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GOLD MASK by Minenhle Nkosi

PROLOGUE

3 YEARS AGO

Him: "I like you. Even though you have put me behind bars. When I get out of here I will shag you till your pussy says all my clan names."

Me: "eww and if not when you get out. Not that I will have sex with you. In your wildest dream Dumakude."

Him: "you really think these walls can contain me? Wow here I was thinking you're the smartest cop in Mzansi." He said sarcastically and rolled his eyes. "I don't like confined spaces. I suffocate and relapse."

Me: "so tell about your victims." His face changed into a frown but he quickly masked it with his annoying smirk.

Him: "I kill bitches who abandon their babies. Women like those don't deserve to live. Why not abort in the first place if you know you will abandon the kid later? Or why not condomise or use contraceptives?"

Me: "but it's not your place to 'avenge' for those kids. What if some of them want to have relationships with their mothers at a later stage in life? What if some of these mothers regret their decisions and want to reconcile with their children but you cut their lives short?"

Him: "well detective I don't care. I like to play hero and bring these bastard moms to justice. They don't deserve a second chance or amnesty. Anyways you have receives too much information for one day. GUARD!" he stands up and signals the guard to take him back to his cell).

I have been trying to understand his motive behind the killings and where it all started. I think I am closer to the finish line. I am more worried about him telling me in the face that he will escape. I will have to speak to the warden here to strengthen the security. This is one psychotic motherfucker like the ones I have dealt with before.

I head back to the station and find other detectives chilling in the cafeteria. I buy a sandwich with juice, sit down and start eating. Detective Black: "how did it go with Dumakude?"

Me: “you won’t believe that psycho. He told me in the face that he is going to escape and when he does he is going to fuck me until my pussy sings all his clan names.” Everybody laughs.

Detective Zondo: “but I am worried about him telling you in advance that he is going to escape. You will never know how the brains of these serial killers work. You may think you have won kanti they are planning something huge. Be careful Chiliza.”

Detective Nkosi: “anyways enough about these criminals. We need to celebrate our arrests guys. 6 powerful criminals behind bars. I have made reservations for us at Velar’s Lounge and all you asses are going to be there. Even if I have to drag your asses there but we are going.”

Nkosi has always been a party animal. Usually cops are drunkards but she is worse. Every weekend she is in and out of clubs. But what I like most about her is that she excels at her job and doesn’t care if people thinks she is an alcoholic or what.

The following week same day I returned to chat with Dumakude. He was brought to the private room and his face lit up when he saw me. Me: “how are you today Dumakude?”

Him: “surviving.” He kept quiet and stared at the table between us. “My birth mother and father were dating. They had me

when they were both 18 years. They were going to keep me and raise me. After giving birth to me I was sleeping in my cot. My dad was in the ward with my birth mom. She said she was going to get some fresh air from outside

she went out and never came back. Dad waited for her but when the sunset came he knew that she wasn't coming back. My dad struggled but he raised me with the help of the neighbors. He told me the truth about my birth mother and gave me pictures of her." He takes a deep breath. Wow I never thought it was this deep.

"I hated women who abandoned their kids ever since I could remember. I fell in love with a very beautiful woman when I was 26 years. Things between us became serious. I proposed and she accepted my proposal. We decided that our parents should meet so her mom and dad came to my house and dad was there with his wife. I saw that my fiancé's mom's face was familiar but I rubbed it off. When dad asked her 'why did she leave me so young' I knew that this was my birth mother. She cost me a lot, a fiancé, a child because my fiancé miscarried that night because of shock. She ruined my life so I ended hers and ended the lives of all those undeserving hoes out there. She lived her life freely and had kids and totally forgot me. She

didn't deserve to live." A tear fell from his eye and he quickly wiped it.

Me: "I am truly sorry for what your mom did."

Him: "it's fine. I am over it. I guess you have gathered all the information you needed. Good bye detective." That was the last time I saw him.

1

PRESENT DAY

I am Detective Ncebakazi Mayenzeke Shabangu. I am 29 years old. I am the first born of Connie and Jabulani Shabangu followed by Ziyanda who is 25 and lastly Mbonisi who is 22. My family live in Meadowlands while I live in Greyville. Ziyanda is a day care center owner because she has so much love for kids and Mbonisi works at Transnet here in Durban, he studied at MUT. I have been a detective for 8 years. When I finished high school I went straight to the police academy.

I always knew that I wanted to be a detective. The crime levels in Mzansi frustrated me so much. After graduating at the police academy for my first case I put the biggest gang leader and the whole of his gang behind bars. Many cops respected me and that earned me most high profile cases. Many believed that the gang won't stay long in prison but the evidence I had was too strong and they were imprisoned at one of the highest secured prison. I solved about 20 cases which mostly included gang related crimes, murder, rape and theft.

When I was 23 my aunt from my father's side who was 25 at that time was being harassed by a serial killer. I had never dealt

with a serial killer before so this was a first time experience for me. I studied the killer carefully and closely. His victims were a certain body shape. He would court them, charm them, date them, engage them and when it was time for him to introduce them to his family he would take them to a farm house and kill them, chop off their ring finger with the engagement ring and send it to the girl's family.

I gambled with my aunt's life by making her a bait. The killer fell for it and we caught him before he killed auntie. He was arrested and convicted. His reason for killing was that he once loved a woman so much that he proposed. When it was time for him to introduce her to his family he discovered that she was sleeping with his friend so that's when the killing started.

I have been obsessed with putting serial killers behind bars ever since that. Their cases are so fascinating because they have a motive and a story line. I have dated before many times but my last boyfriend dumped me because I dedicated a lot of time into solving cases. Now I just fuck strangers to release sexual tension so that I can concentrate on my job.

“ARE YOU HEARING ME?” a voice brings me back to life. I raise my head to see Zondo staring at me. He is also one of my one night stands. He has a really huge dick and he knows how to use it. Good God. The only problem with him is that he is sensitive and he cares so much for me.

Zondo: “Shabangu come back from your day dream bra.”

Me: “what’s up?”

Zondo: “you haven’t heard?” I look at him confused.

“Dumakude escaped. And you remember what he said about you and him?” see what I mean, he is being his caring self.

Me: “don’t worry Zondo I can handle myself. If and only if he comes for me I will be waiting. And relax he will go back to where he belongs, behind bars, as soon as he comes after me.”

Zondo: “but I am worried.” Black joins in our conversation.

Black: “even if he does come back sources tell me that he fled with a private jet as soon as he escaped. If he comes back it won’t be now.”

Me: “see,” I say looking at Zondo, “nothing to worry about.”

Black: “anyways I need your help with this case I am working on.”

Me: “what is it about?”

Black: “wife killed husband because he was about to take a second wife. Rumor has it she wanted to kill him before the second wife saga because he was rich and they are married in community of property. So this just fueled her.”

Me: “is there evidence? Murder weapon?”

Black: “she poisoned him with a muthi. There are only testimonies from the family members.”

Me: “sit down. Zondo can you excuse us?”

Zondo: “sure.” He leaves and I take a deep breath.

Me: “usually I have enough evidence to convict the suspects so they just confess to save time. There is an ex fuck buddy of mine. He is a psychopath and a scientist. He made a truth serum and tested it on one of his assistants. It works but he can only give you one dose if I sleep with him because he is obsessed with my pussy.”

Black: "I don't want you to do something you are not comfortable with Shabangu."

Me: "then tell me how will you put slay wife behind bars? Relax I will get you the dose plus don't worry too much his dick game is on point and his size is massive. I will go see him tomorrow afternoon."

Black: "thanks love. I owe you one."

Me: "you, Nkosi and I on a weekend getaway which you will pay for."

Black: "yoh fine." She leaves my office.

I continue working on this case I was working on. This time the killer targets slay queens. He lures them with his wealth and then kill them and keep their manicured right hands. 4 bodies have showed up all of them missing a right hand. It's the same thing. A girl gets a DM of a handsome guy and he first takes her to dates in expensive restaurants and then take them to Dubai after that he ends them. I am still thinking of a strategy to catch them.

The thing is he is targeting varsity slay queens and he doesn't hit a same varsity twice. First it was MUT then he went to UKZN

he then went to DUT and lastly he went to UNIZULU. Now people are doing campaigns trying to find the killer. And I am pretty sure this fucker is happy wherever he is for the attention he is receiving and the havoc he is wrecking. I just hope word doesn't get out that I am the one involved with this case.

Knock off time comes and I collect my stuff and head out. I approach the door and find Nkosi chatting with Captain Zulu. He is married but he has tried his luck with me. Men. I also heard that he is having an affair with one of the new constables. Marriage is one fucked up thing. I am not discouraging people or anything but why get married when you know that you are still going to be unfaithful to your partner? Marriage should be for players who have experienced life and are ready to commit themselves, just my opinion. Anyways I greet them and as I am about to continue my journey the captain speaks up.

Captain: "Shabangu have you heard about Dumakude?"

Me: "yes sir. I warned Warden Mkhize about him but she never listened. She thought I was paranoid and look where we are now."

Captain: "do you need security maybe? Your life is in danger."

Me: “with all due respect captain I have dealt with much worse threats before. Dumakude is just a pest. And besides it’s not like he wants to kill me

he just wants to fuck me.” Nkosi bust out laughing and the captain’s eyes pop out. “Good night guys.”

I head to the parking lot and hop on to my Peugeot 208. I drive out of the station listening to Rouge featuring EmTee Popular. I get to my 6 room house (3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, study or office, lounge, kitchen, dining room and garage) and find Mbonisi’s car parked in the yard. He is driving an electric blue Ford Fiesta.

My siblings have keys to my house even though Zee hardly comes. I park my car in the garage and get inside the house. He is cooking, nice. I can cook but I am so lazy and I am always busy, I depend on takeaways. I put my stuff in the longue and head to the kitchen after taking off my shoes and coat. I find him wearing an apron and I rush to hug him from behind. He turns and hugs me kissing my forehead, this kid is taller than me but I am older, sucks I know.

Mbonisi: “looks like somebody missed me.”

Me: “I did little one but I missed your cooking more. I don’t when the last time I cooked was.”

Mbonisi: “you should’ve hired a helper just like mom said.”

Me: “later. Now I know you miss me always but what brings you here unannounced?”

Mbonisi: “don’t tell me you forgot.” He looks at me suspiciously. I sit on the kitchen counter.

Me: “what did I forget?”

Mbonisi: “Ziyanda’s lobola negotiations.”

Me: “fuck I totally forgot but I asked for a day off when I heard about it so I guess I ain’t going to work tomorrow. Thanks bra.”

Mbonisi: “I had to come, we promised to ride together.”

Me: “oww okay. I have something to take care of this evening but I will be back before sunrise. Now when is the food getting ready?”

Mbonisi: “I am sure by the time you are finished showering dinner will be ready.” I climb off the counter and kiss his cheek.

Me: “love you little one.” I take my stuff in the longue, put the documents in my study and head to my room. I take a shower, dry and lotion myself. I take out my black mini dress and black

sandals and place them in my bed. I wear my black matching underwear, wear my silk gown and head downstairs to join Mbo for dinner. He made rice and beef curry with salads meaning he came here early. We eat making small conversation. When we are done I wash the dishes and say goodnight to him. I go to my room, wear my dress and sandals, and take my phone and car keys and head out.

2

I arrive at Dr. Nkonzo Zungu's house. He lives in Durban North. I call him telling him that I am outside. He opens the gate for me and I drive in. I hop out of the car and go to the front door. He opens the door before I knock and the look on his face is exactly what I was hoping for.

Me: "aren't you going to invite me in?" he stands aside and I get in. we go to the lounge and he is still quiet. We sit on the same couch. "Did I catch you at a bad time?"

Him: "nope. How are you detective?"

Me: "I am fine just tired. How are you?"

Him: "I am okay. What brings you here?"

Me: "I am horny and you have a dick, figure it out."

I take off my shoes and head to the kitchen. I find wine in the fridge and pour it into a glass and down it on one go. He comes and stands behind me. His hands brush my thighs and he slides my dress up. His hand brushes my thong and he bends to plant kisses in my neck. He brushes my pussy and takes off my panties. He turns me around and kisses me, lifting me up so he can place me in the counter. He takes me there and then and

we both climax. He rests his head in my shoulder trying to control his breathing.

Him: "I have missed your pussy."

Me: "and I missed you big black cock so much. I have been thinking about it all week."

Him: "that's good to know detective. So what exactly brings you here?"

Me: "the truth serum and your dick. Phela your dick game is on point, your problem is just that you tend to catch feelings. Enjoy the pussy and forget about the feelings." He chuckles and pulls out.

Him: "I forgot how blunt you can be." He picks me up. Our clothes are scattered all over the kitchen. We head out the kitchen.

Me: "where are you taking me?"

Him: "it's not every day your pussy becomes available so tonight I am going to eat it until you arrest me." I laugh out loud and he laughs too.

He takes me to his bedroom and yoh he rocked my world. After our unending sessions he heads to the basement in his lab and comes back with the serum. He gives it to me.

Him: “you sure about not spending the night?”

Me: “my brother is home and we are going to Meadowlands tomorrow midday. I need to rest and I know I won’t rest well when I am with you.” He laughs and hands me my clothes. I dress up and we go downstairs. When we are at the door I turn to face him and he pins me in the wall. He goes down and eats my pussy like there is no tomorrow. I come undone and bring him up and kisses the daylight of me.

Him: “that’s something to remember me by.”

Me: “I am not promising anything but I will see you. I will surely miss your dick, and your mouth and your waist. Actually I will miss all of your muscular body. Bye doc.” I quickly rush out before he can take me on his front door. I drive out and speed home. When I get there I undress and get under the covers and it is lights out. Doc wore me off shame.

The next morning I pack my weekend bag and place it on my dresser. I take a quick shower, dress in tracksuits and rush to the station before Mbonisi sees me. I get there and head to Black's office. I find her drinking coffee and I place the serum in front of her.

Black: "damn girl that was quick. You couldn't wait to taste the doctor's dick." We both giggle.

Me: "no you crazy bitch I am going home today so I had to see Doc last night."

Black: "so how was it?"

Me: "girl that guy yoh. He wore me off. He took me to Mars and back. And it was like his dick was bigger than the last time." She laughs. "When it was time for me to leave he pinned me on the door and ate my pussy until I said all his clan names." She laughs out loud.

Black: "Nkosi has got to hear this. But you did say that his dick game is on point." She continues laughing. "You finally have a dick to shut you up."

Me: "fuck you and bye." I head out and drive home. I find Mbonisi already done preparing breakfast. We exchange greetings and eat breakfast. After we are done we take our bags, put them in my Fortuner, I bought it just for control

and we drive out. Well he drives out I am just enjoying being a madam today.

Me: “Zee sent me a list of things we need to buy so are we buying here or in Jozi?”

Mbo: “we can buy other stuff that doesn’t need a refrigerator here and we can buy the meat when we arrive in Jozi.”

Me: “good idea.”

We get to the mall and buy food that is on the list. We pay for them and go to McDonalds. We buy 4 burger meals and go to the car. We drive out of the mall. After 3 hours of driving I take the wheel. I drive until we reach Jozi. We get to a butcher and buy the meat. After buying the meat we buy booze and head home. We arrive at home and find the yard buzzing. I forgot the in-laws are also bringing izibizo tomorrow.

The gate is already open so I drive in, park the car opposite the front door and we both get out. I give the car keys to Mbo so that he can sort out the grocery. I head inside the house, there is singing and loud conversations. It is so noisy. I greet people as I pass by heading to the lounge where I know I will find dad and grandpa. I find them with babomncane Simo and babomncane Musa. I greet them. My dad stands up and hugs me. He loves

showing affection to us his kids whether we are in public or private.

Dad: “you have arrived Maye. I am so glad you made it in one piece. You look so grown.” Grandpa also stands up to hug me.

Grandpa: “Nzeke you look so beautiful and healthy and fit. Is there a boy in your life that I should know about?”

Me: “no Papa I am just happy and glad to be alive.” I shake hands with obabomncane and sit down. Dad is my dad and grandpa is Papa to me. Dad calls me Maye all the time and Papa calls me Nzeke. I don’t know why they decided to shorten my name to suit both of them.

Dad: “where is your brother?”

Me: “outside sorting out the grocery.”

Grandpa: “I heard a man you put behind bars escaped.” Papa was a PI in his days so he knows everything.

Dad: “what? What if he comes after you Maye? You’re not safe. Maybe you should...”

Me: “relax guys. He fled the country already and as soon as he comes back I will be the first to know and put him back to where he belongs. Now where is mom and Zee?” dad sighs. He is very overprotective of me. You’d think after 11 years he

would have accepted that I chose to work for the SAPS but no it is still a hard pill to swallow. He is a natural softie and mom is the hardcore one between the two.

Musa: "it was nice seeing you ndodakazi."

Simo: "your mother is in the kitchen."

I head to the kitchen and find Connie, Zee, Nana (grandma) and my aunt Sibusisiwe, the one who once dated a serial killer. They all bombard me with hugs and kisses, drama yalayikhaya it's like they haven't seen me in ages. I sit down next to Nana and they continue what they were doing. Papa and Nana are dad's parents. Mom's parents passed on. Nana and Papa treat mom like their own daughter.

Me: "so what are all these people outside doing here? The in-laws are coming tomorrow. Why did they arrive today?"

Nana: "I really don't know Nzeke bashiswa imizi yabo." We all laugh. Nana adapted to the name Papa calls me by.

Mom: "but mom they are your kids and grandkids."

Nana: "doesn't mean they should crowd your space. Now my husband and I won't make love peacefully because there are munchkins who will want to sleep with gogo and Mkhulu." We

all laugh again. Nana and papa are still sexually active as old as they are. When I finally settle down I want a man who will treat me the way Papa treats Nana.

Sibusisiwe: “mom is right though. There was no need for them to come today. Now I have to share a room with someone who sleeps like she is Jackie Chan.” We laugh at her. She is talking about my younger aunt who is 21. I told you Nana and Papa are sexually active. Their last born is younger than dad’s last born, can you imagine?

Me: “where is Yenziwe?” Yenziwe is Zee’s 2 years old son. She loved me so much when she was pregnant with him that when a day passes without me calling her she would cry so hard. So she named her son with the continuation of my name Mayenzeke (let it be done) to Yenziwe (it is done).

Zee: “he is playing outside with other munchkins and he said he will sleep with great grandma today.”

Nana: “oww holy Ghost intervene.” She says shaking her head and places her hand in her forehead.

We continue chatting and we are later joined by aunties, the wives of obabomncane and their daughters. I go to my room to freshen up. I find it in one piece. I am glad I won’t be sharing with anyone. I hate sharing a bed with a person. After I am

done freshening up I wear comfortable clothes then sit on the bed and reply to messages and calls. A knock disturbs me from my 'me time'. Mbo walks in and closes the door after him. He comes and sits on the edge of the bed.

Mbo: "I am sleeping with you tonight. My room has been given to the elders."

Me: "that's what happens when you are a last born. Your opinion doesn't matter."

Mbo: "but I am old. That should count for something." I laugh at him because he is whining right now.

Me: "come on. Let's go eat supper." We head to the dining room.

3

We wake up the following morning and prepare everything for our guests. They arrive soon after and the negotiations start. After the negotiations the izibizo starts. Mbo and I are wearing matching traditional outfits mom designed for us. If we didn't have resemblances you'd mistaken us for a couple.

After the izibizo we serve all the guests. Zee asks me to accompany her, she is serving her fiancé and she asks me to serve his brother because they are standing together. We get to them and give them their food. The brother undresses me with his eyes and my inner goddess is like 'if you want it come and take it.'

Wandile (Zee's fiancé): "nabahle bomakoti bami. (you look beautiful my brides.)" We giggle. "Awuvumelani nami Zipho? (Don't you agree with me Zipho?)"

Zipho: "I agree brother. We should come back for this one." He says pointing me with his head. I chuckle.

Zee: "well good luck with that Zipho, my sister hates serious relationships."

Me: "I don't hate them, I am just allergic to them." she chuckles.

Zipho: "maybe I can cure your allergy."

Me: "many have tried and failed. What makes you think you can succeed?"

Zipho: "I am me, I am not many and we definitely don't have the same medicine." I smirk at him then turn around and head inside the house.

After all the festivities most guests leave. I go to the cold room to take out my drinks. I love Belgravia cider, I bought myself 24-pack for the weekend. I find none and I sigh in defeat. Whoever took it clearly didn't know it was mine. I go to my room take my card and car keys and go outside. Luckily my car is parked outside the gate, Mbo moved it so that the guests can be free around the yard. As I am heading towards my car someone screams my voice. I turn and find Zipho standing just a few inches away from me.

Me: "I am currently thirsty so please, if you wanna talk then we will talk when I come back."

Him: “where are you going?”

Me: “to a place where they sell alcohol.”

I turn and take a few steps then hop into my car. The passenger door opens and he hops on too. Good Lord help me not strangle the life out of this man. We buckle up then I start the car and drive. He attempts to speak but I raise my hand to shut him up. We get to a bottle store and head inside. I buy my 24-pack and he helps me carry it to the car. We put the booze in the back seat. I take out 1 can and down almost half of it. Damn it is so cold and ishaya khona bahlali.

Zipho: “now can you talk?” I chuckle.

Me: “yeah.” I finish my can and toss it away. We get into the car. I drive out of the club.

Zipho: “so I really like you. You are beautiful and fierce. I’d like to get to know you better.” I glance at him and turn back my attention to the road.

Me: “where do you live?”

Zipho: “Nelspruit.”

Me: “I live in Durban. I have a very demanding job. I am always busy that my friends are my colleagues. My family have to make appointments to meet me. So what makes I will give you my time? What makes you special?”

Zipho: “ehm...”

Me: “if you want pussy just say so. I am very generous in that department. But in the love department sorry. You can search elsewhere.” I park the car where Mbonisi parked it before and leave him dumbstruck.

I find Mbo with my cousin Ntando and I ask them to help carry my booze inside. We get inside and I tell them to put the 18-pack in my room while I put the 5 cans in the freezer which is in the kitchen. Ingigilile I cold room. All the guests leave including the in-laws. Only family is left. We sit at the backyard and get drunk together with Zee.

The following morning we wake up, clean the house and the yard while mom prepares breakfast for everyone with the help of Musa and Simo’s wives. They serve breakfast and after breakfast all the family members leave except for Nana and Papa. I go to my room to take a shower. After that I get dressed and go to the lounge. Nana tells me that I should go to the

patio because Papa is waiting for me there. I quickly head there and find him sitting, I sit on the chair next to him. He hands me a file. I open it.

Papa: “the serial killer you’re looking for. He is situated in Free State. Everything you should know about him is inside that envelope. He is a very dangerous man Nzeke please be careful. Don’t undermine him. He isn’t like any other killer you have ever dealt with before. He is a little stupid and that makes him unpredictable.” Papa sometimes helps me with leads when I am at a dead end. He is a very resourceful man. I page the file and find out that the man I am looking for is Siyathokoza Mthombeni. Such a beautiful name for a killer.

Me: “does he know me?”

Papa: “no but he is aware that a shark detective is after him. He is targeting UFS now. Do your job and save those innocent girls before he murders them.”

Me: “okay Papa and thank you for this.”

Papa: “when are you leaving?”

Me: “tomorrow morning.”

Papa: “when are you going to visit my wife and i?”

Me: “after solving this case I will take a leave and I will surely come and visit you. Even if it’s just for a week.”

Papa: “that’s good to hear. Your grandma wanted you guys to have some quality time together so go to her.” I laugh.

Me: “quality time with Nana is always the worst.” He also laughs because he knows his wife’s definition of fun includes old grannies’ things or extreme youngsters’ fun. Like bungee jumping and all those activities which get your blood pumping faster than ever before.

We get inside the house and find Nana with Connie and Zee looking like they are going to the beach. We sit down and Yenziwe comes and sits on my lap. He hardly talks which is normal for a 2 year old. He plays with my hair and giggles while doing it.

Dad: “your hair amuses him.” he chuckles.

Papa: “this boy is taking long to start speaking.”

Nana: “he reminds me of Simo. He started speaking when he was close to 4 years.”

Zee: “that late?” she asked with a shocked expression. Nana nods and stands up.

Nana: “gentlemen we will have to love and leave you. As ladies with need some bonding time away from you.” I stand up.

Me: “let me grab my phone and purse. Which car are we using?”

Connie: “your dad’s and I am driving. Last time mama drove I puked.”

Papa: “she drives like Paul Walker. I have warned her multiple times but she doesn’t listen.”

I quickly rush to my room because this chat won’t end well. My nana is an adrenaline junkie. Before she met papa she used to be a baker. She had a crazy life. Anyways I take my phone, handbag and head back to the lounge. Dad tells me that the ladies are waiting for me in the car. I get to the car and mom drives to a resort. When we get there a lady leads us to a spa. I owe nana an apology because I was so convinced that we are going sky diving this time around. We take off our clothes and the ladies start massaging us.

Me: “so Zee when is the big day?”

Zee: “in three months. You are my maid of honor right?”

Me: “are you asking me or are you telling me?” she giggles.

Zee: “take it however you want.”

Me: “I guess I will apply for a leave that correspond with your wedding.”

Nana: “you will visit us after the wedding right?”

Me: “definitely.”

We continue with our spa day and after that we have late lunch here at the resort.

4

It's Tuesday evening and I am at the office going through the file that papa gave me. This guy is a genius. We definitely wouldn't have caught him. Good thing I know his hideout. I also know that he has a private jet and once he knows that his identity has been discovered he might flee so I need to thread carefully. I have all the evidence I need to keep this psycho behind bars for a very long time. I just need a warrant of arrest. I stand up and head to the Captain's office. I knock and he gives me permission to enter. He raises his head and he smiles when he sees me.

Captain: "Shabangu. What can I do for you?" I sit down opposite him.

Me: "I have found our killer. His name is Siyathokoza Mthombeni. He lives in Free State but he is originally from Kwa Makhutha. Right now he is in a township called Botshabelo. In a house near Batjha Primary School. I have all the evidence to lock him up. I just need the warrant. I want to make this arrest as discrete as possible. He has a private jet so once he knows that we are onto him, he might flee the country."

Captain: "besides the warrant what else do you need?"

Me: “when will it be ready?”

Captain: “by the end of today.”

