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## **If The Shoe Fits Mbimbi or Pinkie by Modiselucia**

### **Chapter 1: Do You Remember?**

It is 20h45 and Pinkie has just finished her last study revision for the Explosive Magazine master examination that she will be writing the following day. She is she's listening in soft volume to Hugh Masekela's *Stimela* song.

Stimela sihamba ngamalahle Sivel' eDalagubhayi

Sangilahla kwaGuqa Bathi sizomba amalahle (Sizomba amalahle)

Stimela sihamba ngamalahle Sivel' eDalagubhayi Sangilahla kwaGuqa

Bathi sizomba amalahle

Stimela sihamba ngamalahle, (The train that is powered by coal)

Sivela eDalaku Bay (Coming from Delgoa Bay - Now Maputo)

Sangilahla Kwa-Guqa (It dropped me off Kwa-Guqa, Witbank -  
Emalahleni)

Bathi sizomba amalahle (...to come and dig for coal)

Iyohhh... (Stimela!)

Sidl' inyol' enkomponi. (**Stimela!**)

Sihleli njengezinja, siyelele mame Emigodini, babe

Sikhalel' izihlobo zethu (Masibuyele le! eDalagubhayi)

Sikhalel' izingane zethu wololo! (Masibuyele lekhaya Bo!  
eTalakubayi) Sikhalel' abazali bethu!

Deep, deep, deep down in the belly of the earth, when they are digging and drilling that shiny mighty evasive stone, or when they dish that mish mesh mush food into their iron plates with the iron shank. Or when they live like dogs in their stinking, funky, filthy, Flea-ridden barracks and hostels. They think about the loved ones they may never see again.

Thando enters the sitting room and the whole room is permeated by the smell of marijuana. "Do you know *Sisi wam'*, that this song was released in 1974 and sold four million copies worldwide?"

“No, that is not true,” Pinkie retorts. “Stimela is included in the album

but the title of the album is *Home Is Where The Heart Is.*”

Thando is carrying two glasses of Bordeaux Blends red wine on the rocks

– that’s a 15% volume of undiluted alcohol – and a tot of Johnnie Walker Blue Heritage whiskey, also on the rocks. He offers her one glass. Pinkie, seated on a dark brown leather, 3-seater Jefferson Chesterfield coach, declines.

“Have you forgotten that I’m writing an examination tomorrow? And you know very well that I do not take alcohol.”

“Sometimes you need to lighten up and remove exam phobia,” said Thando, rolling his big eyes and lifting his eyebrows.

“Loosen up, you know. We men like and enjoy relaxed women. *Hhayi! wena Sisi wam’, you are too tight!*”

“Pinkie, ask Thando: “Am I also too tight, since I’m also not drinking?” comes Pinkie’s mother’s voice at the door down the passage. “Didn’t your father marry me as I am? As for you Thando, you need to start consulting Rehab... your drinking habits will get you fired someday. How can you drink a 43% alcohol bottle while you go on shift the next morning?”

“*Harde Magrizzer* (I apologise mother),” Thando says contritely, rushing back into the kitchen to fetch Magalies Juice for Pinkie.

He returns with two glasses of Magalies fruit cocktail juice and offers one glass to her big sister. They start sipping slowly.

“You know, when I was jobless, I met all the unemployed youth of our community and most of them were doing well through crime,” says Thando. “They had reached a stage whereby they would forcefully take whatever from whoever they deem fit to do so. They staged a R50 million heist at the municipality, did some jail time and came back to spend the money. They have houses at Deljudo Park, Jakaroo Park, De Heuwel and Benfleur, which are amongst the most expensive suburbs here Emalahleni. Heroes of the jungle like Masanisi, who was a mechanical engineer but now blacklisted because of being a convict. They splashed on cars all for cash, but now are back residing at their parents’ back rooms. As for houses and cars, they have been distributed to their children and siblings while they continue to hassle in crime after their initial cash had just about been blown. They are the masterminds of all the heists that have recently taken place.”

He pauses and takes a sip, relishes the taste.

“The most notorious guys are our distant cousins but still, they are still our cousins. Guys like Strawberry and Cremestar. The reason why you were never sexually assaulted or robbed in your youth was because everybody fears them, and they used

to brag that you were Christians and their younger sisters. Everyone in the location was warned never to tamper with you and they were bragging about your high standards of Christian morale, the sympathy you showed to the aged, the orphans and the poor, especially the sick. Some were Daddy's enemies, but you made them to start appreciating our family because of your good behaviour. They stopped all the squabbles they had against our family and shifted to Daddy's side. Some came and volunteered to be his spies at no charge, and they always watched our backs."

"Remember when you used to visit the old grannies every Saturdays at 12h00 until at 15h00? You would say a prayer, leave some sweets, snacks, and fruits with your pocket money. Most of them on your arrival, you would sweep their yards, houses, dust their furniture, make their beds and wash dishes. Some you would prepare, leave cooked meals for them, and leave spare meals on their bedsides. Remember when you would walk, visit Santa Hospital in Ackerville to see and pray for the sick? Most of them had a speedy recovery from Tuberculosis (TB) because of compassion that you showed, and the time spent with them, listening to their pleas, and comforting them. Most of these patients are from our local residence and would tell their families about you, Mahlaela Daughters, when their family members arrive in the evening to see them. Some were inspired and comforted by the fact that

Dad is a powerful local citizen, a leader of the community and local councillor, assistant to the mayor, while he was a shopsteward at work but yet, you kept and maintained respect to the elders and remained humble. You never discriminated against the poor, the needy, the sick and the hungry. By so doing, you became the Princesses of Emalahleni, and nobody wanted to see you getting harmed.”

“Our church, Bazalwane Christian Church members increased massively as you were praying for the sick from the age of 12. Persons came back witnessing the love of Jesus, the miracles of their sicknesses being healed, TB, cancers and ulcers. We did not yet understand the dangers and potential harm in those sicknesses.”

“Amen!” Pinkie shouts animatedly.

“Remember when Mama used to send you to buy a loaf of brown bread and fresh milk every morning? You greeted everyone you passed in the street, including every neighbour in Ackerville from Willie Ackerman Drive, taking short cuts through Owen Mlisa Street until you would have had reached the shop at Godfrey Motla Street kaMlotshwa Wholesale. People started admiring you and would quickly notice your absence when we went to visit at Katlehong, Thokoza, Tsakane and Alexander at Grannies places.”

Pinkie nods, her eyes sparkling shyly, a suppressed smile parting her lips open.

“In Kwa-Guqa, Thushanang Location, neighbouring streets of Ramonti avenue GaMakgolo, (their father’s mom), all knew you by your humble greetings when passing there. In Lynville, Mphelo Street, when you were attending at Elukhanyisweni Secondary School, going through Lembede Street to Mama’s school, Khayaletu Primary School and Sibukosethu Primary School, passing Vuma Primary School to fetch Tebogo at Vulingondo Creche, you greeted everyone with respect. Gogo and Mkhulu Masinga, Gogo and Mkhulu Mokwena would give you fruits free of charge as you pass them. As for Mkhulu Lukhele at Matjeka Street, he just loved to give you Bible verses that motivated you in your youth. I’m still surprised how you grew fond of Mbimbi because she is a direct opposite of your character.”

They both laugh out loud as they imagine Mbimbi and everything that transpired between Pinkie and Mbimbi since childhood. They are adults now but still do not see eye to eye. Pinkie, though, likes to compromise for peace’s sake. Mbimbi, at the same time, would always trigger and poke Pinkie, making sure to pierce her where it hurts the most.

“Remember when Mama was teaching you how to sell the vegetables and fruits at Schoongesicht-overline?” Thando asks



rhetorically. “Pinkie, you always came back with your basin empty and get another refill and another one until sunset. Some people would buy even when they didn’t intend to because of your jolly face, your smile, humility, patience and respect whenever you were selling. Little did you know how much profit you made and how much it assisted on the family’s daily needs like bread, milk, powder soap, soup, Rajah curry powder, white pepper, beef stock...”

“Thando, I get it, the money bought a lot of stuff,” says Pinkie, smiling. Undeterred, Thando continues, “And chicken stock, beef liver, white sugar beans, vinegar for chips and Inkomazi for *uphuthu* (African coarse porridge).”

Pinkie smiles contentedly, “I Mama is the reason I’m so diligent in business and in life.”

“Remember when the guy by the name of Given who voluntarily approached you and offered to sell you the Alcatel cellphone? It was after Harry and Henry the third-year Boilermaker apprentices had been earlier bragging to you about being the first apprentices possessing the cellphones, something that was new in the market as it was phasing out the permanent use of land lines. You explained to Given that you left money to pay at home since he met you on your way to go see Glory your sister cousin. You were going watch Double Jeopardy movie by Van Damme with her. Given explained that

you may go with him to collect the phone first and accompany you back home to collect money for the cellphone which was even affordable, only R650, when the shops were actually selling it for R1 800.”

“Yes, I remember,” Pinkie says bluntly.

On their way to collect the Alcatel cellphone, next to the corner house is Toto’s Tavern which is always characterised by loud music from songs by Mdu Masilela, such as *o suna mang ke le teng, awubon’ukuth’uzongibulalisa*.

“On the way, I was excited that on the following day, I will give Harry and Henry the taste of their own medicine,” says Pinkie. “I will also get to the training centre then also brag about the cellphone. They will soon realise that they are not the only best persons to can achieve good things. I am not sure if I was jealous or greedy, but I felt belittled and wanted to prove a point. I am not sure if it was a healthy competition or not. Passing by the sixth house, left hand side from the tar road at Solomon Nkabinde Street, there were lot of people. They were standing from the fence up to the front lawn watching TV that was placed outside next to the sitting room door. They have been listening to Supersport Channel interview of Mr. Sikabopha Tshehla and his son and my primary school classmate, Anthony Tshehla, who has been following the footsteps of his father in Boxing. He was the pride of

Emalahleni and a role model of the upcoming youth. After champion Arthur Mayisela had died in a motor vehicle accident, the Tshehla family and the Ngubeni Family are left to be the role models however, the disadvantage of resources and sponsors has become a challenge at Emalahleni just like racing in South Africa.”

Along the way, Given narrated to Pinkie that he was an orphan having been raised by his single aunt, how tough things were, how much he wanted to go the University but could not due to financial constraints. Given further told Pinkie how much the cellphone business had brought back hope and pride to his life and thanked God that for every citizen that buys from his stock, they all paid in cash.

Given sings: “*Yingabe kuyoze kube yinini ngikulolusizi* (For how long will I be in this sorrow) *UMama wangilaya wahlukana noBaba* (Mother punished me for parting ways with father).”

They both sing, Pinkie in first Soprano: “*Ngiyakukhumbula mama wami* (I miss you mother) *ngisebunzimeni namhlanje* (I’m in adversity today).”

These are lyrics by the Soul Brothers’ song, Mama. Pinkie encouraged Given about trusting in the Lord and that He never leaves you nor forsake you no matter what, and that He is the

faithful God who does not sleep nor slumber, that He supplies all our needs according to His riches in glory.

Given took Pinkie to the Jabula Mqashi house at Solomon Nkabinde Street in Ackerville, almost at the last houses up to Mpondozankomo Technical College. As they entered, Mandoza's *Uzoyithola kanjan'uhlel'ekhoneni* (how will you achieve if you don't do anything) played at full blast from the next-door house. She also heard that it was half-time between Orlando Pirates and Kaizer Chiefs Football clubs at Ellis Park Stadium. As for the score, it was still nil-nil and everyone was crossing their fingers for the second half. Some were drinking Amstel Beer, Castle Lager, Black Label (Zamalek), Lion Lager, Savannah Cider, Brutal Fruit while giving running commentaries about how Orlando Pirates players were playing.

Mbulelo Mabizela and Papi Khomane had been defending the goal assisting Willy Okpara while Steve Lekoelea, Clinton Larsen, Thabo Mngomeni and Joseph Ngake had been wonderfully passing and dribbling the ball. Some were also commenting on how Kaizer Chiefs players, Patrick Mabedi, Sizwe Motaung and Neil Tovey had been defending while Thabang Lebese, Patrick Mbuthu, Robert Nauseb, Mohammed Ouseb and Siyabonga Nomvethe had been wonderfully passing and dribbling the ball with Pollen Ndlanya pushing forward.

“Yes, I remember. Given asked that we use the back door, explaining that the noise inside meant his auntie had visitors. Entering the kitchen, dinner in the Auntie Nomonde home was nothing fancy for this evening: a cup of mealie meal, stirred up in an aluminium pot, its lid pockmarked with wear, a cup of rice, a quarter of a cabbage, chopped into rough chunks, eight spinach leaves, well rinsed under the tap to wash off the sand, salt, Oxo and a splash of sunflower oil. It bloated up slowly over the two-plate tabletop stove next to the sink in the kitchen corner, with its single tap jutting out from a brass pipe which angles out of the raw plastered wall. *Imifino* (vegetables), was an all-time favourite good old- fashioned Xhosa fare.”

Her twelve-year-old son Sthembile wolfed down the leftovers from a soup kitchen hand-out, his spoon digging into the Tupperware dish of chicken, rice and vegetables. Sthembile was disabled with a propensity to break into bouts of seizures almost every time. He was also mute from birth. Pinkie tried to greet him using sign language, but he did not understand it. When Auntie Nomonde realised that Pinkie was connecting with the little boy, she quickly shouted at him, forcefully dragging him into his room.

As she followed closely after Auntie Nomonde, Pinkie noticed that Sthembile actually stayed inside a steel cage on a small piece of mat and a blanket. The cage was locked, and then the

door also was locked. Pinkie got the shock of her life but pretended to be calm, as if she did not see anything. After all, it was clear that Sthembile's lair was kept a secret within the family.

Pinkie knew that disabled people are equally human and deserved to be treated equally so. They deserve to be taken out to the public, meet people, they have the right to learn, to attend classes and a privilege of all the human rights like everybody else. She remembered the hotline number for reporting abuse and neglect of people with disabilities: - [humanrights@safmh.org](mailto:humanrights@safmh.org), 011 781 1852, SMS message to 076 0788 722 or 0800 428 428. Persons with disabilities continue to lack access to proper health and basic life education. They are at risk of being in economic isolation with no prospect of securing employment or future self-sustainability.

After securely bolting the door shut, Auntie Nomonde returned to the kitchen to start the 21-questions of who was this humble respecting, kind and friendly girl that Given had brought home. Auntie Nomonde knew that some people who once met her son Sthembile, were rude, scornful to him, frowned upon him, looking sideways, some shouting with disgust and attracting the attention of neighbours. Some would even leave the kitchen and stand outside to watch him eat. As saliva poured freely out of his mouth, he would try to gobble the food using both hands,

and in the process both the food and the hands would be coated in a glistening layer of saliva. Whatever the food had been dished for him, it would look like mashed potatoes of an assortment of colours dripping with saliva. He would eat, one dripping morsel after the other, with a weird stench in the atmosphere. Pinkie introduced herself and explained who her parents were.

Immediately after that, Auntie Nomonde quickly pulled Given into the main bedroom, closing the door behind them. Complete silence ensued for about ten minutes, then Mandla arrived from the sitting room, greeted, and sat next to Pinkie – quietly so. Pinkie wasn't in the least surprised by his temperament. They used to fellowship in the youth church together; he was just as reserved.

But on the day, it was different as Mandla reeked of beer and was tipsy. Pinkie was saddened and this only meant that Mandla was backsliding from the Lord – he was such a young, powerful prayer warrior!

The Devil is a liar! Pinkie thought to herself and started praying by heart, requesting God to intervene and reclaim Mandla's life. Mandla used to pray for the sick; the mad would become sane again in the name of Jesus. He used to motivate the youth and preached in the streets – or what is called open-air – with them. A lot of youth repented and looked up to him as a role

model and a living testimony of the holy life. Mandla used to utter words of wisdom like King Solomon in the Bible.

Just as Pinkie continued interceding, she heard a shout from the bedroom. It was Auntie Nomonde, shouting at Given: “So, you don’t want to grow up, Given! You are inviting curses and death from far away! You know what, I am tired of you, and that’s enough! This is Mahlaela’s daughter! You can die alone or go to jail alone for that matter!”

Pinkie kept still, listening in astonishment. Mandla stared at Pinkie and told her to use the weapons. He repeated the instruction three times, then Pinkie remembered that what Mandla was referring to were the ‘spiritual weapons’. Pinkie was not a fighter naturally; she was only familiar with the spiritual battle in the Lord. Pinkie was immediately filled with fear and started praying for protection, declaring the spiritual powers as in the Ephesians of the holy book - *“Hlomanini izikhali zikaMoya ngokuba asibambene nempi yegazi nenyama kodwa impi ekamoya”*. – (Put the whole armour of God for our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual forces of darkness).

The Armour of God is a great way to remind us of how God protects and equips us for spiritual warfare. It is taken from Ephesians 6:10-18 which reads, *“Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armour of*



*God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world's rulers of the darkness of this age, and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having the utility belt of truth buckled around your waist, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having fitted your feet with the preparation of the Good News of peace, above all, taking up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; with all prayer and requests, praying at all times in the Spirit, and being watchful to this end in all perseverance and requests for all the saints".*

Pinkie suddenly remembered a hymn book – Icilongo LeVangeli – hymn song number 178 that says, *Phaphamani bazalwane bakaKristu* (Be vigilant Christians).

*Vukanini sekusile bo* (Wake up, it's a new day)

*Hlomanini izikhali zokukholwa* (Put the salvation armour)

*NgoSomandla sizongonqoba nqo* (You will conquer through the Almighty)

*Vukanini bandla bo* (Wake up Congregation)

*Anibon' izitha na* (Can't you realise your enemies)

*Hlomanini izikhali zokukholwa* (Put the salvation armour)

*NgoSomandla sizongonqoba ngo* (You will conquer through the Almighty)

Reverend Derrick Nzimande from Belfast Church of Christ and the organist player also recorded this song.

Just at that moment, a tall light skinned guy with scary red eyes opened the kitchen door from the outside. He stepped in, his eyes scanning the kitchen like a thief looking for plunder. With one finger across his lips, he motioned to Pinkie to remain silent, and gently pulled her out of the kitchen to the outside.

“Who are you, what are you doing here?” he asked briskly.

Pinkie explained. He then quickly grabbed Pinkie's hand asking, ‘Can you run, and run fast?’

Pinkie nodded, a bit nervous.

“I'm quickly taking you home, but we must run and fast,” he declared.

They started running as in athletics, so fast it was as if they wanted to outrun their own shadows. They didn't take any breaks until they were approaching the second last block of

houses of Willie Ackerman Drive. From there, Pinkie's home was the first one from the tar road into Godfrey Motla Street.

Although still a tad confused, Pinkie considered the young man a Godsent. Her sixth sense had told her that the situation in that house had become tense and unpredictable.

"My name is Jan-Jan, I'm Given's best friend," he said, panting. "Given has been reprimanded from this bad habit of sexually assaulting innocent girls in the name of selling cellphones. As I go now, you might be seeing me for the last time. He will definitely kill me once he finds out that I assisted you to escape from his brutality. Not only does he sexually assault girls, but he also stabs them to death afterwards, in unethical ruthless barbaric manner and in front of disabled Sthembile. He would have invited you into his room as if he was concerned about her Auntie's brutality to the disabled. Once you are inside the room, Given would quickly lock the door and do what he does best on you."

Dumbstruck, it began to make sense to Pinkie. It dawned on her that Given's aunt knew of his evil ways, but only spoke out because this once, but of who her father was. Back to reality, she looks back at Thando, rendered slightly emotional by the recollection.

“Even though nothing happened to me, I still regret that day,” says Pinkie. “I should have been patient and waited for payday so that I would go buy the cellphone in town at proper retail shops that offer a warranty. Also, I should have not left home to go watch a movie with Glory while the whole family were watching the ICC Cricket World Cup Final.”

The said game was played at Lord’s in London where Australia won against Pakistan by eight wickets and the player of the match was Shane Warne. Sometimes accepting defeat and watching the channel that the rest of the family has chosen helps.

“I believe God has been faithful to us,” she says. “He never left us nor forsaken us, and I believe that even tomorrow, we will have a safe journey and I will pass my examination.”

## **Chapter 2: Would You Marry Me?**

“You are hiding some juicy part!” Thando exclaimed animatedly. “Why was Jan- Jan at your wedding and why was he crying in front of everyone like a toddler? A matured and wealthy man like Jan-Jan would not cry without a reason to such an extent, all the way to Thaba Moshate Casino wedding lunch ceremony.”

“Oh, do you remember that blue moment of my wedding day? After we parted as Jan-Jan had brought me safely home, he went back to meet Given who was like a thunder. Immediately when Jan-Jan opened the kitchen door entering the house, Given stabbed him on the chest from behind the door, narrowly missing his heart. Jan-Jan jumped and pulled out his own knife. He pretended to be collapsing but tripped Given, causing him to fall right next to him. Jan-Jan then stabbed him repeatedly, punching nine holes into Given’s chest, who was screaming with a distinctive bellowing of a dying cow. By the time the ambulance arrived, Jan-Jan had lost a lot of blood, got dizzy and lost consciousness. However, it was too late for Given. Jan-Jan received a 15-year jail sentence and paroled after five years on good behaviour. During his jailtime, he got an opportunity to study Electrical Engineering, which he acquired a trade test certificate through my inspiration, he had said.”

Shortly after his release, Jan-Jan clinched himself an apprenticeship with one of the millionaire businessmen who made their money in construction. His intention was to accumulate experience in building projects and build a sizeable testimonial trove for future references of permanent jobs at bigger companies like Highveld Steel and Ferrometals. While Jan-Jan was still in that project, they subsequently received a tender to construct and commission Tubatse Crossing Mall, Thaba Moshate Casino in Burgersfort and iLanga Mall in Mbombela, formerly Nelspruit. These projects were the source of his wealth. They were awarded those tenders because of Jan-Jan's experience in construction and project management that he studied while still in jail.

Jan-Jan was also an assistant to the assistant Project Manager, extending three of the South African prisons in different provinces. The construction extensions were to alleviate overcrowding and inhumane living conditions in the prisons like poor ventilation, inadequate ablution facilities, lack of sanitation and privacy, shortage of beds and bedding, insufficient supervision and oversight, and poor healthcare provision. Jan-Jan contributed a lot, demonstrating his competence and intelligence with all the Stage 2 Project Phase, Concept and Feasibility as well as Stage 3 Project Phase, Design

Development. This was also the reason he earned a percentage share from those projects than a normal salary after he was released. It was his thoughts and daydreaming about Pinkie while in jail, that gave him the courage to go on and to repent, and started to live according to moral standards.

As soon as Jan-Jan was released from prison, he contacted the government officials to make sure that Sthembile's case was reported and that he received justice as a human being, even though he was disabled. Jan-Jan wanted to make sure that Sthembile did not add to the statistic of an estimated 600 000 children with disabilities who remain out of school in South Africa. Nomonde and the neighbours received counselling on how to live with the disabled persons while Sthembile was taken away to the school of the disabled, for fair and just education like any other South African. They looked into options of schools to place him that will make it easier and grant him quick access for family visits, amongst other things.

The Star Academy-centre for Autism 087 148 3759; Catch Up Kids which is a special needs school, at 011 440 1666, [info@catchupkids.co.za](mailto:info@catchupkids.co.za) with more than 464 special needs schools in South Africa.

Arriving at Pinkie's wedding, Jan-Jan had in his pocket an engagement ring to propose to Pinkie, saying that he never

stopped thinking about her since the first day they met. In front of everyone, Jan-Jan wrestled the Mic from the master of ceremonies, took out and opened the engagement ring that he had bought for Pinkie, and asked her to marry him, using a Zulu Idiom that speaks about the bird.

*Oyishayil' akakayosi-* (whoever struck it has not yet roasted it)

*Oyosil' akakayidli-* (whoever roasted it has not yet eaten it)

*Oyidlile uzidlel' icala-* (whoever eaten it has committed crime)

Mahlathini and the Mahotella Queens also included this idiom as lyrics on their song, *In love with a Rasta Man*.

Death silence enveloped the hall, until Bra Tso Mabuza started playing the piano, striking the chord for the song *If tomorrow never comes-you should know how much I love you* by Joose. The ring was a Princess Diana sapphire which was a royal blue, the colour of Ceylon (now known as Sri Lanka) origin. The engagement ring Jan-Jan had was more beautiful and expensive than Pinkie's wedding ring, which was the reason everyone gasped and chattered about it. Jan-Jan was also wearing a more expensive than the groom Tefo, who was wearing a Tuxedo. It was a men's Tuxedo jacket, a one button stylish dinner blazer and trouser. It was crafted out of high-quality fabric, which



made him look gentle and unique in the crowd, giving him style and pizzazz on his wedding day.

Jan-Jan, on the other hand, was clad in a Lahom suit, dark green and tailored to a slim fit from pure, breathable linen by the Solbiati mill, and featured a natural shoulder with a half canvas. Strengthened fine fabrics ensured a natural formed breast; this canvas molds naturally to you over time for a unique fit. It was woven by Solbiati, in Italy, where they only use the highest quality fabrics. From the weaves and exceptional softness to the rich, robust textures, a mid-weight fabric which was made from 100% Linen including a grey slip-on calf suede Dolce & Gabbana shoe. He also donned an expensive taste of perfume – Clive Christian X by Clive Christian, to be specific.

Pinkie's husband Tefo was no match at all. Although they are both tall and handsome, attractive and irresistible, with so much alike in personal physical features. They were also presentable with a degree of maturity. Jan-Jan was a De Klerk while Tefo was a Mandela in terms of their skin complexions.

Jan-Jan went on to declare his undying love for Pinkie on her wedding day, while Pinkie was getting married to another man. He also offered to process a transaction of R5 million as lobola with immediate effect to Pinkie's father – in public – just so that Pinkie would say 'Yes'. Jan-Jan humbly asked for

forgiveness from Tefo Motloutsi, and promised to re-imburse him with immediate effect, for all the wedding costs, starting from lobola and the honeymoon, which had been paid for in advance.

For Pinkie, this showed a lot of disrespect and she asked herself if Jan-Jan was doing that to belittle her husband, Tefo Motloutsi. Was it because now he was suddenly a millionaire and felt pompous that he can do as he pleased and not consider other people's feelings, let alone not respecting people's planned occasions? A wedding ceremony for that matter! Ruining their special day

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interrupting the wedding programme and the scenarios all captured on video.

If Jan-Jan was able to order and export the expensive engagement ring, he must have known about this wedding ahead of time. He should have gone to Pinkie's parents to discuss the matter instead of causing a scene on her special wedding day, and treating her like she was desperate for a wealthy man. He made it seem as if Pinkie would easily become greedy and selfish when she saw a wealthy man, as if she could choose millions over Tefo, with whom she shared the love like

Romeo and Juliet in William Shakespeare's novel. Jan-Jan had the guts to show such disrespect in front of the whole wedding guests, including her parents and reverends, pastors and deacons, chief executive officers of contractor management as well as managers and colleagues of both permanent employees and contractor employees. All these people were important in Pinkie's life and individually contributed in fulfilling her inspirational dreams and anticipating her daily achievements.

How much more will Jan-Jan disrespect Pinkie should she agree to marry him? As for Tefo Motloutsi, he had always been loving, sweet, full of respect for Pinkie and her family, for the church and the public. Pinkie wondered if Jan-Jan's causing Tefo Motloutsi to feel small on his wedding day did not constitute a criminal offence of some sort, which he was committing disguised as a daring act of love. From the way he was dressed and the ring he bought for Pinkie, one could see that Jan-Jan properly plotted this humiliation of Tefo Motloutsi. He had offered an indecent proposal, making sure that Pinkie would not refuse it. Who would opt for a poverty-stricken life when something better gets presented on the table? And who can say 'No' to millions of rands offered on a golden platter?

Pinkie was destined to face a serious fight with her family if she refused a R5 million lobola, which can change everyone's life in

their family. This had already stirred some racket inside the reception hall.

Tefo Motloutsi was just an ordinary man living from hand-to-mouth on a monthly income, just like Pinkie and her family, as well as most residents of South Africa. It was now time for Pinkie to decide whether to accept Jan-Jan's proposal and live happily ever after, or to continue with her ordinary husband and a simple wedding ring of the marriage that God had already blessed.

Pinkie was given twenty minutes to gather her thoughts, and then later, she was handed a microphone to speak so that everyone would hear her decision. At that moment, the piano strings were sounding sweet, round, dark, and rich with a deeper tone with more harmonics and complexity, playing *If tomorrow never comes, you should know how much I love you* over and over. With all the wealth offered on a golden platter by Jan-Jan, Pinkie had finally made a decision.

If a man makes a vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth – Numbers 30:1-16. But who wouldn't want a lavish life laid unto you, publicly so? Pinkie announced that earlier that morning, she had taken an oath to say, 'in sickness and in health, in poverty or in wealth, 'til death do us part.'

On the other hand, *uNkulunkulu akaphi ngesandla* (God will never come from Heaven to give Pinkie millions of rands). Pinkie must think carefully as this might be her lifetime opportunity that she might never get again. As they say, not all that glitters is gold. On the other hand, ex-convicts do deserve a second chance as they have served their sentence. Some get truly reformed while in prison. Some go back to their old ways due to rejection by society, disappointments, lack of trust, false accusations, disrespect and settling of old scores by members of the public who take the law into their own hands.

Some members of society find it hard to forgive ex-convicts, always reminding them that they are convicts, touching on the crimes they committed that led to them being arrested. They are then scorned and humiliated in public. Some get arrested wrongfully, some go and stand in for others, while some get arrested due to self-defence just like Jan-Jan. So, who are we to judge? God said thou shall not judge.

“I greet you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,” said an emotional Pinkie, the microphone shaking in her hand. The wedding guests responded with a resounding ‘Amen’. “Let me start by saying thank you, Jan-Jan, for saving my virginity and for saving my life when I was still in my youth. I have no silver and gold to offer as my gratitude to you, and I will forever be grateful to you for that. Today, I am a happy woman and feel

blessed to be married to the man that I truly love for who he is, not because of his assets and status as those are silver and gold of this earth. However, What God has joined together let no man put asunder. And, If I have gotten myself into poverty by getting married to Tefo Motloutsi, then so be it! For He is God the Provider in Genesis 22 verse 8, 11-14. Elohim- Jireh! (Meaning God will provide)”.

Everyone in the reception hall, especially elders, stood up and applauded Pinkie for such a brave, honest act with unconditional love that she demonstrated for her husband and to everyone. As for Tefo, he closed his eyes in a prayerful moment to say, ‘Thank you God, I have a genuine wife’. Tefo then went to Pinkie and gave her a warm, long embrace and a passionate kiss.

But not everyone was happy about Pinkie’s decision. Her brothers, Thulani and Thando, felt that Pinkie had just lost a lottery ticket worth millions. They felt that she was selfish and hadn’t considered that R5 million would have given them a breakthrough to start businesses of their choices. This money would have set them free from a poverty-stricken life that they woke up to face head-on every day. So, they lost an opportunity of living a fancy lifestyle, to party every day, hold

braai sessions from time to time, weekend get-aways and catching random flights travelling all over the world.

Why would they still work with R5million as lobola and a millionaire brother- in-law? Work is for the slaves and the poor, not them.

### **Chapter 3: A Leopard Never Changes its Spots**

This was when Jan-Jan's eyes moistened with disbelief that he had gotten so easily rejected, just like that. There was a devastated frown on Jan-Jan's countenance, and he lowered and shook his head. He chewed on his lower lip as he left Thaba Moshate reception hall like a wet chicken, *edangele, enamahloni, engenamandla, ekhophozela, ebheke phansi*.

It was at that moment that Mbimbi followed him, comforted him and forgot that she was a bridesmaid, at the spur of that moment. Mbimbi brushed his hair soothing, licking her lips, her legs crossed and leaning forward so her entire bust was in his face. Very few noticed her disappearance as most of the activities in the programme were over. It was during the last dance that the groom made his partner dance with his younger sister who was also familiar with the routines of the moment. Mbimbi then left Jan-Jan at the ablution facilities to freshen up, secretly sniffing a single line of cocaine.

Cocaine's effects appear almost immediately after a single dose and disappear within a few minutes to an hour. Small amounts of cocaine usually make the user feel energetic, talkative, mentally alert, and hypersensitive to sight, sound and touch. This was how Mbimbi became when she came back from the ablution facilities.



The drug can also temporarily decrease the need for food and sleep. Some users find that cocaine helps them perform simple physical and intellectual tasks more quickly, although others experience the opposite effect. The duration of cocaine's effects depends upon the route of administration. The faster the drug is absorbed, the more intense the resulting high, but also the shorter its duration. Snorting cocaine produces a relatively slow onset of the high, but it may last from 15 to 30 minutes.

Thulani arrives at the Platinum Aloe Restaurant in Thaba Moshate to congratulate Jan-Jan for hitting the Lottery Jackpot. Jan-Jan in despair... Thulani explains that Mbimbi is the daughter of one of the shareholders at Xhinsa 1& 2 Platinum Mines. Thulani further requests Jan-Jan to make sure that he strikes a perfect deal so that the smuggling of drugs would also be couriered with the hose and trailer trucks and locomotives across Mozambique, Richards Bay to Durban Port once Mbimbi gets in the palm of his hand. They both know that Masanisi, Strawberry and Cremestar have been looking for such a breakthrough around Steelpoort and Burgersfort.

As Thulani concludes his request and advice, he sharply looks straight into Jan- Jan's eyes and says, "Ungashishi, Slayza Tsostsi! (Make no mistake, be wise and vigilant)", as if he will

give him some serious punches shoe-shine and piano style. He then secretly conducts a finger transaction in a way of sending a finger greeting to Jan-Jan.

Thulani quickly leaves before Mbimbi returns so that she will not suspect a thing. Coming back, she finds that Jan-Jan has already ordered for them a cold cut classic meat and cheese platter with salads and one glass of Harvey Wallbanger cocktail, which is adding in a fresh orange juice, vodka, and ice mixed together and then the Galliano is added on top. To top it off, as a glass of an Apple Martini cocktail is added, which uses green apple liqueur and vodka, along with a little Cointreau, lime juice, and simple syrup. While Mbimbi is a bit confused on which flavors to choose, Jan-Jan offers her an Apple Martini Cocktail. She has not much appetite for food at this stage, but Jan-Jan begs her to take it easy, reminding her that they are not in any rush and the night has just begun.

They both share their thoughts as they sip and snack, making Jan-Jan to forget about his sorrows as he gets closer to Mbimbi. He starts rubbing her clothes, admiring the fabric of her dress, rubbing her arm and her knee as they talk. If there is something that Mbimbi and Jan-Jan have in common from the word go, it is an expensive taste and choice in clothing, food, cars and lifestyle. Though Mbimbi is wearing a similar bridesmaid's dress, the garment is more expensive with high- quality fiber

and texture, fine material and enticing from the distance. It boasts a myriad of expensive decorated glittering ornaments finely plated on the cloth along the chest and breast area. She requested a colour sample and took a flight just to go buy herself a fabric and ornaments specially from Cape Town.

Jan-Jan seems to be relaxed now and starts smiling and sharing some light jokes with Mbimbi. Seeing that Mbimbi is happy, he expresses that joy by doing something funny while imitating her actions of posture and gesture. It provokes her to play, and it motivates Mbimbi by imitating her to stay connected with Jan-Jan.

Mbimbi and Jan-Jan both spend the night together but come the morning, Mbimbi is struggling to vividly remember events of the previous night. She does not recall drinking alcohol, but her mind is a bit fuzzy and feeling hung over. To add to her woes, she wakes up at Peermont Hotel in Thaba Moshate, on an exquisitely luxurious en-suite king size bed next to Jan-Jan, completely undressed, exhausted and of course worked out damp. There is music in the air, soft sounds of Zama Jobe's song *Ndawo Yami*:

*Take me to the place*

*Where the river, river runs wild To the place*

## *A place with fruit of life*

She starts sobbing in realisation that her drink might have been spiked, which automatically adds her to the statistics of gender-based violence. Should Mbimbi call this a form of a date rape?

When Mbimbi starts screaming, Jan-Jan quickly stops her with gentle, romantic fondling. He whispers in her ears how beautiful and attractive she looks even when waking up from sleep, he whispers how sweet, smooth and wonderful she had been last night, how excellent she performs in bed, giving him extravagant satisfaction that was beyond his expectation, and applauding the ecstatic feeling that Mbimbi gave him, saying that she is the best thing that ever happened to him. He tells Mbimbi how fresh and sweet she is from her soul, mind and body, convincing her that they connect and they belong together. He pours his heart out

telling Mbimbi how much he has fallen in love with her.

And the song continues...

*This place in my dreams*

*This place is in my head all day River, river runs wild*

*Take me to the place*

*Where the grass is green all year To the place*

*Where the bees never sting This place in my dreams*

*This place is in my head all day Where the grass is green all year  
Ndawo yami, Ndawo yami*

*Ndawo yami, Ndawo yami Ndawo yami, Ndawo yami Ndawo  
yami*

*Hey hey*

*To the place*

*Where there is no conformity To the place*

*A place of liberty*

*This place in my dreams This place is in my head all day Where  
there's no conformity*

*This place in my dreams This place is in my head all day Where  
there's no conformity*

In the process he takes out the engagement ring – a Princess Diana sapphire which is a royal blue colour of Ceylon (now known as Sri Lanka) origin, quickly putting the ring onto

Mbimbi's left finger, softly pleading her to marry him,  
promising Mbimbi to love her for the rest of his life.

As the musical lullaby continues...

