



Naletsana Presents

# IMBALI

I Will Make Them Pay

The Past Has Come To  
HAUNT

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\*IMBALI\*

# \*PROLOGUE\*

\*Imbali\*

I look around the whole  
court room

And it's filled

There's stares , and not just  
any stares

But ugly ones

If looks could kill

I would long be dead right  
now

These people are not fans

I clearly have haters , it won't  
be thrilling at all

I take a deep breath , looking  
down

Just bowing my head

If I was a believer

Maybe I would be saying a  
silent prayer right now

But I'm me

Always have been

And always will be

I'm no believer

And I'm no saint either

Nor do I have faith in  
anything



Well , except myself

What a chapter of my life

If you could have asked me a  
year ago

Where I see myself in five  
years

I wouldn't even imagine it to  
this day

It feels surreal somehow

But I know it real

And I know I'm very much  
capable

I mean , in just a day

Everything just changed

And it was like , the past  
went back to the beginning

I swore , that I will not leave  
any stone unturned

And that's exactly what I  
have done

Today I find myself here

But , I'm not in pain

I have no regrets

I don't wish anything else

Nor pity or to be felt for

I'm content with what I've  
done

Because I know , I left no  
stone unturned

I know , I fulfilled my heart  
desires

More and beyond , it's  
actually a relief

I did what I said I will

There are no forces in this  
world

Unless you believe so

And that would be your  
belief

And I have mine

So , we can agree to disagree  
on that

People believe , when  
someone slaps you

You give them the other  
cheek

I don't

You slap me , I slap you twice  
as hard

They believe , when someone  
does you wrong

Do them right

And well , I just don't



You do me wrong , and I'll  
do you twice as worse

They say , two wrongs don't  
make a right

Mhm !

Well , I never said I want any  
right

Where was that right , when  
my mother needed it ?

I don't live by society  
standards

I live by my own

I don't listen to no one

I listen to the voices inside of  
my head

I don't bow to no king

The only king I know , is God

I don't abide to no one's laws

I make my own laws

"The honourable Judge  
Moloisi presiding , case  
47756"

I lift my head up

I guess , I got lost in my own  
thoughts

The judge walks in

“You may all be seated”

We sit down

There’s whispering going  
around

The prosecutor stands up

The noise dies down

I look to my side

Looking at my mother

I've seen her through many  
things

Hardships and sufferings

But I've never seen her like  
this

If only I can tell her not to  
worry

That I'll be okay

That I feel nothing of sorrow

That I know what I was doing

And given a chance

I would do it again

Without even thinking twice

Judge : who is representing  
the accused ?

I stand up

Me : I am your honour



Noise erupts in the whole  
court room

Judge : silence ...silence

It goes down

But there's still whispers

And finger pointing

Judge : Ms Msomi , do you understand the dire consequences of your charges ?

Me : I understand

Judge : and you have no representative ?

Me : I am my own  
representative

He shakes his head

Judge : do you understand  
the charges laid against you  
?

I look at him

Me : yes your honour

Judge : and how does the  
accused plead ?

Me : g....

The court room door opens

We all turn back

And look at this man waking  
in

Like he owns this whole  
court room

He doesn't even look fazed  
by the stares

He walks to my side

And he places his file on the  
table

Putting on his black coat

I've never seen such power

By just looking at a man

I'm so speechless , more than  
I am shocked

Him : your honour my  
apologies to disrupt the  
session

Judge : Ndwandwe , this is  
my court room and not your  
office

Him : apologizes , your  
honour

Judge : and you're here  
because ?

Him : I am the representative  
to the accused

What the hell ?

Who is this man , man and  
who sent him ?



I look at him

I'm shocked

More like just stunned

Is this some kind of a joke  
maybe ?

I don't have a lawyer

Not because I can't afford  
one

But because I don't want one

I'm guilty as fuck !

There's no escaping this , I  
know that very well

I don't see a reason to have a  
lawyer

And just waste money

Money that can sustain my  
mother

Because no matter what  
happens , I know I am going  
to jail

And he's not even looking at  
me

I look at the prosecutor

And she doesn't look pleased  
at all , looking at this man

Judge : she said she's  
representing herself

No one says anything

Judge : I can put your client  
in contempt , for wasting the  
time of this court room

Him : my apologies , my Lord

Judge : may we proceed ?

Him : yes your honour

Judge : how does the  
accused plead ?

Him : not guilty my lord

And the court room erupts

I look at this man

I'm just left flabbergasted

What is he doing ?

Maybe , this is a bad set up  
for me

I was ready to save the court  
their time

Plead guilty

And just accept my fate

It's no defeat

But I know and my choose  
my battles

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**\*IMBALI\***

**\*Insert 01\***

**\*A Year Earlier\***

\*Imbali\*

I finish taking a bath

And pack my books in my  
school bag

I walk in the kitchen

And my mother is busy  
sweeping

Me : bye ma (mom)

She looks at me

Mom : you're leaving already  
?

Me : yes

Mom : but ...it's still early

Me : don't worry , I just have  
some assignments to finish

Mom : I'm sorry , I'll make  
sure I buy a packet of  
candles today

Me : it's okay

I peck her cheek

And walk out

I take a deep breath

As I take the long road to  
school

It's been six months



Since I met prince  
Zanethongo

And I've seen him quite a few  
times

In those six months

We've gotten to know each  
other

Knowing him better

And he's a cool person to be  
with

Of course , all this my mother  
doesn't know

I know how she feels about  
those people

And she would want nothing  
for me to be involved with  
them

Nothing at all

So I'm keeping all this to  
myself

Not even aunty Lebo knows

And I don't intend to tell  
either of them

Now I'm on my own path

And I don't want them being  
a part of it

Not even by a bit

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\*Zanethongo\*

Me : don't you want me to  
take you to school ?

Zamcolo : no I'm cool

I just nod and walk out

I don't bother to say  
anything else

Because I know what he  
thinks he's hiding from me

We're just a year apart

He's 15 years and I'm 16  
years

But we're not that close to  
the extent

Where by he would tell me  
anything about his life

Or what he's going through

I get into my car and drive  
out



I don't even know if I'll find  
her or what

I just need to clear my head

And so far , she's the only  
person who's able to help  
me with that

Talking to her

That always gets me feeling  
somehow

And I always think that  
maybe , there's a way out of  
this situation we find  
ourselves in

Everything is just a mess

It just keeps on getting  
worse

And there's no way out

I am just tired of it all

Which is why I've taken this  
decision to leave

Home is not home anymore

I know that will erupt a lot of emotions

And just problems

But , I am doing this for myself

The one thing that hurts me is Imbali

How will this affect us ?

As much as I know , I haven't expressed any feelings to her

But , I know what I feel for her

But I'm afraid

Me going away , will mean  
distance between us

No more seeing each other

And I don't know what that  
will put us at

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\*Imbali\*

It's always funny

Because he always finds me  
somehow

If he doesn't pick me up  
from school

He always finds me on route



Today , it's just shocking

It's morning

Yet here he is

I don't know why

Because we never meet  
during morning

Zane : what ?

He smiles

Me : what are you doing here  
?

Zane : get in the car

I smile and get in the car

He drives off heading to  
school

Me : so ?

Zane : I just wanted to see  
you , nothing much

Me : and you couldn't wait a  
few hours ?

Zane : no

Me : oh ?

He laughs

Zane : don't look at me like  
that , we'll talk

Me : when ?

Zane : give me a minute ,  
right now I just want to be in  
your presence

Me : that's nice

He shakes his head with a  
smile

And looks ahead on the road

There seems to be  
something on his mind

But I won't ask what it is

He will tell me when he's  
ready to

I won't push

I just hope whatever is it

It's nothing that's going to  
stand in my way

Nor something that will mess  
up with my plans

That will just piss me off

I've already spoken to aunty  
Lebo

And she's in with my plan ,  
through and through

Even though she doesn't  
know exactly what I'm  
planning

But she's willing to avail what  
I need



Already , she's released some  
of the money she had saved  
to me

Now I'm waiting on the last  
one

And then , I'll get on with it

It's still going well

Zane hasn't caught on  
anything

I'm still safe

Even though I don't know  
what's going on between us

I feel absolutely nothing for  
him

I'm just trying to lure him in

I don't know if he's taking in  
the bait or what

I hope , soon enough I will  
know

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**\*IMBALI\***

**\*Insert 02\***

\*Imbali\*

Me : what's going on ?

He looks at me

And there's no smile

He's parked by the veld

We usually just do this  
randomly

Getting away from the village

Just so no one can see us

I don't want to be seen with  
a prince

Like ever



Because if the news were to  
reach my mother

It would be another story

I don't know what's his  
excuse

Of course I didn't tell him the  
truth

I just said , I don't want  
rumours going around

And I'll find myself caught up  
in them

He understood that

Zane : don't get upset

Me : okay

Zane : things are bad at  
home

Me : oh

Zane : yeah , there's just a lot  
going on

That's not saying much

And I'm dying to know what  
exactly is going on in the  
palace

Being in the loop with  
everything

Will help me so much better

But I don't want to be caught

And he gets suspicious of  
why I'm interested

Me : I hope it's nothing that  
bad

Zane : it is , worse everything  
going on is even affecting us  
. This morning , I caught my  
brother bunking school . And

I'm certain our parents don't even know , and it's not the first time he's done that . I don't even think he will finish

Me : but schools have just reopened

Zane : exactly , I wouldn't even be surprised if he's dropped out

Me : that's insane

I am really not interested to know about spoiled brats of royal kids

After all , they just think they are all that

It's annoying

So I'm sure , bunking school  
is not the end of the world  
for them

Zane : I've decided to leave

I look at him shocked

I didn't expect to hear this



Me : leave ?

Zane : yeah , I applied for the  
army . So I'll be leaving in a  
week

Okay ...okay , best I calm  
down

Me : a week ?

Now this is something else

How do you just drop out of school

In grade 11 , and apply for the army

Me : wait ..you're leaving in a week's time ?

Zane : I have to

Me : this doesn't make sense

I don't even care that he's  
leaving

But he's just ruining my plans

He was supposed to be my  
get in , in the palace

With him gone , how will I do that ?

Zane : I know this is unexpected , and I hate it just as much . I would have wanted to have more time with you , and just ...

Me : but you're leaving !

I'm getting frustrated right  
now

Me : did this mean anything  
to you ?

I don't even know what this  
is

I'm just trying to sound hurt

Zane : of course , more than anything

Me : well , can't you stay ?

He heaves a sigh

I am doomed

Like no kidding !

Now , it's like going back to  
the drawing book

He's messing with my plans

Like , he's really ruining my  
plans

And that's just taking me  
back

This is just so stupid !

Zane : I am sorry , but this is not the end . I will come back , and maybe we can ....give us a chance . Because truth of the matter is that ...I love you Imbali yaMasomi

Mxm !



Him saying that would  
usually get me to grin

And smile like an idiot

But right now , I am not in  
his moods

He's just bored me to the  
core

Me : is this a joke ?

I ask him annoyed

Zane : what ?

Me : you just told me that in a week you're leaving , and now you tell me that you love me ?

Zane : I loved you from the first day I saw you , I thought that was evident

Me : take me back home

Zane : MaMsomi

Me : take me back home

Zanethongo !

He heaves a sigh

Zane : for what it's worth , I  
am really sorry . There's  
nothing I can do right now ,  
but really I am sorry

Me : keep your sorry , or  
shove it where the sun  
doesn't shine

I bit my tongue , but it's too late

I can't take back what I said

Zane : okay

He starts the car and drives

I'm just lost in my thoughts

Thinking of what am I going  
to do right now

I need another plan

Do I even have time to start  
all over again ?

Mxm !

Damn this idiot of a prince

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\*Zanethongo\*

I didn't expect her to give me  
hugs and kisses

Or clap hands for me



I didn't expect her to be  
happy and all

But I also didn't expect her to  
react the way she did

I think I've lost any chance I  
could have had with her

I've messed things up

She did not even utter a  
single word to me

She's more angry than I  
thought she would be

I don't understand her  
reaction at all

But people are different

And maybe , feelings were  
mutual

And now , the realisation of  
this whole situation

Makes things hard

Because then we would be  
apart

For many months

When I applied , I didn't even  
think I would get accepted

But I did

And now I have to move to  
Pretoria

I just have to do this

Things are bad at home

My parents marriage is a  
sham

And we're striving to be poor

That's where we are headed ,  
to poverty

I'm trying to salvage what I  
can

And working , will mean they  
won't have to pay my school  
fees anymore

But , with how Imbali reacted

Now , I don't know how my  
parents are going to react

My father probably won't  
even care

He will be happy to have me  
away from home

So he can do his things in  
peace

As for my mother ..

I don't know

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\*IMBALI\*



**\*Insert 03\***

\*Zamcolo\*

The door opens

And my mother walks in

How did she see I'm home

That I didn't go to school

Because I stayed in here

I didn't want to be seen  
outside

I've been doing this for a few days now

Mom : why are you not at school ?

I sit up and look at her

Me : uhm ....we have no classes today

Mom : what ?

Me : yes , there's no school

Mom : It's like three weeks  
since schools opened , and  
already there are no classes ?

Me : yes

I can tell she can see I'm  
lying

Mom : Zamcolo ?

I heave a sigh

Mom : why are you not at  
school ?

Okay !

Now she's getting angry

Mom : we are busy paying money for your education , and you just decide to sit at home and do nothing . Not going to school

Me : I don't want to go there anymore



Mom : what ?

She raises her voice on top  
of her lungs

I keep quite

Mom : what did you say ?

Me : I don't want to ...

Mom : after so much money  
being paid towards your  
tuition

Me : money we don't even  
have !

I raise my voice a bit just  
annoyed

This kingdom is crumbling

And they are so focused on  
their stupid marital affairs

Not paying attention to  
anything

Mom : who said we don't  
have money ? We're the  
royal family , why wouldn't

we have money ? Stop this  
nonsense of yours , and  
making excuses

This is actually sad

Because she's acting like she  
doesn't know

Yet she knows very well

It's not like we don't know  
what's happening here

We know

We're just old enough for  
that

We're not blind either

We see what's happening

Me : the guards are leaving ,  
the drivers and maids . They  
are all leaving because they  
are not getting paid

Mom : I cannot deal with this  
, you will explain all this  
nonsense to your father

She walks out

I shake my head laying back  
on the bed

I'm so tired of everything  
happening in this palace

I just wish I can get away  
from it all

And just go far away

But then , being the second  
born

I feel for my siblings

They are still young

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\*Nkanyamba\*

She just storms in

And I'm so tired of this

She looks around

And she can clearly see well  
what's going on here

Sonti : get dressed , we need  
to talk

Me : how many times did I tell you , not to budge in my chamber ? Especially when I am busy when I'm busy ?

She looks at Lindi

Sonti : get out , I need to talk to my husband . So excuse yourself , right now

Me : no get out , I'm busy .  
I'll see you when I'm done

Sonti : I want us to talk about  
your son

Me : I said , I'll come when  
I'm done . Get out , and stop  
embarrassing yourself

Sonti : how do you feel  
sleeping with my husband ,  
have you no shame ? In my  
own palace

Me : Sonti....just stop

Sonti : where is your dignity ?  
You're too young , yet you're  
sleeping with a man that's  
old enough to be your father

Me : now you're just  
provoking me

Lindi laughs

Lindi : oh my queen , the  
good thing is that he's not  
my father . So I don't give a  
shit about his age , his dick is  
all that I care about . And my

dignity , is out the door when  
I'm with this man and he's in  
between my thighs . Maybe  
that's why he's with me , and  
not you because I don't have  
any dignity . It doesn't keep a  
man , in bed be a whore my  
dear queen

Sonti charges towards the  
bed

I'm quick to get up

I push her off

Sonti : you will choose this  
skank over me ?

Me : come on , we spoke  
about this . Stop acting like a  
lunatic , I'll come see you  
when I'm done



She tears up and walks out

I heave a sigh

She loves just acting out

But we spoke about this  
nonsense

I shake my head

I don't know why she's still  
being dramatic about it

Like she doesn't know what's  
happening

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\*Zamcolo\*

I finish doing my research

And put my phone away

I hope this will work for me

I just want to quit the private  
school

And go to the public school

I will talk to my father

Hopefully , my mother  
doesn't rat me out to him

Before I can talk to him

I will she will exaggerate  
everything

And he will not be pleased

So best I talk to him

Before she does

Either way , what I'm doing  
will be helping the situation  
here at home

A situation that we know he  
caused for us

What's the use using paying  
for school

When they are failing to pay  
the help around here

So we have to adapt now

To doing things for ourselves  
, with no one doing them for  
us

When we are used to having  
people do things for us

It's insane

So they can take that money  
and use it for something else

It'll be a change to go to a  
public school



With all the village  
commoner kids

But I'll just have to do

I hope Zanethongo doesn't  
put his nose in this as well

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**\*IMBALI\***

\*Insert 04\*

**\*Imbali\***

Aunt Lebo : what's going on  
?

I haven't been myself at all

Zane sure threw me off

But , I have an end goal here

So I can't afford to wallow in  
self pity

I have to come up with  
another plan

And that's exactly what I'll do

Me : uhm ...how soon can  
you get the money ?

She smiles

Aunt Lebo : you'll be happy  
to know it has come through  
, and I'll make the transfer to  
you just now

Great !

Me : that's ...thank you

Aunt Lebo : it's his money , I  
took it for my own reasons  
but you have a use for it

Me : I don't know what I'll tell  
my mother



Aunt Lebo : don't worry

I heave a sigh

The plan at this moment with  
this money

Is to by a house for my  
mother

In the city , away from this  
village

It's going to be a hassle

She won't just agree to leave

I know that

I don't know how I'll  
convince her

But I'll just have to make do

Aunt Lebo will move with us

This was all to convince Zane

So he doesn't suspect  
anything

But now , I have no way in  
the palace

But , I am not going to give  
up

I will have to convince her  
somehow

I just have to

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Mom : why do you keep on  
looking at me like that ?

