

Nomakhosi

A woman is sitting in a vast, open field under a bright sky. She is wearing a white dress with black geometric patterns, including a wide collar and horizontal stripes at the hem. Her right hand is raised to her forehead, and she is looking towards the right. The background shows a flat, dry landscape with some distant structures.

**We Bled
Healed & Loved**

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PROLOGUE

Bayede

Bayede



Waking up this morning , I'm just not in the moods for my parents

Especially after the conversation we've been having as of late

It's annoying me now , and I'm tired of it . It's crazy when parents are just for each other , like my parents are

Sure it's a great and amazing thing to witness

It actually channels ones mentality . That one day , this is what I wish to have when I settle down

But right now at this stage , my father is just okay to please my mother

Even at my expense , and I'm
just not feeling them at all

I find my sister eating , it's no
shock she's already up this
early

Me : hi

She takes a spoonful of cereal ,
and it'll be a while before I get
a response back

Mihlali : good morning

That comes after a few minutes

I smile sitting down

Mihlali : are you still angry with
mom and dad ?

Me : I'm not angry with them

Mihlali : it didn't sound like it
last night

I sigh

Me : I just want to move out ,
like how hard can that be ?

Mihlali : make them see reason,
don't come at them

Me : I don't have the patience
that you have with your
parents okay ? They're just
being unfair in all this honestly

I bought an apartment , they
don't even know

For heaves sake , I'm in my
third year at Varsity

I need this independence , and
staying home at 21 is just not in
my books

Mihlali : I've made peace that
I'm not going anywhere

Me : and like I said , I don't
have your patience

Mihlali : give them time

Me : I don't have that either

I seriously want to go back to varsity next week , going into my own place

One way or the other , I'll just have to get what I want

Mihlali : Bayede Zulu , I'm seriously crying with you

She gets up with her bowl
walking to the sink

Me : Thapelo suggested we go
out this evening , I really wasn't
up for it . But now , I think
that's exactly what I need

Mihlali : it's the big 21 this year,
so please whatever you do
make sure you don't upset dad

Me : he's not that petty to hold
off my fund

She shrugs her shoulders

And the parents walk in , dad
kisses her cheek and they sit
down

Mom : are you okay ?

I nod

Dad : there's something wrong
with your voice ?

Me : no , please excuse me

Mom sighs , I get up

Mom : kill us , for just being
parents

Not this again !

Mom : why move out of home ,
and go to a place that you have
to pay for . There's rent , food
and other bills . When you have
all of that here at home for free

Me : and I'm thankful
KaMageba , but right now I
need this for my own sanity
and growth . How will I know
responsibility , when I'm still
being babied at home by my
parents ? Do you think I'll ever

grow up to stand for myself ?
No ! Because I'll always be
dependent on you

Now she's crying

Dad : I think we can put this
matter to rest , Bayede you just
do what you want to do

Me : now you're missing the
point Mageba , I don't want to

control myself . I just want to
be able to stand on my own ,
I'm not saying I don't need you.
I'm not fighting to leave home ,
I want blessings and permission
to . Not in a manner like I don't
want to be told , or that I'm
forced to leave

I might as well be talking alone

I don't even know if he heard
me or what

Or if any of them even heard
me

His attention is just on his wife
and nothing else

At least I tried

I walk out to my room , a night
out is exactly what I need

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INSERT 01

Nomakhosi

Nomakhosi



With my parents out of town ,
I'm just on my own

It's days like these , I feel the
loneliness of being an only child

But my parents are just too
busy making money

Than just being parents , and
having more than one child

They don't care , so it's no big deal . Money is more important to them

Not family

There's no one to keep me company , I'm all alone in this ghost house

And it gets scary , like no lies

Even the slightest movement ,
or sound makes my thoughts
run wild

Now I'm startled by my phone
ringing , the sigh of relief I
release . Realising it's my phone

Me : hey

Libo : home alone bored ?

I laugh

Me : you know me too well

Libo : schools are boring
beginning of the year

Me : I'm not shocked , you hate
sports so yeah

Libo is my best friend , well my
only friend

We're both in Grade 10 , I'm just turning 16 in a few weeks

I'm not that smart when it comes to books , so I make it up with sports

I play tennis at school , and might I say I'm good at it

Libo : so I was thinking

Me : it can't be good

We both laugh

Libo : see my boyfriend's brother is having this insane party , and there'll be varsity people there . And a few of his highschool friends , that we attend with . Babe invited me , and you know me I don't go anywhere without you

Me : I can't go to a party , and it sounds like it will be packed

Libo : let loose , you're alone .
And you're bored for real , so what could hurt ?

I've never even been to a party before . I might be an only child, but my parents are very strict people

I don't have a lot of freedom ,
and my life just revolves around
school . Sports and just being
cooped up at home

Libo : please

She pleads

Me : okay

Libo : great , I'll come over and help you with an outfit

Me : alright

Libo : can't wait , I have a feeling this will be one hell of a great night for us

Me : let's hope so , otherwise I'll regret this night forever

She laughs , and I drop the call

I hope I'm not making a mistake
by going there

And my parents cannot know ,
like ever . If they dare get word,
my mother will kill me with her
bare hands

And I still want to live , I haven't
even lost my virginity yet

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Bayede

This place is packed

There was no way , that I was
having an evening with my
parents again

We'll revisit that conversation
again , tomorrow or any other
day . But for today , it was done

Thapelo : you good ?

Me : sure

Thapelo : I'm disappearing , I'll
see you

I chuckle , he walks away

And her scent graces me

Me : right on time

I guess she's been watching me

Sedi : baby

I turn and face her

Sedi : I've been looking for you

Me : well look no more

She smiles

Me : let me go get a drink

Sedi : you look like you've had quite a few already

Like why would I come to a party sober ? It's not like I cannot afford to get myself booze

Me : I'm coming

I peck her cheek walking away

If there's one thing I don't take,
is a girl acting like she's my
mother just because we're
dating

I get to the kitchen , I grab a
beer from the fridge

I don't drink with the masses

I open it walking out , at the
door someone bumps into me

Spilling their drink all over me

Me : shit !

From the sweet cocoa butter
scent , it's a girl

I slowly lift my head and look at
her

Her : I'm really sorry , I wasn't
looking

She sounds really scared , like
she'll even cry

Me : it's okay , just get me a
cloth from the counter

Her : I'm sorry

I smile at least to ease her

We walk back in the kitchen
and she hands me the cloth

I try and salvage what's left of
my wet t-shirt

Her : your t-shirt is ruined

Me : don't mind it , these things
happen

I place the cloth back on the
counter

Me : what's your name ?

Her : Nomakhosi

Me : mind if I call you Khosi ?

Khosi : no

Me : okay , I'm Bayede by the way . Can we go have a drink by the pool , if you're cool with that

Khosi : it's fine

I hold my hand out for her ,
she's hesitant to take it but she
does anyways

And we walk outside , heading
to the pool . It's slightly chilly
out here

Me : you seem like these are
not your kinds of place

Khosi : it's that obvious ?

I chuckle

Me : these things have their
own people

Khosi : I was just bored

Me : next time , just watch a
series . Those Americans ones ,
and order in

She smiles , exposing her
perfect white teeth and
dimples

Khosi : noted

She shivers slightly

Me : you're cold ?

She nods

Me : let's go get you a top , I think we're fine outside here .
Than inside there with everyone else

We walk back inside , heading to Thapelo's room

I know I have a top or jacket somewhere in here

We get in , closing the door .
She stands around , as I look for
the top

And I find a baseball jacket ,
walking back to her

I pull her closer covering her ,
she releases a deep breath

I tilt her chin , we lock eyes

Me : what's wrong ?

She slightly shakes her head

Me : are you okay ?

She nods

Me : words at least

Khosi : I'm...okay

She whispers

Me : I won't do anything to
you, that you don't want me.

Khosi : it's not that

Me : are you sure ?

She nods again , only she's
quick to respond back

Khosi : I'm sure

I pull her much closer , placing
my hand on her waist

Me : can I kiss you ?

We're still locking eyes with
each other

Khosi : yes

I place my one hand on her
cheek , leaning down she slowly
closes her eyes as our lips rub
against each other

I take her lips into mine , going
for a full blown deep kiss

I have feels all over me , and it's
fucking hard to even contain
them

My mind has channelled out
everything , she's all that
matters right now

I pick her up into my arms , she
doesn't break the kiss

I lay her softly on the bed , I cup
her perfect tits . Slowly sliding
my hands underneath , and
grabbing on them

She moans

I move my hands to her back
unclipping her bra

Me : take your t-shirt off

She just obliges slowly , and I
finally pull the bra off . I rub on
her nipples , and nibble on
them both giving each
attention

My hands trail to her jeans , I unbutton them slowly pulling them down

She grabs on my shoulders , getting up on her back a bit

My mind is going insane , so close and I'm about to get stopped !

I look at her , and she's looking
right back at me

Khosi : go lock the door

Fuck !

Women deserve the world on a
pedestal

I'm on a rush like I'm saving the
world on a world war

I lock the door , and walk back
taking my t-shirt off

My sneakers and jeans follow ,
leaving on just my briefs

I pull her jeans down to her
legs, and she has a banging
body

I take her sandals off , and
finally pull the jeans off

She's left with her panty now , I
trail up giving her a kiss

Moving back , locking eyes and
I slowly take her panty off

Me : you're perfect

She smiles

I part her legs , getting in
between them . I fiddle with

her folds , slowly rubbing on
her clit

She lets out slight moans , I just
dive in nibbling on her clit

She has her hands all over my
head , pulling me further in

I oblige giving her the pleasure ,
she whimpers letting out a
slight scream

I move back , getting on my knees positioning myself in between her thighs

I rub my dick on her , before I slowly slide in . And it's a fucking struggle

But as the pleasure calms down, the damn scream tells me she's still sealed

Like what the fuck !

I just broke someone's virginity

This better not come back and
bite me

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INSERT 02

Nomakhosi

It has dawned on me now

And the pain I'm feeling , tells
me last night was no dream

I actually lost my virginity to a
stranger at a party

Like what !

Libo always says girls tend to be
clingy over virginity breakers

I for one don't even know
Bayede , besides just knowing
his name . And it could be fake

Does this mean I've been dealt
like a raw deal ?

I'll probably never see his guy
ever again

He's asleep , I've been looking
at him for a bit now

And I've never seen such a
handsome guy

I lift my head , pecking his lips .
I smile to myself

Me : thank you

I whisper , getting away from
his hold . I feel like screaming
as I land on the floor

I can't even stand properly

I pick my clothes from the floor
and put them on

I take his jacket , I can only
hope that it's his . And I put it
on

I take one more look at him ,
and I'm like at least he wasn't
ugly

I unlock the door walking out ,
and this house is a mess

Rich kids live large

Oh but not all of us have that
okay !

Just take me for example , I'm
just a kid with rich parents .
And I don't know what life is

I pass some people passed out
on the couches

I wonder where Libo is

But I'm sure she's with her
boyfriend , I head to the gate
and press the button

The gate opens and I head out

Reaching for my pockets , I
fiddle for my phone and it's a
relief

I take it out requesting an Uber,
I can't even sit down the way
I'm in pain

I just need a bathtub with
herbs. It stings though , not
even finding a simple text from
my parents

I put my phone back , as the
Uber arrives . And I'm thankful
when I get home

Alina : are you okay ?

That's the first thing she says

Honestly she's more family
than anyone in this house is to
me

And she's just the daughter of
our helper , her mother is sick
so she's helping her out

Me : I'm fine , I just need a bath
with herbs . And a bed

She laughs

Alina : okay , I'll fix it for you .
But you'll eat before you sleep

Me : okay

She walks to my room , I text Libo that I'm home

And I follow Alina to my bedroom , I take my clothes off. I'll wash these myself , I wrap a towel

Alina : anything specific you want to eat ?

She asks coming out of the
bathroom

Me : soft porridge with peanut
butter

Alina : okay

She walks out , I walk to the
bathroom and just sink in

Closing my eyes , my mind trails
off . And the pain , reminds me
of last night

For a stranger , he was so
gentle and caring . He always
asked me if I'm okay

If it isn't too painful , he asked
for consent before he did
anything

Honestly it was just bliss

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Bayede

Not a hit and run by a virgin

And that girl was all kinds of
flames , I am damn tired

My body felt it , every ounce of
pleasure took its toll on me

And she ran out on me !

Fuck ! Women are savage

I get up and the sheet is really stained

I shake my head a bit , picking up my briefs I put them on

Followed by my jeans and t-shirt , I put on my sneakers

I remove the sheets , there's no
way in hell I'm leaving her
blood here

I fold the sheet nicely , and I
see my jacket is gone

But it's no big deal , it would be
nice if she's the one who took it
though

After giving me her pride , at
least she'll have something's
from me

I head out , pressing my phone .
And I have a few missed calls
from Lesedi

I left my girlfriend , and spent a
night with another girl . That's
just messed up

Voice : and here you are

I chuckle heading to the kitchen

Thapelo : what's not on , is me
having nowhere to sleep .

