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Cursed - My Name Is Karma by Minenhle Nkosi

CHAPTER 1

'I am not evil. Never was. I was cursed. By a stranger because she was also tired of being like this. Karma is 'what goes around comes around'. This is a curse which is passed down from stranger to stranger. I know that it's a nightmare but I wouldn't wish this even on my worst enemy. Being KARMA makes you do unspeakable things bone thrilling things? Things that would make one question his one her insanity. My name is Karma and allows me to tell my story.'

What is karma? Many people refer to karma as a 'her'. Well they are not wrong there. There are many expressions they use with regards to karma. Like karma is a bitch or karma never forgets an address or karma will avenge me. While they count

on karma to avenge them, the internet and Hindu or Budd religion has also set rules or laws of karma.

They say they are 12 rules of karma. THE GREAT LAW OR THE LAW OF CAUSE AND EFFECT. THE LAW OF CREATION. THE LAW OF HUMILITY. THE LAW OF GROWTH. THE LAW OF RESPONSIBILITY. THE LAW OF CONNECTION. THE LAW OF FOCUS. THE LAW OF GIVING AND HOSPITALITY. THE LAW OF HERE AND NOW. THE LAW OF CHANGE. THE LAW OF PATIENCE AND REWARD. THE LAW OF SIGNIFICANCE AND INSPIRATION.

Well these rules were developed by people who have no idea about this curse bestowed upon me or any other woman before me to walk this earth with this curse. They had no idea that a whole human being was responsible for revenging those heartbroken, shattered and distraught souls. They had no idea how much this actually destroys one's soul.

I was 17 years old, had just written my last matric examination. I went to the mall, hoping for an ordinary day by myself. I didn't say goodbye to my family because I had hope and I knew that I would see them again. Little did I know that it was the last time seeing them in my natural original form.

It only took one handshake from a mysterious woman in a black robe for my life to change mysteriously. I don't know what made me shake her hand. Before I was not a very social person. I only got along with a few people. I was what you call an introvert. I had a serious relationship with my diaries and notebooks.

DROWNED IN THE SEA AND NEVER WASHED OFF. That's the story people got to know about my sudden surprising death. The news spread like wild fire. People treated the news of my death like I was some kind of a celebrity. My mother had a heart condition so she couldn't bear the news of my sudden death. Months after my 'death' she was admitted at the hospital for 2 weeks and died on the third week. She suffered from a heart attack.

After mother's death, the family never recovered. I was the last born. My siblings turned their backs on our home. They followed their careers which led them very far from home. My father got married again and his wife gave birth to twins a year after they got together.

It has been 7 years since I received or rather this curse was forced upon me. 7 years living in isolation. 7 years of hearing screams, cries, pleads from broken people. I just hear the voices any time of the day. The first time I heard cries and screams I nearly went crazy. The karma guardian only showed me what to do on that first assignment.

Being karma, you don't choose which assignment you go for. There is no discrimination according to gender

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sexuality, nationality or race. The first assignment was a gay person. He was gang raped by thugs from his neighborhood because of his sexuality.

He cried for a whole two weeks. He was even locked up in a mental institution because he was suicidal. He attempted suicide 5 times in that two weeks. The thugs were six. I dealt with them accordingly. Making sure that the body is found in public. I made them see their worst fears. The guardian taught me some spells. I put them to good use so that I could humiliate those who raped that man.

It took me 6 weeks to deal with them because I wanted each death to trend the whole week. The man recovered after their deaths and he went back home and carried on with his life. Well dealing with those who inflict pain on others doesn't only mean that I have to kill that person. Sometimes the best torture is seeing the person you were abusing free from the abuse and living their life to the fullest.

Like this girl who bullied and abused another in high school. I made sure to whisper some words of confidence to the victim and made the abuser's life miserable as hell. She even dropped out of school, the abuser, because she couldn't handle the victim prospering.

Sometimes you summon me by saying: 'karma is a bitch' 'karma never forgets an address' 'I wish karma to visit you'. Those saying automatically means you have summoned me and I must deal with the person who made you sad or broken. Sometimes it's not fair because even if you wished karma upon an innocent party, I have to come and punish that person because you have summoned me to your bidding without even realizing it.

Well I am always black long dresses and head scarves because I don't want anyone to recognize me or even see me. Being karma changed my whole appearance. I may be the same person I was before but when you look at me, you will see a hideous scary creature that doesn't belong in this world or that is an alien. That how they made me.

My face is full of those huge pimples, my nose is so huge, and I have huge lips and a big forehead. The guardian told me not to waste money buying face products for my face or going to dermatologists because it will be futile. Another thing about being a karma, you become super rich. You inherit all the money made by the previous karmas. You don't have to work or do anything.

I live in a deserted mansion in the outskirts of the city. I am lucky that some stores deliver even groceries so I hardly go out. I only go out if it's an emergency or when I am going to be working.

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I wake up with a major hangover. One of the things that make me cope with my miserable life is alcohol. I also have sexual encounters with different people from time to time. There is an exclusive sex club where people wear masks and have a membership in order to get into. The club is very high class and the membership fee is R1 million yearly. I have no problem in paying that money because I am monied.

I sit up and groan as I feel the headache attempting to split my brain. I make the bed and then go freshen up. When I am done, I head to the kitchen and drink some potion which takes a few minutes to cure my hangover. I make breakfast, sit down and eat it. When I am done I wash the dishes and clean the kitchen. The intercom rings. I check the screen to see a delivery man from an online shop. Finally.

I open for him. He drives in, places my package in the doorstep. Then leaves. I open the door, take my package and then close. I go to the lounge and unbox it. It's a black long sleeve t-shirt, black jeans, mostly black clothes. I go and pack them in my closet and go back to the lounge. While searching for a channel to watch

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the room temperature suddenly drops. I stand up.

This means the Ice Goddess – Seruva is here. Most goddesses bow to me. They treat me like a queen because I am superior to them. I have the ability to show myself to humans whereas they can't do that. They can only appear to gifted people. She appears in front of the TV wearing a long ice blue gown and her ice crown. Her face is covered with ice blisters. She is also like me. The blisters make her look hideous.

Seruva: “your highness.” She bows a little and then stands up straight.

Me: “how can I help you goddess?”

Seruva: “my castle has been discovered. It is under threat. Humans have discovered it and I heard them speak about exploring it and opening it to the world. They call it the enchanted frozen castle which is always frozen, even in summer.”

Me: “why don't you cast the spell of illusion? That will surely make them seem crazy.” She chuckles.

Seruva: “you seem to forget that you are one of the few who have access to unlimited spells. That’s why I am here seeking your help.” I huff. Sometimes I feel like they treat me like their errands girl or something.

Me: “how about we do something fun? Like spontaneous?” she frowns.

Seruva: “are you okay your majesty?”

Me: “I am super fine. I just want us to have a little fun. Toy with the humans. We can maybe freeze their wheels or just trap them in ice. They could be real life Anna.”

Seruva: “who is Anna?”

Me: “wow you have never watched Frozen? It's a movie about a young lady with ice powers.”

Seruva: “you do know that if I were to spend 30 minutes with you, you would freeze to death, right?” I roll my eyes.

Me: “you're no fun.” I close my eyes. “Excitare karma.” My outfit changes to the black long robe. My black scythe appears in my hand. “We can leave now.”

Seruva: "in arce glacies." I close my eyes as the room temperature drops very fast.

In a blink of an eye, we appear outside her castle. Well not every being can bear being inside her house. Only the fire goddess and the water goddess. I close my eyes and frown when I feel faint footsteps and whispers from a distance. More like a few kilometers away.

Me: "do you feel that?"

Seruva: "feel what?"

Me: "the humans. They are here."

Seruva: "how will you do the spell with them here?"

Me: "we will just have to kill them." I dissapparate and then apparate a few meters away from the humans. They haven't noticed me. There are 12 of them. An idea comes to mind quickly. I can blind their visions and make them see their worst fears. "Timoribus animari. Timoribus animari. Timoribus animari."

They start screaming and trying to run away from their fears but they keep bumping into each other. This is fun to watch. Seruva appears next to me.

Seruva: "what did you do?"

Me: "fear spell." she walks closer to them. She then closes her eyes and intense cold winds start blowing. They then suddenly stop. When I look at the humans, they are like frozen statues.

Seruva: "INTERMISSUM!" she shouts and the statues shatter and break to thin pieces. I walk to her.

Me: "get someone to retrace their steps and cover your tracks."

Seruva: "who?"

Me: "earth Goddess. Now let me do the illusion spell so that you won't have to deal with this shit again." I dissapparate and apparate in all four corners of her castle, leaving a cross in each. I then go to the gate. "Haec inlusio non operiet domum ad desertum." I chant those words 3 times and the house gets covered with a desert. "How do you like it?" I ask as she comes to stand next to me.

Seruva: “much better. I hope this doesn't give them ideas to build hotels or whatever these humans think of.” I nod.

I then dissapparate and apparate inside my house. I stagger back and fall down. Doing spells us not pleasant because I always lose strength after performing them.

Seruva: “your highness drink.” She appears with a potion in her hand. She helps me drink and then disappears again.

After a few minutes I gather some strength and stand up. And that's when I hear them. Distant screams and cries and pleas. The fact that they are distant means time hasn't come for me to rescue that person. I go to the kitchen to make myself dinner.

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'She screams and begs him to stop many times but it falls in deaf ears. He keeps going on. It's like her pleas amuse him because he is smiling widely. He grabs her throat, making her stand up and squeezes the life out of her. Her eyes roll back and urine trail down her legs. He frowns and then lets her go roughly. She falls to the ground and gasps for air.

Him: "now promise you won't meet up with that bitch you call a friend again or next time you're dead." She sniffs and nods quickly.

Her: "I promise." She knows not responding will make him angrier.

Him: "I love you. I really do. But you just love waking up the sleeping monster in me. Why? Do you like it when I do this to you? Is this nice?" she quickly shook her head.

Her: "no it's not nice. I will never speak to Nqobile again. I promise." He smirked.

Him: "now clean up and prepare food for me. You stink." He clicked his Tongue and walked out. She slowly stood up and made her way to the bathroom while sobbing silently.'

I wake up panting and sweating like crazy. It's been 7 years. I should be used to this by now but it always feel new and it hurts. Especially when I am dealing with victims of abuse. I would attend to this assignment ASAP but I am not powerful enough and I still need to get my strength back. I guess the woman would have to survive two more days.

I make the bed and go freshen up. Thanks to the global pandemic, one can actually go in and out of stores unnoticed. So I get dressed in a black long dress, niraq and black takkies. I take my handbag

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car keys and then head out.

Well apart from being karma, I own a few clothing boutiques and cafes but I hardly go check them because of what I am. I first go to the boutique which sells men's clothing. The moment I enter the shop, all the employees start moving up and down. I can feel their nerves and fears on my shoulders. I smirk. I love the respect I get from them. I go to the counter. Zipho's eyes pop out when she sees me.

Zipho: “good morning Miss Radebe. Everything is in order and our winter line is sold out.” Ziphozihle Ngema. She is a few years younger than me. She is one of the people I rescued but she doesn't know that. She was living with her father who was very abusive and harsh towards her.

Me: “have you place an order yet?”

Zipho: “yes Miss Radebe. It will be coming in two weeks.”

Me: “any new designers who have caught your eyes?”

Zipho: “Nyakallo Phatudi. He is very good Miss Radebe and I think he is worth giving a shot.” She hands me a portfolio.

Me: “where is Narekele?”

Zipho: “in her office Miss Radebe.” I head to the manager’s office. This is the only person in this store who is not afraid of me. Well she is not afraid of Yenziwe Radebe not the witch that I am.

Narekele: “Yenzi what a pleasant surprise.” She says with a smile.

Me: “how is everything going on?”

Narekele: “you know how hot the winter collection was. So it’s no surprise that it was sold out so soon.” I hand her the portfolio.

Me: “have a look at him. I wanna see his clothes in most of my boutiques by month end. Make it happen.” I turn and head out.

I then drive to the white river. It’s an enchanted river with its goddess or guardian. It does purify you when you have sinned but it also gives you strength. I usually order the water goddess to bring me the water but today I decided to come for myself. I park the car near the road and start my journey to the river. It’s about a few kilometers away from the road.

When approaching it, I am shocked to hear voices and singing by many people. I walk closer only to find people doing a ritual there. The goddess is lying by the rock in the center of the river and she looks injured. I walk closer to the people. One of them recognizes me. He turns and looks at me.

Guy 1: “who are you and what are you doing here?”

Me: “scutum et tenebris tegat mihi.” I whisper those words and an invincible shield covers me.

Woman 1: “she is a witch.” They start chanting spells directed to me. I smirk because they just bounce and go back to them.

Me: “you have no place in here. Leave while you still have your heads attached to your bodies.” Two of them run away leaving the woman who spoke and two men. “Last people standing I see.”

Woman: “you don’t scare us witch.” They join hands and start chanting a spell. I yawn.

Me: “as much as this is entertaining, I have better things to attend to. You have 10 seconds to leave this place. Starting from now.”

Man: “she is full of herself. Let’s see if she can stop this.” he cuts his hand and blood drips on the ground. I know what he is doing. He wants to summon a demon. I laugh.

Me: “suffocant et mori.” He chokes on his blood. His partners look at him. At this point there is nothing they can do. He eventually falls down and die.

Guy 1: “you will pay for this.” suddenly there is strong winds all over the place. Dust fills the place and the two remaining witches lose focus. I look up to see the wind goddess. I look at the two witches. “Moriatur.” They fall down and die.

The dust settles but the wind doesn't stop flowing. I lift the protection spell and quickly rush to the river. I dip my foot inside and scream when I feel an excruciating burn. Fuck this witches poisoned the white river. I step back and let my foot cool down.

Me: “Seruva dea glaciali vocavi te.” The temperature drops and the water freezes. She appears before me. She turns her head and looks at the water goddess. “Go to her. I will come back some other time for the water.” She nods and rushes to the water goddess.

I turn and walk back to my car. I know the goddesses will communicate with each other and sort out this mess. Nature is not my responsibility. I just helped where I could because they were nowhere in sight.

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2 ways to get rid of the curse they said. Well that's what the guardian told me. First is to pass down to curse to someone else just like the previous karma did to me. Well I have no intention of doing that to somebody else because I know just how fuckin terrible it is being in my position. Being without friends. Not being able to look at yourself in the mirror because of how hideous you are. Not being able to sleep sometimes because of the nightmares and the monsters that chase you at night.

The second way is falling in love. Well I think that's just mocking us because there is no way someone can fall in love with a creature like me. Not only do I look like a monster but I am one. I lost my humanity. Killing humans has become a norm to me. I don't feel guilt or remorse when I take a human life. The nightmares may come and go but I don't care because I am a monster.

Well death should be the third way to get rid of the curse because that means it will automatically transfer to another person. Now here is a trick. Being karma makes you an immortal. Trust me I tried committing suicide during my first

weeks of being karma but the guardian just laughed in my face and told me one I am in, I am in. only two ways out.

I get up and my head feels like it is going to split into two. I hear her screams and cries again. Ow God don't tell me he is beating her again. Two days in a row. That's just too cruel. If I can't get my strength back through the white river, then I have to go to the goddess of the black lake. The water from the lake has it's downside because it contains all kinds of evil. Gosh I hate using my powers too much because I have to restore them every now and then.

I bath and get dressed in my black pants, tank top and my black robe. I eat breakfast and then wash the dishes. Downside of living alone, you gotta clean up after yourself. I take my bag and go to the front door. I open the door and I am shocked to see floods. That means the goddess of water is out of her place. Why would she do that? She appears in front of me.

Sabina: "your majesty." She bows and then stands up.

Me: "What are you doing here Sabina? Don't you see the effects of your doings around us?" she looks around and shrugs. She then hands me a bottle full of white water.

Sabina: "I couldn't let you go to the black lake. You are not pure but you don't have to add more darkness inside you. Your majesty." She bows again and disappears. The floods die down. Appearances of the goddesses are always dramatic.

I go inside the house and head to the lounge. I sit down and drink the water. After a while I feel drowsy and I take a nap in the couch.

'Father God, I know you are tired of hearing my cries and please, but here I am again begging you to take me out of this misery. I have tried running away many times but I have failed. I don't have strength anymore but I am choosing to trust you because you made me and there has got to be a reason why I am going through this phase in my life. I am praying for you to save me and remember me ow mighty God. In the name of Jesus Christ Amen.'

I wake up gasping for air. In the dream I was shown the woman I was supposed to save, the man who has been abusing her and where they live. Their place is too far which means I have to catch a plane. Fuck I hate airports. They are too crowded and the presence of many people just stay heavy on my shoulders.

Anyways I have no time to waste. I get up and go back all the equipment I will need. I then book the next flight out and luckily I get a spot in first class. Lucky me. I freshen up and change my wear to Muslim woman clothing. I take my stuff and head out. I first drive to the mall to buy a new phone. I always smash my phone in the wall during my episodes.

I go to Huawei store and purchase the Mate 40E. The consultant says the photo quality is super high but that feature is useless to me. I mean why the fuck would I take pictures when I look like a demon? After the purchase, I head out and my heart almost jump out of its rib cage. It's my older brother. He is with a woman. I quickly look for a place to hide and then I remember that my whole face is covered. I relax a bit.

Him: "Miss

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can we pass?"

I look around and realize I am standing at the entrance. I just walk out and quickly run to my car. I haven't seen any of them

live in 7 years. I have always stalked them in my mirror or crystal. I start the car and drive to the airport.

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I get to my destination. I get into my rental from the airport and drive to a lodge. I check in and go to my suite. I unpack everything and lock the door. I then set up everything I will need. I take off my clothes. I wear a black vest, black leggings and black socks. I draw a circle with a chalk on the ground and gather all my stuff inside the circle, I also light candles and align them with the circle. I sit down with my legs folded inside the circle.

Me: “nubes et tenebrae conculcabunt me, omnis custodes est mecum. Ut conuenire dea ultonis reginae principes patronos affectus infirma.”

The lights flicker and the wind blows hard, switching the candles off in the process. The reason why I am summoning the previous karma goddesses is that the plan in my head need a lot of man power. The light goes on and the room is now filled with the guardians and thee guardian. You can detect the level of dark magic in this room even if you’re a normal human being.

First guardian: “you have summoned us child. What is it that you want?”

Me: “amplified man power.” I hear chuckles. “I need the grimoire. The one you have been keeping from me. It’s time you give it to me. I need it.”

Second guardian: “the time hasn’t come yet young one. When it’s time, we will bring it.” Ow for Fuck’s sake.

Third guardian: “for now I can lend you some of my powers. Penes me karma virtute custody partem karma vures currentem nunc redo rationem.” The room shakes and a light comes off from her and goes straight to my heart. It feels like I am being electrocuted. I fall to the ground.

First guardian: “child next time don’t summon all of us. Just as she said, when the time is right for you to get the book of shadows, you will get it.” They all disappear one by one. I sit up after a few minutes of recovering from that moment. I guess that’s a no to the grimoire but with the power from the third guardian, I can actually make my plan come alive, so shout out to her.

5

Me: "*crystal mihi abuser.*"

The crystal lights up and shows me the abuser of the woman who has been crying into my ears for the past few days. Looks like he is at it again. Drinking like a fish. I just know his next stop is at home where he will beat her like a drum. He gets into the car and drives off. He seems drunk. Wonder if he is going to get home safe. I wonder.

Names are not necessary. I have been karma for so long. Even if I had a sharp memory, I don't think I would remember the names of all the people I have helped and I have killed. I just refer to them as victim and abuser. I have memorized very few names.

I get up from the floor and pack up my things. I then wear my robe with sneakers and take my psyche. I disappear and appear in the middle of the road. His car comes with music blasting. He is speeding. I am sure he can't even see me.

Me: "*dea ignis vocavi te.*" I feel the heat before she can even appear. The goddess of fire, she is here. I stretch out my hand

and she takes it. I know I will get burned but it will heal. I grab it as hot as it is and clench my jaws. Grabbing her hand is like grabbing a hot coal. She is like Te Kā from Moana. Her grabbing my hand means that she will be visible to the human. "*Circuli formam ignis.*"

Sapphire: "*circuli formam ignis.*" A circle of fire forms in front of us. The car quickly come to a halt but a little too late because part of it is inside the circle. He tries to reverse.

Me: "don't let him get away."

Sapphire: "he won't." her voice is so scratchy. It's always like this. It's like something is stuck in her throat. "*Flammis producat illum ad Me.*" the car burns up totally. Miraculously, he walks out of the car unharmed. He walks towards the circle. Well not willingly, the flames are pushing him. He kneels at the centre.

Man: "please forgive me. You have already burned my car. What more do you want?"

Me: "your soul perhaps. Cool down Sapphire." She chuckles. She then let go of my hand. I step inside the circle. I walk to the

man. "What have your wife ever done to you for you to treat her like this?"

Man: "that bitch is the one who sent you? Whatever she said, it was a lie. I never did anything to her. I did her a favour by marrying her. She is not worthy of any love. She is just a product of rape who was also raped. I did her a fuckin favour and this is how she repays me? Ungrateful bitch." I squats in front of him and give him a mean punch. I then stand up.

Me: "I would love to manhandle you just like you have been doing to her but I don't have all night." I shove my long pointy nail deep inside his eye and pluck it out. "That's my souvenir." He screams like crazy and starts sobbing. I step out of the circle. I grab the goddess's hand once again. "Let's finish him."

Together: "*cineres ignis conburet.*" He cries out as the fire attacks him. I then free my hand from her hand. I already have a 3rd degree burn. We stand and wait until he is burnt into ashes.

After that I apparate in his house. It's after midnight. Most people if not all, are sleeping. I walk to the main bedroom and find the victim sleeping in a very uncomfortable position. She has tears on her face and her pillow looks wet. I squat so that I can be in the same level with her face. I then place my hand in her chest

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directly where her heart is.

Me: *"sumo ex universis dolor et gemitus. Omnis qui mala moments confractus est corde. Omnen memoriam, quod ei nocere non core. Ego autem princeps karma vindictae cupidi fuerunt, et anima ex toto corde tuo liberabo te virum posuit mentis in carcerem."* I repeat those words 3 times. I then feel the heaviness leave her heart.

I hope life treats her kind after this. She deserves a little bit of happiness in her life. I stand up straight and head out. I apparate inside my suite. I take off my clothes and take a quick shower. After I am done, I book a flight back home. I then set up an alarm. I go to sleep.

The first thing I do when I get home is a cleansing ceremony. I always do this after an assignment. Doing assignments doesn't drain my power because that's what I do. But helping other

people, like the goddesses' drain my strength. I finish the ceremony and head to the prayer room. I have a prayer room where I keep most of my valuable artifacts in. also my personal spy mirror is there. It helps me see things from the past and the present.

Me: "*speculum victimam ostende mihi.*" The mirror shows me what the victim is doing. Police just left her house a few minutes ago to let her know about the accident. She seems relieved and also a bit happy. This is what I wanted to see. If she was all emotional and shit, I would've went there and tortured her. I mean there is no way I would risk my life saving you only for you to be all sad and shit when you are free from your mental prison.

I then head out of the prayer room and go to the kitchen. I drink a healing potion and the wound in my hand slowly patches itself up. I go to the lounge and sit down. The ground shakes a little and most of the things inside the wall fall and break. Dear God, can goddesses give me a break?

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Well this explains why everything is falling apart. She is here. The empathy goddess is here. She is always emotional. She carries all motions and feelings of beings like us who can't express their feelings. She flops on the floor crying. Well not crying but weeping. She is expressing what I am feeling deep inside me. She is one of the few supernatural beings who can be able to express their feelings.

Empath: "you are hurting your majesty. Your heart is bleeding. It hurts your highness. You need to let go because I am also hurting."

Me: "you wanna play therapist empath?"

Empath: "if that's what it takes then so be it." I huff and lie back on the couch.

Me: "well you know that I saw my brother yesterday and it was torture for me. It was the first time looking into his eyes. I know that I was covering my face and that I am a total different person but it hurts that he didn't recognize me. He treated me like a stranger. I love him and seeing him made my heart bleed. Sometimes being karma sucks man. I hate it."

Empath: “your highness we’ve been here before. You just have to shut down your humanity and everything will be fine.”

Me: “easier said than done.”

Empath: “at least try distracting yourself with something. You can even go out and have temporary fun. I know this is my job and duty. To carry your feelings and emotions but your recent ones just fall so heavily on me. Release me from them. Even for a few hours.” I sigh.

Me: “sorry. I know how you feel. I have been a normal human and sometimes when different emotions overwhelmed me, I would just shut down or have panic attacks. Unfortunately for you there is no break. But relax. I will try and forget about the encounter with my brother.”

Empath: “that’s all I am asking for your majesty.” She then disappears.

I stand up and see something on my living room mirror. Most if not all of the mirrors in my house are enchanted. So I need not

to be in the prayer room to see some things. Just being in front of the mirror is enough.

Me: “Speculum-speculum in muro, ut ostensum est revelare quis ego sum.” It shines and then reveals a woman weeping. Ow come on. Did I have to get a similar assignment again? She is sitting in the shower floor sobbing silently. She is praying in her mind. I can hear her thoughts. Well that’s because she is tired of her life and is miserable. Otherwise I can’t read people’s minds. But sometimes I can feel what you desire or what you wanna do.

‘Girl: “I don’t wish for you to get me out of this hell hole. All I am wishing for is for you to accept my body as it is when I come to you because I know it’s only a matter of time before this bastard I am living with kills me. Oww dear Lord. Take me as I am”.’

There is no rest for the wicked I guess. But one night won’t hurt a soul. I mean I have just saved another woman literally a few hours ago. I need a break. A few drinks and some natural juices release is all I need before I tackle this assignment. I go to my

room to take a quick nap before going out. I need to be refreshed for the fun I am about to have.

«««««»»»»»

I get dressed in my black sexy lace up floral bodysuit, black Yaya Ankle boot and a black hijab that reaches my shoulders. I know the hijab makes people think I am a nun and some have fantasies of fucking a nun. I put on my black solid lapel neck longline coat and put on some jewelry to spice things up. I then puff my perfume.

