selling them Kenan

Now I'm a crying mess

My heart is aching for them

Me : let these girls go

Kenan : I said no

What's really angering me here

Is the fact that I just caught him

I am crying

And I am hurt by his doings

But he's so calm

He's so calm like this is a cartoon show argument , he is not bothered at all

Kenan : go home we will talk

Go home ?

Go home we will talk

Me : I hate you , I hate you so much . You deserve to rot in jail for this

Kenan : you're not going to go and report me , trust me I'll go down with you . And our daughter will be left with no parents , and that's when she will be like them . Left without anyone to watch over her , no cops are being called here

Gosh !

My heart breaks

How can he be so heartless ?.

Me : I want a divorce

Kenan : you're angry right now , you're not thinking straight Me : I saidI want a divorce , I don't want you anymore in my life . You can go on to be this monster that you are , but I will not be a part of this . I want a divorce , I wasn't asking you . I am telling you

I turn, thinking he'll stop me

But he doesn't

I walk out , with tears streaming down my face

I get into my car and let out a scream

This is beyond me

One thing I know is that this is a syndicate

I'm only me

In a foreign country

My daughter is my priority right now

And getting away from this country

Nothing else matters , than her right now

I will not put my life or her's in danger , just to play hero and save those girls

I am going to be selfish right now

And choose my daughter, that's the person who needs my protection

I will not poke dangerous men

I am sure Kenan and his associates , they have cops in their pockets

It would really be useless to try and report it

I know

There's no way that a single man can hold such an operation

Even back in South Africa , he never spent more than a day in a jail cell

Reporting him here , will just be a disaster for me



I am fucking screwed

Me : go to my house , get my daughter . And take her to the penthouse

Ace : now ?

Me : yesterday Ace , and get your ass here

I drop the call

I am fucking screwed

I feared this day would come

And it has come

I know Zenkosi wasn't kidding

She's leaving me , and she won't even think twice

And there won't be any convincing her anyhow , she's made up her mind

I know right now the first place she will run to is home

And she will take Royal and I might never see them again

And I can't have that happen

I hope Ace is smart enough to get there before she does

I'm holding my breath

I don't want her running away and doing something stupid

Something that will get both of us in deep shit

I'll rather I see her and we talk

Even though I know that this marriage is done

Exposing me , means risking my clients

And the likes of Cero will not hesitate to do away with her

If they feel that there's a threat , they will protect themselves

Her being alive , is more important than saving this marriage

I'll rather she walks away , and lives

Than to fight for her , and only she betrays me and exposes us

I love that woman

And i don't want her dead

INSERT 18

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Zenkosi

I feel like I am loosing my mind

It's clear he got ahead of me.

I didn't even think to call Evelyn and tell her to take Royal and run away

There was no blood at home

Nothing that suggests violence

So I am certain it's him

He took them

I've been calling Evenly , and her phone is not going through

I have been driving around like a mad woman

The whole night

I am drained and tired right now

But I want my child

I don't care about everything else right now

I just want my child

I call him , and first ring he answers

Me : I know you have

A lump gets stuck on my throat

Me : I know you have her, please bring me my child . I won't report this, I am not an idiot

His silence is just saying a lot

I break down

Because the thought of loosing my child is something I cannot even begin to imagine

No !

I don't want to go through that

I may hate Kenan right now

Not want anything with him

But my child , is my child . I don't hate her because of him

She may be his daughter , but I love her so much

That baby was made out of love

Me : please

I take a sharp curve , as I see a black SUV behind me

Me : you have your goons following me !

I raise my voice , just anger building up

With tears still, eyes all blurry

I step on the accelerator

Zara

I open my eyes

And this feels like a dream

I am in a room that's just white

And it looks so fancy and very much clean

I move my eyes around

The pain on my arm , hitting me

I remember events of the day before yesterday

Was it ?

I mean , I don't know what day it is today

I am so confused

I get off the bed , but the door opens

And I am just stuck on my feet

It's Bones

Bones : I am sorry I scared you , glad you're awake . There's food on the table , eat and take your pain medication

I look at him , just out of words

Bones : this medication is too strong , and you cannot take it without eating

Me : whatwhere am I ?

Bones : go eat

His tone gets stern

And it actually scares me

Did I escape , or I just landed in the fire of another ?

I heave a sigh turning

And I see the table

lt's a proper Italian full breakfast

I sit down and eat

He places the pills on the table next to a glass of water

And he walks out

Whatever is happening here is so wrong ?

Trevor started being this nice to me

With a fake love relationship

And only turned out to be a monster

I put the fork down , just getting lost in thought

Kenan

I am pissed , just laying my eyes on her

And seeing the slight bruise on her

Ace just annoys the hell out of me

Just failing to answer a simple question

I told them I don't want my wife with a single scratch

He goes on , and brings her the opposite of that

Ace : she was being difficult

I draw my gun , and put a bullet through his skull

He falls down right next to her

Me : clean this mess

I place my gun back , and head over to the door

Me : let's go

She just stares at me

Me:now!

She frowns but goes out anyways

I walk next to her as we head into the elevator going to the penthouse

Zenkosi : I saw you kill two men , in what ? Just a few hours

I side eye her

I've never seen her like this

Zenkosi : are you going to kill me too ?

I heave a sigh

Me : you're my wife , the mother of my child . I will never kill you , for what reason would I have to kill you ? You're driving me crazy right now , but that's no reason . My child needs her mother

She chuckles annoyed and clicks her tongue

I use my access card , and walk inside

Evenly is nowhere in sight with Royal

Zenkosi : Kenan where is my child ?

Me : you really want a divorce ?

Zenkosi : don't you even dare , think you can play games with me

Me : mine , that was just a really simple question

She chuckles

Zenkosi : try me , and things will get messy . I am leaving you with your business's and all , go on and continue trafficking girls . Give me a divorce , and sole custody of Royal . I want my

child , and I want you away from her

My heart sinks

I didn't think she would want sole custody

Zenkosi : I am not playing with you , we're done

I walk over to the drawer taking out the papers

I pulled in favours middle of the night

To someone else , this might look like in just too quick to give up

I am not even fighting

As much as I want to , I love my wife with our child so much

To a point that I will let them go , just to keep them safe There's no way I can protect them against everyone who's an enemy to me

And she's a threat , to me and everyone else I'm associated with

She could create problem for us

I hand her the papers

Zenkosi : you think I am an idiot ?

Me : no , you might not trust them I know . My love , I don't want to fight you . I know there's no going back from here , which is why I'm letting you go . You don't have to sign them , until you can verify them with a lawyer of your choice . But l have already signed

She looks at the papers , as tears stream down her face

Zenkosi : I don't want your money , nor your assets and

Me : it's not for you , but it's for Royal

She sighs

I've signed everything to her

The house, the two companies

And the three cars that are on my name

As well as all the money that I have , and she's aware of

Zenkosi : you will never see Royal again , I will sell everything and keep the money . I don't even want to your filthy money

Me : I said

Zenkosi : so she must go and enjoy riches made off other people's misery ?

Me : stop being difficult for no reason , what you wanted was a

divorce . And I've given it to you , keep her money . When she's older tell her , tell her truth even about me . And she will make her own decision

I walk to the bedroom

And Evenly is sitting on the edge of the bed

Me : come

She gets up , looking so scared . I don't even know about what

Me : with Royal

She picks a sleeping Royal off the bed , and we walk back to the living room

lt's an open plan

As soon as Zenkosi lays her eyes on Royal, she tears up

Me : I am sorry

I know she was going to be very worried

Me : I wanted us to talk first , I knew you were going to take her and leave Zenkosi : this changes nothing , and I swear if you think you'll put your goons on me . I will open my mouth to anyone who is willing to listen , then you and your gang can kill me

I sigh shaking my head

Zenkosi : don't follow me Kenan

Me : can I say goodbye to her ?

Zenkosi : no

She says opening the door

And Evenly walks out with her and Royal

As soon as that door closes

I pour myself a glass of whiskey

But it doesn't even go down , I end up just throwing it against the wall

INSERT 19

Zenkosi

I am shaking

I don't even think my mind is functioning well right now

I am scared

I am angry and hurt

Like it's all sorts of emotions

I don't know

I just feel like I am going to burst and explode

I didn't think he will give in just like that

I haven't signed the papers

He's a liar

So these papers could be fake

I'm at the airport

I don't even want to spend another day being here

I was so close to breaking down in front of Evenly

I asked to excuse myself

And I've been crying non stop in the toilet

I fiddle with my phone in hand

And as I'm going through my contact list

I see "king"

That's how I saved his number, almost two years ago

When Thuto gave them to me.

And I didn't even call him , not even once

Maybe this number doesn't even work anymore

I just find myself dialling him

And after a few rings , he finally answers

Wenkosi : hello

Oh my gosh

It's like it's been forever since l last heard his voice

l just tear up

Just not being able to hold myself

Wenkosi : Zenkosi ?

His voice is so down , like he's do calm

Me : you remember me ?.

I ask with a chuckle , trying to gather myself

Wenkosi : there's no forgetting you , why are you crying ?

Me : I'm so sorry , it's justit's a mess . And now I don't even know where to go , I'm justit's a mess

Wenkosi : where are you ?

I am so far away

It's even pointless to him

Me : at the airport in GreeceKenan traffics young girlsI asked for a divorce , I want to take my daughter and leave . It's a lot I just can'tI can't !

I let out a sob , placing my hand on my mouth

Wenkosi : get on a plane come back home Me : Wenkosi , I don't want my mother to see me like this

Wenkosi : she won't , trust me . Just get on a plane home , keep your phone on . And be sure to give me your flight tickets details

A knock comes on the door

I wipe my tears off

Evenly : Madam , your flight has been called . It's leaving in 15 minutes

We have already checked in , we can't miss the flight

Me : the flight is leaving in 15 minutes , I will text you when we get on air I drop the call , and grab a tissue

I know I look like a mess right now , my face is all red and puffy red eyes

I walk out

Me : thank you so much , I wish we could take you with

Evenly : don't worry about me , I will move back home to the United states

I take Royal from her

And fiddle with my phone, I send her 1 million Us dollars

Me : thank you so much

She looks at her phone shocked

She tears up, and looks at me

I turn and rush out with Royal in my hands

I cannot miss the flight

Musawenkosi

Zwe : whoa ! What's with the rush ?

I hold the door

Me : mhm , I am going out

Zwe : brother I see that , but where are you rushing to ?

Me : I have a flight to catch to Joburg

He looks at his wrist watch

And I don't have the time for this

Zwe : what's going on ?

Me : I have to go Zwe

He sighs

Zwe : I see , but you have a royal council meeting

Honestly !

That's the last night on my mind right now

After not speaking for almost two years

She calls me

She could have called Thuto or Siya

Her cousins maybe

Like even her sister , just sparing her mother

But no , she called me

And I am not going to disappoint her at all

Not right now

The royal council meeting can wait

If not , they can go ahead without me

Me : I will miss my flight if I stand here going back and forth with you , dad is here . He will stand in for me , or just cancel the meeting I walk past him , as he just watches me shaking his head

I get into my car and drive out heading to the airport

I managed to get a seat , on a last minute cancellation

Zara

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Bones : you're living comfortable here , just be happy about that

Is he crazy ?

Like he came in here with food

And the medication again

I just had to question him

And this is what he's telling me

Bones : Ferrari is nothing like your fake husband Trevor, don't try him . If you think you have been saved, you have another thing coming . You belong to him now, and this is your new home . It's better than what you had , actually it's ten times better than that . You have the biggest room in this

whole house , appreciate that . You're fed well , and taken care of . We really shouldn't care , but mhm . Anyways , make yourself at home . Forget the outside world , forget everything you think you know . This is your reality now

He takes the pills container and walks out

Lord knows I will be damned

If I let another man do what Trevor did to me

That is not going to happen

I swear, he will have to kill me

I am done

I will not be subjected to pain and abuse again Like who gave these men so much power over me?

I am also human , and not just a tool to be used by men

For their sexual desires

Or turning me into a punching bag

I am not having that again

I grab the steak knife , and move over placing it under the pillow

He must just come and dare me



Zara

No one came back last night

Not Bones or the other guy he called Ferrari

I'm sure that's not a name but a surname

I still don't know his name

In fact, I haven't seen him

I don't know if it's okay to say , I've been upgraded as a prisoner

Like , from what Trevor had me living in

And this room , where I'm given more than three meals a day

With snacks in between

There's a stack of books , by the shelf

I took a few and read

I've always been a book worm , it's taking my mind off things

But after years , things changed and I wasn't there anymore

I think now , this is how I'll keep my sanity

Until someone tries to get it on with me

I don't know if Bones didn't see that the steak knife wasn't there

Or he just turned a blind eye into it

But I will not expose myself at all

I turn my head as the door opens

And I can tell it's not Bones

He walks in , you cannot miss how he's just taken a shave His eyes are too intense

I just stand still , not knowing what to do

Maybe the knife should always be with me

And not under the pillow

Him : what's your name ?

A lump is stuck on my throat

He side smiles

Him : I'm Cero , and I'll just call you my little flower

Crazy

But I finally get to know his name

He walks in closer , his hands in his pockets

Right now , I have a good mind to run for that knife

Cero : I saw you've been looking over there for a while

Oh shit !

Is he spying on me?

Right now I am scared , I don't know him

What if I question him , and he looses it

Cero : you can talk to me , you know ? We don't always have to have silence in here

I take a deep breath

Me : a vineyard

I say turning my eyes back outside the window

Me : that's a vineyard right ?

Cero : yes

It looks so enticing

Me : I love grapes

Cero : there's grapes in the kitchen

I smile

Me : I would like fresh ones

He chuckles , and stands besides me

Cero : there's no running , the whole vineyard is at my estate . And before dusk , we would have found you

Well, that one is clear

Me : you can come with me

I say , hearing his words . And without even thinking

It's like he doesn't mind me going out there in the vineyard to pick the grapes

Cero : you want me to go in there ?

His expression is just funny

Me : are you scared ?

Cero : of what snakes ?

Me : please

I plead with him

He sighs

Cero : you'll find me down

I guess that's an yes

Me : where where are we ?

Me and my mouth

He smiles

Cero: Italy in Tuscan

What the hell ?