While you have a girl in my bed,
screaming your name out of
her mouth

Me : you heard that ?

He nods , I laugh

Me : she gave me sweet
nothings

Thapelo : don't tell me ,
because I was starved

Me : I don't need to know , I'm
taking this sheet . Find another
one

I grab a plastic , placing it
inside. I leave him there
frowning and confused

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Lesedi

Lesedi



Bayede must be taking me a for
a ride

The way he just disappeared on
me last night

Right after saying he's going to
get a drink and he never came
back

I surely must be an idiot to him

I've been calling and texting ,
and he's not responding either

I'd hate to think the worst , that
my boyfriend is cheating on me

I call Thapelo , I hate doing this.
Because I try and keep his
friends out of our relationship ,
as much as I can

Thapelo : sure

Me : it's Sedi , sorry to bother .

Thapelo : no sweat , what's up?

Me : do you have any idea
where Bayede is at ?

Thapelo : he just left my house
now

Me : so he was there ?

Thapelo : yeah we ditched the party last night , and only came back in the dawn hours

Me : oh okay !

That's some relief

Thapelo : it really just wasn't our scene , with all my brother's high school friends

I didn't even notice there were high school kids there

Me : alright , he'll probably call when he gets home

Thapelo : you know he will , stop worrying . Your man is as loyal as they come

That's all the assurance I needed

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INSERT 03

Nomakhosi

Libo came over , and I was right
She was with her boyfriend

But as soon as I opened my data , her WhatsApp messages and voice notes came flooding in

She was going crazy last night busy looking for me

Libo : what happened ?

Me : don't judge me okay

Libo : people who say don't judge me , before they even explain themselves means they know they deserve to be judged

I laugh

Me : I might as well not tell you

Libo : sorry I'm listening

Me : I spilled a drink on some
guy , we ended up outside by
the pool

Libo : in that coldness ?

Drama and exaggeration

Me : chilliness

Libo : same thing

Me : anyways , because of that
chilly weather . He offered me a
top

She burst out laughing

Libo : I swear a guy who hasn't
pulled this top stunt on a girl ,
hasn't lived

I laugh

Libo : Nomakhosi Khumalo !

Me : one thing led to another ,
and I lost my virginity there

She gets up jumping and
laughing

Me : really ?

Libo : I'm happy , you have
grown like no cap

What's the big deal ?

Libo : when are you seeing each
other again ?

Me : we won't

She frowns sitting down

Libo : do you know his name at least ?

Me : I do

Libo : and ?

Me : I'm not telling you

Libo : why ? It's not like I'll go searching for him

Me : because I won't ever see
him again , so he might as well
not exist

She sighs

Libo : sad , but at least you're
on the same level as us now

Me : and there's nothing
amazing about it

She laughs

I'm secretly happy though

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Bayede

Mihlali walks in , with a bowl of
pop corn

Me : this is my personal space ,
and not a living room

She laughs sitting down on the
edge of the bed

Mihlali : you seemed lost in
thought

Well is it crazy that I just can't
get Khosi out of my mind

And she just left me dead in
bed just like that

I chuckle at that thought

Mihlali : wow !

Me : you won't understand

Mihlali : ah it's a girl ?

Me : I'm not doing this with you

I say shaking my head

Mihlali : you're not my older brother , we're twins and the same age

Me : get out

She laughs

Mihlali : I'm thinking of moving in here , when you move out

She says getting up , looking
around

Me : well , that won't happen
as long as the parents are not
hearing my plea

Mihlali : if only they knew ,
you've already bought an
apartment

Shit !

And right at that moment my
parents stand at the door

I sit up

As for this one , her look says
she wishes to take her words
back

But it's too late now right ?

Mom : Mihlali , please excuse
us

Mihlali : yes ma'am

She takes her bowl and walks
out

I'm not surprised she knows ,
she goes through my things like
they're hers

Sometimes I feel like it's a curse
being born with a girl at the
same time

Because same age or not , I still
feel like the big brother

And I let her get away with shit!

Dad : you okay ?

Me : ee ke siame (yes I'm okay)

He chuckles , and they walk in

Mom : when last did you wash
your sheets ?

Not conversations you want to
have with my parents

They start like this , but never
end in the same tone

Me : I don't know

Mom : then we'll stand , and
keep this short . Because I don't
know what kind of things you
got up to , on those sheets

What did I say ?

Me : mma ! (Mom)

Dad : don't be shy about it , o ja
Kuku monna and that's.....(you
eat pussy man)

Me : guys !

I have perverts of parents

Mom : it's fine you can move
out

Me : what ?

She nods

Me : I'm not leaving you , I'll
always come home and

Dad : you'll hardly come to my
house , be independent man .
And prove you can do it for
months

I laugh

He's lying to us all in here

Because one call home , while I'm leaving out there he'll be the first one to attend to it

Me : ee rra ka utwa (yes I hear you dad)

Dad : good , motho wame a re tsamaye (my person let's go)

Mom : don't lie , next time just talk to us with the truth

Me : ee mma (yes mom)

They walk out , my phone rings
I pick it up

Me : sure ?

Thapelo : ya reng hangover ?
(How's the)

I laugh

Me : ke grand (I'm okay)

Thapelo : did you talk to Sedi ?

The fuck is wrong with me ?

And I saw her calls and texts ,
but I just can't bring myself to
attend to her

Me : no

Thapelo : she called , and I covered for you. Said we went out last night

Me : eish , I'll call her

Thapelo : sharp , dintshang ?
(What's going on)

Me : well I'm finally moving on

Thapelo : Nkosiyabo agreed !

Stupid friends and calling our
parents with their names

Me : he was telling me gore ke
ja Kuku (that I eat pussy)

He burst out laughing

Thapelo : ntatao monna (your
father man)

Me : ke character (he's a)

Thapelo : mare at least you got what you wanted (but)

Me : yeah , I can't wait man this is a new thing for me . And it'll be a ride embarking on it

Thapelo : re ta ja joy (we'll have)

I chuckle

Me : let me call Sedi monna re
ta bua (man we'll talk)

Thapelo : sure

I drop the call , and lie down

What's so fucking hard about
making a call ?

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INSERT 04

THREE MONTHS LATER

Nomakhosi

The urge is just worse than any
other day or morning today

I rush you the bathroom ,
crouching down on the toilet

Lord knows I hate this , and if
only I knew how to make it
better then I would

I get up when I'm done , flush
the toilet then I rinse my mouth

Voice : what's going on with you ?

Getting caught off guard , will always scare me to hell

I even let out a slight scream

Me : uhmma ? (Mom)

I ask with the most confused expression ever

Mom : you haven't been
yourself lately

People get sick !

I've just been sick as of late , I
throw up a lot . Especially in the
morning

I now can't stand certain smells

One thing that annoys me , is
the fact that I feel like I've
gained weight

But it's not even a feel
anymore, I moved from size 28
to 30 in just three months

Me : I know

Mom : so what's going on ?

Me : I don't know

Mom : if you're lying to me ,
Nomakhosi you won't like the
consequences

Me : I'm not lying , my stomach
must be reacting . I told Alina
last night , that pork had a bad
smell . But she said it was okay ,
and I ate it still

Mom : the day before
yesterday you were throwing
up , was it pork again ?

Yhoh !

Mom : after school , I want you
heading to a doctor

Me : okay

She turns and walks away

I finally walk out of the
bathroom , I hope Libo will be
able to come with me

Because I know here at home
no one will come with me

If only Alina wasn't doing
laundry today

But she is , and it's the most
hard working day she has

She took over from her mother,
so she's the one now working
here

Because her mother's health is
not getting any better

I take my phone and call Libo

Libo : it's early

Of course I know that , I'm
awake

Me : can you accompany me to
the doctor ?

Libo : you're missing school ?

Me : no , after school

Libo : okay that's fine , I'm glad
you're finally going . Because
you haven't been your best self

Me : yeah I know

She's also noticed , I think
everyone has

Because I'm very bad at hiding
anything

I can't even tell a mere lie ,
because I always get caught out

Libo : see you at school

Me : bye

I drop the call , sitting on the
bed

I hope it's just a stomach bug
and nothing serious

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Bayede

I haven't been home in a
month , like a whole month

And that felt like forever , it's
very much strange

But living on my own has been
good to me

I'm understanding this whole
being independent concept

Not having to rely on parents
for anything , that has to do
with taking care of you

But then knowing what you
need , and what must be done

So far , this is working out just
fine for me

Me : baby

She turns looking at me with a smile

Sedi : babe

And now she even stays around here for a week even

Lesedi and I , we've been together since late last year

Around December to be
precise, so it's been just 5
months

And well , when a relationship
is working well you just can't
dispute it

And that what's happening
between us , we're working
well just fine

Sedi : you're up ?

Me : I want to get to campus on time

Sedi : I have no lectures today , I'll be around here all day

Me : but you're up this early ?

She laughs

Sedi : to make breakfast for you
silly

I chuckle

Me : thank you , I'll wife you
one of these days

She rolls her eyes

Me : don't start with me

She knows I hate that

Sedi : maybe if you stopped fooling around , I would actually believe you

Me : what are you talking about?

Sedi : nothing

Me : I won't beg you to come
out with the truth

I sit down dishing up for myself

Women are very strange
creatures , and you can't keep
up with them

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INSERT 05

Nomakhosi

I've never been so scared

Like right now I'm literally just shaking

When we got here , the doctor asked how I've been feeling and all that

After I explained everything , all she wanted was just a pregnancy test

I mean how crazy ?

Now a thousand thoughts are just going through my head

My mother is going to kill me

How am I going to explain this to her ?

Yes the tests came back positive , and now we're doing a scan

I just don't want to believe this

I keep thinking she'll tell me she was mistaken

That I'm not pregnant

Without even thinking twice ,
this is Bayede's baby

I don't even know the guy , I'm
going to be a single mother to
this baby

But like who gets pregnant first
time having sex ?

I mean am I that weak ?

Doc : see , you're 13 weeks pregnant

That's three months and a week , and it definitely matches the time

Doc : this guy here is busy

Me : it's a boy ?

That's the first thing I utter ,
since I've been quite hearing
these news

Doc : the next time you go for a
check up , you'll be able to see
clearly . Because you'll be over
14 weeks , but I do see that
he's a boy

I nod with teary eyes

She wraps everything up ,
giving me a prescription for the
morning sickness

And we leave , I'm just without
words . I don't know what to
say

Libo : it's going to be okay

I burst into a sob

It's not going to be okay , my
mother is going to kill me

Not only am I pregnant , but I
have a fatherless baby

Me : how stupid am I ?

Libo : you're not stupid , these
things happen

Me : and now I've become a statistic

Libo : a stats ?

Me : teenage pregnancy

Libo : it's not the end of the world , your son needs you .
And it's not about you anymore, it's all about him

What am I going to do ?

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Lesedi

I love Bayede so much , I just wish he shared the same love and views

But clearly he doesn't

It's been just a week , and I found out he's seeing some girl from his class

Like we go to the same campus,
is it so necessary to cheat ?

Especially when there's nothing
I don't do for him

Honestly I'm hurt , and I don't
even know how to confront
him

I know he will deny it

And in the end I'm the one
who'll be left looking like an
idiot

An idiot who accused him of
things he's not doing

While we both know that he is

The girl posted him on
Facebook , and even tagged
him

He didn't even untag himself ,
he just kept quite and didn't
even comment on the post

At that time , I don't even post
him . Because I think he won't
be happy about that

I'm going back home today , I
think I need my space away
from him

Because I can't take this
bottling up anymore

I drag my bag , leaving the note
on the table . And I walk out ,
leaving his key under the mat

I don't even want to take it
with me , even though it's mine
he gave it to me

I might be crazy , and decide to
come over . Only to find him
with another girl

So best I knock when I come
back

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Bayede

I decided to come home

I'm not in the moods to go back
to Lesedi

When she's ready to say what her problem is , then she will

We're in the kitchen cooking ,
mom walks in and she sits
down

Mom : Nkosiyabo Zulu , are you
cheating on me ?

I burst out laughing

Yes trust my mother to put you on the spot , during awkward situations

Dad : what ?

Mom : I asked a question

Dad : yeah....I heard , but why would you ask me that ? What did I do ?

Mom : my grandfather came
with a baby to me last night

I can't stop laughing , this is
getting even better

Dad : and he said it's mine ?

Poor man !

Mom : well he looked like one
of you Zulu men

And now all eyes on me

Me : okay , I'll help you real quick . I didn't get anyone pregnant , and I know for a fact

Mihlali : Mom is never wrong

Me : I know that , but I won't admit to having a baby out there . Because I know I don't

Dad : are you gay ?

Shit no !

Are all parents like this ? Or it's
just mine

Mom : your father would never

Me : so your accusation is at
me ?

