

NGWEDI

Indlalifa Presents

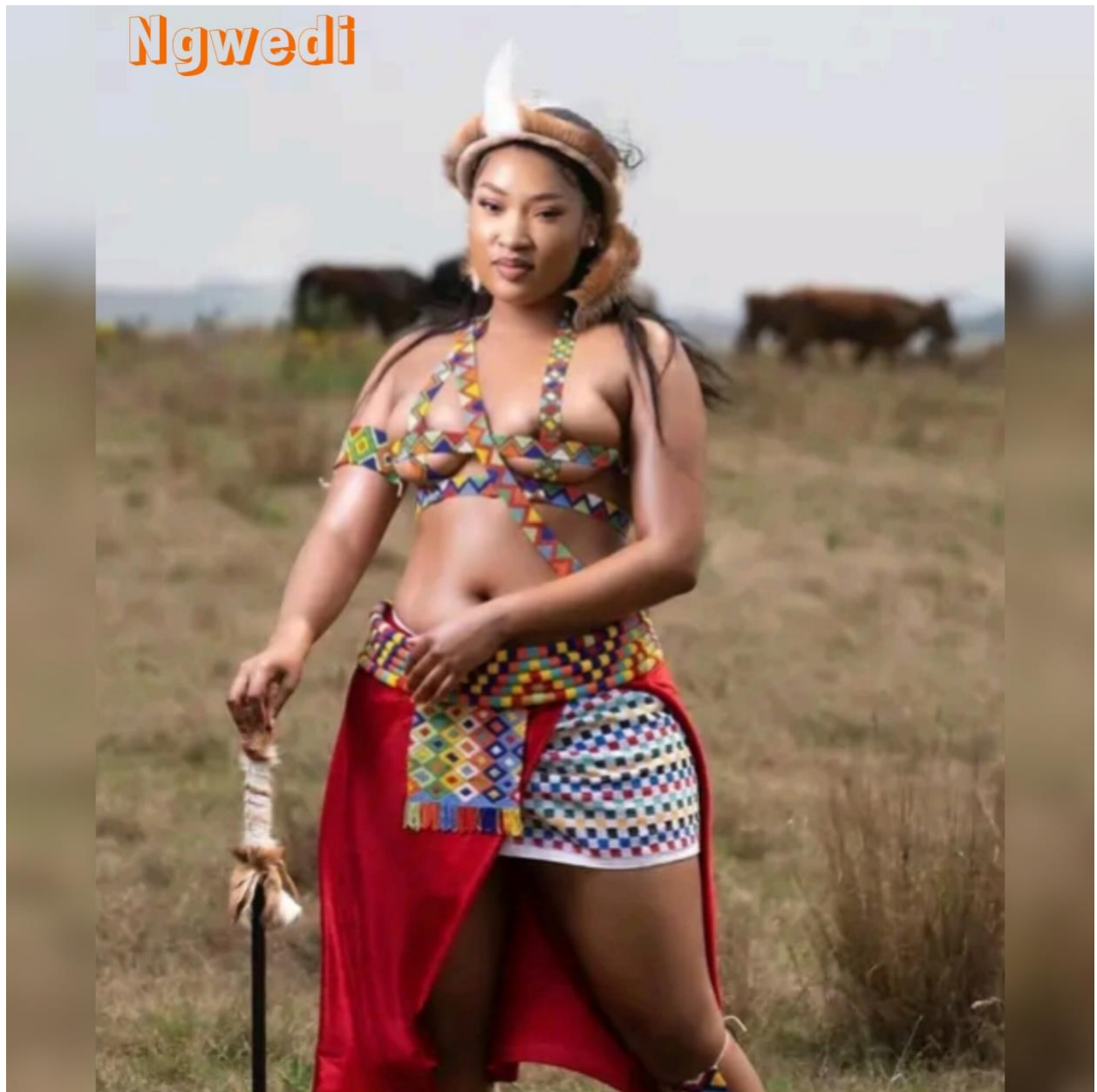
A Zulu Queen

Author

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PROLOGUE

Ngwedi



I heave a sigh sitting down

I'm drained and tired

The shade is so refreshing

I wipe the sweat off my
forehead , with the back of my
hand

A leaf falls off

I smile picking it up

I mould it into a bowl of some
sort

Me : well , I am thirsty . It was a
long walk

And the scrotching sun wasn't
having any mercy on me

As water drips down , I lean my
hands forward with the leaf
bowl

When it's full , I retrieve and
move back

Me : ah , thank you

I say with gratitude , showing
off a smile

I drink the water

And take a deep breath

Me : well I am quenched !

A breeze passes through from
the tree

Sefate : I wasn't expecting you
here today

Me : I have run out of my
remedy

Sefate : are you not addicted to
this now ?

I lay down facing up the leafs
and branches

Me : do not be silly ...

I giggle

Me : it's the only thing keeping
me sane , you know it helps me
. I do it once a day

Sefate : twice

I can't lie

Not to her anyways

Me : I'm sorry , okay yes twice .
Morning and noon

Sedate : do not overdo it

Me : I promise I will not

I even hide from everyone at
the orphanage

They don't know

When ever I have to use it

I make sure I'm by myself

Me : so can I please have some roots ?

Sefate : of course

Right where I'm laying

Two logs of roots spring up

Me : I'm thankful for you

I lean over sitting up straight

I break the two roots

Me : I will just head over to the river , and I'll crush and mix there . It's very overcrowded at the orphanage , I will not be able to crush it in peace

Sefate : why are you hiding yourself and who you are ?

I get up

Me : Sefate , I don't even know who I am

That leaves a lump on my throat

But I quickly gather myself

Me : I might not pass back here
, they're expecting me back at
the orphanage . I can't take long
, I don't know how I'll explain
where I've been

Sefate : until next time , the
moon will be out soon . You
have been longing

Me : I promise , I will come . I
am counting days , and
hopefully I'm not counting
wrong

I smile and get up walking
towards the river

And it's quite a walk

The heat is not having mercy on
me

The way it's so hot , the dry season will come upon us very quick

But after a while I finally make it to the river

I pick up two rocks

And head over to the water
washing off the soil off the
roots

I sit down on a bigger rock

Putting the roots on another
rock

And I use the rocks I picked to
grind them

I will add the leaves and
everything else once I get back

Grinding the woods is the hard
part

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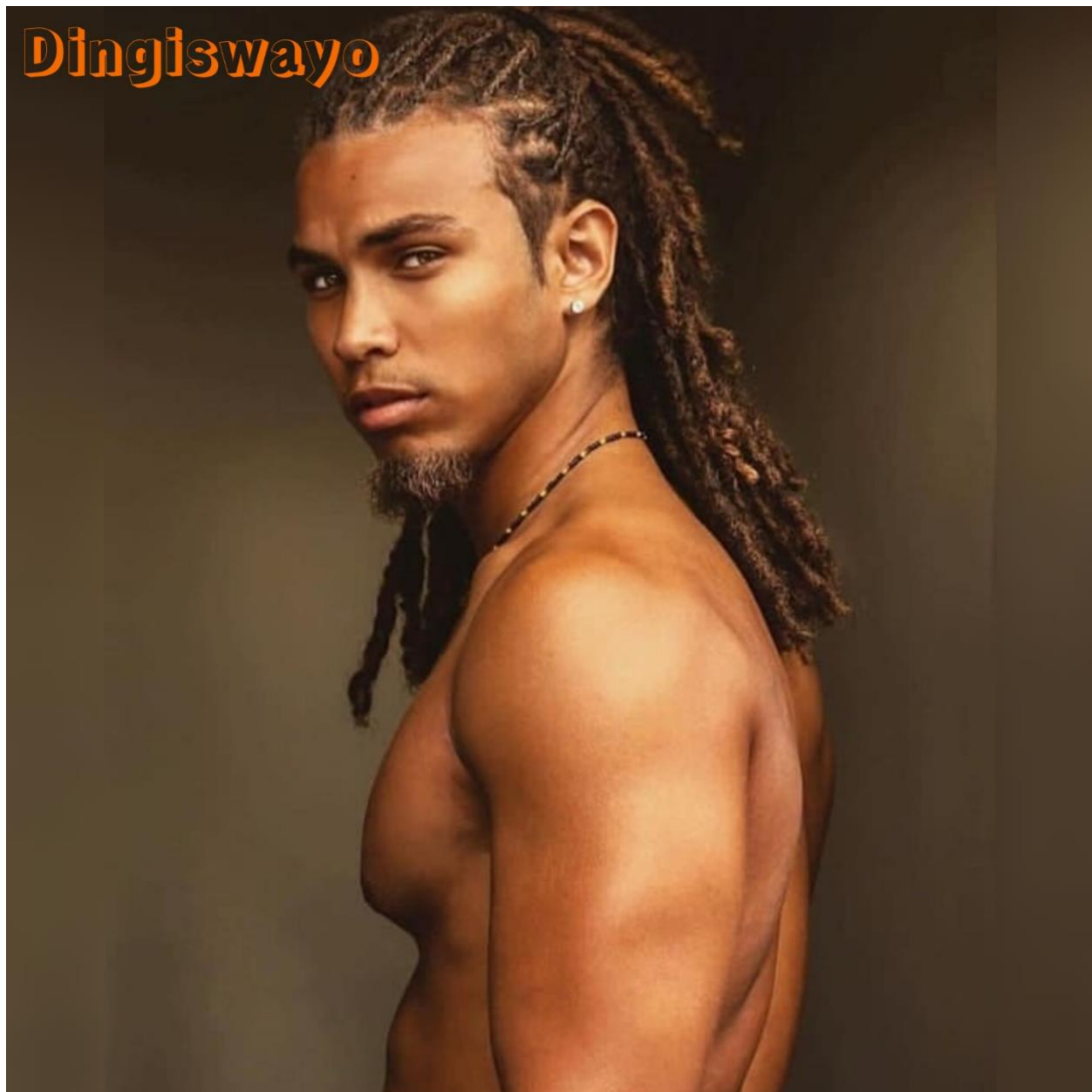
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Dingiswayo

Dingiswayo



Bonko : there's no reception
here

Me : you want to explain to me
, how a whole me gets a
breakdown ?

He laughs

Me : it's funny to you ?

Bonko : this is my car , and not yours . Or the royal cars , so pleaseI am allowed to get a breakdown

Me : is there a house near by ?

He looks around for a bit

Still trying to get a network
reception

Bonko : Mtimande ...

He walks over

Bonko : there are no houses
here , just the orphanage
beyond the river

Me : we have no business going there , let's take a walk

He chuckles

Bonko : you're walking ?

Me : your car is leaving me no choice , I will have to use my feet to avoid standing around here . I'll loose myself

Bonko : you know your driver
will be here

Me : he's not here now

I take my jacket off and leave it
in the car

He locks the car

And we walk through the small
veld road heading to the river

Bonko : the maidens are probably at the river

Me : it's middle of the day

Bonko : yes

Me : who draws water at this time of the day ?

He laughs

Bonko : oh no ! Not for that ,
but for the reed dance . They
can't wait to showcase
themselves in front of the king ,
in hopes they'll be picked and
be the next queen

Me : no offence , the girls I've
seen look way too young

Bonko : they don't care about
that , just as long as

Me : who is that ?

I stop on my tracks

And gawk at her

Bonko : that's

Me : is she one of the maidens
attending the reed dance ?

Bonko : no !

Me : I need

She lifts her head and looks at
us

Me : I'm going to talk to her

Bonko : wait

Too late !

I'm already walking towards her
by the river

But she damn runs away from
me

Me : what the fuck !

Bonko : she's running away ,
maybe we scared her

I stop and look at him

Me : I need to know who she is

He sighs

Bonko : I didn't see her face
properly , but if she was one of

the maidens . Then she
wouldn't be by the river alone

Me : just find her , make up for
getting me stuck middle of the
road

He shakes his head

Bonko : I'll see what to do

Me : don't see , just do it Bonko
. How hard can it be ? I should
have just blocked her with my
shield

Bonko : what ?

He laughs

Bonko : since when do you use
your power's to creep people
out ?

Me : it would have stopped her
from running away from me

Bonko : that is not how men
court these days , and women
wanna date normal human
beings

I give him an annoyed look

And keep walking heading to
where she was sitting

There's two small stones

Looks like she was busy grinding
something here

I pick up one stone and smell it

I can't say I'm familiar with the
scent

And it fucking makes me sneeze

It's too fine

I look around and see nothing

Thought maybe I'll find
something to help find her

Bonko will just have to be
strong

Because I must know who she is

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INSERT 01

Ngwedi

I don't know who were those
two guys

They probably thought that I am
crazy , running away from them
like that

But I don't pay attention to men

And I saw them coming towards
me

I got scared and run away

I don't ever want to end up a
statistic

Better safe than sorry

Voice : Ngwedi , MaJoy is asking
for you

Me : I'm coming

I put the plastic down , hiding
the container behind the box
with my clothes

I walk out of the bedroom

Ayize : we're going out with
Thobile

Me : okay , don't wander off in
the village

Ayize : we won't come back late

She smiles walking away

I walk in the kitchen to MaJoy

MaJoy : were you busy ?

Me : no

MaJoy : please come help me
chop the vegetables

Thobile decided to leave

Instead of coming to cook

We're the old ones here

We have to help with cooking
and cleaning

Also taking care of the young
ones

But she would rather go wander around , than doing any chores

MaJoy : you will be 18 in a week

I feared this conversation

I grab the chopping board and the tomatoes

MaJoy : you really help me
around here , you do a lot even
with the kids

I knew some day this
conversation was going to come

And I'm not ready for it

Because I have nowhere to go

I thought by now I would have a job , or maybe my own place to stay at

But I have none of that

Once I'm 18 I cannot stay here at the orphanage anymore

I have to leave

Me : I will be out

MaJoy : where are you going to go ?

Me : I don't know , but don't worry about me

MaJoy : I worry , because you have nowhere to go . If there was enough room , I would keep you so you can continue helping around here

Me : it's okay , I understand

Two kids were received this morning

They need room

I can't force to stay here

My time is over and done with

I'll see what to do once I have
to leave

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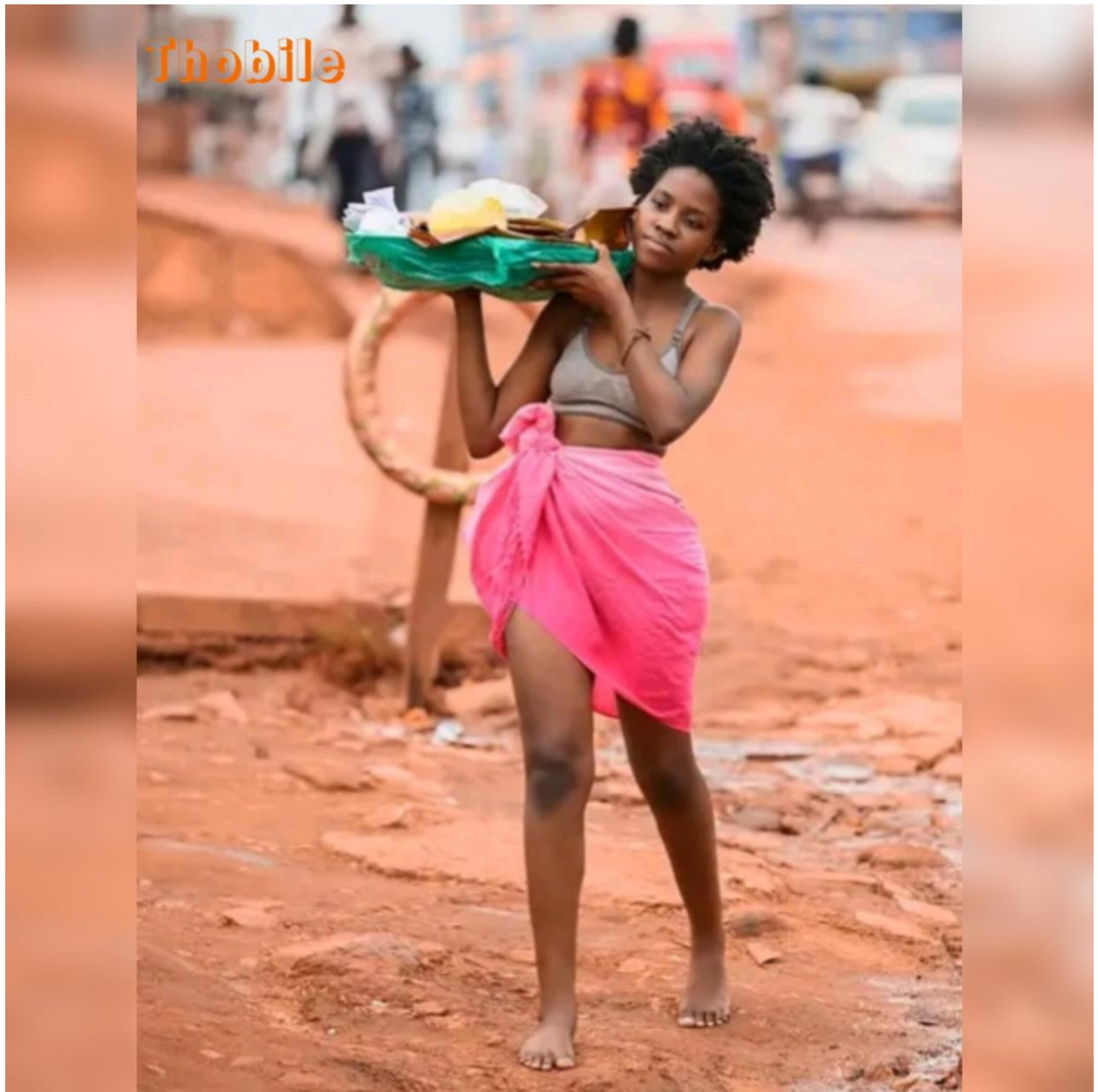
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Thobile

thobile



Me : why did MaJoy call Ngwedi
?

Ayize looks at me

I know she might know

Ngwedi will be 18 soon

And she has to leave

I'm 17 , I'll be 18 next year

So I still have a place

And by the time I have to leave

I'll be married by then

That's my goal right now

Find a boyfriend and get
married , that's the only way I
won't be stranded

I'll be set , and never have to
worry about where I'll go

It sucks being us orphans

I was dropped off at the
orphanage when I was 5

My so called aunt who left me
here

Used to come and see me

But as I grew older , she
stopped

And I tried finding her

But I found out she wasn't from
the village

No one knew anything about
that woman

I even doubt there was any
relation between us

Maybe she found me abounded
somewhere

And just decided to find me
shelter away from her

Made sure I was okay , for a
while

And she was gone

Me : is she leaving ?

Ayize : going where ?

Me : to the streets , she's old
now she can't stay with us

Ayize : but you're old too , are
you also leaving ?

Me : don't be stupid , I'm not
old like her

Ayize : MaJoy won't let her
leave , she takes care of us

I laugh

Me : you're so naïve

She frowns

Ayize : what does that mean ?

Ayize is 11

All these kids love Ngwedi

They regard her as their big
sister

Once she's gone , I'll take her
place

I'll be the one they love

I know I won't be stuck there
for long

The reed dance is coming

I'll be going there

And definitely will find a match
to marry me

Most of us are at school

But not Ngwedi , she just never
attended school

No one even knew where she
came from

And why she's so different from
us all

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Dingiswayo

Me : and ?

I sit down

He clicks on his laptop and looks
at me

Bonko : it's been a day

Me : you need a year ?

He laughs

Bonko : I'll go out there today ,
but the river is far for anyone in
the village . Anyone from the
village , doesn't go there alone .
But I have a slight idea of where
I can find her

Me : and that's ?

Bonko : the orphanage

Me : then why are you here
sitting on your ass , and not
there ?

He chuckles

Bonko : what do I get out of all
this ?

Me : me off your back

Bonko : I'll go there today ,
hopefully I'm right

Me : if you're not , turn this
village upside down

I get up

Me : I'll wait an update , I'm
going to the palace down there

I walk out

And decide to walk to my
parents palace

When I took over

I brought this whole palace
down to ashes , well what was
left of it after the fire it suffered

And I rebuilt it , renovated
everything

It's been my home

And my parents live by the
palace my father built for my
mother

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INSERT 02

Ngwedi

I have my clothes all packed

It's not even a lot

Just 4 days , and I'll have to be
out of here

I've even thought of going to
the palace

And ask for a job

But I think that would just be a
waste of time

What experience do I have ?

That's not just any place

It's the palace

Surely they want only the best

And people who know what
they're doing

Helping MaJoy take care of the
young kids

Doesn't mean I can hold a job

Especially at the palace

So that doesn't give me any
hope

Ayize : Is it true ?

Me : what ?

Ayize : Thobile said you're
leaving

She just couldn't wait to open
her mouth

Thobile and I , we're just water
and oil

We don't get along at all

And every time she gets a
chance to be on my face , or
just blab about me

She doesn't miss it

I know she can't wait for me to
be gone

But she had no business telling
the kids about this

Me : oh ?

Ayize : are you leaving ?