Me: “I don’t wanna drag this because if we prolong his arrest another girl might die. I need Zondo and 2 of your best officers who are not famous. I also won’t need help from Botshabelo police because it will cause havoc and might alert him. We need a place where we can sleep. We need to live this evening, sleep or plan and then make the arrest tomorrow morning. I have already made reservations of 4 people at the Bodulo Lodge. You just need to refund me and buy us plane tickets.” he chuckles.

Captain: “let me just get the warrant ready. You can book the tickets also with your money and I will refund you. In the mean time you can inform the people you are leaving with.”

Me: “you can just deposit R50k in my account.”

Captain: “that’s too much.”

Me: “also don’t inform anyone at the station about this.” He sighs because he knows he can’t say no to me.”

Captain: “you know I can be discrete.”

Me: “can the warrant be ready by 2 pm?”

Captain: “yoh, you are demanding but I will see what I can do.”
I nod and head to Zondo’s office.

Me: “are you busy this evening?”

Zondo: “no. what’s up?”

Me: “you are accompanying me to Free State to arrest the serial killer.”

Zondo: “you have found him?”

Me: “you know I don’t take years to solve a case.” He chuckles.

Zondo: “so it’s me, you, and who?”

Me: “Rudd and Sithebe. Please inform them for me and don’t tell anyone else about this.”

Zondo: “sure thing.”

Me: “be ready by 2pm” he nods.

I head to my office and book the plane tickets. I then sit and think about my life. I am 29 years old, I am successful but there is one aspect of my life missing. My love life. As much as I don’t wanna admit it, my life can be very lonely. It’s just me and my work. I have no boyfriend, no cat, and no dog. I might as well give Nkonzo a chance. But he can be very protective and

possessive. I will just spend more time with him but not label our relationship. Better the devil I know. I take my phone and call him.

Nkonzo: "detective, how are you?"

Me: "I am good Nkonzo. Are you busy tomorrow night?"

Nkonzo: "for you I am always free." I smile.

Me: "I'd like us to go eat dinner, at a restaurant

Advertisement

dress up nicely." He chuckles.

Nkonzo: "detective are you asking me out on a date?" I laugh.

Me: "I guess I am."

Nkonzo: "wow. I thought I was the one who was going to ask you out."

Me: "you dragged your feet."

Nkonzo: "you told me not to catch feelings."

Me: "this is a date, I am not asking you to marry me so there is no need for you to catch feelings."

Nkonzo: “whatever. Just so you know, I love you and I am not afraid to admit it.”

Me: “see you tomorrow doctor.” He chuckles.

Nkonzo: “bye Nceba.” I hang up and breathe out loud. I then call my high school friend who lives in Bloemfontein. It’s been a while since I last saw her. I need her for transport and she knows Free State so she is going to be useful.

Itumeleng: “Itu speaking hello.”

Me: “hey Meme, it’s Nceba.”

Meme: “wow you still have my number?”

Me: “don’t be like that. You know how busy life can get.”

Meme: “whatever. So what do you want?”

Me: “what makes you think I want something?”

Meme: “you only call when you want a favour.”

Me: “now you make me feel so bad.”

Meme: “out with it.”

Me: “fine. I need you to fetch me and my colleagues at the airport tonight and take us to Bodulo Lodge.”

Meme: “what will you be doing there?”

Me: "I will tell you tomorrow. Then I promise you that I will take you out on a holiday when I get a leave."

Meme: "fine. You will text me the time you will arrive at then you will find me at the airport."

Me: "I'd also like you to borrow me one of your cars and before you say anything, I will explain later."

Meme: "you owe me, big time."

Me: "I know. I love you."

Meme: "whatever." She hangs up.

Nkosi drives us to the airport by 3 pm and we board the plane. We arrive at the Bloemfontein airport at 8:15 pm and we find Meme already waiting for us. She rushes to us as soon as she sees me and we share a hug. She then leads us to the car. We get inside. Her car is a Toyota Rav-4 so it is perfect. I love Toyota SUVs.

Me: "guys this is my friend Itumeleng and Meme this is Detective Zondo, undercover detectives Rudd and Sithebe."

Meme: "you are here on official police business?"

Me: "yes."

Meme: "then why are you not utilizing the state's materials?"

Me: "I brought undercover agents because we wanted to be discrete. One mistake and the suspect might flee."

Meme: "okay. You guys want something to eat?"

Me: "we can order at a drive thru before we head to the lodge." She nods and drives to the mall. We order food and then head to the lodge. We get there, park the car and climb out with our bags. She hands me her car keys. "How are you going to get home?"

Meme: "my girlfriend is already here." she points at the car that is parked a few meters away from us. I hug her.

Me: "see you tomorrow and greet her for me."

Meme: "see you tomorrow babes." She leaves.

Me: "guys, we will check in, get settled, take a shower then meet in my room after 20 minutes."

Zondo: "sure thing."

We get inside and check in. they give us our room keys. I get to my room and place my bag on the bed. I take off my clothes, take my toiletry bag and head to the bathroom to take a shower. When I am done I wear a vest, sweatpants and slippers. I place my bag on the dresser and take out my laptop. A few minutes later the guys arrive in my room. We start by eating and then we discuss the plan for tomorrow.

5

It is just after 5 am. Some people are still sleeping, some are getting ready for school and work, some are already on their way there, some are already on their way back and here we were, 3 houses away from a serial killer. His house is a 4 room one without a fence. Getting in undetected would be so easy. The house has no burglar gates. For a rich criminal, he is sure being discrete. Rudd goes to the kitchen door, Sithebe goes to stand just opposite the bathroom window. It's the only big enough for anyone to escape with. Zondo and I go to the front door.

There seems to not be any activity going on in the house. The lights are off. Something is not right, but I guess it's just paranoia. I don't like knocking, so I just kick the door open. A gunshot is fired as soon as I step inside the house, I have been shot, and that was quick. I fall to the floor because I am taken by surprise by this action. The bullet is stuck just below my elbow. His aiming skills are whack. Zondo is quick to disarm Siyathokoza because he just shoots the hand in which he is holding the gun in. he groans and falls on his knees to the floor. Zondo quickly kick Siyathokoza's gun away from him. He take his handcuffs and cuffs him.

Zondo: "Siyathokoza Mthombeni you are under arrest for the murder of Nelisiwe Magutshwa, Sibabalwa Dladla

Makabongwe Mnguni and Avela Shongwe. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say or do may be used against you in the court of law. You have a right to an attorney. If you can't afford one the state will provide for you."

Rudd and Sithebe make their way in. Rudd helps me stand up and when he sees that I am bleeding he checks to see where I was shot. He takes the car keys from my pocket and hand it to Sithebe.

Rudd: "bring the car around." He nods and rushes out. "You are going to be fine." He takes off his belt. "Let me apply pressure into your wound so that you won't lose too much blood." I nod and he does what he said.

Siyathokoza: "so you are the big shot detective?" he says with a smirk on his face.

Me: "shut up. You were also shot. If I were you I'd save my energy." Sithebe hoots indicating he is outside. We all head out

with Rudd helping me walk and Zondo pushing Siyathokoza out. My phone rings and I take it out.

Me: “captain.”

Captain: “they are already waiting for you at the police station. I have communicated everything with them. A chopper will also be there shortly after you arrive. It will take you straight here. No one is injured right?”

Me: “he shot me on the arm and Zondo also shot him in his hand to disarm him.” he curses under his breath.

Captain: “let me just call them at the police station to prepare urgent medical attention.”

Me: “sure captain.” I hang up. “Rudd drive to Botshabelo Police Station.”

Rudd: “roger that.”

We get to the police station and as soon as we make our way in, chaos erupts. Medics come and check if I am okay. I ask them to remove the bullet because it’s not that deep. They start the process of removing it. A tall muscular woman comes

to us. Zondo is still holding Siyathokoza. He has covered his wound with a cloth. She stops in front of me.

Her: “Detective Shabangu, I am Captain Walaza. It’s an honor to meet you.” I just nod and she continues greeting my colleagues.

The medics finish stitching me up and they take care of Siyathokoza’s wound. Minutes later the chopper arrive. The guys take our bags inside. I leave Meme’s car keys to the captain. I call her and tell her where she is going to find her car. We get in the chopper and off we go to Greyville. We arrive there after a few hours and constables take Siyathokoza to the holding cells. I take my bag and Nkosi offers to drive me home. We get inside her car and drive out of the police station.

Nkosi: “I guess you have just earned yourself a few days off.” I chuckle.

Me: “I am supposed to take a leave in 2 months. If they give me days off for this injury, they shouldn’t touch my leave.” She laughs.

Nkosi: “I will bring your dinner tonight.”

Me: “honey please don’t pity me. I have a date.” Her eyes pop and she nearly loses control of the steering wheel.

Nkosi: “with who? Black has to hear this.” I just laugh at her.

Me: “I am thinking of dating again. I will start with the sexy doctor and if things don’t work out, I will move on. But I won’t stop until I get a good guy who is ready to settle down.”

Nkosi: “hell is mourning the loss of their number 1 hoe.” I burst out laughing and she also laughs.

She drops me off at my house and I get inside. I throw my bag in my bed and take a warm shower, being cautious about my wound. I finish showering, dry myself and wrap the towel around my body. I head to the bedroom and find my phone ringing. I answer it.

Me: “Shabangu hello.”

Nkonzo: “detective how are you?”

Me: “oww it’s you. I am fine doctor, how are you?”

Nkonzo: “I am also fine. Are you on your way to pick me up?” I clear my throat.

Me: “about that...”

Nkonzo: “I should’ve known it was too good to be true.”

Me: “Nkonzo wait. Let me explain. I was shot so I am not in the mood to go out. How about you come to my house and maybe you can cook for me?” he breathes out loud.

Nkonzo: “fine.”

Me: “you thought I was going to ditch you?”

Nkonzo: “you always have excuses when I ask you out.”

Me: “but this time around I am the one who asked you out. That is why I am trying to make it up to you.”

Nkonzo: “okay. What should I bring?”

Me: “your cooking skills and your dick.” He laughs out loud.

Nkonzo: “are you sure you are not a sex addict?”

Me: “if I am, then I am only addicted to big and satisfying dicks like yours Doctor Nkonzo.” He chuckles.

Nkonzo: “see you soon Nceba.”

Me: “sure.” I hang up.

What's good about him coming over is that I don't have to dress up. I dress up my wound and then wear a short sleeved white shirt and brown sweatpants. I wear my slippers then take my phone and head downstairs. My arm is not that painful but I should take it easy because should I put pressure on it, it will not heal quickly. I make myself a cup of tea and sit on the barstool drinking it. My phone rings again, it's papa who is calling this time around. I answer it.

Me: "papa."

Papa: "are you okay Nzeke? I heard you got shot."

Me: "I am fine papa. It's just a flesh wound. Nothing to worry about."

Papa: "you know I always worry about you, even if you break a nail." I chuckle.

Me: "I know papa. Please don't tell my parents. You know how worried they get."

Nana: "but they deserve to know."

Me: "nana the injury is not that bad. Please. You know how your son is like."

Nana: "come visit us this weekend and I won't tell them." I laugh.

Me: “are you seriously black mailing me nana?”

Nana: “it’s called negotiating young blood.”

Me: “I don’t even know if they have given me days off. I will find out tomorrow.”

Nana: “okay baby.”

Papa: “why did you hijack my call?” I laugh.

Nana: “whatever dude.” I laugh more and just hang up because I know they won’t stop once they start.

6

While sitting in the lounge going through my WhatsApp chats someone knocks on the door. I already know who it is so I yell for them to come in. he comes in dressed in brown cargo pants, white long sleeved t-shirt and white sneakers. He looks good and relaxed. He doesn't usually dress like this. He is carrying a bag and a bunch of flowers. I stand up to meet him halfway.

Him: "beautiful flowers for a beautiful lady." He hands me the flowers and kisses my cheek.

Me: "that sounds so cheesy but thank you. What's in the bag?"

Him: "some pain medication which will help with your wound. After dinner I also wanna check if you were stitched well." I roll my eyes.

Me: "can you not be a doctor for the rest of the evening?"

Him: "sadly not." He places the bag in the coffee table. "Where is the kitchen?" I also place the flowers on the coffee table.

Me: "follow me."

After 2 hours we finish preparing dinner. Well he finishes preparing dinner because I was just keeping him company. We

talked a lot and he got to tell me more about his family. His father is a polygamist, he has 3 wives. His mother is the second wife. He may be a nerd and all but he comes from a traditional family. He has about 21 siblings, some from his father's marriages and others from his mistresses. I must give it to his father, he has got super sperms.

Nkonzo is 34 years old. He is the third child from his father and he is the first born from his mother. He doesn't have a child but he wishes to have many children like his father. We eat and when we are done, we go to the lounge and cuddle on one couch while eating muffins which were in his bag.

Him: "so what about you? Do you want kids?"

Me: "I do. Maybe in 5 years to come. For now I just wanna focus on building myself and getting into a relationship."

Him: "are you saying you need a partner?"

Me: "something like that."

Him: "are you asking me to be your boyfriend?" I chuckle. "This isn't something you should joke about Nceba." I sit up and look at him.

Me: “you want me to spell it out for you? Nkonzo will you be my boyfriend?” he giggles and shakes his head.

Him: “what happened to ‘no strings attached’?” I roll my eyes.

Me: “the kuku got tired.” He bursts out laughing.

Him: “FYI It’s still in good condition. It’s on fire mamazi.” I laugh while covering my face with my hands.

Me: “you’re crazy.”

Him: “I am serious. You see even my dick is getting hard from simply mentioning your kuku.” I continue laughing.

Me: “can we stop talking about this?”

Him: “yes my girlfriend.” I roll my eyes while blushing. “I need to leave soon. I have a work trip tomorrow morning. Before I leave, can I check your wound then change your bandage?”

Me: “sure.” He changes my bandage and when he done he collects his stuff and packs them in his bag.

Him: “so when am I seeing my girlfriend?”

Me: “I don’t know. Since I won’t be working this weekend, I am thinking of visiting my grandparents. Maybe I will come back on Monday.”

Him: “when you come back please spend the night at my place.”

Me: “okay.” We share a kiss and then he leaves.

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Captain gave me a week off because of the injury but he also assured me that the leave I applied for won't be affected. I decided to visit the pensioners the following morning. Right now I have just landed at OR Tambo. I find Papa and Nana already waiting for me. Nana rushes to hug but she is careful not to press on my injury. Papa also comes to hug me and then take my bag. We all head out to the parking lot and hop into their car. We are going to their house in Diepkloof.

Nana: “how long are you staying?”

Me: “I am leaving on Monday.”

Nana: “cool. We are going to have so much fun.” Papa laughs.

Papa: “my love please don't forget that you are not as young as she is. Plus she is injured so no adventures.”

Nana: “what are supposed to do? Sit around and read the bible?” I laugh at her.

Papa: “firstly we are going to go eat at Tavern in Maonya mall and then you will go watch a movie at the theatre there.”

Nana: “ahh kill me now.” She groans and I laugh out loud. “Why did you have to get shot?”

Me: “FYO I was playing hero and got caught in the crossfire.” She rolls her eyes.

Nana: “as if.” I continue laughing. My nana is a breath of fresh air so I know this weekend is going to be fun even if we are not exploring the whole of Jozi.

We arrive at the mall and papa finds a parking spot. We get out of the car and head to Tavern. This place serves very great food. We find a table and we sit. A waiter comes and we place our orders. He comes back to give us our drinks and we sip while waiting for the food.

Nana: “so when are you going to get married?”

Me: “nana you aren’t that type of granny. Don’t start now.”

Nana: “what type?”

Papa: “the type that pressurize their grandchildren to settle down, get married and have kids.”

Me: “exactly papa.”

Nana: “chill. I was just trying to make a conversation in front of your grandpa. If we were alone I would’ve asked you when was

the last time you had sex.” I nearly choke on my drink but then I remember this is nana. This is her normal language. Papa just chuckles shaking his head.

Papa: “you are going to go back to Durban without seeing your parents?”

Me: “we will go see them tomorrow, maybe stay for a few hours then head back to our house.”

Nana: “honey we didn’t contribute in that house so it’s ours. Me and my husband, ours. Maybe you will get ownership when we are dead.” I roll my eyes. “Maybe Nzeke. Don’t rush in killing us because of it because maybe is a maybe.” I laugh and roll my eyes again.

The food comes. We eat while Nana is busy entertaining us with jokes and college adventures. She has always been an adrenaline junkie, so I no longer get shocked when she tells stories about the past. When we are done, we head to the movie theater and she literally drags papa inside. We watch ‘THE PHOTOGRAPH’ and whenever a kissing scene appears, nana kisses papa. I am traumatized guys. When the movie is finished papa drives us to their house.

7

I am so glad that all the rooms at nana's house are sound proofed because I would've probably been traumatized by their moans and groans. It's no secret that they still have sex as old as they are. You can never tell their actual age because they visit the gym regularly, they even have a gym in their house. They also eat healthy and of course have sex regularly. Most of the time, their arguments are not serious. They just end up kissing and making up. They don't go to bed while angry at each other.

Their marriage inspires me. They have been married for over 40 years, they have 6 kids who are adults and some are married. Dad is their third child. Although they may have been troubles here and there, they are still sticking to their vows and sticking to each other. they are no longer husband and wife but they are siblings and best friends because their relationship is more than just marriage and that is exactly what I want, but not now.

I make the bed and go take a bath. I then get dressed and head downstairs with my phone. I head to the kitchen and sit on the barstool. I greet the helper who is dishing up breakfast and placing it on the counter. A video call comes through and I smile when I see who the caller is.

Nkosi: “babes you look like you are living the life in Manhattan.”

Black: “for real though. Are you still in Mzansi?” I laugh. My grandparents’ house is the shit. It’s one of the most beautiful houses in Diepkloof. It was designed by Lethukuthula Hlongwa and I must say, he knows his stuff. When I finally settle down I also want him to design my home.

Me: “this is nana and papa’s house guys.”

Black: “we should definitely come and see it sometime soon.”

Me: “nana would love that. She loves visitors very much.”

Nkosi: “well tell her we are coming for a weekend next month. She must stock up booze.”

Nana: “you damn right I will.” She says entering the kitchen. I burst out laughing and the girls also laugh.

Nkosi and Black: “HI NANA!”

Nana: “hi girls. When are you visiting me?”

Nkosi: “next month nana.” We say our goodbyes and I hang up. I turn to nana and she looks worn out. The helper finishing setting up and excuses herself.

Me: “are you okay nana? You look worn out.”

Nana: “that’s what happens when you take sex as a sport. It’s no joke Nzeke. Plus it doesn’t help the fact that your papa is a bull in the bedroom. Yoh my pussy is sore. He didn’t give me rest last night. The morning glory is compulsory ke baby because people can be grumpy when they didn’t get morning glory.” I just laugh shaking my head.

Me: “where is papa?”

Papa: “right here honey.” He comes down dressed in sweatpants, vest and push-ins. Nana is wearing leggings with a short sleeved tee and flip flops. Labantu abazikhohliwe nje bezingane. Papa kisses my cheek and the sits next to nana. We all eat our food. “Your father is at home with your mother. Zee is at her fiancé’s house and her son is at school.”

Me: “we will go visit them and probably stay the whole day, unless you have other plans.”

Nana: “no, I am good with chilling.”

Me: “you and chilling?!” I look at her and then we laugh with papa.

Papa: “glad you aren’t going to do crazy staff today. Maybe we can do our morning exercise every day until Nzeke gets better.” Nana throws a dish cloth at him and he continues laughing.

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We get to Jabulani’s house and I am walking behind Papa. I am wearing a short sleeved dress which I now regret wearing because my bandage is visible. I should’ve worn a long sleeved dress or shirt. We get to the lounge and luckily they are not in the lounge. I quickly sit down and place a cushion near my arm. Nana just chuckles and heads towards the kitchen.

Papa: “you are stupid if you think that would help you.”

Me: “shush papa.” Connie comes to the lounge and she smiles widely when she sees me. She rushes towards and she is expecting me to stand up and meet her halfway for a hug. I stand up and side hug her while carrying the cushion. Papa chuckles.

Papa: “shush papa.” He imitates my voice. Connie eyes me suspiciously.

Connie: “twice in one month. We are so lucky. To what do we owe this surprise visit my baby?” Jabulani also comes to the lounge and hugs me. when he sees that I am carrying a cushion his warm smile turns into a frown.

Dad: “what is going on Maye?” I look down and go back to my seat. “Mayenzeke Ncebakazi Shabangu you will answer when I am talking to you.”

Nana: “your stupid police of a daughter got shot but nothing extreme. Just a scar on the lower arm.” She says while eating ice cream from a bowl. She sits comfortably next to her husband.

Dad: “what do you mean she got shot?”

Nana: “exactly that. are you sure you are my son? Because right now you are acting very strange and your brain is slow.” Papa chuckles and nana feeds him the ice cream.

Dad: “mama this is no time for your sarcasm. Ncebakazi what happened?”

Me: "I got shot dad but it's nothing to worry about. The station gave me a week off." Connie comes to sit next to me and brings me closer to her body while hugging me tightly.

Mom: "I am glad you are okay honey and I am glad that your injury is not intense." Dad breathes out loud and also comes to sit next to me. He also hugs me.

We spend the day at my parents' house. We eat lunch and supper with them. Mom asks for us to join her Sunday for church. Nana just doesn't comment on that while papa promises that we will go with them. Nana has probably went to church once or twice. She doesn't like church because she believes that people who go to church are judgmental and they would judge her lifestyle. As much as she doesn't care about other people's opinions about her life, she doesn't like to surround herself with negative energy.

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We get to their house and I just head to my room. I shower and then wear my pajamas. I lie on my bed and take out my phone. I video call Nkonzo and he picks up almost immediately.

Nkonzo: "I thought I was dumped." I laugh.

Me: "why would you think that?"

Nkonzo: "I tried calling you three times today and your phone took me straight to voicemail."

Me: "I spent the day with the pensioners so I switched off my phone. I am sorry for not informing you early."

Nkonzo: "apology accepted. So how was your day?"

Me: "awesome. I know my age mates would love to chill with their peers and not the pensioners but I love chilling with them because they are funny, awesome, alive and active."

Nkonzo: "I wish to meet them one day."

Me: "yeah one day." We continue chatting and we finally say our goodbyes. I say my night prayer and then go to sleep.

8

Nkosi: “he was denied bail. Thanks to the evidence you provided that he is rich and has a private jet.”

Me: “as he should have. No one would have known that the jet belongs to him. According to the house we found him at, you can say that he earns 4 figures monthly whereas he is confusing the enemy.”

Nkosi: “I respect you sources. Anyways when are we partying?”

Me: “next week Friday. We should go to Club Classic.”

Nkosi: “the one owned by Adriane Thompson?”

Me: “yeah. I have been there once and I can testify that the vibe there is too much. Ku lit sana.”

Nkosi: “well I am in. I will tell Black and Zondo to come with.”

Me: “won’t his fiancé deny him of going with us? Given our history?”

Nkosi: “if she is that overprotective and jealous then she should come with, and maybe we should just make this a couples’ thing. You should bring that sexy doctor over.”

Me: “how do you know that he is sexy?”

Nkosi: “you are attracted to him and you complement his dick game. He is definitely sexy.” I laugh.

Me: “who are you going to bring?”

Nkosi: “Rudd.” I gasp.

Me: “bitch are the rumors true that you guys are an item?”

Nkosi: “not necessarily an item. We enjoy each other’s company and we have fucked a couple of times.”

Me: “but Rudd man. That guy is intense. He is always serious and he doesn’t laugh. He just focuses on his job or the task at hand.”

Nkosi: “he is a different person when we are together. He even make jokes, he makes me laugh, he can sing.” I clear my throat.

Me: “are talking about the same Rudd? Special undercover agent Rudd?” she laughs.

Nkosi: “uyokholwa nge invite yomshado.” I also laugh. “COME IN BABE, I AM THIS SIDE!” She shouts.

Me: “is that him or Black?”

Nkosi: "it's him. BABE NCEBA IS ON THE LINE, OR SHABANGU FOR YOU!" I hear his voice laughing and a few moments later his face appears on the screen.

Rudd: "detective Shabangu how are you?"

Me: "I am fine Rudd, how are you?"

Rudd: "I am great. How is your arm?"

Me: "recovering quickly, thanks for asking."

Rudd: "that's great." He turns and looks at her. "I am going to prepare lunch." She nods and he disappears from the screen. I wait for a few seconds and then I scream. Nkosi burst out laughing.

Me: "OMG! I can't believe it. He is talking for real. Wow girl. So how is his dick game?" she blushes.

Nkosi: "oww what can I say? He fucks like a porn star babes. He likes it hard and rough. Let just stop talking about sex because I will get horny."

Me: "even if you do, he will service you."

Nkosi: "you damn right he will." We both laugh.

Me: "we will talk soon babes. Go to your hunk man."

Nkosi: “bye babes.” we both hang up.

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Zee: “I had to come back, just to see you and spend some time with you.” She says while we walking at the Bara Mall.

When she heard that I visited mom and dad, she came back same time. Now she is taking me out for manicure and pedicure and a full body wax and massage. She says she wants us to do some sisterhood goals. I know when Mbulelo sees our pictures, he will get mad because I didn't tell him about my sudden trip to JHB. We get to the salon and we start with the wax, we then do full body massage. After that we do our nails and I opt for short nude nails because having long nails at work is a no-no.

Zee: “so Zipho has been talking about you all week.” I roll my eyes.

Me: “please tell him I am taken.” Her eyes pop out and she turns to look at me.

Zee: “with who? Your dildo?” I touch my stomach dramatically and the ladies at the salon laugh quietly.

Me: “ouch and no. I am in a relationship, but it has just started.”

Zee: “with who?”

Me: “a certain scientist from Durban North. I won’t tell you his name because it’s still new.”

Nail artist 1: “is he good in bed?”

Me: “he is a beast. This one time he fucked me so hard, when I was leaving, he pinned me on the door and ate my pussy so hard I came within a few minutes.” They all scream.

Nail artist 2: “can I borrow him for a night?” I laugh.

Me: “even if I agree

he won’t because he is obsessed with my pussy.” They all hype me.

Customer: “I have never had someone take me to mufftown. How is it nje?” we all turn to her.

Hairdresser: “babes you need a therapist. Are you okay? How old are you?”