She shrugs

Me : wow , thanks a lot

I turn back to the pots

So much for coming at her
husband , while she's aiming at
me

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INSERT 06

Nomakhosi

When I have bad news to tell

My parents have to be home

But for everything else , they're
never home

We're in the living room , and they're both just staring at me

Mom : best you stop crying , and start talking

Dad : give her a chance

She clicks her tongue , the look my father gives her

Mom : I'm sorry , I just don't understand why she just can't talk

Dad : clearly whatever she wants to say is heavy on her

Me : I'm pregnant

I say as fast as I can , and I feel like the room has come to a stand still

I'm brought to , by my burning
cheek

And I can't say I'm surprised ,
but I'm shocked that she
actually slapped me

My father pushes her so hard ,
she falls down on the floor

Mom : we're supposed to be raising a child here , and not a little whore

She screams down on the floor

Mom : who is the father of that bastard ?

Dad : can you calm down

Mom : I asked you a question ?

Me : I don't.....

Mom : great ! You don't even know him . I really raised a whore , like what kind of punishment is this ?

She gets up pacing up and down . And now I have a pounding headache , and this hiccup is not helping

Mom : you're going to abort
that bastard , do you
understand

What....no !

Mom : I said

Dad : can we just calm down !

He raises his voice a bit

Mom : she's 16 for goodness sake , how is she going to raise a baby ? Babies need money , and does she have money ? She'll have to drop out of school , she can't continue with tennis . So obviously she's going to fail , because it's what picked her marks academically . She decided to open her thighs, so she'll deal with the consequences . Tomorrow first thing in the morning , I'm

taking you to the doctor .
You're going to kill that thing

She walks out , my dad sits
down next to me and he brings
my head to his chest

And it's like I've only just
started crying right now

Me : I'm....sorry

Dad : I know baby , I know . You need to calm down , stop crying. I'm sure this can't be good for the baby

I expected him to be angry as well , but here he is consoling me

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Bayede

Women are something else

I've tried calling Sedi , she's
ignoring my calls

To a point that she even checks
my texts and respond them

But she can't take my calls

I found her gone , and I just
wanted to know what was that
all about

But I guess I'm not getting that
answer anytime soon

With all this acting up , could it be that she's pregnant ?

I mean , my mother is a seer .
And she's never wrong about these things

But if she was pregnant , she would tell me right ?

Unless she doesn't know

And this means , I have to ask
her if she's been on the pill

Because some days I was
reckless yes , I can't deny that

But it was in knowing that she's
taking precautions

But she's a woman

And anything is possible

Now I have to find a way to ask her , without offending her

Because besides her , who would be pregnant especially with my child ?

My father would never mess around with my mother , that's for sure

The man worships the ground
that woman walks on

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Nomakhosi

I don't feel like facing anyone
this morning

But I can't stay in bed all day

Actually I can

But just not in my mother's
house

I get up walking to the
bathroom , I stand in front of
the mirror

Lifting my pj top up , I stare at
my stomach hoping that I'll see
something

A whole 13 weeks and I didn't
feel anything , I didn't even
suspect

Me : what am I going to do ?

My mother's words still linger
in my head

She wants me to abort

But can I bring myself to do that ?

And that reminds me she said this morning , she's taking me there

I take the quickest shower I've ever taken in my entire life

I'm in my school uniform taking my school bag and I sneak out

It's catching a taxi for me

She's going to rip my head off ,
but I'll rather she kills me with
this child

I will not kill a human being ,
this baby has a soul

How am I supposed to live with
myself ?

Voice : hello , hi !

I laugh facing her

Libo : what are you doing here
so early ?

Me : running away from mom

Libo : you told them ?

I nod

Libo : that bad ?

Me : she told me to abort

Libo : what ? No !

I nod

Libo : you're not !

Me : that's why I ran away , I'll probably be homeless when I

get home . She wanted to take
me there

Libo : what did your dad say ?

I shrug

Me : disappointed I guess , but
at least he didn't call my son a
bastard . Or that I'm a whore

She engulfs me in a hug

Libo : you're going to figure this out , you're going to be okay

Me : you think so ?

Libo : I know so , and you don't have to go through this alone

I take a deep breath wiping my tears

Libo : what about you know ?

I frown

Me : I don't even know him

I say laughing through my tears

Libo : you know him , you just
don't know how to find him

What ?

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INSERT 07

Nomakhosi

Me : what do you mean ?

Libo : you know him , you know his name . There's so much you can do about that

Me : like what ?

Libo : search him through social media

Me : some people don't pay attention to that

Libo : still , he was at the party .
You know I'm dating LJ , how
many Bayede's can be there ?
Especially ones who were at
the party

This gives me some thought

But I don't want to get my
hopes high

What if I don't find him ? And I've already made scenarios and expectations

Me : do you think LJ could know him ?

Libo : even if he doesn't , he could ask his brother . And right now , we can start off with Facebook . You know his face , if he has a profile it won't be hard finding him

Me : that sounds like a lot of
work , just talk to LJ

She laughs

Libo : okay fine

We walk in the gate

And now I have crazy thoughts
going through my mind

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Bayede

Thapelo just rocked up in my
apartment

I'm busy stuck with
assignments that are due

Me : man , you really shouldn't
rock up at my place when I
have work to do

He laughs opening a beer , and
he sits down

Thapelo : LJ called me and he was asking me about you

Me : asking what ?

Thapelo : more like his girlfriend asked him , and he just wanted to know if you were at the party

Me : that's insane , why would your brother ask you that ?

He shrugs

Thapelo : beats me

Me : okay , you sit there and
keep quite . I have papers to
grade

He takes a sip of his beer

Thapelo : you're not taking LJ's
girl are you ? Like she's a minor

and still in high school , so if
you tapped her at the party
leave it there

Me : what the hell ? I didn't do
such shit . Why the fuck would I
bang a high school kid ?

He laughs

Thapelo : these things happen ,
and those people are not
written on their foreheads

Me : blame you , for having kids
at your party

Thapelo : LJ begged okay

Me : well it doesn't matter , I
didn't bang no high school kids

. Just that one beauty , whom I
think left with my jacket

Thapelo : what's with the
fucking smile ?

I laugh

Me : I don't know man , but
she's my last thought every
night

Thapelo : fuck ! Good thing
you'll never see her again

Which is why I really hope she
took that jacket , because as
long as she has it

She'll never forget me

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Nomakhosi

I'm in shit

I feel like this couch will sink
down with me

It's so tense in here , the air in
the atmosphere cannot be
missed

Mom : when you were sneaking
out , did you not think you're a
nothing and you'll have to
come back to my house ?

The tears again !

Mom : you better speak and answer for yourself , you have a mouth right ? And you're very much capable of opening those thighs to.....

Dad : enough !

Me : I'm sorry

Mom : will sorry take away
that....

Dad : stop pissing me off , you'll
start talking to this child like
the child she is . And stop
swearing

She sighs

Mom : who's the father of this baby ? And don't tell me you don't know again

But I didn't say that , she cut me up before I was even done

Me : it's.... Bayede

If this wasn't so awkward I would be laughing my ass off

Dad : is he your boyfriend ?

I shake my head slowly , I can't even look at them

Dad : did he hurt you ?

Me : hurt me ?

Mom : oh come on ! No one raped her , she did it willingly

Me : he didn't rape me

Dad : okay

Mom : well , and I'm seen as
the Villain for calling you a
wh....

She claps her hands

Mom : this Bayede will have to be held accountable for this , better prepare yourself

Me : he doesn't know

She laughs , and it's a mocking laugh

Mom : I don't care , you will tell him . Because I'm not going to

raise a fatherless child in my house . We're taking you to him

She gets up

Mom : and stop going to school, we won't be wasting money on you while you're pregnant . You want to be pregnant right ? Well some days you won't even make it out the door of your room

Is she for real ?

Me : I'm going to be a year
behind

Mom : well next year , you'll
start again in Grade 10

Me : mom please

Mom : I'm done talking about
this

And she walks out

What am I going to do ?

I so hope Libo comes through
for me

Wouldn't it be best to tell him
first , rather than just rocking
up at his place ?

He probably wouldn't even
want this baby

What my mother is doing is just
not fair on me

She's dragging my life right
now, all because I fell pregnant

For the first time , I have so
many regrets

Dad : the drama in this house ,
I'll age really fast

He gets up and now I'm left all
alone

I wipe my tears and walk to my
room

It's going to be a long life ,
living in this house . Taking
insults day in and day out

I lie down on the bed , log in on
Facebook . And I search him
with just the name

There's a few profiles , and I'm
lazy to scroll through them all

I scroll down , and I find a
picture of him tagged in a post
by some girl

Of course he's dating , it's not like I expected a guy like him to be single

But I've found his profile , that's all that matters

I get on in , and he's not that interactive . There isn't any posts , just a few pictures

I send him a friend request

He could take forever to
respond to it

I take my chances sending him
a message

We're not friends , it'll go to
message request or spam

This is a long shot , because
either way he won't get it right
away

But I'm praying by some
miracle he checks

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INSERT 08

A WEEK LATER

Nomakhosi

My parents are loosing
patience with me

Well more like my mother

And my father is starting to side
with her on this

Libo came through , and she
confirmed LJ's brother knows
Bayede

Now the brother is my only
hope

Even though he doesn't know
me , I hope he can help

Because I'm facing harsh words
daily

All my mother wants is going
there and nothing else

And as for Bayede even now he
hadn't checked the message

My request hasn't been
accepted

He must not be a Facebook
person , or just because he gets
thousands and thousands of
likes

He surely thinks he's better

We know these kind of people ,
they're just on social media to
flex and nothing more

I guess maybe he's one of those

But now I need to talk to LJ's
brother

Maybe I'll get to talk to Bayede
before we go to his home

Because if he wants nothing to do with this baby , I don't want to get embarrassed there

Guys can be brutal , he can blatantly deny this baby and even deny me

Imagine what my mother would do to me , if that happens

I'm a stay home person now ,
and it's driving me insane

I'm at Gateway today , had to
get my morning sickness meds

They don't completely end it ,
but it gets better

So I guess that's better than
nothing

Walking out of the restaurant , I
bump into this girl

Me : I'm sorry

She holds my shoulder

Her : I'm sorry ...I wasn't
looking

I guess we both weren't

She's looking at me very strange , and she slowly removes her hand off my shoulder

Her : nice jacket

Awkward !

Me : uhm thanks

She nods walking inside the
restaurant

I'm wearing Bayede's jacket ,
I'm sure he thinks I stole it

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Bayede

I'm home today

My mother is not well , and I
just had to come see her

I can't have anything happen to
this woman

We're cuddling in her bed , and
my dad is gonna kill me if he
walks in here

Mom : how's school ?

I chuckle

Me : you can't compare varsity
with school

She laughs

Mihlali walks in

Mihlali : it's cosy

Me : knock

She shakes her head

Me : you know how to ruin a
moment

Mom : you've been here for
more than three hours

Me : woman ! If you don't want
me anymore just say so

Mihlali : three hours and you
didn't even cook anything

She's whining now

Me : well , didn't you eat ?

Mihlali : I had a light meal , just something to sustain me

Me : let's go cook

Mihlali : you're not offering ?

Me : I'm not hungry

Mom : just take the favour you're being given

Mihlali : yes ma'am

I get up , and we both walk out
heading to the kitchen

Mihlali : tell me , where is your
black baseball jacket ?

Me : why ?

Mihlali : you know just how much I love that jacket , and I've always asked for it

Me : yeah I know

Mihlali : I bumped into some girl today at the mall , she was wearing the same jacket

Me : and you know , it's not the only one in the world

Mihlali : yeah I know , for a moment there looking at her . I thought it's yours

Me : that's crazy

She laughs

Mihlali : now that I say it out loud , yes it's crazy . And I could be wrong , but she looked

pregnant as well . And I was like
it can't be yours

I take out the meat from the
freezer

But those words ring back in
my mind

Pregnant ?

And no one could have possibly walked in the room , and took my jacket

But she could have , because I was giving it to her the night before to wear

Me : anyway how did the girl look like ?

Mihlali : cute

Me : you might as well be quite

Mihlali : don't bite my head off,
she was cute okay . Melanin
skin , with dimples . And some
cute darn eyes

Fuck it's her !

And my mother's dream was
true

Oh shit !

Me : how.....how heavily pregnant did she look ?

Mihlali : what's with the third degree ?

Me : can you just answer please

Mihlali : not heavily , I mean I
caught the bump because I was
close

I'm doomed !

How the fuck do I find her ?

Me : like maybe three months ?

That's how far she would be
now

Well adding two weeks on that

Mihlali : yeah , something like
that

I sit down

Mihlali : wait....what's with
you?

Me : Ithink I know her

Mihlali : the girl I bumped into ?

I nod

Me : and if it's the same person, the jacket is mine and so is that pregnancy

She pops her eyes

Me : don't tell mom and dad this , it was a once off thing . I

need to find her first , and be
sure

Mihlali : mom already said.....

Me : I know Mihlali , I know

She places her elbows on the
kitchen counter

Now my mind is running wild

I can't help but wonder how is she ? How was she when she found out ?