So like is this where Trevor had been keeping me all along ?

I mean , it didn't take days driving from his place to here

Me : okay

He says nothing and walks out

Musawenkosi

Dad : are you going to tell me what's going on or what ?

Me : thank you for holding the meeting on my behalf

He sighs

Dad : you're saying nothing right now

Me : I have to go somewhere fast , maybe when I get back I'll call you

Dad : maybe ?

Me : Magaye , I have a situation here . So please , allow me to deal with it

Dad : fine

He drops the call

I chuckle shaking my head

He's making a big deal out of this

I am tired

My eyes are just heavy

I didn't sleep much

I called Zenkosi , and we spoke almost every hour

So in between , there was no getting enough sleep

I just wanted to make sure that she's okay

Her flight is arriving in an hour

I slept at my house , now I'm going to head over to the airport to fetch them

Cero

He laughs

Me : I will send you in there to pick those grapes for me

Bones : she wants to feel the vineyard , don't deny her of that

I click my tongue annoyed

He's just too happy for nonsense

She finally walks down

In one of the floral dresses

Zara : I am sorry if I overstepped , I have been using the clothes in the closet

Bones : they're yours

Shock covers her face , but she quickly covers it

Zara : can we go ?

I clear my throat

Me : Bones will go pick the grapes for you

It's like I feel her heart sinking

She looks down

Bones gives me an ugly look

Me : I am not your friend

Bones : she's sad

He whispers out

I heave a sigh , looking at her with her head dropped

Me : let's go

She lifts her eyes

Me : I don't have all day

She walks over , I take her hand into mine

Zara : I won't run away , you don't have to

Is it just me , or she has a loud mouth ?

I say nothing , but we walk out heading to the vineyard

The grin on her face

It's like she's a 5 year old seeing candy

I mean , I don't know what makes kids happy these days

She looks at me

Zara : can I have one ?

Me : it's not clean , best you pick and have them washed in the house

Zara : just one , it won't hurt

Me : I don't want you getting sick

Zara : I won't

And she holds her other arm out , she picks one grape

Wipes it off on her dress , and it goes into her mouth

She closes her eyes as she chews on it

I swear , it's like she will jump up and down

She looks so happy , and it doesn't even look not seem forced

It's genuine happiness

INSERT 21

Zenkosi

l am so nervous

Like my emotions are just all over the place

Royal is awake now

And very grumpy

I am tired

I could just use a shower , and a bed and just sleep

I am tired

Like I am tired of just everything

And I don't want to cry anymore

I don't want to feel this hurt and anger anymore I place her on the toilet seat , as she takes a pee

I wait until she's done

Just almost two years , this one loves acting like she's an adult

She loves going to the loo, rather than using disposable diapers I fix her , and walk out

Looking at myself in the mirror

I just look like a mess

l tie my weave back into a ponytail

I open water and wash my face

I did away with my sim card

And now , I have no means to make calls

But it would have been stupid to keep it

Cause I can't use that number here

I walk out , heading to luggage

It's just a small bag for Royal things

I have nothing with me

I take her bag , and we walk to arrivals

It's not even that full at the airport

I'm thankful for that

I just move my eyes around , hoping to just see a familiar face

Wenkosi said he was on a flight

But I didn't ask where he was going

He also didn't tell

But then again , I was just crossing fingers that he was coming here

Voice : don't get lost

Oh my God !

I turn and face him , I just tear up

And he engulfs me into a hug

I break down in his arms , I have never been so tired emotionally

That I even feel unstable

I slightly laugh as I feel Royal hugging my leg

I'm sure she's like , who's this man that's hugging you ? I don't know him

We pull out , and he wipes my tears

Me : sorry I look like a mess

He smiles

Wenkosi : a beautiful mess indeed

I let out an involuntary smile

Wenkosi : where is she ?

He asks looking behind me

And he crouches down picking her up

She puts no fight

Wenkosi : you look tired , let's go home and you get rest

I won't even ask which home

Even if he's taking me to Nkazi's house in Soweto I don't care



It feels like I am being watched

Maybe it's just a feeling

But I haven't been able to brush it off

After the great day I had , he better not be in here coming to ruin it for me

I move slowly , not to show movement

I grab the knife , and hold it in my hand

If anyone dares come near me

I am not giving in

Not without a fight , no !

Kenan

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Me : and ?

Drew : she's in Joburg , she was picked at the airport by some guy . They went to Sandton , security seems to be very tight there . I guess he's not just some random guy

I heave a sigh

Drew : should I find out who he is ?

Me : no , leave them

I drop the call

It's sinking in now , and I feel like these walls are closing in

It's all gone

I have lost my family , and right now I'm all alone

Musawenkosi

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Me : she's asleep

She looks at me with a smile

Zenkosi : I don't know how you got her to sleep , but thank you

l nod

Me: I sang for her

She laughs

Zenkosi : with this ugly voice you sang ?

Me : jealousy much

Zenkosi : wow , wonders never cease to amaze one

Me : hey , don't be like that

She laughs

Me : anyways , now you need to get rest too

She sighs

Zenkosi : I am sure you have a lot of questions

She heaves a sigh

Zenkosi : I don't now what went so wrong

She shakes her head

I have never seen Zenkosi this distraught

Zenkosi : how I missed all of this , I don't know

Me : don't be blaming yourself

Zenkosi : he changed as soon as we moved , I should have seen that something was off Me : stop , I can bet you . Kenan didn't start human trafficking after being married to you , he has been doing it for years and years . He's smart , and definitely a pro to not even get caught . So how were you supposed to see all of that ?

Zenkosi : how can be so cruel and so heartless ? he doesn't care that we have a daughter . What if the same thing happened to her tomorrow ?

Me : don't say that , nothing is going to happen to her . Even he wouldn't allow it , not to his own child

She sighs

Zenkosi : I am so shuttered

Me : I know , but you're going to be okay . Picking up the pieces day by day

l get in bed

And hold her to my chest

Me : get some rest

I place a kiss on her forehead

And she snuggles closer to me

I gasp as her lips graces mine, and all sorts of feelings run through my body. My lips just involuntary move with hers, and we kiss

It's so slow and not rushed

And it feels just like yesterday , when we first had that kiss at

the taxi rank . And she was just annoying me

After a few minutes she pulls out , and places her hand on my cheek

Zenkosi : if you're married , your wife will have to forgive me for that kiss

I chuckle

And she places her head on my chest . I place my hand on her back

Me : there's no wife

She goes quite

But her tight grip on my side , tells me she heard . And that's fine

INSERT 22

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A WEEK LATER

Musawenkosi

Dad : when are you coming back ?

Me : soon

He chuckles

Dad : what's soon Wenkosi ?

I don't know

Me : it's soon

Dad : what are you doing there ?

Me : I will tell you when I get back

Dad : I hope that's in a day or two , you have been gone for a whole week

Me : mhm , I'll be back

Dad : alright

I drop the call

I don't know how Zenkosi is going to feel about this

I knew I couldn't stay here longer

But I can't rush her for anything

I open the door

And someone is on the floor

Like why are we playing with dolls so early in the morning ?

Me : good morning princess

She looks at me and smiles

Royal : I'm awake

I chuckle

Me : yeah , I see that . Maria is coming to give you a bath , we're going out

Royal : we get a doll ?

We already got three dolls in a week

Me : yeah

Royal : okay

Maria walks in , I walk out leaving them

I head to my bedroom

And someone is still sleeping

I sit down on the bed and shake her a bit

She slowly opens her eyes

Me : good morning

She smiles

Zenkosi : morning

Me : you need to wake up , I'm taking someone out

Zenkosi : leaving me ?

I chuckle

Me : she wants a doll

Zenkosi : that's a lot of dolls

Well, she doesn't know that

Me : you'll get your outing too

Zenkosi : it's okay , I am not jealous . I think it's time I meet with a lawyer , and sign those papers if they're legit Me : I can set up a meeting with my lawyer

Zenkosi : thank you

Me : mhm , we need to talk when I get back

Zenkosi : about ?

Me : when I get back

She laughs

Zenkosi : wow okay

We still haven't talked about anything

Even the kiss that happened

I don't know what was that about

I lean over and peck her forehead

Me : let me go take a shower , Maria is already taking care of her

Zenkosi : okay , let me get up too

I head over to the bathroom

Zenkosi

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They walk in

In such happy spirits , laughter erupting in the house

I guess they had a great day

And I was worried for nothing

Me : hi

Royal : mommy , I drive

I look at Wenkosi confused

But he has on a frown on his face

Me : drive what ?

Royal : big car

Me : ah , what's a big car ?

I ask Wenkosi and he laughs

Royal : it's others

Okay, I don't know what's that

Sometimes it's just hard to make out what she means

Me : okay baby , that's nice . You're a big girl now

Royal : yea , I see Maria

Me : okay baby , bye

She walks away with a wave

I don't even know where Maria is at

Me : what was that ?

Wenkosi : this one can't keep secrets

I chuckle

Me:so?

Wenkosi : we were at the taxi rank , got to do a load . And

yeah, I broke the law. And she's was sitting on the driver's seat with me, so she thinks she was driving

Me : her hands were on the steering wheel ?

I am nodding my head

Just trying to imagine this whole thing in my head

He nods

Me : and you were taking passengers to their destination , driving with a toddler on your lap ?

Again he nods

Me : what's with you and taxi's , when you're a whole king ? He laughs

Wenkosi : on her part , I was stupid . Shall never happen again

Me : thank you , I'm glad you're both safe

He smiles

Me : it's not cute

Wenkosi : okay sorry , let's talk

I heave a sigh

We sit down , he holds my hand

Wenkosi : how was the meeting with the lawyer ?

Me : you said we have to talk

Wenkosi : I know , after this

l sigh

Me : the divorce papers are legit , I signed and he said he will have them finalized in less than a month . Told him I want to sell the house back in Greece , and the company along with his two cars . I will keep the company here though , Siya is doing a great job . And I don't think it'll be wise to sell it

Wenkosi : that's good

Me : so what did you want to talk about ?

Wenkosi : why are you so impatient ?

Lord have mercy upon me

Wenkosi : I have to go back to KZN

Why is this making me sad ?

Surely I didn't expect him to stay here forever

Me: oh, when?

Wenkosi : in the coming few days

Me: I see, thank you for everything. I understand you have to get back to your life , I'm just grateful that you came here for us when I needed someone. I don't knowmaybe I'll book into a hotel, just until I can find a house . I am not ready yet to go home, I don't think I'm ready to tell my

mother what happened . She will be so hurt , and I am not ready for that . I want to go home , when I've moved on from it . So I don't need anyone's pity

He moves closer

His face just inches away from me

Wenkosi : why move ? When you can just stay here

I smile

Me : you've done a lot , and we can't invade your house without you . Besides , it won't be the same without you here

He slightly laughs

Wenkosi : let's be real , you're not ready to face your mother and everyone . So let's all go to KZN

Me : we don't know anyone in KZN

Wenkosi : you know me

Me : and will you be hosting us ?

Wenkosi : woman !.

I laugh

Me : what will your family say , rocking up with a strange woman and a toddler ?

Wenkosi : my siblings and themhm

He shakes his head

Me : what ?

Wenkosi : don'tmy mother has two husband's

I laugh

Just thinking he's kidding , but no he's not

Wenkosi : yeah , uhm Phakade lives in Durban with the siblings . My father is at the kingdom, but at his house . Obviously mom is in between the two homes, I'm alone at the palace . Not like literally, because there's maidens and guards. But that's that

I just stare at him

Wenkosi : you can think about it though , then when you're ready you can come back . But hold on a bit on finding a house , you can stay here . I barely use this house

Me : why does your mother have two husband's ?

And he laughs

I thought I have heard all things in this world

But this one takes the cup

Isn't this done the other way around ?

One man and two wives , or even more

I've never heard of one woman with two men

Never !.

INSERT 23

Zenkosi

He laughs

Me : what ?

Wenkosi : so we're leaving ?

I nod

Wenkosi : great then

I hope I don't regret this decision

But I think it will do us good

Well more like me

I think Royal is not okay

She was asking about her father today

And she sure took her time

It's like as soon as we left , she forgot there's daddy

But today was something else

She woke up wanting him and asking about him

I had to lie and say he's away on Business

And we will see him soon

I really don't know how she's going to understand anything

She's a child , there's absolutely nothing sane I can say to her and she will understand me

She doesn't look happy

And it makes me sad

Because I know she misses him

Wenkosi : I am probably going to overstep

Me : what ?

Wenkosi : Black is an idiot sure , he fucked up yeah . But that man loves you , and he loves his daughter . I am not a father , but I know I will never be okay if I was to be separated with my child . No matter how bad my short comings , after all you do have yours I am sure . Might not be as intense as his , but who's looking at that ?

l sigh

Wenkosi : I am sorry , but I don't think you should keep them apart . Sure Kenan should stay the hell away from you , make that clear . But keep conversation between him and her going , she will grow up . And she can decide if she wants him or not , on her own . Don't decide for her like this , she might resent you

Me : but my child is not safe with that man

Wenkosi : she is , you think she's not because he's busy

selling off other people's kids . But this is his , he would never do that

Me : I don't knowI don't want anything linking me with that man

Wenkosi : too bad , you already have someone linking you to him and you can't change that . And she's not going anywhere

I take a deep breath

Wenkosi : get her a phone , let him have that number and call her . Make it clear , this is for her. You can see already she's missing him, and she doesn't understand this he's gone away on business. I'm sure even if he was not home, you would call him just so they can talk . She won't understand not seeing

him , and also not calling him . She will end up just being sad most of the times , because she misses him . But if they talk , it will minimise that

Me : but this means he will keep calling , he will know where we are and

I shake my head

Wenkosi : he already knows where you are , I can assure you that

Me : so whathe's going to come after me ?