I don't want to lie to her

But I also don't want to hurt her

Me : I'm going out , I'll do your hair when I get back

She smiles

Ayize : don't leave

She places her hands on my waist and hugs me

Me : go eat , I'll see you when I
get back

I watch her as she goes back in
the house

I heave a sigh shaking my head
going out of the gate

I walk over to the veld heading
to Sefate

I am not in my feels today

And being with her might cheer
me up

This tree is my sanctuary

I found this place when I was at
my lowest

And I was having a mental
breakdown

With emotional episodes

Being called all kinds of names

That I was a lunatic

And I should be in an asylum

Also that's why my parents
threw me away

Because I was a curse to them

Well , Thobile was mostly the
one saying those things

With some of the older kids
who have now left

I was 11 years by then

One day I came here

And it was actually my first time
seeing this place

And the tree started talking to
me

I was freaked out no lies

But at the same time I felt
peace

I ran away that day

But the next day I was back
again

The tree made me realise some
things about me

And the strange thing is that
only I can understand the tree

And only I can hear it talking to
me

I've come with Liza here once ,
and she heard nothing

Yet Sefate was still talking to me

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Thobile

I walk over to the car

The guy steps out

And damn !

He's all kinds of goodness

Him : hi

His baritone voice , just gives
that stomach feeling

Me : hey

I say with a smile

Him : my name is Bonko , I'm
looking for someone . I don't
know if you can help me

Me : who ?

Him : a girl

Mxm !

Me : girlfriend ?

He smiles

Him : that wouldn't make sense
, considering I don't know her .
And I'm here looking for her

Me : you're probably lost ,
because what girl could you
possibly be looking for .

Especially this side , it's not like there are that many . Your age appropriateI mean

He chuckles

Him : I saw her at the river three days ago , I figured it's close by this here . So I thought maybe she's from here

Me : I doubt

Him : she's roughly your height
just slightly beneath you , light
skinned and she has an afro .
Also slightly a bit bigger than
you ...

Not Ngwedi no !

Why would such a man be
looking for her ?

Unless this is her plan of being covered , when she gets put out

Well , I cannot have this happen

I will not let it happen

Me : no , there's no one like that here

I turn and walk to the orphanage

Me : Argh ! Just nonsense

I'm annoyed really

Such a handsome guy

What a waste

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Dingiswayo

Bonko : I'm sure she lives here

Me : certain ?

Bonko : yeah , the girl was
clearly just full of shit

Me : can't you go in ?

Bonko : I see a lot of little girls , I
can ask them

Me : I'm coming

Bonko : but

I drop the call

Beats me why he still hasn't
asked those little girls already

I grab my car keys and walk out
of my chamber , heading to my
car

I will drive myself there

I don't even need a driver

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Ngwedi

Me : I have to leave the orphanage , in a few days . And I don't know where I'll go

I wipe the tear that drops down my cheek

Sefate : I have been taking care of you , I won't stop now

Me : no offence Sefate , but you're just a tree . What can

you possibly do ? Can you give
me shelter ?

Sefate : trust me , and go back
child

I should trust a tree

Okay !

Talking to her certainly did not
help

Because I've been crying ever
since I got here

I get up

Sefate : you will live your
destiny , fate has finally found
you

What ?

Me : des... What fate ?

Sefate : go child !

Great

All I get is riddles that make no sense at all

How nice ?

I dust myself and walk back to
the orphanage

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INSERT 03

Ngwedi

Thobile : it's a good thing you're
leaving

Me : you don't have to rub it on
my face

I've been in the room we share
ever since I got back

Now we're just finishing up
food for dinner

More like I am

And she's just standing here

Thobile : no , I mean ...

She laughs

Thobile : you were just going to
teach us bad manners here

Me : what ?

Thobile : yeah , I know what
you're doing

It can't be

I always make sure I hide myself
from the kids , when I smoke

There's no way she knows that

Only MaJoy has seen me

And I've told her it's for
headaches

Which it is by the way

But it also helps me with other things , I don't get about myself

And that was just once

She's never seen me again

Me : you have no

Thobile : come on !

She leans by the counter folding her arms

Thobile : I saw the man , and I spoke to him . You have no shame , bringing your ticket out of here right here . Clever move scoring yourself a man , that's exactly what I plan to do when my time comes for me to leave this place

Okay !

Right now I'm just lost because I
have no idea of what she's
talking about

Knowing her , she will probably
just make rumours

I grab a dish cloth and wipe my
hands

Me : I'm going to call the kids

I walk out leaving her there

I walk down the street ,
knowing they're still playing

And it's late now

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Dingiswayo

Me : so you know her ?

She smiles

Ayize : it's Ngwedi

This one is too forward

She told me her name as I told
her mine

And she has no problem
whatsoever answering my
questions

Me : can you please call her for
me ?

Ayize : she wasn't back when
we left , she loves leaving and
we don't know where she goes

I hope not to a boyfriend

That would just be a bummer

But wouldn't someone have to
be dumped

Me : well

Ayize : ah there she is

She points with her finger

And I'm damn stunned by her
beauty

Seeing her at the river that day ,
didn't serve her beauty at all

And she was far after all

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Ngwedi

Voice : Ngwedi !

I look over

And my mood just changes
from bad to worse

There's three of them standing
with two men

Near a car

I rush over just annoyed

Me : Ayize what do I always tell you ?

I grab the other two with their hands

Ayize : they were asking us ...

Me : you don't know these men , you're a girl child . You don't

go around talking to strange
men

Voice : we're sorry ...

I lift my eyes

And my heart beats so fast

I feel like I'll drop dead , and I
just try to catch my breath

Him : I'm sorry , I was actually asking them about you . It's my fault

I frown

Him : please let the kids go , I just need a minute of your time . I need to talk to you

Me : I don't know you

Him : I know , you ran away
from me at the river . I've been
looking for you

The other guy chuckles

Him : you had me looking for
her

Him : shut up !

Ayize giggles

I look at her

Me : go home

I watch them as they wave to
the guys , walking to the
orphanage

The guy clears his throat , the
other one walks to the other car

Was it even necessary for them to come here with two cars ?

Me : what do you want ?

Him : I'm Dingiswayo

Me : I don't know what you want , but please stay away from me . I don't go around entertaining men

He smiles

And he looks so handsome

But there's just something
about him

That I just can't keep my stare

Dingi : that's good , because I'm
also not intending to fool
around with you either

Me : I don't

Dingi : please lets get in the car
it's cold

Me : and this is how women get
kidnapped , killed and raped .
So no

Dingi : okay

He says with a chuckle , opening
the car door

He grabs a jacket

Dingi : it's mine , put this on

He puts it on my shoulders ,
making sure my back and arms
are covered

Dingi : what I want is you

No ways !

Is this a joke ?

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Thobile

Like who does that girl think she
is really ?

And the audacity to stand here
and deny what she knows very
well

She just loves being the angel

We'll see how that works out
for her

Me : here is your tea

MaJoy : thank you

Me : I know Ngwedi is leaving ,
and she's old . But is it allowed
to bring men around here ?

MaJoy : what ?

Me : there was a man here
looking for her

MaJoy : did he say why ?

Me : she's dating him , and probably going to stay with him now that she has to leave

MaJoy : Ngwedi will never do that

Me : but

MaJoy : are the kids back yet ?

I don't care about those brats

Me : I'll go

Just then they walk in laughing

Me : where is Ngwedi ?

She left saying she's going to
get them

Nfundo : she's with the men

I smile

Me : I told you ...

MaJoy : go make sure the kids
have bathed before they eat

Now she can't defend her
anymore

Good !

She better see her favourite for
what she is

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INSERT 04

Dingiswayo

Can this not be tough for me

Because I ready don't have the
words , to sweeten her up

I just want to come right out ,
and say what I want to say

Me : do you have a boyfriend ?

Ngwedi : no

Me : okay , I was just asking so I
don't appear disrespectful . But
I fell in love with you from a
distance , at the river when you

ran away . And I just knew I had
to find you again , and all I'm
asking for is just a chance

I take her hand and she lets me

I move closer to her

Me : please just give me a
chance

Her eyes are moving a lot

That tells me she's thinking ,
that might be good or not

Ngwedi : I'm sorryI can't

She moves her hand back

Me : no please don't ..

I place my hand on her waist

Me : you said you don't want to
fool around , I don't want that
either

I lean my face down

Just inches away from hers

Me : tell me that I'm feeling this
alone , this feeling that I cannot
even put into words

She swallows hard taking a deep breath

Me : at least think about it , I'd like to come see you tomorrow morning

Ngwedi : I'm busy in the morning

Me : that's okay , just for a few minutes . I'll be in Durban , and

I'll come back in the afternoon .
That's when I'll come see you
better , when I get back . Please
say you'll think about it

I tilt her chin , and lean down
pecking her lips

Starring deep into her eyes

And I know I'm not crazy

This is the one

Me : can I have your number ?

Ngwedi : I don't ...have a phone

That comes out as a whisper

Me : have this one , I'll get it
tomorrow

I reach for my phone in my back pocket

And I slide it in my jacket pocket that she's wearing

Me : you have the whole night to think

I capture her lower lip and peck her lips for quite a few seconds

Me : I'll watch you walk home
safe

She doesn't pull back

But she definitely gathers
herself

Ngwedi : bye

She has such a sweet smooth
melodic voice

I smile

Me : it's not goodbye

She giggles moving back , and
she turns walking away to the
orphanage

Me : damn !

I shake my head with a chuckle

I look over at Bonko in his car

He laughs darting his eyes my
way

Me : idiot !

I get into my car

And we drive off heading back
to the palace

My mind keeps trailing off to
Ngwedi

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Thobile

I keep looking at her

And MaJoy is not saying
anything

I expected her to interrogate
Ngwedi

And ask her about this

She might have thought I was
lying

But she knows the kids would
never lie to her

Unless she knew

That would just be hypocrisy

Me : please excuse me

MaJoy : sit down and finish your
food

Me : but

MaJoy : we cannot afford to waste food around here , if you don't finish that tomorrow morning you'll have it for breakfast

Who does that ?

Who eats last night's cold left overs for breakfast

That's crazy !

MaJoy is taking her frustrations
out on me

She can't take Ngwedi head on

I only joined dinner because I
wanted to hear her confront
Ngwedi

It's not happening

I'm just annoyed being here

Ngwedi gets up and picks the plates of those who are done eating

She walks in the kitchen

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Ngwedi

I still can't wrap my head
around everything

Such things don't just happen

People don't just see people ,
and fall in love

I don't even know that guy

I've never even seen him before

Right now my mind is just all
over the place

I'm done doing dishes

I'm in the room , smoking my
snuff

The kids are still watching TV

And I have the door locked

So they don't just walk in on me

The phone vibrates , I reach for
it

And the message is still on the
screen

“I'm going to call you with
Bonko's phone , please pick up”

I'm guessing it's Dingiswayo

I grab a tissue and blow my
nose

Just as the phone rings

I've never held such a phone

Thank God , for TV . I know I
have to swipe the green

Me : hello ?

Dingi : thank you for answering ,
I should have told you I'll call
using another phone when I
gave you mine

Me : I hope your phone won't
ring while it's with me , your
people calling you

He deep chuckles

Dingi : just answer it , and tell
whoever is calling I'm not
around . Your nose is blocked ,
I'm sorry I made you stand in
the cold

Me : oh no

I bite my tongue

My nose is blocked because I
was smoking

But I can't tell him that

Me : I am not catching a flu ,
don't worry

Dingi : sounds like you are to
me , I'll bring you flu meds in
the morning

That is so not necessary

Dingi : sleep well

Me : goodnight

Dingi : it better be a good one

I smile dropping the call

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INSERT 05

Ngwedi

MaJoy has been awfully quite
this morning

Now I'm worried about her , if
she's okay

Dingi : how are you feeling ?

He called and asked me to
come out

He's all dressed up in a suit

Looks like a very important man

Me : I told you that's not flu

My nose is fine now

I haven't smoked this morning

And I can feel that slight
headache

If I don't smoke anytime soon

I'm going to start feeling like I'm
insane

Dingi : I bought the meds
anyways

That's sweet

But he's wasting money

I have his jacket and his phone

Dingi : can I please come see
you later on ?

He takes my hand into his

Dingi : I would have liked to know if you've reached a decision or what , but if you're not giving me a chance I'll have the worst day ever . And therefore , I'll rather not know until I'm back

My mind has been all over the place

I hand him his things

But he doesn't take them

Dingi : keep those , I'll see you
later

He leans down his hand trailing
to my waist

I shiver just like last night , as I
feel his touch

And watch him intensely as he
bores into my eyes

He places a kiss on my lips

I close my eyes momentarily

Dingi : I'll see you later

I look at him

He pecks my cheek and moves
back slightly

I clear my throat

Dingi : please stay warm

It's morning

And still quite a bit chilly

Me : bye

I say putting on his jacket , he
smiles with a nod

He leans against his car
watching me walk back to the
orphanage

I really cannot believe he came
here again this morning

And just for a mere greeting

And nothing serious

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Dingiswayo

Me : how much time do I have left before my meeting ?

Bonko : 8 minutes

I nod

Bonko : had you just

Me : save it

He laughs

Bonko : I fail to understand your
visit to the orphanage this
morning

Me : none of your business ,
listenfind someone I can
send to do a few errands for me

He sighs

Bonko : don't I have to stand in
the meeting with you ?

Me : I said find someone

He shakes his head

I know he can find someone

Bonko is a very resourceful man

Hence I keep him by my side

Besides just being my advisor ,
and the chief

He's a lot of great help

I cannot go to the shops , and
buy what I need to buy

But I know he can find someone
who can go , and get me exactly
what I need

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Ngwedi

Thobile : I cannot wait for the
reed dance

Me : you're going there ?

I ask with a frown

I thought those things are for
virgin girls

And as far as I know , Thobile is
not one

She had her virginity broken by
one herd boy

And then she cried rape

It was just very despicable , if
you ask me

But she did it

The whole thing was just swept
under the carpet

And the poor boy , was served a
fine for something he didn't do

Thobile : definitely , but I know
you won't make it

I nod slowly

I know how to keep my mouth shut

Especially about things that have nothing to do with us

Liza : I'm sure you don't see the need to go there Ngwedi , after all you're rubbing shoulders with the king . So if you were to go to the reed dance , he's definitely picking you to be his bride

I frown

Me : what ?

Liza : come on , we saw you
with the king yesterday . And
this morning again , you were
by his car

Me : did you say the king ?

Thobile : impossible , whatever
man you're running around
with cannot be the king

No ways it can't be

Like the whole king !

Hell no

I don't believe that Dingiswayo
is the king of Ngwenya kingdom

It just cannot be

He seems way too young for
that

And , what would a king like him
want with a commoner like me
?

Me : you clearly didn't see well

I get up and walk away from
them going inside the house

I'm in shock

My heart is pounding

But I don't believe that

No , it can't be

Not king , no !

He's handsome yes

And I cannot take that away
from him

And he ...he makes me feel
things I don't know

Things I cannot understand ,
nor can I explain

I'm not blind , nor am I stupid

But if he's the king , then it
changes everything

I don't know the king

I can admit that

I've never even seen the king
before

But if Dingiswayo is the king ,
then what worth do I have even
entertaining him

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Thobile

Me : Liza what did you mean
she was with the king ?

Liza : she was

Liza is 15

She's older than the other kids

And the only one I dare to
spend my time with

Because she's much older

And we can have conversations

Me : butshe said she wasn't

She chuckles

Liza : come on ! Do you think I don't know the king ?

Me : if it was him , why did Ngwedi deny it ?

She shrugs , sounds like there's more to this

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INSERT 06

Dingiswayo

Are women like this ?

Or did I do something now or
say something

And now I'm being ignored

Like I've called and texted

And she's seriously just ignoring
me

There's no doubt about that

I don't understand why my calls
are being ignored

Especially because I texted
before I called

I'm supposed to be knowing if I
have been given a chance there
or not

But now , I don't know what's
what

And I'm reluctant to go in

A knock comes on the car
window

And it's that Ayize kid

I open the door and get out

Me : hi

She smiles

I see she's holding a plastic bag

Ayize : uhm ...Ngwedi asked me
to give you this

She hands me the plastic

It's my jacket and my phone

I can't believe she's doing this

Not after I thought now we're
going somewhere

Honestly things were just
promising

Me : where is she ?

Ayize : back home

Me : what is she doing ?

Ayize : nothing

Me : please go call her for me

Ayize : sheshe's ...she said
she doesn't want to go out .
That's why she sent me

You poor child !

She sent you because she
doesn't want to see me

Me : please , I just want to
thank her for this

I hold the plastic she handed
me

She smiles

Ayize : okay

She runs back

And I wait , like for about 20
minutes or so

I heave a sigh of relief when I
see her walking towards my car

I'm still outside leaning against
the car

The disappointment and
everything just disappears

As i look at her

She gets to me and stands at a
distance

I get closer to her

Me : hi

She's not even looking at me

I feel my heart sinking

But I don't want to admit this
shit

Me : I don't know what I did ,
maybe it's because I didn't call
during the day . I apologize

Ngwedi : I'm sorry , but this
can't happen

Fuck no !

Me : why ?

She has her head bowed

I tilt her chin making her look at
her

We lock eyes

Me : why ?

She swallows hard with glossy
eyes

Me : please don't do this , I
don't think you understand
what it feels to

I heave a sigh shaking my head

Me : I meant what I said , I
loved you from a distance . And

I just had to find you , now that
has happened you're just ...

I shake my head

Me : no ... please don't

Ngwedi : they said you're the
king

She bores into my eyes

Ngwedi : and you're going to
choose a wife at the reed dance

That wife part comes out as a
whisper

I hold her hand and lead her to
my car

Getting in the back seat

I close the doors locking them

Moving the two plastics , along
with the one I'm holding to the
front seat

I hold both her hands into mine

She lifts her head slowly and
looks at me

Ngwedi : is it true ?

Me : which part ?

Ngwedi : both

That's accompanied by a sigh

Me : I am the king

She tries to move her hands
back

But I tighten my grip

Me : but , I am definitely not choosing a wife at the reed dance . I'm marrying you , it's you that I'm choosing

Ngwedi : please no ...

Me : I mean it , I can wake up tomorrow and marry you .
Please don't let me being king ,
disrupt things

Ngwedi : but ...

Me : no buts , I'm just here as
Dingiswayo the guy who loves
you

She blinks way too much

Me : please , give me a chance

She swallows hard

I never thought it would be this
hard to find a woman

Ngwedi : we can't

Me : Ngwedi please , a chance is
all ...

Ngwedi : I want to , but I can't !

She sighs

Me : why not ? Why can't you ?

Ngwedi : because I have to
leave the orphanage , I'll be 18
in 2 days . And ...I have to leave
, I can't stay there anymore

Me : where are you going ?

She keeps quite

I'm guessing I just stumbled
upon something here

And she won't just open up to
me

Yeah !

I've gotten myself into
something

Me : okay

I nod slowly

Ngwedi : I'm sorry

She pulls her one hand back and
opens the back door

But it's locked

I grab the back of her neck and
turn her facing me

Ngwedi : I

I shut her up with a kiss

She freezes for a few seconds
but goes on to kiss me

I deepen the kiss

As she lets out slight moans

And it's so melodic just fucking
turning me on insanely

My dick reacting to her moans ,
twitching in my pants

It feels like it'll burst

I move back slowly , pulling out
of the kiss pecking her lips

Me : I love you

I slowly open my eyes looking at
her

Me : you're so beautiful

Her lips curve into a smile as
she opens her eyes

And she leans over , her head
laying on my chest

I place my hands on her back ,
hugging her

As she places her one hand on
my waist

There's no way in hell I'm
letting all this go

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Ngwedi

Dingi : I am Dingiswayo to you ,
and not the king . So please
don't address me as such ,
unless we're in the presence of
people and you feel like it . But
it's not mandatory , so please
don't make things awkward for
us

I smile shyly

I can't believe I'm here with him

Laying my head on his chest

And I kissed him

I kissed him and enjoyed it very
much

It wasn't anything like yesterday
or this morning

This is something else

I can't explain what I'm feeling

Even though my head is telling
me against this

But my heart

Dingi : when I ask to see you
again , please lets not have

what occurred again this
afternoon

He places a kiss on top of my
head

Dingi : there's a lot that we
need to talk about clearly , so
please let's make that time and
talk

I nod

Me : okay

He tightens his arm around my
back

Dingi : I got you something ,
open them when you get home

I won't even ask what is it

I'm just at peace in his arms

I wish this moment can remain
forever

But I can't help , and just be
realistic

He's a king , I'm just a mere
commoner orphan

Not even dreams like this
happen

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INSERT 07

Dingiswayo

Me : Vula , I need your wisdom

Vula : whatever it is Dingiswayo
, please stay away from me

Me : don't be like that

Vula : exactly what do you want
? Cause you know I can't read
you

I smile

Me : I'm in love Nomvula , and
....

Vula : did you just say in love ?