My head pounds

Right now I just know I have to find her

That jacket sure came in handy

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Nomakhosi

Since I don't go to school
anymore

I do help Alina around the house

Because she does all the work alone

So I have nothing to do , so I might as well do my bit

At first she used to be in my case about it , but now she just lets me be

I'm doing dishes now , listening
music to my phone as it rings

I look at the screen and it's
Libo, I take a dry cloth and dry
my hands

Me : hey

Libo : you'll have to love me ,
and I'll be godmother to BJ

Me : BJ ?

Libo : Bayede Junior

I laugh

Me : no we're not calling my
son that

Libo : we'll see , I spoke to LJ

Me : and ?

She sighs

And all my hopes go out the
window

Me : he refused ?

I don't even know why I'm
asking , because I already know
the answer

Libo : yes

Me : it's fine , I guess I'll have to
tell my parents the truth right
now

Libo : about his brother's
number yes , but we're in luck .
He said his brother is home ,
and we can come over and talk
to him

I can jump up right now

Me : you're not kidding ?

She laughs

Libo : sometimes you just need to be patient and listen

Me : you almost gave me a heart attack for nothing , and for a moment there I asked myself what do we love you for?

We laugh

Libo : so when can we go see
him ?

Me : is tomorrow fine ?

Libo : yes , I'll be back from
school at around 11:00

Me : okay then , let's talk
tomorrow

I drop the call

Finally now it feels like we're
getting somewhere

It was a clever move to ask LJ to
ask his brother about Bayede

And we found out they're
friends

I hope his brother will be able
to hear me out and help us

I want Bayede to know , and
choose for himself

Not us to just ambush him ,
because I also don't want to be
rejected denied and
embarrassed

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INSERT 09

Bayede

My mind hasn't had rest , since
my talk with Mihlali

Just the fact alone that I missed
out on so much on the
pregnancy kills me

And I'm asking myself how's
Khosi managing

I'm sure she already made
peace that she's going to be a
single mother

Right now I so badly want to
make this right

Thapelo : no kidding !

I'm at his home

And I just told him about all of
this

Me : I have no doubt

Thapelo : it's too much of a
coincidence

Me : right ? That's exactly what
I thought

Thapelo : Opelung is going to
kill you for lying

We laugh

Me : don't be an idiot , I didn't lie . I didn't know , like what reason do I have denying my own child ?

Thapelo : what are you going to do ?

I take a sigh

Me : I don't know , but I need to find her . How and where I don't know

Thapelo : this is huge

Me : and so is Durban , I mean Mihlali saw her in gateway . She could be anywhere in this city , and we're here in Glenwood

Finding her is my only stress
right now

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Nomakhosi

I'm scared this morning

The nerves are just doing the
most

I'm praying for LJ's brother to
help me

And I'm also scared , what will
happen when I get hold of
Bayede ?

I swear if he denies this baby , I
am doomed

My mother is very much
capable of even kicking me out
of her house right now

And that will be the last straw ,
if suddenly this baby doesn't
have a father for real

Libo : you okay ?

I nod

But we both know I'm nervous

Libo : Thapelo is not that bad

Me : who ?

She laughs

Libo : that's LJ's brother

Me : oh okay

And we walk in , welcomed by
LJ

Loago : ladies

He smiles , kissing Libo on the
cheek . And she giggles

Must be great being in love

He finally clears his throat , we
look at each other

Loago : you okay ?

I nod

Loago : okay , Thapelo is in there having breakfast . I'll introduce you ladies , and leave you alone

Libo : thank you baby

He leads us to the kitchen , and his brother's face is not even familiar

I don't think I saw him that day

Loago introduces us and leave ,
like he said . We call him LJ
because he is named after his
father

Thapelo : so Ladies how can I
help you ?

We look at each other , Libo
holds my hand

Me : uhm....I heard that you're friends with Bayede Zulu

Thapelo : I am

Me : I need your help , there's something very urgent I need to talk to him about . And I don't know where he lives , I don't even have his contacts . I texted him on Facebook , and he hasn't responded . I'm running out of time

Thapelo : he's hardly ever on Facebook , his profile update was three months ago . I can give you his number though , only if you promise that you don't bring problems for my boy

Me : no problems , I promise

He smiles

Thapelo : he has lectures all
throughout the day , so
chances of finding himmhm

He even motions with his hand

Me : thank you , thank you so
much

Thapelo : alright

I take my phone and hand it to him , he puts the number in

Now I just have to get a hold of Bayede , and get this over and done with . I guess I was scared for nothing, Thapelo is really not that bad

Thapelo : there you go , I saved his address there . Just in case you might need it

He hands me back my phone

Me : thank you

We get up

Thapelo : nice jacket

This jacket does wonders I
guess , but since it belongs to
his friend I guess he knows it

And Bayede did take the jacket
from the room we were in , he
took it from this house

Thapelo : how it left my closet

He shrugs raising his hands up
in surrender

Me : don't be like that

We laugh , he walks us out .
And LJ offers to drive us home

They drop me off , and the first
thing I do is call Bayede . But he
doesn't answer

I'm shocked walking in the
lounge and my parents are
home

I greet

Mom : go change into something decent

Where are we going ?

Mom : am I not loud enough ?

What's something decent ?

Me : a dress ?

Mom : yes a dress , and cover
up . We're taking you to that
boys home

What ?

Me : at this time ?

I'm shocked

Like isn't such things done in
the morning ?

Mom : I don't have all day , get on with it and take us there .

I say nothing going to my bedroom

I call Bayede again panicking , and he doesn't answer

This is bad !

Like it's very bad ! I pace
around trying to figure out
what to do

Voice : I hope you know there's
no getting out of this one , we
gave you a whole week to
prepare yourself . Get dressed

I'm startled by her , I put the
phone down . Walking to my
closet

I don't even have dresses ,
these things are short and tight

I just pick one and put it on , we
leave and I'm shaking hoping
that he calls me back or
something

Now the address from Thapelo
is coming in handy

I just gave it to my father ,
imagine if I didn't have it . And I
had to tell them , I don't know
where he lives

I tap my phone , as we
approach . His home is not
even that far from mine

Just 20 minutes max

As we get to the gate

I send him a text , I hope he
sees it . And responds or
something

My father buzzes and the gate
is opened , I can't even admire
the house whatsoever

I'm so close to peeing on myself
right now

We're welcomed by a beautiful
melanin woman with beads

As her eyes lands on me , I feel
so strange . In a way that I can't
even explain

Her : please come in

We follow her through to the
sitting room

Mom : we're the Khumalo family , and we came here with a very serious matter

Why is she even talking ?

Her : okay , this is the Zulu home . Please let me call my husband

She disappears for a bit and
comes back with a slight
lookalike of Bayede

He greets and my father greets
back , they both sit down

Mr Zulu : my wife tells me you
have brought a matter ?

Mom : yes.....

Dad : we know this is not how things are done , but we have lost time . So we ought it best to do this now

Mr Zulu : I hear you , so what matter brought you ?

Dad : this is my daughter , and it has come to our attention that she's with child

All eyes on me now and I feel
them

Dad : and your son is
responsible for her situation
right now

The father nods , they look so
calm like people who already
know

Or maybe I'm just being crazy
right now

Mr Zulu : my son doesn't live
here , and ...

Mom : don't try and defend
your child

Wow !

Mrs Zulu : let the man speak ,
and stop interrupting him .

When men talk , you know your
place as a woman . And if that's
not how you do things , this is
the Zulu house . And in the Zulu
house you do things their way

Please tell her , it was long
overdue

Mr Zulu : as I was saying , my
son doesn't live here . I'll call

him , he'll come and explain himself . I hope you can bare and wait a bit

Dad : we will wait

The man takes his phone and makes a call , just as Bayede calls me back

Isn't he a bit too late ?

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INSERT 10

Bayede

When Mageba calls and uses
that tone , you know he's not
kidding with you

So I had to leave campus and
come home

I'll just have to find a way to catch up , on the last lectures I'm missing

I saw a few missed calls from a number I don't know , I tried calling back but there was no answer .

There's even a message , but I didn't check it

And there's also a missed call
from Thapelo

I wonder what the hell is going
on ? So many calls

I walk inside the house calling
Thapelo

Me : sure

Thapelo : finally , I had the pleasure of meeting your baby mama today

Me : what ?

Thapelo : the girl is looking for you high and low and....

Me : where is she ? Do you have a number at least ?

Thapelo : even better I gave her
yours

Passing the living room , her
face is the first I catch a glimpse
of

Me : I'll call you back

I drop the call , and tap on the
message . I see her name and
I'm pregnant

I don't even get to read the whole thing

Dad : come in here

I clear my throat and walk in , my eyes are so stuck on her

She has her head bowed down

I greet and sit down

Me : got held up in traffic

Dad : you're here now , that's what matters

This woman sitting next to Khosi looks like she's about to burst

Dad : this is the Khumalo family , and they've come here with

their daughter . Do you know her ?

Me : I know her

Maybe I should have said I've met her

Dad : they say she's pregnant , and you're responsible for that matter . Now what do you say ?

This girl was a virgin when I
slept with her

Honestly to say anything else
would be disrespect to her

Me : if she's three months and
two weeks pregnant then yes
it's mine , and I believe she is

We all look at her

Me : Khosi ?

She nods

Mrs Khumalo : how old are
you?

This woman wants my head ,
she's so aggressive right now

Me : I'm 21

I haven't closed it , but why say
20

And she's on her feet , ready to
kill someone

Mrs Khumalo : do you have any
idea how old my child is ?

Well I couldn't possibly ask her
how old she is , while I was
buried inside of her

Me : no

Mrs Khumalo : 16 ! She's damn
16

If the roof was weak , it would
go off right now

But I'm stuck on that 16 , she's
underage

I could be arrested for statutory rape , and it wouldn't matter that she gave consent or not

Mrs Khumalo : you deserve to rot in jail for statutory rape

Shit !

Khosi : he didn't rape me

Now she's crying , I so badly
want to hold her in my arms

Mrs Khumalo : you're a child ,
and you know nothing

Me : I didn't know she was
underage , I admit I was wrong .
I'll do right by your family and
your daughter , and I'll do right
by my child

Mrs Khumalo : what child ? You have no child , from today you stay the hell away from my daughter . It's jail , or you stay away from her and for good . You use your old brains and decide , we're done here let's go . And I hope you heard me , because if I even sniff you a mile away from her . I'll have you in jail , before you can even say my child ! Let's go

She grabs Khosi by her arm ,
and walks out

Mr Khumalo : I apologize for my
wife's behaviour , but as for
everything else please stay
away from my daughter .

Unless you really are prepared
to go to jail for defilement

Me : you can't keep me away
from my child

My eyes burn with tears

He gets up

Mr Khumalo : you have no child
with my daughter , she's a child
for heaven's sake

He walks out

I place my elbows on the table

Mom : I'm really sorry Zulu

Me : ma (mom) , I didn't know she was that young . I wouldn't have slept with a person underage , even though she agreed . I didn't know

Dad : we get that , but you heard those people

Me : Baba , that's my child !
(Dad)

Dad : I won't have you going to jail , they're upset now . Give them time , and they'll eventually calm down . Then we can visit this matter again

Me : I've already lost three months , how much more time do I have to lose ?

Mom : there's nothing we can do , you know if they go to the police you'll be in jail

Dad : and don't be rational about this , because going to jail you'll also not be a part of your child's life . Give them time , and then rationally we can talk to them again .

Hopefully we can be given a chance to make things right

Mom : I hope you hear your
father

They both get up

Dad : and don't bother that girl

The second they're out the
door I text her , because I can't
call back

Surely she's still with her
parents right now , I just ask
her to call or text me as soon as
she's alone

I so hope she does

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INSERT 11

Nomakhosi

Mom : wipe those tears off ,
and I hope you know that I
meant every single word I said
there

Me : but this is not fair

Mom : what do you know
about fairness ? At 16 and
pregnant , do you see that fair
on you ?

She clicks her tongue and walks
away

Dad : go rest , it's been a long
day

I nod walking to my room , I get
in locking the door

I lie down on the bed crying my
eyes out

So much for the person saying
she won't raise a fatherless
bastard in her house

Now she's the one denying my
son the chance to have a father

And this is so wrong

Bayede did nothing wrong , he
may be older yes but he did
nothing wrong

Why is he being punished ? For
wanting to do right and be a
father to his son

I don't care what they say , but
what they're doing isn't right

I was so scared of Bayede
denying the baby , but he didn't
even hesitate

My phone beeps for the second time now , and I haven't checked who it is

It must be Libo , I promised to talk to her after talking to Bayede

I'm sure she wants to know how that went like . I turn picking up my phone , but it's him . I wipe my tears off

But the tears keep falling down

But I answer the call anyways ,
and within a second he answers

Bayede : is it you ?

I muffle my tears with my hand

Bayede : please talk to me , I'm
so worried and scared

And I can hear just how
distracted he sounds

Me : it's me

Bayede : can I video call ?