Wenkosi : he would have done that already if he wanted to

This is just madness

Like must I attract such men , who bring me nothing but drama

After Lizwi I thought I was done with Kenan

But look at us now

I think I should just be done with men

Cero

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This is creepy

I took her , and I haven't done anything to her

Not that I have anything sinister that I want to do

But , she can't be kept like a trophy of some kind in my house

Or maybe an antique

But going home , is definitely not happening

I would seriously be calling Kenan and his men on me

I can't have that

I heave a sigh just watching at her sleeping so peacefully

I wonder if really she's at peace

The scars on her body

The permanent marks that she has

It's clear of the kind of pain and abuse that Trevor put her through

I walk in further , and sit down on the bed

Making sure I don't wake her up

This is what I've been doing the past week

Just waiting after midnight

Coming into her room , and just watching her sleep

I don't know why

But yeah , it's damn fucking creepy

Zara

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I've been having flash backs of what happened

Everything that Trevor did to me

Being chained on that bed like a damn animal

The sexual and physical abuse

And I just can't seem to fall asleep

And the fear I have right now

I had just woken up from a very bad dream

When I heard the door opening

And he stood by the door for a while

Before he walked in

And now he's here on the bed

I am just praying that he doesn't hurt me

He might be a monster or whatever

I'm still restricted in this house

But I think he's way better than Trevor

He lets me watch TV , he lets me eat whatever I want

And I am allowed to go outside , even if it's just around the estate

But at least , I am not chained

It was a few days ago , I said to myself he freed me from the chains of love

I thought what Trevor and I had was love

And only he knew his intentions

And he's dead

I will never know why he did what he did

Why me?

But it doesn't matter

He's never coming back

And I am not sad that he's dead

But now I am here

What is he doing on the bed ?

I am even scared to open my eyes

Already , my tears are on the brink of falling

I am so scared

I can't go through another man having his way with me

I am already broken , I don't want to be a living corpse

That will never happen again

My heart beats so fast , as I feel the trail of his fingers on my cheek Without even thinking twice , I lift my hand and strike the knife on him

He doesn't even groan or scream

lt's so quite

I open my eyes , breathing heavily

And he has his head bowed down

I put the lamp on shaking

Looking at his bloody hand

Okay !

Okay, that's a lot of blood

I don't even see where I stabbed him

Cause I had my eyes closed

He turns and looks at me

Me : l'm l'm so sorry ...please don't hurt me

I burst into a sob

And he takes the knife from me

I am dead

Like no shit I am dead

That's if I didn't kill him

He is definitely going to kill me , there's no coming back from this at all

INSERT 24

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Zara

I'm a crying mess

Cero : moveso I can lie down

What ?

I just stare at him

Not even moving an inch

l'm on my feet

I know , there's no escaping this for me

He will kill me

If he doesn't , most definitely that Bones will

Me : pleasedon't hurt me , I'm sorryI was scaredI

A lump gets stuck on my throat

He swiftly moves me , as he lays down on the bed

The fear that strikes me , as he slowly closes his eyes

Taking a deep breath

I even forget that I wanted to kill him just moments ago

I'm on the bed on top of him crying my eyes out

My hands cupping his face

I don't even think he's breathing at this point

Me : Ceropleaseplease wake up , don't die on me pleaseplease wake up

I bury my face on his neck just wailing

I am never seeing the day after this

Bones will kill me , and he won't even hesitate

Me : please wake up

I plead with him , but he's not even moving an inch

But, does he even hear me?

Or I'm busy begging and crying for a corpse

I try to move , as that thought hits me

Honestly, I will be haunted for life

That's if I even get anywhere with that life

His arm grabs the back of my neck

So he's not dead , okay !

But at this point , I'm just waiting for him to snap me and it be the end

But he does the unexpected, and just turns my face

Bringing his lips over mine

I am shocked !

And taken aback by this

He doesn't care , and he just kisses me

A mess as I am , with tears and all

I find myself just kissing him back

After a while , he pulls back

I open my eyes slowly

Thinking, I am not sane

He's looking into my eyes

Me : I

Words fail me

Cero : the next time you want to kill me , make sure you don't just stab a wound into me . Force your weapon in , and aim for a vein

Shit !

He's so calm as ever

And there's nothing as scary as this

Me : no

I'm shaking my head

As fresh more tears stream down my face

Me : it won'thappen again , I am sorry . Pleaseit was a mistakeI was just scared , thought you wa..... I'm sorry , I thought you wanted to rape . It was a mistake !

Was it really a mistake ?

No !

But what was he doing in here

Middle of the night ?

Cero : stop crying , I want to sleep

Doesn't he just cuddle me on top of him

Not minding the blood on his chest

Me : you're hurtyou need help

Cero : shhhhh

What is wrong with this man?

I keep quite , and it goes all dead quite

He's really sleeping , in such a position

And with a bleeding wound on his chest

Like I don't know how deep I went

Or how bad he's bleeding

Cero

Bones : she's

He sighs

Me : she's refusing to eat ?

Bones : that and more , what exactly happened ? Where did she get the knife to hurt you ?

I shake my head slowly

Me : are you saying the food is still unattended in her room ?

He sighs and nods

I don't mind her eating in her room

It's not like she's required to be on the table everyday

Me:so?

I ask because I left her in bed , with her blood stained sheets

The cut is not even that deep

It's clear she's never used a knife before to hurt anyone

I don't even know what to call what she gave me

But she cried , so hard like she had killed

Bones : she's locked herself in the bathroom

What the fuck ?

She better not drown herself in my house

I get up and walk upstairs

I open her bedroom door

And everything is just looking like a hot heated mess

I knock on the bathroom door, and I just heat sniffs

Me : open this door , before I kick it down Me : I am not kidding Zara !

My voice is now stern , she must not do anything stupid

Zara : I didn't want to hurt you , I thoughtI thought you came to rape me , pleasedon't kill me Her sobs are just heart wrenching

Me : open

I lower my voice, in a soft tone

Zara : nol'll rather stay in here , than have you kill me

I smile

Me : my little flower , your food is getting cold

Nothing comes out

Well except for her sniffs

Me : okay , get away from the door . I am going to kick it

She says nothing again

I back up a bit , and kick the door once

She cries and lets out a scream

Zara : please stop

Me : open the door

She doesn't open, I kick again

Zara : wait

I heave a sigh

All this much work and for what ?

I hear the key turning

She opens the door looking so scared

With her hands on her face

Zara : it was a mistake

I move closer , and she moves back screaming getting blocked by the wall

Her hands go to her face

Without a doubt , she's trying to shield herself from any slaps

I just pull her to me , engulfing her into a tight hug

The way she's shaking , it's clear she's really terrified

Me : I am sorry , it's okay

I hug her tight , placing a kiss on the side of her face . My t-shirt is wet from her tears in just seconds

INSERT 25

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A FEW DAYS LATER

Kenan

I look at the phone ringing

I see well it's a South African number

But I also know , Zenkosi will never call me

She walked out on this

And there's no coming back

I heave a sigh and answer

Me : Black

Voice : daddy hi

My heart melts

Me : baby

I get and feel all sorts of emotions right now

It has been hell without them

And having to stay away , hasn't made anything easy

Royal : I want to see

I chuckle

Me : where is mommy ?

Royal : mommy , daddy I want to see

I have on one huge smile

Words can't even begin to explain how I'm feeling right now

The request for the video call comes in

I waste no time answering

And she giggles seeing me

Me : hi baby

Royal : where you ?

I chuckle

Me : away , how are you ?

By the way she's laughing and giggling, I can tell she's okay

And she's happy

Royal : I drive now

I wouldn't be surprised if her mother got her a small little car , she's a spoilt child

I listen to this conversation that I am merely understanding And we talk , until she's called to come eat

And we say goodbye , I'm just happy we talked

Me : daddy loves you so much

Royal : love you

Me : bye baby

She waves handing her mother the phone

I look down , just not being able to handle her

Wenkosi : she has been crying for you the past few days , and I figured I should keep communication between you two . She can decide on her own , when she's old enough to understand what you did . For now , you can keep that number . It's her phone , use it to call her and only her . Don't think this means anything

I would be a fool to think it does

My lawyer alerted me days ago , that she signed

And that the divorce is underway

And the sale of the company, the house and the two cars is taking place

Like she only left the car I use on a daily basis

The other two , I just used to drive them occasionally

Me : thank you

And she drops the call

It hurts I won't lie , but I know I ruined what we had

Maybe if it was another woman , I would have told her long before

Or maybe I could have begged her now

But not Zenkosi

I knew , like I always knew if she were to find out my business

She would leave me , without even thinking twice

Zenkosi

Wenkosi : look at her , she is happy . You did good , even though it feels somehow

I can't believe we got this phone

Me : what if now Kenan comes here ?

Wenkosi : if he wanted to , he would have long showed up here

I sit down just frustrated

Me : I don't know about this

Wenkosi : you just need to calm down , Black is going to keep talking to her . But he will stay put where he is Me : what if he comes here , then what ?

Wenkosi : I will kill him

I look at him with a frown

Wenkosi : oh , I am not kidding . If he dares step foot into my kingdom , he will die before he even reaches you . He might be

a criminal , but I don't fear him . He doesn't know who I am

Jesus !

Is this another one ?

Zara

Things have been tense in the house

I am keeping to myself by all means

Cero doesn't look like he's interested in hurting me

Even as a punishment for what I did We barely talk , but he still let's me eat with them

And if I don't go out

Bones does bring me the food

I am scared though

I feel like he's just waiting for the right time to hurt me

I don't know what that kiss meant

But after it , we never said anything

And he cuddled me to sleep

Even the day I locked myself in the bathroom

He spent the night in my room

Well , it was only yesterday he didn't spend the night in my room

And the bed was very cold

I barely slept

And I even got nightmares

It's nearing midnight now , and he hasn't come in

I am scared to fall asleep

What if I sleep , and the nightmares come back ?

I can't , cause when I wake up it feels like my heart will pop out

I am always scared

Time goes by , and he's not coming

For some reason, tears burn my eyes

I get off the bed , and walk out of the bedroom

Heading to his bedroom

I knock at the door , without even thinking twice

lt's so quite

I have never been inside his bedroom

After a while he opens the door

Shirtless , and just wearing briefs

Me : I can't sleep

I whisper looking down

Not being able to hold his stare

He holds his hand out, I take it

And he gently pulls me inside the bedroom

It's so dark , just light grey and dark grey

Creepy

Saying nothing , he leads me to bed

We get in bed , and he cuddles me

Me: thank you

He places a kiss on my forehead

I close my eyes as sleep catches up with me

INSERT 26

Musawenkosi

Royal : who are you ?

Her mother burst out laughing

I look at her , returning her smile

Me: I am your king

Royal : your king ?

I chuckle

Me: yeah

Royal : okay

She walks out of the lounge quarter

Zenkosi : she's gonna go around calling you "your king"

She missed the mark , but it's fine

Me : come here

I hold my hand out to her

She takes it , and I make her straddle me

I place my hands on her waist

Me : my father will be coming here , and he'll be the first to

see you . I don't know how you're going to take that

Zenkosi : I'm scared , we have been here for a few days . And your staff is very welcoming , Royal loves them so much and they love her back . I don't know about your family though , I'm scared

She sighs

I stare deep into her eyes , she stares back into mine

She ends up smiling

I pull her closer , trailing my hand to her neck

Bringing her down, as my lips grace hers

And we kiss so slowly and passionately

My dick twitches underneath her

And I know she can feel it , as she lets out moans inside my mouth

After quite a few minutes of kissing we slowly pull out

She cups my face

Zenkosi : what was that ?

I chuckle

Me : we never talked after that kiss , and I felt robbed there

She smiles

Me : I won't rush you into anything , take all the time that you need

Zenkosi : I appreciate you , and everything more

She pecks my lips , and slightly moves back

Zenkosi : let's go eat

Sh gets off me and takes my hand as I get off the couch

Zara

I wake up

And realising the surroundings I'm in

It's not my room

Events of last night play in my head

It was very bravely stupid of me

To knock in here

I thought he would kick me out

But as soon as he cuddled me

I fell asleep

And seems like I overslept

Judging by the light from window

The sun is out

I get off the bed , and walk around the room

I definitely have the biggest room

This seems like a personal space

I'm surprised he even let me sleep in here

I notice the tray on the small round table by the balcony

I walk out

And the view to the vineyard is stunning

I open the tray and there's a white rose and a note

I pick the rose and smell it , still fresh

My lips curve into a smile

I place the rose down and pick up the note

"gone for a jog , take a shower and eat . I will notice if the knife or fork goes missing , don't leave the room we have to talk "

Me : mxm

I let out a slight laugh

They should keep the knifes and forks away from me

I pull the chair and sit down eating

And the food is still warm , and so nice

The way it's so scrumptious

I know for a fact , that Cero or Trevor don't cook

There's no way in hell , that men like them can cook

Maybe he has a helper , but I haven't seen her

When I'm done eating , I bask in the sun for a bit

After a while I get up and head back into the room

I make the bed , hoping I'm making it the right way

And head to the bathroom

I take a shower , I don't even mind his scent because the man does smell good I use his towel to dry , and lotion to lotion myself

I walk to his small closet

It looks so organised , everything is in place

I look around until I find his casual clothes

I grab a t-shirt and put it on

It's a bit big , and covers to my thighs

I take sweatpants , but they're bigger

I leave them , and grab his briefs

Walking out of his closet , he walks in sweating

And he's just in sweatpants and sneakers

His bare chest , exposed

I can't help but notice just how chiselled he is

And his V-line very much exposed

He clears his throat , I lift my eyes

He lets out a smile , and walks closer

I stand still on my feet

Cero : I like you better , when you smell like yourself and not me He says with a chuckle and places a kiss on my cheek

That sends chills down my spine

Cero : be on the bed , I need to freshen up a bit

He walks to the bathroom

I am just left stunned

I don't move an inch

After a while he walks out of the bathroom

Wrapped with a towel on his waist

And he's still dripping water on his chest

He walks over

Cero : you've just been standing here ?