I smile

Mom : what ?

I shake my head

Mom : we don't keep secrets

I heave a sigh

Mom : is everything okay ?

Me : yes ma (mom)

Mom : even at school ?

Me : don't sorry , I'm not 15 anymore . And I can handle anything those kids throw at me , besides I look nothing like that man

She laughs

Me : what ?

Mom : what's with the face ?

I chuckle

Me : nothing , talking about him just gives me heart burn

Mom : Imbali !

Me : anyways ...how would you feel if we were to leave this village ?



Mom : and go where ?

Its now or never

I clear my throat

Me : uhm

My palms sweat like crazy

Mom : baby , I would love for us to leave this place . If I had means , I would have long done it . But , there's only so much I can do

Me : what if I have the way , would you just move ?

She looks at me suspiciously

Mom : and ....where would  
you even get the means to  
move us from here ?

Me : I ...

The door opens

And aunty Lebo walks in

Mom : learn to knock

Aunty Lebo laughs and sits  
down

Aunty Lebo : sorry

I look at her

Mom : why are you walking  
around this late ?

Aunty Lebo : it's not that late  
, besides I am not Imbali

I chuckle

My mother shakes her head

I swear

At times it feels like she's  
older than aunty Lebo

Just the way she'll be  
reprimanding her and all

Aunty Lebo : anyways , did  
she tell you the good news ?

Mom : She was telling me  
something , just before you  
walked in . I don't know if

that's the news , or there's  
something else

Me : if you agree , the three  
of us will be moving to the  
city

She looks at me like I am  
insane

Me : would you ?

Mom : wait ..what ?

Aunty Lebo : see , I got some money . Apparently Mzamo had investments , and since I'm his only next of kin they've been given to me

What a genius !



I hope the good Lord doesn't  
strike us

For using uncle Mzamo's  
death

But , mhm !

There's no way my mother  
will not believe this

Mom : what ?

Aunty Lebo : yeah , and I'm tired of this village . After everything that's happened here , I think I am ready to just move on . So I bought us a house ...

We both look at my mother

Me : isn't that great ?

Her facial expression is not  
giving anything

She heaves a sigh

And I don't think we are  
winning

Aunt Lebo : I should have asked you first , if that's something you would consider . I just thought of what you always said , that I need to move on . I've been so bitter for many years , and I am done being consumed by all that . I want to start afresh , and on a clean slate . But I can't do that , while I'm still here and concerned of

my past . I am asking you to  
move with me , because I  
can't start over without my  
little family

That's sweet !

She has a whole speech

I just hope my mother buys  
in

Aunt Lebo : it would mean a  
lot to me

I look at my mother

I'm here saying silent prayers

Crossing my fingers

This is the beginning of  
everything else

If I can pull this through

Then I'll be hopeful

I cannot fail on the first plan

That would just mean I'm  
heading for disaster

Mom : are you serious ?

Aunt Lebo : I couldn't even  
hold myself , I ended up  
telling her

I smile

And we both look at my  
mother awaiting her answer



I'm so nervous

And feeling all kinds of  
emotions

One never knows with my  
mother

Anything is possible with her

And once she makes up her  
mind

It's very hard to change it

If she doesn't want to move

It'll be very hard to get her to  
agree

And I don't see how my plan  
will work

If she's still around here

And we're living in the village

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\*IMBALI\*



**\*Insert 05\***

\*Zanethongo\*

Mom : what ?

This is definitely not going  
well for me

It's like no one is for this

I think her reaction is just  
overrated

And exaggerating this whole  
thing

Mom : what is going on with  
you two ?



I look at Zamcolo

Could it be , she knows he's  
been skipping school

That is very much possible

And clearly , she's not happy  
about that

No parent would be

Mom : Nkanyamba , talk to  
your son's before I lose my  
mind !

I think she already is

Dad : Zamcolo , why are you  
bunking school ?

He swallows hard

Zamcolo : I ....I want to  
attend the village school

Mom : what ? Can this get  
any worse !

Dad : stop making noise ,  
let's listen to him

Zamcolo : that's what I want

Mom : no ! Hell no !

Zamcolo : mom , it's not like  
I'm dropping out of school .  
I'm just changing schools ,  
that's all

Mom : do you want to make  
a mockery of us ? So people

can gossip , and say all kinds of things about the royal family . A whole prince attending the village school , from a private school . This is a joke , and it's not going to happen

Dad : come on , I also attend school at the village school . I turned out fine , there's nothing wrong with that . I'll

go talk to the principal , and  
I'll make sure I get you space  
there

Mom : Nkanyamba , are you  
going to go against my word  
. In front of our kids ?

Dad : are you hearing  
yourself ? If anything , I'm

the one who should be  
saying that

I get up

This is turning ugly

And it's turning into an  
argument that has nothing  
to do with me

Me : I am leaving in a few days , I just wanted to let you know . I've made my decision , and I'm sticking to it

Mom : you ....

I walk out of the main palace

This place has gotten so toxic



That we don't even know  
what's right and wrong

Our parents are just  
deteriorating in front of our  
eyes

Everything is just a mess

I'm better off gone

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**\*Naletsana\***

Me : okay ...

She laughs

Lebo : what ?

Me : I can't believe I agreed  
to this

Lebo : come on , it's good for  
us

Me : yeah but ...

I heave a sigh

Lebo : just relax , and enjoy  
yourself . When was the last

time , things shone for us like  
this ?

Me : I know , but ...I just wish  
she can stop a bit . Or maybe  
, not over do it

Lebo : she's just a child , and  
she's having fun

Me : yes , but I don't want her to get used to getting and everything she wants . Because we don't know what tomorrow brings

Lebo : live a little , she's doing the same . And a little bit of shopping never hurt anyone

Me : that's a lot of shopping ,  
and it's nothing but  
expensive things

Lebo : we can afford them  
don't worry , we've already  
brought the house and its  
furniture . We're allowed to  
spoil ourselves , with the  
change

I won't get through her

She loves spoiling Imbali

I just hope this doesn't leave  
her broke

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\*Nkanyamba\*





Sonti : what you're doing is wrong , and you know it

Me : just give it up , must you always make everything about yourself ? Those boys are grown , and they can make their own decisions

Sonti : you have gone and ruined my kids

Me : they are young men ,  
and they know what they  
want . Just let them be , and  
stop trying to baby them

She shakes her head

Sonti : I curse the day I met  
you , my father must be  
turning in his grave

Me : let the dead be

She raises her hand to slap  
me

I grab her arm

Sonti : you're hurting me

Me : don't try and turn me  
into something I'm not ...

I let go of her arm and slap  
her so hard that she staggers  
back

Me : I don't hit you because  
that's not who I am , but if  
you want to take it there I  
can do it gladly

Sonti : you ....

She tears

Me : what ? I can't hit you ?

She shakes her head tears  
streaming down her face

I punch her on the face

She cries out

Me : what ? I can't punch you  
? Mhm !

She turns her back to me

Me : stop being a nuisance ,  
and get rid of this stinky

attitude of yourself . It's  
disgusting , just as you are

I click my tongue grabbing  
my car keys

I walk out of the room

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\*Imbali\*

I look around my room

This is just a five room house

It's nothing to go crazy  
about

But for us , it's something  
huge

Considering that , we've  
been living in a shack all our  
lives

And now here we are

In the city

We have our own bedroom  
with bathrooms

And a kitchen and a lounge

We have a beautiful garden  
with a pool

It's just amazing

I have a whole new wardrobe

I couldn't be trying to worm  
my way into the palace

Still wearing rags

That would never do

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**\*IMBALI\***



**\*Insert 06\***

**\*A Week Later\***



\*Imbali\*

I look at him

And he walks over

I'm pissed off

What is he even doing here ?

I haven't seen him

Nor heard anything from him

In fact , he should long be  
gone by now

I mean , it's been over a  
week already

And as for us , we've settled  
in fine at our new place

He smiles standing in front  
of me

Zane : hey

I nod

Zane : you look good

I shrug

Zane : okay , I guess I  
deserve that

Me : what do you want ?

He heaves a sigh

Zane : I hate that things are ending this way between us , and this is not how I wanted to leave . Not like this , I ...I hate what's happening right now

Me : you made you choice ,  
now live with it

Zane : I've been looking for  
you , and there's been no  
one at your house

Me : so ?

Zane : did you move ?

Me : what's it to you ?

Zane : MaMsomi ...

Me : Zanethongo , you still  
haven't told me what you  
want

Zane : I am sorry



Me : don't ever talk to me  
again , I don't care to hear  
what you want to say .  
Especially your sorry , please  
keep it

Zane : I came to say goodbye  
, I am finally leaving

Me : then leave

Zane : I couldn't leave  
without seeing you , I just ...

I grab my bag and turn to  
walk away

He grabs my arms and pulls  
me towards me

Me : what ...

He shuts me up with a kiss

I didn't anticipate that

Nor did I even see it coming

I kiss him back and quickly  
move back

I slap him

And he chuckles with a smile  
bitting his lower lip

Me : don't you ever do that  
ever again , I'm not some  
cheap girl you can woo in

Zane : oh ...

He grabs tight on my waist

I can literally feel his dick  
pressed hard against my  
lower stomach

And it's throbbing

I swallow hard

Zane : I will come back for  
you , no matter what

He leans down

I'm getting lost in his eyes

As he slowly closes his

And he captures my lips into  
his

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\*Zanethongo\*

I slowly move back

Just admiring her face

As she slowly opens her eyes

Me : I'll come back for you

She's starring into my eyes



Like she's trying to read  
something in them

Me : no distance will ever  
change how I feel about you  
, I love you and that's that

Imbali : safe travels ,  
hopefully you don't die there

She turns and walks away

Like what the fuck was that ?

“Hopefully you don’t die  
there”

I chuckle shaking my head

That was just nasty

But at least I got to see her

Because I'm headed to the  
airport right now

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\*Zamcolo\*



Dad : you're starting at  
school tomorrow

I smile

Me : thanks dad

I'm just being polite

Even though he doesn't  
deserve it

Zanethongo left today

And my mother hasn't been  
herself

But he's just going on with  
his life

I guess , he doesn't care that  
much about us

I wonder what happened !

Like , growing up we used to  
be a happy family

We were genuinely happy

Or maybe , we were just too  
young to notice anything

Maybe this is how things  
always were

I mean , people don't just  
change over night

And turn into things  
unknown

It wasn't always like this , that  
much I know



But now , I don't even  
remember how that used to  
feel like

Hopefully , starting at the  
new school won't be so bad

Even though , I'll be the new  
kid

Who just happens to be a  
prince

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\*Nkanyamba\*

Me : what do you mean you  
can't find her ? How hard can  
it be to find a single woman  
?

I heave a sigh

This is starting to annoy me

I'm frustrated as it is

I've gone back to Lebo's  
house many times

And it's clear she's not there  
anymore

And without a doubt , she  
moved with Nale

I had finally found her

But when I got there , there  
was no one

And that shack looked very  
much abandoned

And now I can't seem to find  
either of them

It's like they've just  
disappeared , without a trace

I mean , where could they  
have gone ?

No one just vanishes

And it's seeming to be a  
mission to find them

I have a feeling , all this was  
done so they can keep the  
child away from me

But I'll find them

Even if it's the last thing I do

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**\*IMBALI\***



**\*Insert 07\***

**\*Imbali\***

I know people do tend to  
look alike

But there's some features  
here , from Zane

This guy is definitely a  
relative

I would say brother

But I wouldn't know

And what would a prince be  
doing in a public school ?

But he's definitely new

And he seems a bit lost

Maybe , that's because he's  
keeping to himself

All day along

I haven't seen him talk to  
anyone

And no one seems interested  
to talk to him either

He's waiting by the gate

As I approach

I gather myself

So he doesn't see I've been  
checking him out

Me : hi

I say standing next to him

He turns to my side

Him : hey

I swallow hard and say  
nothing

Even though I want to speak

But , I don't want to be told  
off



And this guy seems like he's  
minding his own business

Him : are you waiting for a  
taxi ?

Great !

Now , I can talk because he  
started it

Me : yes

Him : Zamcolo , I don't  
believe we've met before

Me : Imbali , I suppose you're  
new around here

He smiles

Zamcolo : actually no , but to  
this school I am

Mhm !

Me : that would actually  
make sense , because I don't  
get around much and I don't  
know that many people

Zamcolo : I just transferred  
from the city

Me : oh , well I'm from there  
...the city I mean , I stay there

Zamcolo : I'm from around  
here , in the village

Me : well , hopefully I'll see  
you around

Zamcolo : maybe , I mean ....I  
don't know anyone in this  
school

Me : I don't have friends  
either

Zamcolo : we'll hang around

Me : yeah that's ...

A taxi comes

Me : that's for me

Zamcolo : I'll see you  
tomorrow

I nod with a smile stopping  
the taxi

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I can't ask Aunty Lebo

If the king has more kids

She would want to know why  
I want to know

And I can't tell her the truth

Unless I can ask , in a way  
that won't raise suspicions

Or maybe I should just relax

We just met today

If all goes well , maybe we'll  
get to know each other



And he will tell me exactly  
who he is

And I'll find out if indeed he's  
related to the royal family

If he is , he will definitely be  
my way in

I mean , it wouldn't be so  
bad that Zane left after all

And my plan , can go exactly  
as how I planned

Now I need to get on with  
another phase of it

I can't wait to find a way in  
the palace

I might as well do this

And the rest will find me on  
the way

I made sure to be cautious  
with the finances

Aunty Lebo trusted me  
enough

She had about 275K

And a 125K of that bought  
the house

We didn't use much for  
house furniture

Because the house came with  
some furniture

And I only used about 8K

For everything I needed

Even though my mother  
thought I was buying  
expensive things

I just bought decent things ,  
at reasonable prices

I managed to buy a phone

And a second hand laptop

I need it for this , I didn't buy  
it for no reason

Or just for the sake of having  
it

I lock the door and settle  
down on my bed

Grabbing my laptop

I can't have my mother  
catching in on me

I google the guy , and find  
him

I take his email address

I don't want his contact numbers

The less contact I have

Especially with these kind of people the better

Everything I do , I must make sure I don't leave a trace



And I delete everything ,  
beyond retractable

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\*Zamcolo\*

Mom : how was your first day  
at school ?

I look at her

Me : it was okay

Mom : didn't you get stares ?

I chuckle

Mom : I know how kids can  
be

Me : no , it was okay really

Mom : I know things are bad  
, but we would have made  
do . You didn't have to leave  
school

Me : no it's really okay , I  
don't mind . Besides , I wasn't  
forced to . I wanted to do it

Mom : kids shouldn't have to  
carry their parents burden

If only it were so

I guess , it's only much better  
when we are young

Because we don't see what's  
happening

Even if we see it

We don't really understand

But now , we are old enough

And we get concerned ,  
when we are affected as well

We cannot be involved

It's just not possible not to

Mom : I am sorry

Me : it's okay

I give her a slight smile

Mom : if it gets tough , you  
don't have to endure this

Like I have a choice

Being at the village school is  
my only chance to get an  
education right now

So if I want that , I'll just have  
to endure

Besides , my first day wasn't  
all that bad



I might not have friends

Most kids know me , but not  
on a personal level

Though that Imbali !

Mom : and that smile ?

She gets me out of my  
thoughts

Me : it's nothing

I say with a chuckle

I hope she's not one of those  
city girls

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**\*IMBALI\***

**\*Insert 08\***

**\*Imbali\***

I walk over to him , he's  
sitting by the tires alone

It's break time

And he's sitting alone again

Just like yesterday

Me : hey

He lifts his head and smiles

Zamcolo : hi

Me : you wanna grab a bite ?

He smiles

Me : what ?

Zamcolo : I like your guts

I slightly laugh

Zamcolo : I have a better  
idea



Me : oh ?

Zamcolo : yeah , let's take a walk

Me : you're being awkward , shouldn't we be eating ?

Zamcolo : are you hungry , or you are just feeling sorry for me ?

Me : feeling ...

We laugh

Me : no , I am not feeling  
sorry for you . I mean , I don't  
even know you like that

Zamcolo : but I would like  
you to know me like that

Me : is it ?

Zamcolo : yeah , not this  
poor guy who's got not  
friends and is the new kid

I sit down next to him

Me : and how do you  
suggest , I know you ?

Zamcolo : first things first , I don't want to step on anyone's toes here

Me : you can relax , there was a douche bag in the picture .  
But he left

Zamcolo : alright

Me : so we cool like that ?

Zamcolo : you have no idea

Yeah !

I just hope I am not barking  
up the wrong tree here

Because that would be my  
time wasted

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\*Zamcolo\*

I've never met a girl that's so  
hard to read

She's like a mystery

I just cannot seem to figure  
her out

But she's interesting

And I just can't wait to get to  
know her more

Before I go on , to announce  
my feelings



There's just something about  
her

And I've never felt in this way  
ever

But it's too soon to go there

Best I take my time first  
getting to know her

Because if I push too early  
and too fast

She might back off

That might scare her

And I don't want to lose her

Right now I wish I had her  
number or something

I could be calling her right  
now

I should be sure to ask for it

I'm sure she won't deny

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\*Imbali\*

I make the call , and get up  
from the bed

I walk to the door

Listening to the phone  
ringing

And look out

Making sure my mother or  
aunt Lebo are nowhere near

I close the door and lock

Him : hello ?

I swallow hard

Me : it's me

I sit back down on the bed

Him : yes

Me : did you get everything I sent you ?

Him : I did

Me : and ?

Him : are you ready ?

Me : ready as ever

Him : do you have an idea of what you're asking me for ?