I take my bag and head out. I get into my car and drive to the sex club. I don't need much today. Just someone muffing me and me reaching many orgasms. No penetration. I just wanna be pleased. I have been a member of this club from the first year I became karma. I am used to this life now. Nothing surprises me.

I get to the club and the valet opens the door for me. I step out and then hand him my car keys. I go inside the building. It looks like a normal building. But that's what it is on the ground. But underground that's where all the magic happens. This building used to be a hotel but it got shut down due to 'leakages'. I think

the owner of the sex club has made more money with the club than he would ever make with the hotel.

I walk in the lobby and a guard appears next to me instantly. He greets me and I reply with a simple nod. We walk to the elevator which takes us to the basement. The place is just sweaty and you can literally smell sex in the air. 80s sex playlist is playing. We walk towards the coats' place. The guard help me to take off my coat and hang it for me in the hangers. The hostess approaches me.

Hostess: "Miss D. good to see you again. What will it be this time around?"

Me: "for my own personal pleasure. No penetration." That's another thing you have got to like about this club. You come here with your mind made up and you inform the host or hostess what you wanna do on the particular evening and you will have a room ready for you in no time. The order is just impeccable.

Hostess: "please help yourself with a drink of your choice in the bar. We will be with you shortly." I nod and walk to the bar. I sit on the stool.

Me: “cranberry cosmo.”

Bartender: “only the best for Miss D.” he prepares the drink in a swift move and gives it to me. I take the first sip. It’s just so heavenly. An usher comes to where I am seated.

Usher: “Miss D, room I is all set and ready for you.”

Me: “thank you.”

I stand up with my cocktail and walk down the hallway. There is no sound proof in these rooms so you can practically hear moans and groans coming from inside. It’s actually great and arousing. Hearing someone moan in pleasure knowing that you are about to get some or have been getting some is a great sound. I get to room I and find a very sexy guy leaning on the dresser. He is practically undressing me with his eyes. I have fucked him before. He is really good in absolutely everything.

Guy: “Miss D always a pleasure meeting you.”

I finish my drink and put the glass on the table near the door. I look at him and he is licking his lips. He walks to me. He grabs the back of my head and raises my hijab so that he can have access to my mouth. He kisses me hard and fast. He leads me to

the bed and make me lie down. He lowers my hijab and starts worshipping my body.

He strips me off my lingerie then licks and explore my entire body, sucking on my breasts

massaging and fondling them, kissing my neck and shoulders, licking my thighs, squeezing and kissing my ass, brushing my mound, fingering and licking every inch of my cunt and even playing with my asshole, fingering and licking around it. He makes me cum multiple times until I have had enough. Damn I swear he went to Harvard for this shit.

7

I have decided to approach this assignment from a different angle. I am just going to toy with the humans. They can be very vile creatures. So why not hurt them like they hurt each other? Or better? Use them. I don't have humans. I am one after all. But I just hate how they hurt each other to a point that one even thinks of killing themselves as a way to escape their terrible lives.

I found out a fun fact bout the current abuser I am dealing with. He is actually having an affair with his personal assistant. They are busy making the wife a fool while this guy abuses her like crazy. Emotionally, sexually and physical. Sometimes I wonder what the hell went wrong when God created the other gender. Or they feel some type of entitlement because they were created first?

I get dressed in my nun outfit and drive to the abuser's work place. He is a CEO of this multimillion rand company. I get there and head to the reception area. I cite a few incantations and the receptionist quickly gives me the visitors' card. I head to the elevator and make my way to the last floor. There is also a

receptionist in this floor. As soon as I step out she looks at me. I give her a piercing gaze and she goes back to her work.

I walk to the PA's office and find her busy making calls. I get inside and lock the door. She looks at me and instantly drops the call. I smile and go sit on the chair opposite her.

Me: "you know me right?"

PA: "yes. You are karma. Wait how do I know you are karma? You can't exist. Karma is just a saying. It's not real."

Me: "then here we are. You can only see my true form because I want you to see me and because I have a task for you."

PA: "what do you want?"

Me: "straight to the point. I like you already. Anyways I have a perfume for you. I want you to use it from now on. It will make you have control over your boss. He will do whatever you want but only the things that I will permit. I want you to have him sign over everything to his wife and kids. He should change his will and his wife should inherit 70% of his estate should he die and the 30% will be given to the kids."

PA: "what do I get?"

Me: "you get to keep your job and your life. You are not entitled to anything that belongs to this man. I am karma. I have no heart. I only avenge the disadvantaged. Don't think I won't punish you if you don't do my bidding." I take out a perfume from my bag and hand it to her. "Start using it today. I am always watching you. Every day and night. Don't do something stupid."

PA: "okay." I smile and stand up.

Me: "it was nice doing business with you Miss Home Wrecker. You have 4 nights to make him do what I want. 4 nights. On the fifth day of this week, I am coming back and I want to hear about him having nothing on his name other than his job, clothes and cars."

PA: "so you will use me like this all the time?" I laugh.

Me: "come on. You're not lap dog material. And when I want something done, I do it myself. I am only using you now because you have contributed to the pain inflicted on the wife. Next time you will stay away from married men." I turn around

and head out of her office. I get to the elevator and find a guy inside. I just press the G button and the door closes.

Guy: "hello."

Me: "hi."

Guy: "you have a beautiful voice. How I'd love to see your face underneath that hijab." I laugh.

Me: "you concluded I have a nice voice after hearing a lousy hi? Wow." He chuckles.

Guy: "I wanted to get you talking and now I can safely say you have a beautiful angelic voice."

Me: "angelic?" I laugh. "There is nothing angelic about me or my voice. Don't judge a book by its cover. Just because I am dressed like a nun doesn't mean I am one." The door opens and I step out.

Guy: "can I at least get your number Miss nun?" I laugh and walk away.

««««»»»»

NARRATED

It was the following day. The PA

Nokuzotha, puffed the perfume and then went to work. She was super scared about what she was about to do but she knew she had to do it. She had faced death face on the previous day and she didn't want to do anything to upset that karma lady. She first went to Enhle's Sweet Tooth bakery where she brought 6 freshly baked muffins, two blueberry for her and 4 dark chocolate cocktail muffins for her boss.

She got to work and went to her office. She first went to her office to put her bags there, took her iPad and the muffins and went to the boss's office. She got inside and closed the door behind her. He was busy with a phone call. So she placed her iPad and the muffins on the table and went to his kitchen. She prepared coffee for the both of them.

When she was done she placed both cups on the tray and returned to the office. She placed the coffee in front of him and also placed his muffins. She then sat down and ate her breakfast.

Hazulwa: “you look extra beautiful this morning and your perfume is mesmerizing. What’s the occasion?” she giggled.

Nokuzotha: “I am always like this. You just don’t notice me.” he chuckled and ate his breakfast. When they were done, she took the things and went to place them in the kitchen. She went back to the office.

Hazulwa: “come here.” she cat walked to him and he just sat back and admired the goddess in front of him. She sat on his lap. He kissed her and she responded. They went on and on. They undressed each other and she started riding him. He groaned like crazy. “Anything you want baby, it’s yours. Just say the word.” She nearly froze. This meant the perfume was already working.

Nokuzotha: “sign over all your assets to your wife and update your will. Make her inherit 70% of your estate and direct the other 30% to your kids.”

Hazulwa: “anything for your baby. Fuck you are so tight and warm.” She increased her pace and he screamed like a little girl. “I will do it today. I promise. Just continue riding me like that baby. Just like that.” he held her waist tighter.

8

I smile as I see that the PA came through. Although she ended up demanding a million rands from the guy, I don't care because she completed her mission. If I needed a lap dog I would definitely use her. She just complied and got the job done very fast. There is nothing much to do here.

Now that everything is the wife's name, I have to just whisper a few words in her ear and everything will fall into place. Fuck my job can be fun sometimes. I have also dispelled the perfume so that she won't be able to use it anymore since her mission is done. You can never know with these humans.

It's been three days and now everything is under the woman's name. Abusers can be very crazy sometimes. Let's see if he will continue being all mighty and powerful after he is stripped off his wealth and status. I clear my throat and dial the wife's number. She answers after a few rings.

Wife: "hello."

Me: "good morning. Am I speaking to Mrs. Masiphile Mkhonza?"

Wife : “yes this is she. Who am I speaking to?”

Me: “you are speaking to Duduzile Mkhanda from Bathenjwa and Associates.”

Masiphile: “that's where my husband's lawyer works.”

Me: “and I am his PA. I am just doing a regular check up ma'am. I don't know if you know but your husband has recently transferred all his assets to your name. Everything that he owns except for his car, the 2019 Black BMW M series, belongs to you.” She keeps quiet for a while. She then chuckles.

Masiphile: “is this some kind of a sick joke or a prank?”

Me: “no ma'am. This is the truth. I can email you all the paperwork. He also made sure to unjoin your bank accounts and everything else. If you were undergoing a divorce, I'd say you are like free from him right now.”

Masiphile: “wow.” I hear sniffs and later on she sobs loudly.

Me: “Mrs. Mkhonza are you okay?”

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Masiphile: “yes. I am fine. Thank you for informing me. Out of curiosity, does his company also belongs to me?”

Me: “yes. You can even kick him out if you want to.” I say in a humorous tone but I am wishing she does kick him out.

Masiphile: “thank you for informing me about this.”

Me: “you're welcome. Have a good day.” I hang up and smirk. I hope she makes his life a living hell. Luckily they are married out of community of property, so he won't have any claim over the assets should they divorce or should she die.

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NARRATED

Masiphile quickly gathered her stuff. She then texted her friend who works at Bathenjwa and Associates to send her the recent paperwork which stipulates that she owned everything that belonged to her husband. Her friend quickly sent her the details and she gasped shocked. Now she knew that this was no prank.

She packed all the kids clothes and her clothes. She then went to put them on her car. She went to her husband's study and printed the documents. When she was done, she unlocked his safe and took out all her important documents and the jewelry and money that was inside.

She locked up every room and then went outside. She drove off the car and went to the bank. She enquired and found out that the money that once belonged to her husband now belongs to her. She shook her head not believing this. She then opened a new account where she asked that all the money be transferred to.

When everything was set at the bank, she went to fetch her kids and drove to a lodge on the outskirts of the city. She informed her siblings of her whereabouts and then settled in.

Young girl: “mommy why are we here?”

Masiphile: “mommy is finally leaving daddy and we are going to stay in a big house. Just the three of us.”

Young boy: “will you buy me a PS5?”

Masiphile: “anything you want my boy and you my princess.”
The kids cheered.

She didn't know what made her husband sign things to her but she wasn't going to wait around. First thing tomorrow morning, she was going to go to Dibbers Agency to request 4 bodyguards. 2 for her and 1 for each kid. Her husband was an unpredictable man and he could do anything when provoked so she needed to make sure that she and the kids are safe at all times. But at least life was looking up now. Perhaps there was light at the end of the tunnel.

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I like how Masiphile was quick to leave her husband and all the other things she did to keep herself and her kids safe. Now that woman is very wise. I hate those weak women who confront men thinking they now have the upper hand because that's when the men do unthinkable things like killing them and silencing them for good.

I prepare myself for the day ahead and then go to my library. I am cooped up in my house most of the days so reading is more of a necessity so that I don't go crazy. I take the novel I last read and didn't finish, *Black Edge* by Charlotte Byrd, and continue reading it.

I love novels like these. Fiction and dark romance. They make us escape our own realities. Honestly I hate biographies and 'based on a true story' novels because they bore the shit out of me. I want something fantastic to imagine and something out of this world. I wanna think about those billionaires with chiseled jaws, toned muscles and huge dicks.

Anyways this novel is so interesting. It's about a post graduate middle class woman who goes to a very private cruise party. In

the party, she participates in a sex auction willingly and she gets to be bought with \$250 000 just for one night of passion. She gladly accepts the money because she has an outstanding \$150 000 student loan debt.

As I am reading the first sex scene, my mind drifts off and I find myself thinking of sensual sex and hard core fucking. Gosh I feel so horny right now. I now know that by the end of tonight, I will be at the sex club getting fucked mercilessly by any of the gifted guys there.

«««»»»»»

Not being satisfied by the lingerie in my closet, I dress up in a black jumpsuit, black boots and black knee length coat. I put on a head scarf and put a bandana to cover my nose and mouth. I take my bag and head out. I climb in my car and drive to the mall. I am so lucky it's mid-month so there is less chaos and crow. Plus I am only going to one shop and then go back to my house.

I get to the mall and park my car. I then go to the lingerie shop. When I enter I just know I won't be buying one piece but many pieces because there are so many of them calling my name. I

take the shopping basket and put in the first piece I see. It's a black 2pack cut out ring linked PU teddy bodysuit. It has that leather material and I can't wait to have it hug my skin.

I am drawn to the black ringed harness underwire garter lingerie set next. Gosh I can see myself swinging side to side in this piece. Suddenly I wanna go and buy some black pair of new heels to match with it. I put it on my basket and carry on. I take another black piece which is an appliques mesh cut out underwire lingerie set. It's no surprise that I am attracted to black. I am a black witch after all. I mean 98% of my clothes are black.

I take other two pieces. One navy and one red. I then take 3 exotic masks. I then pay for my items and as I am about to head out, I see the guy from Hazulwa's work place. The one who called me a nun with an angelic voice. I am just praying he doesn't recognize me. As I am about to pass him, he chuckles. I turn and look at him.

Guy: "one day I am a nun, another I am a regular classy woman. Who am i?" I chuckle and roll my eyes.

Me: "a regular woman."

Guy: "I never forget eyes Miss Nun especially yours. They are mesmerizing and just so attractive. I am Monte by the way."

Me: "and I am walking away." He laughs and I just leave him standing there.

Monte: "I am going to stalk you until you give me your name and your number." He shouts behind me. I just laugh and carry on walking.

I get to the shoes store and I buy two high heels. The first are black strappy pointy stiletto heels and the second ones are black tie around ankle bar heels. I pay for them and then head to the parking lot. I am suddenly craving for braaiied meat. I climb into my car my car and drive to the nearest Shisanyama. I get there, park my car and go inside. I place my order and go occupy a vacant table.

Voice: "we meet again." I look up to see Monte. Oww help me God. I swear if I felt him coming, I would've made myself invincible. He actually has the nerve to invite himself in my table. He settles down next to me.

Me: “silentium.” I murmur a spell. I nearly fall down the stool when I hear his laughter. Don’t tell me the spell didn’t work. Maybe I didn’t say it loud enough. I look at him.

Monte: “you can tell me your name now.”

Me: “I am karma.” He laughs and rolls his eyes.

Monte: “yeah. Nice try. Now tell me your real name.”

Me: “I am karma. If you don’t believe it then that’s your business not mine.”

Monte: “okay. Let’s say karma is your alter ego. What is your real name?” I shrug.

Me: “I don’t know.” He grunts.

Monte: “I don’t know if you’re playing hard to get or this is just your usual normal self. In any case, you are a difficult person.”

Me: “just because I am not telling you my ‘real name’?” I use quotation marks. He chuckles and nods. I roll my eyes. My order comes together with his. I am glad I ordered a take away. I give the waiter cash and stand up. “Keep the change.”

Waiter: “thanks ma’am.” He walks away.

Monte: “at least give me your number.”

Me: “I don’t have a cellphone and I am not playing hard to get or whatever. I really don’t own a cellphone. I do have an iPad, a notebook and a laptop.” He stands up.

Monte: “you are not a social person?”

Me: “I am kind of a loner.” I say shrugging. “Anyways nice knowing you Monte.” I walk away.

Monte: “we will meet again karma.”

Me: “yeah right.”

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I open my legs and he kneels between them. He kisses the soft skin under my knee, wedging his shoulder under her legs to hoist over his arms. His tongue is making lazy circles against my skin

moving up towards his goal. I moan in pleasure. He pulls me gently to the edge of the bed and dives in the forbidden fruit. He starts licking, biting and fingering me. He is doing this so fast, he is not giving me time to take a breath or moan slowly. I cry out as he bites my clit.

He opens his mouth, covering as much of my slit as possible, excluding my clitoral area and continues to suck hard. I scream out loud and cum all over his face, my fluids gushing into his mouth. He doesn't let me rest. In fact he chases another orgasm, biting, sucking and nibbling really faster this time around. It doesn't take much for me to cum again. Gosh. This is exactly what I needed.

He grabs his big cock by the base and slides it towards my pussy. He takes time to adjust himself inside my warm pussy. He slides out and eases back in, pushing forward with a smooth, slow thrust, going all in the way to the hilt. 'Fuck'. He begins to move, slowly at first, but eventually picking up the speed as he goes. I can feel his balls slapping against me with every fuckin movement.

He quickens his pace stroke by stroke. I am holding tight onto the sheets. The pleasure I am feeling is out of this world. Our moans and groans fill the room. He fit a hand around my hip, tilting me up towards him for deeper penetration. I gasp as I feel him poke my womb. He gives it to me hard, fast and deep. 'I am going to cum'. I yell out. He brings his hand between us

and flicks my clit. Without warning, I release all my cum around his dick.

After recovering from that, I grab his butt and bring him closer to me. He groans and delivers deep fast strokes. Within a few moments, he shoots his semen deep inside my cunt. I gasp as I feel him fill me up. He slowly pulls out and collapses next to me as he tries to catches his breath.

Companion: “damn Miss D. that was hot.” I chuckle and lean back on the headboard.

NARRATED

Monte was coming back from his morning jog when a huge force came out of nowhere and hit him. He landed on the street light and passed out immediately. The goddess of darkness looked at him and smirked at her work. She felt her body boil and before she could turn around, a ball of fire hit her in the back and she fell down.

Sapphire: “you have no place here Nyx. What are you doing with the human?” the goddess gained her strength and stood up.

Nyx: “corvi de tenebris ad factorem tuum,” crows came to her and lifted her up. “I was just having a little fun with him but you spoiled it with you superhero bullshit.” Sapphire chuckled.

Sapphire: “how is it that Karma meets a human who is immune to her spells and all of the sudden the goddess of darkness pays the same human a visit? Don’t you think it’s too much of a coincidence?”

Nyx: “yeah. It was a mere coincidence.”

Sapphire: “now leave before I burn you to ashes.”

Nyx: “you know very well that I will rise like a phoenix.”

Sapphire: “but seeing you burn will bring pleasure in my eyes.
Now leave Nyx.”

Nyx: “you’re no fun.” She disappeared with her crows. Sapphire nearly went near the human but she knew that he would literally burn to ashes.

Sapphire: “Gaea deam terris accerso.” The ground shook and Gaea, the goddess of earth appeared. She looked at sapphire and then looked at Monte lying on the ground. “You know what to do.” She then disappeared.

Gaea knelt down and picked up Monte. She then went inside his house. She placed him on the couch and then fed him some leaves. She then blew some air into his nose. He coughed. She then disappeared. He moved a little and then opened his eyes.

Monte: “what the fuck happened? How did I end up here?”

«««»»»»»

I shower and get dressed in shorts and a tank top with slippers. I go downstairs and find myself standing in front of a mirror. A little girl shows up in the mirror. She is crying and scribbling things up on her notebook. Next I am shown the girl growing into a teen. She is also crying. I see another talking crap to her and actually bullying her.

'Abuser: "you are so dumb. You can't even lie to your parents about little things like going to the park. You are such a loser. Arg just die already." She walked away. The other girl sat down and cried. A guy approached her.

Guy: "hey big titties and ugly nose. What are you doing here sitting like an orphan and shit?" the girl stood up and walked away. "Hey I am talking to you. You can't just walk away while I am talking. That's some disrespect on another level." She stopped for a few seconds and then continued walking away. "Arg whatever ugly Nelly. Nobody wants you anyways."

Nelly was now all grown but she was still being abused by the same people who bullied her in her teen years. She now has a boyfriend but he also treats her shitty and abuses her

emotionally every chance he gets. She jots down in her diary or notebook.'

Me: "ut exemplum mihi ullamcorper." A copy of the notebook appears in my hand. I go to the library and sit on the couch. I open it and start reading it.

'Dear Diary

Today is my birthday. I didn't celebrate it like usual. I should be used to it now because it happens every year. Mom sent me a text message and a gift card like usual. She is a writer in North America. She chose to follow her career and let me behind. It hurts but I guess I am used to hurting. Nobody cares about my feelings.

It happened again today. Sindile came and threw multiple insults at me. This time she even added that nobody loves me. Even my mother ran away from me. She made me a laughing stock. She never gets tired of teasing and bullying me. I guess her power grows every time she abuses me. I hope one day she can just forget about me and live her own life.'

'Dear Diary

Even in varsity

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Sindile continues to torment me. This time I found her sitting with my so called boyfriend. They teased me about my big boobs and Sindile pointed out my nose. Together they laughed at me. They even attracted a crowd. Everyone laughed at me and a certain friend of Sindile captured the moment and posted it on the varsity's students group. I am so humiliated and I wish I can just disappear from the face of the earth.'

I continue reading and my heart breaks with every entry. This Nelly has been through a lot. I hate bullies like Sindile because most of the time they are burying their insecurities by targeting weaker people. I place the notebook on the table and stand up. I go to the kitchen and eat my breakfast. I then go outside and frown when I see Sapphire and Gaea standing on the middle of my lawn.

Me: "what is it?" when two goddesses appear, it can never be good news.

Sapphire: "Nyx attacked a human few minutes ago out in the open."

Gaea: "it's the human that you ate with yesterday." I frown and then remember having a surprise lunch date with Monte.

Me: "you mean Monte?"

Gaea: "yes. She hit him and he broke his spinal cord. But I healed him. If it wasn't for Sapphire, Nyx would've gotten away with it."

Me: "why him?"

Sapphire: "seems like the forces of darkness don't want you getting close to any humans. If I wasn't there, Nyx would've killed the human. I saw it in her eyes. She was on a mission to kill him."

Me: "so what do we do to ensure that he is protected at all times?"

Sapphire: "pay Nyx a visit. If not so, I will take her straight to hell and torture her myself." she then disappears. I look at Gaea. Me: "you also think I should pay Nyx a visit?"

Gaea: "it's all your call your majesty. You just need to do right by the human." She also disappears. The Nyx poked a sleeping bear. I hope she is ready to feel my wrath.

I am woken up by Nelly's cries and pleas. When I got back from my talk with the goddesses I decided to take a nap so that I don't end up taking impulsive decisions. I know for sure that once the dark world starts with you, it can only end in pain and suffering or even death, unless you are lucky to be favoured by the gods or in this case goddesses.

There is a reason why the goddess of darkness went after Monte. I mean how much of a coincidence that Monte is somehow immune to my spells and then all of the sudden Nyx pays him a visit, or rather attacks him? I need to consult someone about this but I am not sure who to trust after this attack.

I gather up my strength and get up from the couch. I have thought of ways to save Nelly. One good thing is that she is very talented. She can draw and she also can sing very well. I just have to make sure her talent is exposed out there and people start liking her instead of bullying her. This means I have to go to the university. Fuck I hate field assignments because I don't do well with crowded places. At times like this, I wish I had minions to send around.

I go to my room and change to a black sexy ankle length skinny pants jumpsuit, black D&G boots, black turtleneck hidden button mid-length trench coat and black hat. I go to my crystal and search through a video of Nelly singing. Navigating and manipulating the crystal to make you see what you wanna see can be quite hard at first but with time, it gets better. I use my powers to copy it to my tablet and then save it.

I quickly send it to the number one producer at Blue Diamond Music, Sandile Ntuli and I make sure I see him view the video and see the contact details of Nelly before anything. He calls one of his co-workers and shows them the video. I smile a little. I then gather my stuff and head out. I drive to the university, a very long 2 hour drive but I rather be alone in my car than being squashed in a plane with humans.

I get to the campus, sign in and drive to the Students Representative Council offices. Before being forced to become karma, I had a dream of going to a university. The University of Zululand to be precise. I wanted to do Social Work but my plans got ruined in an instant.

Anyways after parking my car, I wear my sunglasses with face mask and then I climb off the car after taking my bag. I go inside and walk to the reception. No offence but the lobby is full of students wearing political parties' t-shirts and they are talking very loudly. I sigh and walk to the person seated behind the desk.

Me: "good day. I am Miss Langa from Blue Diamond Music and I am here to see Thembeke Caluza who is the Public Relations Officer."

Girl: "welcome. Please excuse the noise. These people tend to behave like hooligans. I am Simphiwe by the way, a self-appointed receptionist. Anyways Caluza's office is the second door on your left down the hallway. You can go in. she is alone."

Me: "thank you."

I head down the hallway and stop in front of the door written Cde T. Caluza

Public Relations Officer. I knock and enter without her response. She stands up as soon as she sees me. She has this

welcoming aura. Although this little office is stuffed and has a distinctive smell, her welcoming aura makes everything bearable.

Thembeke: “hello. I am Thembeke Caluza, the PRO and you must be Miss Langa. Simphiwe just quickly called to tell me you are here to see me.” I chuckle.

Me: “that was fast.”

Thembeke: “she is nosy that one. She wanted me to tell her all about your visit once you’re gone. Welcome to my small office.” She extends her hand and I look at it. I don’t shake hands because a touch of another person’s hand can tempt me to pass on the curse and this young girl has a bright future ahead of her and I don’t wanna jinx it.

Me: “I prefer a hug.” I know I will regret this but I don’t wanna turn her down. She smiles and comes forward. We share a brief hug and then sit down. “I will just get right to the point. I am from Blue Diamond Music. Before we talk about music, I wanna talk about the university’s talent. What is it that you do or what platform do you provide for talented students? From drawing

to singing, dancing, writing? What are you as the SRC doing?" she swallows hard and looks at her fingers.

Thembeke: "it's really embarrassing to be asked of a question like this because we don't have an answer. We just think hosting a bash or gala dinner for students every once in a while is enough."

Me: "not everything is about students' grievances when it comes to academics, finances and mental health. After you've solved those problems, what do you do about the other stuff I have mentioned?"

Thembeke: "I think I should call the president and the secretary. If I am to be crucified, at least they must also feel the heat." I laugh.

Me: "you can call them after I am gone. I don't do well when I have to address two or more people. Anyways you can host an art show for students that draw, design and whatsoever. You can maybe discuss with them and make them pay at least 10% of their profits to you because I know how much the SRC loves money." She chuckles.

Thembeke: “you got that right.”