He holds his hand out

Cero : come let's sit down

He takes my hand walking to the bed

l am nervous

He sits down , and gets me to sit on his lap

He stares into my eyes , I look down not being able to hold his gaze

Cero : things have changed

He tilts my chin , and I look at him

He pulls me closer , brushing his lips over mine

And he kisses me , I find myself kissing him back

They way my body just reacts to his touch

It makes me so annoyed , but then I can't help it

After a while he pulls out

Cero: I want you, I want this. I know being so far away from your home wasn't your choice, you didn't want this life . I get that, unfortunately I can't change it . Give me a chance, give me a chance to be with you . I will never put you through hell , because I know I feel something for you . And I will

never hurt what's mine, especially when there's feelings . I can make things better , only if we're in this together and you won't screw me over because then I would be forced to react and it won't be nice. You already have your freedom around this estate, you can have freedom outside it . And we build a life right here in Tuscan together, I won't chain you or hold you inside this

estate. You can go outside, and do whatever you want . That would be me putting my trust into you, the trust that you won't run to the embassy once you're out there and cause trouble for me. I can give you access back to the people you left in South Africa, but you can't go back there . This now has to be your home , but all this can happen if you're willing to give me a chance

To say I am shocked is an understatement

Did he just propose a relationship here ?

And he's willing to let me go outside this place

To have contact again with my family

No !

This feels like a dream

Cero : you can think about it , and let me know your answer once you have it

He leans over for another kiss , I don't respond to it that much

Because I am still shocked by what he just said

He places me on the bed , and he heads over to his closet

INSERT 27

Zenkosi

Me : hi ma (mom)

Mom : Zenkosi ?

She asks very shocked

I understand

Because I am calling her with a South African number

And she didn't know I'm back

Being back for a while now

I just thought it would be nice to call and talk to her

Even for her to know that I am back

I can't stay here forever

And just keep quite not talking to them

They'll get worried

Because even back in Greece I used to talk to them almost every two days

And now it's been more than that

I know she worried , when she couldn't get a hold of me

Me : it's me , please relax

Mom : where are you ?

Me : uhm I'm in KZN

Mom : what ?

Me : don't worry please , I will come home soon . I just need to get some air right now , and just find myself Mom : we have been trying to call you , without reach

Me : I know , but I am okay . And Royal is okay too , but my marriage to Kenan is over

Mom : what do you mean over ?

Me : we're divorced ma (mom)

I say with a sigh

Mom : Zenkosi what happened ?

Me : I can't tell you , without putting him at risk . So I decided to take Royal , I'm keeping her away from him . But she calls him now , and they talk . Just that I don't want him in our lives anymore , he's not the man that I thought he is . And I cannot be with such a man

I take a deep breath

Me : I will come back soon , this is my number now . Call me here , and I'll also call you guys

Mom : oh baby ! But are you really okay ?

Me : not yet there , but I will be my best when I get back

Mom : keep in contact

Me : I will , I'll call you later with Royal

Mom : that will be nice , I miss her

Me : I know she misses you too

Mom : please be okay my love , and don't be ashamed to come

back home . I still love you the same , and the end of this marriage doesn't make you a failure . If something is not meant to be , then it will not . Let's not make a big deal out of it

l laugh

Me : yes mom , we're not making it a big deal

Mom : I will see you soon , don't forget to call with that busy baby

Me : I will

I don't even know where she is right now

Mom : I love you

Me : I love you too

I drop the call

And get up going to look for Royal

My mother calls her a busy baby

She just can't keep still

And since we got here she's just the worst

I think living with so many people , has gotten into her head

She's never in one place

Zara

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I walk in the living room

And he's watching TV with some lookalike of him

He's a brother sure , but definitely a twin brother

Me : uhm

I want to turn right now

I didn't think he would be with anyone

Cero : you want to talk ?

Inod

He looks at the guy

Cero: this is Zara, give us space

Him : who is she ?

Cero : not your business , get out Leo

Him : you stole her too ?

Cero chuckles

Me : no he didn't

They both look at me

Me : can we talk ?

Cero : tell him to get out

I must tell his brother to get out , like really ?

Leo : he didn't steal you , so where did he get you ? Me : I'm a human being , and not something you can grab off the market

He chuckles , Cero grins

Leo : you're feisty and he probably deserves you

He gets up and walks past me

Me : that's your twin ?

He nods

I heave a sigh

What a way to meet family

Cero : come

I walk in , and sit on the arm rest of the one sitter couch he's sitting on He chuckles

Cero : you're squeezing me

He brings me down to his lap

Me : I will be your girlfriend

This is the best shot I have

He is handsome, and cute too

Even though I've established , he's no different to the likes of Trevor

He's been nice to me

But I am not getting involved in that

I am also not an idiot

Going to the embassy or the police

Is that I won't get anywhere , and I might just die

Because he probably has cops in his pockets

And he will kill me

Me : I might take time , to open up to things like sex. I am disgusted by the marks on my body, and also Trevor sometimes used to force himself on me . So I am still scared, that's why I stabbed you that day. Because I thought you wanted to do the same thing, I was scared. I just have a request, if I do something wrong or annoy you please reprimand me well . Don't hit

me or shout at me , don't deprive me of the freedom you have given me . Just talk nice to me , I will listen and apologize for me wrong doing

He pecks my lips a few times

Cero : I've heard your request , and I won't put my hands on you . And I will wait on the sex part , just as long as I have you in my arms every night

I'll rather take a life I am offered , with freedom

Than to go back home and start afresh

With people who have probably forgotten about me

Me : thank you

Cero : move over to our room

I smile

He leans over , I lean down meeting him half way and we kiss

Musawenkosi

Dad : the meeting went well

Inod

Me : please stay , the maidens will bring food and drinks

They all nod in acknowledgement

And then the smallest shadow ever walks in

I want to burst out laughing , cause what is she doing in here ?

As she looks around this room, looking at all these men

And what about the can of beer in her hands

She's holding it , like it's something very precious

She finally spots me and smiles walking over to me

The braveness

I look down laughing , it's a lot

Royal : your king

I lift my eyes and look at her , as she stands in front of me

She tries to hold the can , and it's a bit of a struggle

But she's coming along fine

Me : princess

Royal : see , I come beer for you

That's my girl

Me : thank you

I lift her up , into my arms taking the can

The look my father is giving me.

Me : she's Zenkosi's daughter , her name is Royal . I know you haven't met her mother , but you will soon He frowns , but darts his eyes to her

And he looks very much amused

This child is something else

How did she even know I'm in here ?

She must have seen the maidens come in here

INSERT 28

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Musawenkosi

I walk in , and she's on the bed reading a book

I lean down , and give her a brief kiss

She smiles

Zenkosi : you meeting is over ?

Inod

Zenkosi : I thought you'll find Royal outside and come with her

I laugh sitting down next to her on the bed Zenkosi : what is she doing ? Did you even see her , cause I tried to look for her but it was like she's all over . I got tired looking for her

Me : she walked in the throne room with a can of beer , and said she bought it for me

She pops her eyes

Zenkosi : she did what ?

l laugh

Me: yeah

Zenkosi : like in the throne room with all the elders in there ?

Inod

Me : but the meeting was over , the maidens were about to bring food

She sighs

Zenkosi : where did she get a beer ? She can't reach the fridge

She sits up

Zenkosi : where is she ?

Me : my father took her

Her jaw drops

Zenkosi : oh my God !

Me : hey

I hold her hand

Me : why do you sound and seem so terrified ?

Maybe I should have asked for her permission first

Before letting him leave with her

My bad there

Zenkosi : you just said she walked in your meeting with a beer , and now your father took her

Me : he took her home , not to punish her or anything . My mother and sister are coming , so he left with her . We'll go for dinner , then come back with her . The old man was just smitten by her

It was actually just cute to see

I swear , my father still wants kids even at his old age

Zenkosi : are you sure he's not angry ?

I laugh , there was nothing to be angry about

Me : who can be angry at that cuteness ?

She heaves a sigh of relief

Me : don't worry , he said he will call if she gets anyhow

Zenkosi : but where did she get a beer ?

I chuckle

Me : there's a quarter with alcohol , for the Ancestral hut . We stock up in piles , the maids went in there to get drinks for the elders . I'm sure she got in , and no one even saw her

She sighs

Me : that baby is a lot , she's all over . You think she's here , but

she's actually there . When you think she's with the maids , she's with the guards . When you think she's there , she's with the drivers . It's a lot , I can't keep up with her

She laughs

Zenkosi : you deal so much better with her , I gave up going around looking for her Me : I think she's just happy being around so many people , and she just can't keep still

She shakes her head slowly

Me : get ready so we can go

Zenkosi : okay , I hope your parents won't mind us going to their house Me : no , my father is the one who said we should come . He stole our baby and he will make it a norm , we better get used to it . And we should go there get her back

She laughs getting up

Zenkosi

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His father welcomes us in

Mr Cele : finally a pleasure to put a name to the face

I smile

Mr Cele : come in

Wenkosi : where is she ?

A beautiful woman appears from the kitchen , I believe

She's even holding a dish cloth

Her : hi , why are you standing at the door ?

Wenkosi laughs he takes my hand and we walk in further in the room Wenkosi : this is my mother and father , parents this is Zenkosi

Mrs Cele : it's nice to meet you

Me : likewise

Wenkosi : where is she ?

His mother laughs

Mrs Cele : sleeping on the lounge floor , when we try and pick her up she wakes up and stares at us and she goes back down to sleep

Jesus

What is wrong with that child ?

Royal is something else , she just goes on to fall asleep

Wenkosi : she's like that , she doesn't wanna be moved where she's sleeping

Mrs Cele : she is just cute

Well at least , her cuteness is just working

Kenan

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Cero : you look like shit

l sigh

Me : I am shit

Cero : looks like you haven't slept in days

Well, it's been hard to sleep without Zenkosi next to me

She used to be that shield , and I would sleep like a baby

Now I'm always restless when I try to sleep

She was my dose for that

I don't know where I'll find another her , only she know how to get me calm Every time I close my eyes , it's like every single thing I've done just comes back to haunt me

So I barely get any peaceful sleep

I only knew that after I met her, and she would spend a night next to me. Now it's just back to square one

Cero : you won't even fight ?

Me : no , I love her enough to let her go and be happy

Cero : you're a better man than me

Me : I know she deserves better , and there's no woman like her . A lot of woman , can be with a murderer knowingly . They'll get angry at first yes , but then eventually they'll forgive . Just not that one , I always knew that some day she will leave . Too bad it was this soon

He sighs

Cero : you are scaring me

I laugh

Me : tell me ,are you crazy ?

Cero : no

Me : how do you even begin to fall in love with a woman who was kidnapped , and you kidnapped her ?

He laughs

Cero : it just happened , I took her because I wanted to hurt Trevor . But then again , I shot him and he died . I still kept her , and here we are

Me : that's crazy

He shakes his head

Me : you know why Trevor took her ?

Cero : never even bothered

Me : he's a product of rape , the woman was 14 then . Her parents kicked her out , she lived on the streets and gave birth on her own . She threw the baby in the dustbin

Cero : what ?

Me : she was helped by some white couple, she became their helper . And that's how she met her husband, who was their gardener. They started a life together, and had two kids. Two daughters, Trevor wanted revenge. And he pretended to love the oldest daughter , and asked for her hand in marriage. Paying 300K for her, and that's how he got that woman

He's looking at me like I've just told him a tale

Cero : his half sister ?

I chuckle

Zenkosi

Mrs Cele : I have never seen my son in love

I look at her , we're doing dishes just finishing up . Dinner went great

Mrs Cele : I don't know the history , and I don't even want to know . But please , do not hurt him . You're his first love , and he will love you very hard with his all

This is shocking now

There's been kisses here and there

Yes we share a bed

But there's never been talks of love

I don't even think I am ready for a relationship

Mrs Cele : you will make a great queen

Woman !

Are you not forward , like 20 steps ahead

What king wants to marry a woman who was embarrassed on her wedding day like me?

A woman who got married , second chance and within two years got divorced

That queen status is so not for me

Me : I won't hurt him

I just find myself saying

And she smiles

Maybe it would have been rude if I said nothing

We wipe our hands walking back in the lounge

Someone is awake now , she was just a loud mouth during dinner

Which I don't think went bad

Musa : I swear I feel so replaced , but you're so cute and I also just can't help but love you

And they all laugh

I don't even think she understood half of what was said

INSERT 29

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Zara

I cannot believe what my ears heard

Maybe I misheard

As I was walking down , the study door wasn't completely closed

And I noticed the white man, who once saw me in Trevor's house

And didn't even bother helping me

I was scared there for a moment

Until I heard them mention Trevor's name And I listened in

I don't know what to believe now

I am blaming both my parents for everything he did to me

And I hope wherever they are , they're enjoying his 3000K

There's no sane parent who can accept so much money as a dowry

Without any suspicions

He should have seen that something was wrong

But no !

He sold me

And my mother , I don't even know what to say

I get she was raped , she was a child all alone and all

But it's because of her that a monster like that got to live

And he took his revenge on me

She should have killed him

What good did throwing him in the bin do ?

It got me here today

I hate them

I hadn't called , and Cero offered to find me their contact details So I can call

But now , I have no desire to

I hate them

And I am better off here without them

He walks in , I wipe my tears off

Cero : what's wrong ?

He crouches down in front of me.

Me : I heard what your friend said

He sighs

Cero : you were not supposed to hear that

He picks me up from the floor, and sit down on the bed

Cero : I am sorry

Me : I don't want to call them anymore

Cero : are you sure ?

Inod

Maybe he can help me get in touch with my friend

Maybe she's the only one who was worried about me

I should just let her know I'm okay

And she shouldn't even bother telling them that I'm okay

What kind of parents do I have ?

Zenkosi

Wenkosi : I have been elevated from being called your king , to my king

I laugh

Me : when did that happen ?

Wenkosi : this morning during our walk

Me: mhm, impressive

He chuckles

Wenkosi : so we're going to Disney land for our second birthday

Me : no

Like who wants to be surrounded by such a mess ?

Definitely not me

Wenkosi : yes , everything is organised and flight tickets are booked

Me : you two are leaving me behind

Wenkosi : we love you

My jaw drops

Me: you?

He looks at me and frowns

I laugh

Me : you love me ?

I get up and walk to him

His lips curve into a smile

Me : is that what you told your mother ?

Wenkosi : I told her nothing

Me : really ?

Wenkosi : yeah , but whatever she said . She's not blind

Me : smart like that huh ?

He grins

Wenkosi : Disney

Lord help me

Me : we not going to talk about this ?.