Me : yes

He goes quite for a bit

I actually wonder

Me : are you still here ?



Him : yes

Me : then ?

Him : you cannot afford to  
have feeling when you're on  
a path like this

Me : you don't have to worry  
about that

Him : alright

Me : so , you'll do it ?

Him : money talks

I smile to myself

Heaving a sigh of relief

Him : but I have to warn you

Me : what ?

Him : a path of revenge is  
very dangerous , and it spills  
blood

Me : I know that

Him : and when you dig a  
grave for your enemy , dig  
one for yourself as well

He drops the call

I close my eyes briefly

Me : I will do this , I have to

I intend to spill the blood

And I will

I grab my laptop

And I open the banking app

I send him the money we  
agree on

Now it's on , and there's no  
turning back

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\*Zanethongo\*

Stix : hey man

Me : sure

He sits down next to me

Stix : you good ?

Me : yeah

Stix : I know we don't know  
each other , we all just got  
here . And damn ! It's tough



as hell , everyday we're just  
going through hell . And it's  
only been a week

I chuckle

I don't even care much

It's hard yes

But my mind is occupied by  
something else

Stix : don't worry , and don't  
think much about it

I just nod

I don't want to talk about it

I wonder if she's okay

If she's still mad at me

I don't even have means to  
contact her

It sucks

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**\*IMBALI\***

\*Insert 09\*

**\*Imbali\***

I heave a sigh

And zip up my suitcase

I need to come up with way

Just something to convince  
my mother

So I can leave

With raising any suspicions

I know she will question me ,  
without a doubt



I don't even know that many  
people

To even lie and say I'm  
visiting someone

So I will just have to think of  
something

I grab the suitcase

And place it by the wall

I sit down on the bed

And get on Facebook

I don't even need this thing

But I tried looking up  
Zamcolo on Google

There was nothing to be  
honest

Well , nothing useful to me

So I decided to download  
Facebook

Maybe I will find him here

That's if he's a social person

But he doesn't strike me as  
one

I login in and search for him

I don't even have a last name

And to my luck , there isn't  
that many Zamcolo profiles

I scroll down

And finally come across one  
with the queen

Me : mhm !

I press on it , and head to the  
photos

Before even checking  
anything else

And voila !

There is my guy !

So he's a prince

What luck , has struck me ?

I laugh to myself

I swear , seems like all the  
odds are with me

How can I stumble upon  
such

Right after thinking I have to  
go back to the drawling  
board

Because of Zanethongo  
suddenly leaving

Me : what ....

Wow !

They are brothers



Clearly , the age is not that far apart

Me : this is perfect !

I smile and continue scrolling down his profile

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\*Zanethongo\*

This place is just miserable

It's not like I expected it , to  
be anything glamorous

But my heart is aching

I miss her so bad

I know I want to do this

With every being in me

But now , I'm not so sure

Because it has come between  
us

I doubt she will wait for me

Even though I'm praying and  
hoping she will

We're still young

There's no rush for marriage  
or kids

Or even anything like that

But I can't help but be  
worried

I don't want to lose her

And now , I wish I had long  
told her how I feel about her

Instead of waiting this long

And now , I may have lost  
her

Voice : skwata (soldier)

I chuckle turning back

This guy is too busy

He just can't seem to leave  
me alone

He always finds me

Even when I try to hide from  
him



Stix : today was intense

Me : always is

Stix : yeah , but you always  
get through every challenge  
like it's nothing

Me : not really , it does take a  
toll on me

Stix : it doesn't look like it

Me : looks can he deceiving  
man

He laughs

Stix : yeah sure , so what's  
your deal ?

Me : my deal ?

Stix : yeah you see me , I left home because I just love being a soldier . There's nothing to it , but everyone around here has a story of why they are here

I chuckle

Stix : and it tends to get  
lonely , I think the reality is  
hitting in for all of us

Me : we're in the middle of  
nowhere , in a veld . I don't  
think it's supposed to feel  
anyhow , or different than  
how it feels now

Stix : yeah , which is why the  
one thing I cannot wait to do  
when I get out here is to fuck  
like there's no tomorrow

We laugh

Me : what ?

Stix : yeah , and you see  
looks wise I'm not that

lookable . But I know girls  
love men in uniform , so  
definitely I'm in . And I just  
cannot wait , to get back  
home and have those girls  
just throw themselves on me

I shake my head

Stix : man , it's just us guys  
here . How do you think we'll

even be able to relive  
ourselves ? I mean ...I don't  
even feel shit when I look at  
any of you

Me : as you shouldn't be ,  
because that would just be  
awkward for all of us here

He smiles

Stix : sure , I don't know your story man . I'm just here to sore myself some bone meat , when I get back home . But , let me tell you something . No man is an island , and we all need someone in our corners . Especially in a place like this , so don't shut us all out

He gets up



Stix : and when you feel like  
you're ready to talk , voice it  
out

I nod

Me : I left someone back  
home , and now I'm just  
missing her like crazy

Stix : matters of the heart

I chuckle

Me : I don't ...

I heave a sigh

Me : it's complicated

I take a deep breath , closing  
my eyes briefly

Stix : that much ?

Me : she's ...I don't know  
man , I'm just hoping I'll get  
back home and I'll still find  
her

Stix : if she's yours , then she  
is yours

I wish I believed that

Or it was that easy to believe

But it's not

Especially because of the  
manner in which I left in

She wasn't happy

Its not like we declared our  
undyng love to each other

I may have to her

But she didn't reciprocate  
that

So , I don't know where I am  
with her

And it will hurt even more to  
make assumptions

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**\*IMBALI\***



**\*Insert 10\***



\*Zamcolo\*

I feel like I'm in a  
predicament here

I'm stuck in between what I  
should do

Or maybe what I shouldn't  
do

Right now , considering I  
don't know her that well

I don't know if I should be  
honest

And tell her the truth

About who I am and  
everything else

I don't know how she's going  
to take that

Will she still be okay with me  
?

Or that will just mess things  
up

What if she cuts her losses

Once she hears that I'm a  
prince

This is tough

I grab my phone and make a  
call

Maybe it will go through

Even though I know , he  
hardly has it with him

Zane : sure

I breathe out loud

Me : eita (sure)!

Zane : what's going on ?

Me : it's nothing bad , don't  
think much . I'm the one  
calling , because I need some  
advice

Zane : make it quick , we  
have to go do the fence  
training

I'm not interested in these  
things of his

It's just calling death your  
way



Why would you chose to be something , that just screams war

Me : so , what do you do when you meet a girl you like very much . But she doesn't know that , she thinks it's just friendship . But you want more , also you don't know how to be frank about your family to her

Zane : mhm , take this from me small . Just be honest , tell her how you feel about her . Don't waste no time waiting , she will take your honesty and truth however she takes it . Wether she accepts or not , but the fact that you were honest she will appreciate . Also , it'll help you know where you stand .

And know if it's worth  
sticking around for , and  
seeing it through . Women  
are very complex , the truth  
hurts them but they always  
want it . Rather hurt her with  
the truth , than comfort her  
with lies ...so they say . So  
use that , in your own  
instance . She would rather  
hear from you , that you're a

prince . Than find out on her  
own

Me : okay ...sure

He laughs

Zane : so , who is this girl ?

Okay !

I just asked for advice

I did not say I want to  
converse about girls

Me : you don't know her , I  
met her after you left

Zane : well , make no  
mistakes of making babies  
and ...

Me : fuck ! You're not my  
father

He laughs hanging up the  
call

I shake my head

I heard him

And maybe he's right

I might wait , only to find  
myself kicked to the curve

Oh ...this is so hard !

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\*Naletsana\*

I sit down



Taking a deep breath

I hold the cup of tea

And take a sip

Lebo : and now ?

I look at her

Lebo : what's wrong ?

Me : do you see something  
strange with Imbali ?

She smiles

Lebo : something strange ,  
like what ?

Me : mhm , I just can't seem  
to put my finger on it . But  
she's not herself

Lebo : I don't know , she's  
still the same baby that I  
know

I heave a sigh

Me : no ...

I shake my head

Me : something is happening  
with her

Lebo : what ?

Me : I can feel it

She laughs

Lebo : she's growing up , just yesterday she was 16 and now she's a year older .  
Come a few months , and she will be 18 . A whole legal person

Me : I am not having attachment issues , I am not at ease with this

Lebo : well , I say don't jump to any conclusions . And before you even confront her with anything , be certain of your facts

I am not stupid

I won't say anything to her

But , I know best to ignore  
my gut feeling

Maybe letting her continue  
attending school at the  
village

Was not the best idea

There's a whole lot of chance  
for her to be found alone  
there

But it's not like I can afford  
to enroll her anywhere else

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\*Imbali\*





Me : hey

He looks up and smiles

Zamcolo : I thought you were  
not coming

Me : I just got caught up in  
class

He nods

Me : what's up ?

Zamcolo : I need to tell you  
something

Oh yeah !

And here it comes

It was but only a matter of  
time

What is it with these royal  
boys ?

Like their testosterone is so  
high

They can't help

He barely even knows me

He's gonna pull one like his  
brother on me

Me : okay

Zamcolo : no pressure

I laugh

Me : just tell me

Zamcolo : okay

He takes a deep breath

Zamcolo : I think I like you

I chuckle

Me : what ?

Zamcolo : like , maybe it  
might be too soon to say the  
love word but ...

Me : you think or you know ?

He bites his lower lip

He's even shaking

Dude is scared as fuck !

Me : so ?

Zamcolo : I know

Me : so is it like or love ?

Zamcolo : wow !

He chuckles



Zamcolo : you won't make it  
easy for me

I shrug

Zamcolo : I love you Imbali

I nod

Me : and I love you

He's gobsmacked

I guess he didn't expect this  
response

One more step closer

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**\*IMBALI\***

**\*Insert 11\***

\*Zamcolo\*

No shit !

Like she said she loves me

Me : no kidding ?

She smiles

And walks closer to me

She lifts her eyes up and  
looks at me

I swallow hard

As she leans over , her lips  
gracing mine

I feel a rush of blood all over  
my body

She slowly captures my lips  
into hers

Her hands running on my  
chest



I close my eyes , letting her  
take control of the kiss

And it blow's me out of my  
mind

I find myself pulling her  
closer

Letting out a deep grunt into  
her mouth

She trails her one hand to my  
arm

I deepen the kiss , and she  
welcomes me

She moans slowly , as my  
dick presses hard against my  
zip

Throbbing above her waist

After a while I pull out

She slowly opens her eyes

And they gaze into mine

She shyly smiles

Me : I really do love you

Imbali : and I love you

I lean down giving her a hug

And she lays her head on my  
chest

I close my eyes

Damn !

I was scared for nothing

Even though I didn't tell her  
the truth

About who I am

Of which I don't know how  
she will feel

But I was sceptical

That she might agree to be  
in a relationship with me

Only because she knows I'm  
a prince

But now , I know that's not  
case

I think in due time , I will tell  
her the truth

We pull out of the hug

Imbali : there's something I  
need to tell you

Me : okay

She takes a deep breath

Imbali : I need to go away for  
a while

Oh no !

Me : where ?

Imbali : I can't tell you , it's a  
family matter



I nod

But my heart is slightly  
breaking

Me : how long ?

Imbali : during the March  
holidays , I know that's still  
far . But I think it's best I tell  
you now , so it doesn't come

as a surprise when I have to  
leave

Me : but you'll be back right  
?

Imbali : definitely , this is  
home

That's better

We still have time together

I mean , the holidays are still  
a month and two weeks  
away

Me : okay , thanks for telling  
me now . I appreciate that

Imbali : I want transparency  
more than anything , don't

keep things from me . And I  
will do the same to you

Shit !

Now I feel like she can see  
right through me

Me : I promise

She smiles pecking my lips

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**\*Imbali\***

I look at the picture

And I just feel rage inside of  
me

It's a picture of the king and queen

Sure life must be great for them.

Otherwise , they wouldn't be appearing on newspapers

Making it to front page news

So , it makes me wonder why  
Zanethongo left

Because he never told me  
exactly why

But with Zamcolo , if I play  
mu cards right

I have my way inside that  
palace



And they won't know what  
finished them

The door opens , I quickly  
close my laptop

I smile

Aunty Lebo : that's  
suspicious

Learn to knock

Of course , I won't tell her  
that

Aunt Lebo : what's going on  
?

Me : with ?

Aunty Lebo : your mother  
thinks something is wrong  
with you

Me : oh please , aunty you  
know how mom is

Aunty Lebo : yeah , what I'm  
asking you is this ...does she  
have a reason to be worried  
?

Me : of course not

Aunty Lebo : that woman has  
been through enough Imbali  
, please don't hurt her as well  
baby

Me : I won't

She nods

Me : but , during March holidays I need to go somewhere . There's something I need to do

Aunty Lebo : what ..and where ?

I take a deep breath

Me : I can't tell you , but  
please promise me that you  
will favour me when I ask her

Aunty Lebo : I ...

She shakes her head

Me : please , I need this

Aunty Lebo : you sound so desperate right now , and it fears me . If I'm not supporting you , on something I shouldn't be doing

Me : they are living happy , they always have been . But what about my mother , and me ?

I look back pushing my tears  
back

Me : imagine at 15 , you're  
still a child yourself . But  
you've been raped twice , left  
pregnant and with HIV . A  
stigma , that will remain with  
you forever . You lose even  
those you thought were your  
friends , you're stuck on the  
streets raising a rape product



under the bridge . A product  
that you have to love and  
raise , something that you're  
..m

Aunty Lebo : enough !

I look at her

And she has tears streaming  
down her face

Me : I need to do this , for  
her

She nods and walks out

Some people's karma just  
comes in a form of a human

I don't care what will be said  
about me

Or how I'll be perceived

I am doing this with a  
purpose

And I'll see it through

No matter what

I will do whatever I have to  
do

Even if it means being  
romantically involved with  
someone that's supposed to  
be my brother

This won't be easy

I have to make some choices

Decisions that might come  
and bite me in the near  
future

But they have to be done

For this , they just have to

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**\*IMBALI\***

**\*Insert 12\***

\*Zamcolo\*



Me : you are just leaving for the holidays , and you'll come back . It doesn't change anything between us

Imbali : of course , it doesn't

I smile

Me : okay , I love you

Imbali : and I love you

Me : goodnight

Imbali : sleep well

I drop the call

And lay down on the bed

I can't believe this girl is mine

I hope when she finds out  
I'm a prince

It doesn't change things  
between us

I'm not worried about her  
leaving

Already , she lives in the city

And I'm in the village

For now , we're still meeting  
only at school

Even though , that won't  
always be like that

I better get ready for bed

I get up and walk to the  
bathroom

I brush my teeth and walk  
out

My phone rings

I rush over to the bed and  
grab it

It's Zanethongo

This is strange

He hardly calls me if ever

Me : sure

Zane : sure , you sleeping  
already ?

Me : no , but I'm about to

Zane : alright

This is a bit awkward

Me : uhm , you good ?

He chuckles

Zane : yeah

Ms : so ....

Zane : we're brothers , I'm  
allowed to call you . In fact ,  
we should call each other



Okay !

This is getting more awkward

Me : right

Zane : how's your thing with  
your girl ?

Hah !

Is this us now ?

Just because I asked for his  
advice

Now we talk about such

Me : I took your advice

Zane : and ?

Me : we're good

Zane : mhm , better one of  
us

Me : what do you mean ?

He laughs

Zane : just that I didn't take  
my own advice , and now I  
may have lost

Zane never strikes me as the  
type that dates

He's too serious for any  
liking

And he conducts himself like  
an adult

Not a teenager

Me : maybe it's not too late

Zane : no , I think that ship  
has sunked . But it's cool

Alright

I am not him

So I'm not about to give him  
advices

After all , it's not like I have  
any

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\*Zanethongo\*

How fucked up can things be  
?

Even my younger brother ,  
can manage to score himself  
a girl

I lost mine



And I don't even have means  
to get her back

I don't know how I'll reach  
out to her

I might be here for six  
months to a year

That's a very long time

I don't think she will wait that long

Considering our last conversation

I wish it didn't hurt

But it does

I guess , I really do love her

I mean , I can't say did

Because I still have feelings  
for her even now

I can't help it

And I don't think feelings for  
someone are just something

one can just switch on and  
off

It'll probably hurt much  
worse

Going back home

And finding out she has  
moved on

It was not that deep for her

So I don't think she will see it  
fair to wait for me

After all , it's not like we were  
in a relationship already

I tell her I'm leaving , right  
when I tell her I love her

It just sucks

I sure lacked the timing

Maybe if I was better with  
telling her how I feel

All those months we spent  
together

It would have made a  
difference

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\*Imbali\*

Mom : what ?

I look at aunty Lebo

She's my only way out of this



Aunty Lebo : she's just going  
on a holiday

Mom : to some place , that I  
don't even know

Aunty Lebo : I don't think it's  
...

Mom : no

What !

I look at her

Mom : you're not going  
anywhere

Me : but mom....

Mom : Imbali , I said no .  
You're all that I have , and I

will not sit by and watch  
while I lose you

Me : you're not losing me ,  
I'm just going on a vacation

Mom : and I said no , in all  
my life I've never left this  
village

Me : yeah but ...