Customer: “I am married with kids.” I choke on my saliva.

Me: “say what now? Why has your husband never muffed you?”

Customer: “he is old fashioned. He believes that we should only have sex in the bedroom and missionary style only.” Zee takes out a business card from her purse and hands it to her.

Zee: “my fiancé is a sex therapist. Get your husband to call him and set up an appointment or you trick him into going there with you. If he doesn’t want to go, then threaten to divorce him. Pleasure is important babes. This is what makes women cheat. Lack of experience in the bedroom.”

Nail artist 2: “so how is he?”

Zee: “he is like a sex machine, a maniac. We always try new things every once in a while. We have also tried BDMS on each other. We exchange roles, sometimes he is the dominant and sometimes I am the dominant. Our sex life is extraordinary and don’t worry he will help you.”

Customer: “aren’t you afraid that he might leave you someday?”

Zee: “not only is our sex life alive, but all the other aspects of our love. The affection is there. The care. We still take each

other out on dates. We still buy each other gifts on random dates, not only on our birthdays, Valentine's Day and mothers' or fathers' day. Note the use of the word 'we'. We both put effort in our relationship. I also take him out, but him gifts, take him to the barber with my own money. Spoil your man guys, but don't spoil a stingy man because he will ask questions like: 'where did you get the money?' 'you should've done better things than doing this'." We all laugh.

Customer: "I will definitely give your fiancé a call. Let's just hope my husband keeps an open mind."

We finish doing our nails and Zee pays. We then head to a restaurant. We order and wait for the food. While waiting we see the couple sitting in the next table arguing. The fight escalates to such an extent that the guy stands up and slaps the lady. I quickly stands up and withdraw my gun from my waist.

Me: "sir I am Detective Shabangu. Put your hands in the air. I am placing you under arrest for assaulting this lady in a public space." The man looks at me with a nervous smile.

Man: “we were just playing. It was hardly a slap.”

Woman: “you’re lying. This is not the first time you’re doing this. You know that when you get arrested, you will walk away free because of you connections.” I chuckle.

Me: “Zee please pass me the handcuffs. They are in my purse.” She quickly hands me them. “What are your names?”

Woman: “I am Joyce Theron and he is Vuyolwethu Makhanya.” I cuff him.

Me: “Vuyolwethu Makhanya, you are under arrest for the assault of Miss Joyce Theron. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you use can and will be used against you in the court of law. You have a right to a legal representative, should you not afford one, the state will provide for you. Do you understand your rights?”

Vuyolwethu: “you are going to regret this.” I roll my eyes.

Me: “Zee drive us to the Jabulani police station.” She talks to the waiter and then we head to the car. Vuyolwethu gets in the back and Zee and I get in the front. I take my phone and call the captain.

Captain: “what have you done now?” I chuckle.

Me: “not even a hello my favorite detective? I am hurt.” He chuckles.

Captain: “you only call when you have done something, got yourself in trouble or need back up.”

Me: “guilty as charged. Anyways I was just doing my job captain. A man assaulted a woman in my presence and I couldn’t let him get away with that so I arrested him.”

Captain: “where is he now?”

Me: “I am taking him to the Jabulani Police Station. I know I should’ve waited for the police to arrive at the restaurant but I ain’t got time for waiting around.” He huffs. “I also think he is some big shot because he has been arrested before and I think he was not charged, he was just released because of his connections. He also said I will regret this. So can I stay around for a little while, so that I can put him where he belongs?” the captain laughs.

Captain: “you are lucky that the captain of that police station is my sister. I will tell her to sort out a temporary office for you.”

Me: “you’re the best.”

Captain: “I know.” He hangs up.

I text papa and ask him to get the footage of the restaurant legally As Soon As Possible before Vuyolwethu makes it disappear. We get to the station and I can see some of the officers are not comfortable seeing Vuyolwethu here. I tell Zee to stay in the car and I head towards the door with the suspect. A woman whom I assume is a captain comes towards the door where we are standing. She looks just like my captain, I mean she looks like a man, muscular and with no smile. Her aura demands attention. She smiles and it's like a robot is smiling at me, the smile looks so calculated.

Her: "evening, I am Captain Nonhle Mathe. I believe you are Warrant Officer Shabangu who happens to be a Detective."

Me: "that's correct ma'am. I believe my captain has explained my situation." I point at Vuyolwethu with my eyes. She chuckles.

Her: "yes. Boys take him to the holding cells." She signals to the officers behind the desk.

Vuyolwethu: "I demand to talk to my lawyer."

Her: "Rest Makhanya, it's too early for your drama right now."
The officers take him and they head down the hallway. "I heard you need an office for a time being while you deal with Makhanya's case."

Me: "that's true."

Her: "you will find it ready for you on Monday. Now you can just fill in the necessary paperwork about this arrest." I nod and she leads me to her office.

I do all the necessary things needed. I then make a fake docket and put the real one on my handbag. Makhanya seems like a man who may be capable of making a docket disappear. I place the docket on the captain's desk and head out after saying goodbye to the captain and some of the officers who smiled at my direction when I got there. I get to the car and Zee drives me to Nana's house. We find nana alone watching TV. She stays for a while and then leave.

Me: "where is papa?"

Nana: "he went out to run some errands."

Me: "so you're bored?"

Nana: “who? Me? Never? Babes I am the life of the party. I never get bored, well only at a funeral.” I laugh and check out what she is watching.

I am not surprised that she is watching the BBC Lifestyle Channel. She always wants to keep up with the current fashion trends and she always cook different dishes. She is not the type of granny who cook idombolo, boiled chicken and sometimes usu. She cooks those things once or twice a year. She and papa always eat different dishes and papa is so used to that. He is not the kind of a Zulu man who demands uphuthu.

Nana: “so tell me, are you dating anyone?”

Me: “yes nana, he is a scientist. He has been my fuck buddy for a while now. And now I have decided to give him a chance because he likes me.”

Nana: “do you see a future with him?” I shrug.

Me: “I don’t know, I am just going with the flow.”

Nana: “that’s good enough. Just be careful baby

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I don't want you to get hurt." I nod.

Papa gets in and he tells me to follow him to his office. I know he has found something on Vuyolwethu and it is not good news. We get to his study and I take a seat. He opens his bar fridge and take out a can of Amstel. He downs it in one go and tosses the can in the bin. I know I am in deep shit and I have already figured out that Vuyolwethu is someone who is dangerous and can bring harm to our family.

Papa: "when I gave you a blessing to go become a police when your father denied you, I didn't think you'd put our family's lives in danger occasionally." I look down and play with my fingers. "Vuyolwethu Makhanya, also known as Bra Styles. I am sure you have heard of him before and what he does to cops who arrests him." I have heard of a gang lord called Bra Styles. I did a little research on him once but I left it unused.

Me: "I will make sure it doesn't get anywhere dangerous papa. If I need to take down his gang in order to conquer him, then I am game. I will need information on it." He sighs and sits down. He passes a USB and a file to me.

Papa: “this will help you. I will tell Zee’s father in law to take her in with her son until this case dies down. I will also get accommodation for Mbulelo in the meantime.”

Me: “I am sorry papa.” He doesn’t say anything, instead he takes his phone and leaves me alone in the study. I stand up and head to my room. I take a shower and just lay in the bed with my night dress.

Bra Styles is a dangerous gang lord. He is known for drug trafficking, child abduction and human trafficking. Most cops who have tried taking him down end up dead or lonely because he kills their loved ones. I am a little scared of taking him on but he needs to be stopped. I have dealt with gangs before, I just pray that I don’t endanger my family’s lives as papa said.

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The following morning we wake up, get dressed and head to church. Nana is whining all the way because she hates church. Her husband is just laughing at her. Well papa forgave me last night and we are cool now. We get to the church and find mom and dad waiting for us, they are standing outside their car.

Nana: “help me God.” We laugh at her and we climb off the car.

We greet them and we head inside the church and sit down on the third row. The service starts and the worship team leads the whole congregation to the praise and worship session. When they are done, the pastor starts with the sermon of the day. Nana yawns and takes the car keys from papa. She stands up and walks out. Papa chuckles and then turn his attention to the pastor. I shake my head and follow her outside.

I find her in the car. The sun roof is opened and she is wearing sun glasses while her seat is tilted down. She is play soft jazz and moving her head from side to side. She is sitting on the passenger seat. I just laugh and climb in the driver seat. She looks at me with her glasses lowered down and she puts them back again.

Me: “why did you get out?”

Nana: “I got bored kid.”

Me: “but the preacher was preaching.”

Nana: "that's what bored me the most."

Me: "you are a different breed altogether. I wonder who your parents are." She laughs.

Nana: "you will meet them soon because you like poking snakes in their holes." I roll my eyes.

Me: "we are the same mina nawe, the only difference is that I am a hero and you are, well you know who you are." She also rolls her eyes.

Nana: "heroism is overrated because it gets you killed." She increase the volume a little and whistles to the rhythm of the song playing.

10

Monday morning I drive to work with nana's silver grey Volkswagen citi golf. I am sure you are not even surprised that she has such a car. When I told Nkonzo that I will be sticking around for a little longer here, he was pissed a little. He said he is coming to see me later this week because he misses me so much. Drama king. I am glad that I go with my laptop almost everywhere I go.

I get to the station and the captain leads me to my office. It's nice and cozy. I sit down and start doing my job. Because of the video I submitted of Vuyolwethu assaulting Joyce, he was denied bail. Now I gotta work on building my case so that I can get him locked up for a long time. If his gang tries anything, I will not hesitate in bringing them down.

During lunch time, I eat the lunch box which was packed by nana. When I am done I get back to work and get a surprise visit from Joyce, she is with her lawyer and her mother. Her mother's face is familiar. I look at her squinting my eyes and I almost curse out loud when I realize that her mother is the Mayor of Bloemfontein. Vuyolwethu would've never gotten away with this even if he used his connections. Phela Crisella

Theron is one of the most influential woman in Mzansi. They take a seat.

Joyce: “good day detective. This is my lawyer Noxolo Hlekwayo and this is my mother Crisella Theron. Guys this is the detective who saved my life from that monster.” We shake hands. “I know you must be wondering why I brought my own lawyer. It’s just that she can’t be bought and threatened because she is loyal to her clients.” I nod.

Me: “so can you tell me more about your relationship with Mr. Makhanya? Please don’t exclude anything. I won’t be able to help you if you hide things from Me.” she nods and exhales out loudly.

Joyce: “we have been dating for 2 years now. When things started he was very romantic. He treated me like the only woman in the world. He showed me love. We even went on weekend getaways and trips to islands overseas. Then months back a woman showed up in his footstep while we were having a chilled day. She was pregnant

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which meant he cheated on me. He tried to apologize after she left but I wasn't willing to listen to me. I left him and a few weeks later he came after me. When I didn't wanna take him back, he started getting violent with me. When I told him I will report him he said he will kill me. He has connections in the police department so sometimes when he treated me bad, the police would look the other way."

Me: "relax. I am not his friend. I didn't even know he existed until that incident at the restaurant."

Crisella: "what is your name?"

Me: "I am Detective Ncebakazi Shabangu."

Crisella: "the one from Greyville?" I smile. Recognition bahlali. I nod.

Me: "please carry on Joyce."

Joyce: "he started beating me up. I even told him that I would tell my mom. He dared me. That guy is a monster. Once he tried to force himself on me because I denied him sex. Luckily he still has a little bit of consciousness. I am tired and I just want him to be as far away from me as possible. I also know about his illegal dealings. I have recording and videos of him

talking to his clients and his gang members.” She hands me a USB. This is much better than expected. I take it and put it in my handbag.

Me: “this will help very much. I will help you put him behind bars for good.” We continue talking about the case and they finally leave. I can see that Crisella is really upset about this issue and she wants to make an example of him.

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I knock out and drive home. I find my grandparents and parents doing karaoke. Nothing really amazed me when it comes to them. They make marriage seem so much fun. I want my husband to be like my daddy and my papa. I greet them and head to my room. I freshen up and head back downstairs. This time around I find mom and nana cooking at the kitchen. I take bottled water from the fridge and drink it while sitting on the barstool.

Mom: “I see you’re no longer wearing a bandage, which means you have healed.”

Me: “yes mama. I am fine now and by the end of this week I might find myself joining a gym.”

Mom: “why? You’re fit and have a lovely body. Why join a gym?”

Nana: “she needs to maintain that perfect fit body of hers because her job requires her to be strong and fit.”

Me: “just as she said.” I add looking at mom. She rolls her eyes.

Mom: “so mom told me that you are dating someone. When are we meeting him?”

Me: “aybo mama it’s still early stages of the relationship and I don’t think we will get to that. You know how demanding my career can get. Maybe he will get fed up by the fact that sometimes I just stir up trouble in any part of the South Africa and find myself getting involved in cases anywhere. You think he can keep up with that.”

Mom: “maybe you should make him understand just how much you are dedicated to your job. We all know that it’s your first love. Maybe he will understand.”

Me: “yeah, maybe just maybe. Nana guess who I saw today?”

Nana: "Idris Alba." Both mama and I laugh. Nana has this childhood crush on Idris and even papa knows about it.

Me: "as if. If I ever were to see him in this lifetime, I'd probably ask for a few minutes with him so that I can call you to come see him."

Nana: "my husband would probably lock me up in this house if Idris were to come to Mzansi." We all laugh.

Me: "anyways I saw Crisella Theron. She even recognized me. I told her my name and she was like 'the one from Greyville' and I swear my inner self screamed out with excitement."

Nana: "I am sure you cursed out loud." I laugh.

Me: "I nearly did."

Mom: "you are talking about Crisella the Mayor?"

Me: "yes ma."

Mom: "don't you have a 'bring your parent to work' day so that I can meet her?" I laugh at her.

Me: "mom this ain't pre-school." we continue chatting while they are both busy cooking. You'd think nana would sit and watch her daughter in law cook but she can't sit around and do nothing for too long.

11

Today I am meeting Nkonzo. It's Friday. He is already here. I am knocking off right now. So I pack my belongings and drive to nana's house. On Tuesday Vuyolwethu appeared on court and I am so happy that he was denied bail. Joyce's lawyer showed his lawyer flames so I am sure she will be ready with guns blazing on the trial. I told mom to come on the bail application and I introduced her to Crisella. Can you believe that mom actually asked for a picture with her? Anyways Crisella wasn't annoyed by that and they even exchanged numbers. Don't even know what they will be talking about.

I get home and I am relieved that the pensioners are not home. By the way they are on a weekend away in some lodge in Limpopo. I shower and get dressed in a black sweater, white skinny jeans and grey boots. I pack a weekend bag because I believe I will be spending the whole weekend with Nkonzo. I take my bag, car keys, phone and head downstairs. I first eat a beef pie that I find on the oven which I know that nana baked from scratch. She loves baking every Friday morning so it's actually tradition.

When I am done I drive to the hotel after making sure that the house is locked. Nana's house is like a safe house because the protection measures there are too much. Very few hackers would be able to crack the code in order to get inside. With me going after someone like Vuyolwethu, I have to be very careful and aware. I get to the hotel and he meets me at the lobby. We both head to his suite and he attacks me with a kiss as soon as we get there. I laugh and kiss him back.

He throws the bag on the bed and lifts me up. I quickly wrap my legs around his waist. One thing leads to the other and we make love like old lovers. When we are done, we shower and get dressed so that we can have dinner at the restaurant downstairs. I am wearing a red one arm mid bodycon dress with black heels. He is wearing a formal black shirt and black chinos. He looks really handsome and like an entire meal.

We head downstairs while holding hands. Before we got out of his suite he insisted that we took a few pictures. He actually made one his WhatsApp profile picture. Well I only posted one on my status and switched off my data connection when I saw Nkosi and Black typing. We get to our table and settle down after ordering our food.

Nkonzo: “I am probably going to complement you for the rest of the evening because wow, MaShabangu you look absolutely beautiful.” I blush once again.

Me: “you also look handsome Manzini. You look like an entire meal.”

Nkonzo: “don’t worry, I will let you devour me when we get back to the suite.” I giggle.

Me: “I might just take you up on that offer Mr.” he smirks.

The waiter comes back with our food and we dig in. when we are done, we move to the bar and have a few drinks. We dance to the music and it’s a pity that Nkonzo can’t move his waist in the dance floor like he does in the bedroom, or kitchen or couch, or everywhere that we have sex at. We stop dancing and go sit at our table.

Me: “how come you know how to fuck and move your waist like crazy but don’t know how to dance?” he laughs out loud.

Nkonzo: “I guess I should let it sink in first that you have just complimented my dick game.” I laugh and cover my face with

my hands. I didn't know that this will come out like this. I honestly didn't think my question through.

Me: "that didn't come out right."

Nkonzo: "it did and thanks for the compliment babe." He kisses my cheek. A few minutes later I spot Zee at the dance floor. I thought she was in Nelspruit.

Me: "I just saw my sister at the dance floor. Let me go and greet her."

Nkonzo: "okay. Do come back with her so that I can meet her." I nod and head to the dance floor. I dance behind her and just place my hands on her waist. She jumps and turns to look at me. She laughs when she sees me.

Zee: "big sis, how are you?" she sounds like she is drunk.

Me: "why are you here? And who are you here with?"

Zee: "I am with Wandile, Zipho and Unathi, Zipho's date. Who are you here with?"

Me: "my boyfriend." She screams.

Zee: "can I meet him?" I roll my eyes and pull her to our table.

Me: “babe meet my younger sister Ziyanda and Zee this is Nkonzo.” Nkonzo stands up and hugs her.

Nkonzo: “nice to meet you MaShabangu omncane.”

Zee: “few weeks ago she told me she was allergic to relationship. I am actually surprised to know that she is in a relationship.” Nkonzo laughs.

Nkonzo: “I was also surprised when she asked me out on a date because she has been turning me down for a very long time.”

Zee: “why don’t you guys come and join us in our table because it’s much bigger?” I look at her quizzically. “Please.” She gives me puppy eyes.

Me: “fine.” Nkonzo stands up and we all head towards the table.

Zee: “that’s where we are seated.” She points at the table from a distance.

Nkonzo: “I am going to order more drinks for us, I will find you guys there.” I nod and he heads to the bar. We get to the table

and I exchange greetings with everyone. Unathi seems cool. Zipho seems like he is constipated.

Wandile: “you are here alone mkami?”

Me: “no, my date is at the bar, getting us drinks.”

Zipho: “I thought you were allergic to relationships.”

Me: “I guess I finally find my cure.” Nkonzo comes to the table with our drinks. He places them on the table and exchange handshakes with everyone. Unfortunately there isn’t a seat available so I stand up and he sits in my chair. I sit on top of him and I see Zipho shifting uncomfortably. He is acting like a jealous ex right now and it’s actually pathetic.

Me: “so why are you guys here?”

Wandile: “we came to have fun and before you overreact, we brought enough guards.”

Me: “at least.”

Unathi: “why are you asking them like they are kids?” she asks in a tone I can’t decipher.

Me: "I don't care about the brothers, I only care about my sister's protection."

Unathi: "why is that? It's not like you are some kind of a celebrity or something."

Wandile: "ever heard of Detective Shabangu from Greyville?"

Unathi: "yeah. She is like the baddest female detective in Mzansi."

Zipho: "well that's her." Unathi's eyes pop out.

Unathi: "holy fuck." My phone rings and when I see who the caller is, I move to a quieter place.

Me: "papa."

Papa: "Nzeke you have to leave that hotel as soon as possible. Vuyolwethu's gang is after you and they will be there within 50 minutes." He hangs up and my heart starts beating fast.

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I get back to the table trying to control my shaking hands. I really don't care about myself because I can handle anybody. I am more worried about my sister and my boyfriend.

Me: "guys can we please move this party to our suite?"

Unathi: "but..." I give her an intense look.

Zee: "why?"

Me: "now." I take the access card from Nkonzo and quickly rush to our suite. When I get there, I open the door and see them rushing behind me. I dial Captain Nonhle's number. She answers immediately.

Nonhle: "captain Mathe speaking, how may I help you?"

Me: "captain, this is Detective Shabangu. Vuyolwethu's gang is after me and I need back up. I am about to leave the hotel I am at but I know they will cause havoc and innocent people will end up getting hurt. I am also with my sister and a couple of friends. I know they are in danger. Can you send officers here now?" I see the others gasping and Unathi breathing hard. Zipho is trying to calm her down.

Nonhle: “when my brother said you were trouble, I didn’t think you were this much of a trouble.” She sighs. “Fine. Where are you going to go right now?”

Me: “to a safe house. Can your officers arrest maybe 3 of 5 of the gang members coming to the hotel? Or whomever they can get their hands on? Or even just 1?”

Nonhle: “they will try. Speak to you soon.” She hangs up. I quickly undress then wear my jeans with long sleeved t-shirt and sneakers. I strap on my bulletproof vest and my guns.

Me: “Wandile tell your guards to wait for you guys in the East entrance of the hotel. Nkonzo settle your hotel bill electronically and pack your stuff. We need to get out of this place as in now. Zee take off those heels and wear some of my sneakers.” she nods. I head to the bathroom and pack my cosmetics. When I get back to the room I find them standing. “Are the guards ready?” Wandile nods. “Let’s exit through the fire escape.”

We all get out and get into the cars. We drive out and I direct them to the safe house. The safe house is a place that was designed by papa. It's like he knew that one day one of his grandchildren will always go out looking for trouble. When we get there I tell them to wait in the lounge and then I go to my secret room. I gather as many guns as I can and get back to the lounge. I hand everyone a gun.

Me: "these are unlicensed but that doesn't mean they won't get you in trouble. What I am doing right now is against the law but it's survival of the fittest and fastest." I can see that Zee is sober now but she looks scared. Wandile is holding her tight and comforting her. "I am sorry for putting you in this mess Zee but I promise you that everything will get back to the way it was soon."

Zee: "it's not your fault that there are monsters out there. I am not angry with you. The only thing I am angry at is the alcohol that has gone to waste. You owe me my tipsiness." We all laugh at her. At a tough time like this, she is thinking of booze? She is surely nana's grandchild. My phone rings and I move to another room. It's Nonhle.

Me: “captain.”

Nonhle: “we managed to capture 6 of them but the rest escaped. They really were looking for you because they left your hotel suite upside down.” I scratch my head roughly.

Me: “is there a detective who you can pair me to work with while working on this case?”

Nonhle: “Detective Zenathi Kheswa is available. I trust her and she has solved many gang related cases. She may be on leave but maybe she can squeeze you in.”

Me: “please send me her address right now.”

Nonhle: “okay. And Shabangu?”

Me: “yes captain.”

Nonhle: “be safe.”

Me: “thanks captain.” She hangs up and few moments later she sends the address.

Nkonzo comes to the kitchen and hugs me from behind. I exhale loudly. At least being in his arms seems to calm me a little bit. I turn and pull him to a passionate kiss. He follows my

lead and after a few minutes, we break the kiss. I lay my head in his chest.

Me: "I am sorry I ruined our weekend." He chuckles.

Nkonzo: "you shouldn't be sorry for trying to make the world a better place. And let me guess you have to leave right now?" I smile and look at his face.

Me: "how did you know?"

Nkonzo: "I can feel it."

Me: "I am sorry again."

Nkonzo: "don't worry. So should I stay here or...?"

Me: "my heart will be at ease if you stay here because no one can get in here. This place is called a safe house for a reason. If you want to rest, use one of the bedrooms in the second floor, well use the one with my name on it." He nods.

Nkonzo: "okay. So what's the deal with you and that Zipho guy?" I giggle.

Me: "he tried his luck with me a few weeks ago but I turned him down. I guess he is just bitter now."

Nkonzo: “well he should take his bitterness and shove it up his ass and give his attention to his date.” I laugh.

Me: “let’s go back to the lounge before they think we are shagging each other at a time like this.” He grabs my butt.

Nkonzo: “I wouldn’t mind a quickie round about now.” I laugh and escape his hold. I rush to the lounge with him on my heels.

Me: “I am sorry for doing this to you guys. You will only be able to leave this place tomorrow morning. But worry not because there are two guest rooms on this floor. You can use them. There is also booze in the cabinet in the kitchen. I will be back in a few hours. Please don’t leave until I say so and don’t order take outs. There is a lot of food in this house.”

Zee: “where are you going? Is it safe for you to travel alone at night?”

Me: “most of the guys that were chasing me are at the police station. Some of them may have returned to their warehouse and I am pretty sure they are oblivious of my movements. I am safer alone than when I am with you guys.”

Zipho: “you can ask our guards to drive you where you wanna go.”

Me: “okay.”

I know that is the only thing that will put them at ease but I know that I am leaving alone. I head to the TV room to take my motorbike keys and put them in my pocket. I leave using another entrance and climb into my bike. I drive out of the safe house and drive to Kheswa’s place. I get there and knock at the door. A very buffy half naked man opens the door and I frown.

Me: “I don’t know if I am at the right address but I am looking for Detective Zenathi Kheswa.”

Man: “this is him and who are you?” he looks at me from head to toe with a frown in his face.

Me: “but captain Nonhle said Detective Kheswa is a female.” He chuckles shaking his head.

Kheswa: “she always does that to new people. Anyways who are you?”

Me: “Detective Shabangu.”

Kheswa: “the celebrity detective.” He smiles. “Come on in.” I get inside and he shuts the door. He leads me to the kitchen

and it seems like he was still cooking supper. I sit at the barstool and he continues cooking.

Me: “did your parents hate you?” he laughs.

Kheswa: “my real name is Zimele Kheswa. Nonhle was pranking you. She likes doing that. So what type of trouble have you gotten yourself into?”

Me: “I am in the process of taking down Bra Styles so I need all the help I can get.”

Kheswa: “is it a personal vendetta or what?”

Me: “I just happened to run into him at a restaurant where he assaulted his girlfriend in my presence. I then arrested him and when he tried stealing the docket and making the evidence disappear, he failed because I was 3 steps ahead of him. He was denied bail and he is now baying for my blood. He practically chased me out of a hotel tonight while I was having fun with my boyfriend.”

Kheswa: “how did your boyfriend feel?”

Me: “he was understanding.”

Kheswa: "how old is your relationship?"

Me: "a few weeks old."

Kheswa: "he will definitely get tired of understanding and starts cheating when you don't make time for him and when you prioritize your job."

Me: "talking from experience?" he laughs.

Kheswa: "guilty as charged."