Wenkosi : I am not rushing you for anything , when you're ready you'll most definitely just let me in . For now pack

That was a very strange conversation concerning our feelings

Kenan

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Royal : we go Disney

I laugh

Me : that's nice baby

Royal : you come too ?

Me : no , daddy has to work . But I will send your birthday presents

Royal : oh ! I want cake

Me : you will get cake , lots and lots of cake honey

Royal : okay

Me : baby , can daddy please speak to mommy ?

Royal : me i call mommy

I chuckle

Me : I love you okay

Royal : love you

She gets up and the phone is left alone for a minutes

She comes up in the screen

Zenkosi : Kenan

Me : I just want to ask to come see her on her birthday

Zenkosi : please don't

Me : I am not a deadbeat father Zenkosi , I appreciate what I'm getting right now . I'm just asking to see her for an hour or two , that's all

Zenkosi : she won't even be here

Me : of course , she's excited about Disney land . She told me , I will fly there just for her Zenkosi : fine ...

She drops the call

I guess I can take that as well

Musawenkosi

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Zenkosi : l'm sorry

I smile

Me : don't be silly , we won't even be home . He can come see her , I am not mad . And I don't mind that , she will be so happy to see him

She sighs

Zenkosi : I hope I don't regret this

Me : you won't , I just think you overthink a lot . He's a fuck up , but not to his daughter

Zenkosi : I think you're the only sane voice right now

I smile and lean over giving her a kiss

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A FEW DAYS LATER

Musawenkosi

Me : see how happy she is ?

She exhales

I chuckle side hugging her , thus one is tough

I am not a father yet , but I know no matter how much I fuck up

I wouldn't wanna be kept away from my daughter

And Kenan is doing what he can to maintain that

He didn't fight a divorce sprung on him in a day All he's asking for , is for his child not to forget him

If he's going to fuck up this

Then it'll be on him

For now, we shouldn't stone and judge him

On things we think he might do

Right now , Royal is just a baby

Who has no idea what's happening

And doesn't even know anything about good and bad deeds

She shouldn't be subjected to her parents dealings

Zenkosi : she is happy

I'm glad she can see that

Me : this is so much better than video calling him , and telling him about Disney land . She will have these pictures , and they'll remain as memories . Even though daddy and mommy separated , he was still there . If he chooses to move away from her , let it be his choice

Zenkosi : I hate that you're making so much sense , and you're right .

I laugh

It took a lot for her to say that , Zenkosi doesn't just spit things because you're right , but it's when she gets that she didn't realise her short comings

Zenkosi : Thank you for making me see that she needs him still, and our divorce shouldn't get in the way of that . Because I can't take away the fact that he is a good father, and was a good husband until I found out the truth behind the riches. And it was just something I couldn't stand for

I understand that part

There's not a lot of women who can stand around , being with a man who does what he does

It'll be like you're supporting his dealings

Love sometimes , is just not enough when it's not carried by actions . And you don't see eye to eye about certain things

Me : you will soon love me for it , I'm your sane voice of reason . That's why I will not just support you just for the sake of it

She goes quite , I turn and look at her to find her looking at me with a smile

I chuckle

Me : what ?

Zenkosi : maybe I am just scared , I've had two failed serious relationships now . I'm thinking maybe those are just not for me , it's been a long road . An almost happening marriage that ended up embarrassing me ,

and one that fell in just two years

I smile

Me : third time is always a charm

She laughs

I love seeing her love , and it's good hearing her laughter

Zenkosi : is this even a conversation we should be having ?

Me : no , we should just demonstrate it

Zenkosi : silly you

Royal : mommy ...

She walks over to us , holding a doll

The princesses we had to buy here

It was just a lot

Having to see Sofia and Minnie

And we had to buy them and many more

I move over from them to Kenan

I don't have anything against him

There's absolutely no reason for me to be somewhat towards him

That will change if he changes

Kenan : they're both happy

Me : mhm , and it's up to the both of us to make sure that it stays like that

I can't deny the fact that these two once loved each other

He may still love her , and her love for him won't just

disappear because now there's separation. It'll take time

He chuckles

Kenan : don't worry , I will not bother this at all . After all , at the end of the day your princess does need a man who will teach her the values of life . Being there , you'll do so much better than what a video call everyday with me will do

He looks over at them

Kenan : this is not defeat , it's accepting when a better man has won . And I know I blew my chances , she's a woman with morality and standards . My shit , can't be put in the same line as her values

This man is not an idiot

And he doesn't hide behind anything

Which is why I'm all for him having a relationship with his daughter

Me : mhm , just don't disappoint her . She will grow up , to make decisions of her own

She walks over to us

I pick her up

We've had a day, at Disney land

And had lots of cake , all thanks to Kenan with his promise

This tiny little being doesn't forget

Zenkosi

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I cannot believe Wenkosi had a whole dinner planned

Not just your normal dinner

But like classy dinner , and we had to dress up fancy

All for a two year old birthday party

Someone is worn out now , and asleep

She will never forget this birthday

It was just one of a kind

Kenan left an hour ago

And he was even on the dinner

It wasn't awkward at all

Because the miss was busy chatting up a storm

And we made this day all just about her

I get in bed , and Wenkosi is cuddling her

Wenkosi : you okay ?

Me: yeah

Wenkosi : come lay here , don't fight when you both wake up

l laugh

Me : someone might fight me

He holds his other arm out , I lean over and lay my head down

Me : thank you for this , you did something so special for her

He chuckles

Wenkosi : this little person calls me her king , I gotta deliver

Some people are just blessed

Musawenkosi

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We're to leave later today

And I am not happy

Because as soon as we get back , they have to go to Joburg

And I can't go there because I will be busy at the kingdom

So I don't know when I'll see them after this day

Zenkosi : what is that ?

She walks closer to Royal who's admiring her bracelet

Zenkosi : waitthese are real diamonds

She looks at me with her eyes popped out

Royal : nice mommy

I chuckle

Zenkosi : where did you get this ?

Royal : my king

They both look at me

Zenkosi : real diamonds ?

Me : yeah , why would she be wearing fake diamonds ?

Zenkosi : she's 2

Me : fake diamonds will ruin her skin

Zenkosi : how much did that cost ?

I keep quite

Zenkosi : Musawenkosi Cele !

Me : yhoh ! I feel like my mother is here

Zenkosi : aibo phendula (answer me)

Me : I have a diamond mine , so let her enjoy the spoils of that

I have never told her this

So her shock doesn't shock me

Me : princess tell mommy I am rich , we can afford this

Royal : mommy we rich

Zenkosi laughs

Zenkosi : what ?

Royal : we rich

Zenkosi : girl ! Why are you involving yourself in things that don't concern you ?

Me : no , I actually love her . Because her words are just on point . We're rich , not just me

Zenkosi : wow , I never got real diamonds until I was 24 and working and could afford them

Me : some people , have accompanied other people in this life

Zenkosi : I fall with the masses

I laugh

And she goes on to continue packing our bags

INSERT 31

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Zenkosi

He's in the shower , and I've just woken up

One of the maidens is minding Royal We're going to Joburg tomorrow

I know he's not happy

My mother was a bit sad , that we had her birthday outside of the country

She wanted us home , so they could celebrate with her

So we have another celebration that's just waiting us when we get back

But I'm a bit sad we're leaving

Even though I knew we weren't going to stay here forever

I walk in the shower , and he's not even showering

He's just standing in the middle under water

I know he's not happy either

Me : hi

He looks at me , and let's out a fade smile

Me : I think we can stop torturing each other right now He says nothing but just pulls me to him and smashes his lips on mine

I kiss him back , he picks me up into his arms

His one hand sliding to my coochie , I wrap my legs around his waist

And let's out a slight moan in his mouth

As he slides his tip inside

I yearn for him , as he just keeps on teasing me

And I grab his dick sliding it through

I throw my head back

He lets out a deep grunt

And doesn't waste time thrusting in

Only half of him is inside of me

But it feels like he's all in

Jesus!

I never knew this man is this gifted , and he's just hitting the right spots

He switches off the water

I scream a bit , as he expands inside of me

And his hands grabbing hard on my ass cheeks

I bite my lower lip , as I feel the wave of pleasure

He doesn't pull out , and it just makes the pleasure take longer

After a few thrusts , he puts me down , and turns me to face the wall

I place my hands on the wall balancing myself

As he takes it from the back thrusting deeper

With a few spanks here and there on my ass cheeks

I pinch my one nipple , as I feel that pleasure again

An orgasm reaches me

He turns me over as I'm still panting and trying to catch my breath

He captures my lips , we kiss going out of the shower to the bedroom

He lays me down on the edge

Bringing my legs over to his shoulder and he slides in

Me : Ohhhh.....

I close my eyes, as he pounds in

And I feel like he's just hitting the G-spot

Me : fuck I'm gonna cumI'm gonna cumwaitwait I try to push him off , but he doesn't budge

He holds my legs tight

And I just let go , squirting

Only he pulls out , and taps his dick on my coochie

Me : fuck !

He moves over and turns me on my stomach

Already my legs are all wobbly , I can't keep them intact

I get on my knees , laying flat on my stomach

He gets on the bed , getting on his knees

I feel like he's pushing the whole of his monster cock inside of me

This shit can't fit

I bite my arm , as he thrusts in

Wenkosi : fuck

He shoots his cum through , as he deep groans

He fills me up , and continues thrusting in

My womb is burning

But oh gosh ! He's hitting it so right

I move my ass back and meets his thrusts

Wenkosi : fuck ...mama don't do that shit

I ignore him , and he increases his pace

I don't back down , as I go on with his pace

Wenkosi : fuck

He shoots up another load

Some of it even drop down to my thighs

He grabs on my waist going in deeper I close my teary eyes

As I cum

He pulls out , and I lay my legs flat on the bed

He comes over , and lays next to me

I look at him

He chuckles

Wenkosi : I fucking love you

I am smitten right now

I don't wanna lie

So this is what I missed out on when he said he will fuck me the next time he sees me, two years ago ?

Damn!

What a loss it was

Still worn out , he flips me over on top of him Me : goshyou want to kill me ?

Wenkosi : waited fucking two years for this

I laugh

Moving up , my coochie on his face and his dick on my face

I suck on him while he muffs me

I loose myself rolling my eyes back

As he nibbles on my clit

I go down , and ride his tongue

Deep throating on his dick

And I pull out as he cum , just taking bits of his cum into my mouth and swallowing

He doesn't allow me to move off of him

He holds my waist down on him , as he continues to eat me

Until an orgasm hits me

And he pulls on my coochie, clearly sucking all of my cum

Me : Ohhhh ...ahhh fuck !

He removes his hands

And I move down , taking his dick inside of me

Feeling the pain and slight discomfort

I ride him cowgirl style , and he thrusts underneath me meeting my pace

He pulls me back , I lay my back on him

He rubs on my nipples

As we slow down our pace , just moving in sync

I turn my face , and he moves his face to the side

We kiss, as we both reach cum

He holds me in place , as we kiss

He moves his one hand to my coochie, his dick still going in and out of me

And that's just getting me more aroused

Just when I think I can just shut some eye

But I will need this itch scratched

Or I will just be moody

Me : I love you too

I mumble through the kiss

Shit !

I am dead tired

And I feel that after sex sleep just creeping in

I am a thourouly sexually satisfied woman right now

INSERT 32

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Zenkosi

Me : is everything okay ?

He nods

Me : so you're not talking to me ?

A whole grown man is sulking , I have never seen this

Wenkosi : what will I say ?

Me : I don't know , that maybe I need to fix my dress or make up

He chuckles

Wenkosi : what do I know ?

I heave a sigh

Me : we're going to miss you

Musa took Royal this morning

We got to spend more time together again

But now they're back

And well , we have a flight to catch in an hour

Wenkosi : you don't get to give me such a night , and morning . And I'm just supposed to be okay

I smile

Me : it's not like I am breaking off anything

Wenkosi : yeah , but you're going back there to settle. I don't know what that means for us , like I don't know . Maybe you'll go back to the company you used to work for , or you'll go handle this one . I don't even know when I'm going to see you after this

I haven't even thought about work

And I won't go to Black Industries

Siya is doing a sterling job there

There's no need for my interference

Wenkosi : can I just ask one thing ?

Wenkosi : wait on the house

Right now I am going to the house I used to own

My mother and my sister now stay there , since I gave Bendalo the house

She didn't waste time moving

As soon as I gave her the deed of the house

They were out of my grandmother's house

And well , one of the cousins was just so quick to move in

Wenkosi : if you're not keen on staying with your family , then

please go to the house in Sandton and stay there

I don't know why he doesn't want me to get a house

But for now , I am going to respect that

I'll just go to Sandton , if I feel like I want or need my own space *Musawenkosi*

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Phakade : fancy seeing you here

I chuckle

Me: I was droppingmhm

He laughs

Phakade : when are you sending us , to go ask for her hand for you ?

Ah this one !

I couldn't come to Durban and not see him

That would just be drama

But now he's the drama

Me : Inot yet

Phakade : what's with the uncertainty ?

Me : it's too heavy

Phakade : heyif she's for you , then nothing can ever be too heavy . How many years has Mlilo been on your case about marriage ?

Me : many

Phakade : and in those years , you've never even bought home one girl . Now you have brought a whole woman , and you're still dragging your feet ?

If only I could tell him about the divorce that's still pending

But I don't want to

Me : I hear you

Phakade : I will expect your call soon , I am very much ready and willing . While I'm still alive , and I still have the money to

pay dowry for you . Use that , don't wait until I'm dead

We laugh

At least we know that's covered



She looks so far away

And just not here with her mind

It's like she's just lost in thought

I walk in and sit down next to her

Me : what's wrong ?

She looks at me and slowly shakes her head

Me : if it's something you will tell me right ?

She heaves a sigh

Zara : what Trevor did , do you think it was fair ? He was hurt that his mother abounded him , and he had to revenge himself on her child ? Me : Trevor was just sick and twisted , there's nothing fair about what he did

Zara : if your parents hurt you , you won't hurt your brother ?