Me: “have an open gallery, I can even get some of my colleagues to come and make sure they buy the art. Anyways I will talk about Blue Diamond maybe the next time I come back or maybe you will meet up with any of my colleagues. I want you to advertise or rather showcase one of the best masterpiece done by Nelisiwe Msomi who is a first year student in production. She has some self-esteem issues but I am sure this will cheer her up.” I take out a picture from my bag and hand it to her.

Thembeke: “wow this is beautiful.”

Me: “and there is more where it came from. I am expecting you to host an open gallery in a month and I will make sure I come.”

Thembeke: “thank you so much for opening my eyes to this. I will definitely call a meeting and then we will be discussing this issue further.”

Me: “if you need some sponsorship don’t be shy to send me and email.” I write down my email and give her the paper. “Till

we meet again Miss Caluza. You have a very good heart and the man upstairs put you in this position for a reason. Don't let other people or greed tell you otherwise. Farewell."

I go outside and I am met by a cute guy. Maybe this assignment will be more fun than I thought. I stop him and take off my glasses. I look deeply into his eyes and just like that, he is under my spell.

Me: "you will befriend Nelisiwe Msomi. You will take her out and make her feel good about herself. You will remind her every day of how beautiful she is and you will remind her of her worth. You will protect her from everyone who wishes to cause her harm. You will be her knight in shining armor and you will always be there for her but you may not in any circumstances take advantage of her or date her. If so, you will die. Understood?"

Him: "yes you majesty." Humans.

I smile and put on my glasses. I walk to the parking lot and come to a halt when I see Nelly not far from my car. She is actually seated at a bench and seems like she is drawing the

car. Well I won't interrupt her. I go to the bench and sit not far from her.

Me: "it's a beautiful car right?" she giggles and nods. She is not shy in nature but the bullying she has been subjected to has changed her.

Nelly: "it's a beast." She starts explaining every little detail in the car. Her face lightens up. It's like she is in her zone. I can't help but smile at her. She stops and then looks down in embarrassment. "Forgive me. I am usually very observed."

Me: "you don't have to apologize for being yourself. You should be free and be able to express yourself however you want. Anyone who tells you otherwise is a bitch or a dickhead." She laughs. It's her first time laughing in ages. "You are a gem and a force to be reckoned with. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise." I stand up. "See you around little one." I go and climb into my car.

Nelly: "OMG! It's your car." I laugh, press on the hooter and then drive away.

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12

I pass by Nandos drive-thru and order some chicken livers meal. I then drive home while thinking of ways to deal with Nyx. I am done with Nelly now. Everything else will fall into place. Now I need to deal with Nyx. I need to show her who is boss and I need to show her who I really am.

I get home and then eat my food. I can't trust anyone. Well I have no one to trust or to talk to. I wish there was a therapist for supernatural beings to vent to because sometimes. But I know there is one person I can talk to. Well not necessarily trust but I know she will listen to me and advise me on what to do.

I do a locator spell and find her over 200km away from me. I need advice now so I just apparate in her living room and she is shocked to see me. I decided that I just go to her as my true self, without anything covering my face. She stands up and looks at me.

Ndiphile: "what are you doing here?"

Me: “now that’s no way to greet an old friend love. Where are your manners? Aren’t you going to offer me something to drink?” I settle on the couch opposite the one she is standing in front of. She also sits down.

Ndiphile: “we are not old friends so don’t patronize me. What are you doing here?” I chuckle.

Me: “you do know I can end you with a snap of my fingers right?”

Ndiphile: “if you wanted to kill me, you would’ve done that a long time ago.”

Me: “yeah. I suppose you’re more useful alive than dead. Now let me cut straight to the chase. Few days ago, I was in an elevator with some guy. He seemed interested in me. He initiated a conversation but I wasn’t keen on engaging in it. Long story short, he crashed my lunch and when I tried to do a spell to make him shut up, nothing happened. It’s like he was immune to it.”

Ndiphile: “go on.”

Me: “so few nights ago, the Nyx attacked him. Luckily Sapphire and Gaea saved him but it could’ve been worse. Now you tell me. How is it that a guy is interested in me, immune to my spells and suddenly gets attacked by the goddess of darkness?” she chuckles and leans back on the couch.

Ndiphile: “for someone your caliber, you sure can be slow sometimes. Two ways to get rid of the curse. 1 pass it to someone else. 2 fall in love. This guy seems like your soul mate or someone who will help you rid of the curse. Your work is not done or the dark world still wants to use you. That’s why they attacked him. Seems like they want him out of the way.”

Me: “but there are rules against innocent humans. We don’t touch them.”

Ndiphile: “rules don’t apply in the dark world. Let me tell you a short story. I also met a guy. I was out drinking and he just came and started talking to me. Of course he never saw my face but he somehow fell in love with my voice. He was ugly but had a pure heart. After a night of passion, I woke up to him desiccating near me. He had been burned to death and I couldn’t hear anything because a goddess put a spell on me.”

Me: “what?”

Ndiphile: “if you wanna protect him

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get a witch to do a cloaking spell and get him to move away from here. You will figure out what to do. When you have rid of the curse, both of you will be untouchable but for now he is vulnerable.”

Me: “where do I find a witch?” she rolls her eyes.

Ndiphile: “so now I must do all the thinking for you? Wow.”

Me: “good talk.”

I apparate in my kitchen and take out a beer from the fridge. I down it in one go and toss the bottle in the bin. A witch. Where am I going to find a powerful witch to help me? White magic witches. Black magic witches. I think I should just go for normal witches. That’s better. I know one in Pongola. She practices ancestral magic. She channels power from her ancestors. To me that’s the most pure form of magic.

I decide that I will go there tomorrow morning. For now I need to recharge a bit. I go to my mirror on the wall and command it to show me movements of Monte. It shows him working out at the gym. Damn he is so sexy. Those abs, muscles, biceps. Gosh I just feel like touching them. I sigh and move to the next person, Nelly. She looks calm and in peace. I hope it stays that way.

Monte's work place has an office in George. I quickly get to work and suggest to the George management that they should have him in their team because he is such a great asset and he should also start the following Monday. I make sure they set up his accommodation and a company car for him. I exhale and rest a bit when I see things coming together. At least that's one less thing to worry about.

««««»»»»

It's almost midday the following day when I get to Pongola. I park my car at the gate and climb off. I walk inside the yard and she immediately comes out of one of the huts in the yard. Outside that yard there is a short cue of people. Looks like they are here to consult. She walks to where I am standing.

Onikiwe: "I don't know if I should bow or what, seeing that I am in the presence of royalty." I chuckle. "I have been waiting for you. The ancestors told me that you will be gracing us with your presence today."

Me: "well I am honored to be here."

Onikiwe: "come this side. Gogo Ivile continue helping these people."

Ivile: "thokoza gogo." She walks away.

Onikiwe leads me to another hut. We get inside. It's different from the one she was in. this one doesn't have beads, animal skins and all those things you find in sangoma houses. Instead it has spell books, potions, dark objects and many other things.

Me: "you use grimoires?" she laughs.

Onikiwe: "I am not illiterate your majesty. You can sit."

I sit down on the cushion. She starts moving around gathering things. She then rolls down a scroll and places it on the floor in front of me. She places two candles on either ends. She then

places a bowl with a blade in between. She also places a potion and some herb near the bowl.

She places a piece of the herb inside the bowl, pours a bit of the potion inside, takes the blade and cuts her palm. She allows her blood to fall inside the bowl. She then looks at me and extends her hand. I give her my palm. She does the same and lets my blood spill on the bowl. She takes the bowl in her hand and she starts chanting a spell. Her eyes change to grey and wind starts blowing.

Onikiwe: *“et custodes ante meorum testor vos fascinavit cloaking iuvenem ponere. Posuit eum cloaking abduceret. Praesidio ei.”* She keeps chanting those words over and over until she stops and the wind dies down. She looks at me. “It’s done.”

13

I admire Onikiwe very much. It's been 2 weeks since she put a protection spell on Monte. He did move to George. The only goddess who knows where he is at is the goddess of water and she says he is doing well and is much protected. If I was meant to have friends, Onikiwe would be my friend but I guess in another life.

Well last week I had the most annoying assignment but I had no choice. I had to complete it. This other woman wished karma upon her man's side chick. I did say me being karma sometimes mean I get to punish innocent people. What I did to that side chick is unspeakable but I have no room in my heart for guilt or other stupid emotions.

I wake up, shower and get dressed for the day. I am keen on doing something about my life once I rid of the curse which may be in 10 years or 20 years or whenever but I want to do something for myself. Which is why I am meeting up with my legal advisor, Miss Andiswa Zulu.

I first eat breakfast and then drive to the law firm where she is working at. I intend on passing by my boutique once I am done

with my meeting. I don't usually go in but I do pop up every once in a while just to check on the employees. I get to the firm and after signing in at the reception, I head to Miss Zulu's office. I find her already waiting for me. We exchange greetings and I sit down.

Andiswa: "so what is it that I can do for you today Miss Radebe?"

Me: "I wanna start a foundation of young ladies. Where they are taught about anything and everything about life. Sex, marriage, the importance of being independent, their role in life, what it means to be a woman in the 21st century and about different religions and many other things."

Andiswa: "what exactly is the organization going to be doing?"

Me: "uplifting young woman from as early as 12 years old. I can provide shelter for those who are homeless but that's not my main goal. We will have many activities that they can keep themselves busy with just to stay out of trouble and away from teenage pregnancy. Also the girls from the foundation will get full scholarship when they wanna study at any university or college in the world. Being in the foundation will open many doors for them."

Andiswa: “what if you’re not in the foundation?”

Me: “then you’ll benefit maybe 10% of what the girls from inside the foundation will benefit in.”

Andiswa: “you are planning on having one only in this province or in all provinces?”

Me: “our province is the start and then we will go national and eventually global. But we should start here and see if it makes any difference or if it decreases the statistics of teenage pregnancy, homeless teenagers and dropouts.”

Andiswa: “are you going to be hands on with this project?”

Me: “you know me Zulu. I don’t do well with humans but then that’s where you come in. you will hold interviews and you will find people who will lead the foundation. Honorable people not just your friends or relatives.” She laughs. “I pay you well and I will even triple what I pay you for you to carry out the tasks I have laid out.”

Andiswa: “now you’re talking. So you want my legal advice?” I nod. “Well this is a great initiative, even though it is not going to bring in any money, but it’s great. And you have enough money

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so...” she shrugs and I chuckle. “I will get someone who will be like a PA who will search for a site or building where this foundation can be situated.”

Me: “I already have tons of vacant buildings which you can choose in. contact my lawyer and she will give you details of the buildings and you will see which one is good for the foundation.”

Andiswa: “what is your budget with this project?”

Me: “unlimited and I work with quality not quantity so please don’t compromise quality of anything. And I will also be overseeing everything but get the PA and project manager for this project. I will only communicate with you three. You know how I love my personal space and all that. And get a PA who isn’t noisy and forward.” She laughs.

Andiswa: “noted. So when should I start the interviews and all the other things?”

Me: “as soon as possible.”

Andiswa: “and how will I communicate with you?”

Me: “we always use emails Zulu. There is nothing new. Contact me when you have found the right people.” I stand up.

Andiswa: “what’s the name of the project?”

Me: “I am still working on it.”

I leave her office. I first drive to Enhle’s Sweet Tooth to purchase some coffee and muffins. I eat one muffin and drink my coffee. When I am done, I drive to the boutique. I frown when I see how busy it is. I walk inside and head straight to Zipho.

Me: “hi Zipho. What is happening?”

Zipho: “hey boss. Princess Lisakhanya Zulu and King Zenzo Mkhwanazi are here to purchase some clothes. I don’t know who heard about them being here. Now most people are excited and some end up purchasing a few things.”

Me: “that’s good for business. Did you say Princess Lisakhanya, from the Zulu royal house in KZN?”

Zipho: “yes. Apparently they are engaged. He has even paid lobola for her. They are such a dreamy couple.” She says blushing. I just chuckle and shake my head.

Me: “let me go greet and then I will be on my way. You know how I hate crowded places.”

Zipho: “plus today is so crowded. You’d swear we have a black Friday sale or something.” I chuckle and walk to the waiting lodge. I find the two couple sitting down surrounded by a number of bodyguards.

Me: “greetings. I am Miss Radebe, the owner of the boutique.” The princess is the first one to stand up. She smiles and fixes her specs.

Princess: “I am not fussy, I am just a normal human being who doesn’t have an expensive taste. I am not into ball gowns and mermaid gowns or whatever. Do you have something for me?” she speaks very fast. If I was a normal human I would’ve asked her to repeat her statement.

King: “calm down love and breathe.” She rolls her eyes and the king laughs.

Me: “What is the occasion you’re shopping for?”

Princess: “no particular occasion, just normal clothes fit for a normal queen like Me.” she smiles. She has a very beautiful smile and a soothing aura. She may be naughty at times but her aura defines peace.

Me: “give me a few moments. I will be right back.”

I go to the dresses section and take a few dresses. First a green lantern sleeve belted tunic dress, a burgundy scallop trim & fit flare dress with belt, a binding detail houndstooth fit & flare dress, a notched neck geo print belted dress, a pineapple print V-neck dress and a multicolor cut and sew panel smock dress. I take a few skirts and blouses and then hats. By the time I go back to the lounge, I have a basket full of clothes. Her face lights up.

Me: “would you like to try them on?” she looks at her fiancé.

Princess: “are you up for a fashion show?” he laughs and nods. “I guess that’s a yes.” She comes and take the basket.

Me: “I have to love and leave you but don’t forget to leave a review. Bad or good. We need one.”

Princess: “trust me. You’re in for a good review. I just love the hospitality in your boutique. We are definitely coming here love angithi?” she asks looking at her fiancé with puppy eyes. Gosh she looks so cute. I head to the office and find Narekele with a young man. He looks really nervous.

Me: “what’s up?”

Narekele: “I love how you handled that one. I just had a feeling that you would show up and save the day. She turned down most of our suggestions.”

Me: “I have a power to read people.”

Narekele: “that I have no doubt you have.” I chuckle.

Me: “and who is this young man? Your ben 10?”

Narekele: “stop being silly. He is Nyakallo. A fresh designer who Zipho thought it might be good to give him a chance. It’s his first day here.”

Me: “welcome young man and bye Narekele. I am out.” I head out but before I exit, I catch a glimpse of the princess wearing the tunic dress and dancing in front of her fiancé. I laugh and head out. Young love.

14

Whispers and screams are what is tormenting me. I think the dark world is conspiring against me. My head is pounding. It's like I have a migraine plus a hangover. I sigh and get out of bed. It's 3 am but I can't sleep. I guess there is no rest for the wicked. I walk to the praying room and mix some portions. I then drink them. I hope they will help with the headache.

I go to the kitchen and warm some milk. I take out ginger biscuits and eat them while downing them with the milk. Suddenly a note appears in front of me. I frown and take it. I read it.

'Don't confront the dark world because they will know you are onto them or you are seeking revenge.

- Onikiwe

Wow. Okay. I think the dark world is shitting me right now. First they are tormenting me and now they think I am conspiring against them. Well I gotta thank Onikiwe because if it wasn't from her, I would've confronted the Nyx and would've sent a very clear message.

I finish eating my biscuits and go to my meditation room. I sit down on the mat and shut everything out. I breathe in and out. After a while I open my eyes and smile. Now I know what to do. I go to the bedroom and put on my gym gear. I don't cover my face because I am going to be jogging around the estate. I take bottled water and then go outside.

I start my jogging in a steady pace. After a while I increase the pace. Just as I am about to turn a corner, I hear a whistle. I frown and come to a halt. I turn around to see a human stretching. When he sees my face, his eyes pop out.

Guy: "what the fuck? What the hell happened to your face? Don't you know dermatologist or plastic surgeons?" I smile and walk to him. He steps back when he sees that I am so close to him. I quickly grab his hand and sink my long nails into his scalp.

Me: "dolor!" he starts screaming immediately. His heart is beating very fast. Blood tears start streaming down his cheeks. "prohibere." I release his head and step back. "That should

teach you some manners.” I turn around and continue with my jogging.

People can be very shitty sometimes. So what if my face is ugly and unbearable to watch? That doesn't give them the right to diss me or say shitty things to my face. No one chooses to have pimples, blemishes, dark spots, acne or rashes in their face. So fuck them.

I get back to my house and take a shower. After drying and lotioning my body, I wear a simple navy summer dress. While walking down the stairs

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I zone off and my subconscious immediately takes me to a spiritual realm. I am shown a woman killing so many young babies, newborns. Every time she kills a baby, she grows powerful. This one time she is shown killing a baby and the mother because the mother caught her stealing the baby.

Voice: “you have to help me.” I turn to see this badly injured spirit or ghost. It looks like the woman who was killed with her baby. “I am not resting in peace. You have to help my family

find my body, expose the witch and then I will rest in peace. You are the only one with a power to defeat the evil witch.”

Me: “why me?”

Ghost: “you are the most powerful witch in the world and your power is unlimited. It doesn’t come from sacrificing humans. It’s natural.”

Me: “is this Mama Lana?”

Ghost: “yes.”

Me: “is your baby resting in peace?”

Ghost: “she can never be in peace while her soul is trapped in that woman’s amulet. She is always wearing it, even at night. If she takes it off, she loses her powers and the souls she has sacrificed will start haunting her.”

Me: “what is her weakness?”

Ghost: “young men. She loves ben 10s and she always pay for some to satisfy her needs. She also traded her fertility for riches.”

Me: “she is crazier than I thought. Don’t worry. I will help you.”

Ghost: “thank you so much.” Suddenly my subconscious is sucked back into my body. I fall down the stairs and bump my head in the rail.

Me: “fuck.” I stand up and dust off my dress. Entering and leaving the spiritual realm is always shitty like this.

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Narekele: “our collection inspired by the princess is almost sold out. I mean she was here 3 days ago but her review has done wonders. She is praising Miss Radebe for her great taste in clothing and her ability to be able to dress a person just from judging by their looks. You have got to read her review. Here” she hands me the iPad. I take it and read the review.

‘Why go overseas for something you can find locally? I thought nobody can get my perfect wardrobe just from judging by my looks but I was wrong. Miss Radebe of KN Clothing is what I call a fashion psychic. I love everything she suggested and I ended up buying almost half the store. They have got great clothes and the quality is very good. You can never go wrong with @knclothing.’

Me: “wow. I guess this is good for business.”

Narekele: “she was asking if there is a designer in our boutique who can come up with different wedding dresses for her liking. If so, she would like that designer to come up with at least 6 designs she can choose from because she wants 3 dresses. One for matrimonial, one for reception and one for dancing.”

Me: “can Nyakallo design such?”

Narekele: “I don’t know. I will talk to him.”

Me: “also talk to our other designers. Brief them on the princess’s preferences. They have 2 days to come up with 3 sketches each. See you then.” I stand up and head out. It’s been a while since I sat down and sketched clothes. Maybe this is an opportunity to go back to the game. Just maybe.

15

I block everything from my mind and concentrate on the paper in front of me. I study Princess Lisa's personality and dress code and start scribbling on what I think will be one of her perfect dresses. After 3 hours of working, I smile when I see that I have done about so many sketches, not just one dress.

I have always loved designing but it wasn't something I thought I will go and study in varsity. I just thought I will take it serious as a hobby or something or give it my 100% attention if my dream or first choice fails. I don't know when the last time I sketched a piece of clothing was. I am satisfied by my work. In turn I just continue sketching more and more designs. Before I know it, the sun has set.

I go and prepare dinner. While waiting for it to cool, I take my crystal ball and check up on Masiphile. I am happy because she divorced her husband and even hired bodyguards to protect her from him. Though they are not necessary because I would've took care of him if he went after her. She also got full custody of her kids.

I also check up on Nelly. It seems like the tables have turned on her bully. She committed suicide because she couldn't handle Nelly's fame and sudden confidence. Now that's what I am talking about. I am thinking of making a donation towards her school fees and clear the debt she has with NSFAS. She and the guy I met seem to be getting along quite well. I think I might let him off the hook and allow him to fall for her on his own will.

Something on the kitchen drawer beeps causing me to jump up. I open the drawer and I exhale loudly when I see my phone. Gosh I have no interest in phones to such an extent that I can go days or weeks without even touching it. I open the notification. It's an email from Miss Zulu informing me that she has found people who are going to work with me on the foundation. That was quick.

I go to Instagram and stalk Monte. He seems to be settling in very well. He has even been on a night club and restaurants there. I feel something for this guy. I don't know what it is but I feel something for him. I mean I have never been in a relationship before so I wouldn't know if what I feel for him is something romantically or sexual. He looks so sexy and dreamy. I wouldn't mind having him for a night or even one round.

I dish up my supper, sit on the barstool and eat. My cooking is not that bad. I mean I cook so that I don't go to bed hungry or anything. I am not in a competition. I finish eating, wash the dishes, clean up and go to bed. I watch some few porn videos, masturbate and then sleep.

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One thing I like about Woolworths is that not many people go there. In the morning there aren't so many people. So I decide to go and buy some fruits. I also throw in some ice cream. After that I go pay for the groceries and go pack them in my car. I then go to Mugg & Bean and grab some breakfast and coffee. My heart almost stops when someone joins me. I look up and my heart beats faster than any normal heartbeat. It's my other brother

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not the one I met recently.

Sikhanyiso: "hello there." I clear my throat.

Me: "hi."

Sikhanyiso: "I love your eyes." Luckily I am wearing eye lens but even if I wasn't, I don't think he would recognize me.

Me: "I don't know if I should say thank you or what." I say shrugging.

Sikhanyiso: "your voice is so familiar though. Like I have heard it before. Can you remove your mask for a bit?"

Me: "I have some terrible skin condition so I can't."

Sikhanyiso: "can we be friends though?" I swallow hard and look at him. I sigh and shake my head.

Me: "I am not really good with human relationships."

Sikhanyiso: "so you are good with animals' relationships?" I laugh and shake my head.

He was always a bit of a comedian. He was the fun, outgoing type of brother and was a player. I don't know how many girls fought over him during his high school and varsity days.

Baphuncumo was better though because he was serious, an academia and didn't associate himself with crowds. Sikhanyiso would always say he is gay.

Sikhanyiso: "I am Sikhanyiso Radebe by the way. And you are?"

Me: "Wanga Mulaudzi."

Sikhanyiso: "you're Venda?"

Me: "yes. Born and raised in Thohoyandou. Only came here to start my business and pursue some of my dreams."

Sikhanyiso: "what is the name of your business?"

Me: "KN Clothing. I am not the founder of it but after taking over it, I didn't see the need to change the name. So what do you do?"

Sikhanyiso: "I am a gastroenterologist." I smile widely. Besides his love for fun and girls, he has always been a genius. At high school he was obsessed with life sciences and the health of a human body. I think that's what contributed to his decision in pursuing a career gastroenterology. "You know what it is or what a gastroenterologist does?"

Me: "they focus on the health of the digestive system or the gastrointestinal tract."

Sikhanyiso: “you’re also a genius. I am impressed.”

Me: “no you’re are the genius between us.” he shrugs with a smirk.

Sikhanyiso: “I don’t mean to brag but I am one, aren’t I?” I laugh and roll my eyes. Still arrogant as ever. A woman walks towards our table. She stands with her arms folded and looks at me with so much disgust in her face. I sit back and fold my eyes. Sikhanyiso also imitates my movement. This is how we used to look at his girlfriends when they cause drama in public.

Woman: “who the fuck is this Sikhanyiso? It hasn’t even been hours since you dumped me and you’ve already replaced me?” you will never change dear brother. I chuckle and shake my head at that realization. “Oww did I say something funny?” I frown and turn back my attention to her. I give her the most penetrating gaze, she just cowers away and turns around. After that she walks out. I turn to Sikhanyiso with a smile.

Me: “your life sure is dramatic. You will settle the bill.” I gather my stuff and up.

Sikhanyiso: “leave your number at least dear friend. You remind me of someone and I am not trying to replace her in my heart. She will always be special. I just want us to get along and maybe be friends in the near future Wanga.”

Me: “if it is meant to be, it will happen.” I then walk out. I somehow feel at peace after that encounter with my brother. It just reminded me of the good times we shared. He was the one I was most close to. I miss him so much. I sigh and climb inside my car.

I decide to take a stroll around the park which is a few kilometers from my house. While walking, I see a boy who is beating up a girl. I walk closer to them and from the conversation they are having in between the blows, I can tell that they are a couple. I stand in front of them and the fight stops. I look at the girl. She looks like she is 16 or something. Why is she standing there looking at this skinny boy beating him?

Me: “you, little girl, walk away.” She takes her backpack from the ground and walks away. Gosh she is even in her uniform. What is happening in this world? I turn to look at this boy. He is not wearing a uniform. I can make out that he is at least 19 or 20. I tilt my head to the side. “Why did you hit her?”

Boy: “lady mind your own damn business.” I feel myself getting angry instantly. Before I know it, I have sent him flying across the park straight to a tree. He falls down and groans. It takes a lot of strength for him to get up. I walk to him and squat to his level. “What the hell? Get away from me you vampire.” I laugh.

Me: “oww I wish I was one. But even if I was, I wouldn’t have feasted on your bitter blood. However I got some job for you. To make up for the trauma you put that girl through. I want you to do something for me. Don’t worry about the pain in your back. I will heal you. Now are you ready to serve Karma for a few days?”

Boy: “anything to get rid of this pain in my back.” I smile.

Me: “that’s what I am talking about.” I touch his back and he is healed immediately. I help him stand up and look straight into his eyes. “Now here is the plan. You will seduce Mama Lana. You won’t give her a chance to say no. you will lead her into my trap. Sex her the whole night and then bring her magical amulet to me. Can you do that for me?” he nods. “Good. I will appear when you have the amulet then kiddo.” I walk away.

I frown when I get to my house. The door is opened and there is someone humming inside. What the fuck? I have an intruder? How? I walk inside and when I get to the kitchen

I find a young woman busy cooking up a storm. She looks like she is familiar with this place or she has made herself feel at home. I walk inside the kitchen and lean on the doorway. I fold my arms to my chest and look at her. I clear my throat. She is

startled because she jumps a little but exhales when she sees me.