Me : yes , now pay attention . I just want to know if I'm doing the right thing . I want to marry her

She squints her eyes

Vula : marriage ?

Me : yeah , my kingdom needs a queen

She smiles

Vula : I can't believe this

Me : you better , okay !

I lean over

Me : so , like throw bones or something . And let's hear what the gods are saying

Vula : why would they tell me anything ?

Me : because me taking a wife involves them as well , Nomvula please

She takes a deep breath and holds my hand

She groans burping too loud

It actually freaks me out a bit

Vula : mhm ...

She looks at me

Vula : she's such a mystery ,
there's a lot of things to be
discovered and unleashed with
her. A true mystery indeed

She bows her head

Me : okaybut is she good ?

Vula : she won't bring harm if
that's what you're asking

I just want to be safe

I cannot afford to find myself in
the same spot as my father ,
with his first wife

Vula : but brace yourself , she's
not ordinary

I'm not either

Me : what do you mean ?

She just looks at me

I guess I won't get anything
further

Now I'll just need to talk to my
parents

I hope today we parted on good
terms

Understanding each other that
this relationship is happening

Vula : she doesn't hail from this
land

I figured that as much

Me : she has a weird name , it's definitely not Zulu . And I don't know what language is that

She smiles

Vula : what's her name ?

Me : Ngwedi

She nods slowly

Me : and What does it mean
?

Vula : moon

Me : Ohhh ...

Why would anyone name their
child a moon ?

Like that doesn't make sense to me

Me : what language is that ?

Vula : Setswana

She gets up

Vula : I have to go

Me : mhm....

I get up as well

Me : what a nice way to get rid
of me

She laughs as we walk out and
she locks her hut

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Ngwedi

He bought me a phone

He had no problem taking his

Just he didn't like I sent Ayize

And he didn't take his jacket
back

I guess he'll never have it back

This phone seems very
expensive

It's a Samsung Galaxy A33 5G

I've never had a phone my
entire life

Like who would buy me a phone
at the orphanage ?

There's also snacks that he bought

I don't know how I'll eat those in front of the kids

I know I'll just be feeling so bad about it

MaJoy : you still have no idea where you'll go ?

Me : I'll make a plan

MaJoy : if there's anything ..you want to tell me , you know you can tell me right ?

Me : yes

MaJoy : I hope you'll still hold yourself in high regards , wherever you're going . And

with whoever you'll be with .
Don't forget your morals

Wait ...who said I'll be with
anyone ?

Me : whoever I'll be with ?

MaJoy : I understand , maybe
you're sceptical to talk to me
about such things

Me : what things ?

She heaves a sigh

Seems like she knows
something

I have no idea whatsoever what
though

And whatever it is , it's clearly
worrying her

MaJoy : I know there's been a
man ...that you've been seen
with as of late

Ah !

I wouldn't put this past Thobile
at all

But how would she know ?

Oh wait ...maybe it was when
Liza was in our room

Me : did ...did they say who ?

MaJoy : no

I nod slowly

Just asking myself if I should tell
her or not

What a situation I've gotten
myself into

Already I don't know what I'm
doing with the king

Like he's the king and I'm just
me

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Thobile

And there's that same car from
the other day

It's parked a big further away
from the orphanage

Just down the street

I don't know why MaJoy hasn't
asked Ngwedi about this

Or said anything

She's just quite , and it's just
pissing me off

Ngwedi is not an angel after all

She's busy chasing men

Something MaJoy has always
told us against

I mean surely she believes us
now

The kids told her

After she dismissed me , when I
told her

Unless she thinks I influenced
the kids to lie

I wouldn't be surprised

I walk in the yard and head
inside the house

Me : MaJoy

I sit down opposite to her

Me : where is Ngwedi ?

She side eyes me

MaJoy : she went out a while
back

Great !

She's surely in that car with that
man of hers

This might just work out
perfectly

And tick MaJoy off

To a point that she will burst
and come hard on Ngwedi

Me : the very same car of that
man is here

She's is ignoring me

Like she's not even looking at
me

The TV is on and Dumisa
Channel is playing

And she's knitting the hats for
the babies

Is this really another bummer
on this matter ?

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INSERT 08

Dingiswayo

I call her again

And the phone rings

Again for a while , as I'm about
to drop she answers

I heave a sigh of relief

I thought I'm being ignored
again

Wondering what I've done this
time

Because I thought we
understood each other now

Me : Ngwedi

I can hear her breathing

And there's just something
heavy about her aura and
energy

One thing I dislike , about being
who and what I am

Is being able to easily attach to
people

Ngwedi : my king

I chuckle

I hope her knowing I'm the king
doesn't change anything
between us

It's just a tittle and a status

It means absolutely nothing to
me

Well , nothing to blow a whistle
about

Me : don't !

She goes quite , saying nothing

Just her breathing gracing my
ear through the phone speaker

Me : you know my name right ?

Ngwedi : yes

Me : then please , use it

She sighs

Me : please , let's not have this name conversation again or how you address me . There will come a time , where you'll know how to address me . But now is not that time , and I'm

your boyfriend . Not your king ,
please

Her quietness just doesn't give
me peace

Maybe she thought I wasn't
coming

Since I said I'll see her when I
get back

It is late right now

Me : please come out to see me
, I'm sorry I came back late . But
please come , I won't take too
much of your time

A breeze of air passes through
the phone

And a slight worry catches me

Sounding like she's walking
somewhere

Me : are you home ?

Ngwedi : no

Me : at this time ?

Ngwedi : I come from the river

Me : it's late

Ngwedi : yes , I know

Me : please come see me

Ngwedi : I'm walking to the orphanage

Me : you're in the veld ?

Ngwedi : passing the road

Me : I'm coming

I say already starting my car

Driving heading to the tar road

Me : don't drop the call , keep
talking

She giggles sweetly

Me : what ?

Ngwedi : what should I say ?

Me : I don't know , anything . I
just want to hear you talk

Ngwedi : are those your lights ?

I look intensely

And I spot her beside the road

Me : I see you

Ngwedi : can I drop now ?

Me : no ...

I park next to her , and open the
passenger door for her

She walks over and gets in the
car

I close the door , and lock all
doors

Me : don't do this

She looks down

Me : please look at me

She turns her head slowly

And my stomach is in knots as
her eyes grace mine

Me : I don't want to worry
about your safety like this ,
anything can happen . This
cannot be safe at all

Ngwedi : I

And she keeps quite

This is seriously worrying

I gather that something is
bothering her

And it's no big thing

Me : talk to me

I take her hand into mine

Me : am I not your boyfriend ?

Shyly she smiles

It's just a sight to bare

Ngwedi : you are

Me : then please , talk to me .

Let's not start this by keeping
things from each other , there's
nothing I value more than
transparency . I would rather I

hear things from you , even if
it's nothing wrong . But if it's
worrying you , you can tell me

The way she fiddles with her
fingers in my hand

Either she's ashamed to tell me

Or she just doesn't know how
to

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Ngwedi

This man scares me

I barely even know him

But he just scares me

I can't help it

There's just an aura about him
that's definitely just not
humanly possible

But , I cannot utter that the king
is possibly not human

Or maybe he possesses some
foreign powers

Something that's not of this
world nor human

More like supernatural powers

That would be insane right ?

Dingi : talk to me

His tone has slightly gone softly
, just swiftly

Me : I told you I have to leave
the orphanage

The mood just changes in that
mere second

Dingi : mhm

Me : I'm 18 , and I cannot stay
there anymore . I just have
tomorrow left , and I have to be
gone

Dingi : where are you going ?

I look down , tears on the brink
of falling down

Me : I don't know

Dingi : what

He shakes his head

I guess he wanted to ask me something

Or say something

But thought I'll be offended maybe

Me : you can ask

Dingi : when did you get there , and how ?

Me : I have no idea , the only life I know is that of the orphanage . I don't even know anything about the woman who gave birth to me , nor any family members whatsoever

He tilts my chin and I stare at him as he swallows , moving his Adam Apple

Dingi : what can I do ?

I shake my head

What can he possibly do ?

We've been dating for two days

I can't ask him to do anything
about my despair

Dingi : I can't lose you , I've just
found you

Me : my king

The eye he gives me

My insides go cold instantly

Just looking at him

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INSERT 09

Ngwedi

Me : you're a king , I'm just a mere orphan . I have no family , no idea of who I am or where I come from . I don't have anything , no education . I'm just me , we can be honest with ourselves and just be realistic . Your people need a queen , someone with statue . Not me , I am not worthy . So , I'm just

honouring that . And being
honest with myself , it's for the
best

Dingi : you don't get to break up
with me

Me : I ...

Dingi : if you don't think there's
anything I can do about this ,
then allow me to do something

about it . Without your word or
input in it , and not you
belittling yourself in my
presence like that

Judging by his tone

He thinks there can really have
a solution to this

Me : what ?

Dingi : leave it to me

Me : please do not afford me
shelter , all my life

I shake my head

With a tear streaming down my
cheek

He wipes it with his thumb
caressing my cheek

And we lock eyes

Starring deep into each other's
eyes

It just leaves me with one
insane feeling

I don't understand what's this
feeling I get

Every time he touches me

I just get it

It doesn't make sense to me

I've never felt anything like this
before

Me : I've been a charity case all
my life , I don't want that
anymore

Dingi : okay , but still allow me

I don't understand what he will
do

Dingi : allow me

He cups my face with his hands

Dingi : I will not lose you , I
won't let that happen . I may

sound insane right now , but
thisthere's just something
about us I cannot explain . I
want it , I want more of it . It
hasn't even begun , so it can't
end like this

I nod slowly

As if he's asked me something

And this wasn't a question

But it was just a statement

I don't know what he will do

My bag is packed

And I'm just left to go out of the
orphanage

Going where ?

Of course , I have no idea
whatsoever

He leans over

I inhale his masculine scent

Closing my eyes slowly

While he's looking intensely
into my eyes

I gasp as his lips with a scent of
mint and nicotine , touches my
lips

And he captures my lower lip
into his

Slowly kissing me , and I fall into
his lead kissing him back

Letting his lips ravish mine , and
his hand landing on my waist

My chest touching on his

Feeling my nipples erect

I hold on his arms , feeling his
biceps

He deep groans into my mouth

Causing a feel of something
slippery and wet on panty

I try to pull away , but he
doesn't let go

As he deepens the kiss

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Thobile

It sure looks like a sour morning
for Ngwedi

She's not her usual self

She doesn't even have the
young kids around her as she
always does

She went out a while back

And came back , so quickly

Which is something she never
does when she goes out

Me : you should be happy , men are busy coming here for you . It's clear you're sorted with your accommodation when you leave , I mean surely it's some type of a freedom as well . You won't be told what to do , you'll be old enough to do what you want . And no more slaving away , taking care of the brats around here it's just

She gets up

Me : I

Ngwedi : please Thobile , not
today

And just like that she walks
away from me

I roll my eyes

She can sulk all she wants

But fact of the matter is that
she has to go

And she's most definitely
leaving

Nothing will make her stay here

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Dingiswayo

Me : I need to talk to my
parents

He looks at me

Me : can you

Bonko : something is bothering
you

I heave a sigh

I don't know what to call my
reaction , in front of Ngwedi

Because the second I was away
from her

My mind was running wild

This is the girl who said to me
not to waste her time

She's not just someone you be
with

Just for the sake of being with
someone

But you get to have intentions
about her

I think I'm there

Crazy and insane as it may
sound

It doesn't make sense right now

But hopefully someday it will

I feel like if I lose her

Then I lose a part of me

And I cannot allow to lose
myself

She's it for me

Me : Ngwedi has to leave the
orphanage , she's passed the
age . You know what the system
does , she can't stay there
anymore

He sighs

Bonko : that's fucked up , I went
up and down looking for her
and for what ?

He grabs a chair and sits down

Bonko : where is she going , not
leaving the village I hope ?

I shrug

His looks says he understood
me

Bonko : no ! Don't say that

Me : that girl is weird , and

I chuckle

Me : I think I love her , weird
and all that . I think I'm in love

He smiles

And I know this fool will mock
me someday about this

Just not today

Because he knows I won't
entertain him

But someday he definitely will
mock me

Bonko : what will we do ?

Convince your parents to let her stay ?

Me : they have no rule over the orphanage , neither do I

He shakes his head

Bonko : so ...just like that she's gone ?

Me : I won't have that

I get up

Me : have a messenger ask my
parents for me , and we need to
head over to the village to see
the woman in charge

He frowns

I'm sure he's just asking himself
, why we're going there

Bonko : why her ?

I knew it

But unfortunately for him

I am not saying anything

He might just jinx this for me

Okay !

That was far fetched

But what I'm about to do is
insanity

And I don't need anyone to try
and get me sane

Best they don't know as of yet

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INSERT 10

Ngwedi

I walk in the kitchen

And I'm shocked seeing Bonko
and Dingiswayo

Seeing outside the window

I see the royal car

And there's a guy leaning
against it

He's wearing the royal uniform
for drivers

I don't know if I should even be
calling it that

But they're always in suits

I greet

And MaJoy smiles as they greet
back

MaJoy : please make tea for the
king and chief

So Bonko is the chief ?

But isn't he too young for that

What am I saying though

Because Dingiswayo doesn't
look like he's old enough to be
king either

I just do as I'm asked

They're talking about nothing
that's making sense

It's just conversation

MaJoy : please don't disappear

This woman !

And the eye Dingiswayo is
giving me

We last spoke last night

It's very early , just after 06:00

I wonder why they're here

Or maybe he's here to plead my
case to stay a bit

While I figure out what to do
about a place

Or where I'll go , when I leave
here

Because I have to leave today

But I doubt MaJoy will agree to that

Already the room I share , is being prepared for the new small babies . So I have no space

Me : you will call if you need me

She nods

I walk out of the kitchen
heading to the garden

But I'm wondering what's going
on

I guess I will not know

Maybe Dingiswayo will tell me
once they're done

Or MaJoy will

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Dingiswayo

Me : I mean no disrespect

MaJoy : I can never think such
my king

I heave a sigh

Me : I will be honest with you ,
as an elder and a woman I
respect for doing such an
amazing job . Taking care of all
these kids , you're doing
something remarkable

MaJoy : they're just kids , and it
takes a village to raise them .
Anyone can do it

I nod

Me : I have taken quite a liking
in Ngwedi

The shock on her face she
wasn't expecting that

Me : I've been seeing her for a
few days , and I believe she has
to leave the orphanage

She sighs

MaJoy : yes , she's 18 today

It leaves a bitter taste

Because even she's not pleaded
about this

Me : I know she has nowhere to
go , I will fix all of that . I want
to marry Ngwedi

Even Bonko looks at me like I'm crazy

Me : I want to do things right , therefore I have to talk to my parents . Send them over , so you can give her to us in the right manner . But while we're in talks of that , I'm just asking you shelter her for a few days . Even if it means she has to occupy the kitchen , I will totally understand and I'll talk to her . I

have no problem finding her a place to stay , but I know she will not appreciate that . And I'm not willing to lose her to the streets

MaJoy : marriage my king ?

Me : MaJoy , I love that girl . And I don't want to waste her time , or play with her . I've been king for years , and my

people now need a queen . It
can't be anyone , but just her

I think I've just put her into a
predicament right now

MaJoy : she's aware of this ?

Me : no

She nods slowly , like she's
thinking hard

Me : I will not drag anything , I just want things done right . I don't want her to leave this place , and go anywhere else . She must come to her palace , when she leaves here

MaJoy : I didn't expect this , but I guess everything happens for a reason indeed . Maybe this is God opening doors for her , she's a very good child . Well

mannered , and very useful of her hands . It's a loss to me , to have her leave the orphanage . I can appreciate she's not going to end up on the streets , and I know my king you're a kind hearted man . And that pleases me , and gives me peace in knowing your intentions about her

The woman tears up

And it's not a pleasing sight , to
see an elder cry

MaJoy : Ngwedi was just a day
old when I got her , she was
from the hospital . And they
said a woman from Botswana
gave birth , and she didn't want
the child . But she had a name
Ngwedi , I didn't even know
what that meant . It puzzled me
, how a woman from so far
away gave birth this far . And

only for her to abounded the baby , I wasn't certain about taking her in . I believe she's a very special child , she's nothing like any of the kids I've had . She never even learnt our language to an extent , how she got to speak the language of her mother is still a mystery to me to this day . Because even I cannot speak it , and kids gather words from adults . But she was just one of a kind , please see

her for who she is . And not
where she comes from

This is strange

If I were to even look into this

Will I even find anything ?

Bonko : I can assure you , she
will not be mistreated in any
way . I will lay my life , if it ever

comes to that . She will be safe
in our care

MaJoy : it's the reed dance
tomorrow , and expectations
are high

Me : I have no intentions of
marrying there

MaJoy : the people might not
accept her well

This is my land

Whoever will be having a
problem with her

Will then be having a problem
with me

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Ngwedi

I watch them walking out

And MaJoy walks them to the
car

I pretend as if I'm not even
looking at them

They talk for a while near the
car

And MaJoy walks over to me

I pretend as if I wasn't even
looking at them

MaJoy : when you're done ,
come see me

She says with a smile and walks
away from me

My phone beeps , I take it out

And check the message

“In two hours , please be ready .
Wear comfortable”

I turn and look over to the car

He flashes a smile pushing his
dreadlocks back

And he gets into the car

I shake my head smiling ,
watching the car drive away

Now I'm sceptical to go see
MaJoy

Dreadful to hear what the talk
was all about

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Dingiswayo

Bonko : you shocked me

I chuckle

Bonko : I did not see that

Me : you weren't supposed to

He shakes his head , with a
slight laugh

Me : now , we go to see my
parents

Bonko : they're already at the
palace

I nod

My father might just punch me

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INSERT 11

Ngwedi

MaJoy : the king has asked that you stay here for a few days ...

Me : I know that's not possible ,
MaJoy I have no problem
whatsoever moving out today .
Even my clothes are packed , I
can leave right now . I just
thought , it wouldn't be a
problem to leave in the
afternoon

She shakes her head

MaJoy : you can stay , the king
will say when you can leave

Me : I

I look at her shocked

Me : what ?

She smiles

Me : you're letting me stay ?

MaJoy : yes , just for a few days

Me : yeah ...but you're letting
me stay ?

I'm shocked

I was just like , she won't agree
to that

I have to leave

And she has no reason
whatsoever to keep me here

Not even if the king asks her

The orphanage is her
responsibility

The king cannot dictate to her
anyhow

Okay !

I need to calm down

Why am I even happy about this
?

Because I still have to leave

And still , just as I have no idea
where I was going to go today

I have no idea where I'll go after
a few days

And exactly what's a few days ?

It can be , two days or three

What is Dingiswayo planning ?

I hope he heard me well

And he will respect that

I will not be another charity
case for anyone

It's a good thing I'm going to
see him in an hour or so

Maybe he can tell me exactly
what's his plan

Or what he's hoping to get out of this

Getting MaJoy to let me stay here for a bit

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Thobile

Nfundo : the king was here to
talk to MaJoy about Ngwedi

Me : what ?

I look at him

Nfundo : yeah , and she's not
leaving

Me : what do you mean ...she's
not leaving ?

Nfundo : her bags are still here ,
and she left

Me : left ?

Nfundo : the chief came to pick
her up a while back

The shock !

Me : the chief ?

Nfundo : we can be so stupid at times , when we told MaJoy she was with the men . It was actually the king and the chief

What the hell is going on here ?

Ngwedi will not even be a part of the reed dance tomorrow

How is it that she's in talks with the king and his chief ?

Me : are you sure about this ?

He nods

Nfundo is quite , and nothing
like that loud mouth Ayize

I know he will not lie to me

Not unless he's been told to lie

But he has no reason to lie
about this

He doesn't know where I am at
with my feels about her

Now I wish I knew why the king
would come here about her

And where is she exactly right
now ?

Maybe they're offering her a
job at the palace

But who would have told them
about her ?

Ngwedi is not even of this land

Who would care about her

Now I'm curious to know about
this

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Dingiswayo

Dad : what ?

Me : there's a girl I've met , and I would like to marry her . For some reason I don't know , people were expecting me to choose a wife at the reed dance

tomorrow . And I never said anything about that

Dad : so you're basically saying that will not happen ?

Me : yes , because the girl I love will not be attending the dance

Mom : you're going to marry a girl who's not a maiden ?

I chuckle

Me : she is , but I will not have my wife to be parading her body in front of the whole kingdom

I don't know for certain if she's still a maiden or not

But I will defend her honour at all times

This is definitely not the
reaction I expected

By now , I thought I would have
gotten a punch

Or even a mere slap

Dad : who is this girl ?

Me : her name is Ngwedi

Mom : she's not from around here ?

Me : she is

Dad : what kind of a name is that ?

Bonko and I we look at each other

I'm just wondering , if I should
tell them everything

Me : she's from the orphanage

There goes silence

Me : uhm ...I hope I will not be
asking for much , if I ask for her
hand in marriage in just a few
days . Two days max will do for
me , but the letter can be sent

in the meantime . Even
tomorrow morning

Dad : what's the rush ?