Mhm

Me : okay , I don't know . Maybe I would , because at the end of the day I am no Saint . But then again , it would depend on why would I have to revenge myself . Especially on my brother

Zara : I think you would

I chuckle

Me : hey ! I am trying to be reformed right now

Me : I don't like Leo that much , as much as he's my brother and twin . I don't like him , I just think he got treated way better than I did . I've always known from way young , that he's the one who's going to be a king

She pops her eyes

Me : keep up , yes I'm a prince . And Leo is a king , story of another day ...

Zara : waitwhere I come from royalty marries royalty

Me : are you hinting that I should wife you ?

She laughs

And it's pleasing to hear her laugh

Zara : that's not

Me : don't worry , I will make it happen . Definitely , sooner you will be Mrs Ferrari

Zara : stop , you were talking about your brother

Me : yeah , we're four . Our big sister Bianca, then us and the little brother . It always felt a curse being born with Leo, I always felt like he got treated differently from me . More like he got treated like the others , and I was just an outcast of some kind. So being his twin has always just been annoying for me, worse he's on the straight and narrow. He might as well be a pastor, so he's all

righteous when it comes to me and what I do . Which just makes me don't like him even worse

Zara : do you want to know what's sad about the whole thing you just said ?

I don't think I do

Me : what ?

Zara : is that your brother loves you, he loves you so much that you can strike a knife into his heart and he will take his last breath with a smile . I think he , more than anyone else understands you better . And he wants to rectify what you grew up with , but you're not giving him that chance

She takes my hand into hers

Zara : don't let what your parents did , and how they made you feel come between you and your brother . If we were to have kids someday , wouldn't you want them getting along ?

I smile

Me : we're going to have kids ?

Zara : I said if

Me : wait , we can always start practicing . Like bit by bit

She laughs, I lean over giving her a kiss

Zara : Iam serious ..

She tries to push me

I laugh

Me : yeah , I heard you

Zara : you'll talk to him ?

Not now , but yeah

Me: yeah

She smiles and leans over with a kiss

INSERT 33

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Zenkosi

Being back home just feels strange

Having to tell the family now I'm divorced No doubt they're going to make a circus out of me

But my mother is okay

I think staying away , made things better

And she's happy about the fact that I didn't cut Royal away from her father

And well , I have Wenkosi to thank for that

We got to talk yesterday

Even though I still didn't tell her the real reason why the marriage ended

I don't think she will understand why I chose to just leave Kenan And not report him

These are people's lives they're ruining , and tearing up families . With their daughters they'll never get to see again

But like I said

I am sure he's not alone in this whole thing

Reporting him means putting my life and my child's life in danger, I will be selfish in that and choose our safety

Look how he managed to get his goons to hijack me from my car

And he got them to take Royal away from home

Just so I can face him again

I don't want to die and leave my child , or even have her dead

Over people who will still continue to kidnap and hijack women even after my death

I am not stupid

My heart goes out to those girls

But I'm being selfish , and choosing to live

He dodged cops , like he didn't exist

They arrested him so many times , and never even managed to make him spend a week in jail Never mind making the charge stick to actually make it to court in front of a judge

That on its own said a lot

lt's so not worth it

Those men are powerful and dangerous

And they have powerful people in their pockets

My child needs me

Playing wonder woman for other people's kids wouldn't work for me

She's with my mother in the garden

I think she misses the kingdom and just getting lost being all over

She was so happy there

She was always around with everyone there

And now we're back to being in a shell , just around two more people She doesn't get to roam around like she used to there , and she hates being indoors

Bendalo : who is he ?

I look at her , as she walks in the kitchen

Me: who?

Bendalo : King Musawenkosi Cele

I chuckle

This one is very nosey

Bendalo : you went to a whole king

Me : what are you talking about ?

Bendalo : hah ! I saw those Disney land pictures , he was just everywhere there

Me : he made that trip for her

Bendalo : mhm , already secured a step father

We laugh

Me : don't bore me , it's too soon . Besides , who wants a second hand of a woman ? Ndosi is a king , he needs and deserves a queen . That's definitely not me

She frowns

Bendalo : do not call yourself that , the men who lost you was their loss . The one who will have you , will be his gain Me : ah ! I am over being hopeful about that , maybe somewhere someone is holding my key to happiness with men and is not willing to give the key up

She sits down

Bendalo : he loves you

Me: who?

Bendalo : the king , who else ?

I laugh

Bendalo : it's the way he just looks at you

Me : you have never seen him look at me , what are you talking about ? Bendalo : pictures , and eyes always tell a story

Me : you have grown , and it's annoying

We laugh

Musawenkosi

Siya : when were you going to say she's back ?

I laugh

Me : for what ?

Siya : you have been crying for her , for two years . And she's finally back , traveling the world with you . So when are you marrying her ?

It's too early for such a talk

Me : is she available for marriage ?

Siya : I believe so , if she wasn't why was she in Disneyland with her daughter and you ?

I chuckle

Me : maybe we just bumped into each other

Siya : my friend , you're the worst kind of a liar

Me : well

Her call comes through

Siya : look at that smile

Me : leave me , I'll call you back . I have an incoming call

He laughs dropping the call , I answer hers

Me : mama

She giggles

Me : inkumbulo (I miss you)

Zenkosi : I miss you too

I request a video call , and she laughs accepting

Me : you're so beautiful

Zenkosi : I'm going to the office

Me : mhm , how are things there ?

Zenkosi : mom is okay , my sister is just interested in me rubbing shoulders with royals

We laugh

Me : it's a thing now

Zenkosi : yeah , and someone misses roaming around maidens and guards l laugh

Me : they miss her too , it's lonely here . Now we see and understand how we need a little person around

She smiles

Zenkosi : when are you making one ?

Me : I'm in the process , and I can get on the plane now . So we can practice more

She laughs

Zenkosi : why hasn't your family hooked you up with a princess ?

Me : I would literally order them to marry her , they're happy with their lives . They wouldn't want me to ruin them , over stupid actions

Zenkosi : I give up on you

Me : it's too soon

Zenkosi : Going on end , I have to go . Call me later

Me : okay , I love you

Zenkosi : I love you too , bye

She drops the call

I lean back on my chair heaving a sigh

Wouldn't marriage right now be too soon for her ?

Like won't she get nerves , and think it won't work ?

I do not want to lose her , but I also don't want to bombard her

Especially with marriage

Something that didn't work twice for her

INSERT 34

Zenkosi

Siya : how do I greet you ?

I laugh

Me : your wife is angry with me

Siya : please take a seat

l sit down

Siya : she knows you're back , let me know if you've divorced my wife . She's expecting again , hormones are just

He shakes his head

Me : wow ! And she didn't even tell me , shame on her

Siya : you're back , and she saw on Instagram

Someone please inform me, why a whole king is on Instagram

Like Wenkosi just loves things

Me : I have a lot of making up to do

Siya : good luck to you

He heaves a sigh

Siya : so , I have been informed of all the new developments

Me : relax Siya , I will not be coming here . I don't want the job , things will stay just as they are . Just that I hold the majority share now , and decisions are passed through me and not Kenan Siya : that's some relief , I thought you'll want me out . Because I most definitely don't even qualify to be CEO , Mr Black just did things however he wanted them

Me : I am well aware , but I know you're capable . And you have been doing a great job , I don't see why I should take that away from you Siya : thank you

Me : I am not staying , I was just passing by

Siya : let me just call everyone , and let them know

Me : is that necessary ?

He laughs as we get up

Siya : very much so , they need to know where their salaries are paid

So much drama

I will be seeing Lizwi

He will probably be the first to celebrate the end of my marriage

After his saga baby mama drama

His father came to my mother to apologize

And my mother poured that man with boiling water

And Lizwi said a whole list of insults at me

So things just went from sour to definitely bad

Yet he still has a job in this company that's now mine

Lady luck is on his side

Cero

He just stares at me

And the words are just stuck on my throat

Every time I try to open my mouth , it's like I will just choke

Leo : are you going to sit down ?

Me : I

I close my eyes for a brief second

Me : I am sorry

That even tastes bitter

He frowns looking at me with confusion

Leo : sorry about what ?

Must he really ask ?

Me : for hating you , because I felt you were loved more than me . You served a purpose to be king , and it's like I was nothing . I just invaded your sack , I wasn't even wanted . You did nothing

I open the door and get out

As I get to the parking lot , he grabs my arm

Leo : you're my brother , I love you

Me : I said I'm sorry

He laughs

Leo : you're just bad at this , I heard you . But I'm saying , I've never held anything your did or said to me . Because we're basically the same person me and you , and I cannot hate myself . Even if I wanted to hate you , I just could never

I heave a sigh

Me : okay , I have to go now

He laughs shaking his head

Leo : I guess she's that good for you , one day at a time and you will get better with your emotions

Me : fuck you !

I get into my car and drive off

Women are just scams

What do I care really ?

A whole grown ass man like myself , busy doing what I just did

Mxm !.

And if it wasn't because of Zara , I wouldn't have gone there

Zenkosi

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Mr Black : she has grown

I smile with a nod

There's honestly no getting away from these Black people

He called me after I met up with Thuto

And he asked to see Royal

It took everything in me to agree

Not that I don't want her to have a relationship with him , Royal loves her grandfather I just wish I didn't have to be involved

Because I think he knows what his son is doing

Mr Black : if it makes anything better , I long told him to tell you the truth . Long before he even married you

Mhm !

I hadn't even finished swallowing my words about him knowing

And now he's just admitted

Me : it doesn't matter , there's no going back for us

He nods slowly , and feeds Royal her cake

She's happy seeing her grandfather

This is the only balance we have when it comes to her grandparents

My mother and Kenan's father

Zara

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Me : hi

He looks at me

And he doesn't look okay

He left an hour ago

And he comes back looking like this

I have some worry

Me : is it safe to come in ?

Cero : come give me a hug

I hate coming into his study because it's creepy

I walk in , and he moves back with his chair and pats to his lap I walk over and sit on him, straddling him

I lean over and hug him , he hugs me back

Me : it's okay

Cero : I went to see Leo today

I smile

This is good for him

I didn't expect a miracle on just the first day

I am just glad he went and saw him

Me : you know , if you can be nice to your brother . Things will be better

I move back and cup his face

Cero : I am very nice , I am so nice that I am taking you out on our first official date

I laugh

Me : you trying to charm me ?

Cero : is it working ?

Me : mhm , let's see

I lean down pecking his lips , but he pulls me in for a deeper kiss

INSERT 35

TWO MONTHS LATER

Zenkosi

I look at this one , causing us a stare

Like child !

In front of the people at the mall

We really should have left her at home

Like my mother wanted

But Royal is sulking these days

I don't know what's her problem

My mother even said maybe l'm pregnant

And I am scared of that

Because even the first time, she wasn't kidding I realised this morning that I'm late on my periods

l'm 5 days late

Which is why we came to the mall , I need a pregnancy test

Bendalo wanted a few jeans

That's why I came with her

This one wanted to come with

Now she's here crying

Me : can you keep it down please

Royal : I want

Me : no

Royal : mommy I want it

Me : no Royal , you're not getting it

Royal : but mommy

And she sits down on the floor , crying

My phone rings and I roll my eyes seeing the caller ID

Bendalo : answer your phone please

Me : baby

Wenkosi : why is she crying ?

l frown

Me : are you having me followed ?

Wenkosi : I called you , I can hear her crying in the background

l sigh

This is too much

Wenkosi : why is she crying ?

Me : she's just being dramatic , and we're at the mall Wenkosi : you're having her have a fit in a mall full of people ?

Me : she wants to throw the fit

Wenkosi : why is she crying ?

I keep quite

Wenkosi : Zenkosi ?

Yhoh !

I'm being called with my name now

Me : baby ?

Wenkosi : I won't ask again

Me : why are you calling me with my name ?

Once a Zulu man calls you mama you never go back

I am not happy

Wenkosi : because I'm asking you a question , and you're not answering me

Me : are we fighting ?

Wenkosi : can you just answer me ?

I heave another sigh just bored

Me : she wants pie

Wenkosi : so just buy her the pie

Me : she's going to make a mess

Wenkosi : she's a child , she's supposed to make a mess

In who's car?

Wenkosi : that child has an allowance for a reason , she's not supposed to be crying for things like she can't afford them

I roll my eyes

Wenkosi : don't roll your eyes at me

Is he a seer now ?

Yhoh !

Wenkosi : give her the phone

Me: she's

Wenkosi : give her the phone

She's two years old , what does she know ?

Me : Royal keep quite please

Royal : no mommy , I want

Me : okay the king wants to talk to you

She holds her tiny hand out

I give her the phone

Traitor of a child

She wipes her tears off

Royal : my kingyesI want ...yeaokay ...

She's even nodding

Bendalo : remind me not never have kids

Me : don't ever

We laugh

I shouldn't be having more kids

Right now , I am scared out of my mind

Royal : okay

She tries getting up

Royal : ahwait

She puts my phone down on the floor

And she gets up , like an old woman of some kind

She picks the phone up

Royal : yealove you

She hands me my phone

Me : you're dramatic

She just frowns

Wenkosi : get her the pie , I'll call you later

Me : at least say you love me too

He laughs

Wenkosi : ngiyak'thanda mama (I love you)

Me : I love you too

Wenkosi : that's not what I said

He drops the call laughing

Royal : mommy I want two

Me : sis , that's not happening

I give Bendalo my card

Me: I am coming

I leave them , and walk out going to the pharmacy

I buy two pregnancy tests

I find them walking out of king pie

And she has two freaking pies

And eating them at the same time

I look at Bendalo

Me : really ?

She laughs

Bendalo : I have heard enough crying

Me : my goodness , that man is going to take my car to a car

wash . For a thourouly through and through wash , we're so driving to KZN and not flying

She is not even paying me attention

I shake my head

Me : let's go , before she cries for something else

We leave going to the parking lot

Musawenkosi

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Dad : when are you going to Joburg ?

Me : I am supposed to be leaving on Friday

Dad : supposed ?

I chuckle

Me : I have the new clinic inspection , so I will see . I might not get to go

I have been going to Joburg the past two months

Every weekend

It's just hard staying away from those two

I really don't want to feel the distance that's between us

So I try by all means to close it

Dad : you didn't call me here to ask me to oversee that for you ?

I shake my head

Me : I asked you here , because I want to talk to you and Phakade . He's on his way

Dad : what's this about ?