Me: "what happened?"

Kheswa: "she slept with my best friend. I nearly killed both of them but I figured they are not worth it. I just dumped her and they ended up getting married."

Me: "wow I am sorry but my Nkonzo will never cheat on me because he is obsessed with my pussy." He laughs.

Kheswa: "you are full of yourself." I shrug.

Me: "I know my pussy is hot and tight. There is no way he can leave it for just a moment of weakness. So are you going to help me?"

Kheswa: "I am in my leave but I will help you." He finishes cooking and dishes up for the both of us.

He takes the plates to the dining room while I follow with glasses of juice. We sit down and dig in. he is an amazing cook and he tells me that the reason why he cooked this late was because he spent most of the day sleeping and he spent his afternoon at the gym. His life is boring shame. He agrees that he will help me and that makes me happy. When we are done eating we look at some of my research about Bra Style's gang and he also gives me some of his information. We decide to meet again on Sunday afternoon talk more about this case.

I leave during midnight and head to the hotel. I show them my badge and ask for the CCTV footage. I get it and head out doing Madiba dance. I arrive at the safe house. I find the two couples in the lounge dancing and laughing. I just laugh and head to my secret room. I place everything there and then head to my bedroom. I find Nkonzo sleeping full clothed and I just chuckle shaking my head. I change into his oversized vest and then help him out of his clothes. He mumble something in his sleep but doesn't wake up. I leave him with only his boxers and join him in the bed. He pulls me closer to him and I just giggle and cuddle him.

I wake up early the following morning. I wash my hair, brush my teeth and then head downstairs. I clean everywhere and when I am done, I make breakfast for everyone and then set up the table. I place the food in the oven, pack Nkonzo's food on a tray and head to my bedroom. I find him still sleeping and I place the tray on his bedside. I get in top of him and plant kisses all over his face. He giggles and shakes his head.

Nkonzo: "just a few more minutes MaMbhele." I chuckle and tickle him. He laughs out loud opening his eyes. "Did you really have to do that?" he sits up and tickles me. I laugh out loud and try getting off him. He holds me tight and plant kisses on my neck. I giggle.

Me: "I brought you breakfast. Eat before it gets cold."

Nkonzo: "not before I have this." He cups my pussy on top of my panties and I just giggle again.

Don't look at me like that. I am happy and in love. We get down to business and when we are done, we take a not so innocent shower. When we are done, we get out wrapping towels around our bodies. I make the bed and get dressed while Nkonzo eats his breakfast. When he is done we head

downstairs and he washes his dishes. I go knock on the guest bedrooms waking our guests up. They come to the lounge looking fresh and I dish up for everyone. I dish up for Nkonzo again.

Zee: "I don't know when the last time I ate your food was. I even forgot that you know how to cook." I laugh and sit next to Nkonzo with my food.

Me: "how about you visit me and I will cook the whole weekend for you?" her face lights up.

Zee: "I can't wait. It has been so long since I visited Durban. You should take me to Max's Lifestyle." I laugh.

Nkonzo: "you really love going out?"

Wandile: "a lot." We all laugh.

Me: "when did you guys sleep and how was your night?"

Zipho: "it was good. I don't even know when we slept. When did you come back?"

Me: "don't tell me you guys didn't see me getting back." They all look at me confused. "But I saw you guys dancing laughing and drinking at the lounge."

Unathi: "I really don't remember seeing you last night. I don't even know how I ended up in bed."

Me: "if you are not in a hurry we can go out tonight. My treat."

Zee: "is it safe?"

Me: "I wouldn't have suggested it if it wasn't."

Unathi: "I am in." they all agree.

Wandile: "we will have to go to the mall and buy some clothes so that we can change."

Zee: "yay! Plus I saw this beautiful dress at Bara. You promised to buy it for me." Wandile acts surprised and shocked.

Wandile: "I did? When?" Zee looks at him in disbelief. "I am just joking my love. Of course we are going to get that dress." Zee smiles and claps her hands cheerfully.

Me: "don't forget the guns I gave you guys yesterday but please only use them when it's necessary." They all nod.

Unathi: "so Nkonzo, what do you do?"

Nkonzo: "I am scientist and I have my own practices all over Mzansi and one in Ghana and Malawi."

Wandile: "wow man that's huge. I don't know a lot of black scientists." Nkonzo smiles. "What persuaded you to be a scientist? I am pretty sure there were some people who were like 'you really think you can be a scientist?' in your family or neighborhood."

Nkonzo: "I have 21 siblings so I wanted to stand out. In our family we do have doctors, nurses, teachers and prospective lawyers. I may be referred to as Dr. Zungu but I do stand out and that's exactly what I wanted. Also I was fascinated with chemicals and experiments."

Zipho: "have you invented a chemical before?"

Nkonzo: "I was the one who invented the cure for uterine cancer. I am also in the process of coming up with a cure for polio."

Zipho: "you're a genius man."

Nkonzo: "I try man even though one lady said I am a freak and left me."

Me: “she did well because she made way for me.” they all laugh. Zee and Unathi collect the dishes when we are done eating. I stand up and head to the TV room with Nkonzo. “I am going to the station for maybe 2 hours. The guys who were after us were arrested so I have to check what’s going on.”

Nkonzo: “it’s okay love. You just have to make it up to me.” I giggle.

Me: “relax babe. I will blow your mind.” He chuckles. “See you later.” I French kiss him and then rush to the station in my bike. I still do remember that I left nana’s car at the hotel. I have to go get it soon. I park my bike at my usual parking spot and call papa.

Papa: “I was waiting for you call yesterday. Are you okay?”

Me: “I am fine papa. I slept at the safe house. Some of the gang members were arrested so I am at the station to see them.”

Papa: “they missed you?”

Me: “yes papa I am okay. Zee was with me at the hotel but she is also fine.”

Papa: “what the fuck was she doing back in JHB? Your sister can be stubborn sometimes.”

Nana: “it runs in the blood.” I chuckle.

Me: “chat with you guys soon.” I hang up and head inside the station. I find Vuyolwethu at the interrogation room and I just chuckle. I sit opposite him and I can see that he is about to blow.

Vuyo: “you’re here to gloat?” I roll my eyes.

Me: “I am not petty. I am here to warn you Makhanya. I was willing to only lock you up and let your gang go but what you’re doing, chasing me around Jozi at night is not cool man. Because of that, I am coming after you gang with everything I have. You have started me and now I am just leveling the plain field.”

Vuyo: “don’t start something that you won’t be able to finish.”

Me: “oww but I will. You should be saving money for your kids and not wasting it on chasing after me. Good luck on the inside because you are going to need it.” I stand up and head to the captain’s office.

Nonhle: “did you find detective Kheswa?” she asks with an amused expression.

Me: “Why did you do that to me? I go there expecting Gabrielle Union and I find The Incredible Hulk standing there looking all green.” She laughs out loud. “Wow I am glad you find this funny.”

Nonhle: “you were uptight yesterday. I just wanted to amuse you and it looks like I succeeded.” I chuckle.

Me: “you are unbelievable you know that?” I sit down. “Where are the minions?”

Nonhle: “in the holding cells. They are not willing to talk.”

Me: “well I don’t need their statements or testimonies. I have all the information I need.”

Nonhle: “you are always a step ahead. Officers should look up to you.”

Me: “don’t tell them that because they will start gossiping about me. But do say that when they are talking about promotion.” She laughs.

Nonhle: “you really do an amazing job. Detective Dlamini has been trying to lock up Bra Styles for years but he would just stay a few hours or a night in the holding cells. You just brought him down just like that.”

Me: “enough with the compliments captain. Let me leave before I find myself single again.” She laughs. “See you on Monday captain.” I head out and drive to the mall where the gang is at.

I start at an adult shop. I buy a very sexy lingerie and fluffy handcuffs. I am about to freaky this afternoon and I don't care about the noise our guests will be hearing. I then call Zee to find out where they are at and she tells me that they are at Dunns. I head there and find them still shopping.

I am very lucky because the rooms on the safe house are soundproofed. I asked Nkonzo to go get some wine for me in the kitchen. He isn't aware of my surprise and I wish for it to stay like that. I get dressed in my new lingerie and take the handcuffs. I cuff my hands to the headboard and just wait for him. The door handle turns and he walks in carrying 2 glasses of wine. He is talking while closing the door.

Nkonzo: "well I am sorry but the wine isn't co..." he stops talking when he sees me. "Holy Guacamole!"

Me: "daddy I am all yours. Do with me whatever you wish." The look on his face bahlali is exactly what I was hoping for. He looks like a hungry lion ready to devour his meal.

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We get to the club and head to the VIP section. We order drinks and party like there is no tomorrow. Zipho is warming up to the idea of me dating. Nkonzo looks funny when he is drunk.

Unathi: "let's go dance at the general section."

Zee: “hell yeah.” We, the ladies, head to the general section. We dance for a while and when we are tired we go back to our table.

Nkonzo: “how long have you guys known each other?” he asks looking at Zipho and Unathi. Unathi smiles.

Unathi: “we have known each other since college. We dated back then and when things didn’t work out, we broke up. But now we are trying again.”

Zee: “well I am happy for you guys. I just wish everyone can find their soul mate. Life is so much simpler when you have finally found your equal.”

Wandile: “that’s so beautiful baby.” He kisses her and she blushes. I am so happy that my sister has found the king of his heart.

Zipho: “well I believe that we will get things right this time around.” He takes Unathi’s hand and kisses it.

Nkonzo: “as much as we have recently started dating, I have faith in us and I wish that we can take our relationship to the next level.” My eyes pop out and I look at him disbelief.

Me: “what are you on about Nkonzo?”

Nkonzo: “I wish for you to meet my family by the end of this year.” My heart skips a beat.

Me: “I’d love to. But I am scared.” He smiles and cups my face.

Nkonzo: “I will be with you every step of the way because I love you Nceba wami.” I blush and he kisses me.

After midnight we head home and Nkonzo can’t keep his hands off me. He is remembering the fun we had earlier on and he can’t seem to have enough of me. If I was fertile I would’ve been worried about getting pregnant but God did not bless me in that department so yah. I take back the guns and place them safely in my secret room.

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We get up the following morning and eat breakfast. The two couples finally leave and they drop Nkonzo and me at the airport. We say our goodbyes with me promising to come back within two weeks. He is so emotional and he even says he wishes that I move in with him when I get back to Durban. I just laugh. I head to the hotel to get my car and then drive to

church. The pastor is already preaching. I sit at the back and listen to the sermon.

The pastor is preaching about consistency. How I wish I got here earlier. I am not a regular at church but when I go there once in a while, I make sure to listen attentively to the pastor. He finishes preaching and prays for the sick. The service finally comes to an end and I head out. I go wait in my parents' car. A few minutes later they come out chatting with the pastor and his wife. My parents are regulars in this church so they are well known. They get to the car and stop

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they seem shocked to see me. They both hug me.

Mom: "baby we didn't know you will come."

Me: "it was a last minute decision."

Dad: "pastor this is our first born Mayenzeke." The pastor and his wife shake my hands.

Pastor's wife: "nice to meet you child. What do you do?"

Me: "I am a detective ma."

Pastor's wife: "that's good. We need heroines in this lifetime."

Me: “thank you.” They both leave.

Mom: “wanna join us for lunch?”

Me: “I won’t say no to free food.” They both laugh. “I will drive behind you.”

We get into the cars and drive to their house. Mom starts preparing for lunch while I am bonding with dad. We even sing and dance. Dad is fun to be around with. This reminds me of the time I was still staying with them. Dad was so cool, sometimes he would even allow me to go partying. Mom finishes cooking and dishes for us. We sit down and start eating.

Me: “I spent the weekend with Zee, her fiancé and his brother partying.”

Mom: “wasn’t she supposed to be in Nelspruit?”

Me: “I thought so too. Anyways they left this morning.”

Dad: “you’re spending the night here right?”

Me: “I wish. I have to meet up with another detective who is helping me with this case.”

Mom: "I hope you win baby. I really don't know why our youth find it fascinating being involved with gangsters. Not all are like the ones you read about in novels. These guys have history of abuse, some have anger issues and they feel better about themselves when they inflict pain on a person who is powerless against them. I haven't even touched on the dangers that come with being involved with a gangster."

Dad: "these girls are chasing the good life, easy money and fame because once they slay, they get famous on the net and they call themselves influencers." I laugh.

Me: "dad influencers? Really?" they also laugh.

Dad: "one day they will gang up and take you down because you are taking the nice life away from them." I laugh again.

Me: "they must come. I am ready for them."

We finish eating and I wash the dishes. I spend another hour with them and then head to Kheswa's house. I get there and knock for about a minute. When he doesn't open I go to the backyard and find him swimming. He sees me and comes out of

the pool. What a fit and sexy police man. I wish I known him before I gave Nkonzo a chance.

Me: "If I had known we were going to swim, I would've brought my swimsuit." He laughs and dries his face. He is wearing just briefs.

Kheswa: "next time I will inform you prior detective. I was bored so I thought of spending time by doing a few laps."

Me: "am I late?"

Kheswa: "not really. I am the one who had nothing to do. Let's get inside." We head inside using the kitchen entrance. "Let me go get dressed. Help yourself with anything you want to drink." he leaves before I can reply.

I open the fridge and take out bottled water. I sit on the barstool and drink the water. He comes back after a few minutes and we discuss the case. He also gives me some of the information he has. Later that night I drive to nana's house and retire to my chambers.

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After a few months, the case came to an end, and Vuyolwethu together with his gang members that chased me out of the hotel got sentenced. Well I had gone to KZN earlier because I knew the case was tight and there was no way he could've escaped liability. Joyce and her mother wanted to reward me with money for putting Vuyolwethu behind bars but I couldn't accept money for doing my job. I just told them to donate to my station so that the captain can extend it. Well they did donate and the captain was very happy about that.

I met up with Nkonzo's parents. They came to his house. His mother was accompanying his father for a business conference. They are very nice people but I was shocked to find out that he was married before and even have a child with his ex-wife. Things didn't work out between them because he was always busy with his work and he missed most important days. She took full custody just to spite him and only allows him to see his child three times a year.

I really wonder why Nkonzo never mentioned this but I guess it's because our relationship is still new. His parents were happy to meet me. Even though his mother was a bit skeptical about

me. After what his ex-wife did, she doesn't trust other woman. And it makes her angrier that she only gets to see her grandchild once or twice a year. By the time they left, we were best of friends and we even exchanged numbers.

Well my relationship with Nkonzo is still good, but he has his days and he can be controlling at times. If I was weak and drunk in love, I am pretty sure he would've controlled everything about me. Kheswa and I kept contact and that drove Nkonzo to the edge. He said he doesn't understand my friendship with Kheswa. I mean aren't we supposed to build friendship with our colleagues?

Anyways after throwing a few tantrums about Kheswa

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I decided to formally introduce them to each other. I must say they hit it off and now they are like old buddies. This weekend he is coming over and he is finally meeting Nkosi, Black and Rudd, well and Black's fiancé. She might be crazy but her white ass is engaged to a wonderful man by the name of Trevor. He is an actor, he keeps his private life private. Only a few friends and their families know about the engagement.

I am so glad that it's Friday. I don't work on Saturdays and Sundays. If I do, it's probably because I have a huge case or something along those lines. I pack my stuff and head out. I get into my car and drive to the airport. I am fetching Kheswa. I am lucky that he has already landed. I don't really like waiting. I get to the airport and meet up with him. We share a hug and he asks that we pass by an eatery so that we can grab a bite. I drive to Chicken Licken.

We get there and order. I pay and then we sit for a while, waiting for our order. Our order gets called and he goes to get it. He comes back to the table and we start eating. Most ladies are giving him the stares. I mean he is handsome and buffy so I am not really shocked.

Me: "you ever think of getting back in the dating game?" he chuckles.

Kheswa: "Mayenzeke phuma lapho." I laugh. He went from calling me celebrity detective to Mayenzeke.

Me: "I mean come on dude. You wanna die single and without an heir? There are so many women out there who are looking for a man like you. Give it a try. What have you got to lose?"

Kheswa: “my virginity.” I burst out laughing and he also laughs. I wasn’t ready for that reply.

Me: “dude you’re killing me.”

Kheswa: “maybe you can hook me up with one of your friends.”

Me: “sorry they are all taken. You have to go to the ocean and fish my dear friend. One is engaged to a celeb and another is in a relationship with Rudd.”

Kheswa: “Rudd as in Special Agent Rudd?” I give him a side smile.

Me: “you know him?”

Kheswa: “who doesn’t know him? I mean he is more famous than you. It’s just that not many have put a name to the face.”

Me: “I am not famous. I just have a record of locking up gangsters but I ain’t famous.” He rolls his eyes.

Kheswa: “if you say so.”

Me: “whatever dude.”

Kheswa: “where are we going tonight?” I squeal and clap my hands.

Me: “we are to Mojo’s carwash and Shisanyama. The vibe there is too much. There are also celebrities and the meat mfethu. Mina I am a meat lover so nje.” He laughs.

Kheswa: “one of the things we have in common.”

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After eating, I drive us home. He takes one of the guest bedrooms and says he wants to freshen up. I get to my room and also take a shower. When I am done I get dressed in a baggy t-shirt and a knee length denim short. I head downstairs and go take a cider from the fridge, #partystarter. After a few minutes he also comes to the kitchen. I give him a beer and then we go through his Facebook. Yoh there are so many thirsty ladies out there. He has so many female friend requests. Some even send him nudes.

Me: “dude you’re a feleb.” I say when I see that his profile picture has about 6k likes.

Kheswa: “your gender can be very thirsty sometimes. I am even thinking of quitting Facebook and just open an Instagram account.”

Me: “they will also follow you there.” he groans and covers his face with his hands. “Nice life problems you have there buddy.” He chuckles.

Kheswa: “anyways when is Nkonzo coming?”

Me: “he is not joining us tonight. He is in Maputo and he is coming back tomorrow morning.”

Kheswa: “so any wedding bells?”

Me: “you are too noisy man. You should’ve been a journalist.” He laughs and I also join him.

We head to the club and find Nkosi, Rudd, Black and Trevor. Well there are a few fans wanting to take pictures with Trevor but his guards quickly tell them off. We get to their table and we quickly exchange hugs and greetings. Men exchange handshakes. We sit down and do introductions.

Kheswa: "I can't believe I am sitting with thee Rudd. Man your work speaks for itself." Rudd chuckles.

Rudd: "good to know I also have a fan. We are so tired of Shabangu always bring recognized everywhere we go." He dramatically rolls his eyes and we all laugh.

Me: "I didn't even know that you have jokes."

Nkosi: "he is the funniest guy I have ever dated. I love his joking side more than his serious side."

Black: "you have to bae. I mean Rudd turns into Robocop at work. He hardly smiles or speak for that matter." He chuckles again.

Rudd: “when you have a talkative girlfriend like her,” he says pointing at Nkosi, “you ought to come out of your shell sooner rather than later.”

Nkosi: “tell them bae.” We all laugh.

Trevor: “can we start drinking?”

Me: “please, I am thirsty.”

We buy booze and hire hookah. We drink while chatting and we sometimes visit the dance floor to shake our butt offs. A girl, who is a forward fan, tries kissing Trevor but then gets a mean punch from Black. We get thrown out of this club but then I tell them that we can take the party back to my place. We pass a tavern and buy a lot of booze and meat. We get to my house and everyone makes themselves comfortable in the lounge. Nkosi opens the music and they all start dancing. I head to my room to change my shoes, wearing sleepers, and then head back to the lounge.

Black: “let’s play a game of shots. You get asked questions, if you can’t answer them or don’t want to, you take a shot.”

Rudd: “sounds doable.”

Nkosi: “YES!”

Black heads to the kitchen and comes back with 10 tots. She then place them on the coffee table and pour vodka in them. I just hope I will be able to answer any of these questions. Phela vodka has no friends.

Trevor: “how does this work?”

Black: “I am glad you asked.” She drags a chair from the dining table and place it in front of the shots. “The person sits here and everyone gets to ask them one question each, then the next person comes, until we all sit on the hot chair.”

Nkosi: “who is starting?”

Kheswa: “ladies first.” I laugh.

Me: “let me get this done and over with.” I go and sit at the hot chair. “Fire away.” Black grins and sits on Trevor’s lap.

Kheswa: “if something bad and traumatic were to happen to you, where would you go to unwind after the whole ordeal?”

Me: “Hydra Island.”

Nkosi: “what’s your favorite sex position?” I chuckle and they laugh.

Me: "I don't know its name but it would definitely be when Nkonzo pins me on the wall and takes me there and then." Nkosi fans her face. Black hypes me and I laugh.

Black: "it's called the seesaw position darling." I chuckle.

Me: "thanks for the intel."

Trevor: "what's your worst fear?"

Me: "dating a serial killer." They all laugh.

Black: "imagine chasing them half of your career only to find yourself being a victim and in love with a psycho like that."

Me: "I would definitely see that my ancestors have abandoned Me." they continue laughing.

Rudd: "what is your best achievement?"

Me: "getting recognition for what I do. It is my job and duty to protect South Africans but when someone says 'thank you for keeping South Africa safe', it hits differently man."

Black: "cuffs and blindfolds or gagging

which one would you prefer?" I laugh and shake my head.

Me: “cuffs and blindfolds. I like the sounds I make during sex, so gagging me is off the table.” I stand up and they give me a round of applause. Nkosi is the next that sits on the hot chair.

Kheswa: “if there is one thing you would change about Rudd, what is it?”

Nkosi: “his handsomeness, or maybe tone in down a notch.” We all laugh. “Walking with him in malls or restaurants make these thirsty bitches stare at him and they make me wanna strangle them.” we continue laughing.

Trevor: “what do you hate about yourself?”

Nkosi: “my nose. It’s so huge.” Rudd stands up and plants a kiss in it causing her to blush.

Rudd: “it’s one of my favorite feature in your body, amongst others.” They look so cute. He gets back to his seat.

Me: “how many kids do you wish to have?” she smiles.

Nkosi: “3. 2 girls and 1 boy.”

Rudd: “the boy is already on his way.” He says and Nkosi blushes. “My turn love, what do you want for your birthday?” we all laugh. Her birthday is in two months.

Nkosi: “that’s not fair. You are supposed to think of the gift yourself.” Rudd laughs. Nkosi just takes a shot and downs it fast. She flinches. “Damn.”

Black: “what would you do if you were to find out that Rudd is married and has a family stashed somewhere?” nkosi shrugs.

Nkosi: “I would probably kill him.” we all laugh. “Now your turn Miss-Know-It-All.” she stands up from the hot chair and Black goes to seat there.

Rudd: “what is your sexual fantasy and does your fiancé know about it?” she chuckles.

Black: “I am into the BDMS shit and my partner also loves it. I can’t say my sexual fantasy but, if you must know, he knows about it. Do I drink because I answered half of the question?”

Nkosi & I: “YES!” she chuckles and downs a shot.

Kheswa: “did you have a guy whom you were obsessed with growing up and actually fantasized about being his wife? What happened?” she laughs.

Black: "I did, he was my neighbor. Turns out he was gay and was afraid to come out of the closet."

Nkosi: "what a bummer." We laugh. "Would you go on a blind date to save a friend's life?"

Black: "if that friend is you or Shabangu, then definitely. Hubby would have to understand."

Me: "that's so cute." I side hug her. "Have you ever fought before you became a cop and what was the reason?"

Black: "my stepsister said I am disabled because I am short. She added a whole lot of stuff. I lost it and beat the living shit out of her. Although it made my stepmom mad, I was glad I managed to put her in her place."

Trevor: "are you horny right now?" we all look at him shocked and then we burst out laughing. Black doesn't answer him, instead she takes his hand and lead him outside leaving us laughing our asses off.

The night carries out perfectly, we eat, drink, chat and laugh all night long. We get so drunk and Kheswa dashes to his room. He comes back with rolled joints and we go crazy. We smoke and

get high. Because my house has 3 bedrooms, the two couples take the other two bedrooms. I am an officer of the law so I can't let them drive this drunk and high.

We head to the bedrooms around 4 am. I take a quick cold shower and wear my long pajamas. I am sharing a bed with Kheswa, so I don't wanna tempt him. We get under the covers and it doesn't even take a few minutes for sleep to come.

I wake up to find the other side of my bed empty. It's a good thing though. It would've been really awkward to see Kheswa's face next to mine. I get up and head to the bathroom. I wash and then brush my teeth. I head back to my room and get dressed in a short jumpsuit and flip flops. I make the bed and open the windows. I go downstairs and find Kheswa placing food on the table. He is shirtless and barefoot. He looks like an entire meal right now.

Me: "you future wife is lucky." He chuckles and turn to look at me.

Him: "how is the hangover?" he says handing me what I think is a hangover cure. I take it and sit on one of the barstools.

Me: "not bad. Have the other couples woken up?"

Him: "they have and they have left already."

Me: "okay." I take a sip at the cure and frown. Damn this thing is sour and tastes bad. "What the fuck is this?"

Him: "that is not important. What's important is that it does the trick. Now drink up so that you can eat your food." I drink it again on one go and flinch.

Me: “damn.” He laughs.

Him: “stop being a sissy.” He takes the glass and hands me my breakfast.

Me: “this looks delicious.”

Him: “tastes even better.” He winks at me.

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Senzile: “you look really handsome and I wouldn’t mind having you for supper, lunch, breakfast, I mean every hour of the day.” She says licking her lips.

We are at a restaurant and Nkonzo brought his sister so that she can meet me since she was in town. She seems to have a crush on Kheswa and this is really entertaining. I am holding in my laughter because Kheswa seems irritated. Nkonzo has tried reprimanding his sister but it’s like he is pouring water in a duck’s back. Kheswa looks at me and I just look down trying so hard not to laugh. His phone rings and he stands up.

Kheswa: “excuse me for a sec.”

Senzile: “let me go with you.” This time around I can’t hold it in. I burst out laughing.

Kheswa: “love yourself sisi.” He moves away from the table leaving me laughing and Sensile confused.

Senzile: “is he single?” she asks looking at me. Kheswa is my friend and I am starting to feel sorry for him so I just come up with a quick lie.

Me: “he is engaged and his fiancé is pregnant, that’s why she didn’t come with him.” Nkonzo looks at me like I have grown horns and I give him an intense stare. I quickly send a message to Kheswa about my lie so that it will correspond when she questions him.