Me : yes

He drops the call and video
calls

Bayede : I'm so sorry

I shake my head slightly

Me : it's not your fault

Bayede : I don't want to lose you , I want to be a part of our baby's child . I'll do everything in my power to make this right

I nod wiping my tears off

Bayede : I know it's crazy now ,
I don't even know what to do .
I'm sorry I put you in this
position , but I'm not sorry that
I'm going to be a father all
because of you . And I'll make
sure I'm a part of your life and
our baby girl

Our baby girl ?

I laugh through my tears

Me : the doctor said it's a boy

The expression on his face is
just priceless

Bayede : for real ?

I nod

How can they do this to him ?
It's just so unfair

Me : I'm so sorry , this is just so wrong

Bayede : I know , and I'll make it right . I don't know how , but I'll make a plan . And if it means we have to lie and sneak around , then so be it . If it means no one knowing , then that's what we'll have to do . I've missed so much , and I don't want to lose more

Will this even work ? Me and
lies , water and oil

Bayede : I love you baby mama,
and I love our little intruder
too. I'll make this work okay ?

I nod with a smile , but intruder

Me : okay

Bayede : every chance you get ,
for us to communicate please
just let me know and

A rough knock comes at the
door

Mom : Nomakhosi , why is this
door locked ? Don't try my
patience , open this door right
now

I look at Bayede and he nods

Bayede : go open the door ,
we'll talk okay ?

Me : okay

He drops the call , I get up
opening the door . And she just
pushes me aside walking in

Mom : you were
communicating with that boy
were you not ?

She asks taking my phone

Mom : if you care so much ,
you'll stay away from him so he
doesn't go to jail .

Me : but he didn't....

Mom : shut up , not only are you capable of opening your thighs for men older than you but you're also a liar . I'll teach you lesson

Me : he did nothing wrong

Mom : you're a child , and just because you are carrying one it doesn't make you a woman . This is my house , and you'll be a child . He is old , he should

have known better than take
advantage of a child . I'm taking
this phone , until you get it
through your head I wasn't
joking . And you'll be cooped up
in this house , you'll only go out
when you have to go to the
doctor and you won't go
unsupervised . Make peace
with your life , until you learn I
wasn't joking

She walks out with my phone

And there goes our lies and
sneaking around plan

I slide down on the floor crying

I'm tired !

I am really tired

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Bayede

Mihlali walks in , and she gets
in bed

Me : what do you want ?

Mihlali : cuddle

I chuckle

She snuggles closer and cuddles me , I kiss the top of her head

Mihlali : I'm so sorry

I nod

Me : I've been trying to call her,
and I think they took her phone

Mihlali : what are you going to
do ?

Me : I don't know , dad said I
should give them time . But I
don't have that time , I've
missed out on my son's life .
And I don't want him to grow
up not knowing me , Khosi is
crying and I fear that's not good

for the baby . She's not okay ,
what if she loses the baby and
....

Mihlali : don't say such things

Me : this is a mess

Mihlali : you're Bayede Zulu ,
and you'll figure this out . Rest ,
and think afresh . Those two

need you , just don't give up on them

I won't

I'll never give up on them , no matter what

Mihlali : and ignoring the parents , ignoring their threat is not good either . You'll be of no

use to Khosi and little Zulu in
jail

Me : yeah you're right

Mihlali : we'll figure something
out

Will we ?

My phone rings and in hopes
that it's her , but then it's
Thapelo

Thapelo : not happy to get my
call ?

I chuckle

Me : what is it ?

Thapelo : you sound like shit

Me : yeah

Thapelo : the baby mama ?

Me : I got home late yesterday ,
and she was already here with
her parents . I didn't attend her
calls in time , man things went
haywire

Thapelo : you're being forced
to marry her ?

This idiot !

Me : that would have been so much better , her family threatened statutory rape if I don't stay way from her and my child

Thapelo : what ?

Me : yeah , she's only 16 man . I
get where they're coming from,
but fuck this is extreme

Thapelo : shit ! We need some
beers for this , I was so ready to
be an uncle

I chuckle

Me : man !

Thapelo : take heart boy , you'll
get through this . And we'll
figure something out

At least I have people on my
side

I am not alone , but what about
Khosi ? . I just feel like she's all
alone in this and has no one to
support her

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INSERT 12

Nomakhosi

My mother wasn't kidding

She really did take my phone ,
and I haven't even see it

I'm locked up in this house like
I'm some kind of a prisoner

I can't take this , like I really
can't

If I thought life was worse
before

When they used to travel all over , and I would barely see them

No ways !

That was better than this , like so much better

I even hate helping Alina with anything these days

In all honestly , I don't even see
a point of living

Because this is not living at all

I'm just choosing not to be
selfish , by killing myself and
taking Bayede's son with me

Honestly the only reason I'm
living is because of this baby

and for his father to one day
see him

Nothing else

This is hell , it's only been a few
days but I can't take it anymore

With just a week to go , and I'll
be four months pregnant

I just wonder how I'm going to survive the next five months

I haven't seen Libo either , I don't even know if she's come around or not

Because I know my friend would never stay away . But maybe if she came around , my mother told her where to get off

I feel like I'm losing my mind ,
having to sit around all day long
doing nothing

Stress is just killing me , I don't
even want to live

My parents don't see how
they're ruining my life . First
they forced me to stop school ,
and now I'm restricted from
having a life

I don't know what kind of love
or parenting is this

But I hope and pray I'm a better
mother to my son

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Bayede

Nothing is getting better

Like everyday is just worse than
the last

My parents and my sister , as
well as Thapelo they're doing
their best to support me

But I don't even give a damn
about myself right now

Because I'm more worried and
stressed about Khosi and our
son

I wonder if they're okay

I'm always asking myself if she
cried today or she tried to be
strong ?

I feel so useless , and it's like
I've failed those two

They need me the most right
now , and I'm not doing
anything to help

All because of a threat to go to
jail

As much as I want to prove that
I can stand up for my family

That I can be a man and all that

I also know , going to jail is not an option . What use would I be in jail to them both ?

But the fact that I'm useless even on the outside , it just makes everything much more worse

And as much as I've been
slacking on everything

It's time I pick myself up

Because now I have two people
who will depend on me

But trying to pick my life ,
doesn't mean I'm forgetting
about them

Maybe the time my father
talked about , is very much
needed indeed

I'll keep trying and trying , until
I get my son and his mother .
And do right by them

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Lesedi

Bayede has been acting strange recently

He's just not himself and I can't help but wonder what's going on with him

He doesn't talk to me much anymore

The least he does is just send a text in the morning , and at night

I don't even remember when I last got his call . After a few days of not seeing him in campus , he's finally around today

And I can't take this anymore

I feel like our relationship is
dying , and I just want to know
what's going on

And if he's really with that girl
who posted him , then I'd
gladly leave

Because I'm not in competition
with anyone , and I won't fight
for a man

No matter how much I love him

I walk to him , and he's with
Thapelo and Eric

Me : hi guys

The guys greet back he just
looks at me

Me : can we talk ?

Bayede : let's leave , I was
leaving already

I'm not going to his apartment ,
but I won't say that in front of
his friends

He says goodbye to them and
we leave heading to his car

Bayede : you good ?

Me : no

Bayede : what's up ?

Me : I'm not going to your place

He sighs

Bayede : okay

Just an okay ?

The old Bayede I know , would even seduce me to leave with him if begging doesn't work

Me : babe are you cheating on me ?

He chuckles annoyed , and that can only mean he's not

Me : IMimi posted you on her Facebook . It was months ago yes , but she portrayed it like it's a relationship

Bayede : how people react when they're being rejected , doesn't mean I should be held accountable

Me : so you know who I'm talking about ?

He just nods

Me : I wasn't accusing you , I was asking

Bayede : and when last did I use Facebook ? I don't even know what you're talking about, but I won't deny

because I haven't even seen it .
And I won't justify your
question with an answer ,
honestly I'm going through shit
right now . And I need some
peace while figuring my shit out

I hold his hand

Me : why are you shutting me
out ?

He sighs

Bayede : you just asked me if I'm cheating , and if I tell you my problems right now cheating is the only thing that will be on your mind.

Is he indirectly hinting something right now ? And I'm just missing what he's saying

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INSERT 13

FOUR MONTHS LATER

Nomakhosi

These past months have been
hell for me

And some days I didn't even
think , that I would make it this
far

I just never saw myself
surviving , and still keeping this
baby alive

It's been hard , I don't even
want to lie

I've tried holding on , and I
think I did my best so far

There's nothing occupying me
in this house

I still don't have my phone , and
I only get to see Libo once in a
while

When my mother woke up on
the good side of the bed

Some days , she doesn't even
want Libo coming here

So maybe in two weeks , I only
see her like once . Just once

Basically I just have no life

I am no different to a confined prisoner , and it's a hard reality to accept even today

And Alina is always taking me to the doctors appointments

I'm not allowed to go to them alone , because I'm still not trusted

Even after four months of not having any contact with Bayede

But I think about him everyday , I can't help but wonder if he's okay

Like has he forgotten about us? Perhaps he's moved on with his life

And has just accepted that we'll
never be in his life , as long as
my parents still refuse

I have no one , and right now I
just push everyday to make it
to the next

Just for my son to live

I feel he's the only person I
have , and I need him alive

A week after I was restricted ,
things got bad . And I had such
a bad scare

I thought I lost him , because
for days I couldn't eat

I hardly did anything , I was just
in bed . And doing what I did
everyday , which was crying

Until I bled , and had to be
admitted to hospital

I was put on bed rest for a
month , so I spent a month in
hospital

Now I do regular checks with
the doctor , like every week

The stress was just so bad , and
I almost lost my son

It was a bad experience for me ,
and I don't ever want to go
through that again

Hence I made a choice , and
decided that to keep my word
to Bayede

That I'll make sure our son is
safe and okay

I had to keep on living , even
with the circumstances and
everything else

I had to make the most of
everyday as it comes , and just
let things be

I avoid stressing by all means ,
even though it's so hard

But for this Zulu guy , I have to

Those words keep me going
daily now , I'm the only one
who's able to make sure that
our son lives

I have an appointment in a few
days , and I'm not looking
forward to it

I've been keeping all the scans ,
in the hopes that one day I'll be
able to show them to Bayede

That's the least I can do ,
because he has missed so much

The most one thing he didn't
want happening , but it
happened

I even make Video's , when the
baby kicks . I'm keeping those
for him

Alina thinks I'm just making memories , because I use her phone to take the Video's

But it's all for Bayede

I know that videos , and just scans already done and passed doesn't even come close to being around and experiencing it all

But this is the least I can do

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Bayede

I'm sure when they say a person is holding on by a thread , they literally mean me right now

I'm so angry and I'm tired of not doing anything

It's like I've just accepted the
situation , and I've accepted
defeat

And it kills me everyday

Now I can only imagine how
Khosi is feeling

I'm sure she feels that I've
abounded them , that maybe I
don't care enough

Which is not true

My father doesn't stop to remind me daily , what I stand to face if I go against what her parents said

But fuck !

It's been four months , like four freaking months

And I keep thinking , and
counting the months

I know now she's 7 months and
3 weeks

That's time I missed out on ,
that's time I've been a failure to
them

I will never be able to share
those moments with my son

Tell him how bothersome or
sweet he was to his mother ,
when she was pregnant with
him

I'll never know what food she
loved , and what made her sick

Like I damn know nothing , but
I'm a fucking father to be

How does one even move past
such failure ? If it's even
possible to move

I've tried to distract myself , but
at night it always get worse

It's better for those moments
when Sedi is here , and maybe
we're having sex or talking

But as soon as she falls asleep ,
I'm back to my thoughts again

Varsity I'm just trying my best ,
but even I can see I'm slacking

Being present , and not being
able to capture anything is
useless in a way

Because on my own , I spend a
lot of time studying . Trying to

catch up with what I missed in
class

Thapelo : do you see how much
you've lost weight ?

Reason I don't even go home
anymore

Because my mother always gets
on my case about my weight

But I think loosing weight , is
the last thing I care about right
now

Thapelo : let me help you

Me : how ?

Thapelo : I don't know man ,
but she's friends with LJ's girl .
Maybe there's a way I can get
you two to talk . Even if it's for

a minute , just so she tells you
they're okay

Me : how will you pull that off ?

He bites his lower lip , and
seem to be thinking

Me : because even today , I
know she doesn't have her
phone still . Because everyday I
try and call , it's always on

voicemail . Meaning her
parents are not even checking
it

Thapelo : phone yes !

Me : what ?

Thapelo : we can ask LJ's girl ,
to maybe let us know when
she's with her . They're friends
so surely they see each other .

And then we can call on her phone , and that way you'll be able to talk to your woman

Me : that could work

Maybe it can , actually

Thapelo : it has to , because I hate seeing you like this

From day one , I've always had support . But I'm always like what about Khosi ? Who does she have ?