Girl: “gosh you gave me a scare.” I raise my eyebrows looking at her. She smiles. “You must be wondering who I am and how I got in here.” she has this mysteriously calm aura surrounding her but she has some troubles and darkness that she is fighting. “I am Sibabalwe Mzobotshi. I am 20 years old and I am your personal assistant. You don’t need to introduce yourself. I know everything about you except your name. I have a feeling you don’t like people knowing it so you will tell me as time goes by.”

Me: “what are you doing in my house?”

Sibabalwe: “as I have mentioned, I am your PA, so...”

Me: “I hear that. I believe that Miss Zulu is the one who hired you and she told you all you need to know about me. So why are you here?”

Sibabalwe: “I just wanted to know my boss a bit better.” I remove my mask and sun glasses.

Me: “now you know who I am.” She just collapses. I chuckle and go to her. I drag her to the lounge. I place her on the couch and head out. I stand on the lawn and look up. “Motus empath dea, te voco. Responde mihi, et venite ad me omnes quaestiones. Maxime mihi ostendas.” Empath shows up. She looks like her normal colourful self. She is a rainbow actually. With so many colours covering her. She bows.

Empath: “your majesty. You have summoned me.” she even has a smile on her face. She looks... happy?

Me: “what the fuck is going on? Who is that little minion inside my house acting like my frickin daughter? How did she find my house and actually get in passing the protection spell? Is she some kind of a high level demon or entity?” she laughs and I swear I see unicorns dancing.

Empath: “you have laughed and smiled involuntarily for the first time in ages. Ever since you have met the human which was attacked by the Nyx you have leant to let loose. You are becoming less depressed. Yesterday you had an unplanned outing with your brother and you were not sad about it. In fact you were happy about going down memory lane a bit. She, the human in your couch, is the result of your recent mood. She is

innocent and somehow part of your journey to getting rid of the curse.” I frown.

Me: “shouldn’t she be dead by now? I mean anyone who has the power to rid the curse gets attacked by the dark world.”

Empath: “this one they didn’t see coming. Which is why she was led to your house. So that she can be protected from them.”

Me: “I have to live with that chatterbox?” I ask gesturing at the house. “That chatterbox? What if I snap and decide to kill her because she talks too much?” she laughs.

Empath: “you won’t kill her. Now go back inside and explain why you look like that. She is here to be a friend in need. She will understand and stick around. She is very much protected. Even when she is outside the house, the goddesses will always be watching her and making sure nobody touches her.” I groan and she laughs again. “Try to live in harmony with her. Your majesty.” She bows and then disappears. I sigh and head back inside. The human is now snoring. Dear God. Save me.

17

Just as I am driving my car out with Sibabalwe, I spot that boy I sent to Mama Lana just outside my gate. Seems like he has been waiting for me. I park the car on the side of the road and climb off. I walk to him.

Me: “and then?”

Boy: “I have a date with her tonight at the hotel. She is very dangerous. Don’t you have something that might protect me from her?” I chuckle and step closer to him. I hold his palm and site a spell. I then let go of him.

Me: “see you when you have the amulet.” I go to my car and drive. I turn to look at Sibabalwe. “So have you ever been on a flight before?” it feels weird to be riding with someone. I am used to being by myself. I don’t think I will adjust to being with someone 24/7.

Sibabalwe: “no.” I hand her my iPad.

Me: “book two business class tickets to George Airport for this evening preferably, 6pm latest. And return tickets for tomorrow morning. 7am latest.”

Sibabalwe: “we are going to George?” she asks in an excited voice.

Me: “if you don’t book now, we might end up not going. Book at Fly Safair.” She nods and starts tapping on the iPad.

Sibabalwe: “won’t I be needing your card?”

Me: “everything is synced in there. You just pay for the flights nje and book us into a hotel that is close to the airport. Also hire a rental from Thrifty. Try booking a C Class.”

Sibabalwe: “I have started working, right?” I laugh and focus on the road.

Me: “yeah. I will have Zulu draw up your contract. You also need to turn one of my buildings to offices where you will be working at. There is this one in Northcliff. It has about 8 floors and a big basement. I wanna use that one for when I wanna extend KN Clothing which will be happening soon. You can use the one Randburg to turn into offices fit for the foundation. Contact Zanele from DCC so that you can talk about renovating and stuff.”

Sibabalwe: “you are talking too much. I haven’t even finished booking the flights.” I laugh.

Me: “this car can do playbacks. I talk to myself sometimes. So in order to revisit a conversation I had with myself, I play the recordings from it. I will hand today’s recordings to you. Next time always have an iPad or notebook in your hand so that you can jot down everything I am saying. Do you have your ID with you?” she nods. I drive us to the mall. We get there and climb off. We walk to iStore. An assistant walks to us.

Assistant: “good morning and welcome to iStore. How can I be of service to you?”

Me: “show me your catalogue.” She smiles and walks away. She comes back after a few moments with two catalogues in her hand. She hands them to us.

Assistant: “you can sit over there while you go through all our available gadgets. If you need any assistance or have queries

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don’t be afraid to shout.” We go and sit at the couches. I page the catalogue.

Me: “so what do you think of the iPhone 12 Pro?”

Sibabalwe: “it is heaven. Sbwl I camera nje yakhona.” I chuckle and continue browsing through the catalogue.

Me: “and do you also think the MacBook Pro is heaven?” she laughs and nods. “I think the watch series 6 looks good.”

Sibabalwe: “everything in this catalogue is to die for. When I get my first paycheck, I am definitely buying an iPhone.” I chuckle again. I indicate that the shop assistant must come back. She walks to us with a smile.

Assistant: “have you decided on anything?”

Me: “I would like the iPhone 12 Pro, MacBook Pro, watch series 6 and the iPad Pro.” Her eyes pop out.

Assistant: “on credit?”

Me: “no. I would like to pay for them all now.” She swallows hard.

Sibabalwe: “OMG! You are about to purchase goods worth more than 80k in one day? I Stan you.” I laugh. I hand her my bank card.

Me: “register them with your ID. I am not about to show people how I looked in the past.” She giggles and goes to the counter with the assistant. I take out my phone and search Andiswa’s contact details on the net. When I find them I dial her personal number. She answers.

Andiswa: “Andiswa speaking.”

Me: “Zulu you gave someone my address. I should be firing you right now.” She laughs.

Andiswa: “we both know no other lawyer can handle your stiff ass. You would scare them away. I am the only one who can bear working for you.” I roll my eyes.

Me: “anyways have you found more of the required staff?”

Andiswa: “yes. Where should they report for duty?”

Me: “I am with Sibabalwe. We are going to look at a building and then we will see when we are going to start operating in it. It is in a good shape. It just need some renovations here and there which may last for 3 weeks or so. Just some installation of proper office equipment and buying some office furniture.”

Andiswa: “okay. I will forward Sibabalwe’s number to the other staff members so that they can communicate with her.”

Me: “and people ask why I like working with you.” she laughs.

Andiswa: “just so you know, I am charging this as a consultation.”

Me: “gosh you lawyers love money so much. Anyways this is my cellphone number. Don’t call me when you are bored. Call when you have an emergency or an update.” She laughs again. “Bye Zulu.” Sibabalwe comes back with gift bags. She hands them to me. “No. keep them. They are yours.” Her eyes pop out.

Sibabalwe: “say what?” I chuckle and take my card from her.

Me: “let’s bounce.” I walk out and she quickly follows me.

Sibabalwe: “are you foreal?”

Me: “I have an iPad, a notebook, a cellphone. Why would I need those?”

Sibabalwe: “OMG! I don’t know how to repay you.”

Me: “excel in your work. That’s all I am asking for. And don’t bring friends over to my house.”

Sibabalwe: “noted. Wow I can’t wait to upload pictures on Instagram. Will you be my photographer?”

Me: “now you’re taking it too far child.” She laughs.

I talk to Narekele about the fashion show and the new building. She is over the moon and she says she can't wait for the move. The current building we are at is good for business because it is in Jo'burg central but then the space is too small. We are also renting it. So it is not a good business investment. I tell her to set up an appointment with Princess Lisa so that I can show her the sketches for her wedding dresses. I also introduce Sibabalwe to Zipho and they hit it off instantly.

We drive back home and when I get there, I shower. When I am done, I pack changing clothes in a small bag and my toiletries. I head to my prayer room and make a portion that will make me look beautiful but it will only last for a few hours. That is all I need. I put it in a bottle and go to my room. I put it in my bag with all the other things I will need and go to the lounge. Sibabalwe is already waiting for me. She is obsessed with her new phone. She has been busy with it ever since we came back. I bought her a portable router so that she won't post 'data struggles'.

Me: "we are going to pass by a restaurant so that we can grab late lunch before our flight."

Sibabalwe: “yes boss.” She stands up with her bag. We both head out. We climb into my car and drive out. “So why are we going to George?”

Me: “to party.”

Sibabalwe: “you go to night clubs for fun?”

Me: “no. I go there just to get wasted. If I wanna have fun, I go to a sex club.” She chokes on her saliva and turns to look at me.

Sibabalwe: “a what? A sex club exists in real life?” I laugh.

Me: “yes but it is very expensive. You pay annually for its membership. There are procedural tests one does after every 3 months so that you can stay in. there are also rules that a member has to follow.”

Sibabalwe: “how much is the membership?”

Me: “2 million joining fee and the following years you pay 1 million annually.”

Sibabalwe: “shut the front door. You pay a million rands just for sex?” I laugh.

Me: “all the workers there are trained to fulfill all your sexual desires. They do wear condoms but if you don’t want it to be used, you pay 1.5 m. I mean having a place to release all your sexual tension at your disposal 24/7 365 days. What more could a person ask for? Plus nobody would get into a relationship with me. You have seen how I look. Maybe they would date me just because I have money. But that’s all.” she stares down. “Come one. Don’t pity me. I am used to this.”

Sibabalwe: “but it is not life.” I chuckle.

We go to A-Class Restaurant and eat our lunch. When we are done, we head to the airport where we board a plane. After an hour or so, we arrive in George. We take the rental and drive to the hotel we are staying in which is Protea Hotel. We get settled and freshen up. We are using different rooms.

I get dressed in a MB Deluxe Larissa Jacquard dress in Lurex and black Italian heels. I then take my black Gucci sling bag and put all the things I may need inside it

including condoms. I then take the potion and drink it. I wait for a few minutes and it finally starts working. I go to the mirror and look at my reflection. I look like my young innocent self but a bit matured here and there. The door opens and Sibabalwe

walks in wearing white lace up detail biker shorts with solid knot side cami top and thin strap chunky heeled thong sandals. She topped off her look with a white bucket hat. She screams and nearly falls when she sees me.

Me: “blown off?”

Sibabalwe: “what is happening?”

Me: “a potion made me like this but it will wear off after 12 hours. But by then we will be back home.”

Sibabalwe: “you look beautiful. Is this your original face?”

Me: “yes.”

Sibabalwe: “why don’t you drink the potion every day?”

Me: “it has consequences and the guardians only allow me to have the spell to make the potion once or twice a year. The spell changes every time.”

Sibabalwe: “what are the consequences?” I smile.

Me: “you will see them. Now let’s bounce.”

We head out and ride to the club. It's late and the vibe is too much. We buy VIP tickets and head to the VIP section. We order some drink and they bring them. We start drinking. After a few minutes, Monte walks in with a couple of guys. I think they are his colleagues. He looks around and our eyes meet. I smile at him and then turn back to Sibabalwe.

Sibabalwe: "those guys look good." She says with a smile.

Me: "do you have a boyfriend back home?"

Sibabalwe: "no. I sorted out all my affairs before I left." I laugh so hard and throw my head back.

Me: "you mean to tell me you dumped your guys just because you got a job in the city of gold?" she laughs.

Sibabalwe: "it would've been stupid of me to think my weak relationships could survive the long distance."

Me: "but don't you humans say 'distance makes the heart grow fonder'?" she rolls her eyes and I just laugh again. Monte walks to our table with a glass of whiskey in his hand. He is with a friend.

Monte: "your eyes." He says looking straight into my eyes. I smile at him.

Me: “what about them?”

Monte: “and your voice too. It reminds me of someone.”

Me: “I get that a lot.” I shrug.

Monte: “can I buy you a drink?”

Me: “no. we have it covered.”

Monte: “can we join you though? Or rather you join us in our table.” I look at Sibabalwe and she nods while smiling at Monte’s friend.

Me: “take our booze then.” I stand up. They take our booze and we all go to their table. There are 3 guys there and 3 girls. We pass the introduction phase but I don’t pay attention to their names.

Monte: “what is your name?”

Me: “Baby.” he laughs and shakes his head. “I am serious. Call me Baby and we will get along just fine.” He chuckles. The vibe is good. There is no tension whatsoever in the table. I am now a bit tipsy so I have no problem with being around people.

Monte: "let's go dance." I giggle.

Me: "I don't know how to."

Monte: "neither do I. I just wanna have a beautiful lady by my side on the dance floor." I agree and we go to the general dance floor.

We are not even dancing. It's just me grinding on his dick and him getting hard with every passing moment. I turn to face him. I wrap my hands around his neck and bring him closer to me. I keep teasing him by biting his lips. He grunts and attacks me with a kiss. We share a passionate kiss and finally decide to go back to our table. On the way, I tell him that we should go back to my hotel room and continue our private party.

Monte: "mmm guys we are going to head out now. We need to do some bonding." The guys cheer on him while I just laugh. I go to Sibabalwe and pull her to the side.

Me: "be back at the hotel by 3 am because we are leaving at 4 am. Here are the car keys."

Sibabalwe: "I don't mind going back with you guys. I am okay with this club now." We say our goodbyes to everyone and

then head out. Monte came here in an Uber, so he is riding with us.

We get to the hotel and as soon as we are in my room, he pins me on the wall and starts kissing me while taking off my dress. We feed in to our lust and end up having loads of sex.

«««»»»»»

I make it out of bed without making a single sound and pack my bags. I head out after leaving my key card on the bedside table. I go to Sibabalwe's room. I find her lotioning her body. That means she has taken bath. I greet her and then go take a quick hot shower. I finish showering and then get dressed in brown drop shoulder letter graphic drawstring hoodie & pants set. I put on my black sneakers.

We head out. I leave clear instructions to the receptionists and then we drive to the airport. After an hour, we board the plane back home. I had a great night but my happiness, just like always, was short-lived.

I scream loudly as I feel immense pain on my face. That's why I don't use the potion. The pain I am feeling right now is unbearable. It's like my whole face is burning. It really is burning. I can't even touch it because I don't wanna get burned. I apparate inside the basement and I scream more when I bump my head into the wall.

I walk to the bathtub which is full of freezing pure water. I dive my head inside. I feel some relief instantly. I know this is just temporary and the minute I return to the surface, my face will go back to burning. I rise up, I stagger a bit till I fall down. I use my long index fingernail to cut through my palm and then let it fall on the ground.

Me: "per meum sanguinem, I..." wind fills the basement and dries my blood from the floor instantly. I frown and look up to, only to see the goddess of wind standing there looking as frustrated as ever.

Shana: "stop what you're doing this instance your majesty. Sacrificial magic is never the answer. You know that the dark world will want more from you than a mere drop of blood." I

stand up feeling weak as ever. “Come with me.” she picks me up. She then apparate with me in the front lawn. She places me down. By now I am shivering and even blood is dropping from my face. I look up and see almost all the goddesses floating in the air.

Seruva: “why is she like this?”

Sabina: “it’s the consequences of using the potion. If she went to someone or somewhere else, she wouldn’t be like this. The journey to getting rid of the curse is not easy. This is only the beginning. There is still worse to come.”

Gaea: “but we have to help her.”

Empath: “the journey is long and hard but I feel happiness and love all the way.” Sabina steps forward and pours some water on my face. The burn and the bleeding stops. She then helps me drink some of them.

Sapphire: “you are going to be okay, Your Majesty.” I feel my body getting heavy and within a few moments

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I pass out.

«««»»»»»

I groan and open my eyes. Sibabalwe is moving up and down my room. She places a tray of food in the table and then stands back to admire her work of art. I chuckle and she jumps up startled. She places her hand on her chest.

Sibabalwe: “holy shit, you gave me such a scare. I found you lying in the front door. I think you passed out or something. So I carried you here. Gosh you are so heavy.” I chuckle and shake my head. She is one petite lady. I think she is a size 28 or 30, so I believe her when she says I am heavy. I climb off the bed and go sit on the chair and place my hands on the table.

Me: “is the food not shit today?” she laughs.

Sibabalwe: “I went out to buy some food using your card in that A-Class restaurant,” I smile and dig in. she sits opposite me and gets busy with her phone.

Me: “how long was I asleep?”

Sibabalwe: “you have been asleep since yesterday.” I nod and continue eating.

It is already night time. When I am done eating, I head to the bathroom to take a shower. When I am done, I come back to find her gone with the tray and my bed already made. I wear my pajamas and then head downstairs. I find her eating her own dinner. I go to my liquor cabinet and take out a tequila. I place two tots on the counter. I pour the liquor and down the two shots very fast. I need some alcohol to help me get through the night. Siba walks in, her eyes pop out when she sees the liquor.

Siba: "are we drowning our sorrows?"

Me: "aren't you underage?" she laughs and rolls her eyes.

Siba: "I am 3 years younger than you."

Me: "you are young." She takes one of the tots and I snatch it from her. "These are mine. Go take yours." She chuckles and opens the cupboard. She takes out one tot. she then pours the tequila in her glass and downs the liquor. "Tell me about what you enjoy doing in your spare time."

Siba: "I am good in math. So back home I used to post math quizzes to help students prepare for exams on a website I created. I also used to tutor math students from my town."

Me: "that's cool. Why didn't you study education and become a math teacher?"

Siba: "there is no money in the teaching industry. I did Mathematical science."

Me: "what is that degree of any use to the foundation?"

Siba: "it's a start. I will gain the experience and I am happy that I will be working with girls. I can't wait for the foundation to open. This will make such a big impact in most girls' lives."

Me: "what about your family? How do they feel about you moving here?"

Siba: "they are happy for me." I nod and we continue drinking and talking about her life.

My mind keeps drifting to what Empath said to me. This means I am getting rid of the curse soon but I will go through a lot of challenges. I just hope nobody who is important will get hurt or will end up being a collateral.

I am woken up by a loud scream coming from outside. I apparate outside the gate and I am met by the boy I sent to Mama Lana. He hands me the necklace and then runs away. I look at the amulet and chant a spell so that no unwelcomed spirit wanders in my house.

I then walk to the forest and stand by the river. I take a stick and draw a circle I then get inside it and sit down. I place the amulet before me. I start chanting some spells and I feel my body being lifted in the air. This spell is going to awaken a very dark side in me but I have to do this because it is my duty. My attire change to a black long robe.

Me: "sancti vocat te." The ghost stands just outside the circle.

Ghost: "you didn't need to summon me. I am always walking by your side because I am in dire need of your help."

Me: "terram igne et vento et aqua. Quatuor elementorum vocavi te." The goddesses appear before me. They all bow and then rise to look at me. "I need your help in freeing the souls

trapped in this amulet.” They join hands, circling me and then start chanting a spell. I join them.

“Viribus naturae, excellentiam virtutis longe, ad pollicendum et conteram dimettere capti ad ligaturam cucurreris animarum a. viribus naturae, excellentiam virtutis longe, ad pollicendum et conteram dimettere capti ad ligaturam cucurreris animarum. Viribus naturae, excellentiam virtutis longe, ad pollicendum et conteram dimettere capti ad ligaturam cucurreris animarum.”

The amulet breaks and many souls get set free. They all wonder around. The ghost reconciles with a little girl. I look at all the souls and then frown. I look at the goddesses.

Me: “why aren’t they crossing over?”

Sapphire: “we need to burn down the witch’s lair so that that everything will be alright. The bodies are buried in the garden behind her house. She is weak now. She has no idea what happened to the amulet but she can feel her power weakening little by little. We should go now.” She bows down and picks up the amulet. She turns to Sabina. “Take care of the souls.”

Me: “since when do you call the shots?” she smirks. The goddess of wind holds my hand and we apparate to the witch’s lair. We are all floating in the air. Animals under her control come out and try to attack us but Sapphire turns them to ashes in an instant. She comes out of her house and her eyes pop out when she sees us.

Witch: “you.” sapphire walks to her and then holds her hand. She screams and her hand burns.

Me: “don’t kill her. At least not yet. She must confess her sins to the humans. And my dear you have no choice.”

Witch: “you don’t know what you are messing with.”

Me: “on the contrary

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I do. Gaea make sure you get word out that a witch has been discovered and she is now powerless. They should burn her to ashes for all the crimes she has committed.” Gaea nods and then walks away.

Witch: “you won’t get away with this.”

Me: “oww but I have. You see, you are no match for me. There are witches deep there on the lower level. Then there are humans, prophets, servants of the man upstairs. Then we have goddesses and guardians. What the fuck are you compared to super natural beings who don’t sacrifice magic but are magic?” she swallows hard. From where we are standing, we hear a mob gathering and nearing. “We will be up there in the sky watching them destroy you and tear you from limb to limb. It is going to be fun.”

With the help of Seruva, I fly up the sky and immediately the mob enters her yard looking like they are ready to end her. They start torturing her. Some go around her house and discover the graveyard. I turn to the goddesses.

Me: “I trust you to make sure that you don’t leave until the mission is complete.” They nod. I then apparate to my house and find Siba cuddled up in a couch in the lounge with a throw rapped around her. She has dozed off. I rush to my room, shower and wear my pajamas. I then head downstairs and then shake her. She wakes up and then looks around.

Siba: “you’re here? Then that means I was dreaming.”

Me: “why?”

Siba: “I heard noise and then I woke up and went outside but there was no one. So I went to check on your room and didn’t find you. I thought you were in one of your rooms and then I thought you will find me waiting for you here.” I smile.

Me: “you can go and rest now. I was out doing my job.”

Siba: “okay then.” She stands up. “Good night.” She hugs me and then heads to her room.

Her hug leaves me frozen. It awakens so many feelings and leaves me warm. It feels like I have just been hugged by my younger sister. I smile and exhale loudly. I sit down and watch the TV. I doubt I will get any sleep. I am startled by a presence in my house. I look around and I see the ghost with her baby. They are now wearing white and they are glowing.

Ghost: “thank you. I wish you all the best.” They smile and then disappear. Being thanked warms my heart because I am happy someone appreciates what I do, even though it can be intense and evil sometimes.

I am still not used to living with someone in my house. It has been a month since Sibabalwe 'moved in' but I am just not used to her company. Sure I like her and all but sometimes I just need to be alone. I have been a loner for 7 years, so excuse me for getting used to being on my own. It has been like that for so long. Having a real human who knows your real face and has no problem with it, that shit can be scary and uncomfortable.

She and the hired team has started on the foundation. They are doing very good and it's good that there is a CEO. I have signed over a few millions for the project so that they won't come back running, should they run out of funds while busy. I have decided to name the project the RADEBE HANDS FOUNDATION. I am a Radebe after all and once this curse on me moves to another person, I will be left with all these companies because I created them from scratch, so they need the Radebe name.

See, there is a karma trust fund which contains billions of dollars. When you become karma, you are entitled to at least 1 billion dollar and it is up to you how you use that money. As for me, I started a few companies and have a few properties on my name. So once the curse is broken or shifted, I will be left with

the riches I accumulated while I was karma and not the money in the karma trust fund.

The boutique moved in to the building I assigned them 2 weeks ago. There will be a launch welcoming our new and old clients to the new store in about 3 weeks and that will be coupled with a fashion show where I will be launching another new clothing line inspired by the goddesses, so at the end of the night, I would've launched 2 new clothing lines. I am excited about this. I know it will take my boutique to the next level. In a few months

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we will be opening branches in other provinces and in a year or so, we will go global.

I had one assignment a week ago which I finished in 3 days. It was super easy. But now I am faced with another. I don't know how to tackle this because it involves ancestors. I would go to Onikiwe but I don't wanna make it a habit of going to her when I am having problems, I don't want it to seem like I am using her.

I am currently having brunch by myself at one of the restaurants owned by Mr. Luvuyo Sithole and his family. They are really successful and their services everywhere you go just speaks high volumes. While enjoying my tea, someone sits opposite me. I chuckle when I see who it is. A Mnguni white witch who practices ancestral magic. Now how much of a coincidence that I need a witch like her and she just appears in front of me like I rubbed my hand in the genie jug?

Me: “the Mnguni white witch? What a surprise?” Thembelihle Mnguni, a great white witch who is situated in Swaziland, is the most powerful white witch of the South practicing ancestral magic. She is the aunt of the infamous Lwandeka Sithole formerly known as Mnguni and Sizwe Mnguni.

Thembelihle: “I was informed by my ancestors that you are in need of my services.” She shrugs.

Me: “straight to the point? I like it.” A waiter comes to our table and Thembelihle places her order. It comes back quickly for her because, well her son-in-law owns the place.

Thembelihle: “so what do you need?”

Me: “enlighten me about family curses.” She takes a sip on her drink and sits back.

Thembelihle: “we all know how jealous family members can be. You can see someone who will grow up to be something big in life from a younger age. Jealousy can make you nasty and do stupid things. First by just hating someone and holding grudges in your heart against that person. Secondly, going to witches who can make that person’s life a living hell and lock away their blessings.”

Me: “how do you help such a person?”

Thembelihle: “well the one who cursed him has to own up to their mistake and confess. Then they have to say what they did in order for that person’s luck to be locked away and how to undo that. After that comes the cleansing. Then it will be up to the victim to choose if he wants to forgive his family or disown them or forgive and disown them at the same time.” I nod and take a huge bite of my burger. I chew slowly and then swallow.

Me: “so killing the wrongdoer isn’t the answer?” she laughs and shakes her head.

Thembelihle: “no. it is never the answer. Just do as I say or else if you kill the wrongdoer before the confession or the cleansing, you will not be helping. Instead making things worse because there would be no way in which the curse can be reversed. Unless, of course, you bring a more powerful witch who is

aware of the damage done to the victim and what can be done to correct all the wrongs.” I nod again.

Me: “thank for the insight.” She smiles.

Thembelihle: “I feel so honored to be in your presence, Your Highness.” I chuckle.

Me: “now isn’t there something you can give me that will make the confession part go fast and smooth?” she laughs and shakes her head. She then takes out a pen and writes a few things on the serviette. When she is done, she hands it to me.