*Ndawo yami (yebo indawo) Ndawo yami (yebo indawo) Ndawo  
yami (yebo indawo)*

*Ndawo yami (yebo indawo) Ndawo yami*

*Ndawo yami Ndawo yami*

*Hey hey*

*Take me to the place*

*Where we talk with our eyes*

*To the place where even winter is warm To the place where  
music is played all day To the place where we sit next to God*

*Ndawo yami (yebo indawo) Ndawo yami (yebo indawo) Ndawo  
yami (yebo indawo) Ndawo yami (yebo indawo) Ndawo yami  
(yebo indawo) Ndawo yami (yebo indawo) Ndawo yami (yebo  
indawo) Ndawo yami (yebo indawo)*

As the song ends, the third track begins, serenading Mbimbi further into romantic bliss, just as the fourth track does:

*I remember*

*How I felt when I first saw you How the feeling was so right*

*How I wanted you to come with me*

Not waiting for a response, Jan-Jan gently enters her fragile body again and they make love endlessly, performing all positions they could imagine. This time Jan- Jan makes sure that Mbimbi screams out of love, ecstasy, desire and pleasure. He continues to raise her passion and edge with long, gentle, caressing and repeated strokes. He makes Mbimbi to cry for more, begging Jan-Jan not to stop.

Who would still call this a date rape or believe Mbimbi's accusations? All these high-rate romantic romps are recorded, unknowingly to Mbimbi. She feels such romance for the first time ever in her life, with so much sweet words directed to her for the first time like a true princess that her parents use to call her. Jan-Jan is such a gentleman who really knows how to treat a special princess like Mbimbi! He is really sweeping under her feet. Right now, Mbimbi feels the true world of wonder,

excitement and colour demonstrated to her by Jan-Jan; the man who date-raped her.

*I remember*

*The perfect night I remember*

*How I wanted you to come with me That is one unforgettable night*

*The memory still seems like yesterday What I was feeling inside*

*How I wanted you to come with me How I wanted you to come with me*

The music keeps cascading onto their ears from Track 5 to 10 – *Taxi Ride, Stormy Weather, Ye Wena Sani, Interlude, Wondering, Memeza, African Girl* and *Sunshine*. All this suddenly feels like the love of *Beauty and the Beast* to Mbimbi; the love one would only watch in the movies.

The following morning Jan-Jan instructs Mbimbi to take out his black bank card from his trouser pocket. She does as asked and rummages blindly inside the pocket, and finds an empty plastic container labelled Rohypnol. Rohypnol is a powerful sedative commonly used for the treatment of severe cases of sleeping problems, or as a pre-anesthetic agent. Lately, it has also been



used as a date rape drug. It easily dissolves in liquid, such as in alcoholic drinks and cocktails.

And then it hits her – this could have been the reason she felt relaxed around Jan-Jan. At some point during the course of the night, she recalls feeling her muscles weakening, and eventually lost consciousness. She woke up to find herself in bed with Jan-Jan, dizzy and disorientated. Hence, Mbimbi does not remember most of what happened. She realises that all the multiple glasses of expensive cocktails that had been ordered were all spiked. She was still blissfully unaware of the video where she accepts Jan-Jan's marriage proposal while making love in the garden of Eden, starkly in their birthday suites, that has gone viral on social media. The video reaches more than 11 million views, adding more money into Jan-Jan's pocket, a fact that Mbimbi is also not aware of. They spend another night, rising from the Moroni Mountains and making continuous accommodation bookings at Thaba Moshate Hotel Casino Convention Resort, a 3-star Peermont Metcourt Hotel and a vibrant casino. They receive special treatment from staff and other guests in their midst as if they are the King and Queen of the Castle. Ifs it's not strawberry and cream with snacks, it's strawberry and chocolates with cocktails, so life goes on as they live it to their fullest.

As for the bride and the groom, Pinkie and Tefo now have to switch accommodation bookings back to The Ridge Casino Hotel at Emalaheni for their first two nights of honeymoon. Though it is Pinkie's hometown, she has to embrace it by visiting places like Witbank Dam, Botshabelo Mission Station, Pilanesberg National Park, Nelson Mandela Square, Loskop Dam Nature Reserve, Massimo Lusso Spa and Gifts. Pinkie and Tefo, the newly wedded couple, then proceed to Tefo's hometown, Haenertsburg. The town is situated between Tzaneen and Boyne Moria, and boasts of the Magoebaskloof Hotel with attractions of Ebenhezer Dam, Sleep Over Moria, Van Botha Dam and Agatha Dam.

As they drive through R555 Road from Middelburg, they pass Stoffberg, enter Rossenekaal Mapoch's Caves Heritage Site. This is a wild part of the Bothasberg Mountain slopes that was occupied by a branch of AmaNdebele ruled by Chief Mapoch and known as the Mapoch tribe during the 19th century. Chief Mapoch was succeeded by his Son Chief Nyabela. Along R37 Road, they also take a turn onto Ntswaneng Village to Tshate Heritage Site, which was also a refuge for Bapedi ruled by Chief Sekhukhune. They marvel at the cultural history of the region, the rise and fall of BaPedi empire, to the fascinating natural and geological environment with Leolo mountain backing to the

south, the hills of Mosega and Modimolle guarding the entrance of the North, with Ntswaneng as bastion within the centre.

Continuing with the journey and their wonderful honeymoon at R37 Road, they pass through the Chuenespoort. The pass follows the course of Tudumo River which flows southwards out of the Chuenespoort Dam. At the northern end the river has cut its way through a narrow gorge, and an unusual feature of this pass is that the bridge over which the road is built does not cross the river. It parallels its path through this gorge directly above the water. They pass the dam and the beautiful mountains, entering the Chuene Resort for accommodation, which is located at the threshold of Ga-Chuene Traditional, approximately 20km outside of the city of Polokwane.

## **Chapter 4: If Shoe Fits - Pinkie or Mbimbi**

Since Pinkie's wedding, every moment that Mbimbi and Jan-Jan share and spend as the new couple gets posted on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Few weeks later Mbimbi and Jan-Jan fly to Branston in the United States of America, and for some months stay at the Big Cedar Lodge. This is where Jan-Jan had already made reservations with the hope that Pinkie would have accepted his marriage proposal. On their return from abroad, Mbimbi and Jan-Jan stage a wedding of the year ceremony, three months after Pinkie and Tefo's wedding.

Pinkie and Tefo get officially invited verbally on Friday of the Bridal Party. If they pitch, they would have reservations as uninvited guests to the wedding of the town's newlyweds. On the other hand, going to a wedding of the man who disrespected, humiliated and disrupted their wedding day was a bit awkward for the couple. The fact that they were given a verbal wedding invitation on the day of the Bridal Shower said a lot to Pinkie and her husband. Everybody around them advised them to stay away from Mbimbi and Jan-Jan's wedding.

Mbimbi and Jan-Jan's wedding preparations have been the sweetest, wonderful talk of the town and everybody soon forgot about Pinkie and Tefo's wedding as if it never existed.

The Calegra Bridal House offers the finest breathtaking wedding dresses in South Africa, created by some of their best designers. Calegra Bridal's extensive variety of wedding dresses means that no matter what you're looking for, they will have a number of stunning gowns you'll fall in love with. Pinkie has the Hourglass body type with natural curves many other women would love to have and show off. So, she picks a V-neckline which prompts her guests to let their eyes slide downward and take in the entire dress. Everyone appreciates the gorgeous details as well as her stunning silhouette. Pinkie chose a mermaid dress which is a favorite for women in this group of body types and shapes.

She has chosen the Anna Georgina Collection for the main ceremony, created by South African Designer Kobus Dippenaar. Kobus is one of SA's most loved and established fashion designers. The Anna Georgina collection grew out of Kobus' desire to take haute couture fashion and make it more accessible. Kobus believes that every woman has a beauty that is her own, an essence that deserves recognition. Having designed dresses for women for 30 years, he says that one of the most underplayed aspects of women is their inherent power and beauty, often unrecognised by the woman herself.

Pinkie was wearing Elegant Wedding Dresses One Shoulder Long Sleeve Mermaid Bridal Gowns Custom Made Lace

Appliques Beads Sweep Train Wedding Dress. Pinkie chose the Jeannelle l'Amour Bridal brand for her Reception Dress which was founded by award winning South African designer Casey Jeanne. Her style tests the barriers and boundaries of what it means to be a bride in today's age. Casey understands what the modern bride wants. Her designs embody an appreciation for the female form and real-girl curves, uplifting women for who they are.

On the other hand, dresses by Robyn Roberts focus and enhance the unique beauty of every bride, thinking classic, feminine silhouettes with contemporary detailing. White Lilly Bridal speaks to the free-spirited bride the modernista, the bohemian goddess. Think boho-luxe and delicate beadwork. The designer, Jacelyn adores beautiful fabrics, exquisite beading and soft dresses that flow. Her designs are romantic and feminine.

At the Calegra Bridal House for a fitting appointment, both Pinkie and Mbimbi received a special and memorable time trying on the best designer dresses South Africa has to offer. The team helped them to find wedding dresses to match their taste that will also look fabulous on the picture frame, ensuring that they get a great experience and that they feel comfortable while looking for that perfect dress. Calegra Bridal House is one of the oldest and most reputable bridal boutiques in South

Africa, so they understand just how important it is to find the perfect wedding dress. It is their unrivalled attention to detail and emphasis on customer service that allowed Mbimbi to find the perfect wedding dress.

Then Mbimbi brings in the competition by choosing her wedding dress, a Sheath Silhouette, Sottero & Midgley-Alec, making it exciting but also quite daunting hence she contacted with Olivelli Consultant for expert recommendations. Mbimbi has a fuller chest (apple). Her bust measurements are larger compared to her hips. Her waist may not be defined very well, though she has slim legs and arms. She is then showing off her stunning curves with a neckline that complements the bust area. A sweetheart neckline is a smart choice, or even a portrait or off-the-shoulder design which is also a mermaid dress. The brilliant white plays consummately against the natural tans. The fantasy catcher trimming is ideal for such a grand day and the girdle top is extremely stunning.

When choosing her wedding dress, Mbimbi wanted to find the silhouette and style best suited to her body shape while being fashionable and classy. Her dress makes her look and feel exquisite. She is matching bridal fashion fabrics, styles and trends with her unique body shape. Remember, white is one of many choices for the wedding gown, but ivory, blush, ivory over champagne

nude or moscato are equally beautiful. Mbimbi kept her photographs in mind when selecting a bridal dress and accessories as all her style elements worked together to create beautiful pictures.

During the vows ceremony, guests see Mbimbi's back with a perfectly planned detail design, veil and train. Mbimbi is wearing white, gorgeous undies and a well-fitting, strapless bra with different sleeve choices for her wedding dress. There was a variety of layers to choose from, more than one detachable train option and much more. There was also fine and intricate personalised wedding dress detail with little touches and embellishment of her choice or arty details; quality is the key. Bridal capes and overskirts added a touch of drama and changing her looks during her big day. Why not?

Sometimes bride and groom will choose a wedding venue in Johannesburg based on aesthetics only. Mbimbi and Jan-Jan have chosen Shepstone Gardens which is nestled in the heart of Mountain View and surrounded by beautiful, colourful gardens and antique stone buildings. The venue can host both indoor and garden weddings and seats a maximum of 150 guests. The outdoor area is perfect for the most romantic wedding photoshoots. However, Mbimbi's special day is taking place without too many hassles because she has properly considered the catering, making sure they make dishes for all types of



guests such as vegetarians, vegans, and persons with gluten intolerance. The décor, the space to accommodate the number of guests invited to her wedding and has excluded uninvited guests like Pinkie and Tefo. Thulani, her brother, is Jan-Jan's best man while Thando, her younger brother, is also the groom's maid.

For the reception, Mbimbi chose the high quality luxury Dubai Champagne Ball Gown Embroidery. It is an empire waist wedding dress, off the shoulder bridal gown with court train. It is one of the most expensive in the market. For shoes, Pinkie chose elegant white lace beading high heel wedding shoes and Ericdress European popular crystal sparkly high heels. While at the Cocktail Reception Party Pinkie was wearing a Muslim Princess Ball Gown wedding dress with high neck and long sleeve lace dotted by Appliques beads and crystal bridal gowns sweep train Vestidos De Novia, Mbimbi is wearing an Arabic Dubai high neck and long sleeve wedding dress, a 2020 Mermaid Lace Appliques with detachable train from Vestido de Noiva WHT0228.

Mbimbi is wearing Luxury Pearl Sparkly Rhinestone as well as Handmade Bead Wedding Peacock from Milanblocks. Mbimbi's wedding ring is a Grace Kelly white diamond, a 10.48-carat emerald crafted from diamonds and rubies that made up

Monaco's crown jewels. The center diamond is flanked by two baguette cut side diamonds.

For the wedding reception, alternatives that move away from desserts and cakes altogether are served. Mbimbi also considered having a cocktail party. Once again, no need for heavy buffet meals and over-the-top—expensive—table décor. Instead, she offered an assortment of mini snacks. Her Bridesmaids enjoyed the opportunity to dress in elegant cocktail dresses. Here, the happy couple created a signature cocktail that's all about them presented in funky cocktail glasses. A great way to get a cocktail party started was to set up a champagne tower which all partners poured from the top until it cascades to the bottom. This surely made for an interesting alternative to cutting the cake!

The cocktail hour was perfect time for partygoers to mingle while the happy couple shares a few minutes of just-married bliss over a private walk and portrait session. All guests were offered a signature drink inspired by everything from your cocktail preferences to your relationship timeline. These custom drinks are creative and delicious ways to tell their guests a little something about who Mbimbi and Jan-Jan are as a couple.

Mbimbi's parents gave them wedding surprise gifts such as a five-bedroom double story facebrick mansion house situated in

Burgersfort Aloe Ridge. There are four bedrooms on the first floor and one on the ground floor, three fully equipped bathrooms with two on the first floor and one on the ground floor. The house also boasts of an open space living area lounge and dining room, large kitchen with separate wash-up and scullery Rhodesian teak cupboards and marble top, two vehicle garages, three vehicle carports, caravan, roof fans in kitchen, air conditioning in the open space living area and in all bedrooms. There is also a large entertainment area swimming pool, jacuzzi and braai area all under the same roof equipped with two roof fans. There is a security gate on all doors leading to the outside fitted with surveillance camera system, burglar proofing on all windows that are equipped with blinds, electric fence and remote gate entrance.

They also got a hand-over ownership document of a fully furnished, multi- million licensed pub located in Steelpoort, at Tukakgomo Village. They changed the pub's name to Monate-Mpolaye Palace. Mbimbi and Jan-Jan left the guests to go spend their honeymoon. They left on the MSC Magnifica cruise ship exploring the shores of Durban, Pomene and Portuguese Islands for a month.

Surely this shoe fitted Mbimbi than Pinkie.

Thando and Pinkie say a prayer and each one goes to their bedroom.

## **Chapter 5: Contractors are Pinkie**

As she presented the monthly report at the last weekly meeting, Pinkie is stopped just after four slides and asked if the Contractor Performance Matrix was updated up to July 2020. She nods but as she continues, she is instructed to open the staffbook and show it to all – as if she is lying. Seeing that the Staffbook is updated, the manager adjourns the meeting immediately.

For every weekly meeting, there must be something wrong with Pinkie – if she did not do the task according to their expectations or thoughts, then Pinkie is wrong. No clear instructions or procedures for the do's or the don'ts. If it has been done by Pinkie, then it is wrong. This is the same as with contractor employees. The permanent employees, on the other hand, would always be regarded as right no matter what. When something went wrong, it is the contractor who caused it, but when production bonuses and incentives are awarded, contractors get ignored – they never receive even a penny. When there is a great remarkable achievement within the department, nobody will say 'thank you Pinkie for the initiation, for implementation, for enforcement'.

At least two thirds of the employment component is now made up of contractors. The site is dominated by unskilled and semi-

skilled local communities coming from 1,1 million persons of Sekhukhune district, of which approximately 66% are Black, with low levels of education. This makes them vulnerable groups, which at times fuels unrest and strike action against mining and smelting companies such as Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine as they will be demanding jobs. As for access to full information of the whole contractor project, some will not disclose the full scope of work to be able to calculate correct cost of the project. Some documents will be treated as confidential thus, not uploaded onto the system. In some consultation meetings – depending on the project owner – they will not invite some contractors for all stages with an excuse that their lines are not going through. Stage 1-3 documents and closeout documents are kept confidential.

Some managers will see a potential in a contractor and then sideline them, hindering them exposure to develop further and reach a stage of performing shutdown/long-term planned maintenance works. Contractor Selection has always been a challenge and frustration due to, amongst other reasons, community unrests with villagers forcing to be employed for the project immediately after the adjudication final stage 4 and when stage 5 commences. It is only then most community members will start to realise the persons who has been awarded the tender and the employees who has been hired once they get issued with a new PPE can start contractor work.

The critically affected routes in the Eastern Bushveld would be R555 Road, R37 and R36 if communities go on strike.

As for tender processing, the system has changed from manual and SAP System to Coupa electronic database, which has exposed low levels of literacy amongst our African communities. This has affected everything from BBEEE-owned companies to be set on Coupa System in order to see listed tenders and to respond by submitting a quotation, to villagers and communities to be able to read and understand the contents that are conspicuously posted on their local and traditional leaders' noticeboards with regards to oncoming project-vendor applications, bidding, environmental impact assessments, recruitment, tender documents and how to fill and complete them. This also includes progress of the project thereof, and incompetent contractors are sometimes awarded the tender just because they are from a certain community that just broke into a strike by barricading the entrances, driveways and entrance gates. Some go to an extent of throwing stones, damage employees' vehicles in the parking areas and buildings/equipment.

During recruitment selection, bribery is demanded from community members and villagers by either community committee members or organisation stakeholder engagement representatives, or Human Resource personnel while

sometimes the rot can spread to contractors who have been awarded the tender or permanent personnel.

On pre-qualification and preferred contractor lists, in addition to expected performance and standards, other areas of interest to a contractor include financial capacity, work history, licensing and qualifications, the availability of adequate human resources and equipment for the task or project. Information that a prospective contractor is requested to provide to assess health and safety performance standards include health and safety policy statement, risk assessments, method statements, injury statistics and enforcement action taken by regulatory bodies. They also have to provide employees' health and safety training records, membership of trade body or trade association, previous experience in similar work or industries, references from previous clients, and arrangements for selection of sub-contractors.

For contractor accreditation schemes, there are additional requirements when selecting "specialist" contractors when recruiting specialists for work which is outside company's skill set. Management will then establish that the specialist is suitably qualified. For example, a hygienist is a member of the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA); this confirms that the specialist is governed by a code of professional ethics. The code of ethics, which all members

pledge a commitment to, and which concerns honesty, respect, integrity and avoiding or managing personal conflicts, bears evidence that the specialist follows a path of “continuing professional development” (CPD). CPD scheme for members, and evidence that industry standards and best practice are followed. Another is of a hygienist using testing services that are approved by a recognised body (SABS-South African Bureau Services, SANS-South African National Standards).

Mbimbi, being part of management, does not mean that she is not doing anything to calm down communities in consolation and proof to the government that they comply with their policies. She is doing everything from effective contractor management strategy liaising through procurement, stakeholder engagement and inclusive into organisational Social Labour Plan. Part of her ambit is a well-maintained R555 Road, intersection into Heavy Duty Gate Weighbridge

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Chinese Camp Western Weighbridge, Railway Crossing and Railway Exchange Yard. This is also includes community development projects and Portable Skills Development Programme for the primary school level up to Grade 12, and offerings of bursaries and internships and learnerships for artisans. Also, part of this is the supply projects of electricity and portable water into communities as well as monthly



groceries to the local orphanage families, disabled and old aged including families with 100% unemployment rate. The local taxi owners and buses are offered contracts to transport permanent employees, contractors including fixed term contractors coming for scheduled maintenance programs all at Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine costs.

There is a well-equipped and fast response security reaction unit team with South African Police Services patrolling 24 hours a day. There is also a designated Competent Drone Pilot from Contractor-Drone Surveillance 24 hours a day, which monitors only the R555 Road, especially on paydays, pay weekends and long holidays on busy traffic, as well as an on-site Emergency Response Team consisting of permanent non-racial employees to minimise the impact of any possible injuries and vehicle accidents. Speed humps are constructed for every 50 meters within 800 meters at R555 Road towards off-ramps approaching into manufacturing premises. It is only competent Surface Mobile Equipment operators, hose and trail drivers, locomotives operators that are allowed on-site. There is constant rail maintenance by contractors to prevent derailment, equipment damage, employees and fauna from being killed by the locomotives by affording protection.

Bigger once-off contracts of R3 million-plus are awarded to white owned companies. Fortunately, they are the most

experienced and competent ones with necessary required resources – money, equipment and tools in advance. While BBBEEE certificate being a pre-requisite, there are contractors without but being accepted and currently offering services into operations as long as Mbimbi approves. Delay in Construction Permit Application that can take up to four months lowers the morale of contractors.

Smaller contracts – those that are less than R3 million – are awarded to Black- owned companies who would also struggle from vendor application, quotation generation and submission, compiling a safety file and an operational file. They would also struggle without funds to pay for consultation whilst African white persons afford professional consultants whom they pay to do presentable tasks for them. Sub-contractors are engaged into bigger contracts of more than R3 million. For example, during a construction project, the digging, hauling, loading and dumping is performed by sub-contractors who supply the surface mobile equipment. Due to small portion of tenders granted and their desperation to get the job done, they sometimes bring in old equipment.

There is also scarcity of mechanics to do regular servicing of the machinery, because they are underpaid and those who do accept the meagre payment, are often grossly incompetent. The defective equipment and machinery that is brought on site

would experience runaway while reversing and as result damaging infrastructure and other. One would later realise that it was brought into the premises with defective parking brakes. Human error by operators who do not do the right thing while they have been trained and been familiarised to report defects and incidents, are widespread. These include oil leaks that cause ground and water pollution through environmental spillage, causing more costs to be incurred in repairing the damages and investigation time, while vendor complaints are being issued to the main contractor. Making use of contractors for maintenance, repairs, installation, construction, demolition, and many other jobs, is a routine to Mbimbi. Contractors also must comply with governmental rules and regulations. Clearly, when contractors are given the scope of work, the activities of different employers interact. It is imperative, therefore, that responsibilities are clearly defined before work starts. This is usually by way of the agreed, signed contracts. It is therefore vital that when clients go out to tender (often inviting several contractors to tender for a work activity or project), that all relevant rules and regulations requirements are met. When bids are received, the client should check them against the work specification to make sure that proper provision has been made by the contractor(s) for compliance.

Proper provision of drinking water is required for contractors just as it is done for permanent employees since they are also

human. The Bushveld Regions demand that every employee should drink water for every thirty minutes as a control measure on Heat Stress Management, which is one of the challenges for employees' welfare. This will spike the most when employees are working within the vicinity of molten material management, confined spaces and where there is the presence of carbon monoxide or direct exposure to sunlight.

There is a legal requirement for the employer to provide employees with facilities to rest and to eat meals, such as lockable storage area that is required for employees' meals and their personal belongings while at work. The lockable storage area for tools and equipment is required for contractor management as well, also considering the fact that there are minimum resources of surveillance in terms of tracking contractors' theft cases. Also, tools and equipment that are well kept and stored are minimising the chances of quick wear and tear, rendering them no longer safe to use and posing a hazard to damage equipment with possible hand and finger injuries. The designated area for morning meetings is required – usually teatime and lunchtime would be held there. It often happens that contractors are not given a designated yard to facilitate offices, workshop, storage areas, parking areas, ablution facilities and hostel for employees like permanent employees. This compromises employees' welfare, which is required by law.

Not to throw all eggs into one basket, Pinkie must go out and apply for vendors in other terrains under Mbimbi's jurisdiction.

Life does not end only at Xhinsa Platinum Mine. As for the company budget, it must always be split into fixed cost which is expenditure that is not necessarily directly associated with production. If production ceases, this cost will most likely still be incurred, for example salaries, semi variable cost which is expenditure that has a very strong correlation with production, but which will not necessarily stop immediately if production is ceased, although it will decrease significantly, such as maintenance expenditure and variable cost which is expenditure that is directly associated with production. If production ceases, no cost will be incurred, for example raw materials (ore). How one spends their resources also determines the future stability of the contractor as well as chances of being offered another contract to perform the task.

## Chapter 6: “Dankie Ya Mosotho Ke Yona Yeo” (African Gratitude)

Pinkie’s father pleaded so much with her to try and check if there were jobs anywhere, as long as Thando would find work as he is now becoming an official nyaope boy. Arriving at Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine, Pinkie introduces Thando with joy and pride to almost everyone, especially because he resembles their father so much. His presence only worsens the animosity between Pinkie and Mbimbi.

Thando has been brought up by a Christian mother and a staunch traditional healer father. He is the only son amongst seven sisters, while his eldest half- brother would only visit during school holidays. Could have produced *umgulukudu*? *Hhawu Mfana kaZulu!* His mother should be turning in her grave if the dead really see what is happening with both her beloved sons. He never intends to repent from killing, stealing, and destroying In-house. Even after his elder sister Pinkie got him back to work as an Artisan, he is still on drugs and upgraded his standards on crime. Being his dad’s only son, he would always seek to please him by lying to him all the time.

Thando being a successful Boilermaker Artisan and a singer who has an angel Lucifer voice, is a true born worshipper who prefers soul music, jazz and a bit of a slow jam, not to mention Amapiano, the latest genre. Thando can play keyboards, piano,

lead guitar, bass guitar and he is a song writer, a producer, and a conductor. When Thando is busy in a house or washing cars outside, one will hear him playing the songs of Jonas Ngwangwa, Hugh Masekela, Abdul Ibrahim, Siphon Hotstix Mabuse, Caiphus Semenya, Zim Ngqawana, Bokani Dyer, Alex Van Heerden, Moses Khumalo, Jabu Khanyile, Ringo Madlingozi and Ray Phiri.

Thando would also be playing jazz music of Siphon Gumede featuring Pops Mohamed-Kalamazoo 2, Don Laka, Jimmy Dlodlu, McCoy Mrubata, Dudu Pukwana, Nduduzo Makhathini, Mpharanyana, Steve Kekana, Babsy Mlangeni, Kori Moraba, Johnny Dyani, Louis Moholo, Mongezi Feza, Chris McGregor, Bheki Mseleku, Andile Yenana, Rex Rabane, Mahlathini, Kori Moraba, Billy Monama, Moses Khumalo, S bongile Khumalo, Mirriam Makeba, Magreth Singana, Letta Mbuli, Patience Africa, Thandi Classen, Dorothy Masuku, Nothembi Mkhwebane, Busi Mhlongo, Tu Nokwe, Stimela and Sankomota. One would hear Thando playing south African music bands like Harare, which was formed in the late sixties and originally known as The Beaters, the South African group consisting of guitarists Selby Ntuli and Saitana (real name Monty Ndimande), bassist Alec Khaoli and drummer Siphon Mabuse. They decided to change their name to Harare during a tour through Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in 1976. They feature a groundbreaking line-up, mixing the buzzing acoustics of the

Southern African rich-toned marimba, mbira, ringing jingling guitars, swooping basslines, irresistible dance rhythms and uplifting vocals.

Harare was the first black pop group to appear on SATV in 1979 (in Beat 79) and was the first non-white group to have its own show at the Colosseum in Johannesburg in 1980. In the same year the band was featured in a BBC TV documentary. They were recording some of the hottest music this country has ever heard and paved the way for more artists to reach commercial success in Europe and the US. Harare celebrates both the past and the future of African dance music and brings a spectacular mix of Southern African musical styles. They strongly believe in the importance of preserving one's heritage through music. Their music is about social awareness, life yesterday, today and tomorrow, advice, respect, love for one another and compassion. It expresses emotions such as pain, love, wisdom and rage.

To know that Thando is celebrating a victory or some income in his bank account, one would hear him playing Juluka which was formed by Johnny Clegg and Sipho Mchunu. Juluka means "sweat" in Zulu, and was the name of a bull owned by Mchunu. The band was closely associated with the mass movement against apartheid; and Bayete which was led by Jabu Khanyile. He would also play the Sheer All Stars, Jazz Epistles, African Jazz



Pioneers, Hot Soul Singers with founding members as Lindiwe Ndlovu and Sisters Ntombifuthi and Nombuso Mabaso. Iphi Intombi, which celebrates the human spirit, would also be in his playlist. It was a stage musical rich in diversity, bold exciting colourful scenes of epic proportion, celebrating uniqueness, passion and humanity. Iphi Ntombi is a 1974 musical by South African writers Bertha Egnos Godfrey and her daughter Gail Lakier, telling the story of a young black man leaving his village and young wife to work in the mines of Johannesburg. The show, originally called The Warrior, uses pastiches of a variety of South African indigenous musical styles.

The playlist would also boost of a Soweto based South African group known as the Soul Brothers, who play in the afrobeat style with David Masondo, lead singer of the legendary music group. Originally, they played Western-influenced songs, and are now considered South Africa's premier Mbaqanga group. Moses Ngwenya and David Masondo, then known as Young Brothers, formed the band back in 1974 in KwaZulu-Natal. Initially, Masondo was the drums player, and later on, he made a move from drums to lead vocals. Ngwenya, known as a keyboardist, has created a unique and easily recognised sound and style. These are the pioneers who popularised the genre Mbaqanga with vocal prowess that were unmatched, euphonic Hammond organ and spellbinding bass lines have had South Africans singing along and dancing tirelessly to hits like *Intokazi*,

*Mama ka Sibongile* and *Idlozi* for decades. The band members were Zenzele 'Zakes' Mchunu (bass, (1974- 1984), David Masondo (drums, vocals 1984-2015), Tuza Mthethwa (guitar, 1974- 1979) and Moses Ngwenya (organ, 1976-present).

When Thando is upset about something, one would hear him playing tracks like *Mama*, *Xolisa Moya*, *Kuyadabukisa*, and *Bazobuya*. As Thando relaxes with his sisters while peeling vegetables in the Saturday afternoons for Sunday meals, he will play for them Mahotella Queens and Izintombi Zesimanjemanje. Mahotella Queens were discovered by music producer Rupert Bopape, and consisted of Hilda Tloubatla, Nobesuthu Mbadu and Amanda Nkosi. The group was noted for their distinct vocal harmony sound, guitar-led Mbaqanga music and fast stage dancing. The music produced by the combination of Mahlathini, the Mahotella Queens and the Makgona Tsohle Band developed heavily on the familiar Mbaqanga sound, a type of jive music that fused traditional and modern elements together and played on electric instrumentation.

Their take on this music evolved into a unique style referred to as "Mgqashiyo", featuring up-tempo female harmony combined with powerful male bass vocal. Mahlathini became well-known in his own right as a groaner, the name given to male lead singers with particularly deep and "groaning" vocals. The Queens and Mahlathini were backed by Mavuthela's House

Band, the Makgona Tsohle Band (including Marks Mankwane on lead guitar and West Nkosi on alto saxophone).

As they peel vegetables, there will be booze in the air, laughter and sharing of old childhood memories. Izintombi Zesimanjemanje with founding members Sannah Mnguni, Francina "Thopi" Mnguni, Nomvula "Nunu" Maseko and Thoko Khumalo were a classic jive album by one of Mbaqanga's most well-known and loved girl groups. They were a direct response to the success of Rupert Bopape's Mahotella Queens over at Gallo.

When Thando expresses unfairness of life and reality, he will play Phuzekhemisi NoKhethani. Phuzekhemisi together with his brother Khethani, started playing guitar in 1976 under the tutelage of their father. Phuzekhmisi, real name Zibokwakhe Johnston Mnyandu, was a guitarist and composer known for churning out Maskandi tunes with controversial lyrics.

Maskandi is a kind of Zulu folk music that is evolving with the South African society. This is the music played by the man on the move, the modern minstrel, today's troubadour. It is the music of the man walking the long miles to court a bride, or to meet with his Chief, a means of transport. It is the music of the man who sings of his real-life experiences, his daily joys and

sorrows, his observations of the world. It's the music of the man who has got the Zulu blues.

Thando mostly likes Imbizo, Inja Yami and Emapalamende. Shwi NoMtekhala and Somnandi, and Thokozani Langa are his most favorites when he drives long distances. Shwi, whose real name is Mandla Xaba, although he sang tenor, was noted for his flair with the guitar. Mtekhala, whose real name is Zwelenduna Magubane, on the other hand, was prominent for his energetic performance and good vocals. Due to this, the two collaborated to form the Maskandi outfit, Shwi noMtekhala. Thando loves most of the songs in their album, *Ngafa*.

When his big brother Thulani arrives home, Thando would change the genre to Sinakho Dance Band to watch him dance with his sisters one after the other. But except for his love for women, Thulani personally admires Reggae artists Lucky Dube, Burning Spear, Bob Marley and the Wailers, and last but not least, Peter Tosh. Peter Tosh, born Winston Hubert McIntosh, was one of the original members of the Wailers band. He went on to pursue a successful solo career, promoting Rastafari. Tosh was abandoned by his parents and spent his childhood living with an assortment of relatives.

He moved to Kingston when he was 15, learned to play guitar on his own, and was given free vocal lessons by vocal instructor, Joe Higgs. Tosh, Bob Marley, and Bunny Wailer

formed a trio when they first entered the music industry. A musician, singer, and songwriter, he was active in reggae, ska, rocksteady, and R&B. His 1975 hit *Legalize It* became an anthem for legalising marijuana and was enjoyed by Rastafari and reggae music enthusiasts. Peter Tosh was active in opposing apartheid in South Africa. He went into self-imposed exile in 1984 on the advice of traditional medicine men in Africa.

The documentary “Stepping Razor – Red X” chronicles his life. He was awarded Jamaica’s Order of Merit. Trafalgar Road in Kingston was renamed in his honour and the Peter Tosh Museum is in the square there. April 20th is celebrated as International Peter Tosh Day and in 2017, the annual Peter Tosh Gala Awards were launched. Thulani feels that he shares a lot in common with Peter Tosh and relates to most of his tribulations and pain he endured.

Thulani’s favourite songs are *Legalize It, Pick Myself Up, Johnny B. Goode, Reggaemylitis, The Poor Man Feel It, Maga Dog, Stepping Razor* and *Glass House*. You would also find him gyrating to *Downpressor Man, Mama Africa, Mystic Man, Brand New Secondhand* and *Til Your Well Runs Dry*. He would top it all with *Why Must I Cry, Ketchy Shuby, Watcha Gonna Do, Jah Guide, Equal Rights, I am What I Am, Get Up Stand Up, Where You Gonna Run, Feel No Way* and *Peace Treaty*. His playlist

wouldn't be complete without *Testify, Guide from My Friends, Oh Bumbo Klaat, You gonna Walk- don't look back, Wanted Dread and Alive, Fight Apartheid, Dem Ha Fe Get A Beating, Cold Blood.*

With Thulani's life story and past experiences, he has grown fond of loving the quotes of Peter Tosh. For every situation he encounters, Thulani always has a quote from Peter Tosh like:

"I am good. I live good. I think good. I don't have to feel good to be good, I take my goodness wherever I go."

"My philosophy is: if you don't bear a cross, you can't wear a crown so you gotta go through some form of humiliation to reach tribulation."

"Music is a science, it heals depression, it awakens, most people don't know, they just take music for an entertainment, something to dance to, and enjoy yourself and you go to bed and forget about tomorrow, music must never be forgotten, it's like a fountain that keeps on flowing."

"Everyone's trying to reach the top. Tell me how far is it from the bottom." "Peace is a certificate you get in the grave."

"I don't need no peace. I need equal rights and justice."

“In the beginning there was the word. The word was Jah. The word is in I, Jah is in I. I make what is good, better, and what is better, best. I follow this in every aspect of life.”

“There are lots of imposters in this earth, and to very first there always comes a second, to every reality there always come a fantasy, and the fantasy wants to come and live the life of the reality” What the Rastaman represents is positivity.”

From time to time, Thando would sell his written songs to upcoming artists who finally gets fame because of his songs. Often when desperate for drugs supply. Thando prefers mostly cocaine and heroin. Thando would trade one of his songs for drugs. Thando is also smart as he has never failed a medical surveillance though on drugs. UnguMfana KaZulu (he is a Zulu Boy) who refuses guidance but would agree as if when you depart with him, one will hear only good news on outcomes. His sister Pinkie has saved his life more than once and contributed on successful decent job offers he ever had in his life. He has managed to get back on his feet because of Pinkie.

Pinkie confides in Thando as her little brother, warning him about persons that he must never step on with a wrong foot, not being aware that she just gave him leverage over all her enemies so that he can use them against her, to get fired.

Thando gets amused to learn that Pinkie and Mbimbi are now great enemies and that Pinkie reports directly to Mbimbi, which

strengthens his plots to get her fired. He knows that Mbimbi also has a soft spot for Thando and would pamper him with all the toys, sweets, and snacks during his upbringing whenever Thando finds Mbimbi selling in one of her father's supermarkets. Thando also knows Pinkie's weakness that if you constantly accuse her falsely, especially humiliating her in public, she snaps. This is what Thando comes and emphasises to Mbimbi about Pinkie.

Thando hopes and believes that Mbimbi will be the best catalyst in destroying Pinkie – her dignity, her reputation. Nobody will ever respect Pinkie and nobody will ever trust Pinkie, believe in Pinkie or listen to Pinkie as much as nobody will still want to associate themselves with Pinkie after they are done with her. Pinkie will be left an empty, cold and dry as a canal.

Thulani has been brought up by a domestic worker, a Christian grandmother and a drunkard grandfather. Uncles would constantly call him Ivezandlebe (bastard, a child born out of wedlock) reminding him that he is a product of sexual assault and that this is not his home. Could that have produced umgulukudu?

Grandmother should be turning in her grave if the dead really see what is happening with his beloved grandson. Rebeca Malope sings "My mother was a kitchen girl, my father was a



garden boy” in a positive way. But Thulani never intends to repent – he is now killing, stealing and destroying in-house. Even after his elder sister Pinkie got him back to work as a site manager at Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine, he upgraded the levels of his criminal enterprise.