Senzile: “are they getting married because of the baby? Is she trying to trap him?” I chuckle.

Me: “they are very much in love, even Nkonzo can attest to that. Right my love?” I turn to look at him with a huge smile plastered on my face.

Nkonzo: “yes Nceba is right. Plus his fiancé is a lovely lady. She is beautiful, grounded and every man’s dream.” I give him a death stare and he returns it with a smirk. Sly mother fucker. Kheswa comes back and smiles at me.

Senzile: “is it true that you are engaged?”

Kheswa: “are you trying to say that Nceba is a liar?” her eyes pop out.

Senzile: “that’s not what I was trying to say.” She stutters. The waiter brings the bill and Nkonzo gladly takes it. He pays and then we all head out.

Nkonzo: “what do you ladies wanna do?”

Senzile: “shopping. You can gladly give us your card big brother.” He grunts and give me his card.

Nkonzo: “I trust you more than her.” She laughs. I guess she knows her brother well.

Me: “what shall I buy?” Senzile pulls me to her.

Senzile: “let’s go skoni. We are going to have so much fun.” She pulls me away from the guys and we head to where the clothing shops are at. I guess she is over Kheswa now because she seems carefree, or is it the retail therapy she is about to get?

We get to Foschini and she takes a few clothes. She also pleads that I take a few. I laugh at her. I then take two dresses, two shirts and three pants. We go fit them and when we are done, we pay for them. We head to ALDO for heels. Well she is the one who takes two pairs. I have enough heels and I don’t usually wear them so I pass. We head to Takkie Town and I buy two black sneakers and two boots. Senzile also buys sneakers. She is Nkonzo’s younger sister and she is studying at University of Limpopo.

She is busy telling me that she needs new clothes. Phela repeating clothes at varsity is a turn off for her. I have never been to one but I definitely don’t think I would’ve shopped for clothes regularly. When she takes me to a lingerie store I laugh out loud. Wow this girl is naughty shame. I am sure if his brother was here

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he would've slapped her. He is going to throw a fit when he sees a bank notification from this store.

We shop a few lingerie and I take some lacy matching underwear. You can never have enough of these things and sometimes you just forget buying them, so when the opportunity presents itself, you sure to grab it by both hands. When we are done, we head to Truworths. That's where I shop for my cologne. I buy a cologne once or twice in a period of 4 months. Phela I don't shower with it, I just do three puffs every day when heading to work, and that's why it takes long for me to buy a new one.

I take two bottles of Bvlgari Goldea Roman Night perfume. Bae will have to be strong and if he is mad, I am just going to give him a lap dance and great sex after that. Senzile takes her perfume and I pay for them using bae's card. I go to Markham's and take a t-shirt, pants and a belt for him too so that he won't complain, not forgetting dress shoes.

I buy a formal shirt and jeans for Kheswa with my card and then we head out. I also buy a new gym wear for him at Mr. Price Sports because he is a gym freak. I text Nkonzo and asks where

they are at. He tells me that they are waiting for us at the parking lot. We head there and find them laughing so loud.

We get to different cars and head to Nkonzo's house. He says we are going there for a few drinks. I know for sure that both these men will end up drunk by the end of the day. I really love their friendship and I love that Nkonzo isn't insecure, he trusts that my friendship with Kheswa is a genuine one. We get to the house and I only come out with my bag and Nkonzo's clothes, the one I bought for him. We get inside the house and I head to Nkonzo's room to place his paper bag.

Nkonzo: "what's in there?" he says while leaning on the doorway.

Me: "your gift."

Nkonzo: "you are trying to soften me after bankrupting me?" I giggle and he chuckles.

Me: "if I don't spend your money then who will spend it for you?" he laughs.

Nkonzo: "good point." He steps inside the room and opens the bag. "Now let's see what's in there." he takes out the clothes

and a smile spreads out on his handsome face. “How did you know my size?”

Me: “a lady never kiss and tell.” I wiggle my eyebrows. He places his clothes on the bed and comes to hug me.

Nkonzo: “thank you.” He kisses me. “Now let’s go downstairs before Zimele kills my sister.” I burst out laughing and we head downstairs.

Kheswa went back to Jo'burg a few weeks back. Having him visit me was so good. I promised that Nkonzo and I will be the ones to visit him next. A few weeks ago he told me that he met a lady and he is thinking of getting into a relationship with her. He doesn't trust her but he is willing to give her a chance. He told me that her name is Buleka Maduna. She is a Banyana-Banyana assistant coach. I am very happy for him. He deserves happiness and I wish he can give her the chance.

Nkonzo is happy about meeting Buleka, happier than me. He and Kheswa are tight as ever and I am sure if Nkonzo and I were to break up, their friendship would continue. This weekend we are going to a getaway that Black promised me when I did her a favour. By the way, her name is Portia and Nkosi's names are Sunshine and Alungile. She despises the Sunshine name, she even removed it from her ID but we always call her by it when we want to provoke her.

The distance to the lodge we are going to is about 7 hours. We are using Portia's Kia Seltos. We will be taking turns driving so that we won't get tired. We drive to the mall and buy all the food that we will be needing for the road. We don't like

stopping at every mall we come across to buy more food. We brought a cooler box, so we will stop at maybe 2 garages to buy ice. We load food in the car and we go by the petrol station so that we can fill the tank. After that we drive out.

I am the first one who is taking the wheel. Alungile is sitting next to me and Portia is sitting at the back. Alungile puts on the music and we sing along. I first met these two ladies at the academy and we graduated together. Our friendship grew stronger when we were hired at the same station. I have met their families and they have also met my family. That's why Nana wanted them to visit her and papa.

Me: "so guys, Kheswa is dating."

Portia: "really?"

Alungile: "I honestly thought at some point you guys were going to hook up or something."

Portia: "me and you both sister. He is really handsome and has that thing mann

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that effect.” I laugh at them and their crazy theory. Black has that blackness in her, she is like that white MC girl who trended with a video of her holding a knife saying ‘qhubeka’. She even knows IsiZulu.

Alungile: “anyways who is the lucky lady? We should meet her and tell her how lucky she is for having that piece of meat.” She says licking her lips. We just laugh at her.

Me: “her name is Buleka and she is an assistant coach at Banyana-Banyana.”

Portia: “Zimele is joining me in dating celebrities.” She says wearing her shades and we continue laughing at her.

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We get to Remhoogte Mountain Lodge after 4pm and we check in. I am so happy that we have finally arrived at our destination. Portia booked one room for all of us. It has everything we need. We didn’t really mind because we aren’t getting wild during this weekend since we are in relationships. We get to our rooms and settle in. we change into chilled clothes and then we place our bags in the closet.

We head to the pool and take pictures. We then post them on our WhatsApp accounts and Instagram. As soon as we are done posting our phones ring and we laugh when we see that it's our big teddy bears. I go and sit down next to the pool while dipping my feet inside. I answer my phone.

Me: "Nyama Kayishi." He giggles and I can tell that he is blushing.

Nkonzo: "is that your way of softening me so that I don't talk about how you are showing off your thighs to Tswana men?" I laugh.

Me: "but babe I am in a vacation. Vacation wear is supposed to be chilled like this."

Nkonzo: "whatever. But remember that you are a Zungu bride. Remind every man that looks your way." I laugh again. He can be possessive and jealous sometimes.

Me: "I hear you Babu Zungu." He clears his throat.

Nkonzo: “when you start talking like this, you are provoking the beast.”

Me: “tame your beast baby. Anyways, how are you?”

Nkonzo: “I am fine, just missing you. I also can’t wait for next weekend.” We are going to his homestead next weekend and he is keen on introducing me to his family. I don’t mind though because I am serious about our relationship.

Me: “me too. I also can’t wait for you to meet nana and papa. Although papa might intimidate you.” He is also meeting my family but in a month.

Nkonzo: “relax. I will bribe him with an expensive whiskey and charm him. He won’t know what hit him.” I laugh. Wait till he really sees him. Papa can be very intimidating, if you don’t know him, you’d swear he is a gang lord or something. He has that aura nje.

Me: “anyways let me go back to my vacation. I love you babe.”

Nkonzo: “I love you too sthandwa sami.” I hang up and just exhale.

I look around the lodge. This place is really beautiful and the mountains surrounding this lodge makes it look more beautiful. Being in a different environment and being surrounded by nature is just refreshing. I stand up and walk around the pool. These two ladies are still blushing with their phones.

Voice: “mind if a join you?” says a guy walking beside me. “I couldn’t help but notice that your friends are still talking to their phones while you are done with that phone call you were making.” He says with a smile. He really looks handsome but he doesn’t reach Nkonzo’s level of handsomeness.

Me: “just so you know, I am taken.” He laughs.

Him: “I wasn’t saying I wanna marry you beautiful missy. I just wanted to join you for a walk.” I chuckle.

Me: “you think you’re clever neh?” he laughs again.

Him: “I am Mnqobi Malinga by the way.” He says stopping and extending his hand for a handshake.

Me: “nice to know you Mnqobi.” I say shaking his hand and carrying on with my walk. He chuckles and continues walking beside me.

Him: "I am pretty sure you were supposed to tell me your name after I told you mine."

Me: "I am not compelled to disclose my name to strangers." I look back and see Portia and Alungile drinking and chatting. "I should go back to my friends. Bye Mr. Malinga." I wink at him and head back to my friends.

Alungile: "who is that cutie over there?" she says eyeing Mngqobi.

Me: "Rudd is going to kill him so don't even think about it." I say sitting next to her. I order my drink.

We wake up and go hiking the following morning. If we weren't fit enough, we would be breathing heavily right now. We get to the top of the mountain and just embrace the view and Mother Nature. We breathe in the scent of nature. After that we take lots of pictures. We hydrate ourselves and then we head back to the lodge. We shower and then go to the dining hall to eat brunch. When we are done, we change to our swimwear and go swimming.

Alungile: "this water is really refreshing and cooling."

Me: "you can say that again. I don't know when the last time I went hiking was. Thank you for this trip Black even though you owed Me." she laughs.

Portia: "pleasure is all mine babes. Next time we should go in another African country."

Me: "I am game."

Alungile: "me too. Here comes Mr. Handsome from yesterday. Today he is with his other handsome friends." She says looking at the other end of the pool where Mnqobi and his friends are diving in.

Me: "I hope he won't recognize me."

Portia: "too late. Your prayer didn't reach the heavens because Mr. handsome is coming this way." I curse under my breath.

Mnqobi: "hi ladies. Hi Miss Anonymous." He says and I can tell that he is being sarcastic. I turn and look at him. He has this stupid smile plastered on face. If I wasn't in a relationship, I wouldn't mind dating him.

Me: "Mr. Malinga and friends, how are you doing today?"

Friend 1: "we are okay. You are more beautiful than the way he described you. I am Asange by the way."

Friend 2: "I am Asakhe."

Friend 3: "and I am Lungakho."

Portia: "Asakhe and Asange, are you guys twins or something?"

Asakhe: "we are siblings. So can you tell us your names ladies?"
I chuckle.

Alungile: "this is Portia, Nceba and I am Alungile."

Mnqobi: "so the beautiful missy have such a beautiful name? I am envious of it." I roll my eyes.

Me: “dramatic much neh?” he chuckles.

Mnqobi: “how about we grab a few drinks by the bar so that we can get to know each other better?”

Me: “I told you yesterday that I am ...”

Mnqobi: “taken? I didn’t argue with that.” I sigh and get out of the pool.

Me: “don’t get any ideas and don’t even think of getting me drunk because it won’t end well for you.” He chuckles and follow me to the bar. We sit down and order drinks.

Mnqobi: “I figured maybe you won’t answer some of my questions so I will go first. I am 37 years old. I am a neurosurgeon. I have three kids from different baby mamas. I live in Eastern Cape. I have made so many mistakes but I think I deserve another chance in love.”

Me: “then why don’t you go to The Bachelor or Love Island?” he laughs.

Mnqobi: “are those restaurants where I can get more beautiful and unique missies like you?” I laugh and shrug.

Me: “maybe.”

Mnqobi: “so you won’t tell me your surname, where you live or what do you do?”

Me: “why should i? Just because you have chosen to tell me about your life doesn’t mean I should follow pursuit.” He chuckles.

Mnqobi: “you are such a difficult woman yoh.”

Me: “and that frustrates you because you are used to women throwing themselves at you?”

The thing is my friends and I never disclose our information to strangers. They should be lucky that they got to know our names. That’s a lot. The thing is we have so many convictions under our names. By so doing, we have created many enemies for ourselves. So we don’t like introducing ourselves to any Tom, Dick and Harry we meet.

Mnqobi: “not at all. I just never met a woman who is so beautiful, fierce and confident.” I smile.

Me: “Whatever dude.”

Mnqobi: “where do you stay?”

Me: “KwaZulu-Natal.”

Mnqobi: “how serious is this relationship of yours that you keep rubbing it in my face that you’re taken?” I laugh.

Me: “heal. You sound like a bitter ex.” He chuckles.

Mnqobi: “I would like us to be friends, since you are not keen on giving me a chance beautiful missy.” I smile.

Me: “I do have a friend. He is also friends with my man. He didn’t come with an intention of dating me like you.”

Mnqobi: “please. Pretty please.” He flaps his eyelashes like a young girl and gives me puppy eyes. I just laugh shaking my head.

Me: “whatever dude.”

Mnqobi: “that’s a yes.” He screams. Gosh what have I gotten myself into?

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We spent the last night of our getaway clubbing. We come back to the lodge in the early hours of the morning. When we wake up, we bath

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pack our bags and then check out. We start by going to a spa, to rejuvenate ourselves. We then drive home after that.

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It's Phuza Thursday today. It's the 25th and many clubs are having Phuza Thursday specials. Our captain is so uncool that he has sent us to patrol and arrest those who are drinking and driving. He usually does this when he is punishing us because of his wife's sins. I get dressed in my uniform and then head downstairs.

I find Nkonzo getting in the front door. He is talking to someone on the phone. He frowns when he sees what I am wearing, then it hits me that I didn't tell him about going to work tonight. I perk his lips and his free hand holds my waist. He ends his call and kisses me.

Nkonzo: "and then?" he says eyeing my uniform. I huff.

Me: "patrolling duty." He laughs.

Nkonzo: “a whole award winning police officer on patrolling duty?”

Me: “like they don’t see me babes.” he continues laughing.

Nkonzo: “you in a hurry?” I shake my head.

Me: “but there is something I wanna ask you.”

Nkonzo: “okay.” We head to the lounge and sit down.

Me: “why didn’t you tell me that you had an ex-wife and kid on our first real date?” he clears his throat and avoids looking at me. I just chuckle.

Nkonzo: “it wasn’t important, plus my ex-wife and I don’t see eye to eye. So I didn’t see that as of importance.” I chuckle again and look at him. A car hoots outside and I already know who it is. I stand up.

Me: “do lock up when you leave.” I don’t wait for him to respond. I just take my bag and head out.

Alungile is the one who was hooting and she is driving the station’s car, a Volkswagen GTI. I hop in and she drives out. We were tasked to go to uMlazi together with Zondo and warrant

officer Manenzhe. We will meet at the intersection in Mlazi, they are driving the van. We drive to Mlazi and park just near the intersection.

Alungile: “all though this is tiring, it can be fun sometimes because the drunkards are so funny.”

Me: “I agree with you.”

A car passes us in a high speed and they don't even stop at the traffic lights. Alungile quickly starts the car and follow them. When she catches up to them, she signals that they must stop. They do stop and we climb off. We head to them and I go to the other side while Alungile goes to the driver's side. This car is overloaded. There are six passengers at the back, where there is supposed to be three passengers and at the front there are two passengers in one passenger seat. Alungile laughs shaking her head.

Alungile: “you guys already know that you are breaking the law. Step out of the car, all of you.” They all step out of the car. I laugh when I see a seventh person coming out. Alungile tests the driver with a Breathalyzer and she gasps when she sees the result. “You know that you all are going to spend your Thursday

night in holding cells right?” they all look shocked. These are all varsity students and I can see that they are drunk but they are still headed to the groove. They are driving a Polo TSI.

Me: “can the driver open the boot for me?” their eyes pop out. “One way or the other, you are going to open this boot.” The driver gives in and opens the boot. Alungile and I laugh when we see two more people coming out of the boot. There is also alcohol in here. I take out my phone and text Zondo our location. “I am going to cuff you guys now. If you dare do anything stupid, you are going to regret it.”

We cuff a few and Zondo arrives with Manenzhe. They also cuff the others and lead them to the back of the van. Zondo locks them in and comes to where we are standing.

Manenzhe: “ndiqaluyiva le. Zange ndayibona.” We all laugh.

I go to the TSI and find the car keys inside. This idiot didn’t even kill the engine. I drive the car and we all head to the station. We leave the kids and the car there and we head back to our intersection. This time around we stop three guys who are kak drunk.

Passenger 1: “you look so beautiful mamasita. I wouldn’t mind going to prison if I get to see you every day.” He licks his lips and I just laugh.

Passenger 2: “like you guys are like angels. I see you baby and you have wings.” He says indicating with his hands. We all laugh. We don’t believe in police brutality. I hate that shit, so if an accused is making jokes, we laugh at them but arrest them at the end of the day.

Alungile: “okay. Play time is over. You two call an Uber.” She says pointing at the passengers. “And you Mr. you are coming with Me.” she says to the driver.

Passenger 1: “I also wanna come with you.” Alungile just laughs shaking her head.

Passenger 2: “your bae is so lucky to have such a sexy mami.” He says looking at me. These guys are hilarious. They are even dancing to the song that is in their head. Alungile cuffs the driver.

Driver: “getting kinky aren’t we? I like.” We all just burst out laughing.

We are now driving to Nkonzo's homestead. I am still mad at him for not telling me about his other family. Besides introducing me to his family, there is also an event to day. There is an imbeleko for Cebolenkosi's child. Cebolenkosi is Nkonzo's younger brother. We get there and the yard is buzzing. People are moving up and down. You'd swear they are preparing for a wedding instead of a small ceremony like imbeleko.

He parks inside the yard and we both get out. He signals kids in the yard to come to the car and he unloads the groceries and order them to take the plastics to the kitchen. They do so and while we are unloading our luggage, his mother comes to the car.

Mrs. Zungu: "my babies, how are you doing?" she asks hugging the both of us.

Nkonzo: "we are fine ma. Let us place or bags in my house, then we will come and greet everyone."

Mrs. Zungu: "okay honey. By the way, you look beautiful MaShabangu." I smile.

Me: “thank you ma.” She heads back to where she came from.

Nkonzo leads me to a house which looks like it has four rooms. We get inside and the interior is just like his house in Durban. There is a kitchen and a lounge which also has a dining table inside. He leads me to his room and we place our bags there. Luckily I look representable so there is nothing that I need to change. We head to the main house and we find a lot of elders there.

There are so many elderly women that sitting down on the grass mats and some are sitting on the couches. I suspects the ones sitting on the grass mats are the wives and the one on the couches are the aunts. There is also an older woman who is on a one seater couch. She looks old enough to be Nkonzo’s granny, whom I suspect is the granny.

There are also men and I can see Nkonzo’s dad. There is also an older man who is a replica of Nkonzo’s dad. The other ones I suspect are the uncles and Mr. Zungu’s brothers. I sit down on the mat beside Nkonzo’s mom and Nkonzo sits next to Cebolenkosi.

Nkonzo: “Mkhulu no gogo this is the woman who has taken my heart. Her name is Ncebakazi Shabangu and she is originally from Meadowlands but she currently lives in Greyville. Baby this is my family and...” he introduces them one by one.

Aunt Naye: “what does she do in life?”

Aunt Ntsikelelo: “she probably sits around and eats Nkonzo’s money day in and out.” she says with a disgusted face. This is actually boring. Does every household have bitter aunts who are always trash talking potential daughter-in-laws? It’s overrated really, which is why I am not offended by it and I am not going to take anything they say to heart.

Mrs. Zungu: “actually she is a very successful and well known detective who has a huge number of convictions.” She says and I can’t miss the pride in her voice. I just smile and look down.

Gogo Zungu: “stand up and come to me so that I can see you Mzukulu.” She says smiling and I stand up and go to her. She also stands up and hugs me. “Welcome to the family and you are really beautiful.”

Me: “thank you gogo.” The others call me and I hug them and go back to my seat.

Voice: “am I not going to get my hug?” says a voice coming from the door. I turn to look at this woman who is wearing a bodycon dress with heels and a weave with a doek.

Nkonzo: “Pamela what are you doing here?”

Pamela: “I am still a member of this family. The ancestors know only me, so I think I am allowed to come when there are gatherings. Plus I brought my daughter with.” My mind puts 2 and 2 together and I figure out that this is the ex-wife. I am not about to trash talk another woman, so I am not going to comment on her physical appearance.

Nkonzo: “where is she?” she ignores him and starts shaking hands with everyone.

Pamela: “how are you family? Worry not

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I am here now and I brought you some grilled meat. I am sure you are going to love it.” She goes to sit on the vacant couch next to aunt Ntsikelelo. They seem like buddies because they are whispering to each other.

Nkonzo: “baby let’s go.” He says extending his hand. I take it and get up.

Me: “it was nice meeting you all.” we head out and he leads to what I assume is the main kitchen. I find most of his sisters there. He introduces us and there are Sbahle, Zandile, Belinda, Esihle and Thandolwethu. His elder sister isn’t here and her name is Happy but he said she is coming tonight.

Belinda: “you look so beautiful in person.” She says and I blush. A young girl comes in and rush to hug him.

Girl: “daddy.” He picks her up. Ohh this is his daughter? Why didn’t she greet though?

Nkonzo: “hey my angel. Why didn’t you greet your aunts?” she giggles.

Senzelwe: “I am sorry. Hello aunties. And hello stranger.” She says eyeing me.

Nkonzo: “Senzelwe this is daddy’s special friend and she is aunty Nceba.” She frowns.

Senzelwe: “so she is your girlfriend?”

Nkonzo: “what do you know about girlfriends?” she rolls her eyes.

Senzelwe: “dad I am old enough and mom did say you are going to introduce your girlfriend to the family this weekend.” Wow, this girl talks too much.

Nkonzo: “aren’t you going to hug her?”

Senzelwe: “nah, I am good.” What a wow!

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It’s late at night and I have just finished washing the dishes with Sbahle and Esihle who are the youngest. Happy came and greeted me but didn’t stay long because she was dead tired. I didn’t cook dinner but I helped out where I could. I am not a wife or even a fiancé, so I am not allowed to cook or the family. Anyways the ex-wife stayed out of my way. She was just chilling with the aunts the whole afternoon.

I head to Nkonzo’s house and find him watching soccer at the lounge with his brothers. I greet them and they ask me to join

them. I just laugh and tell them I am going to freshen up and join them later. I head to the bedroom and I get the shock of my life when I see Pamela in the bed wearing a pink short silky night dress. I clear my throat and she looks at me with a smile.

Me: “are you lost or something?”

Pamela: “oww no baby girl. This is my room. Nkonzo built it for me. I always sleep here when I come home.” She has a devilish smile on her face. I head to the lounge and stand in front of Nkonzo. He frowns and stands up.

Me: “I wanna sleep, so please get your wife off the bed and out of that room.” he raises his eyebrows.

Nkonzo: “what is she doing in my room?”

Me: “you somehow built it for her.” His older brother, Nkosana stands up.

Nkosana: “she is just causing unnecessary drama. Let me deal with her.” He heads to the bedroom and a few moments later we hear screams. She rushes out of the room and goes to the room which is Senzelwe’s.

Me: “what did her do?” I whisper to Nkonzo. He just smiles. Nkosana comes back to the lounge.

Nkosana: “get your affairs in order bafo and put her in her place. Good night.”

He heads out and the other brothers follow him. Nkonzo locks the door. I just look at him and head to the bedroom. I start by changing the sheets, you may never know what this woman put in these sheets. God help me with the strength to face this woman because she looks like she is going to bring a lot of drama in my relationship.

The ceremony for the child went well. Pamela was dramatic as always. She woke up in the morning and prepared breakfast for anyone except me. Nkonzo wanted to share with me but I denied his food. Happy prepared breakfast for the two of us since she didn't eat Pamela's food. Lunch was prepared by the sisters.

Pamela is still behaving like the daughter in law on this family. Maybe she forgot that she and Nkonzo are divorced. When I asked where Sensile was, they told me that she is writing her exams, that's why she didn't come. We are now sitting at the girls' house. Nkosana built a house for all his sisters and they all have a room each inside. We are just drinking alcohol which Belinda and Sbahle bought. Cebolenkosi and Nkosana's wives are also sitting with us.

Thingo (Nkosana's wife): "Pamela can be very dramatic. I can't wait till she leaves. Like she is making us look bad for not buying takeout's for out in-laws."

Nompilo (Cebolenkosi's wife): "yey they know that we love them, no need to bribe them with grilled chicken." We all laugh. The madam gets in and she looks pissed.

Pamela: "are you gossiping about me that when I enter you keep quiet?"

Zandile: "bitch please. Your life isn't that interesting that we would talk about it on our free time."

Pamela: "you all are traitors. Not so long ago you were friends with me, now you are all being friendly to the next thing in line. Sies. You aren't loyal."

Thando: "you are the fine one to talk about loyalty when you couldn't stay loyal to one man. Shame on you sister. How you fail to practice what you preach? Such a shame." She says and continues drinking. She is the quiet one. I stand up and look at her.

Me: "listen. You don't know me, you have never met me before. Please stop talking to me like I am some slut or whore that Nkonzo picked up at a brothel. I am a very calm and calculated person

but if you step on my toes, I will deal with you. Call me a thing one more time and you are going to regret it.” I give her an intimidating look and she rushes out of the room. The sisters laugh and I just sit down.

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We left Nkonzo’s homestead Sunday afternoon and his parents with his granny were sad to see me leave. His granny even cried saying this is the last time they are seeing me. I assured her that even if I were to break up with Nkonzo, I’d visit her. She was happy with that. The sisters promised that they will visit me anytime.

Right now I am doing some grocery shopping because I wanna go and cook dinner for Nkonzo. I get to the meat aisle and take lamb chops. I also take frozen veges and frozen chicken livers. Some clears their throat behind me and I frown when my eyes meet those of Mnqobi.

Mnqobi: “I thought it was you.” He says smiling.

Me: “are you stalking me?” he continues smiling.