Thembelihle: “find the things on that note and make a potion. It’s more like a true serum. It will make someone confess their deepest darkest secret and every evil deed he or she has committed.” I smile and then stand up.

Me: “it was nice being in the presence of the great white witch.” I leave a few notes on the table for my bill and then head out.

I apparate in the victim’s family kitchen and luckily no one is on sight. I open the pots and pour the potion I made in all of them. I then close and apparate in my living room. I will be tuning in to my crystal ball as I wait to watch the drama unfold. Oww it is going to be much better than any TV series ever made. Can’t wait.

NARRATED

Landela made his way in the dining room slash lounge from a long day in the fields where he found all his family members about to eat their supper. He worked as a farmer, employed by one of the local farm owners. Not that he couldn't find a better job with a degree in Computer Science. In fact jobs in this field were not scarce. He just doesn't know what happened. Every time he got called for an interview or test, he would always fall sick.

His mother, who was his biggest cheerleader, even suggested that he stopped applying for jobs that required his degree and instead looked for something in his hometown because she feared losing his son to mysterious that seemed to always attack him when he was applying for a job of his own liking.

He greeted and then he sat down. His little sister brought him his plate. He smiled and thanked her. He was such a humble soul. Everyone ate. His uncle together with his wife, his aunts and older brother were very happy to see him suffering like this.

See, a local inyanga told them that Landela was going to be the most successful member in their family and they couldn't have that. Jealousy drove them to cursing him. If it was up to them, he wouldn't even have finished matric. It is because of his mother's prayers that he was still alive today. His older sister chose to leave home as soon as she finished high school. She once heard the uncle and his wife talking about the curse. From that day on, she stayed far from them until she left home.

L's mom: "how was work son?"

Landela: "tiring ma. Sometimes I wish I could just work from home." His little sister laughed while his mother chuckled.

L's older brother: "you should be grateful about what you have and not complaining about petty things. Some people go to sleep without food in their stomach. Stop being a brat."

L's mom: "hawu. He was just telling me about his day. Why are you taking this too personal?"

L's sister: "yeah man, what's up? Why you tripping?"

L's uncle: "what did I say about using that language here at home Linzulu?" she rolled her eyes discretely.

After dinner, Landile went to his back room to freshen up and then came back to the main house to watch TV. While watching Generations, The Legacy

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the uncle just stood up and ran outside. Of course this shocked everyone and they all ran out. The uncle stood outside the gate screaming things you couldn't hear. His wife, Landela's brother and aunts followed suit. They screamed and started taking their clothes off, complaining about burning.

By now, the community was gathering around them and many people were taking videos. Lights from the surrounding houses made everyone see what exactly was going on. The brother kneeled in front of Landela and started saying he is sorry. Landela was confused as fuck. He didn't know what to say. The community started talking.

Guy 1: "they are witches."

Woman 1: "they bewitched the poor boy. They are all saying his name." Landela's eyes popped out. His uncle stepped closer to him stark naked. Landile was now afraid so he took a few steps back.

L's uncle: "I am very sorry son. I was driven by jealousy and envy. I was jealous because I was told you were going to be the most successful one in the family. We went to inyanga and tied your blessing to a doll and buried it outside your room. We wanted nothing to go right in your life."

L's brother: "I am really sorry little brother. I should've been supportive of you and I should've protected you as your big brother but I failed you. Instead I bewitched you. I regret everything I did. I am sorry."

L's uncle's wife: "well you deserved it. What did you think? That you will get successful, take your mother and sister and then move to town leaving us in this God forsaken place? Over my dead body. We did well by bewitching you because you were going to think you are all high and mighty."

L's uncle: "shut up MaNzuzza. Can't you see you are making things worse?"

Woman 2: "witchcraft. The nerve. We should burn them alive."

While the community was gathering around them, threatening to kill them, the inyanga ran through the crowd naked and ran into the yard. He went to Landela's door. He dug something out and came back with a doll which had multiple pins on it and blood. He went to put the doll on the ground inside the circle

the community had created. The community burned the doll and as they were gathering tires to burn the bewitching family, Landela's uncle's wife and one of his aunts escaped.

The other family members cried and begged for their lives but you know once your fate has been decided by the community, there is no escaping liability. Landela was shocked by what was happening. He didn't know what to do. He thought that he had some bad luck all these years but in all truth, it was just his family who didn't wish him well.

His mother's heart broke seeing and hearing what she heard. How the family wished nothing good to happen in her son's life. She took Landela's hand and his sister and together they walked inside the yard while after Landile locked the door. When they got to the lounge, their mother ordered them to kneel down and they started praying.

They prayed so hard that after the session, Landela's phone rang. It was someone inviting him to an interview in three days. He was shocked because he hadn't applied for a job for so long but his mom suggested that maybe this is God trying to show himself. They prayed again that the interview goes well and then they went to sleep. The community was still burning the other family members. Landela was sad to see his family perishing like that but there was nothing they could do, they brought this upon themselves.

I can't believe I spend most of my time with Sibabalwe. It feels like she had always been here. Like I have never been alone before. But sometimes I miss being alone. Sibabalwe doesn't stop talking. She is like a little kid. Once she starts she never stops. Sometimes I just find myself laughing while she is talking and she stops and looks at me. I pretend I didn't laugh but when she starts talking again, I laugh.

Right now we are headed to the new boutique to check on progress. I gave them my designs which Narekele loved so much. We are also meeting Princess Lisa at the boutique so that we can talk or rather ask her to model for us when we launch a collection in her honor. I am also going to show her samples of her dresses.

We get to the boutique and walk around. Everything seems to be coming along just fine. The basement is where most products, like fabrics and all the things needed when designing are stored. And the last two top floors of the building is where the sewing and the manufacturing happens. We head to the bridal floor and find Princess Lisa already waiting. This time she

is with her guards and her older sister, Queen Nompilo. I greet them with a smile and then sit.

Lisa: "I was so glad to hear from you. I hope you have something worth my time and smile." I chuckle and signal for the models to make their way in. 6 models walk in and stand on the little stage. They are all wearing different dresses that I designed. We had to put them together last minute for this mini fashion show.

Nompilo: "this is beautiful."

Lisa: "I am confused." Her sister laughs. "I would like to see them one by one because right now they are confusing me big time." I chuckle.

The models head out and the first one walks in. she is wearing a white overlay sleeve mermaid hem dress. She does the cat walk, spins a little and then stand on the stage. I turn to the princess.

Lisa: "my belly says no on this one." They both laugh. "But it definitely can be a second choice." The model walks out and

the second one walks in. she is wearing a missord one shoulder split thigh sequin dress.

Nompilo: “this one makes me wanna renew my vows.”

Lisa: “It’s beautiful, but Enzo would probably murder me for showing everyone his thigh.” They both laugh again. “Make a mental note for this one Libongwe.” One of her guards nods. The third model walks in. she is wearing a missord exaggerated ruffle fishtail hem dress. Lisa squeals. “This is pretty.” She stands up and goes to touch the ruffle. “I love the fabric. Take it off so that I can fit it.” We all laugh.

Me: “you are too short princess. But we will make sure that when you come back tomorrow or the day after, it will be available for you to fit not take home.” She pouts and goes to sit down.

Nompilo: “stop sulking because your man will kill me if he calls and finds you sulking.” Lisa rolls her eyes and giggles. The forth model walks in. she is wearing a contrast lace bishop sleeve mermaid dress. Lisa smiles and claps her hands.

Lisa: “this is my third dress for the evening, before we head out for our honeymoon. The second one is the ruffle one.” I smile. Princess Lisa is not fussy and it is so easy to dress her. The fifth model comes in. she is wearing a tunic wedding dress. Lisa makes a small comment about it. The last model walks in. she is wearing a white and silver Ingush inspired traditional wedding dress. Princess Lisa screams and starts dancing around causing everyone to laugh. She can’t dance.

Me: “I guess I saved the best for last.” She takes out her phone and dials someone. She puts it on loud speaker. The receiver answers.

Zenzo: “my love.”

Lisa: “BABY! OMG BABY I FOUND MY PERFECT DRESS. IT IS SO PERFECT. I LOVE IT. IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE A QUEEN. LIKE I AM GOING TO MY CORRONATION. CAN WE JUST GET MARRIED TOMORROW?” we all laugh including Zenzo.

Zenzo: “I can’t wait to see you in it.”

Lisa: “you have to pay 2 million for it. Transfer the money to the boutique by the end of today.” He laughs.

Zenzo: “why should I be the one paying for it?”

Lisa: “want me to steal the money from you?” he laughs.

Zenzo: “okay babe I will pay.”

Lisa: “see you soon.” She hangs up.

Me: “it’s not even a million rands.” She waves her hand around.
Well making it

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the final product, will definitely sum up to half a million or so.
The fabric of the dress and all the accessories are expensive and imported.

Lisa: “my fiancé will pay for this one and I will pay for the other two. I am coming back in three days for fitting and I will be bringing my mothers and sister in law.” She goes to touch the dress. “Oww my darling. We will never be apart after we get together.” Her sister laughs.

Nompilo: “let’s go you crazy girl. Thank you for your time and for everything Miss Radebe.”

Me: “thank you for believing that KN can pull through for you.”
Lisa comes to me with a smile. She hugs me and then heads out with her entourage.

Sibabalwe: “wow.” I almost jump up because I forgot she was here.

Me: “dude I thought you died or something.” She giggles.

Sibabalwe: “I can’t believe I was in the presence of the humble princess. It is unbelievable and to think I didn’t even take a picture with her. I am so dumb.”

Me: “I will ask her for a wedding invitation and then maybe you can attend with a plus one.” She screams and then hugs me.
This child is too affectionate though.

NARRATED

Somehow, Landela’s uncle’s wife and aunt got hold of the news about Landela’s interview. That made them super furious. They were crashing at the inyanga’s place. They stole some money from his stash and bought clothes and food. They collected all the herbs, medicine and everything that screamed inyanga and burned them outside.

The wife suggested that they hire izinkabi who will just finish Landile once and for all and while at that, also kill his mother

and sister. They paid izinkabi with the same money they stole from inyanga's stash. They planned to gun down Landela early in the morning as he was about to go out for his interview.

Landela prepared for the interview. He went to the main house to say his goodbyes to his mother and sister and then walked out. Just as he was about to walk out the gate, a car stopped and men in black came out. They started shooting and just as he was about to take cover, a woman appeared in front of him. She screamed and their car caught fire.

With an unexplainable force, she moved her hands forward and the men fell. What she wasn't aware of was that 5 of the bullets had already pierced her skin. She chanted a spell and all the men burned to death. She then turned to Landela with a weak smile.

Karma: "you are safe now." Then she collapsed on the ground and closed her eyes as darkness swallowed her.

NARRATED

The goddesses arrived to the scene where karma was. The weather changed drastically. People were confused. One second, it was freezing, the next raining, the following hot, the next windy. It was a supernatural weather disaster. They knelled in front of karma's body.

Gaea: "Phoenix, what are you waiting for? Heal her." Phoenix looked down and shook her head.

Phoenix: "it was not a supernatural attack. I cannot do anything to her. We should take her to that place where most humans are taken to when they are sick. If we don't act fast, she will eventually die because she is losing a lot of blood." There was a protection barrier where karma's body was at. No human could penetrate it. To human naked eyes, they only saw a woman lying on the ground and they could not see the goddesses.

Sabina: "can't you do something to stop the bleeding?" Empath touched karma's body and the bleeding stopped.

Empath: "someone has to carry her."

They all looked at Gaea. She huffed and carried karma's body. They then disappeared and apparated at the hospital entrance. Gaea walked in with karma's body and placed her on a vacant stretcher which was in the reception area. Everyone was shocked to see how that body got there but soon after the shock worn off

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they quickly attended to her. Gaea walked out and the goddesses were still there.

Seruva: "we have to inform the human that lives with her that she is here."

Sapphire: "how did that happen? I mean she is immune to human pain and suffering. How did she get hurt by mere silver tiny things?"

Empath: "bullets. They are called bullets. She is changing bit by bit. She is becoming human again. But her change comes with powers. She is gaining powers because she is losing the curse to love." she turned to Seruva. "Go and inform the white witch she met not so long ago. She is still in town. She will locate the human and then pass on the message to her." Seruva flew away.

Sapphire: “what if the Nyx comes and finishes her off seeing that she is down?”

Shana: “we have to be here to prevent such from happening.”

Gaea: “but look around you. The weather is changing like crazy. Soon people will think the world is coming to an end or something. What we can do is take shifts. I will guard her today. Tomorrow one of you have to come and guard her. We will work like that until she is healed and back at her place. Only Phoenix and Empath are not in the guard duty.” They all agreed.

Sabina: “I will inform Seruva.”

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Thembelihle was playing with her granddaughter Yamihle when she felt the sudden change in weather. They were in the backyard and there was a picnic setup. The moment she saw the grass turning to ice, she rushed Yamihle inside the house and came back. She found Seruva floating not far from the picnic setup.

Thembelihle: “do I bow or what?” Seruva chuckled.

Seruva: “karma is down. She was shot. You have to locate the human who lives with her and inform her about karma’s condition and then take her to karma.” She began to fly away.

Thembelihle: “wait. Where is karma?” Seruva smirked.

Seruva: “you’re a witch. I am sure a simple locator spell won’t kill you.” she flew away and the weather went back to normal.

Thembelihle went to her room and locked it behind her. She set up her things and then sat down. She did a locator spell to find out where the human, Sibabalwe is. She found her after a few minutes of searching. She also found where karma was. She then gathered her things and drove to karma’s house. She parked in front of the gate and climbed off the car.

The gate had no lock so she opened it and walked in. she was a white witch with good intentions. That’s why she was able to pass the protection barrier. She got to the front door and knocked. After a while, the door was opened and there stood a cute girl which looked like she is in her early twenties. The girl smiled. Her aura oozed with purity and peace.

Sibabalwe: “hello. How are you? What can I do for you?”

Thembelihle smiled.

Thembelihle: “grab your phone, jacket, and bag and follow me.”

Thembelihle turned and walked her car. Sibabalwe was confused but she chose not to ask many questions. She grabbed what she was told to grab and went to the car. After she climbed in, Thembelihle started the car and drove away.

Sibabalwe: “where are we going and who are you? Are you related to my boss? Or maybe you are kidnapping me? I assure you I have nothing. That is not my house but my boss’s house. We are not even that close. If you kidnap me, she won’t pay the ransom. She is rich as fuck but I don’t think I am worth millions.” Thembelihle laughed.

Thembelihle: “damn child. You can talk. But please zip it for the rest of the drive and do what most of your peers do, be busy with your phone.”

Sibabalwe pouted and got busy with her phone. They got to the hospital and the car parked in the parking lot and Thembelihle got out. Sibabalwe followed her and they made their way inside the hospital. They got to the reception.

Thembelihle: “I am here for a woman who just appeared out of nowhere with 5 bullet wounds. She is very hideous in the face. About 26 or 27 years.” The receptionist looked at her. Sibabalwe’s eyes popped out. What was this old woman talking about?

Receptionist: “the one who was wearing all black with bullet wounds but wasn’t bleeding?” Thembelihle nodded. “What is your relation to her?”

Thembelihle: “I am her aunt and this is her little sister.” she pointed at Sibabalwe who swallowed hard.

Sibabalwe: “her name is Kwenama Radebe and she is 25 years old.” The receptionist made a call. After a few minutes she turned to them.

Receptionist: “she is currently undergoing surgery. Please fill in her details and pay upfront for her medical treatment.”

Sibabalwe quickly took care of the paperwork. The receptionist then told them to wait at the waiting room for any news. They went to sit down.

Thembelihle: “this is where I leave you. I was only tasked to bring you here.” Sibabalwe looked down and sighed.

Sibabalwe: “thank you.” Thembelihle squeezed her shoulder before she stood up and headed out. Sibabalwe didn’t know what to do. She once heard that karma can’t die while having the curse but how is it that the goddesses didn’t heal her this time around and how is she lying in the hospital half-dead. Many questions were running in her mind. She was stuck.

NARRATED

After a few hours, a doctor came to the reception and went to the receptionist. They talked and the receptionist pointed at Sibabalwe who had her head bowed down. The doctor went to her and shook her a little. She raised her head and looked at the doctor. She then quickly stood up.

Sibabalwe: "is she okay?"

Doctor: "I am Doctor Phakathi. Miss Radebe is out of surgery which went well but she is in ICU. Her condition is very critical and we are going to keep a close look on her for the next 24 hours. If her condition improves, then we will move her to a normal ward." Sibabalwe swallowed hard and held the tears that were threatening to fall out.

Sibabalwe: "can I see her even if it's for 1 minute? I just wanna see how she is doing."

The doctor sighed and indicated that she follow him. They walked down the corridor, took the elevator and went to the emergency room. They got there and Sibabalwe's heart beat faster when she saw the condition karma was in. there were so

many pipes connected to her. She went closer to her and held her hand.

Sibabalwe: “come back and protect me. If you are here the darkness will win and kill me. You are my shield. You promised to be always there for me. Don’t go back on your promises. That is not you.” she turned to the doctor. “Can you have her face covered? She doesn’t like showing it to people. Next thing you know, dermatologists will be crowding her ward and treating her like some kind of a science experiment.”

Doctor: “but miss...”

Sibabalwe: “my name is Sibabalwe and I am begging you. This is like a violation of her privacy. She always has her face covered and she hates being seen. Please respect her wishes.” The doctor huffed.

Doctor: “two favours in one day, you owe me dinner Miss Sibabalwe.” She smiled and went to hug him.

Sibabalwe: “thank you doctor. I will come back tomorrow.” She then walked out.

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SIBABALWE

She once told me something about her two brothers. She told me that the older one is an accountant at Radebe Accounting and Auditing. I hope I am not over stepping but this is a life or death situation and if she can be injured like that, then I am scared of what will happen to her next.

It's 12 pm. It's still early. I catch a cab home and then when I get there, I change to a plait skirt, tights, ankle boots

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turtleneck sweater and blazer. I look good. I take a few mirror pictures and post a few of them. I take karma's car keys. She gave me access to use any of her cars. I then drive to her older brother's company. I hope I won't be turned away.

I get to the company and park the car in the guests' parking lot and make my way inside the company. It's a three floor glass building. Wow her brother is rich. I go to the reception. The receptionist smiles at me.

Receptionist: “good afternoon and welcome to Radebe Accounting and Auditing. My name is Emma. How can I help you?”

Me: “I am here to see Mr Radebe. It is very important and a matter of life and death. Please let me see him.” she looks at me with her eyes squinted.

Emma: “well kid you better not be a one night stand here to cause drama coz you might cost me my job. Go in and out quietly. His office is in the third floor. Last office and his door is opposite the elevator.”

Me: “thank you. I owe you one.” I take out R100 from my purse and hand it to her. “I am just a university student but I am sure this can get you a meal at McD.” She laughs.

Emma: “typical varsity player.” I laugh and head to Mr Radebe’s office. When I get there, I get really nervous because I see both of karma’s brothers through the glass door of his office. I knock and a deep voice from inside tells me to enter. I open the door and walk in. they broth frown when they see me.

Baphuncumo: “I don’t think I have a lunch appointment with anyone.” I clear my throat and walk forward.

Me: “my name is Sibabalwe and no you don’t have an appointment with me. I am here about your sister, Kwenama Radebe.”

Sikhanyiso: “what the fuck do you know about our sister?” he is angry. Okay. Just calm down Sibabalwe and remember to breathe.

Me: “can I have water first?” they both give me the ‘what the fuck’ look. Well I take out my bottled water from my bag and take a long sip. I then close it and put it back in my bag. “Well this is definitely going to sound crazy but your sister is not dead. She is alive and has living in isolation for the past 7 years.”

Baphuncumo: “what are you talking about minion?” ow wow. He sees me as a minion. Okay. I won’t let that comment get to me.

Me: “like I said before, I am Sibabalwe not a minion.” He chuckles. “Your sister was cursed and more like trapped to live a life she didn’t choose for herself. I won’t go deep. She will tell you her whole story when or if she decides to.”

Sikhanyiso: “say we somehow believe whatever bullshit that you are spewing, where is this shunned ‘Kwenama’?” I clear my throat.

Me: “she is in the hospital. She was shot trying to save some human. That’s what she is now. Some kind of a hero. Somehow her kind failed to heal her this time around because it wasn’t a supernatural attack. So she is stuck in ICU and... holy shit I have said too much.”

Sikhanyiso: “are you okay? Like mentally?”

Me: “Wanga Mulaudzi, rings a bell?” he frowns and looks at me. Baphuncumo: “who the fuck is she talking about?”

Sikhanyiso: “few weeks ago I had lunch with this girl who talked like my sister, behaved like my sister, even the words she used, it was like my sister.”

Me: “and you muscleman, she saw you with your wife coming in of a Huawei store. The lady in black. Remember she froze until you asked if you could pass?”

Baphuncumo: “holy fuck.”

Sikhanyiso: “where is she?”

Me: “she is going to kill me.”

SIBABALWE

We arrive at the hospital almost the same time the following morning. Sikhanyiso is really attractive. I mean that every day smug in his face makes you wanna drop your panties but karma did warn me that he is a player, so I wouldn't set myself up for a heartbreak. We are told that her condition improved and that she has been moved to a private ward. We head there. I am glad that that doctor respected my wishes.

Sikhanyiso: "why is her face covered?"

Me: "you will have to ask her that once she wakes up."

Baphuncumo: "why was she shot again?"

Me: "YOU WILL HAVE TO ASK HER FOR YOURSELF OKAY? I AM ALSO IN THE DARK LIKE YOU AND I AM SCARED!" I swallow hard when I realize I have raised my voice at them. "Sorry."

Baphuncumo: "it's all good minion." I hold karma's hand and exhale loudly.

Me: "Oh, I saw the truth

When I first laid eyes on you

I didn't know it

But my life had changed

In ways I couldn't rearrange

And all I saw was you

You burnt bright like fire in the pouring rain

Those things I couldn't explain

Oh, what I saw in you

Take me, I'm ready

Go glow but go steady

To a place that we can call our own

I wanna know what feels like home to you."

She gasps and sits up straight. Her eyes opened and the pupils all black. Everything which is glass shatters around the room and strong winds just come in out of nowhere. She starts

speaking in voice that sounds possessed or like more than one person is talking.

Karma: “NE EFFUGIAT NOS! ET TENEBRAE SINT! ET VINCERE TENETRAS! ET NON EX NOBIS! TU OPTIMUS OMNIUM KARMA, ET SEMPER ES NON IENS USQUAM! AUT ALIUD HUMANUM IBIQUE MORIEMINI! (YOU WON’T ESCAPE US! DARKNESS WILL PREVAIL! DARKNESS WILL WIN! YOU WON’T GET AWAY FROM US! YOU ARE THE BEST KARMA EVER AND YOU ARE NOT GOING ANYWHERE! OR ELSE THE HUMAN WILL DIE!)”

She lies back down and she starts shaking. The machine starts beeping like crazy. Soon doctors and nurses fill the room and we are ushered outside. We head to the waiting room. I sigh and sit down.

Sikhanyiso: “what the fuck was that?”

Me: “a glimpse of what your sister is capable of.”

Baphuncumo: “what is she?”

Me: “you will have to wait for her to wake up. I have already said a lot. I don’t know, maybe she is going to chase me out if she wakes up to find you here. The reason why she didn’t stay in contact is because she was protecting you guys. Her job requires her to be heartless and have no weakness. A friend she made few months ago was attacked by a darkness goddess because he was a threat and could help her rid the curse. By bringing you here, I have placed your lives in danger. OMG she is really going to kill me.” I swallow hard.

Sikhanyiso: “I need a smoke.” He walks out.

Baphuncumo: “I need to call my wife.” He walks down the corridor to the men’s toilets. I exhale. Maybe I was too forward. Karma will not take this lying down. While wallowing in my misery

her doctor walks to me and sits next to me.

Doctor: “you remember that you owe me a dinner date right?” I chuckle and shake my head. I then look at my finger nails and look at him.

Me: “well I am a student. I can’t afford to take you out. Even to McDonalds. I have exhausted my monthly allowance.” He laughs and shakes his head.

Doctor: “I haven’t known you that long but I have a feeling that you look at your fingernails before you lie.” My eyes pop out.

I do have that tendency of looking at my fingernails before lying. Well I didn’t know about it until my mother caught me too many times. This one time she asked where I had been after a night out. I looked at my fingernails and she just said ‘save it. I know you are about to lie because you looked at your fingernails.’

Doctor: “here is a deal. Go out with me, I will pay. And I won’t ask too many questions about your sister because I can see that there is something you are not telling me.” I swallow.

Me: “how is she?”

Doctor: “after whatever that broke every glass in her ward, she became better. She is breathing on her own now. It’s only a matter of time before she gains consciousness.” I give him a fake smile. Well I do want her to wake up but what is she going

to do to me when she finds out I brought her brothers here? That I meddled in her life? She is definitely going to kick me out. "I won't ask what happened because I can see that you don't wanna talk about it. Just go out with me."

Me: "I don't know." Right that moment, Sikhanyiso walks in.

Sikhanyiso: "and then? Why are you all cozy and whispering? Don't tell me you're dating." I quickly stand up.

Me: "he was just telling me that your sister is now breathing on her own." Phakathi chuckles and stands up.

Doctor: "she is doing better. She might wake up later today or tomorrow. Excuse me." he walks away.

Sikhanyiso: "he is older than you. Don't even think about it." I frown looking at him.

Me: "for your information, I am older than I look." I give him an intimidating look. He just chuckles and shakes his head.

Sikhanyiso: "if you are below 22 years, then you're a kid to me. Stay away from him. He probably has fucked half the nurses in

this hospital. Why didn't you ask yourself why he isn't married?"

Me: "I am not going to date him and stop over analyzing things. After all he is just like you." he laughs.

Sikhanyiso: "I guess my reputation precedes me." I shake my head.

Me: "not really. Just that your sister told me about you. You are a womanizer, a player. You can't commit yourself to one woman. It's not that you are afraid of commitment. You have committed yourself to a relationship. You are just too greedy and you love having the best of both worlds."