Me : uhm ...

I clear my throat

Me : there's none

They clearly don't believe that

And I cannot tell them , I'm
marrying her because I don't
want her moving away from me

In this manner , I get to keep
her

And she will no longer have her
worries anymore

About where she will go

Dad : do you love this girl ?

Me : I'm in love with her

Mom smiles

Dad : I don't know what you
know about love , but whatever

I get up with a laugh

Me : thank you , I will come over tomorrow and we can talk this through . Especially about the letter , it's her birthday today so I have to leave

Mom : I hope she's not pregnant

Bonko burst out laughing

Is my mother for real ?

Bonko : that is so not possible
queen mother

Mom : is he not fertile ?

Me : come on ! Like people
what's wrong with you !

Bonko gets up

And we both get out

Me : please get her from the car
, and bring her to my chamber

Bonko : alright

He leaves going to the cars

And I head over to my chamber

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INSERT 12

Ngwedi

Bonko : he's in here

He opens the door , and moves
out of the way

It's my first time setting foot in
the palace

Never mind the king's chamber

I look at Bonko , and he assures
me that it's okay

I walk in slowly , and Bonko
moves back closing the door

I turn quickly grabbing the door
handled

And his masculine scent graces
my nostrils

As I tilt the door handle

I take a deep breath , as he
leans down burying his face on
my neck

I close my eyes slowly

Dingi : why do you want to go ?

Me : I

Words fail me , as his hands trail
to my waist

And he hugs me from behind

Dingi : come

He slowly moves back , I turn
facing him as he holds my hand
into his

I look at him opening my eyes ,
to find his eyes on mine

In just simple casual clothes

And he looks this handsome

And he has me feeling
somehow

I swallow hard , as he leans over

And his lips graces my lips , he
captures my lips into his

And we kiss

He pulls out slowly, taking my
hand walking towards the bed

And I'm just stunned

Seeing the romantic scene set
up on the bed

Things I only see on TV

When I do get to occasionally
watch TV

I look at him

Me : what

Suddenly my mouth has gone
dry

I swallow hard

Dingi : happy birthday

Me : youyou did this for me ?

Dingi : I would have loved to take you to Durban , spend the night there . Just celebrating your birthday , but there are things that need my attention .

This was the best I can do , I
didn't want it to be out there if
not in Durban

Wow !

I'm speechless , just out of
words

The best we got at the
orphanage was just cake on our
birthdays

Me : this

I take a deep breath , as tears
burn my eyes

Dingi : don't cry ...

He hugs me , laying my head on
his chest as he hugs me tight
rubbing my back

Me : thank you

He leans down and pecks my
cheek

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Dingiswayo

Me : are you okay ?

She nods , against my chest

I rub my hand on her back

Ngwedi : what you did for me
was very beautiful , so thank
you

Me : I'm glad it made you happy

She snuggles up closer to me

We have eaten

She has opened most of her
presents

Even though I didn't buy a lot of
things

Because I'm still yet to know
more about her

And know what she loves and likes

Me : you'll go back later right ?

Ngwedi : MaJoy said you asked me to stay for a few days

I tilt my head and look at her

She's not even looking at me

I hope MaJoy didn't tell her
anything about what I said to
her

I am not going to tell her
anything

This one is very much capable
of saying no , she's very weird

Me : yes

Ngwedi : sowhy ?

I chuckle

Me : I can't tell you as of yet

Ngwedi : but I asked you not to
make me a charity case

Me : I will not

She heaves a sigh

Me : please , not today . It's all
about you , we can do this
tomorrow

She nods

Me : thank you

I place a kiss on her forehead

Me : I wish you can spend the
night

She laughs

I know that's a no

But at least , it got her to laugh

And move away from the MaJoy
talk

Anyways I don't think I can have
her spend the night

I will definitely touch her in
places I shouldn't

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Ngwedi

Me : you'll bring my presents
right ?

He shakes his head

I smile

Me : really ?

He nods

I laugh

Me : you're still sulking ?

Dingi : I am not a boy , I'm a grown ass man . I don't sulk

Me : okay grown as....

Dingi : don't swear

Me : but you ...

Dingi : I can , and you can't

Me : wow !

Dingi : exactly wow , you'll fetch your things . I'll keep them safe for you

I only took the treats

As for the clothes and shoes , along with the jewellery I left at the palace in his chamber

Me : I'll go , and see you when I
see you

Dingi : that's tomorrow

Me : there's the reed dance
happening

Dingi : go there with your man

I shake my head

Me : I'm not going there

Dingi : not as a participant , but
with me

Hell no !

That's so not happening

I don't want to be the talk of
this village

Arriving there with their king

Dingi : you don't want to ?

Me : I don't want talks

No one barely saw me at the
palace

It's not overly crowded

I want to keep it like that

Dingi : okay

Me : honestly I would go with
you , but ...

I hate hurting him

So I hope he's not hurt by this

Hopefully he understands
where I'm coming from

Dingi : but I'll see you after that
?

Me : definitely

Dingi : give me a kiss so I can go

Crazy !

Why doesn't he just kiss me ,
without saying

Or telling me to kiss him

He chuckles shaking his head

As if he's just read my mind

But I will spite him right ?

I take his hand into mine , and
get on my toes leaning over and

he meets me halfway . Our lips
moving together in sync

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INSERT 13

Ngwedi

The girls look beautiful

I don't want to lie

I know I can't go there or join
them

Not because I don't qualify

But I just don't want to

I seriously don't want to parade
myself in front of men

I just choose not to

I've never attended the reed
dance

And I don't wish to , like ever

Even Thobile is going

And she's also beautiful , like
the rest

MaJoy is seeing them off

She wants to go with them

I really don't mind to stay
behind and watch the young
kids

MaJoy : we should go

They all walk out as she remains
behind

MaJoy : I will see them off , and
come back soon

Me : you can stay , and enjoy
the reed dance

She smiles

MaJoy : I don't want you to
have a hard time , or have the
kids trouble you alone here

Me : these kids , won't give me trouble

She sighs

MaJoy : I will see , but I may come back

I laugh

Me : enjoy

She walks out

I close the door and head over
to the kids room

I check on them , and the
babies are sleeping

The young ones are in the next
room , and playing

I let them be

Because they're not even
making too much noise

Just as long as they don't wake
up the babies

We will be fine

I go into our room , walking in
on my ringing phone

I know there's only one person
calling me

I mean , he's the one who got
me the phone after all

I grab the phone off the bed
and answer

Me : my king

He sighs

Dingi : you know how to
depress me

I laugh

I just can't bring myself to call
him with his name

Dingi : are you good ?

Me : yes

Dingi : I will be good , once I see you

Me : the reed dance is about to start

Dingi : mhm , let me see you

Me : after

Isn't that what we agreed on ?

Dingi : now , what are you busy with ?

It doesn't even sound like he's anywhere , where there's noise

Me : now ?

Dingi : mhm , what are you busy with ?

Me : nothing , MaJoy took the kids to the reed . I'm left with the small ones , they're playing . The babies are sleeping

Dingi : 5 minutes k'phela (only)

Me : what's that ?

He chuckles

Dingi : just for 5 minutes

I really don't understand the Zulu language that well

Even though I grew up with people who speak the language

Me : okay , you'll tell me when you get here

Dingi : I'm here , come

This man , he just never ceases
to amaze me

I walk out of the room , and
check on the kids one more
time

He has now dropped the call

I walk out , and he's by the gate

I walk over to him

He's leaning against the car

And as I approach , I see Bonko
inside

He's the one driving

Dingi : you're so beautiful

I smile

And looking at him , I get a hint
of jealous

He's looking so handsome in his
royal regalia

Thinking he's going there to the
reed dance

And he will see those maidens

Won't he get tempted ?

Dingi : why are you looking at me like that ?

Me : you won't choose a maiden for a bride ?

He takes both my hands into his

We lock eyes

Dingi : I already have a wife

I move back a bit from him

But he pulls me closer

Dingi : nguwe umfazi wami
(you're my wife)

I frown

Me : what ?

He smiles and leans down
pecking my lips

Me : I'm not a home wrecker

Dingi : you're my wife , I'm
coming to marry you

He moves his eyes around a bit

Me : we just met

Dingi : asikhulumi ngaleyonto
(we're not talking about that)

Can he just stop !

Me : I don't understand your
language well

Dingi : what do you speak ?

Me : Setswana

Dingi : I'm a Zulu man , I can't speak English all the time

I laugh

Me : you're a king , but surely you can't be that cultured

He chuckles

Dingi : for you , I am not

I shake my head with a smile

Dingi : I have to go , I'll see you
later

I nod

Dingi : don't be sad , but you
can still come with me

I shake my head

Me : no !

He deep laughs , and it's just
one hella sound

Dingi : then later

He leans down giving me a hug ,
burying his face on my neck

Me : your chief is here

He chuckles

Dingi : I want to kiss you right
now

Me : not in front

And he tilts his face and just
smashes his lips on mine

I get lost in the kiss , kissing him
back

Forgetting that there's even the
chief here

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Dingiswayo

Bonko : you just can't leave this girl alone , even for a day can you ?

I laugh as he drives off

Bonko : love is dangerous ,
remind me never to fall into this
trap

Me : stop being an idiot , you
ought to pick a maiden there

He burst out laughing

Bonko : the worst kind , no
thank you

And he's not kidding

He won't

I might just have a chief , that's
not married

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INSERT 14

Thobile

I get all sorts of feels , when I
see the king and the chief walk
through

With their security detail in
place

And only two guards behind
them

As they're being ushered to
their chairs

Next to queen mother , and the
former king

Along with the princesses

MaJoy : let's talk

I don't know why she hasn't left

Why is she still here ?

She said she's just dropping us
off

And she's leaving

But the maidens chosen by the
royal women , have sang and
danced

And now the stage will be
opened to everyone

We will all sing and dance
together

It's now that the king will
choose his wife

And then the rest of the men
here will choose

If they wish to

But there's always men
choosing wife's

They won't just look

It's definitely so my lucky day
today

I'm definitely not leaving here

As I came

And Ngwedi not being here

Is just a bonus to me

Not that she was going to shine

Not in the midst of all these
maidens here

MaJoy : don't embarrass me , I
didn't want to say that in front
of the other kids . But we both
know you're not a virgin ...

Me : I was raped !

Well technically I wasn't

I thought Mncedisi will marry
me

Seeing that he was always
herding a large fleet of live
stock

Only to find out that he's just
the herd boy

The live stock wasn't even for
his family

Worse when I found out , I had
already slept with him

He's just some poor boy

He could never offer me the life
I want

So I cried rape

Not that helped with anything

Cause he was just fined

But I never saw him after that

I don't know what happened to
him

MaJoy : yes , but we cannot
deny the fact that you're not a

pure maiden . I don't want to be
embarrassed , you're okay
dressed like this . You look
beautiful , I didn't want to take
that away from you . But you're
to not participate into anything
here

Me : my pureness was just
taken from me

I gather tears

Me : I can still consider myself a virgin , it wasn't a choice

MaJoy : you're a virgin , by actually being one . Not because you want to call yourself one

This woman will be my downfall

What's her problem exactly ?

Me : but I'm sure if this was
Ngwedi , you would let her

She pops her eyes

I turn and walk away from her

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Ngwedi

I'm so anxious

Wondering what's happening at
the reed dance

I now wish I had powers to
know what's happening there

Is he really not going to choose
a wife ?

Where has that ever even
happened

That a king doesn't choose a wife , when he's expected to

As soon as MaJoy got back , not so long ago

I left

The kids were not problematic

I know she will manage

But I won't even be out for long

I gave her the letter that was
dropped off by the royal
messenger

I don't even know what's that
about

Because I didn't open it

It wasn't for me after all

Me : I haven't come to see you
in a while

Sefate : a lot is happening in
your life

I heave a sigh

I just had to come here

I knew that will ease my mind

Me : the king of this village has
shown an interest in me

The leaves shake a bit

That's a shock , that's just
mocking me

Sefate is an old soul of a tree

But she's savage as they come

I knowI may be sounding
crazy right now

She's just a tree after all

But what tree can talk ?

Maybe I'm the insane one

Me : okayout with it

A slight breeze passes through

Causing me slight shivers

Sefate : if by now you haven't gathered anything , I guess it'll take time

Me : gathered what ?

Sefate : just know you're not just an ordinary being

Oh well , I'm talking to a tree

Of course , I cannot be normal

Me : it doesn't make sense , he seems to be serious and very invested

Sefate : and you ?

I keep quite for a while

Me : I would be lying , if I say there's nothing . I feel something , even though I don't understand it . Nor do I know how to explain it , into better words

Sefate : some things don't need to be explained , because once that's done it just ruins everything

That doesn't even make sense

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Thobile

MaJoy just had to ruin my day

I ended up leaving the reed
dance

And well , it would have just
been a waste

Most girls are just disappointed
where they are

Cause the king said he's not
choosing a wife

And he let other men choose
wives , from the maidens

I could have gone ahead and did
my part

But knowing MaJoy she was just
going to embarrass me

I would be known as the girl
who entered the reed dance

Knowing she's no longer a virgin

I'm hurt more than I am angry

She had no right to pull me off
just like that

There really was no need

I'm sure I would have found
myself a rich husband

But there will come a day ,
where I will remind her of what
she did

She sure ruined me , and just spoiled my day

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INSERT 15

Dingiswayo

Bonko : are you leaving ?

Me : my parents want to talk to me

I hand him my car keys

Me : I wanted to go see Ngwedi

He laughs

Bonko : whatever love is this , it better stay away from me

Me : shut up , anyways I had said I'll go see her after the reed dance

Bonko : worried you chose a wife ?

Me : I'm sure she was worried the whole day

I take out my phone and call her

Bonko walks away heading to
my chamber

Ngwedi : Mtimande

Now this is way better than
being addressed as my king

I chuckle with my smile , taking
a little walk

Me : see why I will marry you

She giggles

Me : are you okay ?

Ngwedi : yes

Me : that's good , I won't make
it there

I heave a sigh

Me : my parents are here , and they're requesting to talk to me

Ngwedi : oh , okay

She sounds a bit disappointed

Me : can I come for 5 minutes then , you'll get to sulk and get your kiss and I'll leave you feeling better

She laughs and it just warms my
heart

Ngwedi : no , it's okay . See your
parents , it's already late I'll see
you some day

Me : no , not some day . That
sounds very far

Ngwedi : then when you come

Me : I might just rock up there

She laughs

Ngwedi : no really , just bring
my things when you come

Me : you'll come get them

Ngwedi : I'm scared of coming
to the palace honestly

Me : mhm , this is your mans house . You can't be scared to come around here

She sighs

Ngwedi : it's still the palace

Me : we will talk about this matter when I see you , then you can tell me how you'll see me if you're scared to come to

my house . Let me go see the
queen mother and her husband

Ngwedi : okay , thank you for
calling

Me : mhm , and I didn't pick any
maiden at the reed dance . I'm
still your man , your man alone

The giggle that she lets out

Leaves my heart pumping softly

I've never felt nor known such
peace

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Ngwedi

MaJoy : I will need all of you up early tomorrow , helping around here . Cleaning and cooking

Me : why ?

She called me into her room

I'm now sitting on her bed

She's busy in the wardrobe
looking for something

MaJoy : we're expecting visitors

Me : oh

That's strange

Unless it's government officials

I mean , it's not like we ever get
any visitors here

Not even the people who drop
their kids here visit

You'll go outside , and find a
child there

It's crazy

Me : they must be important

MaJoy : very , and I'll need you
to wear this dress .

She turns and looks at me

Holding a blue print traditional dress

It looks beautiful no lies

MaJoy : it'sit was supposed to be your 18th birthday present , but a lot of things happened . I think it will suit you tomorrow

Me : can I see it ?

She smiles and walks over
handing it to me.

I get up , unfolding the dress

And it's just stunning

Me : it's beautiful , thank you
MaJoy

She smiles

MaJoy : you deserve it child , in your Setswana language they call it Jeremane (German print)

Wow !

I didn't even know that

Me : so this is like from my roots ?

MaJoy : from your people

I am just out of words

I barely even know anything
about Botswana or the people

Never mind their clothes

Or when and why they're worn

But I'm so overjoyed with this
dress

I barely even have words of
thanks

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Dingiswayo

Mom : everything is prepared

I look at her and nod

Putting my phone back in my pocket

I grab a seat and sit down

My father walks in and sits down opposite my mother

Dad : what time will we go there ?

Me : early morning , I mean
isn't that how it's done ?

My mother laughs

Dad : I did not do all of those
things

I shake my head

Me : you got lucky , but you still
did right

Mom smiles

Me : I mean , it's not like we'll take a lot of time there . Once everything is done , we're coming back to the palace . Nothing will be done there

Dad : have you talked to Nomvula about this ?

Me : we did have a strange conversation , but she kind of assured me that she's no harm

Mom : do you and Nomvula ever have normal conversations ?

I chuckle

Me : she always gets rid of me

She gets up

Mom : let me go , I'll come see
preparations before we leave . I
need the rest

Dad : let me walk my wife out ,
I'm coming

I laugh as he gets up taking her
hand

And they walk out

I swear my parents are blessed

Like the love they hold for each
other

That's something I've never
seen

Despite having separation and
all

After marriage , years later here
they're still together

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INSERT 16

Ngwedi

I groan leaning over grabbing
my ringing phone under the
pillow

Me : mhm

He deep chuckles

There's a breeze of air passing

Isn't it too early ?

Like why is he outside this early

Where is he walking to ?

Dingi : vuka (wake up)

Me : ke tsogile the rra (I'm
awake)

Why am I lying ?

But he woke me up , so yeah
I'm awake

He laughs

Dingi : I love you so much

I smile , more like blush

My heart just feeling warmth

Dingi : I just called to tell you
that

Me : where are you going ?

Dingi : nowhere , I'll see you
later

Me : okay

Dingi : go back to sleep ke

As if that will be possible

He drops the call

I turn facing up , gathering
myself

The way this man is so soft
towards me

I pray and hope he doesn't
change

Because once the soft
treatment is gone

I'll start thinking somehow

I get up , making sure not to
wake up Liza

I am tired and lazy this morning

MaJoy had us overworking last night

Even though she said we will clean and cook this morning

She ended up changing her mind

And had us doing that last night

We even prepared food , we're just left with cooking this morning

I better get on with it

Because I don't know what visitors is she receiving

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- .
- .
- .

Thobile

It's not a very good morning

The way we're being slaved

I'm not sure this is how kids are
supposed to be overworked

Like this is too much

I'm tired as it is

But we had to slave away ,
cooking

At least that's done now

Maybe we'll be allowed to go
back to bed

MaJoy : Ngwedi go get ready

I stop what I'm doing and look
at her

Ngwedi wipes her hands

What is she getting ready for ?

I so hope we did not slave away
for her

Why is she still here anyways ?

She should just leave

I doubt any of us would be afforded the same courtesy

MaJoy : finish up , and set the table

No ways !

Ngwedi gets to leave us , and we still get to work some more

How fair is this ?

MaJoy favours Ngwedi , she
can't even hide it

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Ngwedi

This dress fits me like a glove

For some reason , I just get all
emotional

I don't know if it's the dress or
what

Or maybe the fact that I have
something this stunning on my
body

I just can't take my eyes off
myself through the mirror

If I didn't know any better

I would seriously picture myself
a bride this day

But that's just silly right

I smile shaking my head , at that
silly thought

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Dingiswayo

Me : and ?

He laughs

Bonko : will you relax

Me : out with it

Bonko : we will see her now ,
and the proceedings can begin

Me : I don't know why I'm not
in there

Bonko : because it's your wife
we're marrying , just relax . You
know this girl is yours

Me : update me

I drop the call

My parents and Bonko have left

I'm still at the palace

I wanted to leave with them

But I couldn't

A few royals will be arriving , as
we welcome Ngwedi here

I just want to be here when
they arrive

So I can welcome them

It was short notice after all

But my father , insisted on
inviting other kingdoms

They can't arrive here , and
we're all gone

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Ngwedi

MaJoy : the king has asked for your hand in marriage , his parents and the chief are here on his behalf

I'm seated down on the floor

I did not even see the people in here

What MaJoy is saying , doesn't
make sense to me

What does she mean , the king
has asked for my hand in
marriage ?

I mean , he said he will marry
me

But he didn't say now

How can someone be marrying
me

And I don't even know that

MaJoy : if you agree to marry
him , we will continue with the
proceedings .

Am I supposed to give an
answer now ?

What do I say ?

Am I even ready for marriage ?

I mean , we barely even know each other that well

Is this what he meant when he said he will think of a solution ?

But like a whole marriage ?

Isn't that a bit too much

I take a deep breath

Right now I'm feeling somehow
conflicted

I lift my eyes a bit

And I come to contact with
Bonko

Is that a plea I'm seeing in his eyes ?

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INSERT 17

Ngwedi

I did not expect this at all

I don't know what to say

Why didn't he tell me , or at
least give me heads up

Bonko : would you like a
moment to think ?