Mom : this conversation is  
done

Me : I see

I get up and walk to my  
room

I thought telling her in time  
will make things better

But she flat line denies me

On the first ask

I don't think giving her time ,  
will make her change her  
mind

But this is critical for me

I have to go

Because I intend to

I will finish what I have  
started already

With Zamcolo so smitten by  
me

I stand a great chance being  
amongst those people

And carrying out what I need  
to do

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**\*IMBALI\***





**\*Insert 13\***

\*Two Months Later\*

**\*Imbali\***

Cleo : bye

I nod

We part ways

I take out my key from my  
bag

I unlock and open the door

I walk inside and close the  
door locking

Throwing my bag on the tile  
floor

I walk over by the mirror

And take a deep breath  
closing my eyes briefly

I move back and sit down on  
the bed

I remove the bandage off of  
my hands

And my knuckles hurt like  
shit

It's only been two weeks  
being here

But it sure feels like a lifetime

I guess I just never  
anticipated how hard it  
would be

But I'm getting the hang of it

And day by day , I'm just  
putting my body through the  
most

But it doesn't matter



Only I know the end game to  
this

And heck , I will finish it

I'm only left with a week to  
go back home

I am not looking forward to  
that

I just upped and left

With no word to no one but  
just a letter

And I know how my mother  
must have felt

I somehow did defy her word

But I couldn't miss this  
opportunity

It may sound crazy

But it isn't to me

I'm about to take on a whole  
royal family

I swear , I will leave nothing  
behind

Not even a brick to  
remember them by

And I have this ...to be  
trained by the worlds best  
assassin

A man who comes highly  
recommended

I've paid lots of money for  
this

I wasn't just going to sit by

Just because mom didn't  
allow me to leave

I haven't called home

I haven't talked to them

And I don't think it will be  
pleasant when I get back

But I'll take whatever is  
thrown at me

This was very crucial for me  
to do

I get up taking my clothes off

I walk to the bathroom

And open the shower  
standing under the water

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\*Zamcolo\*



Mom : are you okay ?

I nod

She sits down next to me

Mom : you know you can talk  
to me

Me : it's nothing

Mom : I am your mother ,  
what is it ? Is it a girl ?

I chuckle

Me : like mom , I'm 16 . I  
don't think I want to talk

about relationships with my  
mother

She laughs

Mom : I'm a girl , and hey ...I  
was once 16

Me : no , it's fine

Imagine talking to my  
mother about girls

I would rather talk to Zane

But he's in Sudan at the  
moment

And it's a war zone

So he's really unreachable

And the sad thing , is not  
knowing when he will be  
back in South Africa

Every day , I just find myself  
praying for his safety

So he can return , and come  
back to us

Nothing is bothering me  
really

Except that I just miss Imbali

Not seeing her for a whole  
two weeks

I didn't think it would be this  
hard

But it is

Worse , she's not reachable

Even though she told me  
that she would be

It still sucks

Hearing her voice , or having  
some means of

communication would be  
better than nothing

But I've survived so far

A whole two weeks

Only a week left

And she will be back



I just cannot wait to see her

She's the only sane thing in  
my life

And she makes me forget  
everything that's just going  
on in this palace

Mom : well , if you won't talk  
I'll leave

I say nothing as she gets up  
and walks to her chamber

They don't even hide  
anymore

My father has a stay in  
girlfriend

Right here at the palace

Everyone around these  
palace walls knows that

Beats me how it hasn't  
gotten beyond them

They are kind of separated

My mother has her own  
chamber now

And we're talking about a  
woman who has an infant  
baby

But that man just doesn't  
care

He just thrives on hurting her  
over and over

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**\*Naletsana\***

Lebo : have something to eat

I shake my head pushing the  
plate

Lebo : I don't like what you're doing to yourself , and I know Imbali won't be happy either when she comes back

Me : if she comes back

Lebo : she's just gone to a vacation , one that she asked you so nicely for . But you refused

Me : I had my reasons

She sighs

Lebo : I don't dispute that ,  
but she chose to leave . And  
she will come back , you  
can't starve yourself looking  
like a zombie all day long .  
She's having fun where she is



, and you're here worrying  
about her

Me : it's my job as her  
mother to worry , in case you  
didn't know that

Lebo : I may not be a mother  
Nale , but I've been there  
ever since that girl was 3  
years old . And I know what

you mean to each other , so  
please spare me this

She gets up and walks away

I take a deep breath

As tears burn my eyes

I can't believe Imbali did this

If anything was to happen to  
her

I don't know what I would do

She's my everything and  
more

I live for her

She just left middle of the  
night

And left a note saying she'll  
be back after the holidays

She's decided to take her  
vacation

Even though she knows I  
don't approve of it

And that was it

For a whole two weeks it has  
been silent

No communication  
whatsoever

How I do I go on about my  
life

Not knowing where my  
daughter is

How do I eat , when I don't  
know what she's eating  
where she is

I just can't

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**\*IMBALI\***

\*Insert 14\*



**\*Imbali\***

I rub my hands together

And knock slightly on the  
door

He answers from inside

Evan : come in

I open the door and walk in

Evan : take a sit

I walk over and pull a chair  
sitting down

Evan : you good ?

I nod

Evan : are you ready ?

Me : yes

Evan : right , and what about your two requests ?

Me : will you help me carry them out ?

Evan : you're a special case Imbali , and maybe that's why I'm helping you . But I also have to wonder , if you

know how your choices of  
now may affect your future

Me : the only future I have ,  
doesn't involve any means of  
having human beings  
engraved in my heart

Evan : there's a doctor I know  
, as much as it's illegal to do

this . He will do it , for a  
good price

And everyone has a price

Me : take me to him

Evan : I'll get it done , and  
the other one ...should I  
organise men from the inside  
the prison he's in ?

Me : I want him to know it was me , the same goes for her

Evan : just don't implicate yourself , that you get caught . I'm not training you to be the best , only to end behind bars



Me : that will never happen

He chuckles

Me : I'm not being cocky ,  
and I know I will not be killed .  
I've come this far

I get up

Evan : the operation will be  
scheduled for tomorrow  
evening

Me : thank you

Evan : I am not your advisor ,  
you didn't come here to seek  
counsel . But I'll ask anyways  
, why the drastic measures ?

Me : because I intend to do  
some drastic measures , to  
get what I want

Evan : mhm

I walk out heading to my  
room

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\*Naletsana\*

Me : do you think I'm an  
overreacting mother ?

She looks at me

Me : like I am unfair ?

Lebo : what are you talking about now ?

I heave a sigh

Me : this whole thing with Imbali

Lebo : Nale , you're being a mother the best way you know how . And I've never

said you're an overreacting  
mother , or that you're unfair  
for that matter

Me : I know you haven't ...it's  
just that , with our talk ..

Lebo : you're her mother ,  
you know what's best for her  
. So , who am I to say

anything or judge you about  
it

Me : I am sorry , I didn't  
mean to sound insensitive

Lebo : it's fine

Now I've gone and hurt her  
feelings



She hasn't been herself since  
we talked

And I know , it's because I  
said some so not nice words

I don't blame her for being  
this cold towards me

Me : I just live for Imbali , I  
don't know what I would do .

If I were to lose her , or God forbid something bad happens to her

Lebo : you see that girl , she's living her life for herself . And that's why she's not here , even though you told her not to leave . Maybe you should try the same , start living your life for yourself . She's

not an invalid , her life is hers  
and not yours

Lebo sure can spit words that  
hit hard

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\*Nkanyamba\*



Me : what is this ?

Sonti : I think we should get  
a divorce

Me : what ?

Sonti : I'm tired of everything

Me : wait ...a divorce ?

Sonti : yeah , I got married to  
be a wife to my husband .

Not to be a side , while  
another woman is playing  
wife to him

Shit !

This is what I didn't want

Yes , our marriage is fucked  
up

But I don't want a divorce

I thought our understanding  
is working

Me : we've come so far ,  
things have changed

Sonti : you're right , they  
have changed . And I just  
can't anymore , I know I'm  
not the 15 year girl I was .  
Maybe I'll never find love , I  
mean ...what man would  
want me . Even the one who  
married me doesn't want me  
anymore , but it's for the  
best we part ways



Me : we have kids , what will I say to my parents ?

Sonti : I don't know , it's not like they don't know what you've been doing to me and how you've been treating me ever since we got married .  
They just don't care , because I am not their child

Me : no ...you're not serious .  
I'm managing finances better  
now , we let go of the staff .  
We're okay , with the two  
maids , two guards and the  
two drivers . I don't bring  
many different women here ,  
you know about Lindi . The  
arrangement is working

Sonti : maybe for you , but  
not for me . So I want a  
divorce

Me : you're the queen Sonti

Sonti : and that's just a tittle ,  
it means nothing . If only I  
knew better

She gets up and walks to her  
chamber

I'm left feeling hot chest  
pains

Maybe it is for the best as  
she says

But I don't want a divorce

My phone rings

I heave a sigh answering

Me : yeah

Tatso : I have found  
Naletsana

No shit !

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**\*IMBALI\***

**\*Insert 15\***

\*Imbali\*





Evan : I hope everything you  
have done here , is worth  
what you're embarking on

I look at him

I'm in so much pain

The surgery wasn't a small thing

Evan : and I hope you get what you're seeking for

I nod slowly

Evan : the pain will wear off , get some rest

He gets up and walks out

I flinch in pain as I try to turn

Shit !

This better be worth a whole  
lot

Someone might call me crazy  
for doing this

But it's for the greater good

And I have no intentions  
whatsoever

Of having a future with a  
meaning

I could be dead or in jail for  
all I know

As much as I want to  
convince myself

That nothing will happen

I am going to war

And there's always casualties

After all , all is fair in the  
game of war and love

Best I'm realistic

Chances of getting off scott  
free

Are kind of very slim

No matter what I tell myself

If I survive , the great

If I don't , then it was just  
ought to be

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\*Nkanyamba\*



I wanted this

I wanted to find her

And to see her

So we can talk

I'm at the address that Tatso  
gave me

I'm just parking two houses  
away

I can't believe Nale now lives  
in the city

Unless she was in on what  
Lebo was doing

And she used my money

To get away from the village

And to find her own place

I have been parked here for  
over an hour now

I'm scared to go in

What will I say to her ?

What will I even begin to  
utter

Knowing very well what I did  
to her

And how her child came  
about

The child I don't know , if it's  
the one I met already or  
what

How will I be welcomed in  
there , if I dare knock ?

I can't believe I drove this far

Only to chicken out so close

Maybe I needed time

Maybe I didn't think this  
through

Is it worth me going back to  
the village ?

My problems are piling up

This whole divorce thing

I don't know what to make of  
it

I'm out of my thoughts , as I  
see a car driving out of the  
house

I look closely as it's about to  
pass me



And I notice the figure of a man on the passenger side

Me : what ....

Could it be that Nale is now married ?

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\*Zamcolo\*

I'm just counting a few days

And she will be here

I cannot wait to have her  
back

This time spent away

I realised that I do love her

And I don't want to lose her

So I'll tell her the truth

So she knows who I am

And I can only hope , she  
won't be turned down by  
that

We might be young

But love has given us a  
chance

And I believe we should grab  
it

I never knew , someone who  
was just a stranger to me

# Can mean so much

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\*Imbali\*

I take a deep breath looking  
into the mirror

Now that days are near for  
me to go home

I'm a bit scared

I've changed so much

What will my mother say ?

Won't Zamcolo get turned  
off ?



I have so many questions ,  
running through mind

I am sceptical to even call  
either of them

Maybe if we could video chat

And they see me

They would be okay , when I  
get home

But I just don't know

Maybe I should just brace  
myself for whatever welcome  
I will receive

Good or bad

Maybe it'll just be shock

And they'll get over it

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\*IMBALI\*

**\*Insert 16\***



**\*Imbali\***

Me : is that him ?

I ask looking at Evan

Evan : yeah

I nod slowly

He sure looks like my  
grandfather

My mother would always  
describe him to me

Because she didn't have his  
pictures



But now that I'm looking at  
this man

This man I'm supposed to  
call uncle

I can see a clear picture of  
my grandfather

Evan : so ?

Me : I want him dead ,  
suffering would mean he  
warns his mother . I really  
don't care much about him ,  
although it would have been  
lovely to do it personally

I grab the burner phone and  
send a text

"Do it"

I press send

And hand Evan the phone

Me : I want his head , and I'll  
make payment

He nods

I look one more time at the  
camera

And it has begun

They will all pay

Some more than others

Some do deserve the  
suffering

Death would just be an easy  
way out for them

This one , he failed my  
mother

As her brother , he was  
supposed to save her

But he did nothing

So what good is he living ?

I clear my throat looking at  
Evan

Me : I'm going to pack

I walk out of his office

And head to my room

Tomorrow I am leaving

And my presence would  
mean my wrath will be felt

Those deserving will be dealt  
with

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\*Nkanyamba\*



Me : I need us to talk about something

She sighs

Me : please

Sonti : we have been talking ,  
I'm tired now

Me : I know where Naletsana  
is at

She pops her eyes looking at  
me

Me : she lives in the city now  
, I don't know about her child  
. I don't believe I know her ,  
although I've once met a girl  
child at Lebo's place . But I

don't know , if she's mine  
with Lebo or Nale

Sonti : wow , good for you  
Nkanyamba . Maybe you'll  
love your kids with them ,  
since you're failing to love  
mine

Me : I didn't see them , I  
didn't go into her house I  
just left

Sonti : so ?

Me : I will forget all about  
that , I won't bother anymore  
. They are better off and out  
of our lives

Sonti : what do you want me to say ?

Me : don't divorce

Sonti : oh , I'm nothing around here . So why stick around ?

Me : we can fix things ,  
maybe I can take Lindi as a  
second wife ...

She laughs

Me : I'm trying to come up  
with a solution here

Sonti : when you look at me ,  
you clearly see a joke

Me : no !

Sonti : this is done

She gets up

Me : I will not give you a  
divorce

Sonti : why ?

She throws her hands  
towards me

Sonti : it's not like you love  
me

Me : I will not be  
embarrassed and degraded  
by you , I will not give you a  
divorce . Try me , and I will



fight you tooth and nail . It  
won't happen

She shakes her head

Fuming with anger

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\*Naletsana\*



Lebo : I don't know if you  
want to see this

Me : what ?

She takes a deep breath

Me : Lebo ?

I get up

Now she's scaring me

I'm thinking of Imbali

What if something happened  
to her

Me : is it my daughter...

Lebo : it's your brother

I wave of relief comes over  
me

At least , it's not my child

Whatever it is

Me : what ?

She hands me her phone

I look at it

“PRISONER BEHEADED IN  
JAIL , MISSING HEAD”

What !

Lebo : that was released last  
night , this morning your  
mother was called in . And  
she confirmed his body

Me : oh my God !

Lebo : here ....sit down

She pulls the chair for me

I sit down slowly , taking a  
deep breath

Lebo : I am sorry , people are just cruel out there . Why kill him and take his head , for what ?

Me : maybe it's gangs , or ritual killings

Lebo : it's sickening to be honest



Me : mhm

Am I a bad person ?

For somehow feeling a  
certain feeling of relief ,  
hearing such !

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**\*IMBALI\***

**\*Insert 17\***

**\*Naletsana\***

Lebo : hey

Me : hi

She sits down opposite me

Lebo : how are you feeling ?

I shrug

I don't feel anything

So I don't know what to say

And maybe that makes me a  
bad person

That was my brother after all

But I have no feelings  
whatsoever

Lebo : Imbali is coming home  
tomorrow

Me : yeah , I am happy . At  
let she's safe , but I'll be at

peace once I see her with my  
own two eyes

She smiles

Lebo : are you ...going to go  
see your mother ?

Me : no

She nods



Me : and if you have anything to say , please keep it to yourself . I want nothing to do with this , it has nothing to do with me as well

Lebo : I understand

Me : and can we please not tell Imbali anything about this ?

It's just best she doesn't know

Me : if she knows nothing , she won't care . Those people didn't care about us ,

we shouldn't care about  
them as well

She nods

I just don't want my child  
caught up in this

My brother was in jail either  
way

And Imbali doesn't even  
know him

I don't see a point in telling  
her

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\*Nkanyamba\*

Lindi : is everything okay ?

Me : yes

She sighs

Lindi : you haven't been  
yourself

She looks at me taking my  
hand into hers

Lindi : it's like something is  
bothering you

She brushes her hand over  
mine

And I just get annoyed by  
the gesture

Lindi : please don't shut me out , talk to me . Maybe I can help

Me : there's nothing you can do

Lindi : talking helps

Me : I'm a king Lindi , I have problems to deal with



everyday . It's not a game  
taking care of a whole village  
, and you think talking about  
it will help

I get up

Lindi : I was just trying to ...

Me : next time , just don't

I get up and walk out

I head into the main palace  
looking for her

But I don't find her anywhere

It's quite around here

Ever since we got rid of the  
staff

There's only two of each left

And that means more  
workload for them

I walk out and head to her  
chamber

I knock and walk in

She turns letting out a slight  
scream

Me : it's just me

She quickly grabs a towel  
and wraps it around herself

Me : what are you hiding ? I  
know you

Sonti : you're ...what do you want , without knocking in my room ?

Me : have you thought about what I asked for ?

Sonti : there's nothing to think about

Me : well then , I guess  
nothing will change

Sonti : if you don't give me a  
divorce , I will walk  
Nkanyamba . I am not your  
pawn

Me : you will not , no one is  
walking out of this marriage

Sonti : I ..

I walk closer to her

Me : I said no one is walking  
out of this marriage

Sonti : I am done listening to  
your tune

Me : is it ? Sonti , you're still  
my wife

I grab her by her neck

Sonti : let go , you're hurting  
me

Me : we'll see who calls the  
shots around here , seems



like you've forgotten your  
place

I push her to the bed

Sonti : Nkanyamba no !

I rip the towel off of her

Sonti : what are you doing ?

I take my clothes off

She tries to get off the bed  
and run off

But her weight is not  
complying

I drag her down , and pin her  
down with my knee

There's nothing but fear in  
her eyes

Me : maybe this is what you  
need to get in line

I part her legs

Sonti : don't ... please don't  
do this

She cries

I slide through inside her  
pussy

She's so dry

I pull out and spit , and slide  
my dick back inside of her

Sonti : Nka ...please ....