Baphuncumo: "finally someone says it." He claps his hand walking in, looking at his brother with a smirk plastered on his face.

Sikhanyiso: "fuck off. Both of you." he sits down and gets busy with his phone.

Baphuncumo: "well done minion. I think I am starting to like you." I roll my eyes and head to the cafeteria.

I open my eyes and look around. Wow. I have never been admitted to a hospital before. The only time I laid in a hospital bed was when my mother brought me to this world. May her soul rest in peace. I wonder how she would have been if she found out I was cursed like this and I am living a lonely yet pleasant life.

I never thought one day I would play hero and gamble with my own life. What shocks me the most, is that bullets penetrated my body and I nearly died. I thought karma can't die. I guess there are loopholes in everything. I sit up. My body is aching. I have to get water from the white river. It will definitely heal me faster. I climb out of the bed and head to the door I suspect is the bathroom. There is a toiletry bag filled with my toiletries. This is definitely Sibabalwe's work.

I shower and then get dressed in my black attire with of course a face mask and some glasses. I have removed the bandage that was covering my face. Sometimes I think Sibabalwe understands me more than anyone. In fact she does. I pack my things and then walk out of the ward. I step out of the elevator

and just as I am about to walk out of the main door, someone calls my name.

Sibabalwe: “boss.” I turn and I nearly fall down when I see my brothers standing beside her. What in the actual fuck? “You are healed.” She excitedly comes and hugs me tight. I groan and she quickly release me from her hug. “Sorry. I just got too excited.” She looks at me and swallows hard. “Please don’t kill me.” I chuckle and shake my head.

Me: “as is I could. The goddesses love you more than me.”

Sibabalwe: “please don’t chase me out.”

Me: “you should’ve thought about that before you brought them here. My car keys.” She hands me them and I walk out.

Baphuncumo: “are you just going to pretend as if we don’t exist?” He shouts as soon as I reach the parking lot. I feel my body heating up. This is something new. What is happening to me?

Me: “I have lived the past 7 years of my life without you. I can continue living in peace like you don’t exist.”

I get in my car and drive out in high speed. I am pissed that Sibabalwe brought my brothers here. She may have had good intentions but she has just made a big mistake. She has placed a target on their backs. Now they might die because of her stupidity. I scream and bang the steering wheel. Fuck! I do some few breathing exercises and then drive myself home. I find Sabina in my yard with a bottle that contains white water. I take it and drink it.

Me: “thank you. Where is Phoenix?”

Sabina: “she couldn’t heal you because it wasn’t a supernatural attack. She said many things and I think she would have to come and say those things to you because I might leave something out. Also you should know that the other human is in town.” She flies away.

What does she mean the other human is in town? Is Monte in town? What could he be doing this side? Maybe it’s a work trip or something. Let’s hope so. Just as I am about to walk in, two cars drive in. it’s my brothers. God I don’t need this right now. I walk inside the house and go change to a baggy t-shirt and shorts with slippers. I head to the lounge and find them sitting.

Me: “this is how I look now.” They turn to look at me and start cursing. It doesn’t take Sikhanyiso a few moments to pass out. I have always known him to be weak when the going gets tough. I go to him and place my hand in his forehead. “Surgit.” He gasps and sits up straight, opening his eyes in the process.

Baphuncumo: “what was that Kwenama?” I sigh and go sit on the vacant chair. I look at Sibabalwe and she quickly walks away.

Me: “the day you last saw me, I went to the mall and I met a strange woman. She didn’t say anything to me. She just held my hand and muttered a few words in a language I didn’t understand. Well back then I didn’t understand but as time went by, I got to learn that she was transferring the karma curse to me.”

“Few days after that encounter I woke up in this house. I was expecting to be terrified for being in a foreign place but that emotion didn’t come. When I looked at myself in the mirror, that’s when I saw that I have changed completely. I was like this. I couldn’t cry. There were no tears and no emotion that could make me tear up. I revenge people who are broken physically and emotionally. I take out my rage on their abusers

and that automatically free them from any emotional prison they are in.”

“I am a great asset in the dark world. As much as I do good sometimes, in other times I do things that can make you question your sanity. And the dark world said it, there has never been a karma better than me. I kept distance from you guys to keep you safe. Few months back, I got close with this guy. On one evening, he was attacked by the goddess of darkness. I had to make him pack and move away without his knowledge and concern. I don’t want that to happen to you guys. Any human I befriend has a target on their back. That’s why I am always with Siba. She has somehow become a weakness of mine.” I sit back and look at them.

Sikhanyiso: “wow. Talk about a bombshell.”

Baphuncumo: “so it’s the strange woman’s fault that we lost our mother?” I swallow hard and nod. “She transferred the curse to you? Now why can’t you transfer it to someone else?”

Me: “living alone with no friends for 7 years can fuck you up. Worse you have a terrible job of sometimes harming innocent humans. I don’t wish that even on my worst enemy. There are two ways to get rid of the curse. Falling in love and transferring it to another woman. I know no one can fall for me while I look

this hideous but I am willing to walk this earth looking like this till the day the guardians decide to have mercy on me and take the curse.”

Baphuncumo: “this is fucked up. Really fucked up. Now that we know you are alive, we can’t just walk away from you. We wanna have a relationship with you. We don’t care how you look. You are our little sister.”

Sikhanyiso: “yeah. We do love you. All of you and we wouldn’t trade you for anything. Now that we know you exist, we aren’t going to walk away from you.” they both stand up and open their arms. I smile and go hug them. Sibabalwe comes and joins in on the hug.

Sibabalwe: “yeah. Sibabalwe saves the day. Call me ‘Khumbule Khaya’.” We laugh and break the hug. I turn to her with a serious face.

Me: “I am mad at you. You violated my privacy and endangered my brothers’ lives. I will never forgive you for that.”

Sibabalwe: “but I thought...”

Me: “you thought wrong. You put their lives at risk. You also disrespected my direct orders and wishes. I am not going to chase you out but I am just not happy with you.” I walk to the kitchen.

I cook lunch and dinner for everyone. I serve lunch and after that my brothers leave promising that they will come back. We also exchange numbers. Siba is very quiet and I am actually enjoying this peace I am getting. I am a bit concerned about their safety. Lord knows I would go crazy if something were to happen to them. But I have faith that the goddesses will look after them.

The following morning, I wake up and go for a jog. During the jog, I decide to take a break and go meditate a little on the park near my house. I go near the river and sit down. I block every thought in my mind and allow calmness to rule me. I just sit there and meditate for about half an hour before I get disturbed by someone clearing their throat behind me. I huff and stand up. I turn and I am shocked to find Monte standing there looking at me.

Me: “can I help you?” he gives me a small smile before his expression turns to a serious one. Okay.

Monte: “so it is you. You really thought you could outsmart me? I never forget a voice and I knew that there was something familiar about your eyes. So you show up in George and sleep

with me, after that you just disappear into thin air and move on with your life like nothing happened.”

Me: “how did you find me?”

Monte: “nothing a few bucks and a private investigator can’t do.”

Me: “why are you here?”

Monte: “why did you come and have a one night stand with me? Are you attracted to me? I mean that can be the only explanation. Or maybe you are some kind of a psycho or stalker.” I shrug.

Me: “maybe I am a stalker.”

Monte: “remove your mask so that I can see you. I have seen how you look like before. No need hiding from me now.” I chuckle.

Me: “you would go back to George on feet if you were to see my true form. You wouldn’t be able to handle it. It would give you nightmares.”

Monte: “what are you talking about?”

Me: "I am not human. I am a demon. I just seduced you and slept with you because I was lusting over you. Nothing deep about it." I dismiss him as I pick up my water bottle, ready to end this conversation and go back home. "We are done here."

Monte: "no we are not." He steps closer to me and attempts to take off my mask.

Me: "NO!" I shout before his hand can even reach my face. The impact of my scream is too much. It sends him flying across the park. He lands on the ground. "Holy fuck. What did I just do?" I walk to him. He is groaning in pain. I kneel next to him.

Phoenix: "Your Majesty, step away from the human." I turn to look at her. She is standing behind me.

Me: "why? What just happened?"

Phoenix: "I need you to calm down."

Me: "why are you speaking to me like I am some lunatic?"

Phoenix: "look around you." I look around and I can see that the weather has changed. It is very windy and the river isn't

calm anymore. “You need to calm down. Don’t panic. What is happening right now, is the result of your current mood. Stand up

try to calm down and move away from the human.”

I do as she says and stand a bit far from Monte. I try some breathing exercises to calm me down and it seems to work because the weather goes back to normal after a few moments. She lowers herself to Monte’s level and places her hands on his stomach. Within a few minutes, he sits up and looks around. His eyes then land on me.

Phoenix: “you can leave now. I will take care of him.” I look at him, sigh and then jog back to my house. I need explanations. I can’t believe I nearly killed Monte. What is wrong with me? How can I do magic without even citing a spell?

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SIBABALWE

I am not karma’s favourite person these days. So I will try by all means to stay clear of her. I prepare for the day ahead and then request an Uber. Karma and I are not on good terms, so I don’t

know how she would feel with me using her cars. The Uber arrives and I climb in. it drives away. I left her a not stating that I am off to work so that she won't get worried.

I get to work and walk inside. The construction workers are very quick and they do know their job. But what do you expect from DCC employees? They finished renovating and furnishing our offices in a matter of two weeks. We were told that we would be able to launch the Foundation in three months because they will be done with all the revamps and all. I walk to the floor that contains offices and it is empty. I just assume that they are in the boardroom, so I heard there. All the team members are there except for the supervisor. I greet and they greet back. I then join them.

Me: "where is Melanie?"

Cabangile: "she is meeting someone out of town. She will be back after lunch." Cabangile is the one who handles the finances.

Me: "oww I remember that meeting."

Happy: "you have to meet up with umama wezintombi in like 30 minutes." Happy is more like the PRO. I frown.

Me: “but I am not supposed to do meetings.”

Cabangile: “well you do now. Melanie is out of town, so you have to step in. here are some notes.” I huff and take them.

I then stand up and head out. Luckily the meeting is in a restaurant that is 10 minutes away from our offices. I catch a cab and then it drives me to the restaurant. I get there 5 minutes earlier and then settle down. The woman whom I am meeting with comes and our meeting commences. After an hour she leaves feeling satisfied with all my answers. I breathe out loud as she makes her way out. Gosh, way to nail a surprise meeting.

Voice: “thought it was you.” I look up to see Dr. Phakathi standing there in a golf t-shirt and chino shorts.

Me: “stalker.” He laughs and makes himself comfortable opposite me.

I get home to find Sibabalwe's note in my bedroom door. 'Gone to work'. I take it and squash it. I then go and take a shower. After that I wear a black summer dress and black sneakers. I need answers and I need them now. I head to my prayer room and make sure I keep the door locked. I gather all my things, draw a circle and sit inside it. I close my eyes and summon the guardians. When I open them, the guardians are all over the room.

Guardian 1: "you child have a tendency of summoning us as if we live to be at your disposal."

Me: "isn't that what it means to be a guardian?" she chuckles.

Guardian 2: "what is it that you want this time child?"

Me: "don't be like that. You know exactly what I want. I wanna know what is happening to me. It feels like something is wrong with me. It's like my body is over flowing with intense powers and I can't contain them. Even the weather changes according to my mood. Explain. Now."

Guardian 3: “child you are one of the few guardians to rid of the curse through falling in love. You are being overwhelmed with love inside your heart. It has been so long since you felt such warmth in your heart. It is almost foreign. Your body is reacting not in a good way to change. What has happened for the past few hours is only the beginning.”

Me: “what do you mean I am falling in love?”

Guardian 2: “the human you met up with this morning, the boy, he feels something for you and you feel something for him too. You just need to stay calm and open up your heart. You also need to let him see who you truly are so that you can see that he has genuine feelings for him.” I chuckle.

Me: “how am I going to go near him again after what I have done? The goddesses think I am a loose cannon. I saw it on Phoenix’s eyes. And Monte, how is he to trust me again after I nearly killed him?”

Guardian 4: “all things are possible with love my dear. Now you need to learn to control your new abilities. In all situations, you have to stay calm and clear like the clouds on a sunny day. You are not alone now. You have opened a can of worms which

cannot be closed. You just have to embrace this new humanity of yours so that you can live a healthy life.”

Me: “for a moment there I thought you were going to say a normal life.”

Guardian 1: “honey there is nothing normal about what you are.” She comes near me and her eyes immediately change colour. She chants a spell and a beautiful black diamond bracelet appears in the palm of her hand. She hands it to me. “Keep this on at all times. Even when bathing and sleeping.” I wear it.

Guardian 3: “you also need protection jewelry for your loved ones.” She hands me a paper which contains a spell. “You need to hand them their gifts before the sun sets today. Darkness already has a plan for them. It is your duty to make sure they are protected at all times.”

Guardian 2: “forge them with the alexandrite gemstone.”

Me: “how the hell am I supposed to get alexandrite in less than 8 hours?”

Guardian 5: "you are karma. There is nothing you can't do."
they all disappear. I huff and stand up. Today is going to be a long day.

I go to my room, prepare myself and then head out. I start at American Swiss. Luckily they have what I need. I purchase 3 men's rings and 2 women's necklace. I then go to an herbs' shop and purchase most of the herbs I will be needing. I quickly head back to my house. I go to the basement after making sure I have everything I need.

I place all the ingredients in the table. I take a bowl and put amethyst, black tourmaline, malachite, Himalayan, sage

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eucalyptus, rue, nettle-wards and rosemary. I pour white water inside and then stir. After that I cut the palm of my hand and let my blood spill into the bowl.

Me: "sit potentia haec meum sanguinem eu praesidio defendat, et ad famam populi desideravit." The contents in the bowl start to boil. I then take the jewelry and place it inside. "Transferto vas tutela industria ad provisum." The boiling becomes huge

and the contents starts to fall on the table. After a while the drama ends. I take out the jewelry. At first when I purchased them, they were silver and now they are black, shiny black and the alexandrite is standing out beautifully. I smile at my work of art.

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I freshen up and then drive to Baphuncumo's workplace. As always, he is eating lunch with Sikhanyiso. I enter and they immediately stop what they are doing. They stand up and come to hug me.

Baphuncumo: "I don't think I am ever going to get used to having you around and alive." I chuckle.

Me: "how are you guys doing?"

Baphuncumo: "join us for lunch. Come sit at my chair, only for today." Sikhanyiso and I both laugh.

Sikhanyiso: "once in a lifetime opportunity. Don't let it pass you sister." I chuckle and go sit at Baphuncumo's chair. Sikhanyiso dishes up 2 pieces of chicken, chips, rolls and pour me a glass of juice. It's only then I realize that I haven't eaten anything today. I start eating.

Baphuncumo: “not that we are not pleased that you are here, but just curious as to what brings you here.”

Sikhanyiso: “you should’ve seen the minion walking in here a few days ago. She walked in so proud and tall, even though she is so short.” I chuckle.

Me: “tell me about your lives. What is interesting in them?”

Baphuncumo: “my wife is pregnant with our first baby. I am so happy about it. I haven’t told her about you. I never talked about you ever because you have been a very sensitive subject.”

Sikhanyiso: “yeah. It took him close to a year to finally say your name but he still didn’t like to talk about you. Even today.”

Baphuncumo: “well I never told her about her and I won’t start now. I will just say you went to study overseas because you didn’t like the new wife and we lost contact along the way.”

Me: “that’s better. What about you womanizer?” I ask turning to Sikhanyiso who just laughs.

Sikhanyiso: “I am in between women but I like the minion. She has that unique energy. She is so different and she isn’t fazed by my charms.”

Baphuncumo: “what about the doctor friend?”

Sikhanyiso: “oseyishayile akakayosi.” We all laugh. We finish eating and then I take out their gifts.

Me: “this are protection rings. They will protect you from every darkness that may come your way. I need you to promise me that you will wear it at all times. Never take it off. Never.” They take them and put them on immediately. “Here is a necklace for my sister in law. Make sure she always wears it. Just say it’s a lucky charm and it will also protect her pregnancy.”

Baphuncumo smiles.

Baphuncumo: “I am glad you are back into our lives. Even though you come with conditions.” I chuckle.

We hug once again and I head out. Now on to the difficult task. Facing Monte. Gosh I am not in the mood of explaining myself but it is what it is.

SIBABALWE

Me: “I didn’t say you can join me.” I say as he makes himself comfortable opposite me.

Phakathi: “I always go for what I want. Deal with it.” He calls a waiter and places his order. He seems to be familiar with this place because he doesn’t even ask for a menu. I also order desert because I have already eaten. I just don’t wanna watch him eat. It will be awkward.

Me: “if you are here to ask me out, then forget it. I am not in a space to get into a relationship right now. I have just started a new job and I am still juggling on being a good assistant and a great friend.”

Phakathi: “we can be friends then.”

Me: “my mother taught me to never be just friends with men. It never ends well.” He chuckles.

Phakathi: “well she was right. She is a wise woman. You should definitely hold on to her teachings. Just know Miss Radebe that I want you and I know I will get you. It’s only a matter of time.”

He smirks and sits back. I frown when he calls me Miss Radebe but then I remember I lied about being karma's sister.

Me: "I am actually Miss Mzobotshi. I only said I am a Radebe because I knew you wouldn't let me see my boss. Miss Radebe is my boss and my housemate. Well I am her housemate because I live in her house for free."

Phakathi: "how long have you been working for her?"

Me: "a few months."

Phakathi: "so you still can't afford your own apartment?" I chuckle.

Me: "it's complicated."

Phakathi: "uncomplicated it for me."

Me: "we are not friends. I only know your last name and that isn't enough for me to tell you some of my personal information." He chuckles.

Phakathi: "fair enough." The waiter comes and places our orders in the table. We thank her and she leaves. "I am Njabulo Phakathi. A surgeon at where you met me. I am 31 years and I

was once this close to getting married but she got cold feet and froze the entire relationship. I have a little boy who is 7 years old but lives with my mother because of how demanding my job is. Now your turn.”

Me: “I am just an assistant. I am 20 years old. I know I am young. I finished high school and got a Public Relations Certificate at a college. When I heard that my boss is hiring, I didn’t hesitate in applying and I am glad I applied. That’s just about it.”

Phakathi: “so I am 11 years older than you?”

Me: “you might as well be my older brother, even a stepfather.” He laughs and shakes his head.

Phakathi: “people say ‘age is just a number,’ right?” I chuckle.

Me: “you are very charming, but I have to leave. My lunch hour ended a while ago.” I eat the last spoon of my desert and gather my things. “I am sure you can afford to pay for my desert. You are, after all, a doctor.” I stand up.

Phakathi: “one day you won’t have no space to run. And that day is nearing.”

Me: “woo. I’m scared.” He laughs.

Phakathi: “sarcasm doesn’t suit you.”

Me: “bye doctor.” I head out.

Just as I am crossing the road, many crows fly above me. Even some of them attempt to fly right at me. I scream and quickly cross the road. They seem to follow me. I am really getting terrified. I run to the nearest shop and quickly close the door. I look through the glass window and I see the crows getting burned by something invisible. Most of them fall down dead and others just disappear. I take out my phone and text karma. I am not getting out of this shop until she fetches me.

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KWENAMA ‘KARMA’ RADEBE

I get to his house and just apparate inside the living room. He is watching TV and is only wearing sweatpants and socks. I swallow hard and step closer to him. I am moving quietly so he doesn’t hear me.

Me: “hi.” He quickly turns his head and stand up so fast. His eyes pop out.

Monte: “what the fuck? How did you get in?”

Me: “I told you I am a demon. Don’t you remember our last conversation?”

Monte: “you were lying. Kindly take off that mask willingly. I don’t wanna get thrown across the living room.” I sigh. Why didn’t the Phoenix wipe away his memory?

Me: “I know you are not going to like what you are going to see. Matter of fact, it will scare you so much

you will chase me away. But first I wanna tell you a short story about a little girl.” He gives me a look and goes back to his seat. I sit on the single couch across him.

Monte: “no funny business.” I actually chuckle.

Me: “this is a story about a young girl. Once upon a time, she had everything she could need. Her family adored her and she adored them back. She didn’t have many friends but that wasn’t an issue to her because her brothers were her best friends. One day she went to the mall to get a breather. But

what she didn't know was that that was the last time she was seeing her family."

"She met a strange woman in black who shook her hand and said a few unfamiliar words. After that she doesn't know what happened. But she woke up after a few days in an unfamiliar place. When she looked at the mirror, she saw the most hideous monster staring right back at her. Her family mourned her because they thought she was lost at sea. They never saw her again."

"She became the new guardian of the karma curse. She lived her life a loner, on the outskirts of town and only came to town when it was really necessary. At times she was a hero that protected good people against evil but sometimes she was forced to punish good people and she couldn't stop it because that was part of her 'job description'. Don't run and don't scream." I sign and I take off my mask and glasses. "I am that girl. What you saw in George was just an illusion. This is the real me."

Monte: "bloody hell." He looks at me, like really looks at me. A few minutes passes and he is not saying anything.

Me: “say something.” He stands up and comes towards me.
“What are you doing?” I quickly stand and move back.

Monte: “I just wanna touch you.”

Me: “no you can’t. You should have fainted by now and that would’ve given me enough chance to give you your gift and get away.”

Monte: “what gift?”

Me: “you are like a weakness to me because I somehow care for you. So I need you to be safe and protected even when I am not there.”

Monte: “why am I a weakness to you? Elaborate.” I swallow hard. I step back until I hit the wall. He smirks and steps closer to me. I am feeling really uncomfortable with someone so close to me while I am in my true face. He plants a soft kiss on my forehead which makes my whole body freeze and then he steps back smiling. “Protected from what?” I clear my throat and blink really fast.

Me: “the dark world. I am becoming human again. That means they will lose an asset and to keep that from happening, they

will be going after the humans that I care about. Starting from my housemate, my brothers and you.”

Monte: “so what do I wear? A string around my waist?” I roll my eyes and then take out a ring from my sling bag. I hand it to him. “Is this your way of proposing?”

Me: “just wear the damn thing.” He is really frustrating.

Monte: “I am curious.” He wears the ring. “Nice ring by the way.” He then looks straight into my eyes. “Like how do you go from ‘get lost’ to ‘caring about me’? Because I think I should be the one switching up like that.”

Me: “you are the first guy to talk to me in like forever. I guess not many guys like a mysterious woman.”

Monte: “you are really beautiful.” I choke on my saliva. This nigga is tripping.

Me: “do you have an eye problem?” he laughs.

Monte: “I am talking about inner beauty. You have been isolated from people yet you care about them and will do anything to protect them. That’s beautiful.”

Me: “well you are in danger because of me. So?” I shrug.

Monte: “ow don’t be so modest. You never chose this life. You could be bitter and angry at other humans for not being chosen instead of you but here you are, playing hero.” I give him a small smile.

I won’t tell him about the possibility of the curse breaking. Let’s see if he is worthy of me. My phone rings and I take it out. It’s a text from Siba. ‘Just got chased by crows. I got into a store and something from nowhere burned them. Others disappeared. I am not getting out of this store until you are at the parking lot.’ My eyes pop out. This means Nyx paid her a visit. I look at Monte.

Me: “I have to go.”

Monte: “your number?” I grunt.

Me: “I will call you.”

I practically run out of the house. Nyx better pray that Siba is unharmed. Even though her prayers won’t reach anywhere, it’s the thought that counts. If not so, I will banish her to the Black Pit where she will spend eternity saying ‘I was stupid.’

I am glad that Siba was unharmed. Well a little scratch on the elbow but she was okay. Just a little shaken. When I got to her, I quickly gave her the necklace which she wore immediately. We drove home and I had to make her water with sugar to drink because she was really shaken up. I added some sleeping herbs on her water and she didn't even recognize them. She slept shortly after.

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'He sat up straight while breathing very fast. It was as if he could feel her. Like she was in the room. He had dreamed of his late ex-girlfriend chasing his current girlfriend with an axe. Luckily the current girlfriend managed to escape but got a little scar on her upper arm which was caused by the axe. He swallowed hard and looked at the woman sleeping next to her. She looked so peaceful but he jumped out of the bed and fell down when he saw a new scar on her upper arm which was bleeding.

Him: "Nomvelo, wake up." he shook her gently. She stirred and then slowly opened her eyes. She yawned and looked at him.

Nomvelo: "and then? Why do you look like you have seen a ghost?" he smiled nervously and uncovered her body. Her

knees were body, like she had been dragged on the tar road. “OMG! What is this?” she looked at him in fear. “What have you done to me?”

Him: “No Mvelo I didn’t do anything. It was her. She did this.”

Nomvelo: “what? When you see me, you see a fool?” she got out of bed and she screamed at the pain she was feeling. Her whole body was sore. She looked at her arm and just cried when she saw that she was bleeding. “Why did you do this? Have I ever done anything wrong to offend you or upset you? How could you treat me like this?”

Him: “Mvelo I didn’t do this. I swear. It was her. My dead ex-girlfriend. She is the one who attacked you. Well her ghost. She attacked you in my dream and then you woke up like this.” she looked at him like he was crazy and then shook her head.

Nomvelo: “really? That is the best you can come up with? You know what, I am done with you. Now I know why they say you are crazy and abusive.” She leaped her way to the bathroom and Fanele just sat down feeling defeated. This was the fifth woman walking out of the relationship because of his ex-girlfriend’s shenanigans. She always meddled in his affairs. He

didn't know why because when she died, they were on good terms.

Fanele: "what did I do to deserve this? why are you doing this to me?" he buried his head in his hands and just sobbed.'

I wake up gasping for air. I don't even know when I fell asleep. I Chuckle when I realize that I actually dozed off in the kitchen counter. I stretch my neck a bit and then stand up. Dealing with ghosts is such a tiring task because you have to travel or rather bring the ghost to your world which is not an easy task. But I had to act fast before the Fanele guy got arrested for crimes he didn't commit.

I go to my room and take a nice hot bath. After that I wear leggings with a baggy tee and slippers. I head to the basement and light up candles. I then draw a circle in the middle and draw another one not far from the one in the middle. I sit on the one in the middle with my legs folded. I close my eyes.

Me: "Azraelle vocat te dea vitae novitas mortem. Ostende te. Azraelle vocat te dea vitae novitas mortem. Ostende te.