Me : yes

That comes out as a whisper

Bonko : I think we can have that

He looks at the queen mother
and the former king

They both nod at him

Bonko : I'll be outside

He walks out

MaJoy : it's okay child , you can
get up

I get up , and use the kitchen
door going outside

I take deep breaths

Not knowing what to do right
now

Me : Sefate !

Oh how I wish she was close by

But can I walk there and make it
?

She's the only sane voice of
reason , I need right now

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Dingiswayo

Me : what do you mean she's
thinking ?

He sighs

Me : Bonko !

I get off the car

Me : should I go in there myself ?

Bonko : I don't think that's necessary

Me : really ? I am not leaving here , without that woman as mine . And not just a girlfriend ,

but my wife . Like what if she
runs away

He chuckles

Bonko : she won't , she loves
you

Me : and if she does , Bonko I'll
strangle you first

He shakes his head with a smile

Bonko : I got you , let me go in and ask to talk to her . She's in shock , and she just needs a bit of time . We also couldn't just pay dowry , without telling her the truth . We had to let her know , so she agrees . You don't just pay dowry , for so done without their knowledge

Me : that's deceit

Bonko : exactly , so let me go
talk to her . And we can't force
nor pressure her

Me : I hate that you're right

He chuckles walking back inside
the yard

I hold myself from calling her

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Ngwedi

Voice : are you running away ?

I hold my chest

Almost screaming my lungs out

Me : no !

Bonko : so where are you going
?

I heave a sigh

Me : I can't tell you that

Bonko : go tell him you can't
marry him , don't just disappear
on him . He will die

Me : I didn't ...I just need to go
somewhere fast , I'll be back

He looks at me for quite some
time

Bonko : I'll take you

Me : no !

Bonko : I won't let you just
disappear , if you don't come

back my head will be on the
chopping board

I pop my eyes

He chuckles

Bonko : I don't mean literally ,
but yeah !

I guess I have no choice here

Me : okay , but you can't go
anywhere near with me

Bonko : that's fine

Me : I'm going to the big tree ,
by the river

Bonko : were you planning on
flying there ?

Me : no , run

He laughs

Bonko : you can't run in such a
beautiful dress

Throwing shade much

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Thobile

Me : what are they saying ?

Liza : I can't hear

Useless kids

I've been sending them near
the dinning room

So they can hear what they're
talking about in there

But they come back without
even a single thing

Me : and Ngwedi ?

Ayize : we didn't go in the room
, we didn't see who's in there

I sigh

This is not helping me at all

And I just wanted to hear
what's going on

To have the whole royal family
here

Why are they here ?

Surely Ngwedi can't be that
special

Like what does she have ?

And she is wearing one
beautiful dress today

I don't even know where she
got it from

It's clear something huge is
happening

We're just not being told what

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Ngwedi

I walk out , and he's outside the
gate

Leaning by his car

I know his car now

There's also Bonko's car

And the royal car

That's many cars

I walk over to him , and he lifts
his head

The sight of relief graces his
face

I smile shyly looking down

Dingiswayo : mkami (my wife)

Hearing these words this time
around

They strike a different feeling

I stand in front of him

He opens his arms

I just lean over and sink on his
chest . As he hugs me tight

I didn't even take much time by
the tree

Sefate wasn't in my mood

And well , that tree wasn't
pleased with me

That I left what's happening
here , and went over to her

But I'm at peace now

And I'm content

MaJoy killed me when she said ,
she thought I will run away and
never come back again

And that she would be left
embarrassed in the eyes of the
royal family

Dingi : are you okay ?

I place my hands on his waist ,
hugging him

Me : I am sorry

He takes a deep breath

Dingi : it's okay , we'll talk about
this . It doesn't change anything
. I understand your reaction

I close my eyes , just loving
being in his embrace

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INSERT 18

Dingiswayo

Me : you almost gave me a
heart attack

She smiles as I hold her hand

Ngwedi : I ...I wanted to go
somewhere , the chief offered
to accompanied me

I look deep into her eyes

And I can't figure out what's
going on with me

Would I be mad to say Ngwedi
is not normal ?

Like not your human being
possibly normal

Like she carries some powers
that are not of this world

What if she takes offence if I ask
her that ?

Me : so ?

Ngwedi : I said yes , they're
done

I smile

Bonko couldn't wait to tell me ,
that she's back and she agreed
to marry me

And that everything went well

Soon after she came out

Me : I love you so much , thank
you for being my wife

She smiles

Ngwedi : I don't know why you chose me , but I hope this is with pure intentions . And it's not out of pity

I grin

Me : allow me to show you , rather than just to tell you

I lean over giving her a kiss that
she returns

After a few minutes I pull out

Me : you're beautiful

This dress fits her like a glove

It's like it was tailored on her

Me : let's go , before they think
I'm doing nasty things with you

She laughs

We walk inside the yard

I take her hand and we walk
inside the house going to the
dinning room

I sit down on the chair

And she sits down next to me
down on the floor

Dad : everything went well ,
we're thankful to you MaJoy for
opening your home to us

MaJoy : I just hope , this is the
beginning of good things only
for this child

Mom : she's our queen now ,
you can be rest assured that she
will not cry of anything . But as
you know , no marriage is
perfect

MaJoy : I know Ngwedi ,
knowing her if she doesn't
change she will not disappoint
me one bit

I look at my mother as she
smiles

Mom : we would like to take her
, tomorrow we will welcome
her at the palace as the queen .
We just ask for this night , so we
finish preparations with the
seer

MaJoy : I'm sure she will not
have a problem with that , after
all it's just one night

Dad : this seals all , about our
good relations

At some point I thought this
won't happen

Especially when I couldn't find
her and Bonko

But coming back there , I just
felt a presence on her

One that's not of human nature

I feel like there's just more to
her

With time , hopefully she will
open up and be honest with me
. And tell me what's this all
about

I get now we don't know each
other that well

I hope she doesn't freak out ,
when she learns about me as
well

The way it was so overwhelming

I don't think Vula would be able
to penetrate , whatever this
power is

But we will see to it

And Bonko had nothing to tell
me

Just that he took her to some
tree by the veld

That doesn't make sense at all

Why would she go to a tree ?

He said he stood afar , so he has
no idea what she was doing
there

Or why she wanted to go there

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Ngwedi

Me : I can't believe this

Sefate : you better believe it

After the royal family left , I
came to see her

I just had to

Sefate : I told you

Me : you never told me this
Sefate

Sefate : it's just destiny and fate
child

Me : couldn't you just tell me ,
without any riddles ?

Sefate : now things will unravel
themselves

Me : what things ?

Sefate : answers to questions
that you have

She might as well not be saying
anything

Just giving me more questions

Me : I am scared of him

The leaves shake , leaving a
breeze

If I didn't know better I would say she's laughing mocking me

Me : I always feel strange when I'm with him , I don't think he's a normal human being . I feel like there's something powerful about him , I'm fearful

Sefate : you cannot fear what you don't know

Me : it's hard not to , because I don't know what kind of demons I'll be dealing with

Sefate : dear child , it's anything but demons

I heave a sigh

Me : I'm going to the palace tomorrow to be welcomed

Sefate : our time hasn't come to an end , just know I'm with you wherever you go

Me : can I still come and see you ?

Sefate : I am here always

I feel a sense of peace

I can't believe I let a tree
convince me to agree to marry
Dingiswayo

I don't even remember how
that conversation went like

Because I was just scared

And I couldn't believe he really
was there to marry me

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Thobile

MaJoy : tomorrow Ngwedi is
leaving

Finally !

Some good news

She will be out of here

And never to return ever again

Ayize : where is she going ?

This girl annoys me

It's her love for Ngwedi that
gets to me

You'll swear they're related
somehow

MaJoy : to the palace

There's gasps around

Ngwedi : don't worry , I'll still
come visit you . It's not like I'm
going far away

Me : come on , palace duties
are a lot . Surely you won't have
time for that , but it's okay .
We'll miss you , and the kids will

understand that you're working
hard for your place to stay

MaJoy : Ngwedi is not going to
the palace to be a maid , but
she's married to the king . She's
going to be the queen

No ways !.

Like no it can't be

How can she have such an important status ?

A whole queen !

An orphan of a commoner !

This is just insane

Noise just erupt , it's cheers and the kids are just joyful

Ayize hugs Ngwedi so tight

I look at them , like I'm just out
of place

The king cannot marry a
commoner that's not even of
this land

This can't be !

MaJoy : Thobile are you okay ?

I hear that from very far

I close my eyes as my chest
closes on me

And I can't breathe

My eyes are all blurry

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INSERT 19

Ngwedi

Poor MaJoy is so stressed

Like she had to get Thobile to
the hospital

This late

You cannot miss the worry
that's on her face

MaJoy : I don't understand why she would just faint , just like that

I actually want to laugh

But I know this is not a laughing matter

But then again , like really ?

She hears I'm married to the
king

And then she faints

I am not stupid

She just didn't believe what her
ears heard

At least she did not die

So it's nothing to cry ourselves
about honestly

Me : the doctor said he's
putting her on a drip ,
tomorrow morning she will be
discharged

MaJoy : my child , you don't
need this . Tomorrow you have
to be taken to the palace , I
can't be in two places

She really doesn't need to stay here and watch Thobile

Me : Thobile is going to be fine , and you cannot sleep on a hospital bench MaJoy

MaJoy : it's a walk back home , it's late now . We were just lucky , to have Mnguni bring her here for us

We could have just splashed her
with cold water

She was going to wake up

There was no need for the
hospital really

Me : I can't have you sleeping
on the bench , your back will be
painful come morning ...

I'm startled by the vibration in
my pocket

Me : let me get some water

I get up walking away from her

I take out my phone and answer

Me : Mtimande

Dingi : Iwhere are you ? I am heading beeping sounds

Me : at the hospital ?

Dingi : are you okay ?

Me : yes I'm okay , it's Thobile she fainted and they're keeping her for the night

He sighs

Dingi : you can't be at the hospital this late

Me : I'm with MaJoy , she doesn't want to leave

Dingi : you're not sleeping at the hospital , Bonko is coming

Just like that , he drops the call

And I'm just left stunned

What will I say to MaJoy ?

Like how am I going to explain
the chief , coming to fetch us ?

This woman doesn't know I
have a phone

Now the chief is coming to pick
us up

It'll be like how did he know
we're here

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Dingiswayo

It's this day

Finally it has arrived , and my
wife is coming home

The ceremony is underway

My mother has gone to fetch
her with a few maidens

The palace is full of villagers

And the royal guests invited

I'm with Nomvula in her hut

She's preparing for the
welcoming of the queen

Vula : we will go to the river upon her arrival , to ensure her safety in the palace . And make sure the ancestors welcome her

Is she crazy ?

What if that river swallows her , and she never comes back ?

I mean , that's possible

And it wouldn't be the first time

I will not lose my wife to those
nasty crocodile ancestors

Me : what if she doesn't come
back there ?

Vula : doubting your decisions
to make her queen ?

Me : don't be silly , of course
not

Vula : your mother went there ,
she was fine

Me : my mother is a shield , she
has powers . And she was
carrying me when she went
there , obviously they were not
going to take one of their own

Vula : are you saying she survived because of you ?

I shrug

Me : I mean

She laughs

Vula : if you think your wife possesses no power , then I don't know

Me : what is she ?

She darts her eyes away from
me

Vula : the queen will be
prepared a chamber that she
will occupy as her own , just
until the full moon . And you
cannot ...

Me : I asked you a question
Nomvula , what is she ?

She keeps quite

I heave a sigh

Why can't she just tell me the
truth ?

Cause clearly she knows
something

Me : why can't she use my
chamber ?

Just when I thought I will get an
answer

She ignores me

And goes on to speak of
something else

Vula : you will not be intimate
with her , until the full moon

Me : when is that ?

Vula : this is not your normal full
moon , it will only grace
Ngwenya land . And only she
will know it

What the hell ?

Me : you're my seer , but you're keeping things from me . Why can't you just be forthcoming ?

She sighs

Vula : I cannot speak of things I know nothing of

This talk is not giving anything to me

Me : what if the so called moon takes a whole year ? I will not touch my wife for a year , and we'll be living separate ?

Vula : you can handle it

Does she have the slightest idea of what that girls touch does to me ?

Nomvula is playing with fire

Me : what will happen if

Vula : make sure it does not happen

Me : hypothetically speaking

Vula : we deal with speaks of now , let's not even go there . It cannot happen , and you will stay away from the queen

That's crazy !

That moon better come

The ululations outside get our
attention

Vula : she's here

And she gets up grabbing her
ancestral bag

Along with her cloth and she
walks out

Standing at the door she looks
at me

I chuckle getting up

Me : I won't steal anything , you
know you can leave me in here

Vula : never

I shake my head

As we walk towards the gate ,
where there's singing and
everyone is at

I was just worried with what
happened last night

That she wasn't home

But was very much relieved ,
after Bonko fetched them

And they were home

And I spoke to Ngwedi before
bed

This morning I had one of the
royal drivers fetch that girl
there

Just so MaJoy can see Ngwedi
off

And be here for this

It's really not an emergency
when someone faints

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INSERT 20

Dingiswayo

Me : my wife better not be
taken

She gives me an annoyed look
and walks towards the river

I chuckle shaking my head

Mom : what's it with you and
Nomvula ?

I shrug

Me : I don't know

Mom : you know at some point
, I thought you'll get married to
her

I choke on my spit coughing

Like what the fuck !

Me : she's old , she literally
grew up with you

Mom : yes , and love is love . It
actually doesn't choose

Me : well I choose

She smiles

Like there's nothing amusing
about what she just said

Damn !

I don't even look at Nomvula
like that

Like not even once

My mother is too much though

Why would she even think such
?

But right now I won't ask her

I don't even want to know ,
what caused her to think such
things

It's just disturbing

I wish she never told me , these
thoughts of hers

And I hope I never even think
about this

Nor look at Vula funny now

I clear my throat , shaking my
head

Just gathering myself

Ngwedi was welcomed at the
palace

And we're now at the Ngwenya
river

From here , we can go on and
celebrate our day

Where the people will meet
their queen officially

Traditionally this has been done

I need to secure a date with
home affairs

From there she can tell me
where to

Nomvula smears her with the
crocodile oil

And we're just a bit afar from
them

I'm holding my tongue

I want my wife out of there

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Thobile

Even MaJoy couldn't stay with
me

She left me at the hospital

Just so she can go to the palace

And a royal driver fetched me

Only to drop me at the
orphanage

I feel like I'm in a very bad
dream

Well more like a nightmare

How did this even happen ?

Not only is Ngwedi dating the king , but she's queen now

Already negotiations are done

She's gone to the palace

Now it would make sense why MaJoy always favoured her

She knew about this

Maybe she actually planned it

And just orchestrated
everything , just for Ngwedi to
be set in life

And that's why she never said
anything

Or confronted Ngwedi , when
we told her about the men she
was with

She knew

That damn cruel old woman

She's just a hypocrite

Whatever did Ngwedi do to
deserve such ?

She's special with nothing

I wipe the tear that drops down
my cheek

I don't know what's hurting me
here

The fact that I was denied a
chance at the reed dance

Or the fact that Ngwedi is
married to the king

And she's now queen

Worse , I slaved night and
morning

And it was all for her

If only had I known

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Ngwedi

Queen Mother : this will be
your chamber , the seer said
you cannot be with the king in
one chamber for the time being

I just nod with a smile

She's a nice woman

She's just been nice to me ever
since I got here

She wanted to be at the river ,
when I was being taken there

I didn't mind Dingiswayo
coming as well

He's just a dramatic man

Now she was helping me
change

I'm in the royal regalia

A dress she said was hers ,
when she married the king

And was crowned queen

I really feel honoured

The feelings surpasses that of a
new dress

A knock comes at the door

I'm a bit nervous about going
out there

The palace is full

You'll swear , this was planned
months ago

She goes on to open the door ,
peeking through

Queen Mother : you just
couldn't wait , could you

He chuckles

And she moves out of the way
for him

We lock eyes as he walks in

And there's that reaction in his eyes , that tells me he's very much content

And well , it puts me at ease

Queen Mother : I will leave you two , don't keep her for long in here . Her people are waiting

She walks out , and he closes
the door

He walks over to me

Dingi : damn , I chose well

He side smiles , I look down just
getting overwhelmed by
emotions

Dingi : my queen

He stands in front of me ,
placing his hand on my waist

He tilts my chin , and I look at
him

Dingi : I love you

I want to be so angry at him

That he didn't tell me about this

He didn't even hint

But , I just can't

I can't be angry at him

Just one look at him , and all
that anger is gone

Dingi : I was so scared for you

I'm sure he was

Me : it wasn't scary

He raises his brow

Dingi : mhm ?

Me : all I saw , was just a bright
round light like that of a full
moon . A white one

Dingi : underwater ?

I nod

Dingi : well , I see

He leans over

Dingi : what's it with you and
moons ?

This is not just some rhetorical question

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INSERT 21

Ngwedi

Unfortunately , I don't have that
answer for him

Dingi : it's okay

His cold lips graces mine

There's a taste from him , that I
cannot distinguish it's of what

It's like he was drinking
something

But the way I just melt at this
man's touch

I give in to the kiss

After a few minutes he pulls out

Dingi : I'm sorry , I had a glass of whiskey

Who drinks alcohol , and goes on to kiss someone ?

Me : you should have said before you kissed me

Dingi : I couldn't help myself

Yeah right !

He laughs

Dingi : are you ready to meet
your people ?

No

But that won't help with
nothing

It's not like he will say , okay
don't go then

I just nod

Dingi : it's okay , I'm here . And
I'll be there with you
throughout the whole time

They are his people

And he knows them

Easy for him to say

I barely even know one single
person from the village

Except people we're with at the
orphanage

Which is the kids by the way

I don't know if that counts

He takes my hand and we walk
out

My heart is beating so fast

I hope I don't become Thobile
and faint

Silly me !

That's no joke

As we approach the people

All eyes are on us

More like stares

And I sweat like crazy , my
throat goes dry

I feel like running away

Dingi : we got this

I look at him

And he stops walking , looking
at me

Dingi : calm down , let's take
deep breaths

Tears burn my eyes

Dingi : just breathe in , and
breathe out

I follow his lead

After a few minutes , he hugs
me tight

Dingi : it's okay

I don't know what I did to
deserve such

Like me

A whole orphan , who doesn't
even know who she is

Now a queen to a kingdom

A wife to a king

Like , what kind of elevation is this ?

When just a few days ago , I was almost homeless

Its just my emotions getting the better of me

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Dingiswayo

I thought she was going to have
an episode

In front of the people

But I didn't care about them

Or any of that

My worry was just her

Her being okay , was just more important . More than anything , or the people's reaction

But I knew if something happened

She would have a hard time moving away from it

But all is well

Bonko : she's handling herself
like the queen that she is

Me : yeah she is

I look at her

She's holding one of the palace
helpers kid

The child is still a baby

Just maybe over a year

Me : she will make a great mother one day , and she will definitely give me beautiful kids

Bonko laughs

Bonko : whatever she fed you , I don't want it

This idiot !

Me : I want her to be happy

Bonko : she's happy man , just
look at her

I hope she's really happy

And not just putting face for
everyone here

This day is all about her

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Ngwedi

MaJoy : it was a beautiful day

She's leaving now

And I'm a bit sad

Reality is sinking in

This is my home now

No more MaJoy or the kids

Those people were my family

The only family I ever knew

But now , I'm someone's wife

And a daughter in-law

There's people now that I have
to get know

And create new relations

Me : thank you for everything ,
and being here

MaJoy : this is not goodbye

I hope once in a while , I can be able to go see them

I hope it will not be a problem to anyone

MaJoy : I just want you to promise me that , you will not lose yourself . That you'll still hold yourself in high regard , without being disrespectful to anyone

Me : you raised me well , if no
one ever told you that . I will
not disappoint you , I swear . I
will make you proud

I wipe my tears

MaJoy : the people of this land ,
are truly blessed . And they
have gained a gem of a queen

Now she's just hyping me , I
don't even know for what

Because I'm who I am because
of her

Because of the parent she
became to me

Her teaching and values will
forever remain with me

I will not lose my morals

Because I know who this
woman raised me to be

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Dingiswayo

Me : are you tired ?

She looks at me and nods

I chuckle

Me : come

I hold my hand out

And she takes it

We walk over to her chamber

I so hate this set up

But I'm guessing there's
something about why

Nomvula would have never said
what she said

If it meant nothing

But that moon better come
soon

We walk in her chamber

And I close the door , making
sure I lock

Ngwedi : queen mother said ,
this is my chamber . You cannot
sleep in here

I smile

Me : there's no such , what's mine is yours . And they won't even know I slept in here , so let's not go there

She smiles

Ngwedi : no , you're not sleeping in here . For whatever reason your seer , spoke against it . You're not sleeping in here , and that's that

Damn Nomvula and her full
moon

Me : yes I won't , I just want us
to talk

I lead her to the bed

She sits down , I crouch down
taking her shoes off

And I lift her legs up , sitting on
the bed

I massage her feet

Me : I would like for us to sign ,
and be legally married . Not
denying you a white wedding if
you need it

Ngwedi : I don't

Me : you don't ?