Thulani loves Ballroom dances which are done with a partner, almost always a man and a woman, which has turned him into a womaniser who always takes advantage of his partners. He is handsome and excellent in his moves, a smooth talker and gentle with any woman. Ballroom dances are known as the social dance, because of the interaction between the two dance partners.

There are several popular types of ballroom dances including the Cha-Cha, foxtrot, jive, lindy hop, mambo, paso doble, quickstep, rumba, samba, tango, Vietnamese waltz, and the waltz. Thando excels in all of them and whenever there is a competition locally, regionally and nationally, he brings a winning trophy home. This has also made him famous.

Thulani is a graduate, trained, by virtue and competency with great experience. Everything he touches turns to gold at all kinds of projects. He is a skilled bricklayer, a plumber, he can plaster, roof and paint as well as do electrical installation of houses. He can build a wall fence, palisade fence, up to electric

fence, including installation of alarm system and surveillance cameras.

He is a site manager at Pheny Construction and Projects. However, UnguMfana KaZulu (he is a Zulu boy) who refuses guidance but would agree as if when you depart with him, one will hear only good news on outcomes. As for Thulani, he is into marijuana more than anything else. His sister Pinkie has saved his life more than once and contributed on acquiring successful decent job offers he ever had in his life.

How do sons of the same mother be named the same Christian name, Samuel? Would these two brothers be finally united and accept each other as Blood Brothers now that they share the same sentiments of UMGULUKUDU? Have you noticed that recently Imigulukudu are learned, educated and experienced, committing high level of crime? Gone are those days!

*Hhawu, Lafa elihle kakhulu elikaMthiyane* (Cry the beloved country!). Pinkie is a young successful beautiful woman who is so kindhearted. She has been brought up with the spirit of Ubuntu – *Bana ba motho ba ngwathelana hlogo ya tšie*. (Siblings share the head of a locust amongst one another to ensure nobody lacks).

She would rather suffer just to see her siblings comfortable with their needs met accordingly. Out of a R20 000 salary, Pinkie would send R17 000 home to her kids since accommodation was yet to be stable this side. Her siblings, who are still living with both her parents, would be sorted. Every month, she would only be left with rental, petrol and grocery expenditure.

This is referred to as matured

handsome young men who have turned to Imigulukudu and five beautiful matured and sensual women all with expensive taste in beauty, food, hairstyles and make-up, shoes and clothes, places of entertainment including booze. Siblings who always boast to the public that their father is a millionaire but depend on their big sister for the lap of luxury they were enjoying.

Pinkie is the unofficial mother of four and some cousins on the side, who would also demand this and that from time to time. How can she say no to cousins as well because when her mother and her siblings were hiding meals, armpit deodorant and washing powder in the house, not buying bread, leaving her alone to starve in the day while they would sometimes go to restaurants, her aunties were always there and came to her rescue. Her aunties and her cousins never complained about her being a burden.

Little did she know that they were investing in her until Pinkie finally built a six-roomed, 4 by 5 meters shack unknowingly. Nevertheless, Pinkie willingly sends money home to make sure everyone gets comfortable. It took her almost three years to wake up from a deep sleep and realise that she was being taken for a ride. After receiving her money, they would ghost her until two days before pay day to start calling her again, as if they cared and missed her, and then they would request money just before ending their calls.

Now Thando and Thulani both have the same mission: Make Pinkie jobless, steal her cars, steal her livestock, kill her husband, kill her children, kill the female breeders on livestock, take her out of their parents' will and, last but not least, kill Pinkie.

So, what is Pinkie's sin? What did she ever do to them? Pinkie is very jolly and talks too much even though she now understands that their parents killed her biological mother and raised her as a foster child. Without evidence in the court of law, no one is guilty, hence Pinkie decided to let sleeping dogs lie. She is observant in how persons respond to her jokes and if she notices that another person gets offended, she quickly withdraws and asks for forgiveness.

However, there are other persons who will never forgive you no matter how hard you may try asking for forgiveness. There are other persons whom you may never please, even if you give them your whole monthly salary. There are also some persons no matter how much you would sacrifice the comfort of your own home, own zone and the comfort of your family in accommodating them, they will never appreciate or be grateful. They will always criticise and demoralise you with further gossips and exaggerating your failures and downfalls to others as if you once proclaimed to be perfect.

Thulani, Pinkie and Thando have forgotten a sense of whisper from their grandmother's teachings – Deuteronomy 32:35: *“To me belongeth vengeance — As the supreme Lord and Judge of the world, whose power no force can resist, from whose knowledge no secret can be concealed, and from whose justice no art can escape.”* And also, Hebrews 10:30, in the New International Version that says, *“For we know him who said, ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ and again, ‘The Lord will judge his people.’* New Living Translation for we know the one who said, *“I will take revenge. I will pay them back.”*

All in all, Pinkie loves both her elder brother Thulani and her little brother Thando. She always puts herself in their shoes and understands exactly what they have been through with their reasons of downfall thereof. She is not judgmental to them,

neither does she tell persons about their past. Whenever she talks about them, she tells all the good things and great deeds they have done so far. Some of her colleagues would even wish to become her sister-in-law because of that.

Thulani has only been working for a week but begins to control the owner, questions and criticises all his decisions in front of the whole crew. He speaks of the owner's evil nature to the staff and the project owners of works they perform on-site. During the briefings and site meetings, Thando would want to outshine everyone including the project owner. For several times, Thulani crushed the initial scope of work during the meeting, blaming and criticising to say this is how the scope of work should be, not the other way round.

Some project owners did take his advice and reviewed the scope of work, but some did not like his attitude. It smacked of dictatorship and wanting to take over the project as an Engineer. The reviewed scope of works with Thulani's initiatives and proactive measures makes him become famous on the other hand pompous to almost everyone. The dodgy part would be for Thulani to be seen in public after hours at Steelpoort Complex in the midst of the local nyaope boys, the known heist culprits, armed robbers and vehicle thieves.

If one saw them without Thulani noticing, one would be amazed to hear the loudness of their laughter, the

togetherness and relaxation in their voices to show that they are indeed best companions who almost have known one another since childhood and who share everything. They say birds of the same feather flock together. How would Thulani be reflecting such a character after hours? Because he arrived in this small town recently, when did he suddenly meet and get familiar with this genre?

To everyone's surprise, if Thulani sees Pinkie or a colleague approaching them, everybody around him will quickly disperse, then Thulani will pretend as if he has been sitting alone all this while. This reaction started to raise suspicions to Pinkie and finally he reported it to their father, who also responded in shock. It is because of Pinkie that he is back on his feet, but ever since Thulani arrived, in every second week a pig dies in Pinkie's yard. Every week a duck, two or three die in Pinkie's yard, the swan dies every third day, the goat dies every week mysteriously. These are animals that were in a good condition and showed no signs of sickness or any deterioration or loss of appetite. Pinkie once enquired for postmortem which is only conducted in Pretoria for R4800 per animal.

The Veterinarian told Pinkie that the animal must be brought immediately after it dies, which is a bit impossible traveling from Steelpoort to Pretoria considering work constraints and the unplanned fuel consumption required. The situation is also

compounded by the fact that their farming project is not yet self-sustainable as it is still at an initial stage, while the building project of their house is also in progress, not to mention the kids who are not staying with them. The kids are in different levels of education development, and locations where their education related financial demands also, differ from month to month.

Up to now, both brothers show respect to Pinkie though they fake it, and would never misbehave in her presence. Ever since they arrived at Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine, their performances are outstanding and upgrading the level of their teams at work. The Mahlaela surname is up on the charts in the community and at work since some of the elderly employees who are approaching pension age know Mr. Lefa Mahlaela. Some know him as residents and some as work colleagues at Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine as he began working there in his youth. Those elderly employees are so impressed to witness three of his children excelling by following on their father's footsteps, leading by example at work and to the community at large.

The tension between Pinkie and Mbimbi gets thicker at work, further affecting Pinkie's mother's heart condition. She develops complications, and eight weeks later gets paralysed and the doctor confines her to an automatic wheelchair.



From the beginning, Thando is the one who was in love with Mbimbi since their teenage years, but Mbimbi later felt that they were not on the same level. Thando loved women and thug life, and they both dropped out of school, depending on their parents to survive. Mbimbi was the fortunate one as she was the only child of her parents, so they did not freeze her finances forever. Thando would go and cheat but would always remember the love he feels for Mbimbi. He would get upset thinking of the fetus that Mbimbi had destroyed during their youth in the name of legal abortion.

Mbimbi has always felt ashamed to be seen with a known umgulukudu – a thug with class, wearing expensive clothes and driving expensive cars with a taste for the finer things in life. Wherever he passes driving slowly on the streets of Kwa- Guqa, older citizens would rush back into their houses and some would go to an extent of locking their doors. Thulani is heartless and unpredictable. He killed mercilessly in public. He does not want his family to see that side of him, but Mbimbi as his old-time girlfriend has witnessed that.

As for Thando, he used to hurt his mother who loves and adores him so much. His mother who would rather starve or lack just to see all her nine children happy, satisfied and not lacking the obvious compared to other children, especially their peer groups. When Thando would ask for something and failed

to receive it from his mother due to financial constraints, Thando would simply bluntly say to his mother, *“Ngizoziphandela!”* (I will definitely sort myself out with or without your help. Don’t be embarrassed if I would have opted to do so in a thuggish way). Just like Arthur Mafokate’s song, *Amagents ayaphanda man!* and *“Kaffir-Angiveli kwaSathane man, Awubon’ ukuthi ngiyaphanda man.*

At one point, Thando was falsely accused of repetitive sexual assault by her stepdaughter, and the community women’s league protested against him, almost setting him alight inside his house. Thanks to Ntate Lefa Mahlaela, whom the community respect, he arrived just in time and rescued him. The women went on to protest outside the court during his trial, hoisting placards that proclaimed, *“Rot in Jail!”*

Thando was eventually found not guilty with all the evidence showing that the little girl and her mother took an advantage of the law and women’s rights with regards to women’s gender-based violence. The laboratory samples taken from the victim on the day of the alleged sexual assault did not match that of Thando. When the little girl was on the stand, she failed to answer most of the questions but opted to cry.

Despite being acquitted, Thando had already spent six months on trial, and to Mbimbi, that stigma of rapist was still there on Thando. This has been worsened by Thando coming to work at

Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine as a contractor! According to Mbimbi, Thando could have swallowed his pride and asked her father, Pule Molatudi, for employment, not to ask her poor sister Pinkie, who stays *emkhukhwin' weStupid! Umkhukhu wamaplanka!* (wooden shack of the Stupid!)

For Pinkie, all she had to do was to beg the contractors to help employ his older brother as a contractor Site Manager with a R15 000 salary! That's peanuts to Mbimbi! To Thando, this is a lifetime achievement to get such a high position and he had never earned such a salary from his hard-earned labour before. A pure, clean monthly constant money that comes legally, with a payslip and a bank statement – something Thando never had before. He looked back with pride at how much life has changed for him and his children because of his new position and salary. He is now a man with dignity as a father and a citizen. He is now able to monthly maintain all his children, including those out of wedlock, seven in total. Thando is now able to send money demanded by schools where his children attend from time to time – money for school trips, projects, pocket money, affiliations for competitions, for condolences at school and neighbouring colleagues, lost shoes in the sports field, jerseys for autumn and winter season, raincoats and umbrellas for spring and summer.

Thando is now able to leave on a weekend to go attend a wedding and present a valuable wedding gift dressed in fairly new and presentable formal clothes. He is able to attend a funeral and offer a donation to assist in the burial just like any other ordinary citizen. He now has medical aid, savings, long time investments, pension fund, policies and funeral plans like a normal citizen.

In Mbimbi's eyes, a contractor is as much as a slave, just a living thing. No matter how things may be bad in her life, Mbimbi can never stoop so low as to date a contractor, whether he is an owner, CEO or employee. Just as long as that person works under a legal contract agreement that they have with a permanent company or government, Mbimbi does not regard them as normal citizens worthy of her respect.

Mbimbi says contractors depend on winning the tenders to survive and that most of them do not truly deserve them. Innocent, hardworking and competent citizens who truly deserve the tender get to be robbed most of the time by bigger sharks who can bribe or threaten the project owner so that a tender can be awarded to them. Their fate will always be decided by the project, and they constantly have to win another tender or get liquidated. This applies to both black and white contractors, where most of them are not yet BBEE

compliant, yet they are given tenders worth millions compared to those that are compliant.

The fact that Thando is a site manager and has improved his social life in the community means nothing to Mbimbi. She let Thando be Jan-Jan's lap dog to perform his shady deals, so that the community never notice that Jan-Jan is the mastermind. Thando has now become the leader of all Jan-Jan's mules and they all report him and know him as the owner of the drug cartel. Jan-Jan also runs the brothel at Monate-Mpolaye Palace, making millions every month. Just the 15 minutes dance view costs R1000, and that's just for a start. Then imagine the rest of other services that are on offer.

All services are charged at 15-minute intervals, while a single tot starts from R50. All along Jan-Jan has been reluctant to draft a legal document that grants Thulani official status as a business partner. This has made Thulani to start recording videos of drug transactions by Jan-Jan as blackmail. Jan-Jan does not like this, but for now he is stuck and needs Thulani more than ever.

Doctor Nox and Mbimbi have a special VIP guest room to entertain themselves with emotional interactions whenever they are around. Permanent employees have their VIP seats, contractor shareholders have their VIP seats and ordinary

contractor employees doing general work also have their ordinary seats. Treatment and service differ and to qualify for the VIP that you don't have proof to occupy, one must pay double the amount on all price list items available on-site.

Who would have guessed that Mbimbi and Doctor Nox have more than mutual relationship? Jan-Jan caught them once, but he has a lot to lose if he divorces Mbimbi. His public reputation, dignity, position at work, membership of Imigulukudu, drugs supply, properties and assets, money and wealth and depend on his being with Mbimbi. He got all this because he married Mbimbi. He has achieved much more than older businessmen. Mbimbi has been his lifetime lottery ticket.

But keep in mind that attraction can occur even with a stranger, as long as you can infer enough information about this person about their chemistry, values and personality, attraction can occur. But over time, that chemistry can fade, so it is important for there to be mutual interest, understanding, and emotional maturity in the relationship. This way, you can build a solid foundation for a relationship that will last well into the future. On this one, Mbimbi and Jan-Jan failed to bond. If the shoe fits, wear it but surely this one does not fit Mbimbi at all.

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Where does Pinkie and her husband Tefo Motloutsi reside? At the mountains bordering the Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine, just next to the circumcision school yards of Leolo Mountains. It is a rocky area, even when you remove the rocks, just after the rain, rocks will resurface. Sweeping and not sweeping the yard just looks the same. Their yard is 10 hectares with indigenous trees like Modulakgogo, Magaba tree and uMkhanyakude tree that are naturally landscaped with some reeds at the edge of the mountain just before one ascends the slope of the mountain.

Modulakgogo- *Ginkgo biloba* tree is a spectacular ornamental tree with large fan- shaped leaves that turn a stunning butterfly-yellow colour in the fall. The unusual ginkgo tree leaves create dense foliage and form a pyramidal crown on this tall, elegant shade tree. Also called the maidenhair tree, the ginkgo tree thrives in loamy, well-drained soil, full sun to partial shade, and in growing zones.

The beautiful, lyrical, isiZulu name for the Fever Tree is uMkhanyakude, which loosely translated means 'light from afar'. The tree is indeed visible from a distance, standing like a beacon in an arboreal landscape during both day and night, when a stand of fever trees catching moonlight takes on a magical, mysterious aura. It's a great tree. Burgersfort is well known for its wild flowers, and the Aloe burgersfortensis

Reynolds is endemic to Burgersfort. During autumn, the Magaba tree or Bergsering makes a spectacular display.

It is a magnificent indigenous tree that is well-known for its sculptural shape that is illuminated in winter by the white colour of the bark. It is even more cherished for the pale new green leaves in spring that cast a splendid canopy of shade for the hotter months of the year. As the tree matures, the old bark can form horizontal ridges which appear like wrinkles on the tree and adds another playful element. It is a fantastic park tree that is well suited for kids to play on for many hours of the day.

On purchase, they requested a stand a bit far from neighbours so that their pigs would not be a nuisance to them. They were also tricked into buying this one, saying that they were going to be next to the castle as they claimed that they were about to build one where the two mountains meet. As for landscaping in front of the yard, Tefo planted and arranged indigenous Aloe flowers. These were the Aloe Marlotti, Aloe Aculeata, Aloe Excelsa, Aloe Ferox and Mountain Aloe. You would also be enthralled by the Lebombo Aloe, Aloe Maculata, Aloe Saponaria, Aloe Striata, and Aloe variagata, which are beautifully arranged with natural white rocks cropping up from the ground of this yard, creating an S-shape at the entrance.



However, one can no longer take beautiful pictures of nature around the neighbouring rivers such as Tubatse River, Moopetsi River and Lepelle River, because of water pollution, which is noticeable throughout. There are some villagers that are still taking their laundry to handwash at the river. On most of the riverbanks, it has turned into a dumping site. Some have turned riverbanks into car wash spots especially on Sunday afternoons, and heaps of disposable nappies are also dumped at the riverside.

As for the fauna-living things inside the river, only few are surviving. Reading a quarterly Biomonitoring environmental report-one will notice a decline on the monitoring graph. Only fishing national rules apply by De Hoop Dam and Lebalelo Dam. Local villagers are no longer fishing by the rivers because the fish has become so scarce. South African elderly persons who served in the farms back then in the regime, would be awarded with portraits of nature depicting beautiful mountains and rivers. Buying them from the shop would be expensive and only tourists managed to.

Now, with modern technology when it has become very simple to take a picture with your own cellphone and frame it to any size you want, such beautiful pictures are no more. The Eastern Bushveld mines in conjunction with the government are busy putting permanent barriers into accessing the rivers, which will

also have a negative impact on access to the river when spiritual sacraments must be performed. Already, families are struggling to access loved ones' graves at farms that have been purchased by new owners. These farmers fear that they might lose their lands as graves are one of the evidence needed when land claimants are lodged.

Although mines have made provisions of drilling boreholes as a means of water supply, scarcity of portable water is a challenge around this area. Distribution to the rest of the villagers still has some challenges. The Ngwan' a Mobu Concept (Son of The Soil) and Tšhemo ea boMakgolo Concept (My Grandmother's Farm) are still playing a major role in this regime. If you did not grow up with them, you are not one of them and will never be. You could have stayed there for more than two decades but your children and your grandchildren will always be reminded that they are not originally from there; they will never be accepted.

Such a treatment is far worse than xenophobia. The part they forget is the fact that there are villagers who left to the cities to seek greener pastures. Some of them left behind illegitimate children, some got into polygamy while some decided to stay there permanently. Their children and grandchildren, due to realising their roots and traditional spiritual challenges, would then decide coming back home to the African villages. Some

house will be found deserted, dilapidated with its broken windows and sagging porch.

This was evident when they all watched Khutsho at Monate-Mpolaye Palace, Khutsho being the last surviving son of his grandmother in the whole family clan, standing there yonder chatting and laughing with his friends. He is such a clean young man in his late twenties working for the mines. He is married with two kids, a girl and a boy aged five and seven. He has an expensive taste in clothing. Imagine a young teenage boy spewing vomit on his clothes and Squire 2 Florsheim shoes without a reason, coming from wherever that he is coming from with no one to blame him or reprimand him for what he did to Khutsho.

Khutsho feels humiliated, annoyed and belittled. He tries to ask why but does not get any answers. Instead, the customers and his colleagues in the tavern make him a laughingstock. Mr. DJ continues to play *TKzee- o tla felela kae-ngicel'ukubuza, umunt'ofana nam' umcindezela kanjani?*. Khutsho is not drunk yet, and follows the teenage boy demanding answers for his action. He wants to know why he would leave the ablution facilities, the floors and sand, and just decide to come to where Khutsho is standing, and vomit unto his clothes and shoes.

The teenage boy keeps on laughing at him and pointing a right index finger at him. Behind Khutsho, with everyone watching, a

knife is being passed around like at a relay contest in athletics, until it is given to the young teenage boy. The boy immediately grabs the knife and stabs Khutsho nine times, repeatedly without anyone reprimanding him. Not even the barman, the doorkeepers, or the bouncers. Only young girls are screaming, saying “Wuuu...!” and nobody stops the music as Khutsho thuds into the ground, his life extinguished like a candle in the wind.

Mahlako is another reason Khutsho is being assassinated. All along she knows that she is a prostitute and specialises in hosting Imigulukudu, yet goes on and allows Khutso to pay lobola for her. Lately, they can't get hold of Mahlako and she is no longer fulfilling her duties accordingly. Mahlako has even learned to stay indoors in the evenings after work and during the weekends.

Most of the prostitutes have become ladies of the night because of unforeseen circumstances. Most of them are living a normal life during the day and work only during the night, servicing the customers who understand their world. Some acknowledge it as a fair way of making an income than being a thug, though some are forced by situations. Some are feeding their families, making ends meet and some even took their siblings to universities with that kind of income. At the end of the day money is money to fulfill nature's ecosystem.

Once they get married, they leave their old ways and concentrate on becoming a faithful woman. However, some are like the leopard – they never change their spots. Some even after they are married, would still feel the financial gap of the money they used to make in the past. At the end of the day everyone is created in God's image. "Do not judge so that you will not be judged too." Hence, Jesus once said whoever is without sin, let them cast the first stone to the woman that was accused of fornication. All sins are equal because all have sinned.

Mahlako being Khutsho's fiancé is the only one who is crying and seeking for help. They shout and holler at her, telling her to stop the nuisance that she is causing, then start chasing her away. She runs as fast as she could with one guy pursuing her. He is about to grab when he trips over a cold-drink crate and tumbles to the ground. She immediately throws herself into an old, abandoned pit toilet, which doesn't offer much shelter as one side of the wall made of mud and clay has collapsed.

Who would think that a person like Mahlako can enter such a scary, stinky, dark and crumbling pit toilet, especially since she is a woman and it is at night? But this was how Mahlako managed to escape death that night, aided by her tiny body and miniature height. But for how long will she hide from them after showing signs that she would not hesitate to report the

crime and her willingness to be a witness? Mahlako must be silenced because she knows all of them.

She stays hidden in the stinking toilet until the sun blossoms. Later, she heads home and immediately moves out of her mother's house to go stay in the mine house with Potego Mamabolo. Like most prostitutes, Mahlako has kept her private life a secret. She has not even confided to Pinkie, the woman she regards as her second mother and her best friend, with whom she has shared her fears, worries and challenges. Mahlako is afraid that Pinkie might not look at her the way she used to. What if Pinkie would start judging her? What if Pinkie will despise her? For now, she needs Pinkie more than ever before because Pinkie is not selfish.

Pinkie has the patience to teach and explain the job at hand to every contractor employee, supervisor, manager, shareholder and even the Chief Executive Officer, regardless of race or gender. She even arranges training sessions. Mahlako knows that if she can stick with Pinkie for a year or two, she will also become a professional with all her guidelines that she receives from time to time.

Whenever Mbimbi stabs Pinkie in the back, she uses women like Mahlako, Murendeni and Mantwa to do her dirty work, and blackmails them that she will send their videos to Pinkie to see them for who they really are. Then they will do filthy things to

hurt Pinkie just to hide their dark secrets so that they do not lose the trust and faith that Pinkie has in them. They are not aware that Pinkie would never judge them and would accept them, appreciating them for who they are. Pinkie acknowledges that nobody is perfect; she is not perfect too.

Pinkie will always support them until they take decisions on their own, to decide whether they want to continue with their old ways or to change for a safer way where nobody will compel them to do something they do not like. She would create an atmosphere where nothing will compel them to use drugs as a way to deal with their fear and shame. Sometimes Pinkie would find out what Mbimbi makes the ladies do on her food, how she makes them go through her bag and to spy on her. She would be hurt and silently pray that God forgives them and help them one day.

The mine residence has 24-hour security with an armed response unit, as well as the drone for increased security. Thanks to the online shopping, now Mahlako will be buying more online than to be seen around Burgersfort and Steelpoort where her life would be at risk. Mahlako starts applying for a job and requesting some transfers at Xhinsa 1 Platinum Mine, seeing that she is now living like a rabbit.

## Chapter 7: Umkhukhu weStupid

When Thando returns from Emalahleni after a pay weekend, he finds he has to quell the fires that have been ranging of people making a joke about the wooden shack that Pinkie stays in. Coming back, he finds Pinkie and her husband watching their free-range chickens roaming up and down in their yard. They are seated under the *Boscia albitrunca*, commonly known as the shepherd tree or shepherd's tree. In Afrikaans, the tree is called Witgat, in Sepedi ke Mohlopi and in Venda it's Muvhombwe. In isiXhosa, the tree is called Umgqomogqomo, and in Zulu we call it Umvithi. Mohlopi is a protected tree in South Africa.

The species epithet "albitrunca" refers to the oftentimes white trunk. Traditionally, the shepherd tree was used by the Dutch settlers, the Boers, to create a modified coffee that is derived from the roots of the tree. It is an evergreen tree that is instinctive to the Eastern and tropical Africa. The tree grows in the hot, dry, and often brackish low-lying areas, sometimes on abundant lime or occasionally found in rocky terrain. It is a common tree of the Kalahari, bushveld and lowveld.

Thando greets them and tells Pinkie that, "Father says you are stupid and I need to vacate *umkhukhu weStupid* (a fool's shack)."



Pinkie laughs softly and says, “We have a lot of relatives around here, in each and every village we have more than three family relatives that you could have chosen to arrive into their homes. The Eastern Bushveld is now civilised with more than 34 guest houses just around Steelpoort-Burgersfort area.”

Later on, Pinkie stirs up the stiff porridge while the stars in some or other soapie spar from a corner in her lounge. She feels that she is still fuming inside and finally can no longer hold it back.

“Thando, I forwarded your CV so that you can get employed,” she snaps. “You came here penniless, unable to afford any guesthouse and every relative family around Steelpoort and Burgersfort rejected you because of your thieving and drug addiction habits. The same *umkhukhu* weStupid sheltered, preserved and nurtured you. You arrived here sick, but we took you in. My husband Tefo cleaned you and put you on a level that you personally would not do for anyone else. We risked our health by so doing, and we took you to the best medical doctor in Steelpoort, Dr. Rachoene at Alafang Batho Surgery. You received the best medication, care, counselling and you were cured at our own expenses.”

She pauses to catch her breath, hoping her anger would subside, but it does not. “You did not lack any meal for the day, including your cigarettes

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matches and even liquor on weekends at our costs,” she rasps. “We further piled the fridge to the brim with Wimpy Breakfast ingredients, groceries, fruits and vegetables to make any salad of your choice and ensuring balanced diet in every meal you consumed.”

Pinkie takes a deep breath, swallows some saliva to wet her already parched throat, and continues: “Don’t worry, for every double-storey that you see around here started with *umkhukhu weStupid* (a fool’s shack). We will, steady but surely, finish our building projects one day. In Afrikaans they say *bietjie, bietjie maak meer*.” These words really sank into Thando and he recalls how he lost some of his best friends. Fights always broke out when they were high on drugs. He started searching for ways to quit and beat the drug addiction. Dealing with a drug addiction can make good people do things they never want to do. It can damage careers and relationships, but there is no one who is helpless or hopeless. By accepting your addiction, reaching out for help and changing your habits, you can find sobriety and recovery.

Thando started reading the eight tips to beat drug addiction and avoid relapses. There are key tips for Thando to overcome drug addiction. However, none of the steps to overcoming drug addiction will be easy. Nevertheless, there are a lot of people

who would be willing to help Thando succeed, whatever it takes. If Thando is willing to focus and find the right resources and the right people, he can transform his life.

In many cases, drug addiction happens as a result of trauma in a person's life. However, there are many other cases when it happens almost by accident. An example of this is athletes who get addicted to painkillers. Either way, the first step to overcome addiction is facing the truth. Thando, by always performing on stage, was initially using them to cope with stage fright – so he admits.

It can be easy to tell yourself that you don't have a real problem or that it's not causing any damage, but these lies actually deepen your addiction. Admitting that there is a problem and being willing to reach out for help is the first step to recovery. It takes courage and strength to admit this to yourself and to anyone else, so don't diminish the importance of this first step.

Thando started thinking about the first time he tried drugs and what he was feeling. He quietly asked himself these questions: "Have I seen my family recently? Have I seen my friends recently? Does my drug use make me feel shame or guilt? Have I broken the law because of these habits? Have I tried to stop and failed? Are these habits taking my life in a direction that I want?"

One cannot outsmart addiction, but these questions can help to consider the difference between the life that they desire and the life that is currently at stake because of the drugs. With Pinkie and Tefo's motivations, Thando starts by calling the Rehab Helpline for Drugs and Alcohol to find and understand every aspect of his rehab options, including insurance coverage, transportation, and any other questions.

They will also connect Thando with the right resources and support groups. Thando called the South African Drug & Alcohol Rehab Centre in Houghton House, which is 24/7 Emergency Helpline 079 770 7532 to connect with a rehab admissions expert. Drug addiction can take you to your lowest point, but there is always hope. Going through recovery is difficult, but it will make you strong and help you heal in ways you didn't know you needed.

## **Chapter 8: Management is Mbimbi**

Mokone Paneng and Piet Swanepoel enter Pinkie's office.

"Morning Pinkie," they greet her.

She stands, frowns and raise her eyebrows in utter surprise.

"Can you please give feedback on this," says Piet, laying a document on her desk in front of her. "According to Lesiba, he sent to you evidence of actions a while ago to help to close with the necessary information? The general manager mailed me and asked why it is still open. Would you tell me why you did not assist us?"

Suddenly, Mbimbi emerges beside them. She did not even knock or greet anyone. She is looking at Pinkie with a scornful look on her face, clearly expressing, 'Today you have met your match! Let's hear how you will escape this one!'

"Morning Mr. Paneng, Mr Swanepoel," she replies politely.

"Mogofe responded on progress to me however, as an IMS.Net(integrated management system software) User, it is your responsibility to close your outstanding actions. This is the reason when the system notifies me, I forward the notifications to you. This is another reason you were trained, given access and password to make our safety management system user friendly. When we get audited on Integrated Management

System under clause: Performance and Measurement-Actions and close-out, it matters a lot on who gets to close the action.”

Both Mokone Paneng and Lesiba Mogofe gently pull out the chairs, humbly sitting down as Pinkie continues, “I cannot close your actions while I’m the custodian of the system and while you are trained and have access into the system. The responsible person whom the action has been sent to, must close his action to demonstrate that action identified was actually rectified. It is not a paperwork exercise, demonstrating that the responsible person is aware of the deviation that was found in his area of responsibility. The responsibility acknowledges accountability and working on continuous improvement that the identified action becomes preventative. It will not happen again.

By so doing, we also score points when we get audited on Integrated Management System under clause: workers involvement and management commitment to our SHEQ Policy as per roles and responsibilities. If you still struggle on how to close the Actions on IMS.Net, kindly liaise with Mbimbi. If she is not available, we may make an appointment to meet at SHEQ Department so that I can show you how to.”

Lesiba draws a deep breath and says, “So how do these link to worker involvement and management commitment to our SHEQ Policy as per roles and responsibilities?”

“The full-time health and safety representative, his alternates and section health and safety representatives are always present in every health and safety related discussion or session with management that requires effective worker involvement, because each and every section has an appointed, trained and competent health and safety representative by management training resources, after employees have voted for him or her,” says Pinkie. “So, they are conversant with associated hazards and risks in their workplace and always are an extra pair of eyes through consultation in effective worker involvement, participation and commitment.”

Pinkie sits down and looks at them, one after the other, before continuing, “Management have an open-door policy for health and safety representatives in order to report any unsafe condition or behaviour immediately. They are allowed to escalate it up to the general manager’s office if positive satisfactorily feedback is not received by employees with regard to the condition that would have been reported.”

Mbimbi clears her throat, lips pursed and asks

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“Is that the reason you requested that we review our safe operating procedure, systems of work to include the disabled employees?”

Before Pinkie could respond, Piet Swanepoel pre-empts, “Yes Mbimbi, the employees with disabilities are twelve, therefore Provision is made for pedestrian ramps, designated parking areas for the disabled, lowering of door handles where they utilise the most, portable lower printer and laptop, lowered desk, lowered micro-oven, lowered table with a kettle for basic needs while in the kitchen. Management of change and issue base risk assessment have been conducted to include disabled employees to put controls in place that cater for comfort and ergonomics in consultation with the workforce through trade unions and health and safety representatives.”

Swanepoel sits back on the chair, as he warms up to the subject. “Emergency preparedness, response and safe working operation procedure have been reviewed and amended to cater for disabled employees in consultation with the trade unions, health and safety representatives and relevant information in this regard have been distributed and communicated to all. The proof of communication where all employees have countersigned to be acknowledgement thereof, are kept on records for future audit purposes as



portfolio of evidence. Such an emergency drill has been included on an annual emergency drill schedule so that employees would be familiarised.”

Mokone Paneng also chirps in, “During the consultation phase, management and employees talk to each other, listening to the employees’ concerns where management would also raise issues of concerns. They would alternatively both share views and information, discussing issues in good time and considering what employees say before management can make decisions to ensure that any concerns would be resolved prior to commencing with any new procedures to achieve objectives and targets. Where timing is critical, this may not be practicable. However, regular monitoring kicks in utilising two-way communication to assess feedback.”

Piet Swanepoel takes over again: “If consultation is effectively managed, employees will feel that they have contributed to set an objective, thus be motivated to ensure that it gets achieved. Where financial budget as resource is required, management will have to be consulted once again to reassess the budget, staff levels and time frames. Good management practice is achieved through effectively involving the workforce through consultation in order to produce better quality, design, productivity and healthy environment within a just culture.” With Mbimbi is now ashamed, feeling as if this meeting was

meant to educate her and brief her of the latest developments that she seems not aware of that are happening on her watch. Swanepoel and Paneng both express their humble gratitude, apologising for the inconvenience caused and leave Pinkie's office.

Pinkie takes some annual leave days for her examination. She travels to Emalahleni, leaving Tefo behind to look after their so-called farm. Around here, she is not entitled to study leave days. If one is lucky, she would only be granted one day after all the interrogation from Seun Snyman and telling you that you are not ready. Seun Snyman would even go to an extent of bribing an examiner to make sure that you fail the exam that you disclosed to him.

If you keep your mouth shut, take your leave days and go write an examination without his knowledge, approval and blessings. You will be surprised by receiving the results that say that you have passed. One accredited training body apologised to Pinkie for producing her failed marks and requested Pinkie not to disclose that and that they are telling her to be wise in the future and stop informing and trusting Seun Snyman in everything.

## Chapter 9: Daddy's Little Girl

Pinkie acknowledges that her mother's love for the gospel genre drew her towards loving gospel songs. Her father is open to different forms of music. The following morning while preparing to go write an explosive magazine master examination in Mbombela, Nelspruit, Pinkie wakes up singing Psalms118:24.

*This is the day x2 that the Lord has made x2 I will rejoice x2 and be glad in Him x2*

*This is the day that the Lord has made I will rejoice and be glad in Him*

*This is the day x2 that the Lord has made*

*Alive x3 forever more*

*My Jesus is alive-alive forever more Alive x3 forever more*

*He is alive forever more*

*Sing Halleluiah x2*

*My Jesus is alive-alive forever more My Jesus is alive*

She is preparing to get into the car with her parents as she sings. They have offered to take her to the Nelspruit Department of Mineral Resources. Pinkie will be writing her Explosive Magazine Master course and feels that she is ready. Her mother ensured that by asking her questions from previous exam papers. Pinkie has been answering them well, with her mother's teaching skills of adding further questions to broaden her mind. That has boosted her confidence and assurance that she will pass this examination.

It's 4am on a winter morning, and a dark green Mercedes-Benz 240D is already idling outside. Pinkie's dad has finished pouring warm water on the windscreen to melt away morning dew and he is already sounding Hlengiwe Mhlaba inside the car with the song *Blessings*.

While the family wealth continued to increase over the years, Pinkie's father never changed one bit and continued to live his humble life in his ordinary three- bedroomed house with his prudent spending habits and reclusive lifestyle. His looks never changed, and he still maintained his relationships with family, friends and the community.

As they leave Emalahleni Del Judor, at 4-Nelson Mandela Street, to join the misty N4 Highway, another track by Hlengiwe Mhlaba, *Sweet Jesus*, drums into their ears. Pinkie begins to

think about how much God has blessed her with so much caring, loving and supportive parents. Ever since she was a little girl, her parents have always been by her side except for one day when she was doing Sub- A, which is Grade 1 in these modern days, when Pinkie had a year-end function... Scholars arrived early to rehearse on the songs and school play they were going to act in front of their parents. Parents came on Friday for preparations and early in morning to cook for this function, and Rakgolo Mahlaela donated with firewood that he sells. He actually brought the full load with his horse-drawn wagon. All parents knew about this day and parents arrived before the function could start. Every child ran to meet his or her parents and be seated with them.

They all came in numbers and her classmates were showing her off to their parents to say, "This is Pinkie, the smartest and youngest of us all in the class and is the mayor's child". Every parent would be pleased to meet Pinkie, though she did not understand what the mayor's child meant. At Itireleng Primary School, Thushanang location, all parents arrived except for Pinkie's, and she was also excited and patiently waiting for them. Everyone was now seated inside an erected tent except for Pinkie.

Mistress Mabogoane finally held her hand to go sit next to her and other teachers at the front, as it was now clear to everyone

that she was the only one left without her parents present. The function started and Pinkie participated in all activities. As a jolly little girl that she was, everyone tended to adore her and naturally creating fun and jokes by adding some phrases and actions not discussed about during the rehearsal, and but surprisingly amazed the teachers.