Me : you're my wife Sonti ,  
this is nothing we're just  
making love

She closes her eyes , giving  
up fighting

With just tears streaming  
down her face

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**\*Imbali\***

Evan : and this ?

I look at the head

Me : I will personally hand  
deliver it

He says nothing

I grab my bag and put it in  
the back seat

And grab the sack with the  
head

I throw it the boot

Me : thank you



Evan : don't lose yourself

I take a deep breath , and  
turn getting into the car

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**\*IMBALI\***



**\*Insert 18\***

\*Nkanyamba\*

Me : tonight , we are having  
dinner with the kids .

Together as a family , and I'm  
sleeping in here

She says nothing

I put on my clothes

Me : stop with the tears ,  
you're a wife here just  
fulfilling your duties

She slowly gets up and sits  
up straight

Sonti : Nale was right

I look at her

Sonti : you did rape her  
didn't you ?

Me : don't start

Sonti : you're a monster , an  
animal ..and I hope you die  
and rot in hell

Me : come on , don't start  
now . You'll go around ,

spreading rumours about me  
as well ?

Sonti : you forced yourself on  
me Nka

I chuckle

Me : no , I didn't . I'm your  
husband , and it's your duty  
to sleep with me



Sonti : that was rape

Me : how the fuck do I rape  
you , when you're my wife ?  
You're uttering nonsense  
right now

Sonti : I hate you so much ,  
and I hope my son's grow up  
to be better men than you

Me : okay enough of this !  
Get up , and go get cleaned  
up

Sonti : you will get what's  
coming to you

She gets up on the bed

And slowly goes to the  
bathroom

I take a deep breath closing  
my eyes

A cry comes from the  
bathroom

And I've never heard Sonti  
cry like this

Not even when we lost our  
baby

When she had a miscarriage

I take a deep breath and  
walk out of her chamber

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\*Naletsana\*

Lebo : relax would you ?

Me : do you think she's really coming ?

Lebo : of course she is , she knows she has school . And you're here , this is her home

. What reason would she  
have not coming back ?

Me : I guess , I am just  
worried for nothing

She nods

Me : it's late , let's go to bed

Lebo : yes

We get up and walk in the kitchen

We put the cups in the sink

Me : let me wash them , it'll take my mind off of things

Lebo: in the morning she will be here



I nod

I think Lebo has been my  
sanity this whole three weeks

Even though at times I got  
too much

But she still held me through

Me : I appreciate you

She smiles

Lebo : don't get all  
sentimental with me

I laugh

Lebo : by the way , I heard  
that a head was dropped off

by your mother's door step  
in the afternoon . And no  
one saw anything

I sigh

Trust Lebo to know about  
anything and everything

Seriously , us moving from  
the village

Didn't change anything

She's still our newsfeed

Me : it's okay

Lebo : good night

We side hug

And she walks to her room

I go on to wash the cups

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\*Zamcolo\*

This is rare sight

We're here in the same  
dinner table

All having dinner as a family

I don't even remember when  
last when had such

Although there's tension

You can literally cut it with a  
knife

But we're here , all of us

And without Lindi

I don't know where she is

It's just a pity that  
Zanethongo is not here



I'm sure this would make him  
happy

More than anything , he just  
wanted our family to be okay

But the sight of my mother is  
worrying

She doesn't look like herself  
at all

She's not even eating her  
food

Dad is in a happy mood for  
once

He's even talking to the kids

They're laughing

And it's nice to see that

One would think he doesn't  
love us as his kids

But this one gesture says  
otherwise

My phone rings

Me : I'm sorry

I take it out to switch it off

But seeing her name

That has my heart beating so  
fast

Me : may I please be excused

Dad : girlfriend ?

I cough , almost choking

He laughs

Dad : you should invite her  
sometimes for dinner

Awkward !

I chuckle and say nothing  
leaving the table

I answer the call

Me : babe

Imbali : hey

Fuck !

It feels so good hearing her  
voice

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**\*IMBALI\***

\*Insert 19\*



**\*Imbali\***



The happiness is even in his  
voice

Zamcolo : you're back

Me : I missed you

Zamcolo : wish I could see  
you right now

Me : is there a chance you  
can sneak ?

Zamcolo : no kidding ?

Me : mhm , no

Zamcolo : why don't I come  
pick to up and you come  
spend the night with me ?

I bite my lower lip smiling

Me : I'll pin you my location

Zamcolo : I'm coming

Me : okay , but there's  
something I have to tell you

Zamcolo : don't break my  
heart , you just got back

I let out a chuckle

Me : promise me that you  
won't hurt me

Zamcolo : I would never hurt  
you babe , I love you

Me : if the change in me ,  
puts you off let me down

gently . I ....there's a reason  
why I am the way I am ,  
hopefully in time I can tell  
you why

Zamcolo : babe , I love you .  
Maybe I don't understand  
what you're talking about  
right now , but nothing will  
scare me away . Not even if  
you're pregnant , I'll father  
that child

We laugh

Me : don't be silly

Zamcolo : no , you stop  
being silly

Me : come get me

Zamcolo : I'm on my way



Me : I love you

Zamcolo : and I love you  
more

I drop the call

And pin him my location

Oh hook line and sinker

I lay back down on the bed

I'm only going back home  
tomorrow

I came a day earlier

I am not ready to face my  
mother yet

But I have to

It's not like I can stay away  
forever

Or that I'll hide from going  
back home

I just hate the unknown

It doesn't sit well with me

Also the news about her  
brother

Not knowing if she knows  
already

And how she took that

Maybe there's feels and all

I mean , after all blood is  
thicker than water

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\*Nkanyamba\*

Me : you saw how happy the  
kids were

I take my t-shirt and get in  
bed

Me : see , it's not all so bad .  
And all of that , was proof of  
how we shouldn't break up  
our family . For the sake of  
the kids

Sonti : you started this , when  
you brought whores into our  
home

Me : and I've stopped

She scoffs

Me : what should I do to  
prove it to you ?



Sonti : Lindi is still here

Me : she will go

She shakes her head turning  
her back to me

Me : divorce is not the  
answer , our kids need us .  
They need this family

Sonti : can I sleep ? It's convenient now for you , so to hell with everyone else as always

Me : we will make this work , we just have to

I switch off the bed lamp

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**\*Imbali\***

I can literally feel his eyes  
piercing through my back

I'm sitting down by the bus  
station

I couldn't have him fetch me  
at the hotel

Just in case he feels  
somehow

Then we can just part ways  
right here right now

I take a deep breath

As I feel him getting closer  
and closer

I put on my hands inside my  
hoodie jacket pockets

Zamcolo : baby ?

He's unsure

Me : hey

I say not turning back

He chuckles

Zamcolo : you're bring  
awkward right now

He walks over around and  
stands in front of me

I slowly lift my head and look  
at him

The shock in his eyes it's  
enough to say indeed I've  
changed

I swallow hard

Zamcolo : what were you  
doing there ? Training to be  
in combat



I shrug

Zamcolo : fuck ...this body is  
banging though

Of course he's a guy

And he's using his dick to  
think

Me : babe

Zamcolo : come on , let's get  
out of here I fucking missed  
you

Me : let's go to my room , it'll  
be a drive to the village . And  
I missed you much more

Zamcolo : whatever you want  
my lady

This is it

Tonight is the night

I am not a preacher

I don't know the laws of  
good or bad

I do what I must

He takes my hand and we  
walk to the hotel

Me : should I get us dinner ?

Zamcolo : I just want you

I laugh , and he turns over  
pecking my lips

I take out the key from my  
pocket and open the door

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**\*IMBALI\***

**\*Insert 20\***

\*Zamcolo\*

Fuck !



This is really happening

And she's not holding back  
on anything

With how fast things have  
escalated

I don't think I will be able to  
hold myself

She deepens the kiss

Her hands running at the  
back of my head

I thrust on her pussy

As she lifts her one leg  
placing it over my lower back

She lets out moans into my  
mouth

As the kiss intensifies

I cup her boobs into my  
hands , rubbing my thumbs  
on her nipples

She throws her one leg  
across the bed

And my sick slightly moves  
to her open

Me : shit

Imbali : I want you so bad

Me : baby , I love you

She smiles , throwing her  
head back

And she brings her one hand  
to my dick

She strokes it while I  
continue thrusting on her

And she brings it up , moving  
it up and down to her clit

Me : ah fuck !

Pre cum ozzes from my dick

I cannot cum before I'm  
inside of her

The warmth from her pussy  
is just calling on me

And just then , she pushes  
my dick through

And I pop my eyes at the  
struggle

As it feels like I'm popping  
her

I look at her

Me : you're ...you're still a  
virgin ?

Imbali : just make love to me  
, it's just virginity

Shit !

I want to talk about this



But , my dick is just  
thickening inside of her  
pussy

And it's not helping that  
she's thrusting underneath  
me

Me : fuck !

She brings my head down to  
her neck

I plants soft kisses , on her  
neck

And she goes on to let out  
moans of pleasure near my  
ear

And that just throws me off

I deep grunt as my dick  
twitches inside of her

And I cum , holding tight on  
to her

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\*Imbali\*

I look at him

And he looks like he's worn out

He's even snoring a bit

Like ...with a single one round

That lasted for just 6 minutes

Wow !

I didn't even cum

I know that was whack sex

I may have been a virgin

But I am not dumb !

And I know a climax

I even had to pretend to  
enjoy it

Fake moans and all

But it doesn't matter

I will do it , if I have to again

Of which I know I will

What matters is that he  
bought it

I'm not even in that much  
pain

Cleo would laugh her ass off

If I were to tell her this



She thought I was insane

To even be willing to open  
my thighs , to my so called  
brother

But it's whatever

And I need to do this

For my plan to work

I can't be half way in a  
relationship

For me to execute this

Is for him to not even  
suspect a single thing

There will come a time

I will need him to chose me  
over dearest daddy

And that's to give myself to  
him

Through and through

I get up

And he can't even feel it

The way he's sleeping

I walk to the bathroom and  
shower

Just a quick cold one

I wrap a towel around myself  
and walk out

I grab my phone by the night  
stand

And he's still asleep

I walk over to the balcony  
making a call

Me : hey it's me

She breathes

Me : it's done

The silence is okay

I don't even mind it

Because I know she gets me  
and I get he

Me : I love you

I drop the call and stand by  
just looking at the stars

Me : maybe I am doing it for  
myself , more than I am  
doing it for you . In their next  
life , they'll learn kids were  
never meant to suffer . Your  
pain became my pain , and  
no one hurts me and gets  
away with it . No one

I close my eyes , as a tear  
drops down my cheek

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\*Nkanyamba\*



Sonti : I don't know what to  
make of this

I look at her

Sonti : people are so cruel

Me : that guy was a criminal ,  
and he terrorised people .  
Really , he just got what he  
deserved

Sonti : but to die in that  
manner , I wonder where

Nale is . If she knows , or has even come to see her mother

Me : why would she ? She sold her to men ...

Sonti : she didn't , we both know I made that story up .  
Yes her mother wasn't the best mother to her , but ...

Me : oh please , who cares ?  
We will just go there , pay  
our respects as King and  
Queen and that's it . Have  
you see Zamcolo ? I need to  
talk to him

Sonti : not since he left last  
night at dinner

I chuckle

Me : I'm sure that boy has a girl in t chamber of his

Sonti : and I so hope you never meet her , because who knows ? She might just end up being in your bed

I find facing her with a slap

She looks at me with nothing  
but shock

Me : don't ever talk shit like  
that to me , ever again

I get up and grab my car  
keys

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**\*IMBALI\***

**\*Insert 21\***



**\*Imbali\***



He opens his eyes with a  
smile

I let out a slight chuckle

Zamcolo : I wasn't dreaming

I shake my head slightly

Zamcolo : don't ever leave  
for that long again

Me : I won't , I'm not going  
anywhere

I lean over giving him a kiss

Zamcolo : I could get used to  
mornings like this

Me : yeah ?

He nods

I heave a sigh

Zamcolo : what ?

Me : last night , we didn't get  
to talk

Zamcolo : yeah

Me : I know I've ...

Zamcolo : yeah , you have .  
But I don't mind , it's you  
that I love not how you're  
looking . I mean , sure now  
you're more slim you got a  
flat tummy and all . Looks  
like you've been in a gym  
day and night , but babe  
...this is you . And how you

look doesn't change  
anything , I love you still

Yes !

There's no turning back

Me : I wish I can spend the  
day with you , but they're  
expecting me at home . They  
don't know I arrived

yesterday , because I wanted  
to spend the night with

Zamcolo : baby , you're the  
best . And I don't think I tell  
you enough

Me : mhm , how about you  
just show me

I lay back down



And he smiles getting up

Sliding his hand between my  
thighs

He opens my folds

And he goes on to rub his  
finger on my clit

I place my hands on my neck  
bringing him down

Already , I feel his dick  
poking me

I capture his lips into mine

As he gets on top of me

Positioning himself

And he parts my legs ,  
rubbing his dick on me

He slides it in inside

Zamcolo : ah fuck ! Baby ....

He thrusts in

And the way he's grunting  
and groaning

I know he will be done soon

I cling my legs tight on him

And he picks up his pace

And I feel him jerking off  
inside of me

I hold tight on him

Pulling out of the kiss

Faking an orgasm

I just roll my eyes to the back  
of my head

As he plants kisses on my  
neck

Like dude !

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\*Zamcolo\*

Me : babe

She's getting dressed ,  
getting ready to leave

I appreciate spending the  
night with her

And the morning as well

She even went as far as  
getting us breakfast



I have to talk to my father  
about getting an allowance

At least now things are  
better at home

And I'm no longer at a  
private school

I have a girlfriend now

And I have to spoil her

This new Imbali , scares me a  
bit

She makes me feel insecure

Imbali : what ?

She asks with a smile

Me : do I satisfy you ?

Imbali : of course you do , I  
don't even regret my  
decision to give myself to  
you

Okay !

That's some relief

Maybe it's because she was a virgin

My ex broke up with me ,  
said I cum way too fast

And I can never do things  
such as cum and continue

Also , my dick doesn't poke  
her in the right places

She said she never climaxed ,  
all the time we've had sex

She always had to watch  
porn and masturbate

She said quite a mouthful of  
hurtful things

That sure knocked off my  
ego as a guy

I don't want to lose Imbali  
because of the same thing

I think I'm fine

I mean , I don't think there's  
a problem with how I have  
sex

People are different out there

Imbali : why ?

I chuckle

Me : no , in a relationship we must talk about such things

Imbali : if ever it gets to a point where I'm not happy or satisfied sexually , I won't hide it I'll tell you . It wouldn't be a deal breaker either , we'll just be talking and finding a way to improvise . The same goes for me , I'm clueless . So whatever you want , tell me or teach me . We can't deny ,



sex plays a vital role in  
relationships

I nod slowly

I think I've got myself a  
keeper her

And maybe I should be  
honest with her

Me : do you mind coming  
over to my house for dinner  
?

Imbali : meeting the parents  
already ?

We laugh

Me : yeah , there's something  
I haven't told you . But I think

it's best , if you see it for  
yourself

Imbali : you have a child ?

Me : no ...it's nothing like  
that

She sighs

Imbali : okay , you'll let me  
know when

I let out a smile

I hope that goes well

And it doesn't blow up on  
my face

My phone rings , and I hope  
it's not my father

I grab it , and almost jump  
for joy

When I see it's Zanethongo

Me : it's my brother , I have  
to take this

She nods

Me : sure

Zane : young man ...

I laugh

Me : mxm , you're still alive

Zane : I'm a tough one , I  
don't just die

Me : so you made it back in  
one piece ?

Zane : yeah , just a few  
scratches here and there .  
But nothing serious

Oh man !

I'm so happy he's back and  
alive

Zane : how is it going ?

I chuckle

Me : all good , even with  
your parents



I look at Imbali

But she's not even focusing  
on me

Zane : is it ?

Me : yeah , you'll swear  
things were never bad

Zane : that's good to hear

Me : when will you come home ?.

Zane : soon , listen I have to go . I just called , so you can stop worrying . The commander is coming

Me : bye

He drops the call before I'm  
even done talking

But I'm so happy

Just hearing his voice

And knowing he's alive

This job of his is dangerous

I just wish , things never  
changed at home

And he would have never  
had to leave

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\*IMBALI\*



**\*Insert 22\***

\*Imbali\*

Zamcolo : that was my  
brother

Me : I'm actually realising ,  
we don't know much about  
each other



He chuckles

Zamcolo : yeah , but I want  
to change all of that

Me : oh ?.

Zamcolo : that's why I'm  
inviting you to my home , so  
you can meet my family

I nod with a smile

And all I had to do was open  
my thighs

And endure some whack sex

Me : well I have no siblings ,  
I'm an only child . And my  
mother raised me with my

aunt , I don't know my father . He raped my mother , and obviously he would never take responsibility for that . It has always been my mother and I , until my aunt came along . And then it was just us three

Zamcolo : I'm so sorry to hear that

Me : no it's okay , it was  
painful growing up suffering  
and all . But I don't care  
anymore

He gets up and walks over to  
me

Zamcolo : you're an amazing  
woman

I smile

He pecks my lips

Zamcolo : and your mother is  
an even more amazing  
strong woman , not many  
would have done what she  
did

Me : I know , she's my  
everything . And everyone  
who hurts her , hurts me

Zamcolo : I'm so glad I met  
you

Me : me too

Oh , he has no idea how  
much

Zamcolo : you'll get to meet my brother , when he comes home . He's a soldier , and he's just gotten back from Sudan

Me : well , I hope he will approve of me

He chuckles

Zamcolo : he will love you ,  
infact I know my whole  
family will love you

Me : I hope so

Zamcolo : I have no doubt ,  
what's there not to love  
about you ?