Ngwedi : there's no need to waste money on such things

Me : it's not waste , and you really don't have to worry yourself about money

Ngwedi : do you want it ?

Me : I want what you want

She shakes her head

I'm guessing she doesn't want it

Hopefully , it's just for now.

As time goes on , she will want
it

Me : so we can go ahead , and
sign legally ?

Ngwedi : yes

She says with a nod

I better get that date as soon as possible

She cannot be here , and not be using my surname while she's queen

Me : so can I visit in your chamber ?

I ask with a smile

Hopefully that gets her to just agree

Ngwedi : visit for what ?

I chuckle

Me : to spend time with you ,
apparently I'm not supposed to
eat the coochie before ...

And she laughs

Me : it's not funny

She laughs until tears stream
down her cheeks

Me : like really ?

I lean over kissing her tears off
her cheeks

This is sad for me

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INSERT 22

Dingiswayo

I lean over kissing her tears , off
her cheeks

She smiles , looking into my
eyes

Me : no one even saw me I'm in
here , I can leave early in the
morning

I'm trying to plead my case

She's done laughing at me

Ngwedi : why do you want to take such risks ?

Me : I just want you in my arms , I respect what's been said .
And it's not like I'll try anything , I won't go anywhere near the coochie

Okay !

That's a slight lie

She slightly laughs

Me : I'll come in here , cuddle
you and give you kisses in
between . Until you fall asleep ,
then I'll leave

Ngwedi : I shouldn't even be
listening to you right now ,
considering what you did

Mhm !

What did I do ?

I need to figure that one out

I cannot ask her , because she
might just act out

Because I don't know what I did

Me : I am sorry

I put her legs on my thighs ,
leaning over

I cup her face and we lock eyes

Ngwedi : marriage is a big step ,
of which I don't think I'm
prepared for . And not only am I
married to you , but you're the
king . There's your kingdom and
your people

She shakes her head a bit ,
dropping her eyes

Me : I am sorry , I really am . All
I just never wanted , was you
leaving the orphanage . And
leaving me , when I've just
found you . I could have gotten
you your own place , but you
didn't want that . And I know
this makes me look somehow ,
along with our marriage . But

either way , I was still going to
marry you . It's you , just you
and no one else . And if I could
do it again , I would

She leans over , burying her
face on my neck

I heave a sigh of relief

Okay !

There's some making up to do
here

Guess I should be glad she's
even talking to me

With the way she's feeling

Me : I love you

I kiss her cheek

Me : I love you so much

I close my eyes inhaling her
sweet scent

I move back laying down , still
with her in my arms

I cuddle her up on top of mine

Placing a kiss on her forehead

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Thobile

I slept , but barely got some sleep

I even heard MaJoy when she came back

I went to Liza's room , and Ngwedi's things are not in there

I guess she's really gone

Me : since Ngwedi is gone , can Liza move into my room . And I take that room

MaJoy : why ?

Me : I'm the eldest now , I need my space . And I don't have to share with anyone , since that room is bigger

MaJoy : here we share , there's no such thing as having your own space . Ngwedi shared , until she left . She never asked for space

Me : don't compare me to her , at my age I'm still not running after men like she is

She looks at me

MaJoy : Ngwedi is not running
after any men , she's married
and she's the queen

Mxm !

As if that makes her any better
than us

She's still an orphan like the rest
of us

Me : well , surely you got money from the royal family . It can build more rooms

She laughs , mocking me

MaJoy : that's Ngwedi's money

Me : you raised her , now she's gone and married into the royal family . She will have more

money , her dowry should come
to you

MaJoy : go make breakfast , and
wake up the kids . And stop
talking about things you know
nothing about

She gets up with her cup of
coffee and walks out

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Ngwedi

This man wants me kicked out
of here

For just not being obedient

He did leave to go to his
chamber

Only just after midnight

It's morning now

And he came back knocking

I let him in

He cuddled me up , we slept

I don't get why he hasn't left as
of yet

Because he's awake now

I move his arm off me

He brings it back

And holds me tight

Me : I don't know about you ,
but I need to wake up

Dingi : it's not even 07:00 yet

Me : I cannot wake up at that time

Dingi : mhm , you're the queen here . There's maidens around the palace , they do everything . You don't need to wake up this early , like you have to go make tea for everyone . That would never happen

I turn slowly and look at him

He opens his eyes , and let's out
a smile

Dingi : just a few minutes , and
I'll leave

Me : can we just listen ?

Dingi : mhm ...

He leans over giving me a kiss

He turns over , getting on top of me

Me : Mtimande

Dingi : I won't do anything

This just feels somehow

I don't even think we should be in this position

He deepens the kiss , parting
my legs with his knee

He goes on to trail down to my
neck

Planting wet kisses , sucking
hard on my neck

I press my lips harder

Trying to suppress my moans ,
but it's so hard . As I'm feeling
some foreign pleasure

He cups my boobs with both his
hands , rubbing on my nipples

I get an urge to press my thighs
together

But I can't , because he's in
between my thighs

And at that thought , he raises
my knee up

As he goes on trailing down

I lift my head a bit and look at
him

Dingi : trust me , I won't do
anything I'm not supposed to
do

I don't know what to say , but
I'm scared right now

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INSERT 23

Dingiswayo

I hope the gods do not strike
me for this

Honestly , I don't get this whole concept

But I do plan to honour it

I just hope it doesn't apply to this

Because if it does , then I will die before that moon comes

I lift up her night dress

She holds my wrist

I lean down my face in between
her thighs

And pull down her panty with
my teeth

She gasps , and holds on to the
back of my head

Ngwedi : Mtimande

Me : mkami (my wife) , please
trust me

There's just great fear in her
eyes

Me : it's okay

I'm failing dismally at convincing
her otherwise

I drop my eyes from hers and
lean down

Planting a few kisses on her
coochie

I slide down my tongue

Parting her coochie lips

Ngwedi : mhmm ...

I grab on her thighs , pulling my
tongue up

Nibbling on her clit

I feel it as it throbs against my
tongue

Me : fuck !

I suck hard on her clit

As she grabs tight on my head

Slightly pulling on my
dreadlocks

I grab her one thigh tightly

Pressing it against my cheek

As I bury myself deeper in
between her thighs

Lowering my tongue to her
open

I nibble through , slightly
pushing my tongue to her open

Moving my one hand slowly to
her clit

I press hard with my thumb on
her clit

Rubbing on it

And she lets out screams with
moans of pleasure

Pressing her thighs together

Ngwedi : Mtimandewait
....please ...just wait ..

She pushes me off

I lift my head up

And she presses her thighs
together

Crossing her legs over

I watch in administration as she
pours out her juices

I don't even think she's aware
of what she's just done

She wanted to cum , she
couldn't hold it in

And I was just delaying her

The pressure was just too much

She couldn't take it

First instinct kicked in

And she threw herself off

I chuckle parting her legs up

Grabbing both her thighs

I lean down , sliding my tongue
down her open

I clean up her cum with my
tongue

As her moans slowly fades

Me : ngiyak'thanda mkami (I
love you my wife)

She shyly smiles

And closes her eyes

I chuckle , moving up

I pull her closer laying down

Placing a kiss on her forehead

This right here , is the best
decision I've ever made in my
life

It feels like I've known her for a
lifetime

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Thobile

Honestly , I should be happy

Ngwedi is gone

That's something I've been
wanting

But now , I can't even rejoice

Because she's busy gracing the
palace grounds

She probably woke up like a
queen today

With all kinds of treats and
whatnot

Just royal treatment

With maidens running behind
her ass

Like grovelling , to anything and
everything she says

Why couldn't that be me ?

Lord !

I hate that child

She just gets to have everything

Even here , everyone just loved
Ngwedi

And they couldn't stop talking
about her this morning

It was just depressing , and
most definitely annoying

MaJoy : you still haven't
touched your food ?

I put the spoon down

MaJoy : we cannot be wasting
food

Me : Ngwedi's dowry is here , so
we

MaJoy : THOBILE !

Oh my word !

I have never , like ever heard
MaJoy shout or raise her voice
before

Like ever !

My heart is beating so fast
against my chest

Me : I

MaJoy : not another word from you ! Do not try me little girl , you've grown a mouth . If you're not pleased nor content with what we have here , by all means go where you will be pleased and content .

Remember you're not a prisoner here , so please ! I will not take your back chatting and disrespect , I don't need this . I

have kids who need me well , so
I can take care of them . If you
want me dead of stress , at least
have a heart and think of them

She grabs the cup from the
counter and walks out

I'm so shaken to a point I'm
even scared to get up

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Dingiswayo

Mom : where is the queen ?

I clear my throat , Bonko
chuckles

Me : fatigue queen mother ,
she's tired

Mom : oh okay , she can get rest . The people had brought gifts for her , but it's okay . She can see them some other time

Me : I will let her know , when she wakes . She actually wanted to come , but I saw she was tired . And I insisted that she sleeps

Mom : I'll have Thuli , take her some food

Me : queen mother , I would rather I see to it . Until the queen has a maiden , that will see to her needs

She smiles

Mom : I'm impressed

Damn right ! She is

We cannot just trust anyone to
serve the queen

They would be jealous of my
wife

And anyone is capable of even
hurting her

I can't take chances

Mom : let me go

Me : go well

Bonko heads over with her to
her car

And I turn walking to Nomvula's
hut

I need to tell on myself , before
she even confronts me about it

And see if I'm still on the safe side or what

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INSERT 24

Dingiswayo

Me : uhm sothis moon
business

Vula : I meant what I said

She puts down the herbs she's holding

Vula : we listen to the gods and ancestors , we cannot disobey them at any point . Or go on to do as we please , to test just brutal they can be

Me : I know that

Vula : no matter what they say ,
wether we like it or not

Me : yeah , I get that ...

Vula : it doesn't matter if it
doesn't make sense to you , it
doesn't need to . Just don't call
the wrath of forces we don't
know , on ourselves . This
kingdom hasn't suffered any

war , in your father's ruling .
Please , let's leave it at that

Me : intimacy comes in many
ways

She frowns

Okay !

This is not my age mate

And she's definitely not
interested in hearing anything
about this

But I don't think satisfying my
wife

In other ways and means

Without any penetration is
wrong

That would just be more insane

Me : we're not mourning are
we ?

Vula : no

Great !

I guess I will leave it at this

And we will see

Me : okay , thank you for your
time

I get up

She looks at me

Vula : you're not that rebellious
child anymore , so please

I chuckle

Vula : and I know you know
better now

Me : that'swhat a
compliment

Vula : not really , just don't
provoke mother nature and
sleeping creatures . The
heavens are one thing , not to
be messed with

The heavenslike what ?

This just keeps getting
confusing , every single day

Me : what heavens ?

Vula : what other are there ?

Me : what does my wife have to
do with that ?

She shrugs

I heave a sigh

No matter what I want to say

I know her loyalties lies with this
kingdom , and this throne

I just don't get , why she can't
speak truthfully

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Ngwedi

Me : thank you

He takes the tray and smiles
getting off the bed

I don't know why he's catering
for me this much

For someone we're not
supposed to be sharing a
chamber

He's in here quite a lot

He puts the tray on the small
table

And walks back to bed

He takes my hand into his

Dingi : you rested well ?

I nod

Dingi : look at me

I can't lock eyes

I'm just reminiscing about what
happened earlier on

He did things to me

Things I have no idea what they
were

And well , it felt so good

As strange as it was

I don't want to lie

I mean , how do people put
their tongues into other
people's private parts ?

That was just awkward

But I loved

And enjoyed it so much

If I was brave enough

I would ask him , if we can do it
again

But I've been sleeping since
morning

If no one is talking about my
laziness here

It would be a miracle

First night here

And by this time , I haven't
woken up

He tilts my chin

I look at him slowly

And the shyness is just too
much

He smiles

Dingi : Nomvula said , we cannot be intimate . Apparently we have to wait for the full moon , and only you'll know when it has come . I don't know when that will be , I'm willing to wait until then . But it still doesn't mean , I shouldn't please you

He pecks my lips

Dingi : I love you so much

He leans over , pulling me
towards him

Placing my head on his chest

He runs his hand on my back

Dingi : I got a date for Thursday
, for us to sign legally at home
affairs

I nod against his chest

Dingi : you'll have to change
your surname to mine

I pull back slowly

Getting out of his embrace

Dingi : whatyou don't want
to change your surname ?

Me : I

I clear my throat

Me : I need to wake up , I can't
be cooped up in here all day

Dingi : no , we're talking . Why
are you avoiding me ?

I keep quite

He heaves a sigh

I just hope he's not getting
frustrated

I don't think that's the way to
start a marriage

Dingi : mkami (my wife)

I look at him

Dingi : what's wrong now ? Did I maybe offend you with my words ? I mean ...if you don't want to change your surname , you can use them both . I don't mind , just as long as Ngwenya will be there as well

I swallow hard

Not knowing what to say

Dingi : okayyou will figure
this out , and tell me what's
what

He gets up and just looks at me

Me : I'm sorry ..

That comes out as a whisper

With a lump stuck on my throat

Dingi : I don't need my wife
apologising , without a reason .
We were talking , and you
blacked out on me . Like I said
something wrong

He leans over , and kisses my
forehead

I close my eyes momentarily

And he move back , I look at
him as he walks out

I lay back down , just feeling
overwhelmed

I feel like walls are crushing on
me right now

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Dingiswayo

Me : I just had a very strange conversation with my wife , right after having one with Nomvula

Dad : what ?

Me : you know Vula said we can't be in one chamber , and that means celibacy ...

My father laughs

Me : come on !

Dad : you will survive

Me : yeah , barely . But that's
not the thing

Dad : then what ?

Me : Vula said something about not messing with heavens , when I asked her what will happenyou know if we just do it and the moon doesn't come

Dad : you know better than to mess with forces

Me : yeah , but I did not understand what she means when she says heavens

Dad : I've never heard of that ,
honestly there's all kinds of us
in this world . People of forces ,
and just great power . You know
your uncle , from their lineage
they turn into beasts . Your
mother hails from mountain
people , who are shields . We're
that of water , one with the
water crocodiles . There's more
of these things , and it's just a
belief with me . As much as

there's witches and all , I
believe there's also angels

I laugh

Me : what ?

Dad : hey , we all believe in
what we believe in

Me : you cannot , like be saying
what I'm thinking you're saying

He just shakes his head

No ways !

My head will burst if I pound on
this

I left my palace coming to his

Just so we can talk

But he's just not being very
much helpful right now

Me : I don't think Ngwedi wants
to change her surname to
Ngwenya

Dad : that's the strange
conversation ?

I nod

Me : she somehow just closed off on me , when I mentioned that . On Thursday , we got a date to sign legally . But it doesn't seem like she's keen on changing it , not even when I suggested that she can use both

Dad : maybe there's a reason why , she's an orphan after all . So maybe she wants to keep , what she has from her parents

Me : I get that , but I think there's just more to this

He chuckles

Dad : you just always have to be suspicious of everything

Me : I'm not , but this is not normal . She could have just communicated that

Dad : maybe she doesn't want
to offend you

I don't get this .

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INSERT 25

Ngwedi

Since he left my chamber

And he was just nowhere to be
found

Not even around the palace
grounds

I feel like I offended him
somehow

I am failing dismally at this
communication thing

So early in my marriage

I am just ashamed

And I don't want to be judged

Especially for something I did
not call upon myself

And I've been looking for him all
day

He's still not back even now

Me : my chief

He looks at me and smiles

Bonko : my queen

Me : uhm ... I'm sorry to bother
, but have you seen the king ?

I even feel embarrassed to ask
him this

That's my husband

I should be knowing his
whereabouts

But here I am asking people ,
his chief even

Bonko : he's down by his
father's

Oh , that's some relief

But like , for the whole day he's
been there

Me : okay , thank you

I did not even try to call him

I leave Bonko and head over to
my chamber

I did not even eat dinner

There was no way , I was eating
without him around

I guess I'm sleeping with an
empty stomach

I get to my chamber

And lock the door

I'm just feeling down today

Maybe it's because I feel like
this is somehow our first
disagreement

Even though it wasn't one per
se

I take my clothes off , and head
over to the shower

My mind feels somewhat a bit
distant

I'm just wondering if he will
come back home

Maybe not

I walk out , before I even
shower

Just feeling a migraine creeping
in

I wrap a towel on myself

And head over to the closet

The one with my clothes

I open the small bag , and take
out my snuff

I still have enough , from when I
went to grind on Sefate

I sit down by the window ,
taking a smoke

Hopefully no one catches me
here

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Dingiswayo

Bonko : don't ever put me in
such a position , I don't ever

want to find myself lying to the queen . And making it a habit

Me : youwell technically ,
you did not lie

Bonko : I did , you were at your
father's . And that was a long
time ago

Me : what my wife doesn't
know , won't hurt her Bonko

Bonko : come on ! She didn't
look okay

I heave a sigh

Just feeling like a piece of shit

Me : I'll see you tomorrow

Bonko : alright

He gets into his car and drives
off

He lives off the palace

Even though he spends his days
around here

I head over to her chamber

I knock at the door

She doesn't answer

But the light is still on

I doubt she's asleep

And it hasn't been long , since
Bonko said they talked

I knock again , just as the door
opens

I look into her eyes , and they're
bloodshot red

Me : I am sorry

I can't help but feel like shit

I left , so she must be feeling
somehow

I push her back in slowly , and
close the door

Me : I just didn't want us to argue , I didn't want to upset or hurt you . Please forgive me

Ngwedi : it's okay

And there it is again

I pull back , placing my hands on her shoulders

Me : your nose is blocked ,
because you were crying or ?

Ngwedi : I wasn't crying

Me : your eyes are red

Ngwedi : it'sit's not that

Me : then ?

She drops her eyes

I don't know , but talking in this marriage just seems like a hassle

I take her hand and we walk to the bed

She's wrapped in a towel

Looks like she was planning on taking a shower

Me : me and you , we barely even know each other that well I can admit that . But we're here now , and this is the time we should be using for that . Not shutting each other out , there are things we ought to know about each other . But we will never get to that point , especially if we don't communicate with each other . I don't know , maybe I'm

coming too hard . To such an extent , that you feel overwhelmed . But if that's the case , then please tell me .

Because getting nothing while I'm talking to you , just feels like I'm annoying you . When all I just want , is transparency between us . You won't like it , hearing or finding things about me from other people or by yourself . When I could have just told you myself , and saved

us a lot of things occurring . Like
having secrets between us

Ngwedi : I am sorry

Me : I don't want sorry mkami
(my wife)

I pick her hand , placing a kiss
on the back of it

Me : I need us to communicate

Ngwedi : I wasn't crying , I was

...

She frowns and gets up

I heave a sigh , rubbing my chin

Me : if you don't want to talk , I
will leave you to be in your
space it's fine

She reaches under the blue and white cloth on her pillow

And comes out with a small container , that looks like it contains pills

That gets to me

I hope she's not sick

Me : are you sick ?

Ngwedi : depends on how you view it

She opens it , and you cannot miss the smell of whatever it's containing

Ngwedi : I used to get a lot of terrible migraines growing up , at one point they landed me in hospital . But the doctors told

MaJoy , nothing was wrong with me . Because they couldn't see anything , it actually was just a daily thing of getting migraines . Until one day someone told me about this , it's almost just as snuffonly difference , is that I make this myself . It keeps away the headaches , and the voices in my head

Me : voices in your head ?

I take the container from her

And look inside , it sure does
look like snuff

I mean , I know snuff

Nomvula smokes it

Ngwedi : I used to hear a lot of
voices in my head , but doctors
couldn't diagnose me with any

medical illness . This was just
believed to be something ,
that's not western

Me : who told you this ?

She fiddles with her fingers

Ngwedi : I can't say , please ...

She sighs

Ngwedi : you'll just think I'm crazy indeed . But I swear that I am not crazy , just that it wasn't really a personperson

Me : do you have some sort of a gift ?

Ngwedi : I don't know ...maybe , but the again it'll go on to what you consider a gift that one can posses

This woman is a mini Nomvula
with her riddles

Me : so it makes you feel better
?

She nods

Ngwedi : yes

I nod slowly

Ngwedi : I was just worried ,
that you left the whole day

Me : I am sorry about that

Ngwedi : I was going to shower ,
but I got a headache

Me : okay , I am sorry

I hold her hand into mine

Me : It's all my fault

Ngwedi : I don't have a surname

I look at her with a frown

And the way she's looking down
, I know she's not kidding

I just look at her , with nothing
but shock of what she just said

She doesn't have a surname !

Like how is that even possible ?

Aren't babies called with their surnames , when they're born at the hospital ?

Like their small tags things

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INSERT 26

Ngwedi

I look at him

And I cannot read his reaction
at all

Is it shock , or what ?

Me : please say something

The silence is just killing me

I don't know what to say
anymore

I have no idea what he's
thinking

Or what's going on in his mind

It's just nerve wrecking

Me : I ...