Mnqobi: “not really. My brother, who lives in Ntuzuma, is getting married on Friday. We are just doing some last minute shopping.”

Me: “who gets married on Friday? Are you white?” he laughs.

Mnqobi: “he doesn’t want many people attending it. That’s why it is on Friday. Plus it’s their meeting anniversary on Friday. That’s also another reason.”

Me: “mmm.” I say nodding and moving to another aisle.

Mnqobi: “can I take you out before I leave?”

Me: “I am in a relationship Mnqobi. Going on a date with you will be an insult to my man.”

Mnqobi: “he is lucky. Other women would’ve jumped to the opportunity of getting a free meal.” I laugh. “Your laughter is angelic and beautiful.” I roll my eyes. He takes out a business card from his wallet and slides it in the back pocket of my jeans.

Me: “what are you doing?”

Mnqobi: “call me.” he does the moon walk and I laughs again. He waves and then leaves. Such a character.

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I get to Nkonzo's house and I frown when I see Pamela's car parked in the garage. I take the plastics and head inside. I am welcomed by a beef curry aroma. Don't tell me she is cooking for him. I go to the kitchen and find them playing happy family. They are laughing at what Senzelwe is telling them. Seems like a story or something. Pamela is wearing an apron which I bought.

Me: "evening." I say and they all turn to look at me. Nkonzo's eyes pop out. Looks like he wasn't expecting me. Pamela is smiling from ear to ear.

Nkonzo: "Nceba what are you doing here?" I frown. "No, I mean what a great surprise." I chuckle shaking my head. I can see that I am just an uninvited guest. I just turn and head out. I put the plastics back to my boot and close it. When I turn I find Nkonzo standing behind me.

Me: "what do you want?"

Nkonzo: “what you saw there is not what you think. She just brought my daughter because they are going to a vacation in Zambia soon.”

Me: “go back to your family Nkonzo. There is no place for me here. We are done. You never stood up for me even when she disrespected me. That proved that you still love her. Go back to her Nkonzo.” I go to the other side and open the door.

Nkonzo: “babe wait. You know that I love you. She is just...”

Me: “just nothing. We are done. Bye.” I climb inside and drive out.

I hate Nkonzo for doing this to me. I know many people might think that I gave up easily but guys Nkonzo is old enough to know what is right and wrong. He should've told me about Pamela's arrival before I even got to his house. If I didn't go there, it means I wouldn't have known about her visit. Men. Guess I am going to that date after all.

I ended up going to the wedding with Mngobi. He actually tricked me but I didn't mind because I deserved some air after my break up with Nkonzo. I really loved him. Can you believe that he only sent me a text saying 'I am sorry' nothing more? Yoh, and to think I opened my heart to him. Never again. But Mngobi has a potential. I guess only time will tell. We are now just friends but I know that within a matter of time we are going to date.

When I told Kheswa about Nkonzo and I, he said maybe Nkonzo is bewitched but after meeting up with him, he came to a conclusion that Nkonzo never got over his wife. Kheswa was really disappointed in Nkonzo and even said that he was terminating their friendship but I stopped him because I love their bromance.

Nana and Papa were sad when I told them that they won't be meeting with Nkonzo because we broke up. Papa wanted to beat him up but I stopped him because I wanted to move on. Nkonzo's sisters said they don't care that we are no longer dating. They are still going to come and visit me. I just hope that doesn't bring drama in my life.

Mnqobi has again asked me out on a date. I agreed again. Right now I am preparing for it. I get dressed in a burgundy V-neck long sleeved mid-calf high waist elegant dress and white ikrush leti lace up pointed high heels. I comb my hair and tie it to a neat bun. I do my make-up and then take my white purse. I put my phone and wallet inside. I head downstairs and Mnqobi texts me that he is outside. I lock the door and head out.

I lock the gate after getting out and then head to his car. He gets out of the car and comes my way. He is smiling from ear to ear and is looking very handsome in black stand neck button up shirt with slant pocket straight leg pants and lace up décor stitch trim loafers.

Mnqobi: “beautiful missy you are more beautiful tonight.” I just smile.

Me: “that’s so cheesy.” He laughs.

Mnqobi: “can I get a hug though?” he says with a smug. I step forward and hug him. When we are done, he opens the passenger door for me and I slide inside. He close it and goes to his seat. He starts the car and drives off.

Me: “where are we going?”

Mnqobi: “it’s a surprise.” I roll my eyes. We continue chatting and my eyes pop out when we pull up to the airport.

Me: “what are we doing here?”

Mnqobi: “we are going to our date.” He kills the engine and we climb out of the car. We head to a different gate and he leads me to a private jet.

Me: “are you Christian Grey’s brother?” he laughs.

Mnqobi: “oww no. the jet belongs to a former patient of mine. He is filthy rich. I saved his life when most doctors said he won’t live. He said if I ever need anything I must come to him.” I nod. We get inside the jet and it takes off.

Me: “okay, since this is the surprise, where are we eating?”

Mnqobi: “who said the surprises has come to an end? It’s just the beginning beautiful missy.” I roll my eyes. I actually like the ‘beautiful missy’ nick name but I am not going to tell him.

Me: “you are so cheesy.”

Mnqobi: "I know." He says laughing. I just chuckle shaking my head.

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Hours later we pull up to Muse Restaurant parking lot. I have seen this restaurant on the net but I have never been to it. In fact my friends and I have never visited Eastern Cape. We were planning on taking a road trip to here next year. We get out of the rental car and get inside the restaurant. It's very beautiful. We take our seats and place our order. The waiter bring a bottle of wine and two glasses. She opens he bottle and pour for us and them take leave. I take my glass and sip.

Me: "wow this is great wine."

Mnqobi: "this restaurant deals with quality love." he says sipping his wine.

Me: "so Mr. Malinga, you are old, financially stable and seems mature. Why haven't you settled down?" he smiles.

Mnqobi: "I was waiting for you." I chuckle.

Me: “are we going to be cheesy all night?” he laughs.

Mnqobi: “I am not being cheesy Nceba. It’s the way I am.”

Me: “so what’s your story? You broke many hearts or they have broken your heart before?”

Mnqobi: “I have just been meeting the wrong type of women.”

Me: “what is your ideal type?”

Mnqobi: “dark skinned like you

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fit and thick like you, strong willed and successful like you, hard to get like you, mostly beautiful like you.” I just laugh.

Me: “I don’t know what to say.”

Mnqobi: “what happened to your man?” I haven’t told him about Nkonzo and me.

Me: “nothing to worry yourself about, but he is no longer in the picture.” He smiles widely.

Mnqobi: “greatest news I have received tonight.” I laugh loudly. Our food comes and we start eating.

Me: “so your family stays here?”

Mnqobi: “yes. They stay here in PE. Well my step mother. Dad and mom broke up when I was still a teen. Dad remarried another woman, who is my step mother. Mother died in my early twenties and I lived with dad and his wife. She was very welcoming. She still is. She is kind hearted and treats me like her own son. When dad died, she didn’t chase me away or change her behavior towards me. She is a phenomenal woman and I love her.” I smile.

Me: “she sounds like a great woman who I would like to meet one day.”

Mnqobi: “maybe that day might come sooner.” He says with a smirk. I look at him quizzically and a light bulb goes on. I shake my head.

Me: “I am not sleeping at your home Mnqobi.”

Mnqobi: “yes we are. I promise I am going to take you back to Durban first thing in the morning but for now you can’t go back without meeting my mother.” I continue shaking my head.

“Please.” He pleads giving me puppy eyes. He has such beautiful eyes. I end up giving in.

Me: “but no funny business.”

Mnqobi: “I promise we aren’t going to do anything,” he smirks, “that you don’t already know.” He laughs and I throw a fries in his face. He laughs louder.

Me: “you are crazy and you aren’t getting any.”

Mnqobi: “we will see about that.” he gives an annoying smug and I just shake my head.

We get to this beautiful big house and when we get inside we find an old woman sitting at the lounge with one young girl, one who looks like is in her early twenties and the third one is a man who looks like is in his late twenties. The time is 22:40. Why are these people not sleeping? But I guess Mngqobi told them about his guest.

Mngqobi: “family, I am home.” The older woman who I think is his step mother stands up and rushes to hug him.

Step mom: “oww my son. I am so happy to see you. Though I am mad at you for driving at night.” He smiles.

Mngqobi: “sorry mama.” His siblings also hug him. “Guys I want you to meet my special friend, Ncebakazi Shabangu. Beautiful missy this is my mother KaMakhanya, my sisters Ndalwenhle and Asenathi and my brother Nzuzo.” They also hug me.

Asenathi: “you are very beautiful.” She smiles. She is the youngest.

Ndalwenhle: “very pretty. I love your hair.”

Me: “thank you.”

KaMakhanya: “welcome to my home Ncebakazi. Please take a seat.” I sit down and Mnqobi sits next to me.

Nzuzo: “would you like something to drink?”

Ndalwenhle: “as if you are going to make it for her.” The siblings laugh.

Me: “thanks but no. it’s already late. But you can make me breakfast tomorrow morning.” They laugh again.

Mnqobi: “he can’t even toast bread love. How can you expect him to make you a full English breakfast?”

Me: “have faith. Maybe a miracle might happen at night.” They all laugh.

KaMakhanya: “have a good night. I was just waiting for you kids. See you tomorrow.” She stands up, kisses Mnqobi in the forehead and heads out.

Mnqobi: “let’s also go and rest love.” he stands up and take my hand.

Me: “good night everyone and it was nice to meet you.”

Them: “GOOD NIGHT!” Mngqobi leads me out of the lounge and we go down the hallway. We get to a room and he close the door behind him.

Mngqobi: “we are going to sleep here tonight because we are not going to make noise. If we were, we were going to sleep at my apartment.” He winks.

Me: “you are so full of yourself. Now give me something to sleep in.” I say sitting on the edge of the bed and taking off my heels. He opens the wardrobe and comes out with a t-shirt. He hands it to me. “A little privacy.” He smiles.

Mngqobi: “it’s not like I am never going to see your nakedness.” I just smile.

Me: “well don’t blame me when you get hard from seeing my sexiness.” He just shrugs and starts taking off his clothes. I take off my jewelry, place it on the bedside table. I take off my dress

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together with the bra and hang it on the chair that is in the room. When I turn, I find him staring at me with his mouth wide.

Mnqobi: “wow.”

Me: “close your mouth before bugs start flying in.” I take his t-shirt and wear it. He comes closer to me and place his hands on my waist.

Mnqobi: “ngizofaka kancane.” I burst out laughing and he also laughs.

Me: “you’re crazy.” I perk his lips and get under covers. He takes off his clothes and is left with boxers. “You’re sexy.” I say looking at his upper body. He smiles and switches off the light. He joins me in the bed. We talk about a lot of things and we later drift to sleep.

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I am woken up by my ringing phone. I take it and answer without checking the caller ID.

Me: “mmm”

Zee: “sisi you are still sleeping? That’s new.” I open my eyes and sit up.

Me: “oww hey Zee. What’s up?”

Zee: "I just wanted to hear when you are coming home." her wedding is on Saturday which is a week from now since today is Saturday.

Me: "I am thinking of coming on Tuesday or Wednesday. I am off from Wednesday to Monday. Is there something you need?"

Zee: "yes. I saw this heels that I wanna wear with my wedding dress. They are only available in a boutique there in Durban. I am going to send you money so that you can buy them for me."

Me: "relax sisi. I am going to buy them, no need for you to send money. Just send me the picture."

Zee: "thank you. I knew you'd buy them with your own money." She says in a childish tone.

Me: "you're childish. Bye." I hang up and put the phone back to where it was. I turn to find Mnqobi smiling. "You're weird. Why are you smiling so early in the morning?"

Mnqobi: "you are beautiful. I am happy that I am waking up to a beautiful woman next to me." I smile.

Me: "let's get up. I have to leave."

Mnqobi: "nobody is chasing you and I am pretty sure mom is making special breakfast for you." I slide off the bed and head to what I think is the bathroom. I wash my teeth with a mouth wash and wash my face. He gets in and brushes his teeth.

Me: "just so you know, I am not repeating that dress and this underwear." He chuckles.

Mnqobi: "so I must go buy you clothes?"

Me: "yes handsome Mr." he laughs.

Mnqobi: "let's shower first." He says taking off the t-shirt that I am wearing. "You have really nice boobs," he says cupping them, "and I would really love to lick them." he doesn't even wait for my response. He starts biting and licking them.

Me: "holy fuck."

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Ndalwenhle: "can't you stay longer?" she asks flapping her eyelashes. I was now saying my goodbyes. Mnqobi sent his

sisters to buy new clothes for me. Nothing fancy. Just a white cut out back surplice sweater and a pair of jeans with white sandals.

Me: "I have to go baby. But I promise I will come back to visit you, even if things don't work out between Mngqobi and I." I can't believe I was making the same promise to Nkonzo's family few weeks ago.

KaMakhanya: "if he does something to you, don't hesitate to tell me. I will beat the hell out of him."

Mngqobi: "mah."

KaMakhanya: "I am serious."

Mngqobi: "okay. I will see you guys tomorrow." We hug once more and we head out. We get inside the car and drive out.

Mnqobi left yesterday, heading back to Eastern Cape. We haven't had sex yet, but we have done oral sex. I am happy that we are not rushing the sex part of the relationship. I don't love him but I do have feelings for him. I want us to explore those feelings slowly. I don't want us to jump steps because of lust.

Today I am headed to work. After that I will be heading to Musgrave Centre where I will be buying Zee's shoes. I will also buy heels that I will be wearing. Zee made me her maid of honor. I really don't know why because a maid of honor is someone who is supposed to be helping you with all your wedding preparations and be there for you emotionally.

I get to work and head to my office. I start doing some paperwork. Honestly working can be very boring for me because the captain doesn't wanna 'overuse me'. His words, not mine. He only assign me to cases that deal with serial killers and I am cool with that but come on, you aren't going to get a case about serial killers every day. While I am bored with paperwork, Black gets in my office and throws a docket in my desk. She sits down opposite.

Me: “what’s up?”

Black: “we have been assigned to a case.” I frown.

Me: “me and you?” when the captain pairs me with someone at the station, it’s always Zondo and I love working with him because he is a great detective. Not that my friends aren’t great. It’s just that I am not used to working with them.

Black: “yes.”

Me: “why?” she laughs.

Black: “what do you mean why?”

Me: “you know what I mean.” She huffs.

Black: “the suspect is my ex nemesis, the captain found out about that and thought in should include you in it as a mediator if it needs be.” I smirk and sit back.

Me: “is it?”

Black: “oww fuck off. Anyways she is at the interrogation room 2. She ‘allegedly’ killed her fiancé’s mistress and burned her fiancé’s car and clothes. She found out about them and decided to hire a private investigator to do more research. The PI found

more information. It turns a kid was born as a result of the affair. She found them on the bed in her fiancé's house. She pulled Katlego, the mistress, outside while stark naked and beat her up till she lost consciousness. Katlego was taken to the hospital and a day later Rachel went there where she finished her off."

Me: "is there tangible evidence?"

Black: "yeah. A footage from the hospital which shows her entering and leaving the hospital around the time Katlego died and there are so many witnesses who saw her beating up Katlego."

Me: "how is she pleading?"

Black: "she keeps on saying that she is innocent. Even her fiancé wants to testify against her because he is sad about losing the love of his life."

Me: "men." I shake my head. "Why didn't he leave Rachel in time? Look now

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a woman is dead because of the so called fiancé.” I stand up. “Let’s go and see her.” She also stand up. I take the docket and read the important information. We get to the interrogation and Black sits down while I just stand there reading the docket.

Rachel: “oww if it isn’t Portia Black, the ordinary girl. I see you settled for being a law abiding citizen earning just 10k a month. Shame.” Black just chuckles.

Portia: “and what do you do? Sit around chowing your fiancé’s money?” she takes out her phone, tap on it a few seconds and place it back on her pocket. I just know that she is recording her.

Rachel: “it’s not my fault that you are single.”

Portia: “whatever. Let’s do this. Where were you on Friday?”

Rachel: “at home. Chilling with my fiancé.”

Portia: “is that so?”

Rachel: “yes.”

Me: “your fiancé and your neighbors saw you beating up a lady by the name of Katlego who was allegedly in a relationship with your fiancé on that day where you were ‘chilling with your fiancé’. I am detective Shabangu by the way. What is your comment on the above statement Miss Jenkins?” she chuckles.

Rachel: “are you seriously going to believe a bunch of black people over me? Obviously they have a thing against me.” I chuckle. I am not going to acknowledge her hate for black people. Well at least not now.

Me: “those bunch of black people plus your fiancé Miss Jenkins. Did you or did you not beat up Miss Katlego?”

Rachel: “so what? She deserved it for sleeping with my man. Bloody monkey thinking she is going to take my man away from me. Well not me.” her eyes pop out when she realizes that she just sold herself.

Black: “on Saturday you were seen entering and leaving the hospital where Miss Katlego was admitted in after you beat her until she lost consciousness. At that exact moment, soon after you left, she was found dead in her yard. What do you have to say for yourself?”

Rachel: "I don't know what you are talking about. I went there to visit my aunt. It was just a coincidence that I was there when that bimbo died."

Black: "well the thing is most of your relatives are at the Cape Town. The rest of them are in Dallas, America. No aunt of yours was admitted at Ascot Park Hospital. No records show a relative of yours being admitted at Ascot this past weekend."

Me: "Miss Jenkins just know that lying to us may increase the number of years you going to serve because you are obstructing the course of justice."

Black: "so Miss Jenkins, did you or did you not kill Katlego?"

Rachel: "I DID KILL THAT STUPID BLACK BITCH. I WANST GOING TO LET A NOBODY TAKE AWAY MY FIANCE. TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, THE STUPID BITCH ACTUALLY OPENED HER BLACK SHRINKED THIGHS FOR MY MAN, MY MAN. SHE DESERVED EVERYTHING THAT WAS COMING HER WAY AND I WOULD DO IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN IF I HAD A CHANCE. AND WHEN I GET OUT OF HERE, I AM GOING AFTER THAT BLACK CHILD OF HERS!"

Me: “well luckily for us, you aren’t getting out of prison in a very long time because we have your confession on table. Good luck on the inside. You are going to need it.”

Black: “yeah good luck Miss Jenkins.” She takes out her phone and stop the recording. “That was fun. I thought you are going to give us a hard time.” We head out leaving her shouting saying she wants her lawyer. Drama Queen.

I am driving to Johannesburg currently. It's Tuesday evening. I know that I will get there by dawn. Mbonisi is going to follow me on Thursday night. The wedding is going to be at Mpumalanga. Both traditional and white wedding is going to be on Saturday. They wanted to do things in one day so that people could go their separate ways later. Portia and Alungile are also coming to the wedding but they are coming on Friday.

I first drive to the mall to get some goodies for the journey. I get to Checkers and take juice, biscuits, potato chips and chocolate. I also add some sour worms in my basket and a 5l of still water. I pay for the things and then head to Nandos. I order a full chicken with large chips, green salad and rolls. I then ask them to bring a quarter leg to my table and pack the rest of the chicken. I head to my table and settle in. my phone rings and

I smile when I see Mngqobi's name.

Me: "handsome Mr." he chuckles.

Mngqobi: "beautiful missy how are you?"

Me: "I am good. How are you doing?"

Mngqobi: "I am fine. Aren't you supposed to be on the road?"

Me: “yeah. I am just grabbing a snack and then I will head out.”

Mnqobi: “I wish I was the one who will be driving you. Driving a long distance can get tiring and even worse when I wouldn’t be there to massage you.” He whines.

Me: “ncooh relax love. I am used to driving home. I won’t even feel the road because I will be playing music.”

Mnqobi: “okay. My sisters have been nagging me. They wanna speak to you.”

Me: “hang up and let me facetime you.”

Mnqobi: “no I will.” He hangs up and then facetimes me. His sisters immediately appear on the screen with smile.

Asenathi: “hey sisi

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you look so beautiful. When are you coming back?”

Ndalwenhle: “how are you doing sisi?” I smile.

Me: “I am doing okay. I will see when I am going to come back to visit.”

Asenathi: “please don’t disappear like sisi Amahle.” I smile. I wonder who Amahle is.

Ndalwenhle: “why are you mentioning her name? Bhuti said we must never speak of her ever again.”

Asenathi: “I am sorry sisi.” A waiter comes and places my food on the table.

Me: “thank you. Can I please get a glass of cold water?”

Waiter: “coming right up.” he leaves.

Mnqobi: “sisi is busy right now, how about we call her some other time?”

Asenathi: “I want your number so that I can call you anytime.”
We laugh.

Me: “ask for it from your brother.”

Asenathi: “bhuti can I please have sisi’s number?” they laugh at her.

Mnqobi: “say bye to Nceba first.” They bid farewell and then hang up. The waiter brings my water and I thank him.

I eat and when I am done, I ask for my takeaway. They bring my meat with chips, salad and rolls and I head out. I climb into my car and drive off.

I arrive at home round about 3am. I don't even wake anybody. I just make my way inside the house with my bags and food. I put my meat in the oven and place the goodies in the pantry. When I am about to switch off the kitchen light I hear footsteps approaching. I take my gun from my waist and prepare for anything. Dad appears and I sigh in relief and place back the gun in my waist.

Dad: "otikoloshe abawo Mayenzeke. You love travelling at night neh?" I just laugh and go to hug him.

Me: "how are you old man?" he holds me tight.

Dad: "much better now that my high risk daughter is in my arms." I laugh again.

Me: "why are you up?" he let's go and take my bags, leading me to my room.

Dad: "you forgot I am a light sleeper. I was woken up by the sound of the gate opening." We get to my room and he places my bags on the bed.

Me: "thank you."

Dad: “get some sleep. Will see you in the morning.”

Me: “it’s already the morning.” He rolls his eyes and heads out closing the door. I just laugh.

The following morning I am woken up by Connie sitting on the edge of my bed. She is smiling from ear to ear. She is holding a cup of coffee.

Mom: “my first princess.” I return her smile because it is contagious.

Me: “mommy.” I sit up and hug her. She hands me the cup. “Thank you.” I take a sip.

Mom: “I was so happy when your dad told me that you are home. There is no greater feeling than having your kids under one roof.”

Me: “now you are making me guilty mah.” She giggles.

Mom: “that is not my intention. Go bath while I make your bed.”

Me: “I love you mom.”

Mom: “I love you too princess.”

The wedding was a beautiful occasion. Everything was perfect and I was very happy when my friends arrived. The couple received so many gifts yoh. Nami I want gifts that much when I get married. Kidding. We left Mpumalanga late last night heading to Nana's house. We are going back to Durban tomorrow evening.

We wake up and bath. After that we clean and then prepare for breakfast. When we are done setting the table I head upstairs to call nana and papa. I knock and papa tells me to come in. I get inside and find them still under covers.

Me: "morning pensioners." Papa laughs. "Breakfast is ready. Come downstairs before it gets cold."

Nana: "girl get out. I am still getting my morning glory." I laugh.

Me: "I did not need to hear that." they both laugh.

Nana: "now leave before it goes down." I frown but when I catch up I gag.

Me: “eww nana.” I rush out and she laughs out loud. Nana just made me imagine papa’s erection. Making me lose half my appetite. I get downstairs and sit on the table.

Alungile: “what is it?”

Me: “nothing new, just nana and papa being their normal spontaneous selves.”

Portia: “don’t tell me you walked in on them doing the deed.”

Me: “it was happening under covers.” They burst out laughing.

Portia: “damn I wanna be like them when I grow up.” she continues laughing. Nana and papa make their way in the dining room and sit down smiling from ear to ear. They look like they have taken a shower. So quick? Ayy ngeke.

Papa: “morning girls.”

Portia and Alungile: “morning papa and nana.” We start eating.

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We are now chilling at the lounge watching TV. This time it's not those reality shows that nana like. We are NCIS: New Orleans. She wanted to watch the Kelly Clarkson Show but we voted and she lost.

Papa: "what happened to the boy you were dating Nzeke?" I clear my throat. He is clearly asking about Nkonzo.

Me: "he went back to his ex-wife papa." He chuckles.

Nana: "pussy." Alungile and Portia laugh.

Papa: "give me his address. I wanna pay him a visit."

Me: "no it's fine papa. I am over him. Yeah he broke my heart but I am not the first girl to get her heart broken." He sighs.

Papa: "my fists are craving his jaws though. I will pay him a visit when I get time." He stands up and heads out.

Nana: "what really went down?"

Me: "I went to meet his family in the bundus. His wife made an appearance saying she brought the kid as this is a family gathering plus the ancestors recognize her as Nkonzo's wife."

Portia: “the nerve of that woman.”

Me: “later that night when I went to Nkonzo’s room to sleep, I found her on the bed wearing a short silky nightie and a matching gown. She said this is the room she sleeps in when she comes to Nkonzo’s home.”

Alungile: “what?!”

Nana: “I would’ve beat the crap out of her. She is full of herself and disrespectful.”

Me: “Nkonzo’s brother chased her out kicking and screaming. Then this other evening I went to the mall to get groceries so that I can cook for him. I went to his house and found him with Pamela and their daughter in the kitchen bonding. Pamela was cooking while Nkonzo had his daughter in his arms. I just left but not without them noticing me.”

Nana: “he is an asshole. Don’t know why he stringed you along while he was still hang up on his ex. Papa should go beat him up and I will gladly help him.”

Me: “but nana as the woman
you are supposed to be the voice of reason.”

Nana: “not when my granddaughter is concerned.” She stands
up and heads upstairs.

Portia: “these two are goals.”

Alungile: “they should tell us their secret to staying happy and
this tight for so many years.”

Me: “if they tell us, then it won’t be a secret anymore.” They
chuckle.

Portia: “yeah, you’re right.”

Me: “I am going to prepare lunch and you guys are going to
cook dinner.”

Alungile: “you are clever but we don’t mind.” I laugh.

Me: “let’s go to the kitchen so that you can keep me company
and you Portia, you can tell us when you are really getting
married.” They laugh and we head to the kitchen.

Today is the yearly awards ceremony for the KwaZulu-Natal province which are called the Provincial Excellence Awards. It is also a graduation ceremony for the officers from the police academy. I get dressed in a dark purple off shoulder mermaid gown with violet bead work and violet frill strap heels. I finish preparing and head downstairs. I am shocked when I see my family there.