I smile

Me : it would really be my  
greatest pleasure to meet  
the family

He leans over and we hug

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\*Naletsana\*

I can't say she looks so lost

But she doesn't know what  
to make our own reaction

But I also don't know what to  
make of this change

She looks like a hardcore  
woman

And not my sweet little girl

Imbali : I'm sorry I left

I shake my head

She may be feeling somehow

But I know she's not sorry

One thing about Imbali

She will do what she wants  
to do

And if it hurts the next  
person

She will humble herself and  
apologize

But it doesn't mean she's  
sorry or regretful b

She's just doing it for the  
next person

I know she's not sorry right  
now

Because she wanted to go  
there

Lebo : it's so good to have  
you back home

They hug

Lebo : you look so different ,  
but it's good for you

Now even the resemblance  
to Nkanyamba

It's barely even there

Imbali : mom I'm ....

I'm disappointed that she did  
what she did



But I'm happy to have her  
back home

Me : come here

I open my arms , and just  
embrace her into a hug

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\*Zanethongo\*

I take a deep breath

I've been trying to find her  
on social medias

For a while now , but she's  
not there

One would think with time ,  
just moving on

I would too

But I can't

My heart yearns for Imbali

And she's always on my mind

It's so hard to let go of her

It makes me feel so stupid

Because I'm sure she's long  
forgotten about me

Maybe she's even moved on  
now

I can't even try to move on

The best I can do , is sneak in  
a girl

Have sex with her , pay her  
and that's it

No strings attached

No feelings

Just sex and that's it

I don't even know why I can't  
move on

It's not like Imbali and I ,  
knew each other beyond just  
spending time together

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**\*Imbali\***



Okay , that's done

My head wasn't chopped off

I'm still alive

And that means , we go on

The door opens and Aunty  
Lebo walks in

Me : please don't shade me

We laugh

Lebo : what's happening ?

Me : the less you know , the  
better

I want to keep them out of  
this

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**\*IMBALI\***

\*Insert 23\*



\*A Month Later\*

\*Imbali\*

I check that the off shore  
accounts are secured

And that nothing will be  
picked up

I spent so much money



And now , I just have to  
retrieve it back

I don't know how big the  
royal accounts are

But I'm about to take every  
single penny that they have

Zamcolo is so in love with  
me , than before

And I have dinner with his  
parents this week

I've just been delaying it

Because I fear his father  
might recognise me

And that might ruin my plans

So I have to get this money  
first

I feel like lady luck is on my  
side

I overheard them arguing

And that's how I got to know  
, the laptop with the access  
to funds

Is in the throne room

Zamcolo is still keeping his  
identity from me

He hasn't told me he's a  
prince

So , I just happened to hear  
his argument over the phone  
with his father

I just intend to sneak in there

And take every single cent

Hopefully it won't be that  
hard

I just have to get inside the  
royal grounds

And that will be it

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\*Naletsana\*



Me : she's changed so much since she's gotten back

Lebo : it's called growing up

Me : Imbali , wasn't a child who liked going around

Lebo : yes exactly , child .

She's not a child now , she's a young adult



I chuckle

Me : she's not even 18

Lebo : oh but she will be , in  
a few months

That's true

She's not even home tonight

I can't help but worry as a  
parent

It seems like she's dating  
now

I have all kinds of fears

What if my curse follows her  
?

And she suffers the same  
fate as me

I wouldn't be able to handle  
that

She deserves so much better

And not go through anything  
I went through

Lebo : I don't know how  
many times I have to tell you  
to stop worrying

It's not that easy

The mother instinct just kicks  
in

And maybe I overreact a lot

But that's because I've never  
had a mother care for me

I don't want Imbali to feel  
the same

As if I'm here , but I'm not  
here for her

It's a painful feeling

I don't want her to feel what I  
felt

Having a mother , but also  
like you don't have one

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\*Imbali\*

Okay , okay

Deep breaths

I never thought this would  
be so easy

With less security around the  
palace

I didn't even need to do  
drastic measures to get in



One guard at the gate , and another just circling around the whole palace

The throne room , doesn't have a guard just stationed for it

It wasn't a hassle to get in

Now I just need this to finish  
transferring

Then I can get the hell out of  
it

It's not a lot

Just 4,7 million

But well , it's better than  
nothing

Although , I thought the  
royal family would have  
more money than that

But it's fine

I'll take what I'm given

I'm startled by hearing  
movement outside

Me : shit !

The laptops are on

And their lights might be  
caught

I lower the brightness

And slightly bend them a bit

I look at the transfer

And it's on 75%

Me : fuck !

Slight voices

I'm certain it's the guards

Footsteps approaching

Voice : just check the lock

I move back slowly , and  
stand by the wall

The lock by the door moves

Voice : still intact

Voice : alright , let's go

Whoa !

I take a deep breath

I guess , they just rotate to  
see if the rooms are still  
locked and that's it

I move from the wall

And check the laptops

Me : okay , now we're getting  
somewhere

On 92%

It'll be done soon



And I'll see how they'll deal  
with poverty

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**\*IMBALI\***



\*Insert 24\*

\*Nkanyamba\*

Me : what do you mean there  
is no money ?

He just looks at me

Me : explain to me where all  
of the money I had went

Him : I don't know ... but it seems like the money was moved . I just don't see to where or how

I chuckle

It feels like a dream

I can't go to bed

And wake up , I'm poor as  
they come

With all of my money gone

The fuck am I going to tell  
my parents ?

They left this kingdom

And trusted me to take care  
of it

And now , I've lost the royal  
funds

Me : someone did this , and I  
want you to find out who did  
. And bring me their heads

He nods



I sit down taking a deep  
breath

It feels as though my chest  
will close up

Me : damn !

Who could have done this ?

Is it Lebo again

But why ....why would she  
start now again ?

I need to find her

Maybe she lives with Nale in  
the city

I have to find her

I will not let this go

I won't !

Over four million

That's a damn lot of money

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**\*Zamcolo\***

Dad : today it's just not a  
good day Zamcolo , I have a  
crisis to deal with

I've never seen him so  
frustrated

Mom even had to call a  
doctor in

To check on him

He looks so stressed

I wonder what's going on

Because I haven't been told  
anything

I doubt Zanethongo would  
know

If even I don't

I thought everything was  
going well here

I mean , even they seem to  
be fixing things

They are now sleeping in the  
same chamber

So now , I wonder what's  
going on

Dad : just not tonight

Me : I am not cancelling

He gives me an evil look



Me : mom please talk to dad  
, I've long asked for this . And  
you both agreed

Dad : and I'm saying not  
tonight

Mom : Zamcolo please leave  
us , let me talk to your father

I heave a sigh and walk out

My phone rings

I take a deep breath

Hopefully I won't have to  
cancel

I've waited a whole month  
for this

Me : hey babe

Imbali : I am so nervous , I  
don't even know what to  
wear

I cannot disappoint her

She sounds so excited

Me : anything you wear , will  
be just perfect

She giggles

Imbali : okay , I can't wait to  
see you

Me : me too

Imbali : let me continue  
getting ready

Me : I love you

Imbali : and I love you baby

She drops the call

I hope and pray my parents  
come to an agreement

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\*Nkanyamba\*

Me : don't try and convince  
me otherwise , I lost money .  
All of it , and you want me to  
sit around smile and change  
pleasantries with your son's  
girlfriend

Sonti : our son , he's not just my son . But he's our son , and yes I expect you to do that . Because he long asked for this , and we said yes . Now it's happening , do you really want to embarrass him to his girlfriend ? We don't have to stay the whole night with them , just a few hours or even just an hour . It will



make a difference , and it's not like you'll be out there looking for the money

Me : okay , continue talking like this . When the whole village finds out the royal family is broke

Sonti : I don't see the need for you , to be creating all

this drama . Chances are ,  
you might never find that  
money . We should just be  
looking at more ways , of  
making money

I scoff

Me : I wonder where are you  
brains , you're just being  
stupid right now

I walk out leaving her there

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\*Zamcolo\*

I'm just glad this dinner is  
happening

I'm waiting by the gate

I'm nervous as hell

I see the cab approaching

And I'm sure she's asking  
herself many questions

I just hope she doesn't leave

I can see she truly loves me

And not because I'm a prince

This kind of love is rare and  
worthy

The cab stops

I approach it , and pay the  
driver

I open the door for her

I can't read her facial  
expression

Me : you look so beautiful

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

Shit !

Me : welcome , this is where I  
live

Imbali : at the palace !

Me : uhm ...I'm a prince

She says nothing but just  
starring deep within my eyes



It's even embarrassing to say  
, I feel intimidated

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**\*IMBALI\***

**\*Insert 25\***

**\*Imbali\***

Me : stoning two birds with  
one stone

He sighs rubbing his head

Zamcolo : I'm sorry , I've  
been wanting to tell you . I  
just didn't know how

Me : or maybe you thought  
I'll love you for being a  
prince , if I knew

Zamcolo : uhm not really

Mhm

He's not so dumb after all

Me : it's fine

Zamcolo : you're not angry

Me : no , but since we're here  
I guess you should know I

almost dated your brother  
Zanethongo

Zamcolo : what ?

I shrug

Zamcolo : wait ...babe what  
are you talking about ?

I chuckle

Me : can we go inside ? I'm getting cold , it's chilly out here

Zamcolo : but ...we're still talking

Me : and we'll talk before bed , I am spending the night here



I take his hand

He heaves a sigh

And we walk inside the  
palace walls

Me : this feels strange

The silence

He's ignoring me

That's good !

He will get to learn , he's not  
the only one with secrets

He looks at me as he's about  
to open the door

Me : what ?

He shakes his head

Me : it's you that I love , I  
didn't even know he was  
your brother . And that was  
before , I even met you .  
Besides , nothing happened .  
I knew he was a prince , had  
you told me you're also a

prince I would have long told  
you

Zamcolo : please don't hurt  
me

I lean over pecking his lips

Me : I love you

He opens the door

And we walk inside

Zamcolo : mom ...

Both his parents turn

And you cannot miss the  
shock in their eyes

Zamcolo : this is Imbali

He looks at me and smiles

Zamcolo : uMaMsomi , and  
she's my girlfriend

I let out a proud smile

As his father goes on to  
cough none stop

Zamcolo : dad are you okay ?

He lifts his eyes

And finds me staring at him

Zamcolo : dad ....

Queen Sonti : bring your  
father water

He let's go of my hand and  
goes on to the kitchen I  
believe

The palace is really huge

They both look at me

And I'm standing still

With my hands on my thighs



King Nka : I can't do this

He walks away from his with

And walks past me going out

She clears her throat

Queen Sonti : I'm sorry about  
all this , please take a seat

I politely take a seat

And she rushes out after her  
husband

Zamcolo walks back in with a  
class of water

Zamcolo : and then ?

I shrug

Zamcolo : oh , trust my  
parents to just embarrass me

I chuckle

Me : babe come on , they'll  
be back

He sighs shaking his head

Poor boy is hurt

I am going to enjoy this  
dinner thingy

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\*Zamcolo\*

I don't even know what to  
say right now

I feel so embarrassed

Like did my father really have  
to act like that

And why ?

I'm just so pissed to be  
honest

Worse , I don't even know  
how Imbali is feeling

Like this wasn't supposed to  
go like this

Now , I just feel like  
everything is ruined

She might think somehow of  
my family

And that's not the picture I  
wanted to paint for her

Imbali : relax , they'll come  
back

She's trying to keep me calm

But time is just running by



And they're both not coming  
back

He couldn't even pretend for  
just a few hours

Just for me , his son

I don't know what kind of a  
father do I have

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\*Nkanyamba\*

God damnit !

This cannot be happening

My kids cannot be together  
in a relationship

Sonti : can you stop this

Me : do you know who that girl is ? She's the girl I found at Lebo's place , and if she's a Msomi then she is Nale's daughter

Sonti : I know her

Nkanyamba : do you know  
what this means ? Those two  
cannot be in a relationship ,  
all this is just abomination !

She scoffs shaking her head

And that's just pissing me off

Me : and that son of yours ,  
couldn't he see that girl

looks like me ? Is love really driving him that crazy !

Sonti : she doesn't look like you , she may resemble you slightly . But you can get over the fact that she looks like you , besides her skin tone is nothing like yours . And she's changed so much , from the last time I saw her . She was a bit chubby , and

she looked like a teenager .  
Now she just looks like a  
young adult , and she's  
gotten slim . Even people  
who resemble each other ,  
can be missed if their skin  
tone doesn't match

Me : you're just trying to get  
clever with me , this is  
nonsense . And they have to  
stop it

Sonti : good luck getting  
them to , I have a feeling the  
sins of the past have come to  
haunt

Me : what the fuck !

She shrugs and walks out

Oh shit !



# This cannot be happening

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**\*IMBALI\***

\*Insert 26\*



\*Imbali\*

Such dramatic parents

It took them a whole 30  
minutes to gather  
themselves

So they can come back

And we try to have dinner

Oh , but the tension is just  
too much

You can literally cut it with a  
knife

But I'm just seeming not to  
care

Queen Sonti : Imbali , uhm  
where are you from ?

Me : oh I'm from around  
here actually

Queen Sonti : is it ?

I nod

Taking a piece of meat , and  
just chewing on the damn  
thing

Queen Sonti : I have never  
seen you before

Me : my queen , you're up  
here in your place . And I was  
down there , just nothing but  
a mere commoner

I say with a smile



Queen Sonti : oh , you never  
know . I was once a  
commoner , and the next a  
queen

Mhm

Shady woman !

And that gets the husband a  
whole lot more

uncomfortable than he  
already is

Seems like the man will  
choke on the stew

Shame , poor thing !

Me : well , it's just destiny for  
others

Queen Sonti : you're dating a prince after all , and at some point at 15 years I was you

Me : oh ...

I let out a slight laugh and look at Zamcolo

Me : I sure am , and if there's intentions there . Then

maybe , just maybe I might  
find myself a part of the  
family as well

He winks at me

I just shyly smile , like a silly  
teenager

Queen Sonti : where did you  
two meet ?

Me : at school

Queen Sonti : oh , I see

King Nka : where are your  
parents ?

Me : my father ...uhm I don't  
know him , and I live with my  
mother in the city

Queen Sonti : oh , so you live in the city now ?

Me : yes , this village just holds so not good memories for me . Well , us . So we just decided to leave , and try to start afresh

King Nka : it's quite  
expensive living in the city

I look deadly into his eyes

Me : yes , but my mother is a  
very strong woman . From  
since she found out I was  
pregnant , she raised me all  
by herself . While her mother  
kicked her out , and the guy

who raped her ....and that  
resulting in me told her to  
abort

Ah !

There we go again

The cough and the glass of  
water



Me : people are cruel out here , but we just make do . She lived in the streets while pregnant with me , her rape product . From some guy , who's apparently from some wealthy family . She gave birth right under the bridge , the one leading to the city . And that used to be our home , until we moved to the outskirts of the village . And

we lived in a shaky shack ,  
one that she built from metal  
found by the dumping sites .  
It rained and poured on us ,  
but we survived . I just have  
my mother , I would  
probably choke my so called  
father to death if I were to  
ever look into his eyes

He bows his head

Busy slapping his chest

Clearing his throat

Queen Sonti : that's ....that's  
really sad

Me : yeah it was , but now  
we've moved on from it . My  
mother survived being raped  
, and humiliated . And

betrayal from a friend ,  
someone she trusted with  
her whole life . But that's just  
life , and we move on

The silence

And just them having sneaky  
eye contacts

This is just great

Me : this has been a lovely dinner , thank you really for having me in your humble abode

Queen Sonti : it's been ...uhm ...nothing but just a pleasure

Fake smiles going all around

And only Zamcolo thinks this  
is turning better than how it  
started

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\*Zamcolo\*

Just when I think everything  
went great

Despite how it started

Here I am being dragged out

And I don't even know for  
what

Dad : what kind of a joke are  
you trying to pull on me ?

I look at him confused



Because he's just lost me  
right now

Dad : because it is not funny

Me : dad ....

Dad : this relationship with  
that girl , it has to end

I laugh

Me : what ...no !

Dad : do you think I am  
making a joke , read my lips  
Zamcolo . You are going to  
break up with that girl

What the hell is this ?

Me : no !

I shake my head

I'm actually in disbelief right  
now

Me : I am not going to do  
that , on what grounds would  
I be breaking up with her on  
?

Dad : you cannot be in a relationship with her , and I forbid you to

Me : dad I'm sorry , but right now I'm not understanding why you're saying what you're saying . I thought dinner went great

Dad : have you ever brought this girl here ?

Me : what ...no ! This is the first time she comes here

Dad : and what have you told her about us , and our family ?

Where is this going ?

And what's it for !

Me : nothing , she didn't  
even know I was a prince  
until she was dropped by her  
cab here tonight

He is so frustrated

Unfortunately , I will not do  
his will

Because I don't even know  
what's happening right now

Me : I'm sorry , but I will not  
break up with her

I shake my head

Dad : then , I will make you

He takes out his phone and  
walks to the East Wing

That's where his chamber is

I wonder if my mother would  
know what's happening with  
him , because this is not on

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**\*IMBALI\***

**\*Insert 27\***

**\*Imbali\***

Me : are you okay ?

I hold his hand

He shakes his head

He's not even looking at me

Me : I really enjoyed tonight ,  
I wish you had told me  
beforehand that you're a  
prince . Maybe I would have  
conducted myself better

He smiles

Zamcolo : you were amazing  
, I just wish I brought you to  
people as amazing as you  
are

I smile

Poor thing !

He feels so bad

And I'm certain , that's  
because of daddy dearest  
behaviour

Me : it's okay , it was lovely  
for me . Trust me , you didn't  
fail

He nods

I spot the two love birds  
walking out

And seems like they are  
having a heated argument

I clear my throat

Me : babe , can I please use  
the bathroom ?