Because in honest truth , between us she's the one who needs support more than I do

I so pray that this works , if only the girl will come through for us

I'll take my chances and try ,
just to see how it goes

Because I think it's been long
overdue now , and I think we
can approach her parents

Like who stays angry for this
long ?

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INSERT 14

Bayede

I'm at Thapelo's place

LJ's girlfriend is here , we asked him to call her over . I just can't believe the lengths I've just gone to , I can only hope this will work

While I just think of a better plan , to maintain some communication

Thapelo : we need your help

Libo : okay

Me : I believe you're friends with Khosi , she's the mother of my child . And right now , I'm in no position to have any

communication with her . It's been months and I'm worried , I just need to know that she's okay . Do you think that maybe when you see her , you can give Thapelo a text or a call just so I can talk to her ?

Libo : I can do that , but even I'm not allowed to see her everyday or always . Just once in a while , and their helper is

always around . We're just
never left alone

These parents are just sick

Me : please just try , you can
even ask her first if it's okay

I'm desperate right now

Libo : I'm seeing her today , I'll
make sure I'll call

Best she calls Thapelo and not
me

Khosi is my baby mama , and
she's friends with Libo

She might not like that I'm
calling her friend , even if it's to
talk to her . That's one woman
in my life after my mother ,
who comes before second
place

Me : I'll reimburse you

Libo : no , you don't have to .
I'm doing this for my friend as
well

I could ask how she is , but best
I hear from her

Because I don't want her to
think she was being discussed

with her friend , and behind her
back

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Nomakhosi

With my doctor's appointment
tomorrow

I'm not my happiest today , I
just hope my son is okay

But he's been playing a lot this
morning , so I'm guessing he's
okay

I've been doing nothing
sleeping , and Libo woke me up
when she arrived

We're in the lounge , and Alina
is the only one in the house

Since I'm just not allowed to be
out of sight , I always have to
be watched

We can't even be in my room

Me : what's wrong ?

She laughs nervously

Libo : me ?

Me : you don't look like
yourself

It's the hard swallowing ,
something is definitely wrong

Me : will you talk ?

Libo : don't be angry

Me : no , let me decide
whether I want to be angry or
not

She sighs

Me : I'm listening

Libo : I need to make a call fast ,
just watch out for Alina

Who is she calling ? And why do
I need to look for Alina ?

She takes out her phone , and
makes that call of hers

I peek on her screen , it's a
video call and in seconds
Thapelo's face appears

For a second there , I so wish it
was Bayede

Libo : hi , I am here

Thapelo : is it safe ?

Libo : I'll keep watch

Thapelo : alright

Libo hands the phone to me ,
and I don't even want to take it

She leaves it on my lap , going
into the kitchen

Thapelo disappears and in
seconds , Bayede's face comes
up

You know when a person has
been going through a lot , and

they just wear that on their
sleeves

They're talking about him right
now , and it breaks my heart

I even feel bad now thinking ,
that maybe he's forgotten all
about us and decided to move
on

Bayede : don't cry

He says with a smile , but you
can't miss his pain

Bayede : I'm sorry I took so long
, and I'm still trying

Me : thank you....thank you for
trying , we appreciate you

And we really do

Because from my side , there's
absolutely nothing I can do

So I can't blame him on
anything , when even I can't do
nothing

Bayede : how have you been ,
are you okay ?

I nod

Feeling slight pains , for not
telling him the truth

Me : I almost lost the baby , but
he's okay now . I'm sorry

Bayede : it's okay , he's okay
now . And you're okay , that's
all that matters right ?

I nod

Me : I go to doctors every week now because of that , but there hasn't been anything worrying . We have an appointment tomorrow

This hurts him , just the mere fact that he's going to miss out

Bayede : I love you for this , making sure our son is okay . I'll forever be grateful to you , and

I don't know how I'll ever get to
thank you

Me : just don't ever leave

He smiles

Bayede : I'm not going
anywhere

I hear footsteps , and they're
not coming from the kitchen

It must be Alina then

Me : I have to go , I think our helper is coming

Bayede : I love you two so much

Me : we love you too , thank you for taking the risk and calling . Take a look at this fast

The little guy is kicking , I lift my t-shirt and place the phone a bit down

Right where he's kicking , just so his father can see . I'm graced by his chuckle

And I'm happy . I drop the call placing the phone down , I pull my t-shirt down as Alina walks in

Alina : I could have sworn I
heard you talking to someone

Me : oh ?

Alina : where is Libo ?

Me : in the kitchen

Alina : but I told guys to tell me
if you're hungry

Me : you have other things
you're doing

Alina : well , I don't mind . It's
my job and what I get paid for

I just nod laying back down on
the couch

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INSERT 15

Bayede

I'm bothered by Mihlali this morning

My sister just doesn't mind rocking up in my place

Now matter what time of the day it is , and this is not why I got a place

Mihlali : this place looks clean

Me : Sedi has been around

Mihlali : oh wow okay ! And are you two okay ?

Me : yeah , I can't ignore the relationship just because I'm going through shit . I can't make her feel neglected , so I do give her time and attention

Mihlali : that's good

I chuckle

Me : you're not convincing , do you want to say something ?

Mihlali : I just think after baby
mama , you've changed
towards Sedi . I don't think the
relationship is what it was
before

Me : meaning ?

Mihlali : that if things weren't
this complicated , you wouldn't
even give Sedi time of a day

I laugh

Mihlali : you know I am not
lying

She sits down

Mihlali : I don't know the
relationship between you and
your baby mama , but I think
you're in love with her . And

you just love Sedi , Mageba
that's a huge difference

Me : I know , being in love and
loving someone are just two
different things

Mihlali : that was just my two
cents anyways , because a
really stable relationship with
you and Sedi . I just don't see it
happening

Me : relationship analyst , or is it advisor ?

She laughs

Mihlali : let me leave you alone with your relationship , have you talked to dad about going to the Khumalo family ?

Me : he's still not open to it , I don't know maybe he's waiting until the baby is born

Mihlali : this whole situation is not fair on the three of you

Me : I know , and a lot has happened . Yesterday I saw my son kicking for the first time ever , and it was through a damn video call

Mihlali : she got her phone
back ?

I shake my head

Me : we used her friends
phone, even she said she only
sees her once in a while . And
they're just never left
unsupervised

She keeps quite

Me : please don't tell me I'm
risking and....

Mihlali : maybe that's exactly
what we need

Me : what do we need ?

Mihlali : someone who can help
with communication

Me : where will we find that
someone ?

Mihlali : we'll make a plan

Me : nothing that will get Khosi
into trouble

Mihlali : yeah...yeah , but being
able to talk to her will be so
much better than no
communication at all

She's right

Mihlali : there's no food here ,
let's go out and eat . We need
breakfast

Me : you're paying ?

Mihlali : no you are

Me : I'm turning one of the
rooms into a nursery , I have to

start buying clothes and
everything else . So I'm broke

Mihlali : look at you being all
fatherly

She smiles so weird

Mihlali : I'll pay , if you take me
with to shopping

Me : it's blue clothes and not
pink

She frowns

Mihlali : I know

Me : okay fine

I get up , we'll take her car . I
don't even feel like driving

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Nomakhosi

We're walking into the mall ,
just because I am hungry

And I want something to eat , I
won't make it home with an
empty stomach

My baby loves food , like he
loves eating . I wonder who he
takes after

Because I don't like food

But I swear , if he comes out
and he doesn't like food

It'll be a swap

We walk in one of the
restaurants , and Mr wants
some waffles what do you
know

Topped with ice-cream and
some cherry of course , and
with that we need rooibos tea

Just an insane combination ,
but what he wants he gets

Alina : are you okay ?

It's like she's asking so sincere ,
I'm actually shocked

Me : yeah

Alina : I know things have been hard for you , but you can talk to me

Me : I don't want to get into trouble by expressing my feelings to you

Alina : what if I told you that we'll keep them between us

What is she playing at ?

Me : did my mother send you
to test me ?

She laughs

Alina : no , please don't be
offended . But I don't think the
kind of treatment , your mother
gives you . Is the kind kids are

supposed to receive from their
mothers

Is she for real ?

I mean , for months she's been
watching me and I don't know
for what

Now how can I suddenly just
trust her ?

Alina : just know I'm here if you need to talk , you're just way too young to be going through this

She continues eating , and I'm left battling with her words

But the question is can I trust her ?

What if she's been sent and she's just playing me ?

I can't take that risk , right now I don't know what my mother could possibly do

I mean the woman is very much capable of doing anything

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INSERT 16

Bayede

We should be leaving now , but
because I mentioned shopping

Someone doesn't want to leave

And she keeps getting into these clothing stores , just admiring baby clothes

Me : I hope you don't end up making a baby

She laughs

Me : I'm serious , baby fever is a real thing

Mihlali : oh ! Have some faith , I
won't make no baby

Me : can we just go though ?

Mihlali : you're so grumpy but
okay fine

Finally !

We leave heading to the
parking side

Mihlali : that's her right ?

I look at her and she's looking
further from us

My heart pumps like it'll drop
out , it's really her

And her belly suits her , she's
not even in maternity clothes

She's wearing a navy tight dress, it's just below her knees not even that long

Mihlali : this could be the chance we've been looking for

She's so excited , but I'm afraid I don't share her sentiments

Mihlali : let me go talk to her , and you might end up seeing

her or spending some time
together

Me : Mihlali no

Mihlali : what do you mean no?
I mean she's right there

Me : and we know she's not
alone , we know she's being
watched . And this could get
her in trouble

Mihlali : Bayede !

I shake my head

And doesn't she run away from
me heading to them

She better pray that Khosi
doesn't get into trouble ,
because of this stunt of hers

I know she wants to help , but it won't be much help if it makes things worse

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Nomakhosi

This girl again !

She actually startled me ,
because she came running
towards us

Her : hi.....hi it's me , we
bumped into each other a few

months ago . I don't know if
you still remember , and I liked
your jacket . I was looking at
you all weird and stuff

Of course I remember her , and
she's just being awkward and
weird worse right now

Me : I remember you

She laughs , sighing in relief

Her : great , my name is Mihlali
Zulu

Could it be that they know each
other ?

She looks at Alina and clears
her throat

I'm guessing she wants to say
something , but she's just not
sure if she should

Mihlali : uhm..... Bayede is my brother , he's my twin brother .
We're just not identical twins

Oh my word !

And doesn't this baby kick ! I'm sure he's like aunty is here

Or maybe it's because of the mention of his father's name

Mihlali : I'm really sorry to do this , and I don't mean to get you in trouble . My brother is going through hell , and he feels like such a failure for not being able to make things right. He doesn't know what to do anymore , and we know pushing things means he'll go to jail

I am an emotional wreck

Mihlali : he can't see you he knows that much , your phone has been taken away he can't reach you . He's here now , and he told me not to do this . But I just ran away from him , seeing the pain in his eyes . Seeing you from a distance , and he couldn't even approach you .

I look around hoping I'll see him, but I don't even see anyone familiar

She looks at Alina

Mihlali : like I said , I mean no trouble . But can you just go to him , even if it's just to say hi ? I swear that'll be all

Me : I..... I'm sorry , but you know I'm not allowed to see your brother

I turn to walk away as my eyes
close , and tears just stream
down my face

Someone holds me , and I just
take his scent in and I know it's
him

Even the masculine arms

I cling for dear life on him , and
these tears just can't stop

We're taking a risk here , and I'm just asking myself is it even worth it ?

What am I going to do , if my parents find out and he goes to jail ?

Alina : can you just find a place to be , even if it's just an hour . Even a car or something , just away from people's eyes

I pull away from Bayede and look at her

Alina : I hate seeing you cry like this , and people who belong together shouldn't be separated . Not in this manner , I'll give you an hour . But then we'll have to go , so your parents are not too suspicious that we were out for far too long

Me : you're..... serious ?

She nods , and I find myself
giving her a hug

Me : thank you

Alina : it's okay

We pull out

Me : and we're not tog....

Bayede : let's go , we'll be in
the car . Mihlali will bring you
when it's time to leave

Did he just shut me up there ?

And everyone laughs , I'm just
left confused alone

We walk away from them

Me : why did you cut me short
from saying what I wanted to
say ?

He laughs

Bayede : I didn't

He must think I'm an idiot

We get to the car

Bayede : let's sit in the back , I
just want to be close to you

We get in the back , and the
first thing he does is plant
kisses on my tummy

The most sweetest thing I've
ever seen , and the baby kicks
like crazy

The smile from Bayede just melts my heart

Like finally , he gets to feel his son kick . I never thought he'll ever have this moment

Bayede : he's too active

Me : I think he likes his people , he kicked when your sister got to us as well

He chuckles

Bayede : doesn't it hurt ?

Me : sometimes , but I've
gotten used to it

He rubs my tummy

Bayede : Nkanyezi yam (my
star)

Me : Is that your name for him?