I heave a sigh , as tears blurry
my eyes

Dingi : don't cry ...

He wipes my tear off with his
thumb

Dingi : explain to me , what you
mean

Me : whenwhen MaJoy got me from the hospital , I only had a name on a small tag . There was no surname on it but just a name , and there was no record whatsoever of the woman who gave birth to me . Or who she was , it was just a namegiven to me

I shake my head slowly

As more tears stream down my
face

Me : even my birth certificate ,
just has a name . I don't know
anything about myself , even
that I'm from Botswana MaJoy
was told by the nurses at the
hospital . They found out from
the woman , when she was
giving birth to me . But even
they failed to describe the
woman who gave birth to me ,

my identity is just a dead end .

There's

I sometimes just get so
frustrated thinking about all this

She should have just aborted
me

Instead of bringing me into this
world

And just leaving me

Me : I'm basically just a burden to anyone who cares about me , I come with nothing . I know nothing , and nothing around me or about me ever makes sense . It's just endless questions I have , that I don't even have answers for

I get off the bed

Me : I was honestly , better off alone . You don't deserve any of this , what's a wife who doesn't know who she even is ?

Dingi : do not take decisions for me

He gets up , and stands in front of me taking my hands into his

He smiles

Dingi : you can decide about anything , I'd gladly let you . But just not about being with you , I chose you . And I love you , and not you smoking snuff will make me walk away . Not you not having a surname , or not knowing your identity will make me feel somehow . If there was a way , that I can fix all of this just for you . I would do it in a

heart beat , I can flip this world upside down looking for that woman just for you . But I do not regret you at all , so please don't say I don't need all this

He pulls me closer , hugging me tightly against his chest

Dingi : I'm awkward in my own way , I can do and possess things normal people cannot do and not have . I can't help , but

think you might want to ditch
me when you find out . But the
love I have for you , it just gives
me bravery

I pull back and look into his eyes

Me : how gifted are you ?

He chuckles

At least I wasn't crazy

Thinking that he's definitely not
your normal human being

Dingi : let me go get you food ,
you take your shower . And I'll
come tuck you in , cuddle you
want the forehead kisses and
tell you all about it

He says with such a charming
smile

And leans over giving me a kiss

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Thobile

Oh my goodness

This man is all kinds of goodness

He has his dreadlocks down

You cannot miss his 5 o'clock
shadow

He's one chiselled man

I walk over to him , as he gets
out of his car

Me : my king

He looks at me and he has no
emotion whatsoever

Now that I'm closer to him

I'm scared !

I'm scared of him , and just his
statue

Me : uhm

I clear my throat

Not even knowing what to say

MaJoy walks out of the house

And the look she gives me

Is just enough to kill anyone

She walks over , and most
certainly she's not pleased

MaJoy : my king , please come
in

And he just walks past me

Following her in the house

Me : bloody old woman !

I follow behind them going
inside

And they're sitting in the
kitchen

Me : I

MaJoy : please leave us Thobile

King Dingiswayo : this is the fainting Thobile ?

What the hell ?

Did he just say , I'm the fainting Thobile ?

I frown as MaJoy smiles

MaJoy : the one and only

Mxm !

King Dingiswayo : I see

MaJoy : you can leave

Me : I'll make tea for the king ...

I look at him with a smile

Me : my king , how do you take
your tea ?

King Dingiswayo : I don't drink
tea

What !

MaJoy : Thobile !!

Me : fine !

I walk out , just annoyed out of
my life

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Dingiswayo

Me : MaJoy , I'm sorry to just
rock up in your house just like
this

MaJoy : is Ngwedi okay ?

I smile

Me : your child is fine

MaJoy : I am glad to hear that , I was worried seeing you here

Me : no , I am sorry . The thing is , I've talked with my wife . And she's revealed some things to me , things that came as a concern of some sort . And I wanted to talk to you , in hopes

that maybe you can help me . I
think you can help me

MaJoy : I will help however I can
help my king

Me : I believe , there's no
specific identify , of the woman
who gave birth to Ngwedi and
left her there at the hospital .
Where you were called , to
come and fetch the child

She heaves a sigh

MaJoy : it was like a mystery

Me : what about the nurses ,
how can they prepare someone
. Get her to give birth , yet they
can't even describe her out .

But they still remember certain
details , that she left with them
. Like she's from Botswana

MaJoy : oh my king

This woman is about to shock
me right now

I bet my last penny , that's not
what happened

She knows something , that no
one knows

Me : Ma please , I will be signing legally with my wife . She will carry my surname , but I cannot help and think she's bothered that she doesn't know where she's rooted

MaJoy : we might need that tea after all for this

She gets up , and puts the kettle on

I just keep quite and watch her
as she gets busy making the tea

You just can't miss how uneasy
she is right now

There's more to this , than she
ever let on

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INSERT 27

Dingiswayo

MaJoy : I was never
forthcoming , nor honest about
how Ngwedi came here

So she lied to me

Cause the first time I came here
, she gave me some story

And now she's clearly coming
with her shocking truth

Ngwedi was also told something else

MaJoy : see , there by the river banks there's a tree there . One night , I had a very disturbing dream of a woman under that tree . She was crying , and carrying a bloody small new born baby . Waking up from that dream , something very strange happened . The moon was very bright , although it

looked like the sun was rising .
And it was facing directly , by
the room I was in . I looked at it
, because it was very strange .
And I had never seen anything
like that before , I couldn't
understand whether I was still
dreaming or what . Out of
nowhere , there came a sweet
melodic voice , telling me to go
to the tree . It was middle of the
night , I was very scared . But
the more I kept hearing the

voice , my feet just wanted to carry me there . And so I went to that tree , and

She shakes her head

MaJoy : there , there was the woman in my dream . Only difference was that , she was still very much pregnant . About to give birth yes , but the baby wasn't born as of yet . My king

She rubs her hands together

Me : ma please , right now I
need to know the truth .

Nothing but the truth

MaJoy : yey Instinct kicked in
, and I gathered myself to help
her give birth . She was so close
, I couldn't bring her to the
village nor here . And I had

never , delivered a baby before on my life . But at that moment , I knew I needed to save her and her baby . I was shocked , as to how did she even get there in the middle of the night . I asked her who she was , hoping maybe I'll know so woke close to her . She said her name was Naledi , ah ...

She smiles

MaJoy : I had never seen such beauty before , a very beautiful young Motswana girl . She was just 18 , and had Had used the river to flee Botswana

Me : what ?

I ask in shock

At what she just said

She used the river to flee
Botswana

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****FLASH BACK****

Naledi : please

She says trying to stop MaJoy
from helping her deliver the
baby

MaJoy : you're almost

Naledi : I know , but you need to listen to me it's very important . Because once I deliver this baby , I will die . There will be no time for talks , I can't have this baby as of yet

MaJoy gasps , looking at this young beautiful woman

What is she saying ?

MaJoy : die ? We need to get
you help , very fast

Naledi : no , no !

MaJoy : you cannot die not ...

She heaves a sigh

MaJoy : not in my presence like
this

Naledi : I come from Botswana and my name is Naledi , I fled Botswana . Calling upon the safe waters of mother nature , and Sefate led me here . The guardians of your river , saw me through to make it alive . For the sake of this child , they kept her safe . I don't know for what purpose she will serve on this land , but once she's here I will not be spared . Name her Ngwedi , it means moon . Sefate

here , will watch over the child .
All I ask , is that you give her
shelter . Until her fate meets
her , I don't know what . But
you didn't come here for no
reason , I have to believe that
something called you over . Her
life will be entrusted into your
hands , she won't be no
ordinary child ! She will find
herself along the way , and as
unique as she will be . Just know
I will be there at night

communicating with her , and
she will learn her mother
tongue . That's the one thing I
can give herahhhhh

And Naledi screams on top of
her lungs

As a contraction hits her very
hard

She holds her tummy

Rubbing her hand on it , trying
to soothe her baby

She can literally feel the head of
the baby fighting to get out

MaJoy : we don't have time for
this

Naledi : we hail from the
heavens , we're not beings of

this world . We're born of
pureness , and no sin cannot be
found on us . This child is a
product of my sin , I was
sentenced to eternity in fire . I
fled for her life , your land has
accepted her . Please accept
her too

She falls down flat on her back
parting her legs

Moving her knees up

Naledi : nature will be her home
, safe guard her

And she lets out a scream , with
tears streaming down the sides
of her face

And MaJoy leans down , as she
sees an inch of the baby's head
coming out

With the bright moon gracing
them with their presence

And the starts seemingly , like
they've just formed over them

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****END OF FLASH BACK****

Dingiswayo

What kind of beings hail from
the heavens ?

I'm more confused more than I
was about the nurses story

This is insane

It's late now , I can't even go to
my parents

Maybe they would know
something

And Vula is not the person I can
go to , that one will not tell me
anything

Just riddles and riddles

MaJoy left me speechless and
out of words

I left the orphanage not
knowing what to say

I walk to her chamber , as I'm
about to knock

I hear a scream inside

I just push the door

And it's not locked

I rush in , and she's in bed

Sweating like crazy !

Crying and screaming

I don't know what kind of a
nightmare is this

But my wife is horrified !

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Ngwedi

I can feel hands shaking me

And hear his voice calling me
out

But there's also a melodic voice

That's just calling me softly

Voice : Ngwedi !!

I can't focus on anything

But this baby I just gave birth to

And now he's dead

I'm holding a dead baby in my
hands

Sitting right next to Sefate

And the umbilical cord is still
attached to us both

But I can't stop crying

My heart is shattered

I saw myself heavily pregnant ,
and give birth all by myself next
to Sefate

Only the baby is dead

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Dingiswayo

I hold her into my arms until she calms down

I wipe her tears off

Me : I'm sorry

Ngwedi : it was so bad , and I couldn't wake up

Me : tell me what happened ?

I take both her hands into mine

Ngwedi : I was giving birth , and the child died in my arms . With the umbilical cord still attached to us both

She looks at me with teary eyes

Ngwedi : Mtimande , I am terrified . What if this will be the consequences , if we get

intimate and I fall pregnant
before this full moon ? I was
stuck alone , in the forest near a
tree . Giving birth all by myself ,
and the baby The baby !

What the fuck !

Maybe I am insane , but this
sounds somehow like the Naledi
story I heard

Except MaJoy was there , and
well the moon was there

And the baby did not die

What is this ?

Like can this day not get more
confusing further than this

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INSERT 28

Dingiswayo

Vula : you are bothered

I couldn't sleep

I had Ngwedi in my arms the
whole night

And she kept tossing and
turning

She just wasn't peaceful

She's now scared

Not that I blame her

It must have been horrific

And now I don't even know how
I'll tell her what MaJoy said to
me

It will tear her apart

I don't want to lose my wife

Me : I found some things about
the queen , how she came
about . And I'm as confused as
it comes , I don't know what's

what anymore . Like I'm just
conflicted

Vula : should I throw bones ?

Me : no , I need us to talk Vula

Vula : my king

Me : I don't know how to tell
her the truth , considering how I
found her last night . She was in

one horrific nightmare , and it left her startled . She was giving birth in a veld , it was just dark and she was alone . And the baby died in her arms , she thinks it's a sign maybe of what might occur if we get intimate . And she falls pregnant , but I think it's just more than that

Vula : what exactly did you find out about her identity ?

Me : isn't that something , I should tell my wife about first . Before I start telling everyone or anyone about it , including you . I mean it's about her

Vula : I thought we are talking

Me : Nomvula , I need to know if any harm will come to my wife if she gets pregnant

Vula : you and the queen are not doing anything to get us all there , before the full moon right ?

Me : I am not stupid

Vula : I can never hint that , nor even suggest it

Me : then ?

Vula : I think she serves a purpose , but maybe she might not carry an heir to this throne

Me : what ?

Vula : I said

Me : I heard what you said , but what makes you even say such ?
Is my wife enough to be queen ,

and sit on that throne and rule .
But she cannot bare kids ?

Vula : we can ask the gods and
....

Me : they can all go to hell , if
they don't deem her womb
worthy . What fuckery is that ?
What you just said is nonsense ,
and if it's what you see . I will
not stand for it

Vula : my king let us not get
carried away , we don't know
the meaning of all this

Me : then let's not make any
assumptions

I get up

Me : and this ends here

I walk out , wearing my shoes by
the door

I walk over to her chamber

And it's empty

I call her , and her phone rings
on the bed

Me : great !

I walk over to the palace ,
getting in the lounge

Me : Thuli

She turns and looks at me

Thuli : my king

Me : has the queen come in
here ?

Thuli : she's in the kitchen

I nod and walk in the kitchen

And she's by the counter
making tea

Oh wait

It's cappuccino , it smells divine
in here

I walk over to her , and hug her
from behind

She smiles and closes her eyes

I place a kiss on her cheek

Me : Mkami (my wife)

Ngwedi : Mtimande

Me : I thought you're still
sleeping

Ngwedi : no , my body is sore

Me : I'm sorry , I'll organise a
massage for you

She turns and looks at me

I take her cup , and take a few
sips

Ngwedi : I was hoping to go to the orphanage , and visit the kids

Me : today ?

She nods

Me : okay , I will take you . And you'll call me , when you want to come back

Ngwedi : I can walk

Me : I will take you , tell me
when you want to go

She smiles

I place the cup on her counter

And place my hands on her
waist

Leaning over , pecking her lips a few times and we kiss

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Ngwedi

Dingi : there's something we
need to talk about

Me : now ?

He's parked by the orphanage

Dingi : no , when you get back home

Me : okay

He leans over and we kiss

Dingi : I love you

I smile as he pulls back

And gets out of the car

He opens the door for me

I get out fixing my dress

Dingi : you're so beautiful

Me : stop charming me , I'm
your wife already

Dingi : I will charm you everyday

He takes my hands , and kiss the
back of them

Dingi : I will see you later

I nod

He pecks my lips , and places a
kiss on my forehead

The affection of this man ,
amazes me

I walk over inside the yard

And he leans against his car
watching me

I knock at the door , and Ayize
opens the door screaming in
excitement

I laugh so hard

As she hugs me so tight on my
waist

I turn my head looking at Dingi

He laughs shaking his head
getting in the car

I push Ayize in , as he drives off

MaJoy : what's the noiseoh
my queen

Ayize let's go of me

Ayize : the queen has graced us
with her presence

This child !

Ayize : you're visiting us ?

Me : yes

Ayize : you miss us already

We laugh

MaJoy : let the queen be

It will take some time getting
used to this queen business

Me : let me talk to MaJoy for a bit , then I'll come and play with you guys

Ayize : can you please do our hair ? Or you can't anymore , since you're queen ? I mean , we look ugly

Me : don't be silly , of course I'll do your hair

She smiles and winks walking
out of the lounge

MaJoy : she missed you

Me : I woke up missing them
too today , the king was just
kind to allow me to come visit

MaJoy : he's a good man

I nod slowly

He truly is a good man

Despite everything he's told me
about himself

About who and what he is

This man has so much patience
for me

And I don't think there's a man
out there , who can have so
much patience for a woman like
myself

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INSERT 29

Dingiswayo

Me : how was your day with the
kids ?

We're back now

And the people from the spa
have just left

I had them come to the palace

So she can be pampered

We're in my chamber

Fist time she comes in here

Ngwedi : it was good

She says with a smile

I gather it was good for her

Something that she needed

Especially after last night

Me : that's good

Ngwedi : I plaited their hair ,
they were very happy

Me : you should plait mine

She giggles

Ngwedi : your dreadlocks are
fine , just as they are

Me : mkami (my wife)

She shakes her head , with a slight laugh

Ngwedi : don't try

I chuckle sitting down next to her

Me : I don't know how to tell you this , there's something I

want us to talk about . I hope it doesn't upset you , that I went behind your back . After we spoke , about how you got to the orphanage and all . I just felt that , maybe there's something I can do to find out exactly what happened . Or maybe find the nurse who was present , when you were being delivered . I just wanted to help , and if there was a chance to find your mother . I wouldn't go on to

find her , without talking to you
first

I gather MaJoy didn't tell her
anything

Because if she had , she
wouldn't be this calm

Me : I went to see MaJoy
yesterday , when I got back . I
was from the orphanage

I rub my chin looking down

Me : after having talked with you , about how you got there and everything . I felt bothered somehow , and I thought maybe she can tell me something I can use to maybe find the nurse . But she told me a completely different version , of what you told me . And what she initially

told me , when I had gone to
tell her that I want to marry you

Ngwedi : what ?

Me : you weren't born and left
at the hospital , the woman
didn't give birth to you and
leave . It wasby the river
bank near the tree , and MaJoy
was present that night when it
all happened

She leans with the headboard ,
and stares deeply into my eyes

First time I see her locking into
my eyes like this

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Ngwedi

Me : Naledi ?

I look at him

It's like he's just told me a tale
of some kind

Something that's just not
believable

And at this moment , I don't
know what to believe

And whatnot to believe

I mean

MaJoy kept all of this from me

She let me believe , that I was
left in some hospital

While she knew , and she kept
the truth away from me

But why ?

Why did she lie ?

Why couldn't she just tell me
the truth ?

Was it so hard , for her to just
be honest ?

I mean it's not like I was
abounded

My mother did not abounden
me

She died giving birth to me

Dingi : I am sure MaJoy had her
reasons , of why she couldn't
tell you the truth

Me : she couldn't tell me the truth , but she had no problem telling you about me !

I get off from the bed

Me : she's dead !

Tears burn my eyes

I blink and let them stream down my face

As I choke on my own emotions

As words just fail me

He gets up and stands in front
of me

And places his hands on my
shoulders

Dingi : please lets

I shake my head slightly pushing
him off me

Even today I was there

I was there and MaJoy still
couldn't tell me the truth

Even though she had no
problem whatsoever telling
Dingiswayo

I sink down on the floor

Not being able to handle the
pain

And just digesting everything I
heard

I just break down

As I feel my own heart , being
ripped into pieces

He holds me so tight into his
arms , right on the floor

The more I cry , the more I just
feel nothing but pain

And my chest closes , as I run
out of breath

Dingi : no ...no please don't

I shut my eyes , as nothing but
just darkness overwhelms me

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Dingiswayo

Me : maybe I shouldn't have
said anything

Mom : she's going to be okay , it was just shock

Me : yeah , and I blame myself for all this

Mom : you were doing what any husband would do

Me : maybe it was too soon , I mean we're already married , she's queen already . Maybe I

should have waited , on the signing

Mom : no ! Some things , are just better off already done with . How long would you have waited ?

Me : maybe waited enough , for her to settle in . And get used to the idea of being married , and being queen . Before all these changes

Mom : don't blame yourself ,
you did good by being honest
with your wife . She will
appreciate the truth from you ,
something she wouldn't take
lightly coming from MaJoy . And
finding out that you knew , but
kept quite

Me : I hear what you're saying ,
but it broke me seeing my wife

like that . She looked so helpless
, and just

I shake my head

She's been asleep

After I called them

Not knowing what to do to calm
her down

And Vula gave her some herbs

She has been sleeping since

I don't know where to from
here

How will she be like , when she
wakes up

I feel like all this is just a mess

And I'm responsible for it

Maybe I should have just left
things as they were

And not pushed for the truth

Look at what it has come to

I know for a fact that she's not
okay

I fear what her reaction will be ,
when she wakes up

I believe MaJoy hid the truth
from her

For a reason

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INSERT 30

Ngwedi

It's middle of the night as I wake
up

And I look around in my
chamber

And he's sitting on the chair

Doesn't look like he slept a wink

I get up from the bed

And walk to the bathroom

I rinse my mouth , and wash my
face with cold water

Nothing is a miss

I remember everything that he
told me

And I don't know how I'm
feeling right now

It's just a lot

The question in my mind , is
exactly what am I ?

Am I even human to begin with
?

I take my face cloth and wipe
my face

And walk out to the bedroom

I sit down on the bed

And he's still sitting on the chair
by the window

I fiddle with my fingers

Not knowing what to say to him

I am scared to even ask what
he's thinking

Or where this puts us

I accepted that he's not your
normal human being

Being a warrior shield and all

But that's not something to
break us up

That's not something to cause
me to look at him somehow

But as for me

I don't know

It's just a lot for anyone to take
in

Exactly what does it mean ,
we're of the heavens ?

Honestly , all this is just giving
me a headache

Sefate knows this , she's always
known

And she never thought to tell
me the truth either

I've been thinking I'm crazy

Talking to a tree

And only to find out this

And the one person I can
question

Is dead

And all I know is that her name
was Naledi

I have no idea of how I came
about

I'm the sin she was tainted with

Whatever that means

Dingi : I am thinking we should
go away for a bit , just to

regroup . And maybe put the signing on hold , just to think things through and find ourselves

I look at him

Me : you don't want to marry me anymore ?

Dingi : you're already my wife

I get up and walk towards him

Me : yes , but signing means doing it legally and making it official

I pull the opposite chair and sit down

Me : I love you Mtimande , and if youif you feel you can't be

with a human you have no idea

....