Sub-A then called Grade 1 scholars singing in Sepedi and illustrating with choreography. Pinkie became hyperactive, adding life, fun and laughter to enjoyment of the audience.

*Re tsamaya leseding la Jeso x4 Re tsamaya, maya re tsamaya  
Maya re tsamaya leseding la Jeso*

The audience applauded and made a joyful noise. Sub-B and Standard 1 scholars, now called Grade 2&3, sang in English and illustrated with choreography. Pinkie imitated Auntie Kate when they sang the song *ga-Makgolo Mahlaela*, becoming hyperactive than others and adding life, fun and laughter to the enjoyment of the audience.

*We are marching in the light of God x4 We are marching,  
marching x2*

*We are marching the light of God*

The audience applauded and made a joyful noise. Standard 2 scholars, nowadays called Grade 4, sang in isiZulu: and illustrated with choreography, Pinkie imitates Rakgolo Mahlaela when they sing the song ga-Makgolo Mahlaela becoming hyperactive than other adding live, fun and laughter to the audience.

*Sizohamb' ekukhanyeni kweNkosi x4*

*Sizohamba, hamba sizohamba*

*Hamba sizohamb' ekukhanyeni kweNkosi*

The audience applauded and made a joyful noise.

Just after the school choir's rendition, the first course of the day's meal was served. Drinks and snacks per family were offered while Pinkie's parents still had not yet arrived. The pack was too much for Pinkie and it was meant to be received directly by her mother and served to them, not the other way round. Mistress Mabogoane came closer and assisted her to open the pack. She gave Pinkie her share and packed back the rest next to her. She further requested Pinkie not to finish the

rest from the pack but reserve for her parents who were still coming.

Pinkie was so hyperactive and on the other hand kept glancing towards the entrance, hoping to see her parents arriving. There were three prizes to be awarded to the best scholars according to the academic results they had achieved. There was a set of cutleries for third position, a tea set for second position and a set of 12 pieces of Hart pots for the first position. The master of ceremony kept reminding them about the prizes and motivating them to enter the raffle competition as well. The prize for the raffle had been sponsored by The Indian Shop-Aznar which also offered the winner school uniform including winter tracksuits and jersey, from Sub-B to Standard 2 – the highest level which is now called Grade 2-4.

On a raffle competition, any volunteer parent would come and pick out a folded paper inside a closed 25-litre bucket without looking. The name that he would have picked out would receive the sponsored school uniform. The Master of Ceremonies called from the program the next item, which was a speech by the local Municipality Mayor, who was none other than Mr. Lefa Mahlaela, Pinkie's father. A loud round of applause ensued accompanied by joyful noise and whistles reverberating inside the tent. A horde of local citizens were already standing by the



sides as well to catch a glimpse and listen to the mayor's message to the school. After a round of applause, eyes continued combing the stage, but there was no sign of Mr. Mahlaela. He was also not in the passage where they had laid the lush African grass mat for the walkway of the tent. The mat is handmade by the Zulu grass weavers from naturally harvested grass outsourced from local suppliers in the valleys of Kwa-Zulu Natal in South Africa. Each African grass mat weighs an approximate of 400g, the length of approximately 104cm and the width of approximately 59cm grass mats. Mr. Lefa Mahlaela still had not showed up in the tent because he had not yet arrived.

The parents stood up to sing a joyful song and clapped hands in rhythm – *“Hallelujah pelo tša rena di Thabile ka o fela, bana ba sekolo tlang sekolong, sokologang- tloga sathane boela morago, rena re bana ba Moya-renana re bushwa ke Moya, Tumelo ya ka- a nke ke ka e lahla tumelo yaka, Thapelo ya ka, khutšo x2 re na re a ikhutša Amen haleluya Amen-Jeso Krete ke Morena Amen haleluya Amen, kenang bohle sebaka se sa le teng”*.

The singing echoed for almost twenty minutes with the hope that they would see the mayor making a grand entrance in the tent – *Dololo*. The Master of Ceremonies apologised for the inconvenience caused as nobody could explain why Mr.

Mahlaela and her wife had not yet arrived. Mr. Mahlaela was known to be an early bird and disciplined like a Durban July race horse. So, no one had the missing piece of the puzzle that was being witnessed in their midst.

As the Master of Ceremonies called on the choir to ascend the stage, everybody noticed the decline in Pinkie's activeness, jolliness, smile and laughter. But they still sang:

*Two little birds sitting on the tree, Fly away Peter, Fly away Paul  
Come back Peter, Come back Paul*

Her closest friends, Mbimbi and Phankie, hurried to hold her hands side by side while singing. Then suddenly, Pinkie regained her jolly, hyperactiveness on the stage again. Pinkie, Mbimbi and Phankie demonstrated with pride on how Peter and Paul as birds are seated on the tree, how they fly away and how they land back onto the tree. Parents started clapping hands and other scholars not on choir made joyful noise for the choir on stage.

The time for the ruffle finally arrived and principal Thamaga from Mmagobana Higher Primary volunteered to pick up a paper after shuffling. As principal Thamaga opened the piece of paper, everyone was so anxious to hear who the fortunate student might be. Parents were already holding hands with

their children, each one of them wishing their children good luck. When Mistress Mabogoane saw that, she quickly held Pinkie's hand, trying to fill the void as she was the only child who was not accompanied by a parent.

Principal Thamaga, who was Rorisang's father and also a preacher at Luther Bapedi Church, called his wife to ascend the stage as well, and asked her to announce the name of the winner. Rorisang quickly rushed to the stage with a glass of water and a white piece of cloth that his father used to wipe his sweat whenever he preached. She gave it to her father, and then stood next to him. Everyone in the tent laughed heartily and applauded her, as she had clearly thought her father was about to preach. Principal Matlejoane quickly interrupted and said it won't be a fair game because Mistress Thamaga was one of her staff. Everyone in the tent laughed and clapped hands.

Mbimbi's mother quickly ran and ascended the stage. She volunteered to read the name of the winner. Principal Matlejoane approved. The school yard and the tent was now full, but they were as silent as a church mouse, all and sundry filled with curiosity to hear who the lucky student was.

Mbimbi' mother started a chorus – *Ngeloi le lea makatsa*, clapping hands with rhythm and everyone joined in. She sang another song – *Maatla a sona ke bophelo*, dancing on the stage, with some wedding steps and the whole tent started

dancing with wedding rhythms as well. Laughter and joyful noise filled the tent so much, one would swear that a winner had already been announced and that the winner was her child. This prolonged the announcement of the winner for another fifteen minutes.

When Mbimbi's mother started wiping her face with a facecloth and drinking some water, the tempo of the singing slowly died down. They then sat down to listen to the announcement of the winner. Now everyone was curious and anxious as the 'silence in court' moment resurfaced. Joyfully and loudly, she announced with pride, "And the winner is... Pinkie Mahlaela!"

A loud round of applause accompanied the announcement with everyone standing up to see the little Pinkie Mahlaela. Pinkie, who did not understand what the winner was or what it was for, frowned a bit. She thought maybe her parents had arrived, but she could not see them amongst the guests. Mistress Mabogoane quickly lifted her up and ran with her, ascending the stage to receive her voucher. Everyone congratulated her, while others uttered snide comments, asking if she was an orphan. Some refuted such comments, saying, "No, she is the mayor's daughter".

More comments from the floor came fast and furious, people asking that how her parents missed such a happy moment,

while other commented to ask how they can they be so late – if they were still coming. Other parents commented to say they should have sent her grandmother, Makgolo Mahlaela, who loves Pinkie so much and her Auntie Kate or Auntie Lily.

Some said that even Rangwane Lazi or Rangwane Tebogo could have come. Another said all of them are being senseless, as Mkhulu Mahlaela would have brought Pinkie with his horses' wagon and stayed for the function because they all know that Pinkie was being treated like a Princess more than other grandchildren. Still, Pinkie did not understand what a Princess was. Nevertheless

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she smiled and jumped three times when Mbimbi's mother explained to her what a winner was and what the voucher she just received meant.

Lunchtime was announced and 'seven colours' vegetables in a rice dish was served. Everyone felt that it indeed was a special and expensive function.

"We only eat rice on month-end and on Sundays, and while attending weddings," Phankie's mother said.

As for the food, there was plenty of it as a cow had been slaughtered and snack packs had been purchased. So, everyone

felt welcomed as though invited with fair and equal treatment regardless of the dress code, since others saw the function passing by, and entered the premises. More chairs had been fetched out of classrooms so that all the guests could sit comfortably. The Standard 2 scholars were of great help in ushering guests being parents, fetching chairs and being waiters and waitresses during meals.

Again, Pinkie got to sit with Mistress Mabogoane who received gratitude from some parents, saying that all along they thought she had a little daughter that was also a scholar here, and that she had been treating Pinkie like her own. After lunch, Principal Matlejoane was requested to ascend the stage and announce the three best academic scholars. She started by asking if the mayor, Mr. Lefa Mahlaela, had arrived. The response was a No.

“Dessert is yet to be served, *neziphuthelwano* with take-aways,” she had said, smiling and laughing, reassuring everyone that the function was not yet over, as the mayor might still be on his way to the function.

Principal Matlejoane requested that whenever she calls a student’s name, they must ascend the stage and stand beside her. She also asked the parents to assist her in that regard.

“The third position goes to Mbimbi Molatudi!” she announced, and a loud, joyful round of applause ensued as she ascended the stage.

Mbimbi stood a tad behind Principal Matlejoane, holding her dress tightly onto her thighs. The principal hugged her, and assured her that she was not in trouble, but was receiving a gift because she did very well in the classroom. Mbimbi screamed, jumped three times and clapped hands for herself.

The whole crowd made another joyful noise with laughter and another round of applause. Sets of cutleries were handed over to Mbimbi with her parents already by her side to assist her.

The principal went on to announce the second position, “Modika Taukobong!”

Both the learner’s parents carried him in the air and his father put him on his shoulder like a boxing champion, as they ascended the stage. Modika was smiling from ear to ear and clapping his hands.

As soon as it got quieter, Modika screamed, saying, “Wee!!! I am Big John Tate! I am a winner!”

Everyone laughed and gave him another round of applause. Big John Tate is the former heavyweight champ and U.S. Olympian. Champ Modika received his gift as well – a tea set. While they all were still standing on the stage with their parents, the first position was being announced. “Pinkie Mahlaela!”

Now the whole tent stood up and started ululating with all the mothers of Pinkie’s classmates rushing to her. They gave her

hugs and held her tiny little hands and ascended the stage with her in tandem like a Princess that she was. They rejoiced with her as if she was their own child. She stood in front of the queue, with Phankie and Mbimbi. Mistress Mabogoane was their class teacher, and she sat proudly, watching the sweet, wonderful event. Pinkie received a set of 12 pots and she jumped six times this time.

The cameraman, Mr. Mohlala who was Taetsho Mohlala's uncle, had been constantly capturing every moment from the beginning. Principal Matlejoane hadn't held back on the purse strings the pictures were in full colour. Some were meant for the school album, some posted on the school entrance noticeboard, and some were to be distributed among scholars and their parents.

Just when they were about to serve the dessert, which is the last course of the meal for the day, the whole tent stood up and started ululating. The ululations came from the entrance and the back, with everyone clapping their hands with the every row thereafter standing up and doing the same. Pinkie's curiosity got the better of her, and she turned around to see the cause of the commotion, but her short height prevented her. However, she knew that such a grand entrance and reception could only be for her father. She got off the bench and ran as fast as she could into the passage laid of grass mats,



and threw herself into Mr. Lefa Mahlaela's hands – her father, who was accompanied by her mother.

Mr. Mahlaela immediately held Pinkie, lifted her up into the air for some time, looked into her eyes, smiling and laughing. He drew her back into his arms, then a moment of silence ensued. Everyone felt like crying with tears of joy when as the witnessed such love and bond between father and daughter.

Suddenly Pinkie broke down in tears, saying: “Papa, you did not come.”

Her father comforted her and said, “But I am here now, and I promise you on this day, that I will never miss your special occasion ever again in my life, come rain come sunshine.”

Hearing these words, with her father wiping her tears, the whole tent clapped hands for them making a joyful noise.

Mr. Lefa Mahlaela tried to find himself and his wife space on some of the benches allocated for parents, still holding Pinkie in his arms like a toddler. Yes, Pinkie had suddenly changed into a toddler – no more hyperactive and behaving like a big sister. Pinkie was actually the youngest in her class and in the whole school. She was still underage when she started school.

Principal Matlejoane rushed to Mr. Mahlaela and said, “Not so fast Mr. Mayor, we all have been waiting for your speech. But

before you start with your speech, you are holding a scholar of the moment.”

Principal Thamaga took the honour to brief Mr. Mahlaela and his wife about all of their child’s achievements for the day and the wonderful activities they missed that she participated in. She further showed them the school uniform gift voucher and the 12-piece pot academy gift set. Her mother ululated, spun around to show off the pots with a loud joyful noise while other mothers joined her in the moment. During this moment, Mr. Mahlaela threw Pinkie in the air and caught her, held her into his arms longer than the previous moment, and said, “Thank you My Baby.” He also apologised that they were not there on time.

Mr. Lefa Mahlaela and his wife then ascended the stage, refusing to put his daughter down and still holding her like a toddler, as he made his way to the podium to make his speech. It was an inspirational and wonderful speech, as he motivated and thanked the school, parents, scholars as well as neighbouring citizens who also had come to attend.

Reverend Moswane of Luther Bapedi Church came forward, greeted everyone and ululated. He congratulated the winners and motivated those that did not win, telling them that there is always a second chance. He also emphasised that not winning did not mean that they were losers, but whenever there’s a

competition, a winner must be chosen. He further motivated all scholars to say they were also the best scholars and best children every parent could ever wish for.

Reverend Moswane also hinted at the point that some scholars would be the best academically but some on arts and cultural activities, sports and entertainment. He further advised the parents to make it their full responsibilities in ensuring that they help their children to discover their full potential in life. He emphasised that every child is simply the best and God created each one of them uniquely with different talents to showcase them in this world.

Reverend Moswane then made a special prayer and a blessing for the school, teachers, scholars, parents, and the community at large. As they sat down to have dessert, parents and citizens passed by to greet the Mahlaela family. Afterwards, the mayor himself went and greeted the parents one by one with a smile and so much humility, while bowing to the elders and the old citizens of Kwa-Guqa, Emalahleni.

As soon as Pinkie saw her grandmother and grandfather, she leapt off from her father's arms and ran to meet them with a smile and joyful noise. She went and sat with them. She did not know that her parents had gone to fetch them to come and attend her function as well.

All the scholars received toys each as Christmas gifts and this was made possible by the school and Mr. Pule Molatudi, Mbimbi's father, and Mr. Piet Swanepoel, his business partner. As if the gifts were not enough, Mistress Moswane, Mistress Zwane, Mistress Mabena, Mistress Malekane, Mistress Mathebula, Mistress Sentle, Mistress Mabogoane and Mistress Thamaga, all issued their classes with gifts and lollipops. The scholars screamed and shouted happily as they received their Christmas gifts.

Most of the scholars asked their parents to keep their gifts for them until Christmas Day. Each one of them said they will open their Christmas gifts on Christmas Day to ensure that the gifts become memorable and that it becomes a special day.

Pinkie's mother was busy assisting Mistress Mabogoane, then suddenly there were volunteers assisting the rest of the teachers as well. At the gate, every family or guest that was leaving the premises received a pack of mango, banana, litchis and peach or pawpaw. All these fruits were are Pinkie's favourites, reminding her of her beloved grandparents and her childhood memories.

"May their souls rest in peace," Pinkie says to herself.

## **Chapter 10: You are Ugly!**

Pinkie Mahlaela was a beautiful, humble and respectful, brown-skinned girl. Her parents made a modest, average income but managed to get into PEP Store, Mr. Price and Ackermans at Witbank Downtown to get her Christmas clothes. It was Christmas Day, which also happened to be the wedding anniversary of Principal Matlejoane and her husband. They had hired Pinkie's father to host them on his 1979 Mercedes-Benz 240D with a sunroof. They were seated on top for everyone to see their beautiful sky-blue costume and suite.

Pinkie was wearing a pink dress with pink socks and pink shoes, as well as a pink bracelet and pink ribbons on her long-plated virgin hair. This matched with her wrist Vintage Disney Elsa & Anna pink strap watch, pink necklace and pink earrings.

Mbimbi Molatudi was Pinkie's local friend. She was a beautiful, yellow-boned and full-figured little girl, whose was highly pompous to boot. Mbimbi left Mmagobana Intermediate School to attend at Convent Multiracial School, becoming one of the first Black children who get to attend classes with the white scholars in Witbank, Emalahleni.

Pinkie had to stay behind. Being the family of nine, it would have been difficult for everyone to attend a convent school.

Who would want to stay behind in the township schools while Pinkie followed Mbimbi at a convent school? Every child envied Mbimbi, wishing to be in her shoe as if it fitted. Mbimbi finished Standard Five and got enrolled to Glencowie Girls High in Jane Furse, which was the best in South Africa and one of the most expensive schools under the domains of Roman Catholic Church. Now she was in Standard 10, which is Grade 12 today, and only visited home during school holidays.

Mbimbi's parents were wealthy and owned horse and trailer trucks, taxis, bottle stores, taverns and supermarkets with built-in butcheries. They shopped at Milanos Store, Skipper Bar and Fabiano all the way in Ekurhuleni's East Gate Mall, where they bought new clothes for Mbimbi for the festive season.

Mbimbi had new clothes to wear for the 16th of December holiday. She had new clothes for Christmas Day, and she had new clothes for the 26th of December holiday. Mbimbi also had new clothes to wear for the 31st of December and for New Year's Eve. She had new clothes to wear for the 1st of January, New Year's Day.

On this day, she was wearing new clothes, and she would be wearing new clothes again on the 2nd of January. Other children only had Christmas clothes, those fortunate enough had new clothes for New Year's Day as well. Some children did not have such privilege of new clothes and would only be

grateful to receive new school uniforms. As for Pinkie, she only had new clothes for Christmas and New Year's Day.

As it was Christmas Day, Pinkie was wearing expensive skinny jean Relay pants and Fabiani purple top with green socks. She had on black and white Nike-Air Max 97 tekkie shoes, a gold bracelet and sky blue and white decorated wrist Vintage Disney Elsa Digital Frozen watch, gold necklace and gold earrings from American Swiss. She also had orange ribbons on her long-plated virgin hair, matching with light brown Jeep waist belt.

Pinkie had grown up with features akin to Mam' Cynthia Shange, who featured in Deliwe, on the production of the late Mr Simon Mabunu Sabela. Mam' Cynthia Shange was the first Miss Black South Africa. Pinkie's looks could very have also been a reincarnation of the second Black Miss South Africa, Basetsana Makgalemele, now wife to Mr. Romeo Khumalo.

Pinkie looked at herself on the mirror and loved what she saw. Her mother had put a little bit of make-up on her, which matched with her fine brown skin.

Pinkie then said goodbye to her mother who was finalising seven colours on the stove for lunchtime. On her way to Mbimbi's home, everyone that she passed applauded and congratulated her on being so beautiful, as the pink colours she wore matched finely with her skin. Some congratulated her for

the expensive wristwatch that she was wearing because she would always be wearing it more than the clothes.

The wristwatch always reminded Pinkie that her parents went all out in buying her such an expensive watch. It wasn't because they were filthy rich, but it was a sign of appreciation for the hard work and determination that she always showed at home, at school and around her peer group. Her academic results inspired the whole community given the fact that she was always the youngest within her peer group.

Mbimbi, however, scoffed at Pinkie, telling her that her clothes were cheap and she looked ugly. Mbimbi started shouting and mocking Pinkie, saying that she was ugly as ugly as a shaven baboon. Mbimbi sang a song and instructed other kids to join in, which they eventually did:

*Imfenex2 Umubi mfondini* (you are so ugly bro...)

*Izandla zakho ezomuntu mfondini* (your hands look like humans bro...) *Nezinyawo zakho ezomuntu mfondini* (your feet look like humans bro...) *Ikhanda pho-oh hhayi yikepisi* (as for the head looks like wearing a cap) *Uboya bakho yingubo mfondini* (your skin hair is like blanket bro...) *Amakhaza awangeni mfondini* (you feel no cold at all bro...)

*Awangeni mfondini x2* (no cold at all bro...)



Then they quickly changed the tempo, clapping their hands, circling Pinkie and singing repeatedly one chorus:

*Umubi wena* (You are ugly)

*Ufana nengulub ebusweni* (You look like the pig's face)

The other children laughed only because whenever Mbimbi made a joke, she would reward those who laughed with money, snacks and foodstuff from her parents' supermarkets. Those that did not laugh never received even a Chappies, a type of chewing gum, or freezies, from Mbimbi, more so over on a Christmas Day when every child expects a freebie.

Chappies was first introduced in the late 1940s and grew to be so popular that the name became synonymous with the word 'Gum. Another reason that made Chappies to gain popularity was due to its business model. Where its competitors would sell their gum for 1c per piece, Chappies would sell its gum at 1c for two pieces. Because shopkeepers at the time would often give gum as change, this led to Chappies gaining value as a form of 'currency'. With additional innovation such as the "Did You Know?" section inside the wrappers, which provided fun facts and trivia, the brand became even more popular with customers.

Pinkie cried and went back home to tell her parents that Mbimbi told her that she was ugly, mocked her with other children and sang a baboon song implying that she looked like the primate. Pinkie's mother comforted her and told her that God created all humans in His image after His likeness.

“Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth’, so says Genesis 1:26,” said Pinkie's mother. “God created everyone to be unique in their own way and nobody is ugly. When they say beauty lies in the eye of the beholder, that does not mean that there is a person that is ugly. Every time you look at yourself in the mirror, remember King Solomon's words. ‘I am black and beautiful. I am wonderfully and fearfully made by God’. It is not about what you are wearing and how much it costs. And this does not mean that only Black Africans and Black Americans are the only ones that are beautiful in this world.”

Pinkie's mother further said, “First of all

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check if you can afford what you intend to buy. If not, look for something cheaper so that you save money for other life needs and expectations, as you can't spend all the money on clothes. Clothes wear and tear with time and they have fashion and style which comes and goes. It's about how clothing fits on your

body. Are you presentable; yes or no? if you are happy with your answers, do not worry about what others are saying as long as you are clean, neat and tidy.”

Pinkie’s mother then drew her closer, gave her a warm long hug, and reminded her how much she loved her.

Later in the day, pinkie’s mother found Mbimbi’s mother at one of her supermarkets and reported to her what had transpired between the children earlier. Mbimbi’s mother first pretended to be very occupied and couldn’t pay attention due to that. When she eventually realised that Pinkie’s mother would not budge until she had spoken to her, she did not seem entirely surprised. She simply replied by asking, “Do you know Condry Ziqubu’s song, *Thandanani?*”

“Of course,” Pinkie’s mother concurred. “The one who sings Yellow Mellow and *Lekati Lid’inyama Yami.*”

“It goes on to say: *‘iqiniso liyababa, amanga amnandi* (Truth hurts but lies are pleasant to hear),” Mbimbi’s mother said.

“There’s nothing wrong with what Mbimbi told Pinkie. You are disrupting me. Can’t you see I’m busy?”

She turned her back to attend to customers, as if Pinkie's mother did not even exist. Nobody told Pinkie's mother to leave, and there was no need to even say goodbye.

Pinkie's mother chose to arrest the spirit of hatred, she chose to arrest the spirit of arguments, she chose to pray in spirit and in truth. Praying in spirit and in truth according to John 4:23, which says *"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks."*

Pinkie's mother simply prayed and said, "It is well, it is well, with my soul," in the process recalling Psalm 42:7. As 1 Thessalonians 5:23 states, *"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:6-8 also states, "For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly".*

Amid bad things happening, adversities can boost our confidence in God, in our faith, and our hope. We might be living our lives to the fullest, happy and satisfied, and then out of nowhere, tragedy strikes us like a solid 180 degrees.

Mbimbi's father established a community scholarship and selected the best twenty matriculants to send for tertiary

education. They were to study relevant courses that will grant them opportunities to perform practical works in his organisation, the mining environment including underground workings. Mbimbi did not pass Grade 12 and failed to qualify for a scholarship. Remember that Mbimbi's father was amongst the board of directors where every scholar was treated equally during selection and screening.

Amongst the first fortunate to be selected was Thulani Mahlaela, Murendeni Nekhavhambe, Masanisi Mabaso, Cremestar Mokoena, Strawberry Tšhego, Letokile Motlhake, Muremi Magano and Mokone Paneng. Pinkie Mahlaela was amongst the second group to be selected for the scholarship contract, alongside Modika Taukobong, Rorisang Thamaga, Phankie Mojalefa, Taetsho Mohlala, Pontsho Manamela and Potego Mamabolo.

Filled with excitement, Pinkie did not read the terms and conditions and also did not suspect that such a merciful father of a friend would deceive her after demonstrating such a good Samaritan's heart to her and her family. It was just after the Xhinsa Platinum Mine issued notices to employees and trade unions in which the company indicated that it planned to retrench about 20% of the company's 34 690 employees. This decision followed after several measures had been

implemented by the group in an effort to avoid retrenchments, according to their executive.

Among the measures implemented by the group in the previous three months were paid extended leave days during the closing period, adding a lot of contract services, reducing overtime and offering voluntary severance packages.

“However, the problem now is that the measures are in many cases not sustainable and that they are actually a precursor to forced retrenchments,” Pule Molatudi, Mbimbi’s father, explained. “Retrenchments will take place at all twelve of the group’s units.”

Meanwhile, the company had also indicated that it will continue with voluntary retrenchments and voluntary early retirement. According to a letter regarding the planned retrenchments that management had sent to employees, production would be cut by 50% at the group’s mines. In addition, sales and export of ore would be reduced by about 45% and 55% respectively.

What do you understand about the meaning of the words ‘Private property’? The words isolated, remote and set apart come to mind. So how do you call a department or section that belongs to the organisation with board of directors and a CEO

as private property? Speaking and thinking of property means you are referring to belongings, goods and assets. How do you regard a department of an organisation as your property?

You would hear a person speaking about my office, my chair, my desk, my PC, my telephone, like how on earth! You go meet persons at certain company places and you find those who regard the organisation's assets as their private property. People come and go, get recruited and get fired.

This is the world that Mbimbi found herself in when she signed her employment contract.

## **Chapter 11: LIFT! Ngiyagodola**

Pinkie is 29 years old now, but her father still saw the need to keep the promise that he made at the primary school function. She has her own vehicle and is working as a Contractor's Superintendent at Xhinsa Platinum Mine. She is thus on her way to write the Explosive Magazine Master in order to enhance her career. This is where Mbimbi's father owns 51% shares brokered through a Black Broad- Based Empowerment deal.

Pinkie and Mbimbi parted ways as friends while growing up due to their differences. Mbimbi failed her Grade 12 at school, however, her parents sent her abroad for a few years with the hope that she will come back a better person. Unfortunately, she returned worse than before. She now smokes cigarettes, dabbles on drugs, drinks liquor and is an official party animal.

Although she managed to get married to Jan-Jan Legodu, they are still battling with addiction and to have kids. She has had three miscarriages so far. Mbimbi and her husband are professionals in hiding their habits, yet Mr. Molatudi managed to put both his daughter Mbimbi and her husband to high and seemingly befitting positions at Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine.

Jan-Jan Legodu managed to be a registered with the South African Council for Project and Construction Management Professions (SACPCMP) as a Projects Manager Engineer.



SACPCMP has been established to regulate and promote specific built environment management professions. Their members are juristic persons as established by the Project and Construction Management Profession Act 48 of 2000.

The most favourable moment is the fact that Xhinsa 2 Platinum has an in-house internationally accredited occupational health clinic. The sweetest part about this clinic is that there is no history of pre-employment or employees who fail their medical examinations. Whether you are a drug addict, obese or wearing supplementary hearing aids, you pass the medical surveillance.

Nobody has ever been caught positive while been tested for drugs and alcohol either. A person arrives from home, from a jobless state or excited to have received a better employment offer that would better their lives and that of their families. Upon urinal tests, they test positive on some hazardous substances. These persons are so desperate that they would do anything to keep their jobs and some already have.

Some have paid a huge sum as bribery for employment or promotion. Most of them did not have cash for bribery and had to go for cash loans, loan sharks and some sold their household items for cash to pay bribery just to get this employment or new position. Some had to lose their morals and agreed to

sleep with a boss, two or three people for this employment or position.

Recently, both male and female would be demanded such favours, keeping in mind that homosexuality is now in the open. It is not everyone who embraces human rights positively and some use them to fulfil their selfish reasons. Everyone has the right to live and become whom they feel they are and whom they want to become. Nobody should be discriminated against because of that.

Now when the drug tests results from the pre-employment assessment return positive, you want to reject them and turn them back? Do you think that they will let you go scot-free afterwards? It is as much as pulling a piece of a bitten meat out from one's mouth. The same persons coming to the clinic for pre-employment or annual screening are community members, neighbours and some, extended family members of the clinic staff that would be testing them.

You go for shopping and you meet them, you come to work and you meet them, you are invited to a gig and you meet them, even when attending a community gathering you meet them. Would you rather put your life in danger and that of your family or accept their bribery? This is not only related to contractor management but to permanent employees as well. Even if you would have charged them R10 000, they would pay just to get

that employment or position. That is if the shoe fits Pinkie or Mbimbi.

As Hlengiwe Mhlaba continues to blare on '*count your blessings*' inside the Mercedes-Benz, Pinkie recalls how her teacher, Mistress Mabogoane, has been like a second mother in her life even before she commenced school. When her father was still building their new house, they used to go there every afternoon to check on progress made.

Mistress Mabogoane would carry Pinkie on her back to and from the new house. She is the one who taught Pinkie to use the right hand in order to write as she would literally sit next to Pinkie, hold her right hand with a pencil between her tiny little fingers and start writing with her until Pinkie got used to writing on her own.

Mistress Mabogoane has always been their neighbour from mine houses up to their own bank approved houses. She adores Pinkie so much that she named her only daughter after her. As the dark green Mercedes-Benz 240D approach Engen Belfast 1 Stop area, they off-ramp for the refreshments.

Getting back onto the N4, the mist is clearing and some sun rays are surfacing. They find a few people standing on the side of the off-ramp. These people are wearing black, worn out

clothes are torn here and there, with the women exposing black petticoats. Their clothes are dirty with visible grime. It is obvious that they are hitch-hiking, request a lift.

They are all not wearing jerseys, jackets or coats. Pinkie recognises the slender, dark-skinned short woman with a long dress. She is bare-footed with burnt marks on her face, chest, arms and hands. She is wearing a big black straw hat that is also bent, mis-shaped and worn-out. The hat is as dirty as her clothes.

Pinkie's attention is drawn to her feet again. This woman is not wearing shoes! Who took away her shoes? Who stole her shoes? In this cold! She is freezing without shoes! The Emakhazeni area is colder than Emalahleni, just like Ermelo, and this woman is bare-footed.

She shouts: "LIFT! *NGIYAGODOLA!*", loosely translated to mean, "Please stop and let me into your car, as I'm also headed in the same direction as you". '*Ngiyagodola*' is isiZulu word meaning that 'I'm feeling cold'.

Seeing that the driver of the 1979 Mercedes-Benz 240D has no intention to stop, she now calls out: "Bontle

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Bontlenyana, Sbali (brother-in-law), Pinkie, Pinkie, Sbali, lift!  
*Ngiyagodola! Wena* Pinkie, you have to answer your calling to

acquire powers for avenging my death. find out who killed me and why! If not, you will be the next to be killed when you reach 36 years of age as well.”

She went on, bellowing loudly: “*O tlamehile o thole sephiri sa Bontlenyana!* (You must find out Bontlenyana’s secret!) Sbali, Bontlenyana, lift! *Ngiyagodola!* Pinkie! Go answer to your calling *Ngwanaka, ke nna Mme wa hao, Nomvula. Lift! Ngiyagodola!*”

Pinkie did not realise when Hlengiwe Mhlaba stopped singing. It is now silent inside the car. The strange woman had called everyone inside the Mercedes-Benz by name. Is she Pinkie’s biological mother? Why would she refer to her as *Ngwanaka*? Pinkie knows that the late Nomvula as her mother’s elder sister. What could have happened? Who killed her? Why was Nomvula killed?

According to her elder Sister Ndileka, she was fighting for her children and demanded them back into her life, to raise them on her own. Is this the reason why there are nine children, whom her parents always find it a strain to provide for everyone all at once? The question is: is there enough evidence to uncover the mystery?

Was it not four thugs who stabbed her on her way to work and mutilated her body parts to perform a ritual for riches? How can she be her mother? What about *Mme* Mahlaela-Bontlenyana? Then who is Pinkie's father? Can *Mme* Mahlaela be married to her elder sister's husband? Then how did they get to raise Pinkie while Nomvula was still alive? Who gave them the consent to raise Pinkie? Was this the reason for her parents refusing to accompany her for the ID application at Home Affairs? Pinkie was finally accompanied by her boyfriend as no one agreed to accompany her, including grandparents and extended families.

Why were her murderers not found up to this date? This murder happened 20 years ago when Pinkie was still nine years old. Why is everything resurfacing now? Twenty years later Nomvula is crying for justice. Is Pinkie the only one that she has visited in dreams? Or is it that nobody talks about it? Who can give Pinkie all the answers and closure in everything? She will have to find her murderers, but how? What must Pinkie do with such information, given the corruption existing in the justice system?

Pinkie feels her mother's hand, shaking her awake. She wakes up, bewildered and disoriented.

“Just to get into the freeway and you fall asleep and pass gas in the car!” says her mother. “Why are you crying now? Are you suddenly nervous about writing the exam? Look at yourself, spoiling your make-up.”

“Open the windows Pinkie, you’ve spoiled the car now and we can’t off-ramp to any 1 Stop otherwise you’ll be late for your examination,” says her father, eyeing her on the rear-view mirror.

Pinkie is ashamed to realise that she had suddenly fell asleep while she was thinking about Mistress Mabogoane and the weird dream that she had, which she cannot talk about. Her father will comment and say there she goes again with her insane dreams.

The examination goes well, and two months later Pinkie receives the results that she has passed with a distinction. With her eyes sparkling, she submits the results to management. It seems she has ignited another spark of cold war in the operation. It’s one accusation after another, after the other. It is accusations and justifications from time to time with all fingers pointing at Pinkie all the time.

Pinkie has become the highest qualified amongst women in mining. She also tops the whole team in the department including her boss, Seun Snyman. Scornful remarks, negative comments including unnecessary praises for Pinkie coming from other departments and contractors in this regard do not sit well with Mbimbi and Seun Snyman.

Those close to Pinkie start to suffer the consequences by becoming victims of circumstances, and a lot of people start to distant themselves from her with the fear of getting caught in the middle between Mbimbi and Pinkie. Pinkie begins to live like a prisoner, being watched in everything that she says, does, eat or drink. They monitor her attendance records, her sick leaves, her annual leaves, and her permission to leave early requests.

Seun Snyman and Mbimbi continue to check and monitor who comes in and who comes out of Pinkie's office. They involve security officers to stalk her in all her movements, checking the time she spends even inside the toilet. Sometimes they would send a female security officer into the toilet to find out if she is really performing number 2 or not. And in all the instances they would be greeted by a natural smell of number 2, then end up running away exclaiming loudly.

They further spike Pinkie's drinks and water bottles on several attempts, then would parade her for compulsory alcohol tests.



Pinkie is now forced to take her laptop bag everywhere she goes since everybody has her spare office key. This escalates to an extent that if she leaves her bag to go fetch the print outs in the next door office, one of the persons left in her office would spike her drinks, fruits and her lunchbox inside her bag.

Pinkie finally stops buying food and drinks from the canteen because they get spiked too. Have you ever felt tipsy, drowsy and weak after taking a drink or water bottle as if you took alcohol? That's how Pinkie would feel and then get a compulsory test for alcohol the following day.

Everyone leaving Pinkie's office is summoned, interrogated on what was being discussed and receive a severe warning not to take long the next time they find themselves in Pinkie's office. Mbimbi instructs contractors to start sending documents online, then Mbimbi would print them out and file them without informing Pinkie. Pinkie refuses to print as she has been accused severely on written e-mail warnings for frivolous waste of paper and ink when printing contractors' documents.

## Chapter 12: Charity Begins At Home

After the general manager has read Pinkie's e-mail, he gives his interpretation and requests the two senior managers to resolve the faults. He did not instruct that a disciplinary procedure be followed. However, Pinkie embraces an area of continuous improvement in this regard as everyone learn new things every day until death.

E-mail Policy: Pinkie never signed it as her account was transferred and set up by Xhinsa 1 Platinum Mine into the Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine network. Pinkie might have signed one back then but honestly, she can't remember what it entailed. The only thing Pinkie received on her arrival to access the PC was a password code, to an extent that she is using an old PC that has never been upgraded since then up to now, five years later.

Every policy according to Integrated SHEQ Management system gets reviewed annually, communicated and conspicuously posted. Why is the one for the PCs hidden, never communicated, and no training or refresher made on it? Neither was it included on the SHEQ Annual Review or mentioned when the POPI Act (Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013) Training was conducted to all P.C Users.

These disciplinary hearings, *if not truly aimed on unfair dismissal or on building a case towards that*, it is but a toilet

tissue that the climbing Guy and his Team almost turned back when realising that they forgot it on “Your Summit Awaits Video- turning dreams into goals” for the year.

The team almost forgot their objective and target to climb the mountain and reach the summit milestone on a set target.