Me: “hey guys. What are you doing here?” they come to hug me.

Mom: “baby that’s no way to greet your family.” I smile.

Me: “I am sorry but I am just shocked to see you all here.”

Zee: “it is a big night for you and as your family, we are here to share it with you.” I smile. She is glowing. Her wedding was three weeks ago. You can see that marriage is treating her good. Papa is also here with nana, Connie, Jabulani, Wandile and Mbonisi.

Dad: “you look stunning baby.” I hug him again.

Me: “thank you baba. Well as much as I’d love to catch up, I don’t wanna be late.”

Mbonisi: “let’s go then.” He says as he take my Fortuner car keys. We all head out, climb into the cars and drive to Durban ICC.

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We get to the venue and we go our separate ways as my family go sit with the guests while I go sit with my colleagues. I find the row where Alungile and Portia are seated in and I join them. The programme starts and I frown when the MC calls me to do ‘The Purpose of the day’. I stand up and head to the front.

Me: “evening everyone. I am Warrant Officer Detective Shabangu and I am stationed at Greyville Station. When deciding on becoming an officer of the law, you put your country’s safety first and it becomes your number one priority. Your job becomes much easier and actually fun when you love it and dedicate your whole time in it. Today is a big day for every officer in KwaZulu-Natal.”

“This ceremony is held to recognize and acknowledge the men and women in blue, including the support staff, reservists and Community Policing Forums, who displayed extraordinary excellence and commitment in the execution of their daily duties and beyond.”

“These awards are not some kind of a competition but it is meant to encourage and re-enforce a culture of excellence

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exceptional conduct, and professionalism within the department towards a safe and secure South Africa as envisioned in the National Development Plan.”

“For new officers from the academy, they are graduating to being constables and future generals. For other officers, they are going to get awards which shows that they are being appreciated for their hard work and dedication and we all are going to get medals for being beautiful and handsome tonight.” They all laugh. “It is a very joyous occasion, so let’s celebrate and be merry. Thank you.” They all clap hands and I go back to my seat.

Me: "I am going to kill captain." I murmur and my friends laugh at me.

The fresh from the academy officers are the first ones who get called to the front for their certificates and they get stationed to the stations that they are going to work at. The awarding ceremony starts and people are happy with the awards that they are getting. Mayor Crisella Theron takes the stage to announce the best detective of the year.

Crisella: "detectives are one of the most important officers who make sure that perpetrators always get the punishment that they deserve. The nominees for the best detective are:

Detective Zwelethu Khomane who is working at Nongoma Police Station. He began his career in 2008 just after graduating from the police academy. He has had more than a hundred convictions ever since he started working as a police officer;

Detective Esihle Linda who is working at Esikhawini Police Station. She began her career in 2014. She graduated from the police academy in 2011 but due to personal reasons, she

started working in 2014. She has more than 30 convictions ever since she started working;

Detective Tonia Liau who is working at Emanguzi Police Station. He began his career in 2013. He didn't have the privilege of going to the academy but got promoted to being a detective because of the amazing skills that he showed at his station and he worked side by side with detectives in his area to bring criminals to justice. He has about 20 convictions ever since he started being a detective;

Detective Ketsoentle Moledi who is working at Pietermaritzburg Police Station. She trained at America and started her career there but after a few years she came back to South Africa to continue her excellent work. She has had close to 40 convictions ever since she came back to SA; last but not least we have:

Detective Ncebakazi Shabangu who is also known as the Celebrity Detective, Shark Detective and Dynamite." I laugh. The names people have given me are funny. "She is one of the strongest and fearless detective I know in South Africa. She began her career in 2012 and has brought down powerful

gangs. She has an amazing number of 134 convictions ever since she started working for the SAPS.”

Wow I didn't even realize the number of convictions I have had until she mentioned it. I guess when I count the number of convictions I have, I always only count the serial killers.

Crisella: “and the winner for the BEST DETECTIVE OF THE YEAR IS FROM GREYVILLE POLICE STATION AND SHE IS DETECTIVE NCEBAKAZI SHABANGU. It's true dynamites come in small packages.” People stand up and clap their hands as I make my way to the front. I hug Crisella and then take my certificate and award. The people finally settle down.

Me: “wow. I can't say I wasn't expecting this but I'd firstly like to recognize all the detectives in this room who work hard day and night endangering their lives trying to catch criminals. No one will tell you this but as brave as we are, sometimes we become prey to the same criminals we are chasing. Few months ago, I was working on this case in JHB chasing after a gang leader. I was out with my family when I received a call that the gang is coming after me and I should run. At the end I put all of them behind bars but it didn't change the fact that we are

superheroes to our communities but we always have monsters who are chasing after us.”

“I am dedicating this award to my parents and grandparents. My parents are always on the edge because they are afraid of something that might happen to me while I am out there in the field. I thank them for the support they have given me. I’d also like to thank all the agents and detectives I have been working on, on some cases. Your work is recognized. And thank you SAPS for recognizing my hard work. It’s good to be appreciated for the job you do.” I go take my seat.

My friends congratulate me and we even take a few pictures and post them on our social media accounts. The programme continues and I scream when Alungile gets an award for the BEST HOMICIDE DETECTIVE. Rudd also gets an award for the BEST SPECIAL FORCES AGENT. There is no way they are going to say undercover agent in front of all these people. We are the all called to the front to take our medals.

MC: “I’d like to call upon Mayor of eThekweni Municipality, Honorable Lungile Sithebe and KwaZulu-Natal Minister of

Safety and Security Daluxolo Kauleza. They have a special gift for a special someone.” He hands the mic to the MEC.

MEC: “evening everyone. It is such an honor and privilege to stand in front of the important people who keep our province safe day in and out. I won’t say a long speech because I am sure you are all tired and restless.”

Mayor: “every year we always give out a brand new car to a police officer who does splendid job and goes an extra mile. Tonight the recipient of the car is lucky because we decided to add R100 000 cash which he or she may spend however he or she wants.”

MEC: “The officer who is lucky to receive a brand new Hyundai i30 and R100 000 cash is...”

Mayor: “Warrant Officer Ncebakazi Shabangu.” I keep quiet because the warrant officer title is not familiar to me. I am used to being addressed as Detective. Alungile shakes me and I look at her.

Alungile: “they are calling you at the front.” My eyes pop out.

Me: “what?”

Portia: “go and collect your car and cash.” She says laughing. I quickly head to the stage. The MEC and Mayor hug me and give me a huge cheque and car keys.

MEC: “CONGRATULATIONS!”

Me: “thank you.”

Last night we partied all night and only came back this morning around 5 am. I am woken up by my annoying ringtone. I mean I love it but I hate it when it wakes me from my peaceful sleep. I can see the time is 11 am. I answer the call because Mngqobi is calling.

Me: “you woke me up.” I say sulking. He laughs.

Mngqobi: “I am sorry. I guess you partied till the sun came out.” I chuckle.

Me: “something like that.”

Mngqobi: “congratulations on your award and car. I just saw an article about you on Isolezwe.” I smile.

Me: “I already made it to the newspapers?”

Mngqobi: “yes my celebrity detective.” I laugh. Mom barges in my room.

Mom: “morning baby. Wake up, we have already eaten breakfast because we couldn’t wait for you lazy ass to wake up.” I chuckle.

Me: “mom I am in the middle of a phone call.” She rolls her eyes.

Mom: “tell that boy that you have 2 bull dogs in here that will kill him if he does what that Zungu boy did to you.”

Me: “mom please.”

Mom: “whatever.” She heads out.

Mnqobi: “what did the Zungu boy do?” I laugh.

Me: “it’s none of your business. Bye for now.”

Mnqobi: “we will talk later.” I hang up and get up from the bed.

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My family planned a celebratory dinner for me. We dined and it was a great dinner. Mbonisi brought his girlfriend who was rather forward and got along very well with nana. She wasn’t the type that is shy around in laws. They left but nana and papa promised to visit me in a few months. They don’t work so all they do is travel the world now.

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Few weeks back Mngqobi took me to a weekend getaway at Mafikeng. It was magical and very romantic. We explored North West and everything was just perfect. The sex, yoh. Mngqobi is a South African Christian Grey I tell you. He is into BDMS. He is very dominant and his dominant side at the bedroom is very sexy.

This weekend I am in Jo'burg. I am visiting Kheswa. I arrived here yesterday, which was Thursday. Mngqobi was mad at that because he wanted to spend the weekend with me. He is so obsessed with me in such a way that he is always with me almost every weekend. Its Friday midday and I am chilling with Buleka. Kheswa is still at work.

Buleka: "let's go to Cubana and get some cocktails babe."

Me: "sounds like a good idea. Let me go change." I head to my room, yes I have a room at Kheswa's house. I change to green one shoulder crop top and flare leg pants set with white strappy chunky heeled mule sandals. I take my white handbag and head back to the lounge.

Buleka: “babe did you have to be this personal? We are just going for cocktails, not the awards.” I laugh.

Me: “look who is talking.” She is wearing a white turtleneck and plaid tie shoulder overall dress and black boots. She laughs.

Buleka: “let’s go before the big monster comes back because he is not going to allow me to go out wearing this dress.” I chuckle and we head out.

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We get to Cubana and sit down at a table for two. We order our cocktails. The waiter brings them. After that we order a platter because we last ate breakfast.

Me: “I feel like a slay queen right now.” She laughs.

Buleka: “you look like one. Nobody will mistake you for a detective.”

Me: “great undercover clothes.”

Buleka: “perfect.” We both laugh. “So tell me about the lover boy.” I giggle.

Me: “you mean lover man?” I wiggle my eyebrows and she laughs.

Buleka: “interesting.” She says with a smug and I just chuckle. The waiter brings us our food and we thank her. “How is the sex life?” she says licking her lips.

Me: “Mzansi Christian grey.”

Buleka: “you lie.”

Me: “gagging and choking.”

Buleka: “qaluyiva.” We both burst out laughing and we gain ourselves a few stares. “Are you serious though?”

Me: “dead serious.”

Buleka: “so how is it?”

Me: “amazing, extraordinary, mixture of pleasure and pain. It is just out of this world and intense. Plus the guy is gifted down there and his tongue does wonders. It’s like a whole other human, like it’s not connected to his body.” She bursts out laughing.

Buleka: “is that even possible?”

Me: “with that man, anything is possible in the bedroom. So how is Kheswa?”

Buleka: “haaa.” She blushes and take a bite from the sticky wing on her hand. I take a rib and eat it.

Me: “do tell.”

Buleka: “that man is a fucking sex goddess. Just by looking at him

my pussy goes wet. He once made me cum just by giving me an intense gaze, without even saying a single word.”

Me: “he is that good?”

Buleka: “perfect. You know he once made me cum at a restaurant. He dropped his phone under the table on purpose. He got under and started muffing me. I had to use my purse to tone down my moans. You know I actually cried when I reached my orgasm because I couldn’t moan freely.” I laugh. “I love moaning so much. It’s actually one of the sounds I enjoy most when having sex.”

Me: “girl you are going to make me choke on my food.”

Buleka: “like you choke on Mngqobi’s semen?” I gasp.

Me: “stop. Let’s stop talking about this.” She laughs and I join her. While we are still laughing a woman comes with a chair and joins us.

Woman: “I am sorry for disturbing you. My name is Lelothando Sokhela and I would love to speak to you Detective Nceba.”

Buleka: “is it time to celeb now?” I laugh.

Me: “you’re crazy. Lelothando we can go talk in the balcony.” I stand up and we leave the table.

Lelothando: “I would prefer it if we sit at the corner table.”

Me: “lead the way.” We got sit at the corner table. “So what’s up and why do you want to talk to me?”

Lelo: “my real name is Amahle Dlodla.” I feel like I have heard the name before. “I once dated Mngqobi Malinga. I won’t tell you the specifics of our relationship but what I can tell you is that he is crazy and he dangerous.” I frown.

Me: “why do you say that?”

Lelo: “when we were still dating, he was romantic and did big gestures that made me fall for him. He even tricked me into introducing me to his family. I thought he was my knight in shining armor, whereas he was actually a monster.”

Me: “can we get to the important part of the story?”

Lelo: “you see me?” she stands up and takes off the coat she is wearing. She twirls. Wow she has a beautiful body and the curves, damn. She sits down and then she takes off the scarf. “You see, I am dark and curvy and thick like you.” She wears her coat and scarf again. “Mnqobi has a type. He is obsessed with women like us. He spoils them, controls them, possess them and at the end, he kills them.”

Me: “What?”

Lelo: “he is a serial killer. He treated me good for a while. I went to his house which is in Port Alfred because he once gave me an address but in passing. I went there because I wanted to surprise him but in turn I am the one who got surprised. He has this room where he keeps bones of the women he killed as souvenirs. There are also their full body pictures. Those women were exactly like me. He usually took them to a secluded last vacation where he killed them. I am not the only one who

escaped. There are others out there but we have all changed our identities and made surgery on our faces so that no one from our past life can recognize us.”

“He kills women and then chop them up in pieces. I am warning you Nceba. You are a detective who deals with psychos like him. He targeted you for a reason. Please stop him and save a lot of women.” I breathe out loud. Her phone beeps and she takes it out of her purse. She looks at it and quickly stands up. “Do the right thing and stop this bastard. Remember your oath.” With that said, she leaves me dumbstruck.

We head back to Kheswa's house. I am trying so hard to act like nothing is wrong and I am succeeding because Buleka isn't suspecting. I just told her that Lelo is a fan who wanted advice on some crime related matter. We get to the house and find Kheswa busy grilling the meet on the braai stand with another guy. We greet them and then head inside the house. I change into a mini skirt and flip flops. We then head to the kitchen to cook pap and salads.

Buleka: "why are you so quiet? Is everything okay?" she asks shaking me.

Me: "I am fine. I am just thinking on this case I am working on. It's quite a difficult one. I am going to ask Kheswa for advice."

Buleka: "I may not know you on a personal level, but I know when a person is lying. But worry not, everything will be okay. You are a celeb detective for a reason. You can conquer anything." I smile.

Me: "thank you." Kheswa enters the kitchen with a bowl that is filled with grilled meat.

Kheswa: “you ladies can dish up now. The meat is ready.”

Buleka: “babe set up the table in the patio. We are going to eat there.”

Kheswa: “okay.” He places the bowl on the counter and he heads out. We finish making the salads and then we dish up. When we are done we go place the plates in the patio dining table. We return to the kitchen to take the drinks and place them on the table. We all sit down.

Kheswa: “by the way, this is my friend, Lakhiwe. And Laks this is also my friend Mayenzeke but you are to call her Nceba.” I laugh.

Me: “jealousy.” They all laugh.

Lakhiwe: “nice to meet you Nceba.”

Me: “likewise.”

We eat and drink. I just push my conversation with Amahle to the back of my mind and put on my most pretentious smile. After we are done eating, Buleka and I collect the dishes and

we wash them. When we are done packing them up, Kheswa enters the kitchen.

Kheswa: “sthandwa sami, can you give Nceba and I a minute?”

Buleka: “of course babe. I am just going to freshen up.” they kiss and she heads out. He eyes me for a minute.

Kheswa: “okay

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spit it out.”

Me: “what?” I frown.

Kheswa: “whatever that is eating you. Spit.” I sigh and sit down on the cold tiled floor.

Me: “I have bad luck when it comes to men and relationships.” He sits down next to me.

Kheswa: “and here I thought you had found the perfect gentleman with Mnqobi.” I sniff.

Me: “he is a fuckin serial killer. I am dating a psychopath who kills woman like me. Beautiful, dark and curvy. That is his

target. How can God do this to me?" tears just fall down my cheeks and he side hugs me.

Kheswa: "how did you find out?"

Me: "I was warned by his ex. She was lucky enough to escape. She even changed her identity and appearance so that he can never find her. What am I going to do?" he breathes out loud.

Kheswa: "you are going to have to pretend like everything is still fine. We need to be smart and careful with this. Maybe he has bugged your phone or something. Maybe he knows your exact whereabouts and is obsessed with you. I will think of something and we will talk again tomorrow. For now let's just drink and forget about our problems." I chuckle.

Me: "that sounds like an idea." We hear footsteps coming towards the kitchen and we quickly stand up.

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We wake up the following day and after curing the hangovers, we get ready to go to Dragon City Parks. I don't wanna get

bored indoors drinking all day. I wanna go swimming. I get dressed in a blush self-tie underwire bikini swim suit with dusty pink kimono, light brown sun straw hat and white flip flops. I pack sun screen and towels in my bag and head to the lounge. By the way Lakhiwe slept here and we are going with him to the park.

I find everyone ready to go, so we head out. We climb inside Kheswa's car and he drives out. He and Buleka are seated at the front while I am sitting at the back. Today I just told myself that I am going to forget about Mnqobi's drama and have fun. While we are chatting my phone rings. I clear my throat when I see who is calling. I answer it.

Me: "babe."

Mnqobi: "sthandwa ever since you got to JHB you haven't called me. Should I be worried that you have found a Jobugeer who has swept you off your feet?" I fake a laugh.

Me: "you have nothing to worry about babe. I am just having so much fun with Buleka and Kheswa, I hardly find time to check on my phone."

Mnqobi: "meaning they are more important than me?"

Me: “no. I am not saying that. And relax I am going to keep my phone in my hand in case you call me, even though I am going to a water park.” He sighs.

Mnqobi: “I am sorry if I am coming as a little overprotective. It’s just that I know that you are so special and I don’t deserve you but I am lucky to have you.”

Me: “don’t get all emotional with me doctor. I love you, okay?”

Mnqobi: “I love you too baby. Have a great day, I will call you later on.”

Me: “okay love.” I hang up and breathe out loud.

Buleka: “you didn’t seem to enjoy that conversation babes.” she says looking at me through the rear mirror.

Me: “everything is going to be okay. Everything is going to be fine.” I squeeze my phone tightly trying to calm myself down. I am really scared of Mnqobi. Hearing his voice just send chills down my spine. God help me stop him in time before he kills me.

My weekend with Kheswa and Buleka was so much fun even though it got spoiled a little by the information I received about Mngqobi but overall, it was fun. The day we went to the park was so much fun and I enjoyed it so much. Kheswa gave me these beautiful diamond studs which I promised never to take off because they are just so beautiful and they suited me perfectly. I am back in Durban and it has been a week since I came back from Johannesburg.

Right now I want someone who is going to help me with more information. I would've went to papa but I don't wanna bother him. If he knew my life was in danger, I am pretty sure he was going to lock me up in prison, if that meant keeping me safe. I get to the station and head to Rudd's office. I get there and find him kissing Alungile. I clear my throat and they separate quickly.

Me: "office romance neh?" Rudd chuckles and Alungile giggles.

Alungile: "don't be jealous mtase. Anyways, what's up?"

Me: "I need to talk to Rudd alone."

Alungile: “okay. See you later baby.” She perks his lips and the heads out.

Rudd: “what do you need from me?” he says clearing his throat and fixing his table. I sit down and hand him an envelope.

Me: “please get me all the information you can get on this man. All his property, his secrets

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his past relationships, everything nje about him.”

Rudd: “when do you need it?”

Me: “before Friday because on Friday he is taking me on a romantic getaway.”

Rudd: “If he is that romantic, why do you need information like this about him?”

Me: “I have reason to believe that he is a serial killer.” He frowns.

Rudd: “then why would you risk your life and go on a holiday with a psychopath?”

Me: “relax agent Rudd, I have everything under control.”

Rudd: "I have a bad feeling about this. Promise me that you will cancel the trip if your suspicions are correct?"

Me: "I will see."

Rudd: "detective,"

Me: "I have to do things right and he shouldn't suspect anything. If I change plans in last minute, he will know that we are onto him. Also Kheswa found out that he bugged my phone."

Rudd: "that's huge. I will try and get his information before Thursday. If he is as dangerous as I think, then you will have to go to this holiday armed and ready for anything."

Me: "okay. I will hear from you then." I stand up and head to my office.

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I go to the shops to buy inhloko for Mbonisi because he likes it very much. I then drive to his work place. It's lunch time so I am hoping to find him unoccupied. I get to his work place and sign

in. I then head to the canteen because I know that's where he might be. I find him on the line. I pat him on the shoulder and he turns around. He smiles when he sees me.

Mbo: "big sis. To what do I owe the visit?"

Me: "I brought you food." I raise the takeaways and his smile widens.

Mbo: "let's go sit there." he leads me to an empty table. We sit down and I open the takeaway. "I have reason to believe that you are actually trying to bribe me." I laugh.

Me: "I just remembered I have a brother and I thought I should buy your favorite."

Mbo: "thank you for remembering me." I chuckle and we start eating.

Me: "how is your girlfriend doing?"

Mbo: "she is okay. She is a really good person and I would really like to take things to the next level with her."

Me: "wow that serious?"

Mbo: "yep. What about you?"

Me: "I have a boyfriend but it's nothing serious and he might be a bad guy."

Mbo: "good cop falling for a bad guy. What a headline!" I chuckle.

Me: "yeah. The press will have a field day once I confirm my theory."

Mbo: "is he a gangster?" I shake my head.

Me: "something more intense than that." he looks at me and his eyes pop out.

Mbo: "please don't tell me you are dating a serial killer sis." He half shouts.

Me: "keep your voice down and I am not sure if he is really a serial killer."

Mbo: "you are a cop and you chase these people each and every day. You should trust your instincts because they never lie."

Me: "we will see."

It's already Thursday evening. This week seems to be really fast, or is it because I am scared to go out with Mngqobi? Rudd hasn't sent me the information I need and I am shit scared. My friends are here to help me pack for the baecation. I haven't told them about the Mngqobi issue because I don't wanna bother them while I don't have enough information.

Alungile: "I am going to pack only lingerie so that you can seduce him all weekend." I giggle.

Me: "lingerie or no lingerie bae is still going to fuck me hard and good." They scream.

Portia: "he is that good?"

Me: "what I can say is that the sex is out of this world. If it was up to me, I would pay lobola for his dick and waist." They scream again. These idiots are going to block my ears.

Portia: "how is he?"

Me: "Mzansi Christian Grey friend." She fans herself and Alungile chokes on her saliva.

Alungile: “Miss Steele neh?” she says cocking her eyebrows and I just laugh.

Me: “let’s finish packing so that we can go and get drunk.”

Portia: “now you are talking.”

They pack bikinis, lingerie and short dresses. No night wear. Their defense is that I won’t be needing it since people sleep naked on a baecation. I love my friends yaz but sometimes they can be too much. I mean what if something happens that will lead to one of us not being in a mood for sex? Manje I will be forced to wear his t-shirt? Ayy I am not the type who love wearing their bae’s clothing.

My friends and I, we are those typical cops which love drinking and we are not ashamed of it. But that never clashes with our work. We make sure we don’t go to work drunk or hangover because we love and take our jobs very seriously.

Tonight we are going clubbing, so we shower and get dressed. Well I wear a black t-shirt dress with bum shorts that don’t show and thigh high black boots. I am feeling like a South

African Rihanna right now and I am loving it. Alungile is wearing torn high waist jeans with oversized Levis white vest and white Levis sneakers. Portia is wearing a short denim skirt with a Gucci belt, black t-shirt and black ankle boots. We actually look like slay queens, not cops.

We take a lot of pictures and when we are done we take a few shots, party starter. We then take our bags and head out, after locking the doors. Zondo is our ride since he is also going clubbing. Ke Phuza Thursday bahlali. We get to the club and head to the bar. Luckily the club is not that full so we get a vacant table at the general section. We settle down on that table with our booze.

The vibe here is too much and the deejay is doing the things. We get up and go dance. We are feeling ourselves I am telling you. When we are tired

we go sit down and just chat about anything that is everything. A while later Nkonzo appears from nowhere, smiling from ear to ear. I almost ignore him but I scream when I see that he is with his sisters. I rush and go hug them.

Me: “OMG! How are you guys? What brings you here?”

Happy: “alcohol, what else?” we all laugh.

Zandile: “we were hoping to bump into you. We are here for the weekend. We are only leaving on Monday.”

Me: “I am going away for the weekend but I will come back on Sunday and maybe we can drink the whole day. Drinks on me.” they scream. These ladies love alcohol. Alungile looks at me with that look that says ‘do the introductions’. I just chuckle. “Guys these are my friends, Portia and Alungile and ladies these are Nkonzo’s sisters, Happy, Zandile, Belinda, Thando and Sensile.”

Portia: “you guys look like a whole vibe. Let’s get a bigger table to accommodate all of us.”

Belinda: “I agree with you.”

We search for a table and finally found it. Nkonzo disappears for a while and comes back with a lot of booze. He is with his brothers. They place it on the table and then they go to their own table.

Me: “thank God. I thought they were joining us.”

Thando: “come on, how can we get hot guys while sitting with our brothers?”

Senzile: “let’s get this party started. How about we get a round of shots?”

Happy: “go get them baby girl.” She rushes off and comes back with the shots. We take one each and gulp them down. We then scream.

The night proceeds very well with us drinking like there is no tomorrow. The dance moves that we are doing, I swear we are seeing ourselves in Kamo Mphela and Babes Wodumo league. The Zungu brothers keep on coming to check if we are still okay. Zondo also comes to our table. The ladies love him. Zandile even flirted with him. He just blushed and went back to his table.

We cut the night short when some guy starts touching Senzile inappropriately. We threatened to arrest him and we had to show him our badges in order for him to take us seriously. We buy another booze and then I invite everyone to my house so

that the party can continue there. I guess I will have to call a cleaning agency to sort out the house because I am leaving early in the morning.

We first go via a Shisanyama to get meat and then we drive to my house. The party continues and we all rest early in the morning.

I wake up, shower and get dressed in a white sweater dress and white sneakers. When I open my phone I am welcomed by missed calls and texts from Mngqobi. I just open the texts and one of them tells me that I should be at the airport in an hour. I request an Uber so that I don't have to leave my car at the airport. I just put a beanie on my head so that I don't have to comb it. I take my bags and head downstairs. Things are upside down in this house but I trust that my friends will clean when they wake up.

My Uber arrives and I climb inside the car. We drive to the airport. I get there and find Mngqobi already waiting. We exchange greetings and then board the plane. We land at Hluhluwe Aerodrome and we get to a rental which takes us to Thanda Private Game Reserve. We get there and we check in. this is a very beautiful place. I am surely going to explore it tomorrow morning. We go to our room.