A lump gets stuck on my throat

I take a deep breath , clearing
my throat

Me : I will completely
understand , and respect your
decision

Dingi : I told you I am not going anywhere , I am here . And nothing will make me want to walk away , absolutely nothing

He holds his hand out

I lean my hand over into his hand

He tightens his grip

Dingi : tell me what you want to do , I feel like I've pushed you and pressured you enough with everything that has happened . I've gone out of my way , and did things not informing you . I don't want that anymore , it's us now together on everything

Me : let's go ahead and sign

He smiles

Dingi : you said you love me

I look down shyly

Dingi : about MaJoy ...

Me : I am not ready for that ,
and the tree Sefate . I know her
, I have been talking to her for
as long as I can remember .

When I said , someone told me

to smoke for the migraines and the voices . And that whatever was wrong with me , was nothing western . It wasn't a person , it was Sefate . That's where Bonko took me , the day you came to marry me . I don't know why they kept the truth from me , and I am not ready to ask nor confront either of them

Dingi : lets leave tonight

Me : where to ?

Dingi : to Durban , we'll figure things out

I slightly laugh

Me : we're leaving now , middle of the night ?

He nods with a chuckle

Dingi : yes , let me grab my keys
in my chamber . And we can
leave , we're not packing
anything

He gets up

And places a kiss on my cheek

Dingi : by the way , I love you
more

I laugh as he walks out , closing
the door

I take a deep breath closing my
eyes

And I get shivers down my spine

Fear strikes me

As if there's a presence

I open my eyes quickly

And the brightness just blinds
me for a second

I get up and walk over to the
window

Moving the curtain

And I'm at loss for words

There's just one bright full
moon outside

Mind you , the normal moon is
there

Basically there's just two moons
outside

Am I crazy ? Or I'm seriously
seeing Sefate glowing

With orange like leaves

Seemingly matching the full
moon

Far by the end

I've been to this spot before

And I've never seen Sefate

Me : what is happening ?

Voice : o tsile go nna mme le
wena tsatsi le lengwe , o ta
tlhaloganya ditiro tsame . Ee ,
gone ke ya itsi o ka tsoga o nna
le dipotso . Hela selo seo ke go
nyaketseng sone , ke boikhutso
. Botshelo bame , bone bo ne
bo se botoka go gaisa ba gao .
Ga ke itshole lesu lame , ke
seofela hela gore le wena ga o
tsile go ipona molato . Ke dirile
tshwaetso ee , ebile ke na le

boikhutso ka yone . Tshela
botshelo ba gao kgosikgadi ,
lesa dilo o ka se difetole . O
kgosikgadi , ke seo o leng sone .
Gore o tswa mo kae , ga go
botoka . O amogetswe ke
lefatshe le , o emong wa bone .
Gompieno , wa ikitsi gore wena
o mang (you're going to be a
mother one day , and you will
understand my actions . Yes , I
know you will have questions .
But the one thing I've always

wanted , and seeked for you
was peace . My life wasn't more
important , than yours . I do not
regret my death , and I hope
you don't blame yourself for it .
I made the decision , and I'm at
peace with it . Live your life my
queen , and leave things you
cannot change . You're a queen
, that's who you are . Where
you come from , is not
important . This land welcomed

you , you're one of them .
Today , you know who are

I'm a crying mess

I've been saying , I've been
hearing voices in my head

It's her

It's always been her

All along , all these years

It was her

And I couldn't hear her ,
because I was in a battle with
myself

I sit down on the floor

As I watch the 5 stars , slowly
moving towards the moon

I let out slight laughter

I know who I am !

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Dingiswayo

I'm just stunned really

Watching what's happening out
here

And the funny part , is that it's
way too quite in the village

Lights are dark

Even in the palace

Like there's not even a single
human being outside

I don't even see the guards

I'm just wondering if I'm the
only one seeing all this

Maybe this is all just in my head

I've been in a battle with this
moon to come

And , just maybe I'm imagining
it

I chuckle shaking my head

I grab my car keys , and a jacket

As I open the handle , here she
is

She looks at me

And I swear , it's like I'm looking
at a new version of her

I raise my brow

Not knowing what to say

She smiles , and looks up

I can't miss , the way her eyes
are

Judging by her look , I know I
am not seeing what's
happening out here alone

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INSERT 31

Ngwedi

Me : can I come in ?

Dingi : I was comingI mean ,
I'm seeing all this

I smile

Me : yeah

Dingi : you're seeing it too ?

Me : yes

He heaves a sigh of relief

Me : what kind of a nightmare
did you think you're having ?

Dingi : mkami , don't be silly
(my wife)

I shake my head laughing

Me : will you let me in ?

Dingi : you don't want to leave
anymore ?

Me : oh we're still leaving , trust
me

He looks at me very suspicious

I push him back slightly

He moves out of the way

And let's me in

Then he closes the door

Me : please lock

He raises his brow

I hope this man doesn't
embarrass me

Because I will never get over it

Not after , I became this stupid

And came in here

Putting my sane senses away

He locks the door and turns to
me

Me : the moon is out

Dingi : yeah ...uhm it is

Me : I spoke with Naledi

Dingi : youyou did ?

I nod

Dingi : and ? Did she say
something ?

I chuckle

Me : she said a lot, honestly she should have just left me a letter before she died

He runs his hand through his dreadlocks , and laughs

Me : it's okay , I know who I am . And I'm embracing that , I thank your ancestors for welcoming me into their land . And allowing Naledi , to lose her breath here . They've given me

a purpose , by allowing me in
this land

I move back a bit towards the
bed

I close my eyes looking down

And I lift my dress up

My heart is beating so fast
against my chest

I place my dress on the bed

And just standing with my
nothing , but my panty on

Me : I ...

Words fail me

Just as the realisation of what
I've just initiated

Dingi : it's okay ...

He walks over to me

And holds both my hands into
his

Dingi : are you sure ?

Me : I'm certain

He smiles

Dingi : damn you woman ! I'll
fucking marry your awkward
self , over and over and again

He scoops me up into his hands

And I gasp , laughing

Leaning down , placing my arms
around his neck

Dingi : I fucking love you

Me : and I love you

He walks over to the bed as we
kiss

And he places me down

Getting in between my thighs

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Dingiswayo

Damn !

Seeing that moon felt like a
dream

But this one , this is something
else

My wife basically just delivered herself to me

I move up , taking my clothes off

And pull off her panty

She doesn't stop me

Like the first time , I tried being intimate with her

I lean down , positioning myself
better

And she clings her arms on my
neck

I peck her lips a few times

Ngwedi : remember we have to
leave ?

Fuck !

Do we have to now ?

Like , can't we forget the leaving

Ngwedi : we need thisI need
this , Mtimande

I chuckle

Me : do you read minds now ?

She laughs

Ngwedi : your face says it all ,
you'll have me all you want
when we get there

Me : say no more

I want to pleasure her and all

But this has to be quick

We will get there , and take my
sweet time

Me : I love you

She smiles , as I rub my dick on
her coochie

Just her wetness welcoming me

Ngwedi : I

I push my dick through

And she gasps , throwing her
head back

Her eyes glistening with tears

I lean further down , down to
her ear

Me : I'm sorry

It comes as a whisper as I deep
groan

Feeling the warmth inside of
her

Tearing her walls apart

And she clings to me for dear
life

As I take slow deep thrusts

This was fucking worth the wait

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Ngwedi

I know this is not a dream

It would be a miracle if it was
one

He's slowly planting soft wet
kisses on my neck

As he lifts my leg over his

And he rubs his already hard
and erected dick on my wet slit

I regret telling him he can have
me however

I am suffering

Barely even got an hour of sleep

The sun is out by now

We left the village middle of the
night

And slept here at the hotel

He had a booking

Dingi : it's almost noon , wake
up

He says nibbling on my ear lobe

As he thrusts in slowly , and so
passionately

I'm sure I'm swollen down there

I can feel it

In just one night , and he can't
leave me alone

Me : mhm

I bite my lower lip , as I quiver
slightly feeling pleasure running
through my whole body

And I feel his dick twitch inside
of me.

It just sends me off

I grab tight on his arm , as he
deep grunts

Offloading his full seed inside of
me

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INSERT 32

Dingiswayo

Me : are you okay?

She smiles

Ngwedi : I am swollen

Me : I'm sorry

Ngwedi : no ! You're not

I shrug

Me : there are no cuts ?

Ngwedi : you weren't rough

Me : let me see

She lays down parting her legs

I part her coochie lips , with my fingers

My dick cannot help but react

I clear my throat and look into her eyes

Ngwedi : there's nothing ?

I shake my head

Me : no

She heaves a sigh of relief

And attempts to get up

I get on top of her

Ngwedi : like

Me : I'll be quick , I promise

I pull my sweatpants down ,
stroking my dick

And I position myself on her
open

Sliding my dick through

I capture her lips into mine

Ngwedi : you'll have me for a
lifetime

I chuckle thrusting through

Me : I know

Ngwedi : you can give me rest

I shake my head , thrusting in
deeper

Lifting her one leg up

Me : you're just too sweet for
me

She grabs my on my arms
closing her eyes

Bitting her lower lip

My phone rings and I ignore it

Ngwedi : that could be
important

I don't care

I move up grabbing on her
thighs

Ngwedi : justah ...oh ...Ohhh
my God !

She grabs on the sheets as her
coochie graces my dick with her
cum

Her walls closing in on my dick ,
grabbing on it tightly

She looks at me rolling her eyes
back

I chuckle as I leave my seed
deep inside of her

I lean down giving her a kiss

Me : I love you

She smiles , still with her eyes
closed

Ngwedi : answer your phone

The stupid phone is still ringing
even now

Doesn't the person give up

I move back , pulling my
sweatpants up

Ngwedi : I love you too

I smile answering my father's
call

Me : someone better be dead !

He chuckles

Dad : youwe have crocodiles
roaming around the village

I look at Ngwedi

Me : what ?

Dad : yeah

Me : then why are you so calm
?

Dad : where are you ? Shouldn't
you be rushing back home to
see what's happening ?

Me : no , no I am not coming
back

He sighs

Dad : why did you run away
middle of the night , like you're
a thief ?

Ngwedi walks over , and places
her hands on my shoulder
blades

She places a kiss on my cheek

And walks off to the bathroom

Me : there are no crocodiles
roaming the village

He laughs

Me : it's not funny !

Dad : your mother was worried
out of her mind

Me : tell her to relax , we'll be
back in a few days or so

Dad : you two okay ?

Me : yeah , we're better than
okay

Dad : alright

I drop the call shaking my head

My father can be dramatic at
times

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Ngwedi

Me : can we talk ?

It's in the afternoon

And he's just laying down in bed

I sit down , pulling my dress up
a bit

Dingi : are we okay ?

I nod with a smile

He sits up straight

Balancing his back with the
headboard

Me : I'm okay , like with everything . I don't want to ask MaJoy anything , nor Sefate . For whatever reason what happened has happened , and I'm okay with it . Maybe I'm a bit lost here and there , because I fail to understand why your guardians led Naledi to your land . And I believe they somehow , brought us together in this manner . Crazy maybe

yes , but I do believe that . They
spared me , for a purpose to be
queen to this land . And the
confusion , of understanding
exactly what are heaven beings
. It definitely doesn't mean
we're angels , or of angels no .
But considering , the
connection with the stars . The
moon , and mother nature .
Along with the waters of the
earth , all things created by God
. His perfect creation , according

to his eye when he looked . I believe , we're just pure in that manner . But that's just my two cents , I may be wrong . All I'm saying is this , I am Ngwedi daughter of Naledi . A product of the heavens , one with the moon . Chosen by the waters of the earth , to be queen to Ngwenya land . That's who I am , I am ready to just live by that . Hearing Naledi's voice , through the 5 stars . I heard those voices

in my head , I always heard and I thought maybe I was crazy . It was always her , she never left me . She taught me , how to speak my own language . That's how I grew up speaking Setswana , because I heard voices in my heard speaking it . And it was much easier to adapt to it , than the language people around me spoke . I haven't always been alone , and I had Sefate . Always , she guided me

through things . And MaJoy ,
I have nothing against her .

Because she was a mother , and
a father to me . She showed me
nothing , but love and care to
this day

I look down , as tears burn my
eyes

I felt hurt that they didn't tell
me the truth

But sometimes , the truth isn't
always the easiest

So I can maybe understand
them , from a certain point

And this is better left off unsaid

Dingi : I love you

He takes my hand into his

Dingi : I'm okay with all of this , I told you that from now on we're together in everything . I appreciate you , for telling me all this . And I stand by you

I lean over giving him a kiss

Me : and I love you

He smiles , caressing my cheek

It feels so relieving to just
offload off to him

Without feeling like he'll judge
me

Or him being distant

I don't know what favour is this
, but I'm grateful for this man

He couldn't have come at a
better time in my life

Right exactly when I need
someone by my side

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Dingiswayo

Me : we won't be around for a few days , I spoke to Bonko and he will handle my matters .
Unless it's something much

important , I'll see to it . Even in my absence , and queen mother in the meantime you can resume your duty . Until the queen is back

Mom : are you two okay ?

Ngwedi smiles

Me : yes , we're okay

Mom : okay , this is good for you . I'm sad , I won't be around to witness your signing . But I'm happy , and your have our blessings

Me : thank you

Dad : you take care

Me : we will , and we'll see you guys in a few days

They both nod with smiles

And I drop the video call

I turn over to me wife

Me : two weeks here ?

She laughs

Ngwedi : you just said a few days to your parents

Me : mhm , I know . But after a few days , I'll suggest a few more . I want you refreshed , when you get back to the village

Ngwedi : you're the best

Me : mhm !

She laughs giving me a kiss

Ngwedi : I love you

Me : Kao rata (I love you)

She moves back with a frown

Ngwedi : whoever taught you
that

Me : it's Google really

She looks at me with a blank
stare

I swallow hard

Me : I swear , I was just fooling
around . And I googled it , I
want to know your language .
That one was very much
important so yeah , I swear . I
didn't hear it from anyone

And she bursts out laughing

That she even has tears
streaming down her face

I can't believe , just like that she
got me

To a point I went to such
lengthy explanation

Bonko was right , love is something else

Ngwedi : are you ready for tomorrow ?

Me : ready as ever , I got you a dress . It's in the package that arrived earlier on

She gets off the bed running off to the closet

Me : damn ! I can't wait to
marry your crazy ass officially

And tomorrow is that day

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INSERT 33

NINE MONTHS LATER

Dingiswayo

Me : how is she ?

Vula : not good

Me : can't you do something ?

Vula : no ! I can't give her
anything , I've done enough .
More than this , would just be a
lot on her

Me : she's in pain Nomvula , for
the whole day

Vula : and she's refusing the
hospital , she's refusing to take
anything for pain . I can't do
anything , I've tried her natural
way

I heave a sigh

I've never been so frustrated
like I am right now

Me : I am not loosing my wife

Mom : my king

Me : queen mother please no !

Mom : the queen is being
stubborn , she's refusing to hear
to anyone . We can't afford to

stress her anyhow , already
she's stressed enough . It
cannot be easy on her , please

Me : can I see her ?

Vula : she asked not to see you ,
she really doesn't look good

Me : bullshit !

I get up and walk past Nomvula

I open the door

And she's just laying down on
the bed

With her hand on her tummy

She's rubbing on it , humming a
song

It's been a norm

Ever since we found out she's
expecting

She's just been singing to the
baby

I don't know the song

But it sounds lovely

Me : hey

She lazily looks at me and smiles

With sweat running all over her
face

Ngwedi : I knew , you were not
going to listen to them

I move over and sit next to her
on the bed

Me : I'm

Ngwedi : no hospitals

I nod slowly

She wanted this home birth

But it's taking a toll on her

So bad

But I also don't want to force
her to do something she
doesn't want to do

Her main fear , has always been
what if she loses the baby

Like the dream she had

So , I don't want to take the
blame for such things

Should it happen

Although I asked Nomvula

And she assured me , that
Ngwedi will not lose this child

From the early stages of the
pregnancy

But now , I'm in worry

She's been in labour the whole day

And it doesn't even look like this baby will come anytime soon

She's just seeming to be in so much pain

More than anything

Ngwedi : we're going to be okay
, I need you to be strong for us

If I have to choose

It's my wife's life over
everyone's

Even this child !

My worry is , what if what
happened to her mother
happens to her

I can't have that

Rather I lose this baby than my
wife

I take the cloth , and wipe the
sweat off her forehead and face

Me : I love you

She smiles

Ngwedi : we love you

I chuckle

This baby better come

And soon

Because this sight of my wife ,
breaks me

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Thobile

I look at MaJoy as she walks out
of the lounge

Life around here hasn't been
what I thought it would be

With Ngwedi gone , it hasn't
been anything

But just misery

And I can't do this anymore

I'm tired

Because I feel like a outcast
around here

It's MaJoy and the kids

The treatment is just the same

And I've had enough

MaJoy : I'm going to the palace

That's what she knows best

Running there , for every little
thing

Just as long as it's for Ngwedi

Me : I am leaving , I'll be 18 in two months . And I don't want to stay around here anymore , so I am leaving

MaJoy : okay , all the best to you out there

And she walks out of the door

Emotions overwhelm me

I blink quite a few times

As tears stream down my face

She really doesn't care

It hurts

I thought , maybe she would say
I'm not going anywhere

That I will stay around here

Until my 18th birthday

But I guess she really doesn't
care

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Ngwedi

Me : he's so scared

Both queen mother and MaJoy
look at me

Me : I know he thinks maybe I
will suffer the same fate as
Naledi , but I will not . My
husband respected me enough ,
and kept to himself . I willingly ,
gave myself to him the night of
the full moon . There's no
punishment I will serve , and
there'll be no death . I paid

heed , to the heavens warning .
And this is just their request , if I
go to the hospital and all .
There's a lot of possibilities ,
they could even opt to cut me .
I can't have that , this birth will
be kept in its purest form .
Queen mother , I am not trying
to be difficult . Nor am I trying
to hurt your son , even if it
takes this whole night too . The
prince will be born here

She just smiles and takes my
hand into hers

A tear steams down the side of
my face

I'm so grateful to have these
two women by myself

Me : I am also scared , and I'm
in so much pain . But I have to
endure all of this

I rub my hand on my tummy

And softly hum

This boy loves it when I sing for
him

I believe it calms him down

I can't have him in distress , that
would just be danger to us both

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Dingiswayo

Mom : are you ready to meet
your son ?

I look at her

It's past midnight

And there's just unrest in this
whole kingdom

I don't even blame my people

They've come to love and adore
their queen

Her pain is somehow their pain

Me : is my wife okay ?

Mom : Dingiswayo ...

Me : mom please , because if my wife did not make it . I want nothing to do with that child , please

Mom : you cannot say such

Me : sadly I mean it

She heaves a sigh

Mom : the queen is a very strong woman , and she proved that . She listens and she obeys , we couldn't have been blessed with a better queen . She is so fitting , it's just inspiring to watch

I look at her

Mom : go see your son

I take a deep breath

And walk over to the bedroom

I open the door , and walk
inside

She lifts her eyes and smiles

All sorts of emotions just go
through me

Ngwedi : he looks like me so
bad

I chuckle and walk over to the
bed

I sit down , and she hands him
over to me

She's always said he'll be a
prince

I didn't want to believe that

Because we've never asked the
doctor for the sex of the baby

I was just okay with whatever
gender the baby was going to
be

Me : he's beautiful

Ngwedi : results of looking like his mother , he will be called beautiful and not handsome

I chuckle

Placing a kiss on his forehead

Me : you're not leaving me , are you ?

Ngwedi : never ! I know you would never love him , and I know if you could trade places . You would trade him for me , the gods are not that cruel . They will not put you , through that

This is some relief

Me : are you not angry ?

She smiles

Ngwedi : no , we deal
differently with things . I cannot
condemn you , for feeling
however you felt . I know you
love our son , despite your
previous feelings caused by fear

My mother was right

My kingdom is blessed

Me : I love you both

Ngwedi : and we love you

My phone rings

And it's Bonko

I chuckle answering , putting
the phone on loud speaker

Me : ndoda (man)

Bonko : I just saw that Thobile girl , from the orphanage . And she's by the street holding a bowl like she's selling things at this time of the night , like how allowed is that ? She's still a minor , can MaJoy subject her to such ?

Ngwedi : she was way too big for her own boots , and she told MaJoy she's leaving the orphanage . And MaJoy just let her be , she wants this independence . Let no one be blamed for it , if selling on the streets is it for her . Then so be it

I look at her

And Bonko burst out laughing

Bonko : I heard you my queen

Me : you idiot !

I drop the call

Looking at my wife who's not
even bothered by any of this

Not that I'm bothered

I don't even want to try ,
because that girl would just be
trouble for me

She wouldn't hesitate

And whoever threatens what I
have with my wife

Cannot be spared

So I'll save myself all of that

And let the girl be , on her own

I don't need to invite things that
have nothing to do with me

My kingdom is fulfilled right
here

With the blessings of such a
remarkable queen

And the prince

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THE END