Azraelle vocat te dea vitae novitas mortem. Ostende te.” The candles go off for a few seconds making the room dark. Then they go on and she emerges wearing a black dress which is made of feathers

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her huge wings flapping. She is carrying a white dove which matches with her white very long hair.

Azraelle: “Kun kira Ni rabin mutum. Me yasa? (You have summoned me half human. Why?)” Azraelle isn’t like the other goddesses who bow down to me. She is like an independent contractor because even the dark world doesn’t command her to do things. She is more like an angel. She doesn’t even speak the language of goddesses. I look at her.

Me: “lokacin da na duba, duniyar ku da tawa son lafiya da jituwa kuma ba ta karo ko cakuda. Yanzu ta yaya ake yiwa mutum azaba ta hanyar ruhu? Ba kawai a mafarki ba har ma a rayuwa ta zahiri? (Last time I checked, your world and mine lived in peace and harmony and doesn’t clash or mix. Now how is it that a human is being tortured by a ghost? Not only in dreams but also in real life?)” She frowns and tilts her head to the side. The dove imitates her.

Azraelle: “wanene wannan mutumin? (Who is this human?)”

Me: “he is Fanele Ngobeni. His ex-girlfriend died. She is jealous, so she keeps chasing away every girl that Fanele dates. It’s been a year now. She attacks the girls physically.” She raises her eyebrows. She then looks around.

Azraelle: “this place is full of darkness. Isn’t there any other place where we can talk in?”

Me: “no. now take the ghost with you or I will send her to the black pit.” She chuckles.

Azraelle: “half human I am not your slave. You can’t order me around. If you want me to do something for you, ask nicely.” I huff.

Me: “help her cross over or I will send her to the Black Pit. I am not about to ask you or beg you to do your job. I have options but I just wanted to do things by the book for once.” She looks at me and looks at her dove.

Azraelle: “let this be the last time you summon me or order me to do something. I am not your friend.” With that being said, she disappears leaving black feathers all over the floor and one white feather which is shining so bright. I stand up and go pick it up. It is glowing. I put everything back in order and head out. I go put it in the prayer room and then go prepare supper. I just hope that Azraelle is going to finish the job tonight or else I would really throw that ghost of a girlfriend to the Black Pit because she is an unfriendly ghost.

A Black Pit is a place where supernatural beings who are being punished are thrown into. It is just a pit which is pitch black and full of nothing. Once you are in, there is no way out. If you get locked up with your enemy, you might fight for all eternity or end up being friends.

SEASON FINALE

First thing I do in the morning, I check if the ghost girlfriend is gone. Luckily she is, so there will be no reason for me to hunt down Azraelle and deal with her. But she would totally kick my ass if I were to challenge her to a fight. I take a bath and then prepare for the day ahead. When I am done, I head downstairs. I find Siba drinking coffee staring into space. I clear my throat and she jumps up, almost spilling her coffee.

Siba: "OMG! You scared me."

Me: "but I live with you." she laughs nervously.

Siba: "yeah, you do." I sigh.

Me: "do I need to erase your memory from yesterday's incident? Because I can do that."

Siba: "you don't have to. I have to get to work." She washes her cup and then attempts to walk out but I hold her arm. I frown when I see flashes of the crows chasing her and eating her dead body in the dark world. I scream and quickly let go of her.

Me: "I need to cleanse you as soon as possible. Why didn't you tell me you had a nightmare?"

Siba: "it's no big deal. Just trauma."

Me: "no. that is not just trauma. That was a vision. Something that will happen in the near future unless I stop it. Go prepare yourself and be back here in 20 minutes." She pouts and then walks away.

I cook breakfast which includes bacon, scrambled eggs, toasted bread, Russians and sliced tomatoes. I could be a chef in my next life if I want to. When I am done, I place everything in the dining table and also prepare juice. I then go sit and wait for Siba.

Sikhanyiso: "one thing I missed about you was your cooking skills dear sister. I mean you can smell the bacon from the gate." He says walking in with Baphuncumo. I chuckle and shake my head.

Me: "what brings you guys here?"

Baphuncumo: "food." He makes himself comfortable on the seat next to me and starts dishing up.

Me: "hey, you're being rude. I am waiting for Siba."

Siba: “wait no more.” She walks in looking beautiful in burgundy solid cropped tube top & pencil midi skirt set paired with white Nike sneakers. “Morning gentlemen.” She smiles and then sits down next to Sikhanyiso. She really has a nice body and a pretty face.

Sikhanyiso: “you look nice

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minion.”

Siba: “I know, old man.” she says with a smug on her face and starts dishing up. I also dish up for myself and start eating.

Sikhanyiso: “just because I called you a kid, you’re going to refer to me as an old man?” she shrugs.

Siba: “If the shoe fits.” Baphuncumo laughs.

Me: “we could give you guys some privacy because this sexual tension between you two is too much. I mean the last time you had sex Siba was in Eastern Cape, right?” she chokes on her food and Sikhanyiso laughs.

Sikhanyiso: “I don’t mind scratching that itch you have minion.”

Siba: “oww yeah. You know so much about scratching itches, don’t you?”

Baphuncumo: “okay kids. Enough about the sex talk. Aibo.” We all laugh.

We carry on eating with Siba putting me to speed about what has been happening at the Foundation. Baphuncumo loves the idea and asks to invest in it. Although I don’t need his finances, the thought of him putting money in something I thought of is really comforting. So I agree. We finish eating and they leave.

Me: “go take a swimsuit.”

Siba: “why?”

Me: “because I said so.”

She rolls her eyes and walks upstairs. She comes back with a handbag and sunglasses. Did I say I was going to the beach? I just shake my head and walk out. She follows me. We climb inside the car and drive out. We drive to the white river. She is in awe of the white trees that surround it. Well it’s like a magical area. Well it is magical because it is not visible to humans, except for witches.

Siba: "What is this place?"

Me: "goddess of water's secret lair. Come on." I park the car and we climb out off. "You can change to the swimsuit now. Nobody will see you. There is literally no one around here except for the goddess who is currently inside the water." She rolls her eyes and change into the swimsuit.

We walk to the river and Sabina emerges from the water. The water is clear, you can even see the bottom of it. It becomes white when she is inside, blue when there is danger ahead and green when there is darkness that has entered the water. She bows and looks at Siba.

Sabina: "shall I make myself visible to her?"

Me: "no. you don't have to break the rules for her. She had a nightmare from her attack from yesterday. I think the crows touched her and released some dark magic to her. So she needs cleansing." Siba looks at me and looks at the river.

Siba: "who are you talking to? Is this your breaking point? Have you really gone crazy?" Sabina laughs and the whole river literally vibrates.

Me: "I am talking to the goddess. Hand me your necklace and go in."

She takes off the necklace and hands it to me. She then walks to the water. The minute she steps in the water changes colour. As she swims further, the water turns green. I look at Sabina. She sighs and goes to stand next to the river. Siba goes underwater and after a few minutes she emerges. The water has gone back to clear. She comes out and stands next to the river shaking off the wetness. Sabina puts her hand on Siba's shoulder and chants some spell. She then looks at me and goes back inside river. When she is in the river, she has that mermaid tale. It's weird but it is what it is.

Siba: "I feel pure. I think the cleansing worked." I smile at her.

Me: "it did. Now let's get out of here." we walk to the car. Did Nyx really just poison Siba? And she thought I wouldn't find out? Wow, I guess she is looking for war then and she is going to get it. Soon.

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SEASON FINALE

SIBABALWE

Security: “Babs there is someone here to see you.”

Me: “I am coming.”

Well my nickname from back home is Babs, so I figured that I should be called like that here at work. It would be really cool and it would feel like home. It’s just a few minutes before lunch hour ends. I stand up and go to the lobby in our floor. I find Sikhanyiso sitting comfortably in one of the couches. I frown and fold my arms to my chest.

Me: “and then? What are you doing here?” he stands up and he smiles. His charming smile can render your joints dysfunctional for a few minutes. I pretend as if I am unfazed by it.

Sikhanyiso: “don’t you wanna show me your office minion?” I roll my eyes.

Me: “follow me.” I turn around and lead him to my office. It is nothing huge. Just a desk, my chair, visitors’ chair, a couch, a vision board. Yeah that’s about it. I use the staff kitchen and bathroom like everyone else. “You can sit.” I go and clear my lunch from my desk and throw what I won’t be needing in the trash can. I then sit on my chair and watch him. “How may I help you?”

Sikhanyiso: “how are you?” I resist the urge to roll my eyes this time around. I honestly don’t know what he is doing here and I am keen on finding out.

Me: “I am good Sikhanyiso. How are you doing this evening?”

Sikhanyiso: “still shining and still handsome.” I chuckle and he smirks.

Me: “talk.”

Sikhanyiso: “well I wanted to take you out for lunch but I was late. So we will do dinner tonight.” I laugh and sit back.

Me: “that’s how you get into every girl’s pants? You just order them around and because they are charmed by your smirk, they agree? Wow. Such arrogancy. Thank you but I don’t wanna

do dinner with you. Go home and practice another pick up line.”

Sikhanyiso: “baby girl I haven’t even started charming you. If I were to start now, you wouldn’t resist me even if you wanted to. I am still asking nicely. I don’t want to use my charms because they will make you forget even your name.” I roll my eyes and open my laptop.

Me: “you know your way out Sikhanyiso. As long as you are arrogant and this forward, I won’t give you attention or go out with you.” I start getting busy and responding to some emails.

Sikhanyiso: “you are on minion. Don’t say I didn’t warn you. By the end of this week, you will go out with me. See you tonight. If you can’t go out with me, I will bring dinner and Nama’s house. Tell her not to cook.” He smiles once again and then heads out. I let out a breath I didn’t know I was holding. He is so charming and so dreamy but I have been warned about him, so I will try and stay away from him. Lord give me strength.

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KARMA

I was out for my afternoon jog when I saw someone at the park. Curiosity got the better of me

so I go there. I see a figure standing near the river looking ahead. When I get closer, I can see that it's Monte. Gosh. What is he doing here? I turn around and just as I am about to walk away, he speaks up.

Monte: "are you seriously going to ignore me like that? I mean I came here for you." I roll my eyes and turn to face him.

Me: "hello Monte."

Monte: "Miss Radebe. I have kissed you, made love to you, seen your fake face and real face but the thing I love the most about you is your voice. It is like a sweet melody. It soothes every knot in my body." I chuckle.

Me: "thatha Shakespeare." He laughs. "By the way, what you saw in George was not fake. That should've been my real face if I wasn't cursed. But it was an illusion. I just wanted to see something."

Monte: "you wanted to test my sex game?" I laugh and look down.

Me: “maybe. I don’t know what came over me. I just woke up one day and decided to fly to George. Maybe you bewitched me or something.” He laughs.

Monte: “you are the witch here not me. I don’t even know where to find a sangoma nearby. Most of them are scams nowadays.” I chuckle.

Me: “do you, umm, maybe want to come in my house for coffee? Or beer? Or even water?” he smirks and looks at me with his eyebrows raised.

Monte: “lead the way Missy.” I extend my hand and he takes it. We walk to my house. We get inside. “Holy cow. You live in a fuckin mansion. This is beautiful.”

Me: “thank you. Let’s go to the kitchen.” We go to the kitchen and he sits in one of the barstools. “I will prepare something quick for us.” he smiles and nods.

I first make a Black Russian cocktail for him and then serve it. I start preparing the Mediterranean Grilled Chicken Salad. I make enough for 3 people so that Siba will snack when she gets home. He is telling me about his huge ass family. He is very funny, especially when it comes to storytelling.

Monte: “mom would love a daughter in law. Dad however, I don’t think he cares about any of that. He is an alcoholic. So as long as he is drunk and monied, all is well in his world.”

Me: “what about your siblings?”

Monte: “I only have one. A sister who is studying at Rhodes. She isn’t really my parents’ favourite because of her sexuality. She is lesbian and proud. My parents are not modern, so they don’t understand how they gave birth to a girl who ended up liking other girls. Of course they tried arranging a marriage for her. Parents thinking they are Gods.”

Me: “my mom was a cool person. I think she wouldn’t have cared if I became lesbian or not. She loved my brother so much, even when many girls came to our house claiming to be pregnant for him or demanding damages for their virginites. Mom would scold him today and tomorrow you would see them being all buddy-buddy. She was honestly the best parent ever.”

Monte: “I am sorry about what happened to her.” I smile.

Me: "it's all good. Everything happens for a reason. Now I am done here. I am going to freshen up. Give me a few minutes."

Monte: "okay."

I go to my room and take a quick shower. I get dressed in my brown plain western fall cape and slippers. I head back downstairs. I dish up for the both of us and start eating.

Monte: "when are you opening your own restaurant?"

Me: "is that a compliment?"

Monte: "yes. Your food is delicious and your cocktails are so tasty. I mean you have all the talent here. When are you going to share it with the world?" I honestly figured I would open a restaurant when I am curse free so that I can work freely in a space I love and in a healthy environment.

Me: "soon. Only if you are going to sponsor Me." he laughs.

Monte: "consider yourself sponsored." I giggle.

SEASON FINALE

SIBABALWE

Sikhanyiso ended up really coming for supper. To get him off my back, I gave him what he wanted, a date. So there I am right now getting dressed for a dinner date. Kwenama is not at home for the first time in forever. She said she is having dinner with Monte at his house. I don't know Monte that well but I hope that he really cares for her.

I wear my grey pleated off shoulder above knee heap sleeve plain dress and black point toe stiletto court heels. I look at the mirror to see if my make-up is still good. I take my black handbag and head out. I down a tequila shot just to calm my nerves. A few minutes later, a car drives in. I know it's him. I don't even wait for him to come in. I walk outside and catch him just as he is climbing out of the car.

Sikhanyiso: "wow." He swallows hard looking at me from head to toe. "You look... wow."

Me: "thank you for the wow. We can go now."

Sikhanyiso: “hey. I am still complementing you.”

Me: “I know I look beautiful. Can we go now?” he smiles and shakes his head. We climb inside the car and he drives out. He has nice choice in music. He is playing Green by Kaina. I found myself jamming and humming to the song.

Sikhanyiso: “you love this song?” I smile and nod.

Me: “I heard it playing in Resort to Love and I purchased it after the movie.”

Sikhanyiso: “I also heard it on that movie. We should definitely do Netflix and chill sometime soon.” I shake my head.

Me: “Netflix and chill with you definitely always end up with clothes off and loads of sex. So no. I will pass.” He laughs.

Sikhanyiso: “how long are you going to resist me? I haven’t even started charming you. I stove sisaku 0 babes.” I laugh and look outside the window. We get to the restaurant and we head inside. We are ushered to a table. We sit down and we place our orders. “So tell me about yourself.”

Me: “thatha myself.” he laughs.

Sikhanyiso: “I am just keeping the conversation going.”

Me: “you already know that I am 20 years old. I am from Eastern Cape. My family owns a farm. It’s not that huge. In fact it is really small but it brings in money, so I guess it is something. I am your sister’s assistant and also housemate. I dumped my last boyfriend before I came here because long distance relationship was too impractical for me. I am young so I didn’t wanna tie myself to that situation.”

Sikhanyiso: “if he were to move here

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what would you do?” I chuckle.

Me: “I don’t get back with my exes. It’s a rule I made. Unlike you who usually would jump to an opportunity if you were to find one of your exes in your bed with her legs wide open.” He laughs and looks down.

Sikhanyiso: “guilty as charged but I am trying to change. For you. But I won’t acquire that if you remind me of my terrible

self after every 5 seconds. Give me a chance to prove myself.” I sigh and look at him.

Me: “if I were to give you a chance, I would put you on a month probation. No sexual intercourse for a month. Just us getting to know each other on an emotional level.” He laughs and shakes his head in disbelief.

Sikhanyiso: “you are joking right?” I look at him with a serious face on. “Holy fuck. You’re not joking. You are absolutely crazy.”

Me: “okay then. Watch me walk my crazy self out of this date.” I attempt to stand up and he quickly holds my hand. He sighs loudly and looks straight into my eyes.

Sikhanyiso: “fine. Put me on probation. I don’t mind. I am sorry how I reacted. I really like you and I would like to see where this goes.”

Me: “but you love sex. Sex free month does not only include us. It means you will be abstaining from sex. You won’t sleep with exes or one night stands. No hook ups. Are you ready for that?” he huffs.

Sikhanyiso: “I will need you to work with me. This means that we would have to do activities that will make me forget a little about sex.”

Me: “we can do thirty dates in thirty days.” He gives me a weak smile.

Sikhanyiso: “you are very tough and stubborn for your age. You have a backbone and I admire that.” I roll my eyes and look down. Let’s see if he is going to survive and pass my test.

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KWENAMA

It has been a week since I made things official with Monte. I couldn’t deny what I feel for him. For the first time in my life, Aphrodite the goddess of Love made an appearance. She didn’t say anything to me. She just smiled and then disappeared. I had just done my recent assignment where an accountant was framed for stealing money at his job. He got fired and lost everything. From his house to his family. Fake family if I tell you. Well I exposed the person who framed him and he was compensated and reinstated at work.

I wake up the following morning and go bath. When I am done, I get dressed in a brown pocket front corduroy overall with black turtleneck and black slippers. I head downstairs and find Siba making coffee. That's the only thing she is good at. She is still terrible at cooking but what I love the most is that she doesn't give up.

Me: "good morning sister in law." She turns with a smile and quickly frowns and her eyes pop out as she takes in my appearance.

Siba: "have you looked in the mirror lately?" I chuckle.

Me: "you have seen my face numerous times. What is different today?"

Siba: "when was the last time you looked in the mirror?" I frown.

Me: "a long while back. I don't even remember my own reflection but I know I am still hideous and disgusting." I say with a small laugh and start taking out breakfast ingredients. I suddenly change my mind. "I think a cereal will do today. What do you think Siba?" I turn and she is no longer there. Weird. Anyways I put back the breakfast ingredients. I take out bran flakes and pour it in a bowl. I put in milk and I sit down. I start

eating. The minion walks in the kitchen with a mirror in her hand. “What is it Siba?”

Siba: “just look.” I scoff and roughly take the mirror from her hands. I look at my reflection and I nearly fall down. What in the actual fuck? My big pimples have decreased in size. They just look like normal pimples.

Me: “am I seeing things?” she shakes her head. Her eyes are glassy and she looks like she is seconds away from crying.

Siba: “you are going back to normal. OMG! I am so happy.”

She attacks me with a hug and starts sniffing. I just pat her back because I don’t know what to do. I don’t even know how to react to my current change. I am really shocked. We finally pass the emotional session and she eats her cereal. A quick lightning breaks our moment.

I rush outside and find Antevorta in the middle of the yard. With naked human eyes you wouldn’t see her, just something so white and shiny and blinding. I step forward and her eyes meet mine. They are clear white.

Antevorta: "WAR IS COMING. FATES HAVE BEEN SEALED IN THE DARK WORLD. THERE WILL BE CASUALTIES. GODDESSES HAVE PICKED SIDES. PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE WAR AND THE AFTERMATH. IT WON'T BE PLEASANT. WAR IS COMING, SOON." She then disappears. I sigh and look back to see Siba frozen on the doorstep.

Siba: "was that an actual goddess?" I frown. Did a human just see a goddess?

SEASON FINALE

Seruva: “many alliances have been made. The war is really coming and there is no way to run away from it. Nyx is the whisperer who have convinced many goddesses from the dark world to join in on the fight. It is going to be intense but what we know is that we will win and reign supreme.”

Sapphire: “many goddesses are willing to fight with you. Athena wants to fight with you. Themis is being neutral as always but she knows that we are fighting for the good cause. Azraelle said she might make an appearance. We have the numbers. We are ready for war. It is really happening in 3 days.”

Me: “where will it happen?”

Gaea: “I foresee it happening here in this park. I can feel its energy and the damage it will do to nature.” We are standing in the park that is a few minutes away from my house. I am really anxious about this war.

Me: “must I send away my loved ones?”

Sabina: “that would be wise but make sure they are cloaked. Or else Nyx would never miss the opportunity of dragging them here and that would be a great distraction for you. You will lose focus and that would mean victory for them.” I sigh.

Sapphire: “don’t worry. This will be the last war you would have to fight before you are free from this curse.”

Me: “but why do I have to fight for my freedom?” they all laugh.

Seruva: “please don’t tell me you were expecting a retirement or farewell party. Life isn’t supposed to be easy, especially for half humans like you.” the wind blows really hard and before we can decipher what is going on, Shana appears.

Shana: “they have eyes on your humans. You don’t have time to go find the witch to do a cloaking spell. You have to do it yourself. Today. They are not safe.”

Sapphire: “what did you see Shana?”

Shana: “it’s not good. You need to move Your Majesty.” I look at them and then walk to my house.

I freshen up and then get dressed in a black high neck solid bodycon dress and Puma women's Cali Sport mix black sneaker. I pack everything I am going to need in my bag. I then take my bag and head out. I don't know how I will do this but I am hoping it doesn't backfire. Monte is on his annual leave, so he is going to be in town for a month. I get to his house and go inside. I hear voices in the lounge so I head there. I find him with two other guys. I quickly rush to the kitchen when I remember that I didn't put in my mask. Few moments later, he follows me. He laughs.

Monte: "how are you babe?" I roll my eyes and he laughs again. "Why did you run though?"

Me: "I forgot I wasn't wearing a mask." He looks at my face. He comes closer and touches it.

Monte: "are you trying on a new treatment or new product? Because if you are

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then it is really working. Your skin is becoming clearer. Your pimples' sizes has gone down. Wow." I just smile a little.

Me: “something like that.” I shrug. I then remember why I came here. “We need to talk.” He frowns.

Monte: “are you dumping me?” I chuckle and shake my head. “Okay. I will tell my friends to leave. I will introduce you guys next time.” I nod. He walks out. I go to the warmer and retrieve some muffins. He always buy muffins from Enhle’s Sweet Tooth every day and store them in the warmer. I pour myself a glass of milk. I eat the muffins and down them with a glass of milk. He comes back after a few minutes. “Okay. We have the house all to ourselves. What do we do?”

Me: “pack a weekend bag. I will tell you on the way uba where we are going.” He smiles.

Monte: “you are giving me a surprise romantic getaway?” I chuckle and nod. He kisses me and then walks away. I text Sikhanyiso and Baphuncumo.

I pack some of the muffins in a container. My boyfriend is such a lover of sweet food. We finally leave. I don’t tell him where we are headed. I wanna surprise him. He might run away. We get to Baphuncumo’s house and head inside. I have met his wife on two occasions. I thought Siba was emotional but my

sister in law is on another level. She always cries when she sees me. She is the human version of Empath.

Me: “guys I am home.”

Monte: “who lives here my love?”

Me: “you will see.” I lead him to the lounge and find my brothers and my sister in law chilling and watching some show. I greet them and then sit with Monte on a two seater couch. “Guys this is my boyfriend Monte Siyaya. Baby these are my brothers Baphuncumo and Sikhanyiso Radebe and that is my sister in law Ongeziwe.”

Monte: “what?” he whispers.

Sikhanyiso: “what a surprise. I don’t know if it is nice or bad.” I chuckle.

Me: “I would tell you guys a lot more but I don’t have time. I need you guys to stay in this house for a week. Don’t go outside the yard. If you want groceries just order them. I am going to cloak you guys with a lot of spells so that you won’t be endangered.”

Baphuncumo: “why?”

Me: “I am going to war with the dark world. I have support from other beings. I don’t want you guys in the way and that’s why you must not leave this house until I come and get you.”

Monte: “what if something happens to you? What if you die?”

Me: “I can’t die while I am Karma. But maybe someone might throw me in the Black Pit. All you need to do guys is pray that I win the war, because if I don’t, I will be a slave to the dark world and will live the rest of my life paying for ever thinking about crossing them. You might be killed for my transgressions.”

Baphuncumo: “you are expecting us to just sit back and relax while there might be a chance that you won’t come back to us? Hell no. we will not lose you again. I refuse to lose you again. I just found you Nama.” His voice starts breaking. I sigh and look down.

Me: “I have no choice. It is kill or be killed. Or in my case fight or be defeated. There is no way out of this war. Just don’t

worry. I have in my corner different goddesses. I will conquer. Have faith in me.”

Sikhanyiso: “what about Sibabalwe? Where will she be in all this?”

Me: “I will make sure she is also safe and cloaked. I should start the spell right now and leave because the dark world is watching.” Ongeziwe starts crying. She just comes and hugs me so tight. I hug her back. “Nothing will happen to me.”

Ongeziwe: “You are my sister, so I am allowed to be emotional when it comes to you.” I smile. My brothers also come and hug me. It’s a very emotional session for everyone. Monte just stands up and heads out. I follow him and find him in the patio.

Monte: “I won’t say goodbye as if I am not going to see you again. I refuse to say goodbye.” He looks away. I look down.

Me: “can you at least look at me?”

Monte: “no. because I don’t like the look on your face. You seem like you are not sure if you will come out of this alive or not.”

Me: “but I am not sure. I can’t control the outcome of the war. There are always surprises.”

Monte: “just do the damn spell and leave already.”

Me: “baby...”

Monte: “no Kwenama.” He goes to the car and takes his bag. He heads back inside. I huff and follow him once again.

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Luckily Siba had to go and visit her family, so I flew with her and made sure she was cloaked before coming back. I could feel that war was near. I was actually scared that I might not make it out alive. I was becoming human again, so what if I got struck hard and died? There were so many what ifs in my mind. They made me so uneasy and afraid. I just hoped for the best outcome. After all there was no way I could run from this war.

SEASON FINALE

SIBABALWE

Being at home was nice. My family was kind and treated me good for a change. I guess having money can make people like you very fast. Mom thought I was fired since this was the first time I was visiting home ever since I started working. She has been talking about Kwenama ever since she left. Phela Kwenama just gave her a cheque of R50k just to spoil herself. Mom went insane. She has been praying that I don't mess up because I have such a loving boss.

I am very worried and sad about the war Kwenama is going to fight in a few days. I am uneasy. I feel like something bad is going to happen. I wish I was a goddess so that maybe I can fight alongside her and make sure that nothing bad happens to her but I guess I will just stick to my prayers and hope that she conquers. I finish checking my emails and making sure my emails and making making making sure that everything is in order and then that everything is in order and then relax a bit. My younger sister welcomes herself in my room. She is forever talking and sometimes it is annoying.