He nods

I don't even have a name

Bayede : even if it's not on the birth certificate , cause I'm sure your parents won't allow you to put it

If only I could have new parents
or do an exchange

Bayede : but , let's not dwell on
that

He lifts his eyes , and his face is
just inches away from mine

And out of nowhere , I get one
hell of a kiss from him

I don't even push him off , but
caught off guard as I am

I'm just kissing him back

And lord ! It's so much better
than the first time

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INSERT 17

Nomakhosi

The way he's taking snaps , he's just capturing every moment

The one placing a kiss on my tummy , he loves it so much it went to being his screen display

Even to this day , I still say everything that's happening is so unfair to him

Without a doubt , Bayede
would have been the best
father ever

From day one , and he's never
proved otherwise. So all this is
just unfair on him

I needed this time , but I think
he needed it more

He's laying his head on my thigh , has one hand on my tummy

And his son is finally rested , took him a few minutes

He was too happy I guess , but then again I think we're all happy right now

Bayede : how is he ?

Me : the doctor is happy , very much hopeful that we'll make it to full term . The stress did a number , and it took a toll on him . Had to be hospitalized for a whole month , but now he's doing so much better . I'm trying my level best , not to stress as hard as it is

Bayede : I'm sorry I wasn't there , and sorry doesn't even erase anything

Me : this is not a normal situation , one where I can blame you for anything

I say playing with his beard , it's just so cute and well maintained

Me : I'll leave you with the scan, I have all the other ones kept . If we ever get a next time, I'll be sure to bring them .

Bayede : you're seriously
making me not feel left out ,
that kicking video left me
feeling somehow

I laugh

Me : I told you , I think he loves
his people very much

Bayede : he's a real Mageba ,
Sthuli Sika Ndaba uNdabezitha

Me : I swear your people are
very strange

He laughs

Bayede : he's moving again

My baby is happy

Bayede : please hold on just a
little longer , you've already

done so much . And one day I'll
thank you for all this

He sits up straight , and I guess
it's time to leave now

Bayede : I appreciate this time
we had together

I do too

I'll never thank Alina enough
for doing this for us

I don't even know how to thank
her

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Bayede

Me : you're making this a norm

I say opening the door for her

Mihlali : you're going to love
me

She says laughing walking in

Me : breakfast ?

She nods putting the take away
on the table

Me : so what do you want ?

Mihlali : first , did you tell Sedi ?

Me : what ?

Mihlali : that you're a father to
be Bayede Zulu

I laugh

Me : no

Mihlali : why not ?

Me : why should I tell her ? And
don't you dare insult me

Mihlali : okay ! I know you're very smart , but don't you think you're not being fair to Sedi ?

Me : I'll tell her once my son is born

Mihlali : why wait ? It's like you're letting her be with you by deceit right now

Me : I'm going through things
right now

She sighs

Mihlali : I know that , but don't
lead her on . Tell her the truth ,
so she doesn't feel used when
she finds out . You can't hide a
baby Bayede , that's a human
being . So it's not even possible
to hide him , just be honest
with Sedi . Let her decide

whether she still wants to be
with you , or leave .

Me : mhm fine !

Mihlali : I make sense I know ,
and that's why you need me
right now . Because your
thinking is only on little Zulu
and baby mama

I laugh

Mihlali : and you're welcome

Me : what do you want ?

Mihlali : let me make a call ,
and keep it short

What the hell ?

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INSERT 18

Nomakhosi

I'm still in bed , it's a bit chilly
outside

And Durban weather , has its
own minds . I feel like I need to
keep warm today

A knock comes at the door

I so hope it's not my mother , I
try and avoid her by all means

Me : come in

Alina comes in

Alina : good morning

Me : morning

I don't get what's good about
it, or my life for that matter

Me : uhm thank you so much
for yesterday

I whisper , she laughs closing
the door

Alina : listen , I'll help you two
get in touch whenever you can .
And you have appointments

every week , now you can't see him every week . But maybe once in two weeks , we don't want your parents being suspicious . I'm only helping you because I think this is just wrong , people have kids with men way much older than them . And it's never exaggerated this much , but I'm not a parent maybe I just don't understand . In the meantime ,

you can talk once a day with
each other

Me : talk how ?

She sighs , taking her phone

Me : I don't know his number
by heart

Alina : and that's fine , because
I don't want your man's
number in my phone

Me : he's not my man , and
what was that yesterday ?

Alina : did he tell you that ?

Me : he didn't tell me he is

Alina : his sister will call , and then you can talk . But please , keep the calls short and don't be caught with my phone . I don't want to get into trouble

Me : okay , you deserve a raise

She laughs , as her phone rings

Alina : it's her , you can answer it . I'll go take your laundry

She walks to my bathroom , I
pick the phone

Me : hello ?

Mihlali : sister in-law

I laugh

Me : hi aunty

This girl screams , and this baby
is being dramatic with morning
kicks

Mihlali : I love you and my
nephew

Oh well we love her too

Mihlali : here is your man

Can they just stop

Me : can your girlfriend not
beat me because of this my
man thingy

He chuckles

Bayede : there's no woman
who will lay their hand on you ,
not while I'm still alive

Me : perks of being a baby
mama

Bayede : you come before
second place

Me : stop charming me , I might
just scream like aunty Mihla

He laughs

Bayede : don't call her that ,
she's taken this aunty thing to
new heights

I swear my baby is loved , like
he's so loved . And it's painful
of just how things are right now

But ain't she and Alina just the
best , making sure that we'll get
to talk ?

Even if it's short , but it still
counts . And it's better than
nothing

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Bayede

After the talk I had with Mihlali,
I knew she was right

And I was being unfair to Sedi

She deserves to know the truth,
decide on her on what she
wants

Sedi : is everything okay ?

I asked her to come over

Me : I....I need to tell you something

Sedi : should I be worried ?

I shrug

Sedi : Bayede ?

Me : can you just give me a minute , and please no drama cause I just can't take that

Sedi : honestly , if this is about you being posted on Facebook by your girlfriend . I've long moved on from that , and I'm here trying to make things work. Even though I don't know where you stand with me

Me : that old Facebook post ?
Or what are you talking about ?

Sedi : please don't pretend like you don't know

Me : I haven't been on
Facebook in months

She sighs

Me : fine , believe what you
want . But that's the truth , I
don't even know what post
you're talking about

She takes her phone out and fiddles with it , she places it in front of me

And I know this girl , I've fucked her sure . Like once , but I've never declared my love for her

Because I don't love her

Me : I've never even exchanged two words with this girl , and

she clearly took this picture
from my profile . I mean you
know it

She goes quite

And I mean , if you've never
caught me with anyone . I'll
never admit to that cheating ,
like never

Sedi : you said you want to tell me something

I put her phone on the counter

Me : uhm , a while back it happened that I messed around. And the girl got pregnant

Sedi : what ?

But she heard me

Sedi : what are you saying
Bayede ?

Me : I'm going to be a father

She laughs bitterly , with glossy
eyes

Sedi : this is what you meant ,
when you said I'll just think of
cheating ?

Does it make sense that we go
back and forth about this ?

Sedi : wow ! Do you love her ?

Me : what kind of a question is
that ?

Sedi : the kind that needs a yes
or a no

Me : no

She nods and her tears fall
down

Sedi : so now what am I
supposed to do with this ?

I shrug

Me : it's up to you

Sedi : you're not being fair

Bayede , if you don't want me
anymore why don't you just
dump me ?

Me : the fact that I'm not
dumping you , doesn't it say
something ?

Sedi : no ! You're just selfish ,
and you're only thinking for
yourself

No sorry will fix this , so I won't
even bother saying it

Sedi : how far along is she ?

Me : 7 months and a few weeks

Sedi : so all along , this whole time you've known . And you've been present in the pregnancy , but you didn't think to tell me ?

She grabs her bag

Sedi : I'm leaving

Me : what does this mean ?

She says nothing but just walks
out

Ah !

There goes being honest

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INSERT 19

Nomakhosi

It's just a bliss , when Alina
walks in my room

Especially in the morning ,
because I know she's come to
deliver the call

I can't believe Mihlali drives to
his brother's apartment every
morning , just so we can talk

Alina walks out after we
exchange greetings , and she
gives me the phone

After a minute or so , she calls
and I answer

Me : hello

Bayede : baby mama

I laugh , I always keep it down .
Because I cannot afford to be
caught

Bayede : are you two okay ?

Me : we're lazy and tired this
morning

Bayede : I miss your kisses this
morning

I laugh

Bayede : don't laugh I'm hurt ,
and I slept home just so I can
talk to you

Oh ! So he's the one who went
for today's phone call

It's good , he should also do his
bit

I'm looking into my savings , I don't get an allowance now

But I have a bit saved , since from last year from my lunch money

I want to thank Alina for this

Me : you're hurt because of kisses ?

Bayede : I got dumped !

I muffle my laugh with my hand
on my mouth

Bayede : let me video call , we
have to use our 30 minutes
wisely . Because I want to vent

Me : okay

He drops the call and video
calls

He's still in bed , just as us

Bayede : anise bahle ke (you're
so beautiful)

I smile

Me : enkosi (thank you)

Bayede : so I got dumped

Me : okay , you're going to tell me why right ?

Bayede : yeah

Me : I'm listening

Bayede : the other day as we were talking with Mihlali , she said something about being

honest to this girl and all .

About you , and Nkanyezi you
know

Me : yeah

Bayede : and then , I told her
the truth yesterday . And she
walked out on me , so I think
she dumped me

I laugh

Me : did she actually say so ?

Bayede : she didn't need to , I mean I saw it all over her face

Me : sorry , but you have to tell me . How long have you been with her ?

He bites his lower lip

Me : you cheated ?

And he just shrugs

Me : have you no shame ? You cheated on your long term girlfriend with me ? You should be ashamed of yourself

Bayede : come on !

Me : don't bore me , why would you hurt the girl like that?

Bayede : you can't really say I
cheated on her with you

Me : that's exactly what you did

Bayede : ah ! Don't exaggerate ,
you're the mother of my son .
There's no shame there

This idiot !

He's even smiling , and I want to laugh . But I feel bad for the girl

Me : what do you call what you did ?

Bayede : we made a child , a whole human being

Me : you're such an idiot , and I can't believe you cheated with me

Bayede : stop saying that , she already accused me of cheating as well

Me : because you're a cheater , I so hope Nkanyezi is a better man than you . Because I don't want him treating women like

that , and hurting people's
daughters

He laughs

Bayede : that's taking it a bit far
don't you think ?

Me : were you thinking I'm
going to applaud you ?

Bayede : anything , but
throwing jabs at me

Me : the wrong train

Bayede : this is fucked up !

Me : if you love your girlfriend ,
go back crawl and beg her .

Change your nasty behaviour ,
and start treating her right

Bayede : really ?

Me : yeah

Bayede : I don't beg no one

Me : then welcome to the single life , and brother it's very lonely this side . And a man like you who can't keep it inside his pants , won't survive

He frowns , and his look is just priceless . I take a screenshot , I'll just mock him with it

Bayede : this call is over

Me : because it's not going your way ?

He nods

I swear , he's like a 5 year old
right now

Me : shame , too bad !

It's not like I didn't think he has
a girlfriend

And we were never dating ,
what happened just happened

I don't regret it , I really don't

But I shall not be the end of his
relationship with his girlfriend

If she can accept he has a child ,
then that's fine by me

The relationship I have with
Bayede , doesn't have to
involve anyone

I won't go anywhere , I'm the
mother to his son . I'll always
be here

If she loves him enough , she'll
just accept enough that he has
a son

And of course that son didn't
just fall from heaven

But I'll never be a thorn to her ,
or cause troubles in their
relationship

Bayede : do you have a
boyfriend ?

What ?

I laugh

Me : since when did this
become about me ?

Bayede : since now that I'm
asking

Me : no , I don't

He smiles

Bayede : good , and don't have
one

Me : I don't know what you're smiling about , because after giving birth I'm getting in shape . And next year , I'm going back to school

Bayede : ain't no school boy that's going to touch my goodies , and be a step father to my son

I laugh

Me : please , go fix things with your girlfriend . I really don't want you being a problem in my life

Bayede : I'm still crying right now , give me a few days

Me : while she's waiting for a few days , who's consoling her?

Bayede : ah ! That's not my job

Me : shame on you

Bayede : who's consoling me ?

Me : next time you'll know
better , and keep it in your
pants

I hear my mother's voice , I
waste no time switching the
phone off

I slide it under the pillow , and
lie down covering myself

The door opens and she walks
in , my heart is beating so fast

Mom : Nomakhosi ?

Me : ma ? (Mom)

I answer still under the blankets

Mom : I thought Alina is in here
, I think I heard you talking

Me : I was talking to Nkanyezi

Mom : who is that ?

Me : the baby

Mom : oh , he's awake ?

Me : yeah , he's kicking very hard . I was trying to calm him down

From a person who couldn't tell a single lie , a few months ago

I'm mastering this thing right now , because honestly having contact with Bayede . Is peace for my mental health , and I've stopped stressing his son

Mom : okay , and where did you get that name ?

Me : it's the name I've named him

This is his father's name , and it'll be on that birth certificate .
And it'll be his first name .