Zamcolo : we might as well  
go to my chamber , and just  
call it a night

Me : I'm really pressed , I  
think I was drinking too  
much juice . Your father was  
very ...

I shrug

And I see that gets to him

He feels so guilty because of that behaviour

Zamcolo : there's a bathroom on your left , second door by the corridor

Me : thank you

I walk away from him in a  
rush

Looking for those two

If they are talking about me

Then it's a must that I know

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\*Nkanyamba\*

Me : I am telling you , she  
knows

Sonti : it didn't look like ....

Me : just pay attention Sonti !  
It didn't look like she knows ,  
because it sounded like it . I  
am telling you , if we are not

careful that girl will be my  
downfall

Sonti : but ...what can she  
possibly do ? She's just a  
child , she's 17

Me : don't underestimate her  
, I did that mistake with Lebo  
. And I got burnt , I will not  
do that again

She chuckles

Sonti : don't tell me you  
think that girl stole the royal  
funds

Me : maybe she did , or  
maybe Lebo is in with her

She laughs shaking her head

Sonti : no , that girl is innocent . You're just getting impatient , and also paranoia

Me : I was on the phone with my banker , and he says this must have been an inside job

And I have no one to suspect in my house



Sonti : we just met her today  
, when could she have done  
this ? That's if it's her

Me : an outsider couldn't  
have done this , it must be  
someone with access to the  
palace . And it's no  
coincidence that she just  
rocks you here , dating  
Zamcolo

Sonti : I ...I don't know

Me : woman ! You're just  
seeming to be useless to me  
right now , I will find out who  
is responsible for this . And  
when I do , I swear all hell  
will break lose . I will not sit  
idle and do nothing about all  
this

She sits down taking a deep  
breath

Sonti : I just don't know

Me : know this , those two  
cannot be in a relationship .  
Tell your son that , and the  
sooner he breaks up with  
that girl the better . For all of

our sakes , what they are  
doing cannot be allowed

Sonti : your daughter you  
mean !

She says turning her gaze  
into me

Me : truth of the matter is  
that , you know I am right .

And I will make sure this  
nonsense ends

I grab my car keys walking  
out

Hopefully I can make the  
long drive this late

I just have to

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\*Zanethongo\*

A call this time of the night

I must say , I am scared to  
answer it

Zamcolo never calls me

Or rather he never did

But now , he tries

Me : sure

Zamcolo : do you know  
Imbali ?

I am tongue tied



Is he really asking me about  
her

Or it's just another Imbali

That I might not even know

Zamcolo : Zane ?

Me : yeah ...yeah I'm still here

Zamcolo : I am asking  
because , today I had my  
girlfriend come home for  
dinner and to meet our  
parents . And guess what ?

Me : it's middle of the night ,  
just tell me

Zamcolo : I still hadn't told her , I was a prince . So she found out tonight , and she told me she almost dated you

Fuck no !

No ways !

It cannot be

Zamcolo cannot be dating  
the one girl , I feel I have to  
make it out alive everyday  
just for her

This cannot be happening

It just cannot be

Zamcolo : do you love her ?

Me : can we please not do this ?

Zamcolo : I just want to know

Me : well did you ask her ?

Zamcolo : yeah , and she assured me it's me she loves

Wow !

I just feel my heart breaking  
into a little million pieces

How do I move on from this  
?

Did it have to be my brother  
?

Fuck no !

Me : we'll talk , you can be  
rest assured she's all yours .  
And I'm happy for you

Zamcolo : thank you , I just ...

I drop the call , and throw  
the phone against the wall

Just dreaming my lungs out

Me : damnit !

I still had hope

I thought I would go back  
home

And I would find her



And maybe , just maybe we  
would get another chance at  
this

But now ...

Now I would have to fight  
my own brother

No !

I close my eyes , as my head  
hurts badly like it'll burst into  
two pieces

I slide down by the wall

And take a deep breath

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\*IMBALI\*

**\*Insert 28\***

\*Imbali\*

Zamcolo : babe

I turn and look at him

Zamcolo : what's wrong ?

I shake my head

He comes down the bed

And sits down behind me

Holding my waist

He plants soft kisses on my  
shoulder blade

I close my eyes taking a deep  
breath

Zamcolo : please talk to me

Me : I don't think your father  
likes me

He heaves a sigh



Zamcolo : I am sorry ,  
yesterday was just a disaster I  
guess . He couldn't even wait  
, before he just went on to  
embarrass me

Me : I don't think I will ever  
come back here again

Zamcolo : what ?

I look at him

Me : it's his palace , he is the king . I don't want trouble , if he doesn't like me as much as I'm convinced that he doesn't ...then who knows what he could do to break us up

He swallows hard

And goes quite

Me : oh my God !

I slowly get up moving away  
from him

Me : he already thinks we  
should break up right ?

He bows his head

Me : wow !

I let out an annoyed chuckle  
clapping my hands

Me : are you kidding me  
right now ?

Zamcolo : he's just being  
ridiculous , and I told him I  
am not going to break up  
with you

Me : why ...why does he hate  
me so much ? When he's just  
met me ? Is it maybe  
because I am a commoner ?

Zamcolo : babe , it doesn't  
matter what he says . I love  
you , and I choose you . I will  
not allow my dad to come  
between us

I shake my head

Folding my arms

Leaning by the wall

He gets up and walks to me

Zamcolo : I love you

Me : you promise you won't  
change ?

Zamcolo : I won't

I let out a slight smile

And lean over for a hug

Me : I love you too

I knew he was going to flip  
when he saw me

I mean , it's not like he  
doesn't know his own  
product



And of course , this  
relationship just rubs him off  
the wrong way

So he can't let it happen

It would have been nice to  
just drag this

But now , he might be too vigilant

He already suspects I may have been the one , who stole his money

I know for a fact though , that he won't find a single trade of that money

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\*Zanethongo\*

Me : what is it I hear from  
dad , that the royal funds  
have been stolen . And as we  
speak , the royal family is  
broke

It took everything in me to  
make this call

After getting a call from my  
father last night

Zamcolo : I don't know

Me : what do you mean you  
don't know ? I mean he can't

call me , when I'm not even there and tell me this . Yet he fails to tell you , and you are there

Zamcolo : I just don't know , and I don't care really

Me : what ?

Zamcolo : why should I ? Dad cannot just be a dad to us , not even for an hour . But when he needs help , he remembers we are his kids

Me : what are you talking about ?

I know we've never had a close relationship with my father

Zamcolo : last night , the dinner everything was just a mess and all thanks to him . He was strange the whole evening , and to top it up he told me to break up with Imbali



What ?

Okay , now maybe I am lost

Why would he say that ?

Zamcolo : but I told him , it's not happening . So yeah

As much as this sounds interesting

I don't think I want to get  
into a conversation , that's  
about Imbali

My heart is still aching

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\*Naletsana\*



I swear that child is going to  
give me a heart attack

I open the door

And no one could have ever  
prepared me for this

Coming face to face with this  
many

After so many years

Nka : Nale

No !.

Please no

This is not happening right  
now

This man is not standing at  
my doorstep

Nka : can we please talk ?

I'm frozen on the spot

I don't ....

I can't even move

I've never felt so much shock  
in my life

Nka : it's about Imbali and  
my son

I am hearing him , but at the  
same time I am not hearing  
him

Nka : please hear me out , I  
know you ...you hate me .  
And I don't blame you , for  
what I did to you but ....

Me : you raped me , that's  
what you did

He swallows



Me : say it , say that you  
raped me . Not what you did  
to me , it was rape

He looks down

Nka : I am sorry

He is sorry !

Mhm !

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**\*IMBALI\***

**\*Insert 29\***

**\*Imbali\***

Shit !

What is this man doing here  
?

Like , what does he want ?

I hope he did not run his  
mouth

And ruin my plans

I clear my throat

And they both look at me

I lied to my mother about  
where I was going

And he turns out here

Me : morning

I walk past him and walk  
inside the house

I stand by the kitchen door

Listening in on their  
conversation

I learnt this man is not to be  
taken lightly

Especially after hearing his  
conversation last night with  
his wife about me



And if he gets his way , I'll be ruined

And this means , I have to carry out my plans

I cannot afford to stall or drag this

I may have come too hard  
too soon

And if I'm not careful

I'll be the one in the fire

And not them

Mom : please leave , and  
don't ever come around here

. Because if you do , I will not  
hesitate to report you and  
open a case against you

King Nka : how can you allow  
your daughter to ....

Mom : leave !

She slams the door on his  
face

Me : yes !

I hope he takes his ass and  
walks out of here

How did he even find out  
where we lived

I turn to walk to my room

Mom : not so fast

Damn !

I look at her

Mom : where were you ?

Me : at the village with a  
friend

Mom : I trust you Imbali , and I hope I raised you well to know better . That man ...you have his blood , wether we like it or not . And his sons are off limits

Me : what ...mom please . I don't even know his kids

She nods

I turn and walk to my room

Me : shit !

I have to do this

Even if it means taking out  
the whole royal family

Because then sparing some  
or one

Means an ongoing battle of  
revenge over and over

It'll be like war

It just never ends

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**\*Naletsana\***

Lebo : what ?

Me : I am still shocked even  
now

Lebo : but how ...how did he  
find us ?

Me : beats me

Lebo : that man is a pest

Me : I never want to see  
Nkanyamba ever again

Lebo : we should go open a  
protection order against him  
, just because he's the king  
doesn't mean he's

untouchable or above the  
law

Me : I told him if he ever  
comes here again , I'll open a  
case against him

Lebo : well , you should have  
done it right now

I heave a sigh

Me : something he said  
worries me

Lebo : what ?

Me : he insinuated that  
Imbali might be involved  
with one of his sons

Lebo : bullshit ! That's a lie ,  
you know your daughter  
better than this

I nod

Me : I know , but she's  
changed so much as of late .  
I don't know if I still know her

Lebo : don't let that man do this to you , Imbali is a well mannered child . She knows the truth , and she knows better to be dating Nka's kids . They are siblings

Me : don't say it like that

Lebo : I'm sorry , but still

I shake my head taking a  
deep breath

Lebo : don't start something  
that will drive a wedge  
between you and your  
daughter , over his lies

Me : but why would he lie ?



Lebo : don't you see it ? He  
couldn't just come here for  
no reason , so he had to  
come up with one

I don't know what to believe  
anymore

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\*Zamcolo\*

Me : I feel like there's  
something you are not  
telling me

She looks at me

Me : mom please , you know  
what dad said to me ?

She swallows hard

Mom : what ?

Me : that I should break up  
with Imbali , and if I don't he  
said he will make me

Mom : oh !

Me : why doesn't he like her ,  
when he doesn't even know  
her ?

Mom : I think you should talk  
to your father

Me : but why can't you just  
tell me ?

Mom : it's not my place  
Zamcolo

Me : well , he won't tell me .  
And you clearly won't tell me  
as well , so I guess I'll just go  
on with my life . I love Imbali  
, and I'm not breaking up  
with her

Mom : would you chose that girl over your own father ?

I chuckle

When did this even get to this point ?

Me : yes

She shakes her head

Mom : listen to your father  
Zamcolo , he's right you two  
cannot be in a relationship

Me : why not ?

Mom : I can't ....

She shakes her head



Me : okay then , this is done .

At least now I know my  
parents can never support  
me in anything

Mom : this is for your own  
good

Me : if you can't tell me the  
whole truth , then there's  
nothing I am going to listen

to . This cannot be because  
she almost dated  
Zanethongo , that didn't  
even happen

Mom : she what ?

Me : I said it didn't happen ,  
so it's not like I am betraying  
him

The expression on her face is saying a lot

But I don't think I still want to be in this kitchen with her

I mean , they are okay with hiding whatever truth they think I shouldn't be with Imbali from me

I get up and walk out

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\*IMBALI\*

**\*Insert 30\***

**\*Imbali\***

Aunty Lebo : where are you going ?

Me : can you please cover up for me ?

Aunty Lebo : just three days ago , you didn't sleep at home . And I know you lied about it , and now you're dressed like this and you're leaving . At this time of the night

I take a deep breath



Aunty Lebo : what are you doing getting friendly , with the prince . Whichever one it may be , he's your half brother

Mhm !.

Me : I'm the only child of my mother

Aunty Lebo : what you are doing is so wrong on so many levels , I don't know what justification you will use for it

Me : sometimes you have to throw morals out of the way , to get the job done

Aunty Lebo : what if you get pregnant ?

I heave a sigh

Aunty Lebo : the chances of that baby surviving would be very slim , or you'll just have an abnormal baby

What ?

I find myself laughing

Aunty Lebo : oh it's a joke to  
you ?

Me : that will never happen ,  
I took care of that

Aunty Lebo : took care of  
what ?

Me : that I'll never get  
pregnant

Aunty Lebo : you are not God  
Imbali , people do get  
pregnant while preventing

Me : don't worry , it won't  
happen

She shakes her head

I can see now she's starting  
to doubt her decision to  
support me in this

Which is why I have to finish  
this now

Before she tells me otherwise

Aunty Lebo : this is starting  
to get out of control , and it's  
not what I signed up for

Me : I know , but I'll finish it

Aunty Lebo : you better

She walks out

I sit down on the bed

And take a deep breath  
closing my eyes

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\*Zanethongo\*



I left home

To get away from everything  
that was happening

But it seems like it just never  
ends

It's always one thing after  
another

As I'm walking in through the  
palace walls

I'm thinking of maybe this  
was not such a good idea

Maybe I shouldn't have come  
back

I've been told so many things

I don't know what is what

And maybe it's better I just  
see it all for myself

I guess there's just no  
getting away from it all

Unless I just cut them off

And completely move on  
with my life

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**\*Imbali\***

Me : I want to see you so bad  
, but I can't come there

Zamcolo : babe ...

Me : no , I know I'm not  
welcomed there

Zamcolo : but you're coming  
for me

Me : yes , but what if your  
father catches me there . And  
he throws me out ? Where  
will I go ?

He sighs

Zamcolo : okay , can I come see you then ?

Me : I don't know

Zamcolo : baby please , tell me what to do to make this right and I will



I look at the cameras , I  
managed to plant at the  
palace

And seems like the kids  
chamber , will be the easiest  
access

Zamcolo : babe ?

Me : let me call you after a few minutes

Zamcolo : please don't push me away

Me : I am not , I love you . I'll call you back now

I drop the call

If there's any prayers of  
forgiveness out there

I may need them all

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\*Nkanyamba\*

Sonti : I believe she knows

I look at her

Me : I said that to you , and  
you said no

Sonti : that was before I  
heard , she almost dated  
Zanethongo

Me : what ?

Sonti : what if she's  
targetting us ?

Me : not what if , she is ! You  
should see the house they  
live at , and how much Nale  
has changed . She stole our  
money

Sonti : but what is her plan ?

We look at each other

And this is actually starting  
to feel somehow

To think that's my own blood

Sonti : if she's going to be  
trouble , then we'll have to  
do away with her

This is scary somehow

I hate feeling this way

And not knowing what I'm  
dealing with

Me : Zamcolo needs to cut  
ties with that girl



Sonti : how will we convince him , because he wants to know why

I sit down

Sonti : if we want them to be on our side , then we have to tell them the truth

Me : no , we can't

Sonti : what other choice do we have ?

Me : you heard what she said the other night , what will Zamcolo think of me ? She said I raped her mother

Sonti : and you did ! I think we both know that's the truth ....

Me : please don't , if this is about what happened I thought we are past that

Sonti : doesn't mean it takes the scar away , you forced yourself on me Nka . My own

husband , what about  
Naletsana who was just a bet

Me : just stop !

Sonti : be ready to face the  
truth , and tell them the truth  
. So we can all figure out  
what we're going to do  
about this girl , she can be a  
serious threat to us . As it is ,

we are having to sell our cars  
just to make ends meet

This is fucked up

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\*Zamcolo\*

Me : I didn't expect you to be  
back so soon

Zane : yeah , I had to come  
back

Me : I see

Zane : relax , I am not here  
for your girl

Me : yeah , I mean she's mine  
. So why would you be ?

Zane : what's with the hostility ?

Me : there's none , I just have a lot going on

Zane : wanna talk about it ?

I shake my head



Zane : alright

He seems to be in his own  
moods

I have my own problems as  
well

I am not about to help him  
with his

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**\*IMBALI\***

**\*Insert 31\***

\*Zanethongo\*



Mom : I am happy you are  
back home

I nod

Mom : when are you leaving  
again ?

Me : I just got here mom

She laughs

Mom : and I wish you won't  
leave again

Me : my life is ....

The lights go on to flicker  
again

Zamcolo : what's wrong with  
the lights ?

They have been flickering a lot this evening

Mom : maybe it's just technical issues

Zamcolo : well , they are creepy



Dad : there's something I  
have to tell you

We look at him

He's been quite throughout  
the whole dinner

I look at Mom

And she looks somehow

I guess she knows what he  
wants to tell us

Dad : Imbali is your sister

What ?

I look at Zamcolo

And he looks as bored as  
ever

As for me , I am beyond  
shocked

Zamcolo : it just never ends

Okay , he's not taking this  
serious

Because of his attachments

But I want to know

Me : what do you mean she's  
our sister ?

Dad : she's a child I had ,  
when I was still at school . I  
was still young , I didn't know  
any better

Zamcolo chuckles annoyed

Zamcolo : so you're the one  
who raped her mother ?

Me : what ?

Zamcolo : if she's your child ,  
then you're the rapist ?

Me : what are you talking about ?

Zamcolo : she sat on this table , and told everyone how she was conceived .  
Your father sat there , and acted weird . He didn't dispute anything

What kind of nonsense is this

Me : so you have been  
dating your sister ?