Mngqobi: "how about you give me one round just for being me and then we can go get something to eat?" I laugh shaking my hand.

Me: “if you want it come and get it Mr.” I say taking off my sneakers and sweater. He also takes off his clothes. I go to the shower and he follows me there. We get down to business and have a steamy shower. His dick game is on point, I wouldn’t trade it for nothing bahlali.

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When we are done showering, we order lunch and it is delivered in our room. We eat and then wear our swimming clothing. We head to the pool and jump inside.

Me: “this water is refreshing.”

Mnqobi: “true that. How was clubbing last night?” I smile.

Me: “it was fun. I enjoy partying and letting loose with my friends.” He smiles and brings me closer to him.

Mnqobi: “next time we will go together so that I can see your dance moves.” I giggle and bury my head in his neck.

Me: “I know how to drink not to dance.” He laughs.

Mnqobi: “does this setting reminds you of something?” I raise my head and look at him. I shake my head.

Me: “no.”

Mnqobi: “how about the first time we met?” I think and then I just giggle. Nigga doesn’t forget.

Me: “what a sharp memory you have there Mr. Malinga.” He smirks.

Mnqobi: “I like it when you call me by my surname.” I just smile.

We continue swimming and playing with water. We are so lucky that we are the only ones in the pool actually. The other three couples are sitting at the bar and others are lying on the pool chairs. We finally get out of the water and go to the bar. We order some cocktails and we down them while listening to soothing music. After that we head back to our suite. It’s already dinner time, so we freshen up.

I get dressed in an above knee long sleeve tassel pullover black cocktail dress and a white London Rebel mami block heel. I know that we are going out for dinner so that’s why I am dressing up. I take my white handbag. I take my phone and open it. I see missed calls from Alungile, Rudd and Kheswa.

They are probably checking me. I send them a reply saying I am having the best time of my life and I will talk to them tomorrow.

Mnqobi: “beautiful missy are you still not done getting dressed?” he shouts from the lounge and I just chuckle. I put the phone inside the bag and head to the lounge. He stands up with his jaws on the floor when his eyes land to me.

Me: “like what you see?” he nods like a kid.

Mnqobi: “you are a true work of art my love. I am so jealous right now.” I smile. Yena he is wearing a navy stripped button front shirt with navy cargo pants and lace up décor stitch trim loafers. He is looking really handsome in his semi-formal wear.

Me: “you also look handsome Mr. Malinga.” He blushes.

Mnqobi: “thank you. Shall we?” he asks extending his hand. I place my hand in it.

Me: “yes we shall.” We then head out.

We get to the private dining area in the bush which is decorated very nice. It looks like a romantic setting and it is very beautiful. We sit down and the waiter brings food and drinks to our table. I guess Mngqobi preordered everything.

Me: “this look really beautiful. You are such a romantic man Doctor Malinga.” He smiles.

Mngqobi: “thank you for the compliment Miss Shabangu.”

We eat our delicious food and down it with the finest wine. The service of this reserve is exquisite. They deserve a five star review. When we are done eating, we take a walk around the villa that we are sleeping at. We then go back to our suite.

Mngqobi: “tonight I am going to punish you so bad for coming to meet me while hung-over.” He bites his lip and I already know it’s about to go down.

Without a warning, he takes off my dress in a very quick move and I gasp when I feel his hands roaming around my body. The underwear and heels follow quickly. He makes me sit down at the edge of the bed. He stands in front of me for quite some

time, studying my body. He always does this. He then push off his pants together with his briefs, while starring in my eyes. He places his hand on the back of my head

and gentle pushes his cock into my mouth. Our eyes lock.

He pushes his cock inside my mouth slowly and gently. Each time he pushes it further and further until I feel the tip of it touch my throat. I start to gag a little, as I am gagging I look down. He gently squeezes the back of my head and says 'beautiful missy, eyes on me'. I look at him and he starts moving in and out of my mouth. His body starts shaking a bit, and I can tell that he is about to cum. He keeps his hand at the back of my head, as his semen burst into my mouth, he pushes his cock all the way to the back of my throat. I can feel the cum feeling my throat up. His groan is always the best sound ever.

He pushes me to lie on the bed and orders me to spread my legs. I spread them as he watch while he unbuttons his shirt. It falls down. He also gets on the bed. He places one hand on my back and the other on my wet cookie. He rubs the outside for a few seconds, and then I feel his finger slide through my pussy lips and straight into my hole. I gasp, almost losing my breath for a second. He starts fingering me harder, pushing his finger

in further and faster. I feel him slide a second finger in. it feels so good.

My legs start to shake and I moan out in pleasure. I shake from head to toe. I release my orgasm. I try to catch my breath because that was intense. His hands start roaming all over my body. He tells me to spread my legs wider. I follow his order. He climbs on top of me and starts kissing me. In the middle of the kiss, he slams his cock inside of me and I gasp in his mouth.

His cock is huge so it completely fills my pussy and it is a perfect fit. He starts pumping in and out. He buries his head next to my head and starts fucking me so hard. He keeps on fucking me for a few minutes and before I knew it, we both explode like fireworks. Fuck his dick is so good that I can't get enough of it.

ZIMELE KHESWA

I have been trying Mayenzeke's phone for the past 24 hours and it isn't going through. I found some bone thrilling information about his boyfriend and I need to warn her but I am afraid I am too late. I huff and stand up. I go to my study and open my laptop. Luckily I planted a tracker on the studs that I gifted her. I check on her tracker and it shows that she is at a mountain in Hluluwe. I guess they are hiking but I have to go there.

I go to my room and pack a few stuff together with my laptop. I change into sweatpants with long sleeve t-shirt, hoodie and sneakers. I also put my wallet inside the bag. I jog to the lounge. I take bottled water and an apple on the fridge and then head to the front door. I open the door and I laugh when I see who is there.

Me: "what the fuck?"

Him: "what in the actual fuck?" we both laugh and then share a bro hug.

Me: “man what brings you here? Back to South Africa?”

Him: “a business opportunity.” I chuckle. “Seems like I caught you at a bad time.” He says eyeing my bags.

Me: “I can spare you a few minutes.”

Him: “how about you tell me what’s bothering you?” I open the door wide for him. We head to the kitchen and he sits on the barstool. I take out two beers from the fridge and hand one to him.

Me: “I have this female friend, Mayenzeke, who is more like a baby sister to me. Actually you know her. She is the chick who locked you up.” he chuckles.

Cebangaye Dumakude is my childhood friend. We used to do a lot of stuff together. I was there for him when he found out about his fiancé being his sister. It was a very tough time for him. I don’t judge him for the things that he has done. I know it’s wrong to kill people and I should be arresting him this instant but if I turn my back on him, who is going to be there for him?

Him: “what about the sexy detective?” I laugh.

Me: “she has gotten herself into a messy situation. She is involved with your kind.” He frowns.

Him: “my kind?”

Me: “serial killing kind.” He bursts out laughing.

Him: “wow this is interesting.”

Me: “so she asked me to do a research about this guy she is dating because she was warned about him. Turns out the warning was true. He is a real psychopath and he is more dangerous than any serial killer she has ever dealt with before.”

Him: “so she is in danger right now?” I nod. He stands up. “What are we waiting for then? Let’s go play hero.”

Me: “her tracker places her in Hluhluwe. How are we going to get there in time?”

Him: “your friend has a jet which is at the airport as we speak, so let’s bounce.” I stand up and we head out. We get into his

car and his driver drives off. My phone rings and I answer it. It's an unknown number.

Me: "Zimele hello."

Voice: "man you're talking to Rudd. I work with Detective Shabangu. She asked me to get her information about her boyfriend and the info I found is bad. Do you have any idea where she is? She is not safe." I sigh.

Me: "I have her location and I am headed there right now. I also found info about this guy and it's not looking good for Mayenzeke." He breathes heavily.

Rudd: "please get back to me when you find her. I am worried about her and also my woman is pacing up and down worried sick about her."

Me: "will do man." I hang up. We get to the airport and board the plane.

Dumakude: "relax man, we will find the sexy detective."

Me: "I hope we won't be late."

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I am woken up by direct sunlight hitting on my face. It feels like I am outside because it is also hitting on the rest of my body. I open my eyes and I quickly close them because of the intensity of the sunlight. I try to stretch my body and that's when I feel excruciating pain. I try screaming but then I realize that my mouth is taped. What the fuck? Where am i?

I look around and I see that my hands are pined on the blank beneath me. Ow My God! What have I gotten myself into? I am pinned to the cross. I thought he really loved me and he had changed. What the hell was I thinking? A leopard never changes its spot. I am now pinned to a cross, like real pins on my hands and feet. Am I Jesus Christ? Is he sacrificing me? God hear my cries and rescue me.

While I am still crying and silently praying to God, the devil makes his way to where I am. I check my surroundings and see that I am actually on top of a mountain. He is smiling and busy singing 'bambethela ujesu Ngenxa yami nawe walithwala icala lami'. OMG! This guy is a psychopath. He actually looks happy

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like he is pleased with his work of art.

Mnqobi: “the beautiful missy is finally awake. Great, now we should get started.” He sits down on a rock and stares at me. The smile on his face hasn’t disappeared. “You must be wondering why I am doing this or don’t I love you. Well the thing is I do love you, with all my heart. You are beautiful, sexy and very good in bed. You are the type of woman I would start a family with.” Then why the fuck are you doing this? Is a question I would ask if I wasn’t taped.

“You must also be wondering why I am doing this to you if I love you. Well here is a back story, I believe every serial killer needs one to justify the killings.” He chuckles and folds his legs. “Her name was Simlindile Xaba. She was the most beautiful woman I have ever met. Even your beauty doesn’t match with hers. She was pure when we met, inside and out. Then she met friends who corrupted her. She cheated on more than once and I forgave her each and every time I corrupted her.”

“I loved her so I did anything to keep her happy. The last straw was when she slept with a man and eventually got pregnant by him. I killed her slowly and painfully. I don’t regret it because she fucked with my feelings. From there on, I vowed to destroy

women of her kind, looks and body wise. I have been killing women for a while now.”

“But with you it’s different. You are a savior of most victims and for that, your punishment is crucifixion.” He stands up and opens a bag that was next to him. He takes out a nine tails whip and I start shaking. I am screaming underneath the tape. Tears fall freely down my cheeks and that seems to amuse him. He smiles widely and comes closer to me.

He raises his hand and start delivering lashes. This whip is very dangerous because it digs in your skin and comes back with your flesh. I scream as more tears cascade down my cheeks. I never thought I would be faced with this kind of punishment my whole life. Was it wrong for me to want to make the world a better place? Now I am paying the price for my kindness and bravery in the most painful way.

Lord if you are listening to me now, I am not praying for a lot. I am just asking you to relieve me of this pain. I ask you to take my life this instant because this pain I am feeling right now is unbearable. Please hear my cries and deliver me from this pain.
AMEN.

He finally places the whip down. My body is so painful. Tears can't stop coming out of my eyes. He sits down and breathes out loud. He is panting like he has been running a marathon. I just close my eyes because the sight of him is really sickening.

Mnqobi: "that was intense." He says chuckling. "They said you're the best but you didn't realize that you were sleeping with the same monster that you are afraid of and has basically been chasing his kind for almost half of your life. Life can be unkind, not like Sandisiwe Gxaba's book." He smirks. "Life is a dick really. One minute you are hard and on top of the world. The next minute you're flat and out of your game." What a stupid example.

"Yes I know it's a stupid example. Deal with it." He takes out a beer from his bag and gulps it down. I would do anything for a sip of water, any type of water really. When he is done, he takes a short spear from the ground. Please don't tell me he is going to stab me. "You bet your beautiful black ass, I am going to stab you. Slowly and steady so that you will enjoy it." He smiles and stands up. Please have mercy on me.

He comes back and stands in front of me. He stabs me on the thigh. I gasp and my eyes pop out. He takes it out and stabs me on my lower abdomen. Wow I have never in my life imagined that something like this might happen to me. Fresh tears come out. Right now I have given up on my life. I am just praying for him to stab me in the heart so that I can take my last breath.

Mnqobi: “now for the final touch.” He raises his spear and I know that he is aiming for my heart. Right at the moment I hear three gunshots. The monster in front of me drops the spear and his body falls to the ground. I raise my head to see who my knight in shining armor might be. I see Kheswa and Dumakude standing not far from where I am. I just breathe out loud and I feel myself being drawn into darkness. My body gives in and I black out.

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ZIMELE KHESWA

I am so angry at myself. I am mad that I didn't get to Mayenzeke in time. My world shattered when I saw how her body was. It was covered in blood and in other parts, blood was still coming out of it. We are now at Hlabisa Hospital and it has been hours since she has been admitted. I am organizing for

her to be transferred to Meadowlands Hospital Medical Centre so that she can be closer to her family.

Dumakude: "I need to bounce man." he says bringing me back from my thoughts. I frown and look at him.

Me: "why?" he chuckles.

Dumakude: "have you forgotten that I am a wanted man? I escaped prison remember? The cops who work with Nceba are on their way and if they see me

they won't ask any questions. They will just lock me up." I sigh.

Me: "I understand. Now when am I going to see you again?"

Dumakude: "when I want to see you." I chuckle.

Me: "asshole."

Dumakude: "thanks for the compliment. I appreciate it very much." He says sarcastically and we both laugh. "Now can I get a hug?"

Me: "whatever man." we both stand up and bro hug.

Dumakude: “when she is awake, tell her that I am still going to keep my promise.”

Me: “what promise?” I ask frowning.

Dumakude: “she knows.” He says with a smug. “See you when I see you.” He heads out.

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It has been two weeks since Mayenzeke has been transferred to Meadowlands Hospital. Her wounds are healing slowly but she is still unconscious. I have been visiting her every day, together with Buleka. Mayenzeke made quite an impression on her because Buleka actually cares deeply for her and isn't jealous of the relationship we have.

Mayenzeke's dad and grandmother are the ones who didn't take the news of her lying in a hospital very well. They are walking zombies. Her grandfather is mad at himself for not being there to protect her. Everyone is doing the blame game, safe blame that is. I just really hope that she can wake up. I feel like she doesn't want to wake up.

Her captain said when she is awake, she can take time off from work. Even if it's two years, as long as she is going to come back from work because she is really good at work. I don't know how the news of her being in a hospital made it to the press because they have been writing articles about how she was kidnapped and tortured. I wonder where they got the information from.

My heart bleeds for Mayenzeke. I know her life will never be the same once she wakes up. I know she will need a lot of therapy to get over what happened to her. I know she is going to have a lot of trust issues and actually have less trust in men. I love her as my friend and I am willing to be there for her.

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I have gained consciousness for two days but I don't want people knowing and fussing over me and actually telling me that I need to talk to someone, a therapist. I don't wanna talk about what happened to me. I just wanna forget about it. It's bad enough that I have wounds and scars all over my body to remind me of the torture I went through.

My mind keep drifting back to the mountain of uHluhluwe where I almost lost my life. A part of me stayed behind that place. The part which longs for a life partner who will love and take care of me. I no longer need that in my life. I am good with love. The two times I opened my heart for men, I got burned and I have scars indicating that. I hate love.

My doctor and nurse are the only ones who know that I am awake and I want to keep it that way. I still haven't uttered a single word ever since I woke up. Today is no exception. I wake up

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shower and go back to bed. Life is now a struggle. My body is still sore but at least they give me medication for the pain every

day. Just as I am fixing my pillow someone barges in before I can even pretend to be asleep.

Kheswa: “you’re awake!” he exclaims. “Let me call your doctor.” He rushes off. I adjust my bed and lie down. He comes back with the doctor. “Please check her doctor.”

Doctor: “you’re awake. Are you feeling okay?” I nod. That’s how I communicate with my doctor. “Are you feeling any pain?” I tilt my head to the side which indicates that I feel slight pain. He writes something on his file. “Okay, your nurse will bring your meds and food.” I nod again. He heads out.

Kheswa: “so you have been awake for a while now?” I look at him and then look the other way. “You’re not talking?” I nod. “You don’t wanna talk?” I nod again. He huffs and sits down. He starts typing some things on his phone. A while later my nurse comes in with food and pills. “I will feed her and make sure she drinks her meds.” He says taking the stuff from her and she heads out.

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After a few minutes my family barges into my ward. I guess I am in Jo'burg. I have a feeling that I need to tell them what went down so that they won't keep asking many questions. They shower me with hugs. I nearly break down but I keep strong. Also I cried too much that day. I have no tears left.

Gran looks slim. I know that my situation makes people sit down. They all settle down. I narrate the whole story while everyone is listening attentively. When I am done there is nothing but sobs and sniffs that are being produced by everyone. Kheswa comes closer to me and hugs me.

Kheswa: "I am sorry I didn't get to you in time. Please forgive me." I wanna tell him that it's not his fault but I guess I am back to being a mute.

Papa: "he should be lucky that he is dead or else I would've made him suffer 10 times more than he did to you." He says angrily and then heads out. I have never seen him that angry before.

Mom: "baby we will get through this together. You just need to open up to a therapist so that you can heal emotionally." I just

adjust my bed and lie down. Luckily my nurse is an angel from heaven. She enters at that exact moment.

Nurse: "I am sorry for disturbing you but visiting hours are over." Dad and nana comes to hug me. My mother also hugs me and then they leave. "My statement refers to you too Mr." she says looking at Kheswa. He plants a kiss on my forehead and then heads out. My doctor gets in.

Doctor: "you have a therapy session with Doctor Arendse. She is going to come here in a few minutes. Please cooperate with her." The nurse check my wounds and when she is done, they both head out.

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I am woken up by flowers scent. I guess it's the therapist's cologne. I didn't even know when I dosed off. I sit up and look at her. She is all smiley. Her smiles annoys me because it reminds me of Mnqobi's smile. She sits on the chair next to my bed.

Doctor: "you are very beautiful." Fuck that name triggers many emotions. I just look at her and then go back to my sleeping position. "I guess you are not talking today. We will try this again tomorrow. Just so you know, you won't leave this place without opening up." I guess she was expecting to talk about them holding me against my will or whatever. "See you tomorrow then." She stands up and heads out.

It has been 3 days since Doctor Arendse has been coming here. We go through the same thing every day. I just look at her and don't say anything. She gives up and ends up leaving. I just hope she will give up for real because she is a nuisance. I guess I spoke too soon because when her usual hour strikes, she walks through the door. Today she brought company.

Doctor: "good day Miss Shabangu. Today I brought some reinforcement seeing that I am not getting through to you. She is my childhood friend and her name is Ntokozo Mbatha. Hope she gets through to you. Good luck Ntokozo." She heads out. This Ntokozo chick takes out a bible. Wow a pastor, just great.

Ntokozo: "I am not going to preach or anything. I just want to pass on this word of God quickly then after that we are going to pray." She pages the bible and finally stops. "Psalm 57 verse one reads thus: When he fled from Saul into the cave, have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, for in you my soul takes refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed." She closes her bible. "Relax I am not going to preach." She then starts singing.

“I know a place I can always run to
In times of distress, confusion and dear
And when my enemies surround me
Father I know with you I am safe
Coz you keep me and hide me
In the shadow of your wings.

The Lord is my shield
He is the Healer of my soul
He’s the tower of strength
He’s my redeemer my keeper
And when my heart is filled with sorrow
He is the lifter of my head
He surrounds me with favor
And he satisfies my soul

In the shadow of your wings

I know I am safe

In the shadow of your wings

I find relief

For you will hold and you will guide me

With your righteous hand

I find rest peace of mind

In the shadow of your wings

I am safe in the shadow of your wings

I am safe in the shadow of your wings.”

By the time she is done I release loud sobs. She has an angelic voice that evokes buried emotions. She hugs me tight and then she breaks the hug. She then holds my hands and start praying hard. I find myself also praying with her. I pray for recovery, I pray that the demon of depression doesn't conquer me

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I pray that the Lord hides me in the shadow of his wings. I pray for emotional and physical healing. We finally finish praying and we open our eyes. She hugs me once again.

Ntokozo: “you are stronger than any situation you have ever faced and the Lord will heal you and guide because you have made Him your healer.” I smile.

Me: “thank you.”

Ntokozo: “no thank Him because He is the one who deserves all the glory and honor. With the grace of God you are going to be okay and you are going to come out of this situation stronger than ever before.” We hug once more and she heads out.

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I am not healed completely but I am getting there. I have made God my pillar of strength. I even made progress with Doctor Arendse. I was discharged from the hospital a few days ago and I am staying with my parents. Nana and papa are also here. I am no longer a mute. I communicate with people.

Zee and Wandile came to see me the day before yesterday. Zee is a very emotional person, so she cried and I ended up being the one to comfort her. Sensile, Nkonzo's sister also came to see me yesterday. She was so happy to see me well because, according to the press, I was a cripple.

I will never forgive Mngqobi. Because of him I will never be able to have kids. The wound in my abdomen damaged my womb. He has left me with permanent scars. Kheswa told his family what he did and gave them his body. They were very sad about his passing but his sisters hate him. We have been in contact and they even want to visit me but I told them that they can visit me when I am back in Durban.

I am sitting at the patio reading Tell Me To Stop by Charlotte Byrd. I am not ready to get back to work. I was even thinking of quitting but I didn't wanna give Mngqobi the satisfaction. While reading, I am disturbed by someone who sits next to me. I look up and smile when I see Kheswa. I will forever be indebted to this here. If it wasn't for him, I would be dead and buried right now. Kheswa: "how are you feeling?"

Me: "getting there."

Kheswa: "that's good to know. I bought you something."

Me: “what is it?” he places a batch of books on the table.

Kheswa: “I figured since you have more time on your plate, you might need books to keep you entertained.”

Me: “you’re a godsend.” I hug him. “Thank you.”

Kheswa: “you are welcome.”

Me: “where is your friend?”

Kheswa: “which friend?”

Me: “you’re smarter than that so don’t play dumb. And how do you know him?” he chuckles.

Kheswa: “he is my childhood friend and I was there for him when he was depressed. Now I don’t know where he went and I am serious. That time when we rescued you, he just came to visit and I hijacked him.”

Me: “I wanna thank him too. Where can I find him?”

Kheswa: “he is the one who finds you.” I roll my eyes and he laughs.

Epilogue

I have decided that I need some time off and fresh air. So currently at the Hydra Island which is situated in Greece. I am staying at the Hydrea Hotel. This place is so beautiful and the sea view is just spectacular. I chose a master suite with sea view. I arrived here three days ago and I am still settling in. It has been three months since that incident with Mnqobi. I am much better now and some of my scars have disappeared.

I shower and then get dressed in a strut into the pool party black 3 piece bikini set and black flip flops. I put on my beach hat and sunglasses. I then take the novel I have been reading, One Night Stand by J. S. Cooper, my sunscreen and key card and then head down to the beach. I place my hat, novel and flops on the beach chair and go swim. Fuck the water is so warm and welcoming.

I swim for a few minutes and when I am tired I get out of the water. I go to my beach chair. I take my sun screen, apply it on my body and then lie down. I put on my hat and then read my novel. It's a very interesting novel and it makes me sbwl a one night stand. While I am still reading, I feel someone standing in front of me. I sit up and my book slips and falls down when I

see the person who is in front of me. I jump up and throw myself in his arms.

Dumakude: "I didn't know you would be this happy to see Me." he says catching me. I chuckle.

Me: "you saved my life. What do you expect? I am forever indebted to you." He sit down on my chair and makes me sit on top of him.

Dumakude: "you know what I want from you." I frown.

Me: "what is it?" he smirks.

Dumakude: "you have a short memory detective. I just want to fuck your brains out. You are so sexy right now." I swallow hard and try to stand up. He doesn't let me. "Escaping already? Well not this time around." He cups my face and attacks me with a kiss. Fuck I kiss him back. We break the kiss and he looks directly into my eyes. "You're gorgeous."

Me: "thank you." I reply in a whisper. Well I wasn't whispering. It just came out that way. He smirks.

Dumakude: “we will continue this later on. For now let’s go swim. I wanna take you out later on.”

Me: “can you stop dominating me?” he laughs.

Dumakude: “if that makes you happy.” He says with a smirk. He stands up with me in his arms. “Let’s go swim.”

We are at Castello and this place is just perfect. I am dressed in a black and white long sleeve patchwork mid-calf fall dress with black fluffy black heel sandals. I look and feel good. Yena he is wearing grey dress pants with white tight fit shirt and brown formal shoes. He looks very handsome. We settle down and a waiter gives us our menus. She comes back to get our orders.

Dumakude: “I would like a Gnocchi with shrimp and calamari. Spinach pie for starters and a glass of whiskey.”

Me: “ayizukungisuthisa yonke lento (none of this is going to make me full).” He bursts out laughing. “I am going to have beef filet, Greek salad, perfect fries and warm halva cream. And also a glass of grape juice.”

Waiter: “coming right up.” she leaves.

Dumakude: “you look sublime tonight. Like I can’t keep my eyes off you.” I blush and look down. “Won’t you look at that? The detective can be charmed.” I giggle. Me: “stop it.”

Dumakude: “you really are beautiful.”

Me: “thank you and again thank you very much for saving my life.” He rolls his eyes and I just giggle.

He grabs my hips, pushes me back onto the couch, rip my dress and underwear and starts eating my wet pussy. I moan out loud my juices are already flowing. I become more and more out of breath as he continues to lick my clit. I cum, crashing like a plane. He then takes off his clothes, his big thick cock springs free and it bounces in front of him.

He grabs it with one hand and steers it toward my wet pussy. He then slides it straight in and I let out a huge moan. “Can you move nice and slow?” I request in a whisper. He moves balls deep, I feel my pussy stretch around his dick, it feels so good, and he is slowly grinding into me. I feel myself build up and few moments later I cum, heavily around his cock.

He leans forward, kissing me, grabs my ass and plunges into my wet pussy. He lets out a loud groan as he shoots his load deep inside me. Fuck that was quick and hot. We are both panting. He finally pulls out, sits on the couch and takes me to sit on his lap. He buries his head on my neck as he breathes heavily.

Me: “that was amazing.”

Dumakude: “those were just starters my sexy detective.” I giggle and he laughs.

I don't know what the future holds. I don't know what to do next with my life. I don't know if I can trust men again. I don't know if I want to have a relationship again. What I do know is that I am going to live my life and take each day as it comes.

.....THE END.....

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