Me : I'll tell you once he gets here

He gives me an inquiring look , I just ignore it

INSERT 36

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Musawenkosi

Phakade is finally here

And the way they're just looking at me

lt's just very funny

Me : I would like to send a letter to the Nhleko , and ask for Zenkosi's hand in marriage

Dad : you do ?

Inod

Phakade : about damn time

I laugh

Phakade : so when can we send the cows , they've long been ready ?

I chuckle

Dad : what is wrong with you ?

Phakade : absolutely nothing , but something was starting to not be wrong about him Aibo !

Me : what ?

Dad : you're 31 , with no wife or child . Son that's not normal

Wow !

Phakade : so when should we go there ?

l sigh

Me : I haven't told her , but you can send the letter in the meantime . And if we do get a response from her family , then we can proceed

Dad : why haven't you told her ?

Me : I'm a Zulu man , a whole king . I will not get down on one knee and ask a woman to marry me

They laugh

Besides the whole thing of maybe she might not be ready for marriage again

I would honestly never do that

No ways

I will not propose

I do things the traditional way

Phakade : you're strange

I laugh

Dad : but we're proud of you still , and we will gladly send that letter for you

Me : thank you

Zwelethu walks in

Zwe : sorry to disturb

Phakade : what ?

Zwe laughs

Zweli : my king , you're needed inside your chamber

Me : what ?

He laughs

Me : who would want me in my chamber ?

Zwe : I'm just passing a message , daddy who is going home ? I need a ride

Phakade : boy , I don't want you in my car

They all get up

And walk out just being on his case

And I'm just like , who is asking to see me ?

And in my chamber

No one is even allowed to go in there

Not even my own mother

Zenkosi

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Me : take this

She looks at me

Royal : mommy what ?

I laugh

Me : child , take this . And give it to your king when he walks in here , and tell him we're having

a baby . You're going to be a big sister

She laughs

Me : don't bore me please

Royal : okay , I don't bore

Me : good girl

Royal : l'm princess

Jesus !

Me : yes princess

Royal : good princess

Mhm

This is why I am not supposed to be pregnant right now Me : good princess

She smiles taking the two pregnancy tests

The door finally opens and he walks in

Royal : my king

She screams running to him, and one test falls down

The shock and happiness on his face

Wenkosi : you're here

He picks her up

Royal : Huggie

I laugh as they hug

Royal : we come

Wenkosi : I see that , you didn't tell me you're coming

Royal : we here

Wenkosi : I am happy

Royal : happy too

Like really ?

Wenkosi : you dropped

He looks over

And he has his face down

I can't see his expression , I am freaking out right now

Royal : we have a baby

Only now she gives him the test , already when he's seen the one on the floor

Wenkosi : no kidding

I heave a sigh

Me : congratulations

He pops his eyes

I don't know right now if he's happy or what

Wenkosi : like we're having a baby really ?

He looks at Royal who giggles

Wenkosi : you're going to be a big sister ?

Royal : I big sister

They laugh

I guess he is happy

But right now I cannot bombard him

Because some people are very important than others

Musawenkosi

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Musa had to come and steal my baby

But now at least that gave me time to focus on these two

She's all teary now

I don't know what's wrong

I wanted us to talk

But she wasn't there

She wanted us to make love

We're cuddling in bed right now

Me : talk to me

Zenkosi : are you happy ? I know we never talked about kids , and it's been two months

Me : who is counting ?

I chuckle

Me : I am more than happy , I don't even know what to say . Like you've made me a father , and I can't thank you enough for that . It's a privilege woman , there's no way I wouldn't be happy

She smiles

And a tear drops on her cheek

I wipe it off

Zenkosi : I wasn't ready

Me : it's okay , I am here . And I'm not going anywhere , and nor are you . Or that loud baby

She laughs

I couldn't have chosen the perfect time to marry her

No prince or princess is going to be born out of wedlock

Not doing the marriage for the baby

Now we have the more reason to

I just hope she is ready for it

INSERT 37

Zenkosi

He sure took those news better than I thought he would

But I'm glad it's out of the way now

Even though I still have to tell my family

I don't know what my mother will say

It's not like I've introduced Wenkosi to her

But of course she has seen there's someone

And Royal is always talking about her king

My mother has no idea she really means he's a king

But maybe she thinks his name is king

The family is going to have me at their dinner tables , I will be their bonding talks

If only I could hide away, until this baby is born

But I'm only over a three weeks

We still have to go see the doctor

And do a scan , I'm not even hoping for a miracle that it's not true

Wenkosi said we will do that later today

I don't know what's wrong with now

Voice : a whole queen doing dishes

I look at her and laugh

Musa : what are you doing ?

Me : well

Musa : yeah but ...why are you doing dishes ?

Me : because there's dishes

Musa : there's help for that

I laugh

Me : I don't mind

Musa : this is not Sage's house , it's yours . Really , you shouldn't be doing such things

And she takes a dishcloth and goes on to help me

Musa : only because I'm a nice person

We laugh

I can never keep up with this woman

The noise that comes in

And I'm asking myself when did they get back

Because they went to the Cele house

Royal : hi mommy

Me : hi Royal

She frowns and her excitement disappears

llaugh

Me : l'm sorry princess

Musa : you know how to ruin a persons mood

Yhoh !

That's not necessary , what does a two year old knows about moods ?

Me : apologies

Wenkosi : let's go

Me : go where ?

Royal : we go ride horse

Me : no

Musa laughs

Royal : mommy go

Me: I am not doing that

Wenkosi : we can always leave you

Me : bye

Do you think they'll beg me to go with ?

No , they pick each other and go

But it's fine

I wasn't going to go and ride any horses

Never !

Kenan

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It's a good morning

Being woken up by a call from this tiny person of mine

Even though she calls at crazy hours

I don't mind at all

Royal : I go ride house daddy

l laugh

These calls are always about gossip and nothing else

Me : was it nice ?

Royal : had fun

Me : that's good honey

She smiles

Me : you're a big girl now

Royal : we have a baby , I big sister

Whoa !

For two years we didn't make another baby

Maybe if we did she wouldn't have left

Fuck !

Who am I kidding ?

She was still going to leave

Me : really ?

Royal : yea ...daddy we see doctor too

Okay

This is serious , and more than just mere gossip

Voice : hello ...

Ah, that's Zenkosi

Zenkosi : hihey , Royal why are you telling your father my business ? Business that has nothing to do with him or you for that matter

Royal : I talk daddy

And she laughs

Zenkosi : give me the phone , let me talk to him

Royal : okay

She takes the phone

Me : hi

Zenkosi : don't hi me , why are you two gossiping about me ?

You don't have anything to talk about , except me

I chuckle

Me : you're such a bitter woman , I swear it's like you're not getting dick

Her jaw drops

llaugh

Me : congratulations on the baby

She rolls her eyes

Me : I hope it's a boy

Zenkosi : what's it to you

Me : I don't want no one replacing my daughter She frowns

Zenkosi : you can drop this call , she's no longer here she went out

I am not shocked

Me : tell her I said I love her

Zenkosi : bye

I drop the call laughing

Zenkosi

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Me : she told Kenan

He laughs

Wenkosi : she will probably tell him everything mama

Me : Royal talks a lot

Wenkosi : kids talk

Me : not all kids

Wenkosi : she does , anyways what did he say ?

Me : ah ! He called me a bitter woman

Wenkosi : what ?

Me : it was just annoying , his words were "you're such a bitter woman , it's like you're not getting dick"

Doesn't he laugh too

Me : it wasn't funny

Wenkosi : stop being so hard on Black , he wasn't gossiping . She told him , and of course he can't ignore her . So obviously he was going to talk

Me : mhm-mhm , and he wants you to have boy

Wenkosi : I need a boy , someone who will take over from me

Wow !

Men are a lot

We went to the doctor yesterday , after they got back from their horse riding

So the pregnancy is really confirmed

INSERT 38

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Zenkosi

My mother's call so early in the morning

And I'm left alone in bed

Without a doubt

Those two are invading the kitchen

Me : ma (mom)

I rub my eyes , because I still need some more sleep

Mom : when were you going to tell me you're getting married to a king ?

Okay !

Scratch that sleep I need

Right now I am wide awake

Me: I am what ?

Mom : don't ask me Zenkosi , I have a letter in my hand right now . Delivered from the Cele Kingdom, asking for your hand in marriage

Me : nono that's not happening , there must be a mistake there

I drop the call

Damn being here , I can't just walk out as I am

And I haven't even bathed to change

I call him , and thank goodness his phone doesn't ring in here

After a few rings he answers

Wenkosi : mama

Me : uphi ? (Where are you)

Wenkosi : in the kitchen

Me : please come , and alone

Wenkosi : okay

I drop the call

Just as my mother's call comes through

Me : ma ? (Mom)

I am breathing so high right now

Mom : you just dropped the call on me , are you okay ?

Am I okay ?

Me : no , I am not okay . I know nothing about this marriage you're talking about

The door opens and he walks in

Me : mom I'll call you

I drop the call

Wenkosi : what's wrong ?

I want to burst right now

But I cannot do that , not with him anyways

He would put me in my place before I even say three words

Me : come in so we can talk

He closes the door and walks over sitting on the bed

Wenkosi : mhm

Me : my mother just called me

Wenkosi : okay

Me : and she says she just received a letter from your family , asking for my hand in marriage

Wenkosi : okay

Me : okay ? That's all you're going to say Wenkosi

Wenkosi : what do you mean ?

Me : I mean , tell me that's a joke

Wenkosi : I go around making jokes ?

Oh lord help me

Me : like seriously , this cannot be happening . You cannot do that

Wenkosi : why not ?

Is he not understanding anything about what he's done ?

Me: I know nothing about this

Wenkosi : you knew nothing , but now you know

l sigh

Me : you didn't even propose to me , how do you send your people to my family ?

Wenkosi : I am a Zulu man , this is how I propose to you . I will

not buy a ring and decorate your finger , and I not getting down on one knee

Someone please send help

Like serious help , and very fast . Because this is not on

Me : are you marrying me because of this child ?

Wenkosi : the day you got here , I was talking to my father's about this. This has nothing to do with you being pregnant, I know it might be soon . But that soon we also made a baby, what's stopping us from getting married ? Especially if that's what we want , if you're not there I will not push. I understand you have fears, because of the past and all. But it's up to your family to accept

our letter or not , we will take whatever they give us back . It's not like I am forcing you into marriage

I heave a sigh

The media will have a field day about me

My family , the uncles and aunts

Not to mention their kids

This is just a mess

Honestly, I don't see myself getting married again

l just don't

Marriage doesn't seem like it's a thing for me

Maybe I just need to stop doing it , and just accept it's not for me

Musawenkosi

Zenkosi : I have to go back home

I look at her

She sighs

Zenkosi : I hope you understand

What am I supposed to understand ?

Zenkosi : I need to go home , and talk with my mother . You really caught me off guard with this Me: I see

Zenkosi : please don't be upset

Me : I am not upset , what are you talking about ?

Zenkosi : this is just a lot

Me : it's okay , you didn't hear me say don't go home.

Zenkosi : I don't want to leave like we're fighting now

Me : you're making it seem like we're fighting , and I didn't know there was a fight here

I knew she wouldn't take this lightly

She sighs

Zenkosi : if I don't agree to marry you , is that the end of us ?

Me : okay , you're seriously going to tick me off . I am not Lizwi , and I'm most definitely not Black . Don't be comparing me with your past , what did I tell you yesterday ? Didn't I say I am not forcing you into marriage Zenkosi : l'm

Me : no , we're having a child . What makes you think if you don't marry me I'm walking away ? Please don't subject me to how men dealt you , I am not them

I get up and walk out

I don't want to argue at all

And she seems not to be for this

Now making it seem like I am angry or upset

Which I am not

I knew there was a possibility that she might not accept

But that's no deal breaker

I go into the main house I bump into my mother

Mom : I was looking for you

Me : I was in my chamber , we can talk now

Mom : you don't sound okay

I chuckle

Me : nothing I can't get over

Mom : you're worrying me , I spoke to your father and he said they've sent the letter

Me: yeah

Mom : you don't look happy

l sigh

Me : there's nothing to be happy about , Zenkosi is leaving . Where is Royal ?

Mom : what do you mean she's leaving ? Did you have a fight ?

Me : I have nothing to fight with Zenkosi about mom

She sighs

Mom : you're worrying me

Me : don't worry , I know you have to leave for Durban . It's all fine , wether her family responds us or not . Marriage is always a choice , and not a must

Mom : did she says no ?

I laugh

Me : to what ? I didn't ask her to marry her , if they decline it's fine . They declined , we won't roll heads over it

The look of worry she has

But seriously , this is not a big deal . And I'm not going to make it sound like one

Zenkosi is not a child

She's entitled to her choices

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Zenkosi

I call him

And it rings for a while

As I'm about to drop he answers

And he's quite

Me: baby?

Wenkosi : give me a sec , l'm doing something here I heave a sigh , as he's quite for a while

Is he avoiding speaking with me ?

Cause it sure feels like that

After a while , I finally hear some shuffling

Wenkosi : sorry about that

Me : baby are you avoiding talking with me ?

Wenkosi : are we not talking now ?

Honestly I feel like he's not happy

I wouldn't be either

But then again , can he just understand this from my point of view ?