Xhinsa 2 Management needs to resolve serious concerns to be focused on in order to reach their summit milestone on a set target than the disciplinary hearings on Pinkie and contractors vendor complaints.

### **Issues like:**

Department Of Labour Inspector that found a Contravention on Bothothata Construction-worn out safety boots from the supervisor who has been working in the Baghouse, hence another second visit where they demand to go visit has been announced to be the Laboratory and the Baghouse. Two new contractors have been engaged to come and do maintenance on Baghouse filters only adding to the current 61% of contractor employment over Xhinsa 2 permanent employment.

### **On contravention itself:**

Significant Incident Reporting has not been logged on Integrated Management System electronic database, meaning that no formal investigation has been conducted. It still remains a concern on time of employee's long and short-term exposure limit awareness, training, competence and awareness on the hazardous chemical substance in question, job rotation, if substitution of the hazardous chemical could be investigated maybe found to be possible, thorough ventilation systems if available, effective and properly serviced as per Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine maintenance plan, re-entry times, suitable type of PPE and issuing register compliance thereof, if employees are included on Biomonitoring programme of Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine.

With regard to their Safety Files-it goes with the same findings as Bothothata. Not aware of their scope of work thus contravention of their Safety File. Some of the bio-monitoring and six-monthly audios are unfairly/insufficiently conducted in terms of man-job specification and actual tasks conducted on-site by contractors. Some long-term exposure to hazardous chemical substances will result to the development of chronic diseases in the future.

**Competency:** To train Full Time Health and Safety Representative, Health and Safety Representatives and trade

unions leaders on Integrated Management System and their legal requirements. They do not know or even notice a difference that management is side-lining them on issues of the Integrated Management System. It will also improve our proactive management on better quality performance measurements and in-depth issue base risk assessments. Reporting and preventative measures on reported incidents and near-misses would improve whereby speaking the truth on root cause analysis will then prevail since the contractor blame culture would have faded away.

No illumination surveys records for the total number of 49 surface mobile equipment, ever since contractors took over from the workshop. This causes poor visibility which might cause serious incidents and also affecting the eye sights of the operators that will have a long-term consequence in their vision impairment.

No water conservation awareness and campaigns. Employees are currently wasting water, leaving taps unattended, some taps get faulty for a long time, leaking pipes, spillages overflow, repeat incidents to R37 and R555 Roads and to the river streams, which the community sources life from for their domestic needs, farming projects and their livestock, as well as

the hydrocarbon spillages that are washed off by the rainwater than anything, into the river streams.

No energy conservation awareness and campaigns. Employees are currently wasting electricity, no daylight switches, outside lights stay on during the day, and offices are left with lights on and with computers on. Some equipment are always connected and switched on and chargers for the whole rotational shifts. This inversely affects the environment by reducing natural sources for the generations to come.

Contractor employees are exceeding working overtime limits. For example, some are over 112 hours each employee in a month, getting exposed to poor fatigue management and poor working conditions. The clocking system is not blocking them. Escalating Surface Mobile Equipment repeat incidents are starting to show symptoms as underlying factors thereof. Noise zoning needs review and NIHL(noise induced hearing loss) milestone implemented, enforced and monitored.

Dust milestone needs to be implemented, enforced and monitored, escalating rates of repeat incidents where Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine had exceeded government set limits on dust monitoring levels measured. Mbimbi is ignoring all these because they do not affect much of permanent employees but contractors.

Escalating rate of theft of platinum, cable, chrome recovery, circulation of inside information but employees are still clocking as they please even after hours and weekends off without permission or valid reason. The clocking system does not block access to that either. Underground surveillance cameras along the main conveyor belts ceased to be operational and no explanation has been given and being reported as such. The cases are never investigated but get closed.

As for the canteen's unhygienic conditions

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the senior manager conducted Field Audit and gave Pinkie actions on deviations found and to be fixed. When Pinkie conducts a follow-up and close them, Mbimbi questions every single action that she closed. Pinkie goes back now to conduct a full Field Audit Follow-up based on the manager's report, but finds more deviations than him. Then who is the manager? The previous week the manager pulled out two local contractors from site due to non-conformances.

When will the canteen be stopped over the unhygienic conditions found and communicated with them? Pinkie also blocked them on expired Letter of Good Standing but someone removed the block. Is it because they rub shoulders with Mbimbi and Jan-Jan? The Staffbook electronic database system on computers does not show the last user of the system, like on

the Integrated Management System.net. electronic database. Pinkie requested the upgrade but still to no response or implementation.

Pinkie is always overworked in a way that when she ever has breakfast, it is after 10h30 or 11h00. When she has lunch, it is after 13h00 to 14h00, if not after 15h00, but her work input is never enough. On top of contractor one-on-one session, she still goes out for her contractors internal and external audits, given the whole low risk area on top of that. If Pinkie leaves the office to rush conducting inspections, in preventing reaching the expiry dates of the Staffbook Item Tracker, Mbimbi will lament that contractors were left unattended, and will complain as if Pinkie went out for her personal reasons.

If Pinkie stays to assist them, she is regarded as if she is not a team player and also the Staffbook Contractor Performance Matrix lapses and then Tracker expires. Out of 69% of overall Xhinsa Platinum Mine contractor employees, it is only 31% of permanent employees. All of them Pinkie interacts with excluding their owners and consultants that often come as well.

Pinkie is really trying to please everyone, treating them with respect, and is so supportive she walks side by side with them. Not everyone will like Pinkie and not everyone will follow the rules. Some are untouchables as they disregard the rules, and nothing is said or done about them hence there's Pinkie,



security department, rules and regulations whereby someone must enforce them.

Unfortunately, the section 37.2 legal agreement of the OSH Act and Pinkie's job profile hold her responsible more than the Mine Manager to ensure safe and smooth management on contractors in a way that most e-mails sent to Pinkie as instructions sound more like building a future case for another disciplinary hearing.

Since Pinkie has been reporting to the complainant, it is like he's been assigned to fire her so that the complaints will go away.

Ever since Pinkie was transferred, she has never brought disrepute to the company name or loss of trust, ethics and caring as mentioned by Mbimbi. Why now, with all Pinkie's great achievements? injuries have been reduced, positively affecting the overall safety performance of Xhinsa Platinum Mine. DQS Audits went excellent, Pinkie and her contractors have been commended in black and white on annual DQS re-certification reports, contractor employees know and understand the SHEQ Toolbox.

While other contractors who are transgressors to rules and regulations forced their way into the Department of Labour Audit, their purpose was to report falsely about Xhinsa Platinum Mine. They were not clear of their intentions as

eventually Kresten De Roxen lost her job due to PPE false arguments. They only reported one side of the coin to the Department of Labour and Kresten was alone while Pinkie was not there as her witness to her commitment in PPE issuing.

Other contractors who are transgressors to rules and regulations have always had their way out. They have been blocked before and were given coaching with regards to the Safety File. They forged a Letter of Good Standing and were discovered by DOL themselves but are still within premises. When instructed to choose only the best in the crop, there's no way Pinkie could have allowed them. If Pinkie's e-mail shows some contractors being treated as incompetent, then agree with Pinkie that other contractors who are transgressors to rules and regulations are the ones disregarding Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine name by forcing to enter to the Department Of Labour Audit session very much aware of their two defaults on Letter of Good Standing plus sub-standard safety files.

Should Pinkie have allowed them access as much as they have falsely reported about Xhinsa Platinum Mine, she would be facing another disciplinary hearing of failure to carry out instructions in a way that Xhinsa Platinum Mine name has been disregarded by other contractors. (Pinkie understands on that day that they intentionally wore defective PPE hence lady Jackson used to demand for the old ones). Contractors are

employed to supply with services on condition that they comply to rules and regulations.

Point 37.2 of the Legal Agreement states clearly that their contract might be terminated any time if disregarding the set rules and regulations but to Pinkie's surprise, some of them are treated like they were an exception to the rule, in a way that their wrongdoings are ignored by management. Is it because only Pinkie's name binds her to them if 4 steps to safety would fail? Inside the Safety File Pinkie sign on Folders, audits and approves the Safety File. It should always be her responsibility to ensure that they do not slip as their downfall will be hers too. The project owner always gets away with murder and only takes the glory for safe and high quality successfully completed project.

Pinkie knows the general manager's office has an open-door policy which he always repeats in his 'Roadshow' speeches as well. There is no legal appointment according to the OSH Act and regulations or Mine Health and Safety Act that binds Pinkie to report to Mbimbi. Pinkie is only submissive in working as a team player. Since the position for Project Superintendent Contractor Manager stays vacant, she has always been reporting to the mine manager (so says the 37.2 Legal Agreement as well), or directly to the general manager in his absence, hence Pinkie always counted on him to back her up as

he used to in the past and has never let her down. Where required, he would intervene to put more weight on enforcement required.

During Standby weekends, where the general manager is the standby manager, Pinkie would report directly to him. She would call him directly on his cellphone when there's an incident or serious deviation. She conducted the North Shaft Audit together with the general manager as a team, forwarded the South Shaft Audit findings directly to him as his instruction so that he could enforce, and enforcement was implemented whereby South Shaft now matches compliance standards with North Shaft.

As for Mbimbi, except for following up on Pinkie's work in order to attack her, what value is she adding into Xhinsa Platinum Mine? All the outstanding concerns from both shafts demands her urgent attention.

## **Chapter 13: Hunter Becomes Hunted**

Modika Taukobong draws himself closer to Pinkie and Mahlako to comment: “If it was not for your good heart and humility Pinkie, to all humankind regardless of position, race, age and gender, we would have kept quiet about this one. But then God can massively punish me if I keep my mouth shut. Your brother, Thulani, has found a buyer for your 2019 Toyota Hilux 2.8 GD-6 GR-S 4X4. I was hoping that I will be the first person to be notified when you sell as I previously requested you.”

“No, I’m not selling my vehicle,” said Pinkie, shocked. “Who told you this?”

Modika replies and tells Pinkie that he witnessed the arrangements and recorded the conversation because something was not adding up.

“Thulani failed to indicate if the tracker is active, if the vehicle is insured, and if the vehicle has an alarm system,” he said. “They wanted to know where you park the vehicle at night and finally decided that it will be taken from the parking area here at work.”

Modika narrates further, “Thulani has been given an assignment to find out where the panic button of the vehicle is, where you keep the spare key of your vehicle, to steal your cellphone or accidentally break the screen of the cellphone so

that by the time you come out during knock-off time, the car will be long gone without you been notified by the tracker.”

He gasps deeply and continues, “Thulani assured them that Thando knows all this information because he stayed with you for a long time when he pretended to be stranded without accommodation, and the fact that you have been giving Thando the vehicle to attend to his call-outs while on Standby when he started working here. The dealer promised to pay Thulani a sum of R800 000 in cash as soon as the vehicle leaves the parking area. However, Thando should be the one to drive it so that nobody will suspect anything as her brother.”

Pinkie asks if Modika can repeat what he heard in front of anyone else. Modika agrees.

Pinkie further asks, “How did you get to witness such sensitive information?” “When we were at Badikila Roadhouse and Motel at Off R37 Main Road GaMashamothane village in Burgersfort,” Modika says.

“Where is that because I know Lesolo lodge?” Mahlako asks.

“Since you know that Sekhukhune land is an area blessed with natural beauty and lush landscapes filled with a compelling culture and heritage dating back many centuries, Lesolo Lodge is discreetly nestled within the Tubatse River valley 5km from

the town center,” he said. “It is built on a landmark Burgersfort site, where one of the areas’ oldest black-owned motels was founded in 1976 during apartheid in the then Lebowa homeland, by the late local business icon, Lesolo Lawrence Sedikila, between 1943 to 2009.”

Pinkie and Mahlako listening attentively as Modika narrates: “This lodge in question is an ideal half-way break between Polokwane in the north and Nelspruit-Mbombela in the south, just 80km drive to Hoedspruit airport which welcomes discerning travelers, business executives and families alike, with the convenience of centrality, refreshing pool, indigenous garden and secure parking.”

“Their splendid property offers exclusive accommodation, inflexible expediency with enhanced service and elegant rural environment. At Lesolo Lodge you can enjoy a prime-location in a peri-urban hub, they are a 3-star graded, elegant and modern, family-run establishment in the platinum rich town of Burgersfort. The immaculate grounds are adorned with indigenous Sekhukhune thorn, the acacia sekhukhuniesis trees in their lush garden, and host memorable weddings and celebrations on their terraces that have sensational sunsets and beautiful panoramic views of the majestic and regal Moroni mountains.”

As if he owned a share of the place, Modika braggingly adds, “Thus, premises are well-suited to host picturesque weddings inside the hall, gardens, or pool terrace. They have on-site wedding suppliers for décor, event equipment, catering, mobile beauty spa, film, and photographer. Their concierge desk assists guest in creating an exciting itinerary with booking of local attractions

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daily tours, game drives, spa treatments, restaurant reservations, transport shuttles, entertainment tickets or any other travel arrangements.”

Modika explains again: “The economic activity in the area is primarily centered on platinum mining associated with the Merensky Reef. There are enormous mineral resource endowments and high biodiversity along the Dilokong Corridor with many local village clusters that are developing into the bustling hubs. The cultural tours are Sekhukhune Heritage Site, Tjate which is 60km, Pilgrims Rest National Monument, Lydenburg Museum, Voortrekker Cemetery, Orighstad, Manche Masemola Burial Site and Ga-Marishane.”

“The attractions are Bourke Luck Potholes, Echo Caves, Longtom Tobbogan, Panaroma Route, De Hoop Dam, Blyde



River Canyon, Graskop Gorge Lift, Sudwala Caves. Their general facilities cater for 24-hour front desk, secured parking areas which is free, conference facilities, outdoor pool area, restaurant, BBQ and picnic area and the WIFI.”

Done with the narration of the geography of the area, Modika returned to the nitty-gritty of how he became privy to the information.

“A verbal fight broke out between the two millionaire’s sons, which security did not allow as it would have been disrupting within the premises. It lasted for a minute and were both evacuated. However, once they were outside, the whole story came out. They both had the same mission, but Thando initiated the plan to steal the bakkie without competency skills of being *umgulukudu*. He had to team up with his brother Thulani, who now wants a lion’s share because of his skills and his contacts in the jungle.”

As soon as Tefo arrives, Modika agrees to further discuss the matter on a different venue so that nobody may notice him as a whistle blower. Mahlako hugs and kisses Pinkie goodbye as she boards the vehicle. Pinkie leaves Mahlako behind, as she is also still waiting for her own transport to arrive. Pinkie begins to confirm all her suspicions about Thulani to her husband Tefo, and reports this to her family as well.

Now with all the previous criminal records of Thulani, Pinkie must decide if she opens a docket for Thulani and Thando. If she does, they will be arrested immediately. All Thulani's cases will be revisited and Thando's future will also be ruined. These are the only sons that her father, Lefa Mahlaela, can pass over his surname to the next generation and clan. If they both get arrested, that will be the end of their future as part of the Lefa Mahlaela clan. What will people say?

What about the flag that has been lifted so high on the Mahlaela clan name up to this far? Their mother's life has already been compromised and she has been confined to a wheelchair. If both of her sons get arrested, she will definitely die. It is so sad that men are tigers and tigers don't cry. Up to this point, Lefa Mahlaela has never expressed the pain and frustrations of upbringing two sons that turned to be *Imigulukudu*.

He was denied the opportunity to raise Thulani when he met him while he was six years old, but Lefa Mahlaela made sure to send monthly financial allowance for him. Lefa Mahlaela would make sure that every long weekend or school holiday, Thulani comes and spends quality family moments with them. He made sure that Thulani grows knowing that he has a father, Lefa Mahlaela.

*Ntate* Lefa Mahlaela has been treating both his sons the same, giving them equal love and discipline. He stood by them when nobody did. He fought their battles and spent up to his last penny making sure that they received all the respect and acceptance in the communities.

He made sure that both Thulani and Thando grow up knowing each other as blood brothers, loving and supporting each other. He always covered their backs and made sure that they cover each other's back like walking on the Chinese wall. What about Pinkie's assets and her safety? What assurance does Pinkie have that they will not one day plan out of the box, come after her life and her family? They both like to reap where they did not sow. Since it is now clear that they are not her biological brothers, where must Pinkie and her family run to?

Which one is the right thing to do for Pinkie? Her safety and that of her family, or the health of her parents that is now at risk? The only parents she has ever known and the only marvelous parental love she has ever felt. If you were Pinkie, what would you choose? Which shoe would you wear?

## **Chapter 14: Thief In Our Midst**

Coming from conducting audits the following day, Mantwa Madingwana and her auditing team enter the North Shaft surface restroom and find Thando seated alone. She is so exhausted, on her last leg and can eat a horse. She then directly goes and opens the fridge. She takes out her lunch pack, quickly washes her hands on the handwashing basin and sits down. She quickly says a short prayer then opens her lunch pack to eat. As soon as she removes the whole lid, Mantwa realises that there's no more food inside the lunch pack, but a rock snugly stuffed inside.

While still amazed and angry, Thando recalls when Jesus refused to turn the rocks into bread and eat during his fasting on the mountain. You, Mantwa, have just turned your meal into a rock! So, you are powerful than Jesus? A loud laughter from some members of the Crew and Mantwa feels like she has swallowed her tongue, then decides not to entertain Thando. She closes the lunch pack, and goes back to the fridge to take out her groove Coca-Cola drink that looks chilled from the outside of the can.

She quickly grabs it and sit back but as she opens it, she realises that it has already been opened and actually sees that the can is empty inside. More laughter erupts from the background with comments to say this is a joke of the day. Now everyone is

seated opening their lunch packs and as they open them, they all find rocks inside their lunch packs. Now, Thando jeers again, saying Mantwa's prayer has turned all the meals into rocks! Interesting.

"Thando, do you know perhaps who might have drunk my Coke?" Mantwa asks. Thando shrugs and says he has just arrived from fixing a conveyor belt take-up pulley that had broken down. Just immediately after saying that, Thando blurbs loudly and a smell of Coca-Cola drink diffuse from a higher concentration to lower concentration. Some say, "Ha! Thando!" and some stare at him and simply leave the restroom. Mantwa simply looks at him and keeps quiet, as if nothing has happened.

Even if they go and report this incident, what does one call it? Theft of lunch packs? Theft of Coke? Theft of food? Who will believe that an employed and competent personnel, who happened to be the son of a millionaire and a former town mayor, would steal someone's lunch pack? Not to mention a cold drink from the fridge. Besides, everyone knows that this restroom has surveillance cameras.

The fact that they found Thando alone, does not justify that he is the culprit. His breakdown times are covering him, his family background and the amount of salary that he earns justifies

that he cannot stoop so low to stealing. However, people are capable of doing the unthinkable even when his sister Pinkie and his brother Thulani are just around the corner of his workshop. A thief is like a pig that you may take to a bath, and it later forgets and would go back to play in the mud.

This is what we call *umgulukudu* because it is in the blood. It is who he is, and you can't change him and it is what it is. Only God can intervene, especially where the person has been raised in a Christian family, who knows the word of God and who knows and understand the powers of prayers. A person who knows the touch of the Lord, who's been touched by the Holy Spirit, who once felt the presence of the Lord in their midst. A person who knows God's anointing.

One begins to ask, where did we go wrong as a church? Such a person never stops going to church, never stop to worship on stage with the prayer team and interceders. Such a person makes use of any given opportunity to even get some funds out of the budget of the church in the name of serving the Lord. Nowadays some church members are getting weekly allowances and transport fare to come and serve in that church as musical artists and worshippers, and to come attend for every required service that is taking place.

## **Fears and Facts**

**Fear:** You don't have the right to tell someone else how to live his or her life.

**Fact:** You do have the right to tell someone how his or her behaviour is affecting you.

**Fear:** The stress of your interference causes the person to drink or use drugs even more.

**Fact:** You are not the cause of another person's behaviour. Abusing drugs or alcohol is how the user chooses to handle stress. Remember that getting help is also a choice.

**Fear:** You'll offend the person if you mention his or her drinking or drug use, or you are too embarrassed to talk about it.

**Fact:** You might offend the user when you say his or her drug use seems extreme, but your concern might also save the user's job, marriage, or life.

**Fear:** If you say something, you'll have to get involved. (If you keep quiet, it'll go away).

**Fact:** If you ignore an addiction, it will only get worse. Addiction is a disease; if it remains untreated, it will kill the user.

All citizens have an important role in maintaining a drug-free environment. Notify the supervisor or team leader, teacher or principal, or parents if you suspect that someone is under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. However, do that with caution. You do not want to become the victim of circumstances as such people hate to be reported. They call it being a 'snitch', or *impimpi* in IsiZulu, and mostly decide that such a person who reported the matter deserves to die.

But then where should the crew keep their lunch packs because the Eastern Bushveld Region is equatorial? If food is not stored inside the fridge, it spoils immediately. One will start by noticing flies roaming around the container of that lunch pack as proof that whatever that is inside has already gotten spoiled. This is the reason why organisations as part of employees' welfare compliance requirement decided to make provision of a fridge in all the restrooms so that employees including contractors can keep their drinks cold and chilled as another control in place for Heat Stress Management.

The following day, Mantwa Madingwana was chased away from the office, and everyone else in the queue was redirected to either full-time's office or Pregnant Lady for assistance. What she came to do was not important according to Mbimbi. Mantwa had come to report theft of lunch packs and drinks



from the fridge. But it seemed as if Mbimbi already knew about it. Mantwa came back two days later where she was chased away like a dog and everyone in the queue but persisted the next day, escalating the matter to the higher protocol personnel, Mine Manager Seun Snyman.

Mpontsheng Engineering(is the name of the contractor) sustained an injury on duty recently while working on heights at South Shaft. They had just moved from South Shaft to North Shaft. The green area meetings had never been minuted and there is no Safety Officer daily reports as well. On that day Pinkie prints for Mantwa Green Area Meeting Templates which she was not aware of. No issue base risk assessment

no Management of Change to the North Shaft where they had just started after being moved. Or is Mbimbi waiting for another injury or fatality?

Gladys coming to Pinkie's office was declared not important and she never came back. Pinkie tries to show Mbimbi that she is not happy about the way she chases people out of the office and that it does not conform to Xhinsa 2 Platinum values.

Mbimbi responds by saying that she will do it again and if Pinkie has a problem with that, she should speak to the boss.

Mbimbi says Pinkie is not focused and Pinkie realises that this has been discussed and finalised. The plan is for her to be

shouted at and humiliated, and the extent it was being done had become much to bear.

When Pinkie was away for study leave, her legals were not covered at low-risk area buildings and Safety Files were not updated on the Staffbook. They were only stored. Pinkie has to work and attend to Mbimbi's e-mails which she had sent that she is not yet aware of.

Pinkie should have swallowed her pride and allowed God to fight for her. Mbimbi would have been like a dog barking at a moving vehicle. Reporting as a whistle blower broke the manager's trust in Pinkie and she will forever suffer the consequences. Going for a grievance process is like reporting a sexual assault case. It becomes your word against them. Pinkie should have continued to humble herself by the side of the Lord so that He would lift her up one day. Pinkie should have let Mbimbi continue with her humiliations and street fighter antics, comments, moods like tides and swings until she gets tired.

No joke would still be funny as second time. No one can continue to fight alone; it is like hitting a dumb doll while the audience is watching. Now Pinkie suffers the consequences of the grievance: she can no longer be promoted to any position, regardless of being the highest qualified in the department. On the other hand, Pinkie has been blacklisted by Mbimbi on the

workplace environment. When other Xhinsa operations want to employ her to higher positions, her manager or Mbimbi speaks evil of her and they would believe them since they are so influential by being known with excellent performance records in performance production and safety.

Who does Pinkie think she is to can fight a shareholder's daughter and a Mafia's wife? Mbimbi is a drug addict herself that does not think twice before saying or doing things. Pinkie now receives a disciplinary charge one after another and is losing all the cases, regardless of having a union representative. Her last closing statement was leaked to management prior to the verdict, thus was announced in her absence as they realised that Pinkie will win the case and might go and sue them.

Footage from the surveillance cameras are used to launch an investigation into the reported incident. What does one call it? theft of lunch packs, theft of Coke, theft of food? The acts of gender race assaults in offices become evident where most culprits are Jan-Jan, Piet Swanepoel, Mokone Paneng and Thulani the Contractor Site Manager. They are spoiling themselves by violating contractors, both male and female, as well as employees' rights. The news is now all over that Jan-Jan and Thulani are not only womanisers, but homosexual as well.

All along these gentlemen have been in denial, keeping it confidential while criticising, bullying and discriminating others for who they are. While everyone needs to embrace one another, accepting one another and respecting one another for who they are; what they have been doing is what is called emotional xenophobia.

As they get bullied, some agree with the hope of getting extra R4000 cash which doubles their normal monthly take home. Some are given assurance that they can never be fired no matter what, and some are given hope that they will eventually be employed as permanent employees to be able to receive better employment conditions.

After top management decisions, Thulani gets fired with immediate effect because he is a contractor. Jan-Jan, Mokone Paneng and Piet Swanepoel get investigated and initially fail the polygraph test. But since it goes on to who is who in the zoo, Jan-Jan is given another General Manager offer at one of his father-in-law's companies in Secunda. Mokone Paneng and Piet Swanepoel get a transfer to Xhinsa Platinum 1 Mine for the same positions.

Later in the evening Pinkie's father confirms that after Thulani had been fired, he ran away on a failed attempt to steal his boss' double cab bakkie. He went and hid at Monate Mpolaye

Palace. Thulani eventually arrived at his parents' house in Emalahleni with a Sheriff, to evict them, repossess a Ford Focus vehicle and its documents.

The sheriff took their house keys and the demanded documents, which he handed to Thulani under their watch. Pinkie's father further narrates that it took them three days to go back to the house and regain back the Ford Focus with its documents. He says that he is not surprised by what Pinkie is telling him, but sadly responds by saying that both his sons have officially become *Imigulukudu*.

While Thulani awaits Jan-Jan to call him and place him as another site manager again, he connives with his old thug friends in Steelpoort. On Saturday morning at 10h00, Pinkie is surprised to be woken up by a call from her parents, telling her and Tefo to rush to them at Steelpoort complex.

Arriving there, they find a huge crowd of citizens surrounding something as if there is a demonstration or a show. Looking deeper into the circling crowd, they see four bodies covered with a foil, lying on the ground.

When Pinkie and Tefo come closer, her mother is rolling on the ground besides her wheelchair screaming in tears. Her head *doek* cloth and *tshali* blanket that she has been wrapping

herself with are thrown all over the place. Pinkie's father Lefa Mahlaela walks slowly towards them.

He greets Pinkie and Tefo while shaking his son-in-law's hand and says, "The love of money is the root of all evil and the reward for sin is death."

Pinkie and Tefo look at each other in dilemma of what is actually happening.

What is Papa talking about?

*Ntate* Lefa Mahlaela continues looking directly into his Son-in-law's eyes, and says, "Please, accompany your wife so that she goes and say farewell to her brother Thulani. His corpse will be under custody until the day of the funeral and be released after necessary fines have been paid."

Pinkie starts shivering and as soon as the police uncover the face of the deceased – the one with the most bleeding gashes. She realises that it is really her beloved brother, Thulani. In shock, she shouts "*Wenzeni* (what did you do) Thulani? *Wenzeni* (what did you do)!"

Pinkie faints shortly thereafter. According to the police report, they bombed four ATMs at once, here in Steelpoort complex and tried to run away with a sum of R25 million. The whole

money has been recovered on the scene by the South African Police Service. However, one suspect is still on the run.

Masanisi the mastermind is suddenly not available online, at all his properties. Jan-Jan has an alibi. Takudzwa behaves like an innocent woman who is not aware of the plot. However, Thulani's son Vusumuzi vows to avenge his father's death on Masanisi and Jan-Jan. He sees this as a set-up.

Jan-Jan returns back to Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine as a general manager with the belief that everyone must have forgotten his evil acts.

Vusumuzi vows: "*Mina nabo sizohlangana esikhaleni sikaNtombela* (I will meet them) face to face, man to man, up close and personal!"

Vusumuzi approaches Jan-Jan requesting to take over Thulani's duties at Monate Mpolaye Palace and the Brothel. Jan-Jan hesitates but after some time, Masanisi convinces him otherwise and he finally agrees.

By joining the group of *Imigulukudu*, Vusumuzi intends to turn their world into Afghanistan and Pakistan. Jan-Jan gives him a condition that he cannot get 40% profit of the brothel and 30% of Monate Mpolaye Palace the way his father Thulani did. He gives Vusumuzi an excuse of insufficient experience to his new

role, even though he knows that Vusumuzi would come relieve his father when he won't be available.

Vusumuzi agrees to settle on half of what his father Thulani used to receive with intentions to get closer to them and learn their ways, so that he will know how to destroy them and avenge the death of his father. Masanisi and his *migulukudu* have been mastering the heists very well in Steelpoort complex as well for all these years.

Vusumuzi asks himself: "Why is this one different? Why did it have to take his father's life? Does this give onus to the wonderful work of the drone in relation with the South African Police Services? Does this mean the end of the heists in Steelpoort complex? Does it mean that crime will be reduced in this complex going onwards? Does it also indicate that the scam of bank cards will be reduced?"



## **Chapter 15: Monate-Mpolaye Palace**

It is in the evening and residents are still in shock of Thulani's death on the recent heist attempt, as well as Khutso's death at Monate-Mpolaye Palace. Jan-Jan is in shock after making R400 000 in one night just because Kgabudi Construction contractor has been awarded a R6 million tender, which is a lifetime achievement for indigenous African race citizens. Remember, an indigenous African is anyone born and bred in Africa, anyone with an African citizenship regardless of colour or race.

Jan-Jan quickly goes to their table to demand a 10% by Monday morning before ten o'clock, which is R600 000, failing which they should be ready to face a dismissible vendor complaint. This can be created by sabotage, which will be seen as poor work performance. They will start by being victimised at work as contractors if they fail to meet Jan-Jan's demands, who has powers because of being a permanent employee as well as part of management. In fear and despair, Kgabudi who is the owner, quickly arranges for a transfer immediately because he did not want to lose this tender. Kgabudi further requests Jan-Jan to split and share a 5% with Mbimbi who can be nastier than her husband, but Jan-Jan refuses and says it is everyone for himself. Kgabudi then has to arrange for another 10% to be transferred to Mbimbi's untraceable account. These are the factors that contribute to African contractor owners to buy sub-standard or

cheap tools equipment and material, resulting in poor work performance. Some project owners will give them another chance to improve the quality of work but the funds would already be finished. This causes a vendor complaint to be issued to them and further loses future job tenders. Suddenly, nobody is sure what the problem is but there is always a problem with the Mr. Kgabudi file. Thato, the lady who got fired, had replaced left the file in order but again, the file suddenly needed updating. Sister Matilda, the Clinic Manager here at Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine, gave Mr. Kgabudi file a fresh look and updated it.

Moremi Magano, one of the supervisors, sat down with Pinkie to also try and update it. At some point it looked like he did not know what he was doing because the issue persisted until the owner himself came to update it with no luck until he hired Kgošigatšana.

Another reason is that she was unable to go down the shaft, and it was because her medical certificate expired on the 10th of December, so she worked from home until she was able to get a booking with the clinic. These are the events which led to Mbimbi filing a vendor complaint against Mr. Kgabudi's company. It seems Mbimbi no longer wants to assist them with the baseline risk assessment since she sent out an e-mail instructing Pinkie to now assist them with it.

## **Chapter 16: God of Mercy – ENOUGH MBIMBI**

Pinkie's Letter of Resignation is intercepted and leaked, and somehow it is sent to Human Resource Manager, Letokile Mothlake.

The letter reads thus:

Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine has lost Xhinsa values – all of them – which are respect, caring for one another, integrity, honesty, and putting people first. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the experience I acquired working for Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine. I hereby acknowledge that I give up the hope that Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine will ever restore – their Xhinsa values – and assist the whole operations to achieve zero harm which I did in my sections ever since I came. As proclaimed on false allegations, going forward I will further learn to have persons management, be focused on my work, to eliminate frivolous waste and to produce quality work while I'm still here.

I hereby notify to serve my one month's resignation notice of employment with

Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine for all my time served under your vested powers.

Regards,

Pinkie Mahlaela-Motloutsi

Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine's values are like Jaheem's song, *Put That Woman First* and Izintombi Zesimanjemanje singing *Mosadi o se ke oa mo tshwenya o swana le galase- ga o bone o agile le motse, o hlokomela le malome-o se ke oa mo tshwenya.*

Arriving home, Pinkie sits down under her Mohlopi Tree next to Tefo, her husband, and listens to the song, *Safa Saphela Isizwe* (The Nation Dies) by Mbongeni Ngema, and the Sarafina song *Sabela*, by Mbongeni Ngema featuring Thandi Zulu. Pinkie translates: "Poor Contractors are dying emotionally, physically and spiritually with their labour in vain and no one to cry to, with no one to listen to all unfair labour practice imposed on them."

She unconsciously sings along to the next track:

*Udlala ngegazi Labantu ngabantw' embhunwini babo  
Uyaziqeketh' izindaba zabantu*

She further translates: "Poor Contractors are taken for a ride as if they are not human beings. It is always a permanent employees' word against a powerless contractor."

Pinkie, crying in tears for Contractor Management, she plays the song *Siyelele Mama* by Mbongeni Ngema, and then the Prison Song, *Safa saphel'isizw' esimnyama* (the black nation is perishing, crying and pleading for help on our same leaders and leadership system that are no longer reliable either), by Mbongeni Ngema.

Then Pinkie sits down and realises that apartheid is not yet over – far from ending – considering the fact that even Africans amongst Africans are now sabotaging one another, not wanting to see others raising their heads. They are hitting them with a stick as if they are seeing a poisonous snake.

Mdu Masilela amplifies the message by singing, *Umnt'omnyam; akafun' ukubon' omuny' umnt' omnyama ayaphambili, phezulu* (A black person does not want to see another black person succeed, going up), While TKzee poses the question, *Ngicel'ukubuza* (let me ask): *umnt'ofana naw' umcindezela kanjani?* (How can you oppress the person in your same level, genre, race, background, discrimination, unprivileged, struggling, suffering, living on favours and chances, surviving with *amper maar nie stamper nie* (Afrikaans-just made it by chance!).

Pinkie starts feeling angry and analyses how Mbimbi has been disrespecting her, humiliating her, degrading her in front of

permanent employees in meetings, contractor employees and contractors' top management in front of her office and inside her office. She begins to recall how Mbimbi has always made her feel worthless on serious occasions since their childhood, and every time she gets away with it. Nothing is ever done and she never regrets or apologises afterwards. The next day Mbimbi will behave as if nothing has happened as continue to live and work with employees as normal. Mbimbi does not only do this to Pinkie, but she disrespects and mistreats everyone, yet goes scot-free.

Pinkie refuses to continue being a victim of unfair labour practice to Contractor Management. Every time Pinkie fights for their justice, she gets punished by being humiliated as if she does not know what she is doing, or as if she claims that she is able. She is sabotaged to look like a failure and a laughingstock in front of everyone. She can no longer live like a victim of circumstances. She has been reporting Mbimbi to management, but every time fails. The table turns back to Pinkie as if she is jealous of Mbimbi's position and envies her success in her career and in life.

Many in management would believe Mbimbi's stories against Pinkie, no matter how much she justifies herself with or without witnesses.

She leaves the chair to sit flat on the ground, no longer considering that she might get dirty or dusty, and ignoring the discomfort of the rough stones, protruding surface rocks and uneven surface on her buttocks. She now plans a sweet revenge just like Gibson Kente's song. She thinks of Strawberry and Cremestar, her beloved distant most notorious cousins – *Imigulukudu yas'Emalahleni* (Thugs of Emalahleni, Witbank).

Pinkie plans for Mbimbi to be abducted, to be taken to a lonely, distant and dense bush with indigenous trees and thorny plants. She wants Mbimbi to be blind-folded and tortured, tied to the big tree and whipped mercilessly. She wants them to brutally rape Mbimbi repeatedly for two nights, starve her and not give her any drinking water, pour only iced water on her body and put sand inside her afterwards. She wants the sand to be put into all her body openings and return her back into her house. They must only repeat one sentence to her: "Today we are teaching you humbleness and respect to all humankind."

Pinkie's wish becomes Strawberry and Cremestar's command. They execute the plan within the next two days accordingly and add permanent painful love bites on her cheeks, neck, shoulders, arms and her tummy, leaving permanent scars and bruises of teeth marks. Poor Mbimbi that is so modern and civilised, is too smart to consult spiritual representatives. She

does not know that such bruises can be sent back to the sender. She does not know that a person who has beaten her if redirected, they can lose all their teeth.

Strawberry and Cremestar then go drop Mbimbi by her gateway, ensuring to be behind the surveillance camera views. Jan-Jan, with his pompous attitude, gets ashamed to go report the matter to the Police and warn Mbimbi not to inform her parents or relatives either.

Doctor Nox is then asked to come assist and medically consult Mbimbi in- house. Auntie Mapaseka's duties increase in the house and Jan-Jan buys a vehicle for her to be able to attend to chores of the house in assisting Mbimbi. Mbimbi has always had a soft spot for Auntie Mapaseka and is the only person Mbimbi listens to.

However, Mbimbi does not open up so simple, not even to her mother. She would rather cry alone and then smoke cocaine and drown herself to a serious sleep. Every time she starts bleeding after an overdose, Auntie Mapaseka has always been there to quickly call Doctor Nox who would immediately stabilise her. What Mbimbi likes the most about Auntie Mapaseka is that she never judges her, she never gets angry with her. She will make her aware a week later of the



consequences she might face for one, two and three misdemeanors that she did.