Amkitha: “hey sis. Can I please take pictures with your phone?”
god. I should’ve left my iPhone back in Jo’burg because wow I
am never going to have quality time with it. I was never this
nosy when I was sixteen. I huff and stand up. I know I have to
be her personal photographer because no one will agree on
being her personal photographer. “Can you borrow me one of
your outfits?” I frown.

Me: “haaa Amkitha. You gotta choose. Phone or outfit.” She
pouts.

Amkitha: “don’t be like that. I am your only young sister. Who
are you going to share your clothes with if not me?” I sigh.

Me: “how about I take you out and get you a few new few
outfits instead of you borrowing my clothes? You know how
much I hate sharing clothes.” She smiles widely.

Amkitha: “even better. Let me go change.” She rushes out.

I wonder why my mother didn’t do family planning after me. I
wear my sneakers and then take my handbag. I am just wearing
a t-shirt dress. I head to the kitchen and find my mother
plucking out feathers from a dead chicken. That’s the thing

here at home. We always eat the chicken from our farm. We never buy mixed portions. We only buy chicken if it is takeaways from the restaurants. We never buy chicken or eggs.

Me: “mom I am leaving with Amkitha. We are going to town and we will be back later on. Should I buy something for you?”

Mom: “no Babalwe. I don’t want you wasting your money on me. I am monied now.” I laugh. “Okay. Maybe you can bring me cake.”

Me: “okay ma.” Amkitha comes to the kitchen looking like an adult. She is wearing a white one shoulder solid top with a black and white split grid skirt and white sandals.

Mom: “watch out for her. She loves boys so much these days, I fear she might fall pregnant before even completing matric.”

Amkitha: “hawu mama, I am right here.”

Mom: “I wasn’t gossiping about you.” I laugh and head out. These two are always on each other’s throats. Amkitha follows me. We walk to the bus stop and catch a taxi to town.

Amkitha: “so when are you buying your own car? Don’t you get tired if riding taxing? You’re working now. You should have your own wheels.” I sigh. Now I understand just how much of a nuisance I can be. I am always like this to other people and this one took it from me.

Me: “I don’t always use taxis in Jo’burg. I use Uber and most of the times, I drive my boss’s cars.”

Amkitha: “what type of cars? Show me.” she doesn’t have a phone. Mom can be very strict and she still believes that one should have a phone after completing matric. She does have social media accounts but she only logs in using her friends’ phones. I open the gallery and give her my phone. She looks at the pictures. “OMG! Take me with you. Please. Or just ask your boss to allow me to stay with you guys or visit you for a week maybe. Please sisi.”

Me: “my boss is a very private person and she doesn’t like visitors.” Luckily Kwenama came when she was at school. Otherwise I wouldn’t have been able to tell this lie. She pouts and gives me back my phone.

Amkitha: “maybe one weekend.” She doesn’t give up. I just chuckle.

We get to town and start our shopping or her shopping rather. We go to almost every shop. By the time we are done, I am dead tired. We then go and grab lunch at a restaurant.

Amkitha: “thank you so much sis. I can’t wait to rock my new clothes. All my friends are going to be so jealous. After this, we are taking pictures. And by we, I mean Me.” someone make her shut up. My phone rings. It’s Sikhanyiso. I involuntarily smile. Seeing his name on my screen makes me happy. I miss him. I answer his call.

Me: “hey babe.”

Sikhanyiso: “hey my love. How are you doing today? How are the chickens treating you?” I giggle and roll my eyes.

Me: “you know, life in the farm is not only about chickens. Anyways I am good. What are you up to?”

Sikhanyiso: “I am on my way to you. I am actually at the airport. I just wanna check in to a hotel and then come to you.” my heart stops for a nanosecond.

Me: “are you serious?”

Sikhanyiso: “Kwenama is probably going to kill me but don’t worry, I am leaving tomorrow morning. It’s just that I miss your pretty face. I didn’t get to see you before you left. So I had to come and see you.” I smile.

Me: “which hotel are you going to?” he tells me the name of the hotel. “Wow. It’s a few minutes away from the mall which I am at. When you get there, just notify me and I will come to you.”

Sikhanyiso: “I can’t wait to see you gorgeous.” He hangs up. Gosh I am a blushing mess.

Amkitha: “you have a boyfriend?” I even forgot she was here. I smile.

Me: “I am going to drop you off at sis Zoleka’s office. You will go with her home after she knocks off. I have to see my boyfriend. He is only here for one night. Tell mom I will see her tomorrow.”

Amkitha: “you want her to eat me alive?” I laugh. “Just get me an Uber home. I don’t wanna go to sis Zoleka’s work.” That’s

expensive. This kid will leave me broke. “And tell your boyfriend I need at least 2k for sister’s allowance.” I laugh.

Me: “I haven’t even received my girlfriend allowance and you already want yours? Sis breka.” She rolls her eyes.

We finish eating and then I settle the bill. I get her an Uber. Once she is gone

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I shop for tomorrow’s outfit and pajamas. I also get some cosmetics. After a few minutes, Sikhanyiso informs me that he has arrived at the hotel. I buy myself a milkshake and then head to the hotel. I meet him at the lobby. He just hugs me the minute his eyes lands on me.

Sikhanyiso: “I missed you so much minion.”

Me: “stop calling me that or I will leave.” He releases me and looks at me with a smirk.

Sikhanyiso: “really now? You will leave?” I roll my eyes. He just perks my lips and then take my handbag. He leads me to his suite. “I am going to freshen up my love and then attend you.” he says with his beautiful smile.

Me: “how about we take a picture first?” he laughs.

Sikhanyiso: “you and pictures kodwa bhabha.” I just look at him with puppy eyes. He chuckles. “Fine.”

He takes out his phone and we start taking pictures and even videos. After our mini photoshoot session, he goes to take a shower. In the meantime I post some of our videos on my Instagram and WhatsApp. I then book us tickets to watch a movie at night. Luckily there is an interesting one, After We Fell, so I book it. He is not a movie fan but he has to suck it up. When he comes out of the shower, he starts lotioning and not minding me. I roll my eyes and go to the balcony.

Sikhanyiso: “you can’t handle all this hotness baby.” he shouts and I just laugh. I go back to the suite and take off my dress. He stops what he is doing and looks at me. I take his white formal shirt which is way too big for me and wear it. I also use his belt as a figure belt. I go to the mirror and check out my outfit.

Me: “I look good neh?”

Sikhanyiso: “too cute love.” I giggle. He gets dressed. We go to the balcony and take more pictures. I catch him posting our pictures and videos on his WhatsApp and Instagram. I wonder what his exes will say because he has never, not even once, posted a female on his account. Except for his sister in law. His phone rings and I chuckle when I see that Kwenama is the one calling. “I will pay attention to her tomorrow.” I laugh. She then calls me. I answer the call.

Me: “boss.”

Kwenama: “you and your boyfriend want to kill me neh?” I hold in my laughter.

Me: “I love you so much. See you soon. Win that war. I am counting on you and you are on my prayers.” I hang up quickly and Sikhanyiso and I both laugh.

We go sightseeing with me showing him most of my favourite spots. After a great afternoon out, we go eat dinner and then go watch the movie. He actually enjoys the movie and he can relate a lot to the Hardin character. When the movie is over, we head back to the hotel. We just get drunk and talk all night. I love how cool and down to earth he can be. He is just amazing.

SEASON FINALE

Shana: "they have arrived. I can feel them."

We are at the park waiting for the opponents. I did everything I could to prepare myself for this war. I even prayed but I doubt my prayers made it to heaven. I have killed my fair share of humans so I doubt God ever listens to a word that comes out of my mouth. I was so pissed when I found out that Sikhanyiso went against my orders and went to see Siba but the goddesses assured me that they cannot be detected. So all is well.

Athena: "are you ready Karma?" I look at her and nod.

Me: "I was born for this." Shakti is the first goddess to appear. She has that annoying smirk like always which makes you wanna rip off her throat. "Athena can you handle her and make sure that we don't fall for any of her tricks?"

Athena: "gladly." She looked at Shakti and raised her sword up in the air. Shakti screamed and disappeared. "I have temporarily disabled her illusion powers. They will only be

effective after 24 hours. For now if she wants to partake in this war, she will have to use her other powers.”

Sabina: “which are basically useless, so 1 point for us.”

Kali appears with Eris. Sapphire and Seruva quickly charge to them and war breaks out. Other goddesses from the dark world appear and fights break out everywhere. I am standing looking at everything occur. I look around and frown when I don't see Nyx. Where is she and what tricks is she playing at? Next thing I know I am thrown into the ground. I quickly stand up and turn. Shakti is standing there looking all proud.

I charge to her and a fist fight breaks out between the two of us. No one is holding back. I give her a few mean punches and she also manages to land a few on my face. I hit her hard and fast and then manage to squeeze her neck. Out of nowhere, she stabs me with a knife on my lower abdomen. I let go of her and step back. I take the knife out and quickly stab her on her neck. She gasps. I cite a spell to open the Black Pit and quickly throw her inside. I then close it.

Jemisha: “that was too quick and too easy for you. And just like that, you've won the war?” the queen of darkness, Jemisha

stands before me. There is so much evil in this woman that a mere human can feel it. I stand straight and look at her. "Poor half human. Already you are bleeding." I touch my stab wound.

Me: "sana." My wound quickly heals. I leant a few new spells which makes me much wiser. She just laughs.

Jemisha: "am I supposed to be impressed by that?"

Me: "I am not auditioning to be part of the dark world so nothing I do today is to impress you. Where is your master Nyx? Is she too afraid to show herself after daring me for so many months? Is she scared of me?"

Jemisha: "on the contrary love, she is coming. She is just fetching an important part of this battle. You are a human, you will always be defeated by us, super natural beings because you have what we don't have. And that is a heart and a weakness. You are too weak and you are no match for Me." she tilts her head to the side and I immediately feel excruciating pain all over my body. I scream and she just laughs. "Pathetic human."

Me: "ulcus sanguimen suum sentiat et intus ardeat." She starts screaming and holds her head. I take my psyche which I

dropped while fighting Shakti. I quickly plunge it in her heart and she looks straight into my eyes while her eyeballs turn black. “You are touchable and you are not invincible.” I withdraw a knife from my waist and stab her in the eye. She starts bleeding black blood.

Jemisha: “you will pay for this.”

Me: “not today. Maledico tibi et mitto te ad foveam nigram.”

Jemisha: “NOOOOOOO!” she screams so loud

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she draws everyone’s attention to us. The portal to the Black Pit opens and I throw her inside. I pull my psyche and then close the portal.

Kali: “you stupid human. What have you done?” she flies to me and starts hitting me with a nine tails whip. I scream because this shit hurts really badly and I can’t even heal myself quickly because it is enchanted.

Me: “STOOOOP!” my scream is so loud, it sends her flying across the park. I struggle to stand up. I balance myself with the

tree and finally manage to stand straight. Phoenix appears and heals me quickly and then she disappears fast.

Nyx: "KARMA! YOU DIDN'T THINK I WOULD MISS THE FUN NOW DID YOU? I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU! LOOK WHO I GOT!" She shouts before she can even appear. All the goddesses stop fighting. She appears in the middle of the park and my heart nearly stops when my eyes land Sibabalwe. How the fuck did she get her? This was important part she was fetching. How could she overpower my cloaking? Did she find a witch that powerful?

Me: "YOUR LEADER IS IN THE BLACK PIT! RELEASE THE HUMAN TO ME IF YOU DON'T WANNA SEE YOURSELF GO THERE ALSO!"

Sabina: "transfer some of your power to the human your Majesty so that she can be able to fight. She was brought here as a distraction. Don't let their tricks distract you. You have already sent 2 of theirs in the Black Pit. Transfer your powers to her and let us end this battle." I look at Siba who is crying. I then stand up straight and raise my psyche in the air.

Me: “invoco omnes praeteritos custodes maledictionis. Me duce per hanc potestatem translationem. Permitte me transferre et communicare vires meas cum Sibabalwe, ut possit nobiscum pugnare et nos in proelio aduivare.”

Lightning strikes hard and thunder follows. Sibabalwe is raised up in the air and lightning strikes her. She falls down to the ground. A few moments later she stands up like Undertaker, looks around and when she has familiarized herself with her surrounding, she charges to Nyx and starts fighting her. The fights between everyone else continues. I make my way to Kali and we exchange really powerful punches. She even manages to throw me inside the river. Sabina quickly helps me out.

Athena: “end this fight now your Majesty. It is time.”

Me: “What do I do?”

Athena: “kill the Nyx.”

Me: “but she can’t die.”

Athena: “she can. Strike her with my sword and make sure it penetrates her heart. My sword is the only weapon that can end her. She has the power to take out the other goddesses

from the Black Pit but if she dies, they will spend all their eternity down there. here.” she hands me her silver sword which is very heavy. I hold it with both hands. I go to the middle of the park and raise the sword up in the air. All the goddesses look at me.

Me: “Nyx, it’s time to finish this. You and me.” she smiles and steps forward. Eris hands her a black sword. I am not sword fighter but I know I won’t let her defeat me. She manages to cut me on different parts of my body with the sword. The fight is really draining. She stabs me on my back and I fall down. I start bleeding from the mouth. She laughs and comes to stand before me.

Nyx: “any last words before I drag you to hell with me?” I cough out blood and wipe it.

Me: “die bitch.” in a swift move, I stand up and stab her straight in the heart. She screams and looks at the sword.

Nyx: “you stupid human.” I twist the sword and she begins to lose strength. She falls down.

Kali: “Nyx!” she shouts. Nyx bleeds black blood. Her whole body melts to black liquid and she dies. Victory at last. A piercing

scream stops me from celebrating. I look to my left and see Siba go down. Eris is standing over her with a blade in her hand.

Me: “NO!” I quickly rush to her while all the remaining goddesses from the dark world disappear. I kneel down and place my hand in her heart where she is bleeding from. She smiles at me. “You are going to be okay. Phoenix will heal you. PHOENIX!” she appears before me and looks at Siba. She shakes her head and steps back.

Siba: “it’s time. You knew there had to be a sacrifice for you to leave this curse behind. For life to be good, there must always be a sacrifice. I love you and please don’t blame yourself for this. You couldn’t have stopped it.”

Me: “Siba stop talking like this. I am very powerful. I can fix you. SANA!” I chant while touching her chest and nothing happens. Instead she starts coughing out blood. “Why isn’t anything happening?”

Siba: “you are crying.” she says with a smile while tears stream down her cheeks. She places her hand on my cheek and wipes away my tears.

Me: “don’t go Siba. Don’t leave me. Please. I will do anything. I will even live with the curse. Just don’t die on me.”

Siba: “I love you so much. Please tell Sikhanyiso to heal from this. Move on and find love.” someone clears their throat from behind and I turn to see Azraelle standing behind me.

Me: “no. no. please don’t do this to me. Don’t take her. Please don’t.” I start sobbing and hard rain starts falling. I turn to Siba who gives me a smile before she closes her eyes. I watch as her soul leaves her body and my heart breaks into million pieces. “Stop this. Now.” I stand up. “Azraelle take me instead and leave her. Please don’t do this. I am begging you.”

Azraelle: “I am sorry but there is nothing I can’t do.” Siba’s soul looks at me one more time before it disappears with Azraelle. I kneel and cradle Siba’s body.

Me: “NOOOOOOOOOO!”

SEASON FINALE

MONTE

It has been 4 days and Kwenama hasn't made contact. I am worried. I feel like something bad has happened to her. I can't sit around and do nothing. I am going crazy. I take a shower and get dressed. I take my car keys which were brought by one of my friends 2 days ago. I head to the kitchen to get bottled water and I find Sikhanyiso eating cereal. I greet him, take the water and as I am about to head out, he speaks up.

Sikhanyiso: "where are you going?"

Me: "I am going to check up on Kwenama. She said she will contact me in 3 days and today is the fourth day. She hasn't made contact and I am worried. I am going to her house."

Sikhanyiso: "I am also worried about Sibabalwe. Her phone has been on voicemail since yesterday. I fear that something bad has happened to her." He stands up and puts the bowl he was using in the sink. We head to the lounge and find Baphuncumo with Ongeziwe. They seem to be in deep conversation.

Baphuncumo: “where are you two off to?”

Me: “to check on Kwenama.”

Ongeziwe: “we are coming with you.”

We all climb into our cars and drive to Kwenama’s house. When we get to her part of the town, the weather is so bad. It is raining really hard and there are even floods. We are forced to leave our cars on the main road and walk to her house. The closer we get to her house, the harder the rain falls. We get to the gate and walk inside the yard. I finally spot her sitting on the porch. She is cradling someone’s body. Tears are streaming down her cheeks. She once said something about the weather being determined by her mood.

Sikhanyiso: “SIBABALWE!” he runs to them and shake Sibabalwe’s body. I get to them. Sibabalwe has her eyes closed and a smile on her face. Even a kid can see that she is gone. I hope Kwenama and make her stand up. I cup her face and make her look at me. Her eyes are bloodshot red.

Me: “please stop crying.” she shakes her head.

Kwenama: "I can't stop the tears." I sigh.

Me: "please try or you will drown us all." she just wraps her arms around my waist and I hug her. She sniffs and the rain immediately stops. I break the hug and look at her. "What happened?"

Kwenama: "they killed her because of me. I killed Nyx but she also took a very important part of my life away from me. I am heartbroken. I don't know if I will ever heal or move on from this. My body is so weak." She is shaking. She is also bleeding.

Sikhanyiso: "baby please wake up. Baby wake up. It's me

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your Sikhanyiso. Please just open your eyes and look at Me." after not getting the response that he was hoping for, he starts crying.

Kwenama: "I am sorry bhuty. This is all my fault."

Baphuncumo: "it is not your fault. You didn't choose this. You were forced into this. None of it is your fault." She looks at all

of us and then looks ahead. Then she just disappears. My eyes pop out.

Ongeziwe: “where did she go?”

Me: “I don’t know.”

Sikhanyiso: “what are we going to say to her family?”

Baphuncumo: “We are going to say thieves broke in and did this to her. No parent can believe that their child was killed by supernatural beings. We just have to make everything look convincing and also tear this house to shreds.” I look around.

Me: “that won’t be necessary because the house is already damaged.” I sit next to Sikhanyiso. “Are you okay?”

Sikhanyiso: “our time was cut short. I still wanted to be with her. To love her unconditionally. To change for her and to make her my wife and the mother of my children. I wish we had more time. I really can’t believe that something like this happened. I can’t believe that she is dead.”

Ongeziwe: “we have to call the cops. Now. We will tell them that the owner of the house was at our house when this happened. Hard storm befell this house and this happened.”

Baphuncumo: “I hope this doesn’t get to the press because it definitely sounds like a drama.”

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KWENAMA

Sabina is the one who appeared and said I should follow her. We get to the white water and she instructs me to get inside. Saying that the water will purify me. I dive inside and go deep to the core. I am not drowning. I get to the bottom of the water and sit on one of the chairs. Few moments later, the guardians appear.

Guardian 1: “your journey has come to an end. You were the most loyal and obedient guardian of the curse ever. Your pure heart is what made you not succumb to black magic and end up using your powers for the worst. You were deprived your life and isolated from humanity for many years but now all that is over.”

Guardian 2: “you are free to live your life the way you want. You are free to love. You are free to do whatever you want. We thank you for your hard work and dedication. A new guardian of the curse will be chosen and it is not your responsibility but ours. We are sorry for your loss. We hope you heal and move on with your life. We wish you nothing but the best in life.”

Guardian 3: “all the new powers you discovered in the past few weeks will always stay with you. This is our gift to you. You are not entirely safe that’s why we want you to have a weapon to defend yourself with in cases of emergency. Kwenama Zukhanye Radebe, you are free of the curse. Walk away and never look back. The goddesses will always be there for you when you need them. Go now.”

I can literally feel the curse lift off my soul and my body. My body feels lighter and lighter. I can feel the pimples on my face fade away. My skin feels purer. I look at the guardians one more time and then swim up. I get out of the water and as soon as I look up, I see all the goddesses standing there. I stand straight and they all bow before me.

Goddesses: “YOUR MAJESTY!” I look at them.

Sapphire: "I would hug you but you're human now and I don't want you burning to ashes in my arms." I chuckle and they all laugh.

Seruva: "you are very beautiful Your Majesty. Your skin looks so soft and fragile." I smile.

Me: "thank you."

Gaea: "We are sorry about the human. If we could, we could go back in time and make sure she left the battlefield before things got messy." I smile and shake my head.

Me: "it is not your fault. I must say I enjoyed the time we spent together and the relationship between me and each and every one of you. Please treat the next guardian with respect and help her with all that you helped me with and more. I love you all and goodbye." They all bow once more.

Goddesses: "YOUR MAJESTY!"

FINALE

Sibabalwe's funeral was so emotional. Luckily everyone believed that our house was robbed and she was at the wrong place and at the wrong time. Her death is something I will never recover from. I made sure that I took care of all the funeral costs. I also gave Siba's mom a card that will maintain her for the rest of her life. It had a lot of money but she would receive R20 000 monthly. And I also made sure I set up a trust for Amkitha. It took a lot of time for Sikhanyiso to heal. But I think he hasn't healed even now but it's better because he even smiles and laughs with people.

After my house was damaged beyond repairs, I was forced to start over. I only managed to retrieve a few things from it. Some of my gadgets and important documents. I left everything else. I stayed with Sikhanyiso until I got the title deed of my new house. Of course he was sad when I had to move out but he understood that I am used to my independency. I had to start over by shopping for a new wardrobe. It was hard to shop for colourful clothes but Zipho helped me with my new closet. I

also bought two new cars since I couldn't use the previous ones.

Monte had transferred back to Jo'burg. Turns out his boss was not happy with his move, so it was easy to take him in. he was in my house most of the time and I didn't mind but my brothers said he should marry me if he wants to spend all his time with me. I was the one who dismissed the marriage idea. It was all too soon and I didn't want to be overwhelmed with all the changes that were happening in my life. My beauty had enhanced. It drove Monte crazy because I was courted each and every day. He even said I should go with him every time I think of going out. Which is of course absurd but I didn't want to defy him. I knew people would get used to my beauty and soon all this hype would fade away.

Getting my life back together wasn't that hard because I had money. The profits I made from my businesses and about R5 million which was a gift from the karma funds. I enrolled myself at a business school because I wanted to study and experience learning like all students and I wasn't going to achieve that through online learning. My brothers offered to pay for my tuition and I didn't mind. They didn't owe me anything but I felt

like I had to allow them to do something for me so that they can feel good about themselves.

Melanie: “boss, we have to go. People are waiting in the hall.” That is the CEO of the foundation. After Sibabalwe’s death, I renamed it Radebe and Mzobotshi Foundation. I included her surname just to honor her. There isn’t a single day which passes by that I don’t think about her. One time I even tried resurrecting her but nothing happened because I was blocked from using such spell.

Me: “I will come out just now.” I shout from inside the restroom.

I have never been a fan of public speaking so this is huge for me. We are finally launching the foundation. Many girls have enrolled in it. So today we invited the girls with their families

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our sponsors, the press and some celebrities. I flush the toilet and then go check myself in the mirror. I wash my hands and as I raise my head, Sibabalwe appears standing behind me. She is wearing her bright smile with white clothes. I tear up immediately.

Siba: "please don't cry. I have had enough of your tears." I giggle and wipe my tears. This is the first time I am seeing her ever since she died. Somehow just seeing her brings this unexplainable peace in my heart. I smile and she smiles back. "That is what I want to see."

Me: "how are you here?"

Siba: "Azraelle granted me this once off wish and I had to come and see you. I am so proud of what you have done with your life for the past few months. You have managed to fetch your life and made a positive impact on many people's lives. Today is not about me but you. You are the centre of the attention. You came up with the foundation idea and you made it happen. It was all you. Now go out there and shine. Own your crown."

Me: "thank you. I needed that."

Sibabalwe: "I love you so much. I wish you nothing but the best in life. And please tell Sikhanyiso to shave and look after himself. He looks very horrible." I laugh and shake my head. "Good bye but know that I am always with you in spirit."

Me: "I love you too." She smiles at me and then disappears. I exhale loudly and look at my reflection in the mirror. "I am a queen and I believe in myself."

I make my way out of the restroom and go to the hall which is full of many people. I go and take my seat next to Monte. He holds my hand and smiles at me. I smile back and stare ahead. The programme starts and Cabangile is the first one who goes to the front to welcome the guests. Many other speakers follow after her. There is also entertainment in between.

Sikhanyiso: "this is all you sister." he says squeezing my hand. He is sitting on my right side.

Me: "she was right. You really are ugly." He frowns.

Sikhanyiso: "what?"

Me: "Sibabalwe appeared to me. She said you must shave and look after yourself. She will always love you and be there for you but you must get your life in order." He sighs and looks down.

Sikhanyiso: "it's crazy right? We didn't even date for a month but I got so attached to her. I think the no sex rule is the thing

that strengthened our relationship the most. I will always miss and love her.” I wrap my arm around his shoulder.

Me: “you will be fine. You will heal and move on. She won’t ever hold that against you.” he nods and looks ahead.

Time comes for me to say the vote of thanks. I smile and stand up. I make my way to the stage. I am wearing a red mid-calf split cap sleeve bodycon pullover dress and black heels. When I get to the podium, I spot Queen Lisa with her husband King Zenzo at the front. She smiles and waves at me. I wave back with a smile. I clear my throat and stand up straight.

Me: “good evening to everyone and thank you for being here to witness the opening of Radebe and Mzobotshi Foundation. I woke up one day and decided to start this foundation. I figured young girls need some guidance in life, so I thought this was a great initiative and I am thankful to all my sponsors for sharing the same views with me. Few months back I lost a very special person who was part of this project. Miss Sibabalwe Mzobotshi. Her family is here with us to day. In her absentia, I would like to thank her for inspiring me to do well and for being my personal cheerleader. She was a great employer and my best friend. I will always love and she will always be in my heart. Thank you

everyone for coming and please note this is not the end of our story but only the beginning of a great and long journey.” I step down from the podium and people cheer for me.

Life is not guaranteed but I have hope that everything falls into place.

.....**THE END**.....

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