Zamcolo : and that is the  
only thing you have heard ?

I look at my father

Me : dad no !

Mom : please , let's all just ...

Dad : I am telling you all this  
, because I think she's the  
one who stole my money .  
And she targeted to date you  
, so she can get closer to me

Zamcolo : yeah , once again  
it's all about you . And all this  
makes sense to you



Me : can you just ....

Dad : he has to break up with her , until I know what's going on . Besides , a relationship between siblings is just abomination

Zamcolo : it might be , but I am still not a rapist !

I don't know when my father  
got up

But he has Zamcolo pinned  
down on the floor

I get up in a hurry as my  
mother screams

I pull my father off of him

He coughs and spits out  
blood

Mom : why are you acting  
like hooligans , like we don't  
have enough problems

Dad : I will not tolerate  
disrespect from this boy ...

A piercing cry comes from  
the kids chamber

I am certain it's from there

We all look at each other

And the lights go off

Me : what's going on ?

Mom : my babies

She runs out

Dad and I follow her

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\*Zamcolo\*



The drama in this palace just  
never ends

I don't know what my father  
is hoping to achieve

I don't believe a thing he  
said

Maybe this is his plan to  
make me break up with  
Imbali

Just like he said he will

I get up and dust myself

I take out my phone and call



But her number doesn't go  
through

She didn't call me back after  
she said she will call

I wonder if he didn't get to  
her

And lie to her

I hear a scream coming from  
the kids chamber

And that's definitely my  
mother's cry

Sounds like there's an  
argument

I hear Zane shouting

I walk out heading there

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\*Naletsana\*

Lebo : why are you not in  
bed ?

Me : I can't sleep

Lebo : is this about Nka ?

Me : no

Lebo : then ?

Me : my spirit is very heavy

Lebo : that's strange

Me : I feel like something bad is going to happen

Lebo : nothing is going to happen , you're just feeling like this because you saw him after so many years

Me : no ...I don't think it's that

Lebo : what else ? You didn't go see your mother , or go to your brother's burial after everything . You didn't even talk about it , not even Imbali knows . You were okay , until that man showed up here . You haven't been yourself

I chuckle

I know she's trying to make  
me feel better

But I know this has nothing  
to do with Nka

I've even forgotten about my  
mother , or what happened  
to my brother

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**\*IMBALI\***

**\*Insert 32\***

**\*Zamcolo\***

Okay , I was not anticipating  
for this

I am so confused

I don't understand what's  
going on

Imbali : we can either do this  
the hard way or the easy way  
, you choose

Me : babe ...what's going on  
?

She looks at me and laughs

I am so scared

I'm even shaking

My mother is just on the  
floor wailing

Dad : whatever it is , we can  
talk about it . Leave my kids  
and my wife alone

She's sitting on one of the  
beds

And she has a long dagger in  
hand

She has tied the kids

All of them

They're so scared

You cannot miss the fear in  
their eyes

They are crying

It's a shattering sight

Zane : Imbali stop this



Imbali : I think now , you will understand how it felt when my mother begged you not to rape her . But you still did

Dad : I ....

He shakes his head

Me : what ...what is this ?

Imbali : you're do gullible ,  
it's actually sad

Zane : there's four of us here  
, and only one of you . Think  
about this , you will go to jail  
. You broke into the palace ,  
not just some place

Imbali : oh yes ! The palace  
of the mighty king

Nkanyamba , you know what pisses me off ...the fact that you people think you are so untouchable and no one can do anything to you . But let's see , blood is just red . Royal or not

Me : Imbali ....

Zane : not the kids , they  
don't know anything

Imbali : even I didn't know  
anything , but if God himself  
. Can punish the kids , for  
their parents sins . I guess ...

She shrugs

Mom : not my kids please

Imbali : this would have been nice , to see you all suffering and begging for my mercy .  
But after is said and done , I just want a peaceful life

Zane : not in jail

Imbali : oh , if that's how it's supposed to be then so be it

Me : wait ...wait , just wait

Imbali : I've been waiting ,  
planning and plotting . And it  
has come to this

Dad : I am sorry , I am so  
sorry . But it's still not late ,  
to fix all of this . I'll give you  
whatever you want

She laughs

Imbali : oh pray tell , what do  
I want daddy dearest ?

She looks at him

Imbali : huh ?

Zane : you won't get away  
with this

Imbali : try any funny  
business , and we will all go  
up in flames . There's  
explosives all around this  
place , don't get clever with  
me soldier



Right now , this just feels like  
a nightmare

Imbali : you have nothing , I  
have taken your precious  
money that makes you feel  
like you have power . And  
now , I will take your whole  
family while you sit and  
watch . And you won't do  
nothing

I take my phone out

I dial the cops , but there's  
no signal

And the call just cuts

Imbali : oh , I forgot to say

She flashes something from  
her hand

Imbali : no one will be able  
to call anyone , this little  
beauty right here triggers the  
signal

Me : what is all this ?

Imbali : you're so low , just  
catch up already

Me : you never loved me did you ?

Imbali : oh no , now your little heart is broken ? You were just my way in , after your brother fucked me up

Me : I love you Imbali , how can you do this to me ?

Imbali : I don't care about  
your feelings , I don't care  
about any of you here

Tears burn my eyes

Me : you are sick , I am  
walking out of here . And  
you will pay for this

I turn facing the door

Imbali : not so fast , look  
here

I turn looking at her

She points to the screen on  
the TV

And it's a picture of the  
palace

Me : what ...

Zane : don't go anywhere  
Zamcolo , she was not  
kidding . She has this whole  
place , planted with C4's

Me : what ?

Dad : Please , let my kids go ,  
this is between me and you

Imbali : and your wife who  
made it her mission to  
humiliate my mother

Dad : let the kids go

Imbali : no , they are going to  
die for the sake that I



suffered . Don't beg me , I  
am sparing your life . And  
giving you the easy way out ,  
death . Without any suffering  
, well maybe just a little you  
know

She gets up from the bed

She drags my mother , and  
ties her both arms and feet

Dad : don't do this

Me : you're not this person

Imbali : it's so cute you think  
that you know me

Right now I just feel like shit

Like this is all my doing

I did this

I invited her into our lives  
and into our home

Looking at my sister's and  
my mother

My heart just breaks

Imbali : tie yourselves

She hands us ropes

Me : you will ...

Imbali : enough !

My father and Zanethongo ,  
take the ropes

They tie themselves

Both their feet and arms

Are we done , just like this ?

All this because of a 17 year  
old girl !

Fuck no

Even our ancestors would be  
ashamed of us

Imbali : don't try to be smart

She goes on to check if the  
ropes are tight

Me : I will not give you the  
satisfaction

Imbali : mhm , either way you  
will die

I drag the dagger from her

Mom : Zamcolo no !

She screams crying

Me : I am sorry

I aim for my chest , and push  
it through

I look at Imbali

With blood coming out of  
my mouth

Slowly going down

Zane : Zamcolo .....



I've never seen nor heard my  
brother cry

This is the first

I hope , they can be able to  
forgive me

That's if , they dare survive  
this

Of which I don't think they  
will

I drop down to the floor

My eyes failing me

Me : I will not give you ...the  
satisfaction ...to ...to kill me  
...never ...

She laughs

Imbali : I told you , either way  
you'll die . I don't give a shit

She stands over me , and  
drags the dagger out

Blood just gushes out

And I feel my body failing me  
, I close my eyes slowly

Looking into the eyes of the  
one woman I thought loved  
me

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\*IMBALI\*



**\*Insert 33\***

\*Zanethongo\*

Oh my God !

What has my father created ?

Like what kind of a human  
being is this Imbali ?



My brother just took his own  
life

Right in front of her

And all she's been doing is  
just laughing

Me : you're sick !

I should know better than to  
provoke her

But what are the chances  
that we'll make it out of here  
alive

I cannot believe , I've just  
come back from fighting in a  
war

I survived that

Just to die at the hands of a  
girl I loved

If this was always going to be  
my fate

Then maybe I should have  
just died right there in Sudan

At least I would have died for something

I would have died with honour

Now , I'll just be dying as a coward

Imbali : we've wasted enough time , I'm done talking . I

shouldn't have even said  
anything , but we've all said  
what we wanted to say .  
Unless the rest of you , have  
any last words for each other

Dad : my kids ... please ...

I never thought , there will  
come a day that I see my

father begging another  
human being

Imbali : okay

She turns her back to us

I try wiggling the rope

But she sure made sure that  
it's tight

I had tied it a bit loose

I turn back , as she draws a  
sharp blade

And my phone is not  
recording anymore

I frown

I don't even know how much  
was recorded

I couldn't even get a video

The best I could do was just  
an audio record

I'm startled by my mother's  
piercing scream



I quickly turn my head facing  
them

And it's the sound of the  
blade , sliding through my  
little sisters throats

And blood just gushing out

Some spraying on us

Me : NOOOOOOOOO !

I scream my lungs out  
wailing in pain

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\*Nkanyamba\*

Me : how can you ? They  
were ...just kids

I'm looking into the eyes of a  
monster

There's no remorse

I have never looked into such  
blank cold eyes

I thought I knew pain but  
this ...

Me : I hope you kill me as well , because I will never be able to live with myself after all this . I will never forget ...the faces of my daughter's , with their throats slit open .... Please , don't be too hard . Kill me too , you have already taken everything away from me

Imbali : with pleasure

She draws out a pistol

And she points it at me

Me : just do it

Zane : you will never ...get  
away with this

Imbali : that's okay

I close my eyes

As fresh warm tears grace my  
cheeks

Zane : everyone will know  
what you have done , you  
will pay

The silencer goes off

And a loud thud follows

With gags of blood choking

And something wet  
splattering all over us

I open my eyes turning to my  
side



And my son is laying down ,  
eyes wide open

And his brains splattered all  
over this room

I don't know whether to say  
it's fear or what

But I look down my legs

And I've peed on myself

I turn looking at Sonti

And she has collapsed right  
on the floor where she was  
sitting

Imbali : now daddy dearest ,  
you're so special . Hell is so

empty , because all the  
devil's are here . How should  
I take you out ? I want you to  
tell me

Me : you have won , you  
made me pay . My past sin's ,  
came back to haunt me . I  
didn't know , everything will  
come back ...in the form of  
my own creation . You have  
killed me while I still live ,

you killed my children  
brutally . There's nothing  
more I live for , it won't make  
no difference how you kill  
me . Please ...just do it

Imbali : you two don't  
deserve death , you just  
don't . I just wanted to make  
you feel pain , I wanted you  
to feel how my mother felt  
all those years raising your

rape product . Living on the streets , stealing just so she can feed me . Every single pain that she felt , I wanted you two filthy royals to feel . Now this memory of your kids , dying like dogs will haunt you for the rest of your life ....and don't worry , try anything funny like reporting me . Every single evidence that will turn up ,

with point to you . You killed  
your own children , in this  
cruel and gruesome manner .  
Remember Lindi , your whore  
or whatever she was to you ?  
And those many others  
before her ...

She chuckles

Imbali : I do my homework very well , she will be the reason you turned into this monster . And you ended up doing this horrible , cruel thing . Imagine the shame , and the embarrassment .

Mhm ...it will be worse than what you two made my mother go through , worse you'll also go to jail . For a very long , long time .

Remember , you're broke as  
they come . You don't even  
have a single cent

Sonti : no , I don't ...want to  
live ...please ...just kill me  
...kill me so I can be with my  
kids

I don't even know when she  
woke up



But she must have heard all  
of this

Imbali : I am done here , and  
I hope I made myself clear .  
Believe me , you will never  
win a war against me . So do  
dare me and start it

She packs up

Everything of what she came  
with I believe

Imbali : I will disarm the yard  
, and then you two can see  
how you deal with your mess

She grabs her bag and walks  
out

Sonti : oh my kids ....

Nkanyamba my kids ...you  
killed them ! You did this ...I  
hate you , I hate you so  
much ....I'll never forgive you  
for this ....your child ...your  
monster child .... Nkanyamba  
my kids ....she killed my kids  
...your child ....

She falls down on her side

As her cries pierce  
throughout the whole room

I close my eyes , my own  
tears failing me

And all I can see , is a picture  
of all my kids dying in front  
of my eyes

I just watched

And I couldn't do anything to help them

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**\*IMBALI\***

**\*A Week Later\***

\*Insert 34\*





\*Naletsana\*

My jaw is dropped by shock

I cannot believe this

Lebo : yhoh ! People are  
monsters out here

Me : who could have done this ?

Lebo : they don't know , it's said people came and attacked the palace . The kids were killed while they watched , and only Nka and Sonti were spared . And no one saw they weren't around , so Sonti died in that

chamber . Being locked up a whole week in there

Me : oh my God ! This is just brutal

Lebo : imagine , the bodies were only found because it had started to smell . There was a smell coming from the

palace , and people started  
being worried

Me : yhoh !

Lebo : I know I didn't like  
them , but this ...

She claps her hands

I don't even know how I am feeling

Lebo : imagine Nkanyamba loosing his mind

Me : it's only ....there's no way , that he can be alright mentally after experiencing such . He was locked in a

chamber with dead bodies ,  
for a whole week

Lebo : he will never be the  
same ever again

I shake my head

I even lack the words

The door opens and Imbali  
walks in

I quickly grab the remote  
and change the channel

I don't know , maybe she's  
already heard from the  
village kids at school

Imbali : family ...



Lebo : hi baby

She sits down next to me

Me : please go change

Imbali : mom ...

Me : no , go take your  
uniform off

She nods and gets up  
walking to her room

Me : say nothing to her

Lebo : you love protecting  
her , and in just a few  
months she will be a young  
adult all 18 and grown up

Me : he still is her father , so  
please

She claps her hands

Lebo : I'll pretend , I didn't  
hear you say that

She gets up

Lebo : besides , I am sure she  
already knows . Nothing  
misses those village people

Me : of course you would  
know

I'm sure she even misses  
being back at the village

Because she knew everything  
about anyone

Now , she has to watch the  
news to know what's  
happening there

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\*Imbali\*

I've never felt so much peace

No nightmares

Absolutely nothing

I am really at peace

And it's a nice place to be at

Okay ....

Maybe I spoke way too soon

The knock at the door

And I haven't taken my  
uniform off

I am just laying down on the  
bed

Enjoying the peace



Well , before the knock

Me : come in

I open my eyes and it's aunty  
Lebo

Me : hiiiiii .....

Aunty Lebo : don't hi me ,  
please promise me that you  
went to that palace . You saw  
it was being attacked , and  
you left before anything even  
happened . Because I don't  
want to believe , my own  
Imbali can do such a cruel  
and gruesome thing

Me : I am really offended , I  
already told you what

happened when I was going there . Where would I even find those kind of weapons , and to hurt the whole family . Please , take a good look at me . I am so tiny , how would I even begin to kill people like that ? They would ....you know what , this actually feels like an insult . Do I look like a murderer to you ? One that crazy and mentally

disturbed ? Because there's  
no sane person , who can go  
on to kill people like that

She sighs and sits down on  
my bed

Aunty Lebo : I am sorry , it's  
just that when it all  
happened ....

Me : I told you what happened , I was going there . I didn't even hide that , I even asked you to cover for me . But there was suspicious cars around the palace that night , I remember calling Zamcolo . And he wasn't answering his phone , I wanted to go in . But I heard some noises , and it was very scary . Sounded like men

fighting , I couldn't go in . So  
I dragged my flat ass back ,  
and I got a lift from some  
guy and his wife

Lebo : I know , you already  
told me this . Just that , it's  
said ....oh

She shakes her head

I know they were watching  
the news

Everyone is talking about it

I can't believe a whole week  
went by

And no one saw or noticed  
anything

Shame

Aunty Lebo : we need some  
ice cream , change so we can  
leave

She gets off my bed and  
walks out

I take a deep breath



Just as long as my mother  
doesn't know anything

And this aunty Lebo believes  
my story , I am okay

What can a mad man tell  
people , about a horrific  
night that only he survived  
and his whole family died ?

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**\*IMBALI\***

\*A few Months Later\*

\*Somewhere In The City\*

Woman : so ?

The man look at her

Woman : babe come on ,  
what do you think ?

Man : where did you get this  
?

Woman : mhm , it's a  
recording that was sent from  
the prince's phone . The one  
who was a soldier , I don't

know why or how it took so  
long to come out

Man : mhm !

Woman : give me something

Man : like what ?

Woman : do you think she  
did it ?

He chuckles

Woman : you do ...?

Man : no I don't

They both smile

Man : she did



She frowns looking at him

Woman : but you just said ...

She sighs

Man : I don't think she did it ,  
I know she did it

Woman : but ...mxm ! She's only a child , she's not capable of such

Man : well , she's 18 now . It couldn't have been the perfect time for the recording to come out , she will be judged and trialed like an adult

The silence is enough to get  
him lifting his head

From sipping his espresso

To staring into her dashing  
brown eyes

Man : no

Woman : please

He laughs

Man : she's dangerous , what  
do you still want with her ?

Woman : do this for me , and  
you will understand

He sighs

Woman : please , I am not  
wrong I know that

Man : she will still go to jail

Woman : maybe , but please

He looks down taking a deep  
breath

Woman : she's appearing  
before the court tomorrow  
morning , and she has no  
legal representative ...so she  
thinks

Man : she's right she doesn't

He laughs

And she smiles getting up  
from her chair

She walks up to his side

And places a peck on his  
cheek

Man : she's dangerous ....

She sticks out her tongue ,  
and slightly slaps him on his  
shoulder

She turns and walks upstairs  
swaying her hips side to side

And he chuckles shaking his  
head

Just smiling to himself



The things we do for love ,  
mhm !

He thinks to himself

He understands very well ,  
it's secrets of the heart

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**\*THE END\***