Auntie Mapaseka is a clever house help lady who gets to learn things quickly, making Doctor Nox's job easier. She is kind, patient with a good heart and cooks very delicious home-made African meals. Because of her experience of previous works at guest houses in Lesotho, one will be surprised with special meals for occasions and guests coming to visit in the house. Now that Mbimbi is injured, she cooks every meal as if it is for a special occasion in an attempt to brighten Mbimbi's day and show her that she is still special and taken good care of.

Going forward, within three days after Mbimbi's incident, Auntie Mapaseka has already learnt how to dress the wounds and she is doing it whole-heartedly without anyone requesting her. From time to time, she would come to check on Mbimbi if she is okay, personally bathe her, feed her and assist her to walk and do some exercises as physical training for recovery. Both Mbimbi and Jan-Jan feel grateful and even raise her salary, spoiling her with a shoppin spree as well.

Auntie Mapaseka tells Mbimbi not to hit her head against the rock for what had happened to her, because it is not her fault. She continues to say: "No matter how terrible the things you said or did are, you don't deserve to be molested, assaulted or killed. No woman deserves to be taken from her house

unwillingly. What happened to you is what is called gender-based violence and the community should not allow it to happen.”

Jan-Jan feels bad that he could not protect his wife Mbimbi and that he cannot report this matter to the police. He is the member of the *Imigulukudu* who do not report such crimes, but will self-investigate and then take the law into their own hands by claiming an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. In Afrikaans, they say *‘n oog met ‘n oog, ‘n tand met ‘n tand*.

But then this is eating Jan-Jan up and he is feeling worthless as a man and as the head of his family. He is also not sure what would happen next, when, how, who is next or if the assailants will still come back to strike on Mbimbi.

While Pinkie is serving a second week of notice after she had submitted a letter of resignation to her manager, she quickly gets advice to report unfair labour practice on a whistleblower hotline. They all instruct her to withdraw her resignation with immediate effect. Human Resource officer

Potego Mamabolo, quickly forwards all the contact details to her via e-mail.

Mbimbi spends three months not coming to work and by the time she comes back, everyone is amazed to see that she is pregnant. Everyone congratulates her and Jan-Jan, knowing that they have been praying and trying all the formulae to be pregnant and at least keep the baby. Little do they know that she has been raped.

When Mbimbi is seven months pregnant, the video of her abduction and everything that happened in the forest goes viral on social media, but the faces and bodies of the perpetrators are not revealed to the public.

Sister Gadalina becomes brave to give her a short counselling before telling her about the viral video, leaving Mbimbi to go and google online for the video by herself. She cries for the whole shift locking herself inside her office, ashamed to go outside. This is the most painful and humiliating moment in Mbimbi's life and for everyone knowing that the child she carries is a product of public humiliation.

However, to God every child is a blessing – God's gift to humankind. No child is a mistake or product of rape. God tells Jeremiah in Chapter 1:4-5 that, "*I knew you before you were formed in your mother's womb.*" As for Jan-Jan, he dismisses the thought of the child being a product of rape, reminding Mbimbi that they make love almost every day. The child

belongs to him, he is the father of the unborn child, regardless of being physically compromised.

Mbimbi's father arrives with a helicopter to fetch Mbimbi who was persistent to open her office door when she hears the knock after Sister Gadalina had left.

Her father simply opens his arms and embraces his daughter, saying, "Sorry my beloved one and only child. you are still my little gold, no matter what. Come, let me take you home."

Mbimbi leaves, taking another three weeks off days from work.

Arriving to her mother, Mbimbi receives all the love, care and comfort beyond her expectations. All her father's house helpers and employees are so kind and considerate to her. They all treat her with respect like the princess that she used to be. They are all surprised to see that she thanks and appreciates every little thing that they do for her; something Mbimbi never did.

Doctor Nox and Auntie Mapaseka arrive at Mbimbi's parents on her father's command, saying that this will assist her speedy recovery when she spends most of the time with the people that she is able to open up to and those who know what makes her tick or smile. They all spend a weekend at Benfleur in

Emalahleni, then go back to Mbimbi's house in Burgersfort Aloe Ridge West.

Mbimbi becomes a laughingstock, a topic for the grapevine. When people were talking when she appears, they all keep quiet and some disperse from the crowd into different directions. Nobody says a word to her, as if nobody saw the viral video. Nevertheless, Potego tells Pinkie not to entertain the fact that Mbimbi is pregnant and her predicaments as that does not justify a person to disrespect and do as she pleases in the workplace.

As soon as Pinkie writes an e-mail to the whistle blower hotline, she receives a prompt response from the Regional Human Resource Manager, the Head Office Industrial Relations Manager, and the General Manager.

Pinkie goes home to be able to eat, finishes her supper, and gets a long, quiet and deep sleep for the first time in four years. Two days later her manager calls her first thing in the morning into his office. He is speaking very low but with a deep and harsh voice, and using quick words. Regardless of her squabbles with Pinkie, she tries not to involve their boss, Seun Snyman. She expects the manager to be fair, not to be biased, to assess both sides of the story and thus, give judgement.

Soon after the proceedings of grievance has begun, Mbimbi water breaks and she gets admitted at Mologadi Private Hospital. Her medical practitioner, Doctor Nox, is so excited that she will be delivering for the first time since her graduation from the university. Doctor Nox is not a South African citizen and for every consultation, she goes out to make a call, asking another doctor on the other side on how to handle the condition of the patient.

Mbimbi's husband, Jan-Jan, has always complained about this, but Mbimbi adores Doctor Nox so much and consoles herself to say nobody is perfect. Mbimbi herself does not have Grade 12, no qualifications whatsoever, but is excelling in her work, so what? Mbimbi also likes the idea that she never restricts her from consuming drugs, smoking, alcohol even when she is pregnant. They would sometimes stay late in her surgery and start smoking and drinking after the medical staff had left.

Mbimbi started vomiting anything that she consumes a day before. As for today, she has not been eating anything, afraid to vomit again and now the labour pains are getting stronger and stronger. At that moment, Sister Gadalina, acting as a Unit Manager, enters her office coming to verify something on invoice documents and quickly notices all the symptoms. She called the in-house ambulance immediately, which takes only three minutes to arrive at the pick-up point.

Sister Gadalina leaves everything and accompanies Mbimbi into the hospital with the ambulance. Jan-Jan is following them, and Doctor Nox has been notified who is also heading to Mologadi Private Hospital. Sister Gadalina starts with the delivery process, initially making Mbimbi to calm down. Mbimbi is requested to breathe in and out with a mild pace until they reach the hospital as contractions continue to become longer, stronger, and closer together, and her cervix dilates to seven centimeters.

Some people breeze through giving birth, while others find labour and delivery incredibly painful since everyone is different. Mbimbi starts feeling an intense muscle tightening throughout her abdomen and, sometimes, her entire torso and pelvic area. She feels pressure on her back, perineum, bladder, and bowels, with all that combining to ratchet up pain. One probably can't change their inborn capacity to withstand pain, which is why labour can be so different for everyone, even among their own pregnancies.

Intense pain is eclipsed by major pressure as Mbimbi feels a great urge to bear down and push her baby out like pooping a watermelon or bowling ball. Although pain continues, many birthing individuals say it's a relief to push because it helps relieve the pressure.

Arriving at the delivery room, Mbimbi feels that the labour pains are now obstinate, but she has not eaten anything and this makes her very weak. Rangs lactate was mixed with sintro into a drip to give Mbimbi strength so that she can push. The estimated date of delivery was incorrect as the doctor has confirmed the 10th June but came on the 23rd of May. When the baby's head crowns or becomes visible, Mbimbi experiences a burning, stinging sensation around the vaginal opening as it stretches.

The umbilical cord has tied the neck of the infant – the pelvis was not properly substantiated. If this was done on time, the doctor could have decided on a Cesarean section instead of natural delivery. Finally, the head is out but the shoulders are stuck, imprisoned by public bones. Sister Gadalina realises that the perennial is also too small to deliver the baby, so she takes charge over the situation without any discussion and quickly conducts a bilateral episiotome. It is only then that a bouncing baby boy arrives, Mbimbi's first-born child.

Mbimbi and Jan-Jan name him Boikgantšho, their pride and hard-earned lifetime achievement. This is her first child to be born alive, after having endured two still-borns in the past. Thanks to Sister Gadalina who intervened during delivery and applied her intelligence and qualifications that she attained at the universities here in South Africa.



Sister Gadalina Kgwale is highly qualified and also qualifies as a Unit Manager of any private hospital. She also specialises in chronic disease management since she is wearing a maroon epaulette, which symbolises General Nursing with a yellow bar that symbolises Community Nursing, a blue bar which symbolises Psychiatric Nursing, a green bar which symbolises Midwifery and for all these qualifications she did a four-year Degree plus Honours at the University of Limpopo.

She also has a silver bar which symbolises Management in Nursing being a B- Tech Degree Specialty which she attained at Technikon University of Pretoria (TUT). There is also a gold in red bar which symbolises Occupational Health in Nursing being a B-Tech Degree attained at TUT Pretoria. This proves that with positive intentions and determination, a person can study and acquire international level qualifications, work as a competent person and perform excellent customer satisfaction service in any workplace.

For the first time, Mbimbi confesses that God is love and that He is a faithful God who finally has heard her prayers. She can now also be called a mother and has proven to her in-laws that a son is born in her household.

But Mbimbi did not enforce her maternity leave accordingly. The national trade unions represented women in the mining industries and factories by negotiating that a five-month

maternity leave be awarded going onwards, but Mbimbi does not utilise this privilege or call it her human rights, her labour rights. Within three weeks, she was back at work, making all those efforts labour unions championed to be in vain.

A week after Mbimbi's return from leave, the Industrial Officer requests that Pinkie writes a statement so that a grievance case can commence and be finalised. One can see even when she walks that Mbimbi has not yet regained her full potential. During the day, she sleeps endlessly in her office and thanks to Pinkie, who has everything under control whether Mbimbi is present or not, the workplace ship keeps sailing.

## Chapter 17: Would You Come and Testify?

Later in the afternoon, Pinkie and her husband Tefo sit next to the Palm trees by the pigsty. *Phoenix dactylifera*, commonly known as date palm, is a flowering shaft species in the palm family, *Arecaceae*, cultivated for its edible sweet fruit called dates. The species is widely cultivated across northern Africa, the middle South, and South Asia, and is naturalised in many tropical and subtropical regions worldwide. *P. dactylifera* is the type species of genus *Phoenix*, which contains 12 to 19 species of wild date palms.

Date trees reach up to 30 meters (100 feet) in height, growing singly or forming a clump with several stems from a single root system. Slow-growing, they can reach over 100 years of age when maintained properly. Dates are emblematic of oasis agriculture and highly symbolic in Muslim, Christian, and Jewish religions. The Palm trees are planted by Tefo who is a farmer. They form a beautiful landscape along the fence parameter and the pigsties to also complement illumination zones for the yard at night.

Within the boarder of Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine, their yard of 10 hectares, always has a wonderful blow of gentle wind in the late afternoons and evenings. When you've done your laundry, there's no need for a tumble dryer for clothes to be dry before

laying down the head. Tefo has built eight units that separate the white pigs and the black pigs.

The genre of the pigs inside these units are as follows:

Mocouncilara-Duroc, Mokopane a Large White, NaMkhatshwa a Hampshire, Mampi a Berkshire, Miss World-Striped Babies, Andries-a Welsh, Mamoribanyana a Landrace and Mapinkana, a Wessex Saddleback.

Pinkie then opens her laptop and begins to write her statement while she confides in her brothers Thulani and Thando and share the content of her grievance statement that she has prepared to submit.

“I was advised by some contractor company owners to say that if I had reported to my direct manager and nothing changes, there are other routes than to resign.

I started in this department coming from Xhinsa 1 Platinum Mine as a transfer on the 1st of June 2019. No proper Handover received (maybe queue was always long into the office?). When I served contractors first, my field audit reports would lapse and be incomplete by the end of the week. I got blamed for a poor quality work (which was sent to all my colleagues as well as humiliation) until I figured for myself a way forward.

Starting to update and upload reports I was told that I am exhausting the system. I was asked, 'Why not one report for everything at once?', which is what I have been doing ever since. I was not introduced to other departments, and my arriving there would be treated as if I am an intruder and they would not appreciate my feedback reports. As for my colleagues, they said I was stepping on my toes and clinic, canteen and female changehouse were added on to my workload after giving Safety Observations Feedback.

At Xhinsa 1 Platinum Mine we worked as a team, reporting deviations from someone's sections on behalf of the department as a whole to prevent incidents from happening. Salvage Yard – from DQS Auditors Reports: it falls under Contractor Management and so are employees working there.

During Covid-19 and after Lockdown, I was also instructed to implement Covid-19 measures to look the same as in Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine premises, which I did. Suddenly, I was accused that I am snatching the section from one of the colleagues. On that day in a weekly meeting, it was said by the Sectional Manager that anyone can run the Contractor Management Office. Kolomaka cleaners were told that I know nothing and I am incompetent, hence poor employees would be scared to testify.

I received a blame to say that I came to bring changes which I was not made aware of. Mining Superintendent positions were sent to me on WhatsApp to apply for, but I did not respond, and I did not apply. The same colleague teared my payslip open four months later while been given by the lady administrator by mistake. She had both in her hands, opened them both simultaneously.

To my surprise, one payslip did not slide from each other as payslips normally would. I went to Human Resource Department to enquire and received an advice to say if I still want to work here in harmony, I should let the sleeping dogs lie as everyone here is family and an injury to one is for all. They will all become your enemies, I was told.”

The following noon day, Pinkie receives a hint from Moremi Magano but is scared to can go testify during the grievance. Apparently, the matter has been discussed and finalised that she will never be promoted here because all along she has been questioning their authority and trying to outsmart them with her reports in their workplaces. Pinkie only went there to audit contractors and working conditions that contractors are instructed to work on them.

We all know that if contractors refuse unsafe conditions, another contractor would be hired to complete the job, and the

one who refused would be blacklisted. It has been said that they will only use her initiatives and dump her afterwards. As she handed in her resignation, it is confirmed that Matshidiso Mohwaduba was approached to submit her CV to return. Is it true that persons will treat you unfairly to make you resign?

Pinkie and her manager had sessions in this regard and indicated that it is not her intentions to question their authority and they end up saying underground and surface culture are different and they will familiarise her. They will also introduce her into departments as they start internal audits in preparation for re-certification- Pinkie has been told that she lacks people management skills.

Pinkie trained contractor employees, and when she issued them with certificates of competency, she was told that she is wasting paper and ink but when she trains permanent employees, she would be instructed to train and print out certificates on the same day.

So, she does no longer print out induction cards, medical certificates and ID cards for Inductions and Safety File Updates. She only prints legal agreements, permission to work on-site, induction assessment cards, assessment questionnaire and Acknowledgement of Site-Specific Induction along with outstanding certificates with which the printer will jam almost every time when she prints.

In her first sick note in November 2019, Pinkie disclosed her back pain. The SHEQ Monthly Topic became Ergonomics, emphasising the way they should sit to prevent back pain. Again, Pinkie became a joke and a talk topic. Her back pain started in 2013 but it is something she manages to live with. Every time she reports off-sick, Pinkie receives stalkers that would escort her to the doctor's doorstep, pharmacy and up to the car when she leaves Steelpoort to home.

Should she leave the office to another or go to the car during the 30 minutes of lunchtime, there will be a stalker, mostly one of the Kolomaka cleaners, and SETUMO Security officers. During lockdown, they drove up to Pinkie's shack and made a U-turn back. Pinkie and her husband drove after them and security officers told them that they were patrolling Xhinsa Borders at Ga-Mampuru Village. However, they did not continue up the hill as per route and failed to answer that. Every person coming to the office, time would be counted to say how much time they spent.

Her suggestions are always turned down and later would be twisted by Mbimbi and molded differently as if it's a new idea from someone else. Safety Files are disappearing, and Pinkie reported to the Security Manager and her boss requesting a surveillance camera to be installed without success.



Printing induction cards and laminating them as Christmas greeting and a reminder date for the next meeting was regarded as a frivolous waste, while contractor's feedback was to say that at least in 2020 they finally received something as a token for Christmas. All these things are happening amid contractor management owners, supervisors, employees and Kgošigatšana Hunadi volunteers as witnesses. Kgošigatšana is a princess and her name 'Hunadi' means a beautiful gift from God, which invokes compassion

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amicability and aspiration.

Steered by their desire for personal satisfaction, these people would seek to experience many things in life, and nothing will dampen their joy and adventurous tendencies. Kgošigatšana Hunadi Sekhukhune is a SHEQ Manager of Kgabudi contractor.

She feels that she does not have any other choice than to put her ailments in writing due to the nature of allegations currently hanging over her head and the vendor complaint laid on her company by the Project Superintendent Mbimbi, who stated that she took too long to complete fixing the file – a month to be exact. A week before she was hired to fix the file, the only document that was outstanding was the Tax Clearance certificate but upon her arrival, everything was a mess. Papers

were filed under the wrong folder and the file itself was dirty and torn.

Mbimbi says that Kgošigatšana does not listen to her simply because she does not sit and work in the boardroom as other contractors do. She accused her of causing disruption in the department because she works so closely with Pinkie in her office.

Mbimbi further states that Kgošigatšana's presence in Pinkie's office gives off the impression that they are not working and all that they do is sit, chat and eat. The instruction was that Kgošigatšana comes here so she can be observed, monitored and coached. So how could she be coached and observed if she is sitting in the boardroom?

Kgošigatšana, of course, disagrees with some of these allegations due to the nature of Mbimbi's professional relationship with Pinkie. Kgošigatšana believes that Mbimbi is being biased and her problems with Pinkie have clouded her judgement. She is not exactly sure what the problem is or how it started, but through their conversations, there is absolutely no respect for one another. There is attitude and snappy tone of voices exchanged between them.

In short, they do not get along and everyone in the department is aware of this. Like the adults that they are, they have kept their noses down and mind their own business. Something that Kgošigatšana herself tried to achieve but in the end, she is becoming a collateral damage. Kgošigatšana Hunadi believes this is the cause of disruption in the department, not her presence here.

She does not understand why and how her presence is causing disruption when the problem existed long before she was hired. She thinks it may be shift blaming – a huge symptom of narcissistic behaviour. All the employees within the department knew why Kgošigatšana was there and understood her being in Pinkie's office. Mbimbi is simply dragging Kgošigatšana into their drama, which she knows nothing about and wants no part of.

Initially, Kgošigatšana started working on the 19th of November 2020, and on this day, one could already tell there was tension between the two ladies. There was a small disagreement – small but noticeable disagreement – as to where Kgošigatšana was going to compile the Kgolokudu contractor safety file. In the end, she compiled it in the boardroom as per instruction from the Project Superintendent, Mbimbi.

If it weren't for Pinkie's help, it would have taken her longer than a month to compile and update that file. An audit was done on the Kgolokudu file a week before she was hired; proof that the only thing that was outstanding was the Tax Clearance certificate. Pinkie still assists and monitors her even with a full schedule, despite her resignation letter that she wrote soon after her disagreement with the Project Superintendent, Mbimbi. The reason for her absence on-site is due to her validity of medical certificate.

After Pinkie has read Kgošigatšana's statement, she realises Phankie's words that she said in confidence when she arrived here to say that, "Around here, everyone fights her own battles and you are on your own. you will always be on your own." To think that she has never disrespected Mbimbi, never tried to belittle or humiliate her, even though she has no qualifications for her position. Pinkie would always ensure to cover Mbimbi's back so that people won't laugh at their department and their organization, the Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine.

It is Kgošigatšana's second week of working at Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine SHEQ Department when Pinkie asks her to come and work with her in the office as this would be easier for both of them. Pinkie would be able to not only help guide Kgošigatšana with company procedures, but also continue with

her duties of assisting other contractors. Mbimbi is not happy with that arrangement.

In the same week that Kgošigatšana moved from the boardroom to Pinkie's office, Pinkie had to leave XHINSA PLATINUM MINE early so she could go to ESKOM. On this day, Kgošigatšana is working alone in Pinkie's office when she receives a warm welcome into the department. The only copies of proof of competency Kgošigatšana have on this day goes missing from the desk after she left the office for no longer than two minutes.

Kgošigatšana needed a box that she would use as an archive. Upon her return the papers were gone. She spends the remainder of the afternoon looking for them and by the time she finds them, it is already knock off time, further delaying her by a few days. The following day, she notifies Pinkie about the incident. She understands Kgošigatšana because files and documents go missing in her office to the point that she asked that cameras be installed.

The surveillance cameras have not been installed in Pinkie's office as once requested. On the note of eating, chatting and not working, Pinkie and Kgošigatšana work while they eat, not the other way round. Kgošigatšana sometimes had to share her lunch with Pinkie because she is so occupied there is not enough time for her to go for lunch.

As Kgošigatšana starts working on the file, her focus is on making sure that the file is up to date. She is not aware of the duplicated employees on file, employees that were working but also were never on file. Pinkie took notice of this issue which further strengthens Kgošigatšana and Pinkie's reason to visit the shafts and get a clear number of employees.

The number of employees then doubles, and she has to start the process of compiling their paperwork from scratch, which includes copies of their IDs, induction cards, medical certificates, driver's licenses for all drivers and lastly certificates of competency as well as operating licenses for all drivers and operators. It was on the 2nd of December when this audit was conducted.

There are constantly persons watching Kgošigatšana and Pinkie as they work and keeping tabs on how long Kgošigatšana is in Pinkie's office and what she's doing. This gets to a point where they would ask daily what Kgošigatšana is doing there and why it takes time for her to compile a file, as if Kgošigatšana also does not know what she is doing.

Mbimbi would also ask the same things even though she knows why she is there and also aware of the challenges she faces during this time. Shortly thereafter, on December the 8th, Kgošigatšana witnesses a fight in Pinkie's office where Mbimbi

tells Pinkie that she is not focused and that Pinkie is trying to shift her focus because she is apparently spending time on minor things. Words are exchanged, which then leads to her resignation moments later.

At some point Kgošigatšana arrived at the offices and found Mbimbi outside Pinkie's office questioning everyone why they were there, and she would then decide if it was important enough or worth the trip. If not, they would be dismissed. On this day Mantwa of Mpontsheng Engineering, was chased out of Pinkie's office when she was initially there to report a near miss incident. That was the last time Kgošigatšana saw her at the department.

In most of the battles, Pinkie has been fighting as a hen protecting her chicks. She is so loving. There is nothing more appealing to others than to be in the presence of a loving person. She expresses that through loving kindness, her warm smile and sense of inner joy and vitality, with a lot to give. She is warm towards others and kind to herself.

There is nothing Pinkie wouldn't do to help, and this loving approach is taken into every area of her life from career to contractor management. Furthermore, she applies love as a form of discipline and setting boundaries when necessary. There are times when the only way another can learn and grow is for them to either have to withdrawal of their love, or to set

boundaries around it, in an effort to protect their generous nature.

In order for Pinkie to remain loving, she must protect her heart and put herself first in negative situations that Mbimbi puts her into. Through life's experiences, Pinkie has come to accept that some persons can stay in her heart, but not in her life like Mbimbi.

She has always grown fond of Mbimbi and will always be. Mbimbi is her childhood friend and they share a lot of memories together. Some are sweet and some are tragic. Nothing that can ever rub Mbimbi off her thoughts. When she thinks about the past or the future, Mbimbi always fits in her foot like a shoe.

To be truly beautiful, it is the understated qualities of beauty which are sustaining. To possess any one of them will increase the experience of your beauty exponentially. Who Pinkie internally is, is the marker of her influence on her contractor babies.

But now Mbimbi, who has no mercy over contractor employees, treating them like animals, hates to be reprimanded from her evil acts. She wants everyone to be scared of her, everyone to tremble whenever they see her.



Mbimbi wants everyone to beg her, to bow before her unnecessarily. She enjoys firing poor contractors like dogs who should pay bribery to her in order to be retained. She enjoys sending vendor complaints blacklisting them from getting future jobs.

She likes calling them into countless meetings, accusing and threatening to terminate their contracts with immediate effect. Every contractor owner or supervisor would make sure to enter Mbimbi's office with a sum of not less than five thousand rands for a start of negotiations when summoned.

## **Chapter 18: Mbimbi's Garden**

Mbimbi and Jan-Jan's house is a double-story mansion. Coming from work, she sits alone on the garden benches, set aside for the cultivation, display, and enjoyment of plants and other forms of nature thinking about Pinkie. The single feature identifying even the wildest wild garden is control by incorporating both natural and artificial materials.

There is a majestic view once you enter the garden, rectangular in shape. This is one of the most attractive and well-maintained, the only place where a person can get relief from a busy life. Moreover, having a garden in the house welcomes many health benefits. For instance, a garden has many plants that provide oxygen to the ecosystem.

Mbimbi is the one who should be bringing all the glory to her father, not Pinkie, she muses.

Deeply inhaling the scent of the flowers can refresh a person's mind in the afternoon. In order to lead a peaceful life, a garden plays a major role. Mbimbi's garden contains different types of plants. For instance, it has different flowers such as roses, sunflowers, Lilies, daisies, and these flowers are the easiest to grow and flourish the environment with their beautiful smells. Moreover, the colours of these flowers make a garden look beautiful, the brightest of all. Mbimbi's father told her that Pinkie's performance on contractor management has been

commended by the Chief Executive Officer himself during the 20-pager monthly meeting. This upsets Mbimbi enormously.

Pinkie has developed company health and safety policy strategies including proactive management strategies, corporate social responsibility, and the change management processes. She has advised management and employees on the types of legislation likely to apply and how enforcement actions could apply; the relevance of recommendations and how non-government bodies and standards could influence the health and safety within the organisation.

How is that possible? How does Pinkie get it right? Pinkie promoted a positive health and safety culture by gaining commitment and participation, engaging, supporting, and influencing leaders and employees to change attitudes and behaviour and in making safety a priority. Because of the high figure employment rate of contractors than permanent employees, this has had a positive influence within the whole company.

Pinkie has assessed, developed, and maintained individual and departmental health and safety competence. She contributed in minimising injuries and incidents by implementing and monitoring risk management including the techniques for identifying hazards, the different types of risk assessment, considerations when implementing sensible and proportionate

additional control measures and developed a risk management strategy.

The garden has grass all over the area. As a result, this makes it the best place for any exercise. Furthermore, it has a soft ground where children can play different sports. This ensures that they do not get hurt even if they fall while playing. This makes Mbimbi long to see Boikgantšho grown enough to can play with his mother in the garden.

The benefits of having a garden in the yard are that Mbimbi gets fresh air in the environment. Moreover, it enhances the look of her house and makes it more beautiful. Mbimbi stands up to a swing holding her bundle of joy with a cradle on her chest. The swing is her favourite because she can spend hours swinging on it and never get bored.

Sometimes she spends her entire day in the garden completing all here tasks there, but it only becomes possible whenever Mbimbi has a holiday. As she swings, cuddling Boikgantšho up high and low, she is still thinking about Pinkie on how she can destroy her or make her lose the job and be humiliated.

Babies born to mothers who use cocaine during pregnancy are often prematurely delivered, have low birth weights and smaller head circumferences, and are shorter in length than babies born to mothers who do not use cocaine. So is

Boikgantšho but Mbimbi can't wait to see him taller and with much more weight like babies of his age.

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Pinkie has developed and implemented proactive and reactive health and safety monitoring systems where she carried out reviews and auditing on systems-ISO 9001, 14001, 17025 and 45001. She continually developed her own professional skills and ethics to actively influence management improvements by providing persuasive arguments to workers at all levels.

Pinkie manages contractors and supply chains to ensure excellent quality in compliance that is concurrent with the occupational health and safety standards ensuring that no major non-conformances are found during the internal and external audits.

The date for the grievance has finally come and Pinkie has no union representative. The chairperson is her manager, Seun Snyman, and since they started Mbimbi is not saying anything and did not submit any statement to state or defend her actions. When Mbimbi is given a chance to say something, she only utters two words: I apologise.

Pinkie is suddenly caught in the corner, her tongue getting dry as she did not see this one coming. When Mbimbi apologises in

the open like this during the grievance session, Pinkie has no choice but to forgive her on record. During the grievance session, Pinkie has been accused of bottling things up, not reporting immediately.

Even the Industrial Relation Officer turned his back on Pinkie and sided with her manager. He supported the manager's statements and accusations to Pinkie and further commented to say, "There's nothing wrong if someone else opened your payslip, and that there's nothing wrong when a man follows a woman to the ablution facility."

The manager further asks Pinkie if she is insinuating that the manager himself is stalking her. Pinkie denies another false accusation and requests permission to instruct her private investigator to commence with the investigations.

Little did Pinkie forget Exodus 14:14 that says, "*You shall hold your peace and God will fight for you*". Pinkie allowed herself to be angered by constant Kgošigatšana's and Mantwa's comments. She thought they are sympathising with her, later to realise that they are both green snakes in a green grass.

It is true that Mbimbi is playing big in a small town because she does not really know the darker side of Pinkie's family and that when Pinkie likes, she can be as brutal with vengeance just like her family. She has started a battle she can never win by lodging a grievance of unfair labour practice.

In most of the battles, Pinkie has been fighting as a hen that would be protecting her chicks. But now Mbimbi has no mercy over contractor employees. She enjoys bullying, victimisation and sabotage in the workplace by treating contractors and those standing to defend them like animals. She hates to be reprimanded from her evil acts. She wants everyone to fear her, everyone to tremble whenever they see her. Mbimbi wants everyone to beg her, to bow before her unnecessarily. She is firing poor contractors like dogs who should pay bribery to her to be retained. She enjoys sending vendor complaints blacklisting them from getting future jobs.

Mbimbi also likes calling them into countless meetings, accusing and threatening to can terminate their contracts with immediate effect. Against all odds, the manager believes and trusts Mbimbi. Whatever that Mbimbi does is right and whatever she says, she is just and true and the manager will never investigate. Mbimbi is so far the longest serving female employee in the department, with her father's percentage shares in the company.

The blunder and the painful part that Pinkie is not aware of is the fact that Thulani and Thando, her beloved trusted brothers whom she brought jobless from home, are now in Jan-Jan and Mbimbi's payroll. Who the hell is Pinkie when compared to Mbimbi? Spikiri of Trompies was spot-on when he sang: *Fak'*

*imal' uzobona* because money makes the world go round. The two brothers decided to rub shoulders with the sharks.

All her strategies that she discusses with them to win Mbimbi's heart professionally and restore peace in the department, they go ahead and notify Mbimbi in advance which she destroys with immediate effects. All the plans to empower contractors, making their lives easier and working comfortable like permanent employees are rejected by Mbimbi. The long hours that Pinkie works in accommodating contractors in ensuring that they do not go back unassisted, would not be paid at the end of the month. Instead, Pinkie would receive the blame that her planning is poor thus, she had to work such long hours.

Remember Pinkie can only initiate but Mbimbi is the one with authority, who approves, and if she says NO, nobody can say YES. Mbimbi has turned herself the goddess of Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine, being the shareholder's daughter. Everyone is scared to retaliate as they are scared to be sabotaged and lose their jobs and contracts. No contractor owner can stand in her way and no permanent employee can stand in her way – not even the general manager.

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Depression can be defined as a mental state characterised by feelings of sadness, despair, unhappiness, worthlessness, and hopelessness. When Pinkie's depression becomes such that she can no longer function to her full potential, she realises that she needs professional help. She speaks to Sister Gadalina who refers her to a psychologist in Burgersfort.

Pinkie decides to go consult with an intention of attaining a workplace wellness program that emphasises employee wellbeing in and out of the office. A wellness program is a comprehensive health initiative designed to maintain or improve wellbeing through proper diet, exercise, stress management

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and illness prevention. Wellness programs can include smoking cessation, weight loss education, fitness challenges, therapy, and many other plans designed to increase the overall health of an individual. In the past, wellness programs were offered by primary care physicians and insurance companies.

However, there has been a growing trend for companies to develop workplace wellness programs for their employees. Workplace wellness programs do not only fight the upward trend of unhealthy employees, but also would go on and decrease the medical care costs and insurance premiums.

According to The International Institutes for Preventative Medicine, 91% of today's organisations have a health and wellness program, compared to 78% a decade ago. The definition of health is for the physical body to be disease free. Wellness is considered a lifestyle journey to balance of every facet of life: physical, spiritual, emotional, intellectual, environmental, and occupational wellbeing.

A workplace wellness program provides resources and introduces interactive ways for employees to improve their health and wellbeing. Healthy employees have low rates of absenteeism and higher rates of productivity causing them less likely to be injured in a workplace. This would also decrease indirect costs such as health care and workers' compensation insurance.

Workplace wellness programs can also improve employee morale and loyalty to the company. Wellness not only means taking care of the body but the mind as well. A psychologist provides confidential support for issues like bullying in a workplace, victimisation, sabotage, unfair labour practice, stress, substance abuse, depression, and anxiety which is called Employees Wellness Programme.

By providing extra support initiatives, organisations can communicate a certain level of empathy and support for their employees, thus boosting satisfaction and confidence between

the employer and the employee including contractors in and outside of the workplace.

Pinkie then makes an appointment in Burgersfort to go see a Wellness Consultant. However, they fail to assist her because of loadshedding, which is a way to distribute demand for electrical power across multiple power sources that is used to relieve stress on a primary energy source when demand for electricity is greater than the primary power source can supply.

The continued implementation of loadshedding is mainly due to the high levels of breakdowns and the limited emergency generation reserves. When Pinkie comes back, she narrates to Murendeni Nekhavhambe and Mahlako Thobejane that she came back without being assisted due to loadshedding.

Murendeni starts complaining about predicaments incurred during loadshedding which is damage to equipment during a power outage, defective alarm system, poor visibility, poor access to emergency services contacts details.

Mahlako being a genius comforts Murendeni by saying that you can mitigate against risks caused by loadshedding by making use of surge protection device fitted to your electrical distribution board or, alternatively, at the power outlet to the electronic device. Electric surges are one of the biggest causes

of damage to equipment during a power outage, so by installing a surge protection device you can help minimise some damage in unforeseen situations. Ensure that your alarm system is working and the backup battery is fully functional to provide power to the system in the event of loadshedding.

Also try to keep at least one torch with you, should you arrive home at night during a power outage. Most smartphones have built-in torch or torch apps, which come in handy during unexpected power outages. Ensure that your cellphone, laptop, and tablet devices are fully charged ahead of scheduled blackouts. Be sure to charge them again as soon as possible after the power returns.

It's also a good idea to have an emergency phone charger (like a power bank) close by. This comes in handy during the extended power outages. Save emergency contact information on your phone, but also keep a paper copy safe and accessible. This should include contacts for emergency services such as the fire department, police, and/or medical services.

Also include the contact information of friends and/or family along with insurance information. Get a small LP gas bottle and lamp. It gives good quality lighting for a large area and can also be used for cooking and boiling water. It's a good idea to keep hot water in a thermal flask so that you can make hot drinks.

Also, consider preparing meals beforehand if you know when there's going to be a scheduled blackout.

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On the 11th of December Pinkie leaves work early for health reasons. On the same day Mbimbi inspected Kgošigatšana's file and found the Baseline Risk Assessment was not filed in and she then made an appointment with her to assist in this regard but when the day came, Mbimbi was on standby and cleared her schedule for the day, including their appointment. Mbimbi then told her that she would look for another day when she is free.

Kgošigatšana then did a follow up on the 28th of December to try and find out when they would be able to do it, Mbimbi then accuses Kgošigatšana of not listening to her and asked her why she needed her help if she does not listen to her. By the way Mbimbi is referring to Kgošigatšana not sitting in the boardroom.

The same snappy tone of voice that she uses with Pinkie is same that she uses with Kgošigatšana. Treating Kgošigatšana the same way when Kgošigatšana had never wronged her, further dragging Kgošigatšana into her issues with Mbimbi which has nothing to do with Kgošigatšana.

Kgošigatšana sometimes has to assist Pinkie with contractors that needs her help so they could get the office cleared and continue with the file on top of other instructions sent to Pinkie. On one occasion Mbimbi walked into Pinkie's office to ask her to reply to her emails because Pinkie was busy.

With all the shutdowns that took place and inductions being held, Kgošigatšana does not understand how they are being accused of sitting, eating and chatting. Kgošigatšana only received this guideline on the 23rd of November. All along Kgošigatšana was compiling an employee file instead.

If Mbimbi had given Kgošigatšana the correct instruction, Kgošigatšana would have done it correctly from the word go. The audit report that she and Pinkie conducted at the end of December clearly demonstrates that Kgošigatšana now understands and has become competent.

Jan-Jan loves taking care of the garden. Moreover, he is the only person who has set up the entire landscaping. Jan-Jan adores nature very much, therefore he takes time from his busy schedule to take care of the garden. He always tries new things in the garden. For instance, last week he brought some new varieties of flowers and some of them were climbers, bulbs and perennials which he personally planted.

Jan-Jan performs tasks common to the care of grounds and landscapes by seeding, watering, mulching, fertilising and applying chemicals to outside plantings, lawns and turf, as well as inside flowers and cuttings used in transplanting. He inspects plant materials for insects, disease, physical and mechanical damage.

He makes sure that plants grow well in their assigned area as well as cleaning up debris around yards and other areas. He does not mind that he has hired a designated Landscaper, Ntwampe, whose duties include applying fertilisers, maintaining landscape design features, removing weeds/dead plant material and overseeing repairs as needed.

Ntwampe is creative, has excellent problem-solving skills and organisational abilities to ensure the growth of plants in their landscaping business. His job involves maintaining a variety of landscape structures that range from typical grassy areas like lawns or gardens to more granular items such as houseplants. He also does any pruning tasks needed during their shift.