When you know your man you know your man

And when he's not himself, even if he's not next to you. You can just tell

And we're not okay

Me : I am sorry I just left like that

And I had planned to spend more than a week there

Me : but I just had to come back to talk to my mother , her phone call threw me off . And I was just taken aback by it , and the whole marriage thing . You didn't even hint anything about it to me

He sighs

Wenkosi : can we please not go back and forth about this , really I am okay . Like I said , I am not putting you under pressure . The decision is yours , and whatever you decide I am fine with it . It changes nothing

I hear a voice on his background

Wenkosi : okay , I'll be there

I heave a sigh

Wenkosi : I have to go

Me : uhm it's fine , I love you baby I hope he knows that

Wenkosi : I love you

And he drops the call

I feel like breaking down right now

You know what they always say about a woman's intuition

I'm there right now

Wenkosi is not okay , and he won't be until he knows where we stand

The door opens and my mother walks in

She must be thinking I'm avoiding her

We didn't talk yesterday

And this morning , I've just been in my room

Mom : are you going to tell me what's going on ?

l sigh

Me : I've known Wenkosi for over two years now , and we

met after the almost disaster wedding with Lizwi . And we didn't get along at all , until I later found out he's friends with Thuto and Siya. I think we almost tried something, but as soon as I found out he was a king I walked away . More like we both did , but Lizwi held a braai. When I was already with Kenan, and we spoke over the phone there . And that was the last time we spoke , and I got

married and just moved on . One time as I was talking with Thuto already in Greece, she gave me his numbers. For what , I don't know . But of course , I didn't call him. Until the morning I wanted to leave Greece, I was scrolling through my contacts and I stumbled upon his number. I called him, and it was working . I got back here, and went to stay at his house in Sandton . But nothing

was happening, and nothing happened . As he was to leave for KZN, I wasn't ready to come back home yet . I wanted to be okay, so I am not bringing a burden of my hurt and pain home . So we went to KZN , nothing happened still until Royal's birthday. That's when we actually made things officially, to this day we never talked marriage. I was just taken by shock when you called

me about this , and he confirmed. I didn't know what to say, cause he didn't even propose. He spun me some, he's a Zulu man and will not get on his knees whatnot . I I just don't know, worse I went there because I tested positive for pregnancy. Just over three weeks, we confirmed with a doctor

She's so quite

And now I can't even bare to look at her

Me : I am a divorcee , I don't want to make a spectacle of myself and just have people talking about us

I shake my head slowly

I feel like tearing up right now

Me : I can't say I don't love him , because I do . And I don't regret this baby , as much as we didn't plan to have one . But I'm also scared

Tears escape my eyes

Me : what if this ends in ruins again ?

Mom : how can you start on a clean slate Zenkosi, when you keep looking back and just comparing? Yes what happened with Lizwi happened, you placed Kenan in the same box . He married you his way , and now that didn't work . You're placing this king in the same box as Kenan, you're already seeing this marriage in a divorce. Before you've even agreed to it, and you think it

will work . Look at me well , I don't care what people say . That family you're talking about , don't even care about us . So they will talk , they still talked with Lizwi and Kenan . And nothing will stop them from talking

I wipe my tears and look at her

Mom : whatever you decide , I will support you . They can even

call you a serial bride , I'm your mother I won't be moved by anything . But help me , help yourself and help that man . Do not agree to marry that man , if you're already seeing this marriage ending in a divorce

I have never heard my mothers voice so stern

I'm even shaking , and my heart is beating so fast

That sounded somehow , and I've never heard her speak like that

I watch as she gets up and walks out

I heave a sigh laying back on the bed

Oh what a way to be me

Musawenkosi

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Me : so what's happening ?

She shakes her head

Royal : I no like Ndalo doing my hair

I laugh

Me : then tell her not to do it

Royal : mommy says Ndalo must

Me : you have rights , you can say no too . Mommy shouldn't force you to like Ndalo , to do your hair

Royal : yea

Me : okay , tell her no . Give mommy the phone , I want to sleep . I am tired , and it's late got must sleep too

Royal : we sleep too

I laugh

Me : okay , I love you

Royal : love you

She walks with the phone , and hands to her mother who is laying on the bed

Me : why are you crying ?

She turns her head and looks at me, with reddish eyes

Zenkosi : they sent the response today

Me : why are you crying ?

She sniffs

Me : can we not do this ?

Zenkosi : I don't want to lose you

Me : you're going to drive yourself to insanity with these thoughts of yours, mama l don't understand how I must or should explain this to you . So why are you doing that to yourself, as if I said marry me by force . Or if you don't I will dump you , that's just crazy . We love each other , we're parents. Does the outcome of a proposal, end what we have ?

She shakes her head

Me : you're stressing the baby , stop with your tears and worry for nothing

Zenkosi : did you get it back ?

I chuckle

Me : did you hear what I said ?

Zenkosi : I am going to be a Cele wife

l give up

Now I'm being ignored , and she's telling me about things I didn't even ask about

Of course they sent a response back to our letter today

I know about that , but I'm trying to have a conversation

here . And a serious one at that I believe

I must just brace myself

It won't be easy being married or even being together with a woman like Zenkosi

She'll always have fears , I just have to try and understand her better But it also doesn't mean if she doesn't agree to something

I turn and walk away

That would just be stupid

I love her, and I love our kids

Nothing will make me way away from that

Me : mama goodnight , I love you and our kids

Zenkosi : it's fine , run away . You have a diamond mine, I want the biggest wedding diamond ring ever . And I'm planning both my weddings , I don't want no wedding planner or families doing the planning for me. No, I am doing everything myself. Your part is

just that diamond , like it must look like a diamond rock on my finger

Mhm !

I laugh dropping the call

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EIGHT MONTHS LATER

Zenkosi

Wenkosi : come see the baby

She walks over and he picks her up

And places her on the bed

Royal : mommy it's baby

She smiles

Me : yes baby , it's your baby brother

Royal : brother ? He's mine

Me : yes

This boy invaded my baby's month

Her 3rd birthday is just in a week

And he just came

Me : hold him , but be careful okay ?

She nods

I place him on her

And she just tears up

Wenkosi : what's wrong ?

Royal : it's my baby

Oh Jesus !

Really ?

Royal : mommy , I want to tell daddy

No !

But the look Wenkosi gives me

I don't understand why Kenan has to be a part of my son's birth

Wenkosi : let me call him okay ?

Royal : yeah

I also don't get why she gets everything that she wants

Wenkosi : here you go

I hold the phone for her as it rings , and he accepts

Kenan : hi honeywhat's wrong ?

He's so pink with worry

This is just crazy

Royal : daddy we have a baby

He laughs

Kenan : the baby is there ?

Royal : yes , seemommy make daddy see

Oh my God !

I turn the phone to the baby

Royal : daddy you see ?

Kenan : yes baby

Royal : he's mine

Kenan : of course he's yours

Royal : ohmy baby

Why the dramatic effects ?

My baby girl needs help

Kenan : you're a big sister now

Royal : he's a brother

Oh wow

Ever since the speech has gotten so better

We never get a break

And she's spilling everything and anything , that can get out of her mouth Kenan : that's nice , what's his name ?

Royal : prince

No !

No one is calling my son prince

Hell no !

l refuse

Kenan : well princess , that's very suitable . And very nice

No, it's not happening

I am so annoyed , and Wenkosi is holding in a laugh

Kenan : and who does he look like ? Royal : daddy he look like you

Can this end already ?

How can my son look like Kenan ?

Okay , he's a baby . And he's very pink and white

But still

Kenan : well then , he's a very handsome prince

Royal : yeahmommy he's heavy now

Shame

I can't deny that he is big

Me : take the phone , let me take him

Wenkosi helps us , I take my baby back

While she continues to talk with her father

Wenkosi : she's happy

Me : baby , please help me . Let her happiness end so far away from my son , okay ? We're not calling my child prince , hell no . He's already a prince by blood , why must we name him that ? Next thing people will be like , greetings prince Prince . No !

He laughs

Me : it's not happening

Wenkosi : okay Ndlovukazi (my queen) , it's not happening

Mhm-mhm

Now nothing beats being called like that

Who would have thought ?

Most definitely not me

Within a month after they got a response from my family

We were married

We did things this time around

We went the traditional route first , did everything from the dowry

The baby's damages , because we were not married when I got pregnant

And then the gifting ceremony

And the welcoming ceremony as a Cele bride

The bile ceremony , and being given a new name

And then we had the white wedding

The wedding that got me this big rock on my finger

The man listened , and he delivered

Wenkosi : I love you , and thank your for this precious gift

Me : I love you more

I am happy

Three years back , I would have never said I will have kids

No, not me

Today, here I am with two

And I feel so blessed to have them

There isn't anything I wouldn't do for these kids

I would lay my life down just for them

And well, I am the happiest I have ever been

After the wedding , I just went for therapy

Not because there were problems no

But I wanted that peace

And I wanted not to find Lizwi and Kenan in Wenkosi

It took me a whole 5 months , but I regret nothing

And on some sessions Wenkosi also attended

And I knew right there and there

That this , was it for me

I shouldn't have run away from this man

But then I did , and here I am today

As queen to the Cele Kingdom

And wife to this king

A commoner as I am

Royal : mommy , send daddy a picture . And Ndalo too , with Zwe

I just look at her with my jaw dropped

This one was sent to test me

Like what kind of a child do I have ?

The door opens , she screams and forgets there's a tiny human being in here

Musa : shhhhhthe baby

Royal : he's mine

Zwe : yeah , sure he's yours

He walks over to the bed , and looks at the baby

As the girls are stuck at the door

Zwe : he looks like me

Like really ?

A Cele baby looks like a Phakade

Of course that makes sense to Zwelethu

Zwe : Ndlovukazi (my queen) I do not like your eyes , but it's whatever . The boy looks like me We laugh

Wenkosi : don't let mama bear hear you say that , she said this baby looks like Black

Zwe : that one needs to go for evaluation , let me check how far her food is . Before she remembers she asked me to being her food We're all not safe

He takes his phone and fiddles with it

Zwe : just two minutes away , okay not bad . Let me snap a selfie with this dude here , my guy I have a feeling you're going to get me hooked

No !

Musa : Zwelethu you're disgusting though

Royal : Zwe where is food ?

Mhm-mhm

Zwe : let's go get it

He takes her hand

Me : don't show my child to your girls please

He laughs walking out with Royal

Zwelethu is the middle child , but he's a lot

Maybe because he's the only one

In between two sets of fraternal twins

That's why he's this insane

But one thing I'll forever be grateful for in this life

Is being a part of this family

With their family dynamics , and they accepted me with mine

They love Royal like their own

They're aunts and uncle to her

It's grandmother and grandfather to her

Even though she calls them dad and daddy like the kids

But she fits in here

And I couldn't ask for more

As young as she is , she also understands there's dad and grandfather

Her grandfather makes sure , he sees her every month

Mr Black is playing a role for his son , and he's just excelling at it

Kenan was stunned when he found out

That his father is so present in Royal's life

He said he thought I will cut off his family

Which meant his father didn't tell him anything

Overall, I am happy

Royal is just surrounded by loving people , who want nothing but the best for her

And I want nothing , but the same for my son

Third time , has proven to be a charm

The room fills as the door opens

And the whole family walks in

The mother and father's

Along with my mother and sister

This whole floor of the hospital has been booked out

So they can fill this ward , and just be at home

Nothing beats the love , and feeling of being surrounded by family like this

I look at Wenkosi , and he smiles taking my hand into his

Me : third time is a charm

He laughs startling everyone, including this little prince

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Zara

Me : what's this ?

Cero : open it

I wipe my hands off , and open the envelope

Me : Italian citizenship

I look at him

Cero : I know how badly you want to go back to work , and be a nurse again . I figured this is the only way , to give you that fast . Getting you're a permanent citizenship

I heave a sigh

Cero : you're not happy ?

Me : please don't get upset

He walks closer and picks me up to the kitchen counter

He gets in between my legs, and places his hands on my thighs

Cero : when am I ever upset with you ?

Me : this is huge , I should be ecstatic I know

Cero : but ?

l sigh

Me : the kind of man you are , and the fact that over the past months I have fallen for you . I love you so much , that now I don't see me without you

He smiles

Cero : that's the best news ever , marry me

I laugh

Me : I am being serious

Cero: so am l

What kind of a proposal is this ?

Me : and I'm going to say yes , see

He takes a box from his pocket

And he opens it , doesn't even say anything further

He slides the ring on my ring finger

Cero : thank you , so Mrs Ferrari to be . You were saying ?

Strange !

Me : something is wrong with me....

Cero : are you sick ? Should I call a doctor ?

Why is he panicking ?

Do I look like I'm sick ?

Me : no , I mean like

I take a deep breath , and he's just staring at me

Me : you know how I got here, and that means I know exactly the kind and type of a man you are . I made peace with the life I have now , crazy as it sounds . I fell in love , as much as it wasn't planned . All I'm saying is , even though I was kidnapped and chained also abused. You

rescued me from those chains, I thought I was in because of love . And you did give me a way out, but I chose this. Thing is, I cannot go and work in the health sector . I cannot now be marrying a man who traffics other women, and lord knows what you do with those women . And then in the midst of that all, I go on to be a nurse. I just

can't

Cero : you don't want to know really what I do with those girls , most I bought them and used them as drug mules and sex workers .

l sigh

Me : see what I mean ?

Cero : I hear you , but it's fine . You're good with numbers , you can go ahead and run the wine company . Now that's legit all the way , I don't even clean money using it

Me : make me an offer

He smiles

Cero : mhm , little flower you love money . It's just insane , but i will do that I will not be one of those women and bother myself

I won't beg him to stop what he's doing

Trevor knew what he was doing was wrong

Cero most definitely knows right from wrong So asking him to stop and all of that , would just be a waste of my breath

Maybe this is how life was laid out for me

To be chained like that

And only to be rescued by another

And well , I am turning a blind eye

I know my persisting won't bare any fruits

Me : great get me down

He laughs , and places his hands on my lower waist

Me : don't get any thoughts , France and I cook in this kitchen

I always thought there was a helper in here

And said I've never seen her

Well, it's always been a him

He's not a helper per se , he's just the chef

France , he's old . Like going on 50 , but he's still good at his job

Cero : you and France can wait

He takes my dress off

I used to be so sad and feel down because of these marks

Scared to be naked

But he embraces this body , like he's worshiping the body of a Goddess

Now I am myself and free to just be naked into front of him

Cero : plan our wedding already , I cannot wait to wife your ass woman I laugh as he picks me off the counter into his arms

And he lays me on the table

The very same table I was going to lay for dinner just before he walked in here

He parts my legs getting in between them

And unbuckles his pants , taking his dick out

Cero : I love you so bad

He rubs himself on me, and slowly slides in

I let out a moan , as he fills me up . Stretching me apart

Me : fuck l love you

He holds my thighs , as he takes slow deep strokes

Like he's studying my body

Where to poke , and where to just gently tap

I lose myself as pleasure rushes through my body

And I orgasm with his dick inside of me, going in deeper just giving me more pleasure

THE END