Ultimately, he is responsible for building and maintaining gardens that are beautiful both outside as well as inside. He applies pesticides to remove harmful insects such as mosquitoes, wasps and ticks. He also conducts general maintenance duties such as cleaning walkways and fixing fountains. This also extends to trimming and edging around

walks, flower beds and walls, planting new decorative bushes, flowers, plants and shrubs. Ntwampe also removes weeds and dead plants as needed to preserve the health and natural beauty of the plants by trimming the overgrown limbs, hedges and leaves to ensure an appealing look to the garden.

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What is POPI Act? Where is it applicable and where is it that is practicable? Is it only valid or applicable where it favours management to victimise and sabotage contractors? If a contractor sues the organisation, it becomes his word against another. Where should contractors run to?

A psychologist that was assisting Pinkie got a contract offer from Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine after disclosing everything that was discussed during the healing sessions. Who must Pinkie trust again? How would she sue them as it will be her word against them? Will Pinkie ever go consult to a psychologist again?

This is not for the first time that Pinkie has been double-crossed by a psychologist. In disclosing that, she is now regarded as a Psycho. It is now concluded that Pinkie cannot deal with her personal issues, meaning that she is the one with a personality problem. Again, she becomes a topic and a laughingstock mostly to illiterate, semi-literate contractors and permanent employees.



Some of management representatives like Mbimbi also find something to make a mockery out of Pinkie, even though laughter never lasts forever and the same joke cannot be laughable twice. This becomes another deep cut on the sole of Pinkie's shoe.

This creates a stigma and an excuse for them not to promote Pinkie in the future. Mbimbi would even claim that Pinkie disclosed some of the company issues which are governed by the POPI Act, and such that person does not deserve to be appointed as a manager.

## Chapter 19: My One And Only Beloved Son

When you put an evil potion into a glass of beer so that one becomes a drunkard, they will surely become a drunkard. People will call them a drunkard because they will be drinking more than anyone else and uncontrollably so. When they die, they will say that the drunkard is dead. Their children will be called '*Mntwan' esidakwa*' (children of a drunkard), and so will be their grandchildren and their great- grandchildren. Jabu Khanyile's song saying *Amambawu, okusalayo singabantu*.

However, their name will never die so does *umama ka-Pinkie*, her name can never die just like Nothembi Mkhwebane's song, *Noma Ngingawushiya Lomhlaba, Kuyosal' Igama Lami*. On the other hand, when a child is born, every mother feels that a star is born, so is Thando.

Nobody wishes to give birth to *umgulukudu*. That's the reason they say *umfundisi akamzali umfundisi* (a priest does not give birth to a priest). You can take the horse to the river but can never force it to drink water. Nevertheless, your child is your child whether a pastor or a criminal.

Every mother cries when he hears about the death of her child, no matter how troublesome the child has been. The news of Thando's transfer stays as music in Pinkie's ears. Thando has his mistakes and yes, he has to pay for them as no soul goes on scot-free in this land, but it also becomes painful to Pinkie when

she remembers the saying, an eye for an eye. Sooner or later, Thando has to die as well just like Thulani. *Ngokuba inkokhelo yesono wukufa* (the labour/reward of sin is death).

Just like arresting an accomplice to a crime incident is like arresting a mule of a drug dealer, you will never be able to catch the drug dealer because the mule will always be prepared to go spend jail time on behalf of the boss. The drug dealer will be always enjoying life out there to the fullest.

So are the thieves of minerals, be it ore, coal, gold, platinum, diamond or chrome. Whilst you are busy arresting the accomplices and those who received ransom to do errands, the main bosses are seated somewhere in their comfortable office as if nothing happened. They would even assist to enquire on the status or progress with regards to that specific case.

Murendeni is so impressed to be updating Pinkie at all times of every minimal arrest that has taken place. Murendeni is however disappointed to see that Pinkie is not impressed about the progress. Pinkie explains to her that arresting an accomplice is like pruning a peach tree that will bear more fruits in the next season.

A person needs to uproot the whole invasive species or tree to make sure that it does not grow again in that yard. She further told Murendeni that they know who the Mafias are. However, without the proof in the court of law, it is like you just insulted

someone for them to come back and sue whilst you are even penniless and living from hand to mouth.

Another loophole is the fact that not all buildings and workplaces have surveillance cameras. Limited footage on restrooms, walkways and parking areas has brought a lot of uncertainties and unnecessary theft cases, as if there is a planned conspiracy against such. And how can you combat crime if you conduct a random search at the gate during end of shift rather than compulsory search for all pedestrians and vehicles?

Later in the afternoon Mbimbi arrives home to find her house in disarray. The nanny is sobbing, wrapping a cream white vellux blanket around her waist, holding Boikgantšho's clothes and his sky-blue soft fleece baby blanket seated on the 7- piece Ivory Portland Wicker Sofa set in the sitting room.

Mbimbi trembles and ask where Boikgantšho is. Auntie Mapaseka responds that that her son Boikgantšho is not in the house. Mbimbi had sent Auntie Mapaseka to do some shopping for the house imperatives as usual on Fridays at the Steelpoort Complex.

Mbimbi can be lazy about anything else but cooking delicious dishes is her hobby, especially on weekends. Even the nanny's car, a 2003 Fiat Uno 1.1 Mia 5- door, is not outside by the

parking area. She starts narrating, sobbing, narrating what happened.

While Auntie Mapaseka is standing blowing a balloon and about to approach the entrance of Boxer shop with Boikgantšho in his baby trolley, she looked into this woman in appreciation who is wearing a traditional small *tshali* blanket as a shawl, the 'original' *tshali* in traditional check designs that is electric dove in colour.

These blankets are often worn along with these *Sishweshwe* fabrics during traditional ceremonies or utilised as a shawl. She is wearing it with a chocolate brown *Sishweshwe* dress. Shweshwe is a printed dyed cotton material that is widely utilised for traditional South African clothing. It is originally dyed indigo then gets manufactured in assorted colours and printing designs that are characterised by complex geometric patterns.

Due to its attractiveness and status, Shweshwe has been described as the denim or tartan of South Africa. It is also known as *sejeremane* or *seshoeshoe* in Sesotho language, as well as *terantala* which is derived from Afrikaans language *tarentaal* and *ujamani* in IsiXhosa language.

After the 19th century, German and Swiss settlers who imported the bladruck that is now called "blueprint" fabric for their clothing, helped to entrench it in South African and Basotho culture. Auntie Mapaseka starts remembering home in Lesotho, officially the kingdom of Lesotho which is a country that is non-coastal as a territory in South Africa.

Lesotho is situated in the Maloti mountains and contains the highest mountains South of Africa as the continent. It has an area of over 30,000 km<sup>2</sup> with a population of approximately 2 million. Generally, being landlocked creates some political and economic disadvantages that having access to international waters would provide.

It is for this reason that nations large and small throughout history have sought to gain access to open waters, even at a great expense in wealth, bloodshed, and political capital. The economic disadvantages of being landlocked can be alleviated or aggravated depending on degree of development, surrounding the trade routes and the freedom of trade, the language barriers and any other considerations.

Most people have been affected by food insecurity as a result of unproductive harvests as well as the corresponding rise in food prices because of the drought. It is for these reason that Auntie Mapaseka left home to come work for Mbimbi as a nanny for Boikgantšho.

The woman in her early fifties with an average height and light brown skin, comes closer to Auntie Mapaseka and Boikgantšho, and quickly introduces herself as *Mme* Ma-Motaung. As she explains her whereabouts, *Mme* MaMotaung and Auntie Mapaseka realise that she comes from Mokhotlong, which is a city and seat of Mokhotlong District in the mountainous Northeastern part of Lesotho.

Mokhotlong's economy is primarily driven by the livestock rearing and subsistence agriculture, though neither of these fully support most of their families. Arable land in this mountainous region is a scarce resource. Agricultural production only sustains families from three to nine months of the year.

*Mme* Ma-Motaung tells Auntie Mapaseka that her mother is from Quthing at Moyeni Masitise Cave House, which served as a refuge house during the Basotho- Boer War. It is just like Roosenekaal Maphoch's Caves next to Stoffberg here in South Africa in the Mpumalanga Province, which served as a refuge house during the Ndebele-Boer War.

Her father is from Seapala Valley where there is the historical village town of Mount Moorosi and near the Letsie Lake with its wonderful picnic areas. When her parents got married, they moved to Thaba-Tseka, where *Mme* Ma-Motaung was born at

Marakabei. She later moved with her family to Mantsonyane due to grazing demands with the hope that it is near Molimo Nthuse, before she started working.

*Mme* Ma-Motaung further narrates that she worked as a reliever at Butha Buthe at Oxbow Resort but was stolen by her boyfriend, now her husband, who is from Mafeteng in Malealea, to go work at Maseru by the town Roma where they served the Roman Catholic Church.

Her husband was solely dedicated to the church and fetched sacrament water at the magnificent Maletsunyane Falls, which are the highest single-drop falls in Southern Africa. She currently left her children with some church members while she was performing domestic part-time jobs at National University of Lesotho. She received an offer to travel with Sister Mary to South Africa Roman Catholic in Polokwane, Seshego Gakgapane. They are currently on a project to build a permanent building for Roman Catholic Church here in Steelpoort.

Auntie Mapaseka explains that her parents are originally from Leribe, her mother from Ha Lejone village and her father from Pitseng village. They moved to Mokhotlong for greener pastures as his father was an illegal diamond miner who died tragically on food poisoning, on the day that he was supposed to be paid off. Auntie Mapaseka then went to work at Mohale's



Hoek but got frustrated by a massive number of tourists visiting, as they were attracted by the fascinating Cannibal Caves with evidence of actual cannibalistic activities. She used to be the one that is awarded a lot of gifts and money by the tourists.

But because she could not understand English, her colleagues felt threatened, lied to her saying that the tourists were only friendly to her because they were planning to make her their victim to cannibalistic activities. Then Auntie Mapaseka left without goodbye due to fear after payday.

Auntie Mapaseka left to work at Qacha's Neck for the Sehlabathebe National Park until she met Mbimbi and her husband Jan-Jan, who enjoy touring. They bribed for her on all the exits and border gates until she reached South Africa to come work for them.

*Mme* Ma-Motaung asks how come she knows how to drive if she does not understand English. Auntie Mapaseka explains that she has a wonderful and gentle boss, Jan-Jan, who taught her driving skills so that she may become helpful in the household.

BaSotho families cover the gap largely through livestock and remittances from employed family members like *Mme* Ma-Motaung and Auntie Mapaseka, who left home to come to South Africa and work for their families. This makes them to

feel more relaxed, finding someone in South Africa who is coming directly from home, that they can share similarities and updates of the recent umgosi being the latest rumours, freshest and trendiest exclusive gossip, the hottest scoop, while keeping each other in the loop.

While chatting there standing close to each other, they look into each other's eyes. They smile, laugh and patting hands together with arms in the air as if they've known each other for years already. Suddenly they start calling each other *Manyeo, Mokhaya, Ngwaneso; Eya Manyeo, Che, Ngwaneso, E hlile Mokhaya, Nntsha-Mme*.

*Mme* Ma-Motaung starts appreciating Boikgantšho as he laughs hysterically when his Auntie blows a blue balloon for him then quickly, Boikgantšho looks bashfully at his Auntie. His hair is cut extremely short and slicked to one side with a slight fade. She comments on the way his hairstyle makes him look like a mini-man, how sweet his perfectly round curls on his shapely head.

Boikgantšho has a super smile and looks adorable when he widens his eyes in surprise as *Mme* MaMotaung sings and speaks to him. *Mme* MaMotaung is already calling Boikgantšho by another name, Pontsonono. Boikgantšho immediately responds with a loud, sweet voice; an adorable six months old with big, brown eyes, raised eyebrows, a narrow chin and button nose just like his father.

Both *Mme* MaMotaung and Auntie Mapaseka laugh as they watch Boikgantšho reacting like a gentleman seated inside a navy blue, Silver Cross Balmoral Baby stroller foldable pram. *Mme* MaMotaung asks how Auntie Mapaseka will manage pushing two trolleys as if she's an orphan with no one to care for her.

Auntie Mapaseka responds to say she is used to it, but it is frustrating when Boikgantšho starts needing attention, being uncomfortable about something and starts crying while she is still shopping and pushing a trolley and his pram. *Mme* MaMotaung volunteers to stay behind with Pontsonono, commending that he is even sweet, already friendly and bonding with each other.

Auntie Mapaseka then goes into Boxer shop, leaving Boikgantšho with *Mme* MaMotaung and the car keys so that it may be easier and comfortable for *Mme* MaMotaung to change his nappies, should she require to do so.

When she returns, both *Mme* MaMotaung and Boikgantšho are no longer standing by the shop doorstep where she left them. She goes by the parking lot hoping that she might be there changing the baby's nappies. Arriving there, the car is gone but another car already parked in its place. Auntie Mapaseka finds herself in a dilemma and thinks that maybe she is not looking in the right direction, but *dololo* (nothing).

She starts asking the hawkers, but nobody was really paying attention to *Mme* MaMotaung or who remembers the descriptions she is asking about.

Mbimbi beats Auntie Mapaseka almost to death, being the bullfighter that she used to be. She calls her husband Jan-Jan who is still at work, preparing a monthly twenty pager presentation for the CEO, to inform him that Boikgantšho has been kidnapped. All this sounds unbelievable. She even thinks Auntie Mapaseka might had struck a deal for her child's disappearance either for rituals or illegal adoptions, if not human trafficking.

Her husband asks Mbimbi not to call the police yet as there are two sides of a story. Adults and children can be trafficked or enslaved and forced to sell their bodies, or for other sexual exploitation. People are also trafficked or enslaved for labour exploitation, for example: to work on a farm or factory to work in a house as a servant, maid, or nanny. "But Boikgantšho, at the age of six months? How can that be possible?" Mbimbi asks herself without an answer.

It's possible because there are different types of human trafficking, like trafficking for forced labour, trafficking for forced criminal activities, trafficking in women for sexual exploitation, trafficking for the removal of organs and human

smuggling. Traffickers are proficient at identifying people with noticeable vulnerabilities or needs.

They may scour specific locations such as bus stations, shelters, or local malls looking for someone without a safe place to stay or who they may be able to charm with their flattery and attention. This is exactly what *Mme* MaMotaung did to Auntie Mapaseka. It begins with someone the victim knows, and usually loves or trusts if not so, may have several conversations where they form a bond over common interests or pretend to care about what they have experienced. They'll pose as good listeners, who care deeply, as they learn more about what they can do to put themselves more deeply in the victim's life.

In situations where the trafficker may already be a part of the victim's life – like a family member – it may come more easily, hence *Mme* MaMotaung and Auntie Mapaseka started calling each other *Manyeo, Mokhaya, Ngwaneso; Eya Manyeo, Che, Ngwaneso, E hlile Mokhaya, Nntsha (ea) Mme*, while laughing and patting hands together with arms in the air for every comment or respond from each other.

Mbimbi, unable to handle her child's disappearance any longer, and already high on cocaine, she calls and report a missing child to the police but before police could arrive to arrest Auntie Mapaseka as a prime suspect, Jan-Jan arrives.

He finds Auntie Mapaseka lying down almost dead, moaning in pain after beatings from Mbimbi. She is unable to move on the center carpet of the sitting room. Jan-Jan, still wearing his overalls and safety shoes with a steel cap, he rushes to Auntie Mapaseka.

Jan-Jan gently touches Mapaseka, rubbing her inner thighs firmly in a circular stroking motion, returning to her waist, he tears off her clothes, her underwear, holds her legs up and quickly takes off his trouser, brutally forcing himself into her!

Auntie Mapaseka tries to cry as she opens her mouth. She just coughs out blood while her face turns blue with bruises more visible because of her light skin, with no strength to resist him. Jan-Jan repeatedly spoils himself on her without mercy, without taking a break!

Recovering from shock, under the influence of cocaine, Mbimbi slowly screams, asking her husband what he is doing to Auntie Mapaseka. He softly continues and says, "I am taking pleasure in her body for the last time before I kill her and feed her to my pitbulls!"

Just in that moment, he asks Auntie Mapaseka again where Boikgantšho was. Auntie Mapaseka splits out blood again as she tries to respond. Jan-Jan kicks Auntie Mapaseka four times on the head. A blob of blood comes out as she deeply exhales her last breath.

“So, the cat is out of the bag! this is what you’ve been doing with Auntie Mapaseka whenever I’m away on conference meetings and study courses?” Mbimbi asks.

“Do not make a storm out of a tea cup! you are just a useless drug addict but I married you anyway. What more do you want?”

How often does one daydream about becoming a millionaire? They often fantasise about not having to pay rent anymore, not having to struggle to pay the bills, not having to work a 9-to-5 job. One can buy anything they want or go wherever they want! That is life. But becoming a millionaire is not always about getting everything that life can offer.

Even if life may be easier as a millionaire, Mbimbi has trouble in finding true love – a soulmate. Someone who would love her not because of fame and fortune. All along, Mbimbi thought that Jan-Jan loved her with her round waist for who she is.

Mbimbi was proud and pompous, would even brag about their true love and happy marriage life when with her colleagues and friends. Recalling how she posted their love affair on social media starting the day of Pinkie’s wedding –the night of her date rape. She begins to feel ashamed of herself.

What would people say if she has to divorce this beast? As for this beast, he won’t let her live to tell the tale as Mbimbi knows

too much that can implicate him and have him sent back to the prison cells. Jan-Jan removes anyone standing in his way and hates snitches.

He wouldn't think twice about getting rid of Mbimbi permanently if she can suggest or hint out the word 'divorce' to him. Mbimbi had always known her husband to be ruthless but not beyond what she witnessed him doing to Mapaseka. He even burned her face with a cigarette as if she was an ashtray while busy assaulting her!

Jan-Jan is now shouting and talking non-stop as he comes closer to Mbimbi, wanting to assault her as well.

“When you were busy attending countless courses and meetings, who do you think was warming my bed on your behalf? Who do you think was entertaining me in the evenings?”

He beats her with fists on her stomach so that nobody will see she's been beaten. “You've been arriving late from work and refusing me to touch you! You refuse to do house chores in the name of studying and being tired from work. Who does not work? Or are you the first one to study? Are you the only one who studies?”

He leaves Mbimbi and lights another cigarette, and paces around the sitting room. “You must thank your ancestors



because Pinkie keeps on rejecting me even up to this moment. I wanted to pinch you where it hurts the most.” Mbimbi is slowly reversing backwards in fear until she escapes to the guest room, where she locks herself in and cries the night away.

The gardener has been listening and is aware that the house has surveillance. He quickly reports to People Opposed to Woman Abuse (Powa). The Gauteng-based organisation offers shelter, counselling and legal support to women in abusive relationships, rape survivors and survivors of incest. Their Helpline is: 083 765 1235 at [www.powa.co.za](http://www.powa.co.za).

They tell him that they can only take an action if the victim is the one to personally reports because if the victim is still on denial or refusing to report, they cannot offer professional help or take legal action. There is also the Top Alcohol Rehab & Drug Addiction Rehab in Johannesburg-Office hours: 011 787 91421 or 24/7 Emergency Helpline: 079 770 7532.

Immediately they hear the knock by the back door. The pitbull dogs are still inside their cages not yet released to roam around the yard for the night and Jan- Jan had left the gates open, when he disabled the remote in anger.

Two police officers enter the house as the door is not locked. They follow the sound of the shouting couple into the sitting

room, to find Auntie Mapaseka lying dead on the floor. The police are in Jan-Jan's payroll and he simply commands them to write the statement that says: "Auntie Mapaseka died while attacking Mbimbi. Jan-Jan had to rescue Mbimbi from the brutality of Auntie Mapaseka who had also stolen their son Boikgantšho."

Afterwards they leave the scene for Jan-Jan to take of it. Instead of the Forensics being arranged to come conduct investigations and remove the body, Jan-Jan carry Mapaseka's corpse into the pitbulls' cage that makes a delicious palatable feast out of her. Thulani and Thando arrive at midnight to dispose of the skull and skeleton which pitbulls could not crush.

Every day in the morning Mbimbi can hear the chirping of many birds around her yard and beautiful garden. Birds like sparrow, pigeon and Indian myna come to wake them up in the morning. Moreover, the peacock also comes occasionally in the garden. At that time the whole family would gather to have a look at the beautiful feathers.

But today is different because Boikgantšho is nowhere to be found and that Mbimbi could not blink an eye for the whole night. It is 24 hours now and a case of a missing child can be formally opened. As for Auntie Mapaseka, the docket will disappear like the rest, more especially because she is a foreigner. Almost nobody knows her whereabouts since her

cellphone has been destroyed as well. Auntie Mapaseka's culpable homicide becomes water under the bridge and was promptly forgotten as if she never existed.

But the news of Boikgantšho's kidnapping is everywhere and gets broadcasted on social media with his cute pictures. This raises eyebrows on Mapaseka's disappearances as neighbours and her friends start asking questions about her whereabouts with suspicions, especially because nothing is said about her.

Some suspect Pinkie that she might be behind the kidnapping in trying to pay vengeance for all the bullying, sabotage, being stalked, being framed, and constant countless ungrounded disciplinary cases against her name. Some say it can be anyone else because Mbimbi is annoying everyone, treating contractors like animals as if they are worthless.

Mbimbi ignores the fact that Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine is successful because of their contractors and that it can fail if their contractors' performance fails too and changes in usual patterns of behaviour. All contractor employees, supervisors and their owners are showing respect and cooperation to Mbimbi, as much as willingness to comply with the rules and regulations of Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine.

Mbimbi takes the advantage to threaten them and demand more bribery from them. Who would like to live in such fear, threatened by a young woman in the name of shareholder's daughter for the rest of their lives? Contractors are stakeholders, members of the community and interested affected party that must be treated with fragility, care and diligence.

As soon as Mbimbi's boss, Seun Snyman, hears about the disappearance of Boikgantšho, he goes crazy. Mbimbi has no peace at all, she goes then and bullies poor contractors at work, pouring out all her frustrations on them. Mbimbi's mood at work would be depressed, her facial expression would become blank, sad and gloomy.

When with Doctor Nox in the evenings, Mbimbi would expresses self- reproach, self-depreciation, tearfulness and trembling. As for trembling, one would no longer be certain it it's the cause of her sadness or drug addiction.

As for these days, Mbimbi would even leave the office to the ablution facilities for a stroke of cocaine for almost every hour or lock her office to do it inside. Remembering that if she cannot find Boikgantšho, she can never have another child of her own due to complications that she had on the previous delivery being escalated by her drug addiction.

Pinkie gets bullied at work. In this department, everyone comes complaining about Pinkie, and for anything that goes wrong, Pinkie is the one to blame. Everything discussed gets recorded and she only gets notified when she arrives in a meeting. Is it a first step for dismissal?

Why is Pinkie always attacked and blamed? Pinkie always fights her own battles in this department and when she calls a person to order by herself, she gets accused that she is irrational. Whom should she run to? Pinkie is also a human being who deserves human rights as well and on top of that, she is a married woman. What should she explain to her husband about men who follow and await her outside the toilet? Or are they also part of the stalkers sent to stalk her?

One Senior Manager, Piet Swanepoel, came accusing Pinkie that denied in the landline that Pinkie was Mokone Paneng. He works close to Mokone, knows his office, cellphone number and speed dialing code. In front of all management present, he asked Pinkie, "Why should I keep you here?"

Piet Swanepoel insisted that Pinkie knew Mokone Paneng's whereabouts more than him when Pinkie told him that Mokone Paneng was not in the office, there's nothing more she could have assisted him then. Nobody stood for Pinkie until that Manager left.

Another senior manager threatened to fire Pinkie by logging action on the tracker system to the security manager that they needed to fix Salvage Yard all seven surveillance cameras, saying Pinkie was intruding. Today she is blamed that she is irrational and not professional.

A letter of complaint is received by Seun Snyman coming from Human Resource Department that has been lodged by Pinkie to Lady HR Manager Letokile Mothlake. Seun Snyman gets more frustrated and not knowing how to respond to these occurrences because they are happening right under his nose.

Now

the culprit Mbimbi is more bitter to come and answer for her evil actions. Seun's problem about Mbimbi is the fact that she is stubborn. One can never advise Mbimbi or reprimand her. Two weeks later when Seun Snyman hears that Mbimbi is not coming to work and is planning to commit suicide, he quickly rushes to Mbimbi's house in the morning.

There is a misrepresentation of facts about suicides. Here are some of the more common myths and the facts:

**Myth:** Persons who talk about suicide will not actually commit suicide.

**Fact:** About 80 percent of those persons that talk about suicide would attempt or commit suicide.

A person who talks about suicide may be giving a warning that she may try suicide.

**Myth:** A suicidal person will commit the act if she talks about her suicidal feelings to another person.

**Fact:** If you ask a suicidal person about her suicidal feelings, she will often feel relieved that someone finally realizes that she is in emotional difficulty.

She will not commit the act just because one asked about her suicidal feelings.

**Myth:** All suicidal persons want to die, and there is nothing anyone can do about their death wish.

**Fact:** Most suicidal persons are undecided about whether to live or die. They often call for help just before or just after a suicide attempt.

**Myth:** Suicide is an impulsive act with no previous planning.

**Fact:** Not always. Most suicidal persons have planned carefully and thought about the act for weeks.

**Myth:** A person who attempts suicide will not try again.

**Fact:** The majority of persons who commit suicide have tried before.

**Myth:** Suicidal persons are actually mentally ill.

**Fact:** Studies of many suicidal notes disclose that the suicidal person is desperately unhappy, but that does **not** necessarily mean that she is mentally ill.

As Seun Snyman arrives and enters Boikgantšho's home, Jan-Jan greets him and leaves the house for the office. By the time Seun enters Mbimbi's house, all traces of murder had been cleaned up by Thando and Thulani. The house is speak and span as if nothing ever happened here.

Mbimbi appears from the passage descending the stairway with a slowed bodily movement, decrease in gestures, and with stooped and bent posture. She is wearing a sleeveless, mini, plus size, sexy red vintage sleepwear robe, and erotic lingerie with matching UGG Australia girls pink and lilac fluff AlexandAlexa flip-flop slippers with an open-toe design and fuzzy lining. She is unaware that Seun is in the house. The change in appearance shows how Mbimbi has neglected herself, including her hair.

Mbimbi goes to the salon every week to wash and change her hairstyle and as for her personal hygiene, she never leaves her



bedroom without brushing her teeth and wiping her face with a warm, soft cloth.

When Mbimbi finds Seun in the sitting room, she throws herself into his arms, crying, sobbing helplessly for a long time. Seun touches Mbimbi in her best five places of a woman in a way they end up doing it big time in the lounge.

Gently, slowly, softly, deeply, passionately like old long-lost lovers; up to the centerpiece of luxury shaggy soft area rug tie-dyed Faux Fur indoor fluffy non-slip rugs modern home decor carpet, a 107cm with an extra-length variation which measures 200cm in length which is made using the latest tie dyeing process that gives a room beauty and comfort.

It creates a warm and lively atmosphere and creates a colourful world for children and a peaceful atmosphere with soft material reduces the noise when walking and creates a quiet environment on the floor while Seun is pushing the table away with his left leg as he gets deeper into Mbimbi.

Since the carpet has bottom high density sponge, bottom anti-slip stability and pampering the soft and fluffy surface, giving Seun and Mbimbi a relaxing, fulfilling flash while relishing the super soft feeling as they realise that an hour has gone while exploring their own world alone at Jan-Jan's house.

Now relaxed, wrapping each other's legs and arms as if they will not let go, Seun asks Mbimbi to describe what Boikgantšho has been wearing and the items that were stolen with him. Mbimbi explains and learns that she has not yet reported the stolen car to Cartracker. She immediately makes a call.

Seun also quickly makes another call to a highly confidential syndicate investigating team requesting that they track a navy blue, Silver Cross Balmoral baby foldable pram.

Seun tells Mbimbi that for all his children when they are born, he installs a tracker inside their pram for in case of emergency, but never knew that this one will come handy one day. Seun Snyman is the biological father to Mbimbi's son and Jan-Jan is not aware of it. As far as Jan-Jan knows, the child is a product of the rape incident that occurred to Mbimbi.

Boikgantšho is the fruit of all their hard worked hours, meetings and study courses spent together, staying late at work and away from home. It is really difficult to determine that Boikgantšho's father is a white person considering the fact that both Mbimbi and Jan-Jan are light-skinned with similar rotating features amongst them like big, brown eyes and button nose just like his father, round faced with big eyes, high raised eyebrows, and a narrow chin.

The location of the pram is found within seven minutes and police are notified with immediate effect. Twenty minutes later Seun Snyman receives a call that Boikgantšho has been found at Hlobani, Kwa-Zwezwwe Village, in Kwa-Zulu Natal. They have arrested the owner of the traditional hut, Gogo Xulu.

Gogo Xulu is the witch along with the woman in her early fifties with an average height, light brown skin wearing a traditional small shawl and a chocolate brown *Sishweshwe* dress. She arrived driving a 2003 Fiat Uno 1.1 Mia 5-door vehicle and her name is... *Mme* MaMotaung!

Gogo Xulu is known for her supernatural powers and for helping people get rich. Once one encounters Gogo Xulu, they become the latest millionaires in town within the following six weeks. Communities have always suspected her activities without evidence, and now, thanks to tracker system, her secrets have been exposed.

As soon as Gogo Xulu left with the police, the community gathered at her place and burnt all huts and houses down. The rumour is later spread to say that Auntie Mapaseka was tied with ropes inside the hut and got burnt into ashes as the hut collapsed.

Consequently, baboons and monkeys dispersed running away to escape the fire. Some attacked the villagers in fear and in self-defence, while fleeing into the bushes of Iziziba zikaKhondlo below the banks of Bivane Dam.

There is some history behind Iziziba zikaKhondlo, or two Ponds of Khondlo. Khondlo is the great traditional healer who prepared King Mpande's warriors. The ponds are where many ecosystems are linked by water and ponds have been found to hold a greater biodiversity of species than larger freshwater lakes or river systems.

It is in these ponds where Khondlo with his supernatural powers went in water with a flaming wooden torch, and came out with it still aflame. As such, ponds are habitats for many varieties of organisms including plants, amphibians, fish, reptiles, waterfowl, insects and even some mammals.

Ponds are used as breeding grounds for these species but also as shelter and even drinking/feeding locations for other wildlife. Aquaculture practices lean heavily on artificial ponds in order to grow and care for many different types of fish either for human consumption, research, species conservation or recreational sport.

They, therefore, provide an important source of biological diversity in landscapes. Some ponds are the life blood of many small villages in arid countries such as those in sub-Saharan

Africa where bathing, sanitation, fishing, socialization, and rituals are held.

This is where Gogo Xulu falsely claims to be gaining powers of making people rich. Everyone who knows the history of the Mazibuko clan and how powerful their great grandfather Khondlo was, would believe Gogo Xulu's stories without hesitation.

She is able to quote victory stories of the late Great grandfather Khondlo from time to time when people have arrived in her hut to seek help as well as with the greed and desire to become rich. Whatever the amount she demanded, they would pay with immediate effect without doubts and complaints.

Mbimbi and Seun immediately take a trip together to Hlobani Police Station to go fetch Boikgantšho without informing Jan-Jan. Who is Jan-Jan anyway, at this point in time? Especially after the recent series of events that had happened. All that matters to Mbimbi right now is finding her son and bringing him back home.

Mother-in-law arrives to find Mbimbi's kitchen and the main bedroom en-suite looking filthier than Pinkie's pigsties. She never approved of Jan-Jan and Mbimbi's marriage from the

beginning then it becomes another hell in their mansion house. Now that Mapaseka is no more, she has to stay with them until they find another nanny. Two weeks for Mbimbi becomes enough because Mother-in-law never touches the pots unless she has to cook soft porridge for Boikgantšho. Whenever Mbimbi arrives with take-aways, she also complains.

What annoys Mbimbi the most is her tendency of not knocking in her bedroom, claiming it to be her son's room. Mbimbi feels that her privacy is being invaded and the other day she almost got caught sniffing cocaine. She had just wiped her noses when the mother-in-law opened the door.

When asked why her eyes were so red with a runny nose, she explained that she might be catching flu. What Mbimbi likes about her is her zeal to do spring cleaning every day and keeping the kitchen neat at all times. But Mbimbi soon speaks to Doctor Nox, her best friend, to arrange one of her home girls to come work as a nanny. Her name is Takudzwa Gungankunda.

The small rural villages like Bromley in Zimbabwe, are home to a majority of people like Doctor Nox. The houses are made of wattle and mud, grass, or tin. Indoor plumbing and electricity are rare. Life in these remote villages is hard with more than half the population consisting of farmers.

In some villages there is an absence of men, because they have gone to the cities in search of better-paying jobs. Children are

mostly at risk of malnutrition and diseases such as malaria and measles, thus Doctor Nox acquired her medical experience by assisting in nearby community clinics and missionaries, even though she is not a competent medical doctor.

The villages are near the fields where the crops are grown. Zimbabwean farmers have become very successful at growing corn. Other subsistence crops include millet, peanuts, cassava, beans and bananas. Bromley is a village in Mashonaland East, in Zimbabwe. It is located on the road between Harare and Marondera.

Chinhoyi is a large provincial town and is the capital of Mashonaland West province in Zimbabwe. This is where Doctor Nox originates. Zimbabwe is a landlocked country in southern Africa, bordering Zambia in the north, Mozambique in the east, Botswana in the southwest, and South Africa in the south. The Secondary education in Zimbabwe comprises a four-year General Certificate of Education, (Ordinary Level). The official age for entry into Form One is 13 years. Every Grade 7 pupil is expected to graduate to Form One. There is automatic progression from Form One to Form Four. Zimbabwe inherited the British system of education.

Students sit for the General Certificate of Education, Ordinary Level at the end of four years of secondary education. This

examination is equivalent to the Cambridge University General Certificate at ordinary level where it emanated from. After 'O' Level, students who succeed can proceed to do a two-year General Certificate of Education Advanced Level cycle.

Progression is on merit and the number of A Level places are currently limited. The General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) examination is the entry requirement for pupils into university. However, Zimbabwean students are accepted into universities outside Zimbabwe on the strength of their General Certificate of Education – Ordinary Level examination results.

Those who pass 'O' Level but fail to proceed to do 'A' Level can do any of the following, among others: Teacher education; Nursing; Agricultural training; Polytechnic education: Industrial training and trade testing.

Tertiary Education in Zimbabwe comprises a multiplicity of programmes offered in different types of institutions that include technical and vocational training colleges, teacher training colleges and universities. The duration of these programmes varies. Takudzwa attended the Teacher education college which produces qualified teachers for primary, secondary, technical high schools and vocational training centers.



The pre-service teacher education programme is open to those who have successfully completed either their 'O' Levels or 'A' Levels. Entry requirements into primary school teacher education is 5 'O' Level including Mathematics and English Language or 'A' Level depending on the programme being pursued. Takudzwa did two years since has an 'A' Level qualification and on completion, she was awarded the Diploma in Education.

In Zimbabwe, entry into university is generally for those who would have successfully completed their 'A' Levels. The duration of the undergraduate degree programmes is usually three years, although there are some programmes that last longer like applied sciences. The Universities also offer postgraduate degrees at masters and doctoral level like Takudzwa that she further pursued.

Takudzwa has been raised by her wealthy uncle and a headman called Padare under Chief Nhema. The chief lives in a place called Padare, which is in Masvingo province, where the headman is Padare. Takudzwa being a spoilt naughty brat, attended Gumbu Primary, secondary school and also Mazungunye Secondary.

Her uncle always had a soft spot for her because her parents died mercilessly and mysteriously in Rwanda while she

was still an infant. A missionary managed to escape with Takudzwa and presented her to Uncle Padare.

Near her uncle's home are beautiful Turwi river and Nyamuzara river with nearby churches being AFM and Zion Christian church. From Padare they travel by taxis and buses to town Masvingo which is about 80km away with nearby stadiums around Rufaro and national sports stadium.

The local currency is Zimbabwean dollar. There's Mutema Supermarket and Tongonya Supermarket. However, Pick n Pay is also there. Taverns are highway bar, and CV Tongonya and the Mines around are Mhangura mine for copper and Bikita minerals.

A welcome development has been the introduction of distance and open learning at university level through the Zimbabwe Open University. Zimbabwe's literacy is at 92%, and is currently the highest in Africa. Currently, Government owns and runs ten (10) of the thirteen teachers' colleges, seven (7) Polytechnics, two (49) Vocational Training Centres and seven (8) of the eleven (12) universities in the country.

The provision of education is not restricted to the two education Ministries. There are other Ministries and government departments, which own and manage schools and training institutions. The qualifications authority, SAQA (South

African Qualification Authority), has found that almost 60% of the foreign qualifications they evaluate are from Zimbabweans.

Approximately 10 000 Zimbabweans were applying for work permits recently and required recognition of their qualifications to obtain skilled positions in South Africa, amongst others is also Takudzwa who has a sharp increase in the applications for evaluation of foreign qualifications from countries in conflict situations and economic crisis, as is the case with Zimbabwe. There is a broad range of qualified people coming through with very high levels of education and training.

There are many artisans but an equally good representation of degrees and level 7 B. Tech-type qualifications. Many qualified teachers and engineers are coming into South Africa. However, it is required by immigration policy that foreign job candidates have their work permit applications accompanied by a SAQA certificate of evaluation of their foreign qualification, which basically maps it to a level on the SA National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

Such certificates of evaluation are vital documents for foreigners that are job seeking and thus, in high demand making CEEQ a high-pressure environment. SAQA has done much to streamline its operations and prevent backlogs in the process of scarce skills importation from other countries.

While Takudzwa awaits results of her applications, she receives the offer to come and become a nanny at Mbimbi's house.

Takudzwa is a Shona baby name. In Shona origin the meaning of name Takudzwa means that "We have been honoured". She has a glowing skin, impeccable features, perfect skin which looks exquisite. A beautiful face, carrying major lashes with her body creating art with her amazing hypnotising curves.

She has the unique sexiness that any woman just wants to have with brown skin that complements her bouncy hair - an absolute stunner with kissable lips. Her smiles light up the world with cheekbones that could cut glass, as her features shine stunning without a makeup. Cornrows accentuate her natural, God-given beauty and collar bones to the shape of her calves since her contours are distinctive and remarkable.

Her body is strong and firm, her voice is melodic, soulful and strong. The word 'beautiful' has been redefined by this African woman – Takudzwa. She is comfortable in her skin and exude confidence from head to toe. This African woman is intelligent and strong and a solid combination of beauty and brains.

Takudzwa is fashionable, looking good and smelling good.

When Jan-Jan enters the scullery coming from the garden, he finds Takudzwa packing in some groceries out of shopping bags. His body language becomes a whole new beast. He reacts,

instead, to physiological motivations and incentives. Takudzwa on the other hand, she feels a person's presence and raise her head to check who is inside the room with her, and realises that it is the master of the house. Their eyes connect in a strong magnetic force, there is a smile from both their faces and a warm welcome voice coming from Jan-Jan.

Jan-Jan does not blush, but his blood flow and breathing are both somewhat accelerated as he comes closer to shake her hand. They look sweaty and are shaking and feeling some anxiety. Jan-Jan quickly grabs and kisses her for a long time, caressing her neck and shoulders.

In return Takudzwa responds and gives in spontaneously and they become one – just like that. As they get dressed, Takudzwa volunteers to dress Jan-Jan not aware that she dresses him with her panties. When all this romance takes place, Mbimbi is away with Seun Snyman for a section 54 upliftment presentation at the Department of Mineral Resources in Polokwane offices.

Takudzwa speaks English very well, no need to worry about miscommunications, hassling yourself with translation softwares, or even actually learning an African language. This makes everything easier for everyone in the house to get to know one another better.

Jan-Jan spends much of his time with his eyes glued on Takudzwa and would feel embarrassed when he gets caught by Mbimbi. Takudzwa loves to laugh and makes her friends and families laugh, giving momentum between Mbimbi and Jan- Jan in the house.

The tension is now gone in the house after the death of Mapaseka, though forensic from anonymous reporting have been investigating her whereabouts without concrete substantial evidence. The principle is easy: your body will react to the set of emotions that you are feeling when in the presence of the person with which you have chemistry, so is Jan-Jan in the presence of Takudzwa. As they laugh and chat watching TV in the living room, Jan-Jan is still fantasising about his earlier moment with Takudzwa until he gets wet.

When he gets to the main bedroom, he continues to Mbimbi where he had stopped with Takudzwa. A happy moment gets blown away when they wake up in the morning, Mbimbi realising that she is packing away two women's panties into the laundry basket. It looks similar to her style and choices as the set that has been bought by Doctor Nox on their way to Mbimbi's home when she brought in Takudzwa and has shown them to Mbimbi.

Mbimbi start fighting with Jan-Jan, giving leverage for Takudzwa to be closer to him while Jan-Jan refuses Takudzwa to leave their house. When one shares a mutual attraction with someone, they are likely going to be more attentive to what they do or say. One won't miss any details at all – no matter how small it is – from a new outfit or a hairstyle. They will both consciously and subconsciously make an effort to pay attention to every little thing.

Jan-Jan is super close with Takudzwa and takes the opportunity to get close to her no matter what. That is a good sign that there is some chemistry between them. He is taking every opportunity he can get to touch her or just making brief brushes on her knee or shoulder. There is some sexual connotation to those touches – especially if they last for more than a few seconds.

Jan-Jan would be putting his hand on her shoulder, grabbing her hand, or looking straight into her eyes, that is a clear sign that he wants her. It is clear that both of them desire each other and that the chemistry is there. Jan-Jan has developed a tendency of arriving early from work or sometimes coming during the day as if he forgot something in the house just to come and make love to Takudzwa.

He tends to be doing most of the things with Takudzwa than with Mbimbi, like taking Boikgantšho to the clinic, shopping for

weekly groceries even taking the car to the carwash. They tend to touch each other physically in public, forgetting and ignoring who might know them or Mbimbi. Now their pictures are everywhere on the internet with a background song of Arthur Mafokate: *“Oyi, oyi, My Zuz’ uyajola”*.

If you are reading these signs and thinking that they sound a lot like you – and want to get them under control – bear in mind that you might not be able to. When you like someone, your body will encourage the production of pheromones.

Pheromones are hormones that are responsible for a person’s feelings of attraction. They affect your body, making it produce odors that you can’t actually smell, but the opposite sex will be able to sense. You can often recognize pheromones from someone you like among thousands of persons. Cool, isn’t it? Mmh....)

It can be hard to understand how someone is feeling and to know whether he or she is attracted to you. Getting the person you actually like to like you back can be even more difficult. When somebody gets to know you and shares the same values and interests as you, it’s only natural to want them to be attracted to you.



But can one really say that about Mbimbi and Jan-Jan? why did Mbimbi follow Jan-Jan when he left the wedding ceremony? Was it love at first sight for Mbimbi or was she enticed that they are on the same financial level? When Mbimbi got to realise how in debts Jan-Jan was after the wedding and the honeymoon, do you still believe that she truly continued to be in love or she was now only scared what people will say if she would opt for divorce so soon?

It is two months after Boikgantšho has been found. Mbimbi begins to feel nausea in the mornings and vomits at times. She finally goes visit Doctor Nox who conducts all medical tests until it is revealed that Mbimbi is eight weeks pregnant. What a miracle! And another baby for her boss, Seun Snyman! Does this mean that Jan-Jan is infertile or what?

Every time she sneaks into Seun Snyman's trousers she gets pregnant! Complications can arise in pregnancies for many reasons. Sometimes a woman's existing health conditions contribute to the problem. Other times, new conditions arise because of hormonal and body changes that occur during pregnancy.

Always talk to your doctor if you have any concerns about your risk of complications during pregnancy. Complications of pregnancy may include disorders of high blood pressure, gestational diabetes, iron-deficiency anemia, and severe nausea and vomiting. In the ideal childbirth, labour begins on its own "at term". Babies born before 37 weeks are "pre-term" and at higher risk of health problems such as cerebral palsy.

Mbimbi and Jan-Jan have been cocaine buddies for five years now. Jan-Jan found out that Mbimbi is a junkie one afternoon when she appeared behind her while roaming in their favourite garden. He calmed her down telling her not to be ashamed and simply take a stroke too. What a sigh of relief from Mbimbi's eyes because being dumped had just triggered her mind when she realized that she has been caught.

Within a few months they were using R24 000 worth of cocaine a month, smoking until the small hours every night. At work, they would spend half an hour in the office every morning trying to pull themselves together. They prefer gathering in Mbimbi's office as there are no surveillance cameras installed.

When Sister Gadalina submits the month-end reports and invoices, she realises that there is one invoice that Mbimbi did not authorise. No payment can go through without her signature. Sister Gadalina quickly rushes to Mbimbi's office as

she looks on her watch. It is 8h45 and procurement deadline closes at 09h00.

She enters Mbimbi's office forgetting to even knock, which is what Mbimbi hates the most! Sister Gadalina catches Mbimbi red-handed stroking a cocaine from her desk table using her bank card. They both look at each other in a trance for some few minutes. Mbimbi becomes shy and angry, not knowing what to say and just starts shivering.

It is for the first time that Mbimbi ever gets to beg someone not to report her, not tell her father the Chief Executive Officer. Sister Gadalina promises not to report her anywhere on condition that she will follow all her instructions and agree to everything that she will instruct her to do.

Sister Gadalina requests her to sign an invoice for submission and promise to come back later to her office. Mbimbi with shame and despair, she wipes the table but still feeling that she is actually craving for at least a stroke of this cocaine.

She then signs the invoice and Sister Gadalina leaves her office. She then arranges for another cocaine stroke, sips and stops, sips and stops. She is panicking now, and feels as if Sister Gadalina is watching her even though she has locked the door this time.

Ten minutes later, Mbimbi receives a WhatsApp notification on her cellphone. Checking it she finds that it is coming from Sister Gadalina and reads as follows: “Using cocaine during pregnancy is risky for both you and your baby. Cocaine and its solid more dangerous form, crack, can cause side effects and pregnancy complications. When used during pregnancy, crack and cocaine can harm your developing baby and lead to lasting health issues for years down the line.

Cocaine has powerful effects on various parts of your body, including your brain, heart, cardiovascular system and digestive system. During pregnancy, cocaine can interfere with circulation and the health of the placenta, leading to a shortage of food and oxygen for your baby...Hang in right there, Mbimbi.”

Sister Gadalina later the same day returns to advise and comforts Mbimbi.

“Using cocaine or crack while pregnant can cause complications like placental abruption, when the placenta separates from the uterus, potentially resulting in heavy bleeding or even death of the baby and the mother. It can also cause premature birth, earlier than 37 weeks and low birth weight which is less than 2,7kg.”

Sister Gadalina continues: “Bear in mind Mbimbi that you already had four miscarriages or loss of the baby before 20 weeks, which all along has been a mystery to all of us as to why it has been happening. Boikgantšho had Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS), when babies are born addicted to a drug and experience withdrawal after birth which also was a mystery.”

The effects of cocaine on people exposed to these drugs in the womb can continue into adulthood. Ongoing research suggests that lasting brain changes can be brought about by cocaine use during pregnancy. A 2019 study published in Drug and Alcohol Dependence found a greater risk of emotional problems in teenagers whose mothers used cocaine while pregnant.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse reports that children, teenagers and adults with a history of cocaine exposure before birth can experience long-term difficulties in these areas related to brain function on Behavior, Concentration, Understanding and remembering information, Language and Memory. Mbimbi could have prevented these serious risks and side effects by seeking professional help. With the right team of healthcare professionals, Mbimbi could have got help to create a successful plan for treatment.

After all this counselling from Sister Gadalina, Mbimbi agrees on the best option to plug into care early, including the referral to nutritionists, mental health providers, social workers, in

addition to physicians and addiction specialists, there is no specific medication-assisted treatment. Cocaine treatment consists primarily of tapering off the dosage gradually.

Frequent fetal monitoring is imperative, as fetal withdrawal can result in death. Problems during pregnancy may include physical and mental conditions that affect the health of the mother or the baby. These problems can be caused by or can be made worse by being pregnant.

Many problems are mild and do not progress; however, when they do, they may harm the mother or her baby. Doctor Rachoene of Alafang Batho-best medical centre in Steelpoort, started becoming Mbimbi's best friend to talk to for further referrals, for confidentiality and ensuring that Mbimbi receives all the support and care required.

## **Chapter 20: Contractors Are Human Too**

Mbimbi must change and embrace human revolution because Top-down, autocratic, order-giving management styles have evolved to now be more 'coach-like' and motivating. 'Orders' and 'commands' have become more consultative and informative – and the response has become more about teamwork, rather than fear of retribution.

In the afternoon, Pinkie arrives with Mahlako at the bus stop. Their love is like that of a mother and daughter. They share almost everything and have a lot in common. Mahlako is Pinkie's son's age, and every time Pinkie is with Mahlako, she completes Pinkie in many ways. Mahlako is a biological beloved gorgeous daughter that Pinkie never had.

She is so vibrant, intelligent, hardworking, humble, respectful and discreet. She has had her life experiences with her mother that groomed her to be this wonderful, loving, caring and soft-hearted young woman. She is always so tender and fragile but very vigilant. She is such a comforting soul to Pinkie. Pinkie would envy Mahlako's mother that she has the best daughter in the whole world – the best thing that God blessed her with.

She is a best friend to Pinkie, a genuine younger sister she never had. If wishes were horses, Mahlako would get married to one of her sons, but then only fate can determine that, even though Pinkie prays day and night for that wish to manifest.

When she prays for her children, she includes Mahlako as well, for blessings, protection, riches, wisdom and prosperity.

Seeing that all seats are full at the bus stop, Pinkie and Mahlako pass to join the seated employees under the Marula trees who are busy eating the fruit which is very juicy and aromatic. The fruit is the size of a small plum. Each employee gets to pick the fruits from the ground as much as they please.

Marula tree a single stemmed tree with a wide spreading crown that is characterised by silvery, mottled bark, which peels in disc-shaped flakes, is an African native highly prized for its fruit which is a good source of nutrition because the fruit is high in Vitamin C, containing a protein-rich nut at its core.

These Marula trees are deciduous trees that can grow up to 18 metres. They were planted in a row facing the R37 tar road in front of the visitors parking area 10 years ago as part of Arbor Day projects by management, to give a wonderful shade and view. It was also part of preserving Marula tree since it is protected throughout its distribution as one of the most important wild indigenous African fruit trees.

Marula fruits fall off the tree while they are still green and hard, then ripen within five days. In the centre of each fruit is a large



nut stone, which contains a soft macadamia-like nut kernel. The highly nutritious kernels, which are eaten raw and roasted

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are rich in antioxidants. Marula juice has four times as much Vitamin C as orange juice.

The Marula tree, scientifically known as *Sclerocarya birrea*, is a medium-sized deciduous fruit-bearing tree, indigenous to the miombo woodlands of Eastern Africa, the Sudano-Sahelian range of North Africa, the savanna woodlands of South Africa and Madagascar.

Their green leaves are eaten to relieve heartburn. The skin of the Marula fruit can be boiled to make a drink or burnt to be used as a substitute for coffee. The wood is soft and used for carving. The inner bark can be used to make rope.

Archaeological sites have shown Marula fruit to be used as a food source since ancient times by Africa's tribes.

The bark normally contains antihistamines and is also used for cleansing by steeping in boiling water and inhaling the steam. A piece of bark is crushed into a pulp, mixed with cold water and swallowed in the treatment of dysentery and diarrhoea. The bark also is used as a malaria prophylactic.

The bark can also be used to make a light brown dye. Large saturniid caterpillars are gathered from this tree for roasting as well as the larvae of the cerambycid wood boring beetle. Inside the flesh are one or two very small, tasty nuts which are rich in protein. The oil is used as a skin cosmetic.

Their green leaves are eaten to relieve heartburn. The bark contains antihistamines and is also used for cleansing by steeping in boiling water and inhaling the steam. Marula trees are dioecious, which means they have a specific gender.

This fact contributes to the belief among the Venda nation that bark infusions can be used to determine the gender of an unborn child. If a woman wants a son the male tree is used, and for a daughter, the female tree. If the child of the opposite gender is born, the child is said to be very special as it was able to defy the spirits.

Elephants become drunk when they forage on the fruit of the marula tree – this is an ongoing myth and tale that has been established now for many years. Elephants are attracted to alcohol but it's not possible to become drunk by eating marulas in the veld, says a scientific study conducted by Steve Morris from the University of Bristol.

He believes the tales of drunkenness may be the result of humanising elephant behaviour. Morris used some of the statistics to calculate the likelihood of elephants becoming

drunk on marulas, that the average human body weight is 70kg, while elephants weigh between 5000 and 6000kg for males and 2500kg to 3000kg for females.

For a human to get intoxicated, he needs to consume 90ml of 100 percent ethanol. If this is extrapolated to elephants, then elephants must consume 3800ml of 100 percent ethanol to get intoxicated. Ethanol is never pure in nature, and in marulas the alcohol content is never more than seven percent, meaning that an elephant must consume 55 litres of marula juice to obtain the equivalent amount of alcohol.

However, if the different metabolic rates of elephants and humans are taken into account, less alcohol is necessary to intoxicate an elephant. Taking into consideration the blood volume of an elephant and their metabolic rate, 1.9 litres of pure ethanol are needed to make an elephant drunk.

This translates to 27 litres of marula juice. Having looked at how much marula juice is needed, the number of marulas needed to produce drunkenness can be calculated. Marula trees produce approximately 8000 fruits, and the weight of a marula is about 42g. Based on the fact that the average marula contains 22ml of juice, and using the unlikely assumption that each marula would have fermented to contain exactly seven percent alcohol, an elephant would have to eat about 1500 fermented marulas to get drunk.

Elephants can consume one to two percent of their body mass per day. Thus, an elephant eating only marulas may eat in the region of 30 kg of marulas in one day or approximately 714 individual fruits. This is less than half the number of marulas needed to produce intoxication and is based on several assumptions that are unlikely to occur in the field.

Although, there have been reports of elephant behaviour that resemble an intoxicated state, but the calculations show that this is unlikely to occur only from eating marulas. There are speculations that the behaviour may come from eating beetle pupae that live in the bark of the marula tree.

These pupae have traditionally been used by the San people to poison their arrow tips, and if an elephant eats the pupae it may cause some behavioural changes. Another explanation is that the strange behaviours are most often reported for bull elephants, and this may be because the marula is a prized food item and the behaviour is simply the defence of the food resource.

## **Chapter 21: Ain't No Mountain Higher**

Pinkie did narrate the brutal murder of Khutsho upon the arrival of Thando and Thulani, repeatedly warning them. However, it seems like water has been poured onto the rock.

One evening Thando knocked off and went to fetch three of his friends from their homes. They went out to their usual spot, Monate Mpolaye Palace. On this day, they only intend to buy some beers then go back drink at home because his parents have just arrived from Middelburg, Mhluzi location.

Coming out of Monate Mpolaye Palace, Thando finds his brand-new vehicle, a navy blue Polo TSI, with the bumper and the bonnet smashed and the front headlights shattered. Hydraulic oil leaks are evident on the ground. Thando had left the vehicle idling.

Apparently, Mogofe Paneng had seen Phankie and tried to impress her by driving Thando's vehicle as if he owned it. Consequently, he bumped into a 22-seater mini-bus that was transporting Khudung Mine employees from work.

Hell breaks loose as most passengers come out to attack Thando and Mogofe, who are already beating the poor driver almost to death. Mogofe and Modika being so strong, are almost defeating everyone who comes their way in a fist fight.

This is when Thando manages to drive out so that the vehicle can be safe.

Seeing that quite a number have been beaten pink and blue by Mogofe and Modika, and some are still sprawled bleeding on the ground, one by one, the beaten passengers and the driver get back to the mini-bus and leave Monate Mpolaye Palace. Both Mogofe and Modika start throwing bricks at the mini-bus, shattering windows and injuring passengers. The mini-bus also sustains damage.

This act as well is really not necessary but how do you reprimand friends who are under the influence of drugs and alcohol? Who the hell are you to reprimand the drug addicts? The more you reprimand them is like putting petrol into the fire.

Thando comes back walking this time, watches for a moment before coming closer until he sees that the coast is clear. The mini-bus is now far away from Monate Mpolaye Palace. He gets closer to congratulate his friends and they start to celebrate laughing, drinking liquor that Thando has brought to them. Murendeni, Mahlako and Mantwa gather to join Thando and his friends.

An hour later, a fully-loaded black Q7 Audi followed by a Ford Ranger bakkie with men at the back, arrive. Both vehicles have the number plates covered, and park next to where Thando and his friends are seated outside on the camping chairs.

As soon as Thando realises that the men are armed and may be gunning for them, he quickly tells his friends that he's going to relieve himself, and runs, disappearing like the setting sun.

There is no use to call for help, nobody will come. He calls the police since it is known that they only arrive after the damage had been done, when death or injury had already happened.

The men get off the vehicles and attack Mogofe and Modika with knives, spades, pangas and bricks. They kick and stab Modika, leaving him to die, and then turn to Mogofe, who is the most powerful and stubborn. But who can stand a fight with more than eight angry men in the dark alone?

Mahlako gets physically violated mercilessly by some of the gang members

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who then tie her feet and hands afterwards and throw her at the back of the Ford Ranger bakkie. Murendeni gets hit by a brick on the head and faints immediately, while Mantwa gets stabbed by the group and left to die.

Mogofe does not see this one coming and he can no longer escape being centered by all of them. They beat him with everything they have to fight with until he dies. Thando, seemingly saved by his dark complexion, is out of sight in the distance. He is standing there afraid, alone, watching everything and he is suddenly sober like a judge.

Once they are certain that they killed both Modika and Mogofe, the men get on their vehicles and leave. Thando rushes to them, 30 minutes after the men had left. He calls out to Modika and Mogofe but none of them respond. He runs to the car and speeds off to fetch Mogofe and Modika's parents. They share the same parents as they are half-brothers who have been living with their grandmother this side in Limpopo.

He returns with the parents and the brothers and Mantwa are rushed in Thando's car to Dilokong Hospital, one of the best nearest government hospitals around the Limpopo Province. The hospital staff do their best to save their lives. Modika and Mantwa survive from the stabbing wounds and make it, but Mogofe succumbs to his injuries.

Coming back to the scene, Murendeni is already inside the SAPS bakkie. When asked what had happened, she says she can't remember and does not know where Mahlako and Mantwa had disappeared to. That's all she says on her statement.



When Thando arrives at the scene, the police officers start asking him questions. Thando agrees that he knows exactly what happened and is willing to write a statement. He then follows them with the deceased's family to the police station, as they also want to know what exactly happened.

Arriving at the police station, a docket is opened. Thando explains everything exactly as it happened and honestly so. Nobody gives Thando a hint that around here nobody testifies to save their souls. It is a "See no evil, say no evil" environment. You simply deny everything.

This raises anger and suspicions, and the deceased's family starts laying the blame on Thando, seeing that he is neither dead nor injured. This time, Thando gets saved by the police as the family wants to finish him off. The police ask him to spend the day in the station so that he may leave at dawn when nobody will see him leaving. The next morning Thando reports the tragedy to his family.

On Monday morning, Pinkie tries asking contractors who the owner of that mini-bus is, but fails to get any clue. Because they know that Pinkie is kind-hearted, they hide the truth from her so that she does not get involved and put her life and that of her family in danger.

On Monday evening, the leader of the gang receives the news that there is a witness. They go to the police station, get a docket number and the name of the witness, as three suspects have already been arrested. Now Thando starts looking for another accommodation. In the meantime, he goes and stays at his grandmother's place in Dark City, Praktiseer.

Thando starts noticing vehicles that are stalking him. He is no longer free to go out and do shopping, or hang out with ama-gents. As for Monate Mpolaye Palace, Jan-Jan warns him not to set foot there as there is a 24/7 patrol of vehicles looking for him.

As soon as Pinkie realises that Thando's life is in serious danger, which can also endanger them as well, she urgently requests his transfer to another site. God grants mercy and two weeks later, Thando gets transferred to Brits, in the North West. This at some point interrupts the plot to destroy Pinkie while God continues to spare her life and that of her family.

## **Chapter 22: Pitbull enemy or lifesaver?**

The minute Pinkie learns on television about the escalated unprecedented rate of human deaths by pitbull dogs, she gets nervous. Pitbulls are types of dogs that no matter how much you work at taming them, they remain wild. It is in their nature. Sooner or later they will attack and kill.

How a dog is used changes public opinion about the breed itself, such as in the case of pitbulls being used in illicit markets like dogfighting. Don't worry about the breed, look at the dog. Whatever decision we make about pitbulls, it must be made understanding the history of the breed and of broader society's understanding.

Durban dog expert, Grant Smith, believes education is key for both pitbulls and their owners. Smith said aggressive behaviour in any breed, with the right education, can be altered. Are they dangerous?

"There are many breeds of dogs which exist which can be kept and not pose a risk to other human beings, pit bulls have proven to be not such a breed not only in South Africa but in various nations across the world," she said.

The call comes just days after two mauling incidents in separate communities at the weekend. Th were news all over the media

that, in Gatesville in Cape Town, angry residents set alight three pit bulls that attacked a young girl on Sunday.

The girl was bitten all over her body, and angry residents chased down two of the dogs and immediately stoned them to death. The third dog was caught within minutes and also killed. In Henneman, in the Free State, a three-year-old boy was mauled by two pit bulls. Residents set alight one of the dogs.

It is the line of duty for every dog owner to ensure that they are always responsible, and that their dogs are never out of control. The National council of SPCA-South African Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; said pit bulls were being surrendered to their centres around the country in large numbers.

In communities where owners have not surrendered their pitbulls, the communities are beginning to take matters into their own hands where animals are being poisoned, stabbed, beaten, and set alight in retaliation from angry communities.

The SPCA said the issue has gained the attention of political parties, unions and civic organisations which are either quoting or misquoting the NSPCA, threatening or instructing pitbull owners to surrender their dogs.

However, pitbull dogs have become the source of strength lately in Pinkie and Tefo's life. They are able to sleep peacefully like a baby, knowing that any disruptions at night or in their absence will be dealt with. No more jackals to hunt and kill their ducks and chickens. No more baboons to come and kill baby goats. No more thieves to come and poison either pigs, goats, chickens or ducks.

It's been eight months since Thulani had left Xhinsa 2 Platinum Mine, but livestock still die every second day. Just last week, two female pitbulls died mysteriously and consecutively, as healthy as they looked. It was immediately after it has been announced that pitbulls should be eliminated.

Thando, who never visits but comes when Pinkie and her husband are away or asleep, was always kept at bay by the pitbulls. The dogs were really helping since one stayed in front of the entrance door of their shack. There's only one pitbull left for now.

On the other hand, Pinkie is relieved that they are dead. However, she loved them and now regarded them as part of her family. Raising a dog that is waiting to kill you or your loved ones some day is an extended risk. It is far better than not having a dog in the yard.

A surprise message through a manager's brief from Mbimbi astonished everyone. She reminds the residents of all villages to educate and discuss with their children that teasing and pestering dogs is not allowed within the villages.

There are many cases recently where dogs, in particular pitbulls, had bitten children, and the result is sad for both dog owners and the victims. These incidents serve as reminders that children must be taught not to tease or go close to any dog that does not belong to their family, including dogs belonging to neighbours or other residents within the communities.

Parents were reminded to teach their children to respect nature

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and that animal owners also have a responsibility to keep their animals behind locked gates.

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This is not for the first time that Pinkie is been rescued from thieves and killers by pitbull dogs. When her father, *Ntate* Lefa Mahlaela, was still a mayor, a massive strike broke out in Kwa-Guqa township, Emalahleni. Even enemies found a beverage to use that to their advantage. He started to live in fear with his family. They started locking the gates at all times. They installed

a lockable passage door from the kitchen to the bedrooms. They made available keys for every door that anyone entering the door running, maybe able to close and immediately lock the door behind him for safety purposes.

*Ntate* Lefa Mahlaela had lost trust of his community, the municipality and that of the government. He was on his own with his family all alone. He stopped visiting his parents and his brother so that hatred won't be transferred to them. They stopped coming into his house too, afraid that they might become victims of circumstances as well.

He installed burglar-proof bars for the whole house. He made sure to drop his children at the school gate every morning and collect them back every midday after school. His children were not allowed to leave school premises under no circumstances.

Even the picking of firewood and dropping off of coal pellets in winter outside the school yard, the principal would refuse his permission for Pinkie to join her classmates or they will give her a task to clean out ash from the stoves. By the time she finishes, the rest of the classmates would be coming back with firewood and coal pellets to make fire in keeping the classroom warm. The built-in stoves with chimneys were constructed at the center of each classroom.

One midnight the family were woken up by shaking walls of the bedrooms. It started at main bedroom, then the children's bedroom. When *Ntate* Lefa Mahlaela and his wife opened their eyes, they saw flames on the curtains and fire already engulfing the wooden staircase and the carpet on the floor. He quickly went out and connected a hosepipe and started extinguishing the flames.

At that moment Pinkie's mother entered the children's bedroom and checked on her beloved babies. Realising that they were still intact, she took all of them with their blankets into the bathroom. She laid a blanket on the floor and prepared all four of them to sleep there. Rebone, then only five months old, was still sleeping with the parents. Pinkie's father went out to check the rest of the house and realised that there were visible flames inside the garage and the window was also broken.

He quickly opened the garage door and extinguished the fire, which was only burning on the concrete floor just next to the VW Combi that was three months old. They missed torching the kombi by a whisker. Pinkie's mother shouted saying that God is a merciful God.

The windows of the children's room were all broken, but the fire only burnt on the outside on top of the beautiful landscaping of flowers next to the window panes. Again,



Pinkie's mother thanked God for protecting her children. They later realised that man-made petrol bombs were used to attempt to torch the house.

*Ntate* Lefa Mahlaela also extinguished the fire on the flowers and on the garden. In the morning he reported to the police. House insurance representatives came to assess damages and sent persons to come and fix the broken windows, burnt carpet and repainted the main bedroom's walls.

As for the beautiful flowers, the Petunia got burnt, Lily was burnt severely, Daisy was also burnt but Roses, Dahlia and Protea survived. Pinkie's mother, who has the love of flowers, later replaced the burnt damaged flowers.

A few days later, Pinkie started seeing a pitbull dog next to their entrance gate. Her mother would open the gates and chase it away but a few hours later it would come back. They later realised that it was able to jump into the yard unlike other dogs. This kept happening for a week, then Pinkie's mother started giving the bull dog food as well.

They named him Bull because of his nature and the fact that he would not bark but attack only those who look suspicious. Everyone in the house started being at ease now with a vigilant dog like that in the premises. Bull was a neat dog, who would relieve himself only at one place in the yard.

Bull would never eat from another dog's plate and would never eat another meal except for his meal. Bull would never eat food brought by a stranger except by Pinkie and her family. Nobody knew where he came from or who trained him, but he started being an alarm of the house.

He would only bark when there is someone at the gate, exactly like the sound of an alarm. As soon as one of the family members comes out of the house, Bull would walk beside them as a bodyguard to the gate, to the person who seeks attention.

If a person is troublesome or attempts to start a fight, Bull would bark and launch an attack. In the absence of the family members outside the yard, Bull would jump out and bite the people that would be attempting to come in as thieves at night.

This went on until two people went to open a civil case that they were beaten by Bull on their way out of the shebeen opposite the Mahlaela house. However, that shebeen was known as a very quiet drinking place where only the township tycoons with their own vehicles drank there.

*Ntate* Lefa Mahlaela did not discuss the fines verdict with his children but immediately afterwards, extended the height of the fence to be the size of the secondary school parameter

fences. The family felt safer and even his kids were no longer afraid to be left in the house alone.

A few weeks later, *Ntate* Lefa Mahlaela and his wife took a seven-day trip to Swaziland and left the kids with the nanny, knowing that Bull was now an additional dog to protect them. Now with Pinkie's own pitbulls, even cows are no longer intruding to come and drink their water from the tanks on the side of the shack.

## **Chapter 23: The Journey Begins**

Pinkie recalls the dream she had about her mother, Nomvula. She realises that until she avenges her mother's death, these people will soon come after their them to kill them as well.

Nobody promised that we will have a soft life in this world; we are to fight and conquer spiritual battles through the power of the Lord. Now the true journey begins – back to the sender. Firstly, Pinkie has to finish the school building to secure her financial state and brighter future.

She still wants to be sincere and fight for the unprivileged citizens of south Africa, which is mostly contractors. Seeing that Mbimbi stopped the issuing of certificates to contractors, the most powerful way Pinkie can use is to empower contractors with education, portable skills and training. To those that been previously issued, Mbimbi came with a reason that such certificates have no accreditation number, rendering them null and void for contractors to can present them as proof of competency. A new rule stands to say that a proof of competency certificate should have an accreditation number.

As for contractors and their supervisors, their owners and shareholders, it is time they acknowledge that education is power. Nobody can take away your knowledge, experience and qualification. Even when bullied, sabotaged or cornered, one will find a solution from training material through education, a

wise weapon. One can never intentionally break the rule or the law if they know the do's and don'ts.

Nobody can easily threaten you or accuse you falsely, if trained to be certain of what is right and what is wrong. With training, contractors will know exactly what is expected by Mbimbi and how to safely execute without non-conformances.

Contractors will be able to be proactive and have preventative strategies on their own to be able to produce and reach required production targets without non-conformances and poor-quality work. We South Africans like to show off whenever awarded money or some funds.

There are white owned contractors who win tenders of up to billions of rands, but one will never find them splashing money unnecessarily by so doing, exhausting the capital that should remain as provision in case of an emergency.

Pinkie must be independent and stop worrying about being unfairly dismissed. She has already presented the following courses successfully to contractors and owners which she is awaiting accreditation for them:

Baghouse Operations

Health and Safety Representative

HIRA-Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Proactive  
Supervisory Management

SHEQ Toolbox Code of Ethics

Fatal Risk Control Protocols Hazardous Chemical Substances  
Manual Handling Techniques Permit To Work

Accident and Incident Investigation Root Cause Analysis  
Method Computer Skills and Database

Integrated Management System (ISO9001:2018,  
ISO14001:2014, ISO45001:2018) + Legal Requirements

How to catch a Fish:

- Compiling and Auditing a Safety File
- Compiling and Auditing an Operational File
- Legal Liability
- Incident Investigation
- Swiss Cheese Role Model
- RCAT-Root Cause Analysis Techniques
- ICAM-Incident Cause Analysis Method
- Safety Officer Course-SOC 1
- Safety Officer Course-SOC 2

- Safety Officer Course-SOC 3

Pinkie also has competency and vast experience on surface mobile equipment. The reason she included training and refresher on accreditation application for the following machinery: Bobcat-skid steer, ADT-articulated dump truck, FEL-front end loader, Excavator

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Forklift, Grader, Overhead Crane, Drill Rig, Tractor, LHD, TLB.

She further establishes a mock-up bay for practical training of rock breaking Mining Competency A, B, C. Getting off her brilliant blue metallic 2021 SUV Mercedes-Benz G-Class G400d AMG Line, Pinkie looks at her school building project with anticipation as the hardware truck delivers timber bandings for roofing.

She looks at the diesel gauge and still on full tank and she has been occupied unable to go visit her beloved father at Emalahleni. How much Pinkie misses her father, and she knows they have so much to talk about. She decides it's time she packs some few necessities for herself and Tefo and hit the road to visit Mr. Lefa Mahlaela.

Mbimbi has resigned with immediate effect. This was after she attempted committing suicide since Jan-Jan has left her and filed for divorce. In everyone's knowledge, Jan-Jan resigned first, and it was thought that he got a better job offer at Secunda.

Everyone thought Mbimbi is following her husband, little do they know that her father booked for her into a rehabilitation center in Johannesburg and if she comes out clean, she will be transferred to head office as one of the directors. Failing which, Mbimbi would be writing her life story with a wax pencil on a hot cemented floor.

Pinkie suddenly sees an approaching brand-new SUV, sky blue 2022 Mercedes- AMG G-Class G63 with gorgeous white leather, glass sunroof and 22" AMG Alloys. As it comes closer to her parking lot, she realises it is Mbimbi driving.

But Mbimbi is supposed to be at the drug rehabilitation center! Mbimbi stops the car, gets off, strolling around Pinkie and says: "I also bought the same car as yours, but more expensive and beautiful. What is your comment on that?"

Pinkie *o hlaba mokgolokwane, uyalilizela* (ululating), circling Mbimbi's car with joy and admiration. She then replies with a smile: "If the shoe fits, wear it!"



## **Chapter 24: Nyathela Kancane, Kusemhlabeni -Tread Careful, It's A Cruel World We Live In**

Show me a person who hates shoes, I will give them permission to walk barefooted. We walk past shoes displayed on window shops for sale. Depending on the size of your pockets, some shoes one will only wear in dreams. Some, with limited size of your pocket, will end buying a small size or bigger size just for the love of that shoe. Those with deeper pockets would always be able to make special orders if the shoe is sold out from the shelves, or if the size is no longer available from that shop.

Buying a shoe that does not fit you comes with persistent pain and consequences of blisters and corns. It's so unfortunate that a person wearing uncomfortable shoes that are either small or oversized is not visible. However, he would become impatient, short-tempered, rushing people and things to be done and be quickly finished. That person may scream or shout unnecessarily out of the blue, and be able to turn everyone around them upside down. That person may ruin everyone's mood and change the atmosphere to be sour and tense as if they are in a funeral. Such a person knows how to break people's hearts just because of the pain and frustration they feel inside the shoe. A person loses focus of what brought them there in the first place because the only thing that they will be feeling is pain and irritation for the shoe that is busy creating blisters and scratching the corns. Even the way they walk and

gestures will change because of the pain inside the shoe as the smile also fades away. Sometimes the person would even forget to greet people as they walk past each other, because of the pain inside the shoe. Sometimes shoes are given as a gift, and some steal the shoes they want. Some shoes have had spells cast on them before being presented to you as a gift. One will wear the shoes and begin to have health complications in their lives until they die. Are you sure your shoes are locked in a safe place with controlled access? Someone broke into a Moremi's locker and put some muthi into his shoes. He started having health conditions which escalated into complications until he died. Another question is, are you sure that the shoe you are wearing truly belongs to you? So, you did not steal it from anyone, right? Some people are struggling with pinching small size shoes or oversize shoes just because someone stole from them what rightfully belong to them. Sometimes the sole might be damaged due to wear or tear, or somebody purposely damaged the sole, or made some holes to hurt your foot with thorns and bottles so that it ruins your image in public. Sometimes the heel might break and be damaged due to wear or tear, or somebody would purposely damage the heel just to hurt you or ruin your image in public. Therefore as you walk, step slowly, do not rush to avoid embarrassment in public. As you see people walking barefooted, know that someone stole their shoes. Some stole the one and only pair of shoes from

them. It might not be a shoe that everybody knows. Since a shoe is a precious thing that one possesses, one might have stolen somebody's gift or talent. He could have stolen someone's wife, husband, girlfriend, boyfriend or house. It could have been a car, an inheritance, a lottery ticket, a tender, a job position or a promotion. If shoe fits, wear it. If the shoe does not fit, walk barefooted but the bottom line is, you will definitely reach your destiny no matter what. As you walk barefooted, do not leave the shoes behind. Avoid becoming a laughingstock. However, be careful of the rough roads, the ones the shoe would have protected your foot from being injured from. Nyathela kancane...

.....**The End**.....

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