That's the name everyone will call him with , even the parents who don't want the father

Bayede didn't make this baby
for them

Mom : I thought you'll want
your father to name the baby

Me : a baby can have more
than one name

Mom : oh okay

It goes quite for a bit , and she finally walks out

I sigh in relief

I almost got caught there , I take a few deep breaths

I reach for the phone , and switch it on . Alina has left it without a password

I send the screenshot to Mihlali
, even if she has taken her
phone back

She'll show him

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INSERT 20

Bayede

We're having breakfast , and I
even feel like leaving

I wasn't okay last night , after I spoke with my parents

And my father still wasn't open to talking to Khosi's family

I was really hurt , and I just thought he just doesn't understand

But I let it be

And talking to her this morning
, I just feel a bit better

Well actually a whole better

It's just Mihlali and I , dad is
gone to work . And mom has
river cleanings with her clients

Mihlali : here

She hands me the phone after laughing her lungs out

I take it , and it's a screenshot picture and I just know it's from Khosi

It's of our video call , of which she just cut off . But I guess she had reason to

And being able to send the picture , means she wasn't caught . Because it's sent minutes after the call

Me : “expressions of a cheater”

Mihlali laughs some more

Me : mxm !

I hand her back her phone

Me : do you think it's normal though ?

Mihlali : what ?

Me : that she laughed , and threw shade at me . But she didn't even react to the fact that there was a girlfriend

Mihlali : what did you expect ?

Me : some reaction of course

She looks at me intensely , and
shakes her head chuckling

Mihlali : one thing about baby
mama , she's not a child

Me : what ?

Mihlali : you my dear brother ,
you're being dealt . And you
don't even see it

Me : so she doesn't care ?

That's kind of sad

Like aren't baby mama's
supposed to be jealous of baby
daddies ?

Mihlali : and she'll respect your girlfriend , and her space

Me : she won't even fight for me ?

She laughs , clearly it's an amusing morning for her

Mihlali : she has no reason to right for you , so why would she?

Me : wow !

Mihlali : exactly wow !

Me : I think I'm going to
campus , bye !

I get up

Mihlali : I love love love uMa ka
Nkanyezi (Nkanyezi's mother)

Why did I even share my name
with her ? When she's this
happy , that I'm being dealt

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Lesedi

It's been days , and he hasn't
called nor texted

Like he hasn't even come to see
me at least

Honestly , I do feel like Bayede
doesn't care about me . He
doesn't love me enough , to
care

For someone who said he
doesn't love that girl , he sure
isn't acting like he doesn't love
her

And I'm tired !

I feel like I'm just pushing
myself on a guy , who'll never
push him on me

This relationship is just starting
to feel one sided

I don't know how many times
I've stopped myself , from
calling him

I would seriously look
desperate , while he hasn't
even bothered

I don't know what to do right now , because I love Bayede so much

And I think we can somehow work things out

If there's no relationship with that girl , then surely we don't have to break up

Just as long as I'm being
respected , in my space in his
life

I've thought long and hard , but
with the way he's ignoring me
right now

I don't know where we stand

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INSERT 21

Nomakhosi

I don't know , where Mihlali
and Alina went

But they left us alone , and
we're in his car today

It's much bigger than Mihlali's
car

So even me and my big tummy
, we're relaxed and settled fine

We're in the back again , it
hasn't been long since we were
left alone

Just a few minutes

And Bayede is just being too touchy , making me feel strange things

And I don't like what's happening to my body right now

The last time I felt funny like this , I got pregnant

Bayede : you okay ?

I hold his hand

Me : yeahjust....

He shuts me up with a kiss , one
of which I gladly welcome

But my mind is still sound
enough , I push him off slowly

Me : what am I doing kissing
you ?

He pulls me closer

Bayede : you're kissing me

Me : no.....you have a girlfriend

Bayede : but I cried to you ,
that I got dumped

Me : waitshe didn't say that
to you , I feel like you're
cheating on her again . And still

with me , and kissing you back
just makes me a willing
participant

Bayede : you're the mother of
my son , nothing that happens
between us should ever be
labelled as cheating . The fact
that we share a child , that
means we're tied . Even if we
don't end up together , we'll
never be completely honest
with people we're with

He thinks he's smart

Bayede : since I was last here ?

He slides his hand under my dress , rubbing his fingers on my panty

He has easy access , because I don't sit with my thighs closed

Me : no one has ever been
there

It comes out as a whisper , I'm
loosing breath

His touch is just doing
something to me

Bayede : you ever pleasure
yourself ?

I look down shyly

Bayede : answer me

I swallow hard

Me : no

It's accompanied by a slight
shake of my head

Bayede : we need to help you release , the sexual tension . I heard somewhere , that pregnant women are always horny . And you've been deprived , we don't want you to rush for sex after giving birth . Because you'll fall pregnant again

Me : are you being for real right now ?

Bayede : my dick is yours , you
can have it whenever you want
. And I won't even have a say
about that

Me : and what makes it mine ?
Because I'm not yours ?

He laughs , slowly sliding his
finger inside my panty

Bayede : the fact that we made
a human being together , we'll
always belong to each other .
Meaning Kuku e ke yame (this
pussy is mine)

He presses his thumb on my clit
, I feel like screaming

Bayede : let's get out of here ,
we'll be back before it's time to
leave

He says moving back , I'm left
swallowing and just needing
more of his touch

As he drives out of the mall ,
just not far . A few minutes
drive , to a hotel

I have so many thoughts
running though my mind

Like am I really doing this ?

After months and months of no
sexual pleasure

I'm doing this ?

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Bayede

No matter how high her hormones are

Or how horny she is . You don't just undress a woman , get on top of her and start fucking

Kissing her a few times , like
seriously you give her a
foreplay of few minutes

And then you rush to having
your dick inside of her

I know we don't have much
time , because we only have an
hour

But I'll make it count , when
most of it has already gone into
stimulating her body enough

This is not just sex

But it's all about her to have
pleasure

I look deep into her eyes , and
I've never been so content in
my life

My thumb rubbing slowly on
her clit

Her eyes are just begging me
for more , and I'm willing

I lean down , she's not lying
down completely on her back

I have a pillow balancing her

I capture her lips into mine ,
and she deepens the kiss .
Moving her lower waist

Khosi : daddy

Music to my ears

She clings her arms behind my
neck

Me : mommy

I remove my hand , thrust my
dick against her bare skin

Khosi : I...need

She whimpers so badly

Me : you need this ?

I run my dick against her wet
open , flowing with her cum
from all the stimulation

Khosi : please

She's literally begging me

Me : it'll be painful a bit , I'll be gentle and careful . I won't hurt the baby

I push in , and the pain sends her moving back . But I move her back down a bit

While I push again , after a few seconds of struggle . I slide in

And it feels just like yesterday I was in here

Fuck !

When last did my dick ever get such a warm welcome ?

With a few thrusts in , she
slowly relaxes her body
accommodating me

I'm glad she still remembers ,
the relaxing of the body

Beside when it's tense , it's just
more pain for her

I get on my knees , locking her
legs behind me

I take slowly thrusts , I'm not fucking her . But making love

The mood is just allowing me to

I could take her from the back , preferably best for pregnant women

But no , I want to look at her face . Her expressions as she

experiences pleasure , they just
please me

As pleasure reaches us both ,
she grabs on the sheets .
Raising her thighs a bit , she
throws her head back

With just sweet moans of my
name , escaping her mouth

Me : I love you

She turns her head looking at
me

Khosi : I love you

The response leaves me smiling
like a fucking retard

I don't pull out , I cum inside of
her

After a few minutes , I slowly pull out . And move up laying next to her

I kiss her forehead

She's tired , and I can't strain her more . I have to think of the condition she's in .

And the health of our baby

I bring her head to my chest ,
she has her eyes closed

Me : I love you

I say placing her a kiss on top of
her head

Khosi : I love you

And I thought she's out , but
she's definitely saying this one

just seconds away from
shutting down

She leans her hand over to my
nipple , rubbing on it slowly
with her thumb

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Nomakhosi

We're late , yes we're late

And if Alina says she's never
doing this with us ever again

I won't blame her

Those two are doing us a favour
, and we just left them to come
have sex in a hotel

Are we even sane ?

We've just taken a shower , and
we're getting dressed now

Bayede : do you still remember
you said you love me twice ?

The devil better not test me

Me : it was your son

He laughs , and looks at me .
I'm not kidding with him

Bayede : what ?

Me : yeah

Bayede : wow ! I so wish you
can pop him out right now , so
he'll stop taking blame for
things he didn't do

I laugh

He's crazy ! Does he expect me
to say yes I remember

I said I love you

And then what ?

I still maintain my words , this
guy has a girlfriend . I really
should be knowing my place

And I'm already overstepping , I
can only hope he won't go
running to her

Telling her that we had sex ,
that would just be insane

He better shut up about this ,
and focus on getting her back .
If he loves her

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INSERT 22

A MONTH LATER

Nomakhosi

I've never been so scared in my
life

I'm even scared to stand up ,
I'm scared to bath

I'm scared to go outside , like
it's just crazy

What if I do all these things ,
and the baby just comes ?

We can give birth any day now ,
and it's scary

I don't think I'm ready to pop a
human being out of me

And worse , tomorrow we have
the doctors appointment

I don't even want to go there

Me : is it a must ?

Mom : that's your last doctors
appointment ,of which we're
paying for . And we've spent a
lot of money ensuring the

health of the baby , just do your bit . You wanted to be a mother

Did I ?

I keep quite , I can't even eat this food

Mom : we have a meeting in Centurion , we'll be home quite late

Why is she even telling me ?

Mom : Alina

She calls out , so early in the morning . Alina walks in

Mom : we'll be late , I would really appreciate it if you can sleep over . Nomakhosi is close to her due date , and we can't

afford to have her alone in the house

Alina : okay ma'am no problem

They both leave

I lean back on the chair ,
releasing a sigh

Alina : are you okay

Me : I am not ready to pop no
baby

She laughs

Alina : don't worry , you'll get
through it

Me : I have no choice

She leaves me alone

A knock comes at the door ,
now I feel like calling her back

I brace myself , getting up and
opening the door . And it's Libo
, I haven't seen her in forever

Libo : wow ! You're glowing

I laugh , making way for her

Libo : and you look ready to.....

Me : don't say it

She laughs as we sit down

Libo : what did I miss ?

There's no way in hell I'm
telling her everything I've been
up to

I trust my friend , but some things are just best worth kept secret about

Me : nothing , my life is still what it was . I'm still confined in here , no phone . Basically still no life for me

Everything and anything else is not a need to know

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Bayede

I get off the bed walking to the bathroom

I discard of the condoms , and pee . I wash my hands when I'm done

Walking back to the bedroom , I see how angry someone is

Me : what's wrong ?

She ignores me , and she must
be crazy if she thinks I'm going
to ask again

I pick up my briefs and pants ,
putting them on . Along with
my t-shirt and sneakers

I walk towards the door

Sedi : Bayede do you still love
me ?

I'm left holding the door handle

Me : yes

Sedi : for the past month since I came back , you been avoiding having sex with me . And today you finally give in , but suddenly you're using condoms with me

Well I'm sleeping with Khosi , I
can't put her health and the
health of our son at risk

For the past month , we've
been meeting every week they
have an appointment

And those four times , we have
been making love

I've been without protection ,
that's why I couldn't sleep with
Sedi

Because I wanted to sleep with
Khosi

And now I know she's due soon
, I won't persuade any sex from
her tomorrow

So it's fine , I can sleep with
Sedi . But protection always

There's no going back with
Khosi , once my son is older I
will have sex with her still

And I won't ever use a condom
with her , so if I'm messing
around I better be safe

I don't know what we are ever
since Sedi came back

But we're just resuming a
relationship I guess

Me : see how I got someone
pregnant on a one night , and
any day now I can be a father .
I'm trying to avoid such things ,
I cannot afford to take care of
two kids . So for now , we're

safe until I've gotten my life in order

She sighs

Sedi : so you're telling me we'll always have sex with a condom?

Me : yes , is that a problem ?

She shakes her head slowly

Even if she does have a
problem , no condom no sex .

I won't bring Khosi any STD's

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Lesedi

I hate venting to anyone about
my problems

This is too much , even for me .
And I'm out of ideas

After he ignored me for days
and days

He didn't call nor text , I was
the one who called and asked
to see him

He apologized , and still
maintained he doesn't love that
girl

Because I'm the fool that loves
him , I understood and heard
him

We've been okay , I've gone
back to spending nights at his
apartment

But he's been refusing for us to
have sex , and Bayede has
never said no to sex like ever

No matter how drunk or sleepy
he can be , he's always in the
mood

But his sudden change was a
concern to me , and after today

I have reason to believe , I have
ever right to be concerned

Suddenly , we're using
condoms . Because he doesn't
want to make another baby

Why couldn't he use the same
condom with that girl ?

I'm with Lisa my best friend ,
and I've just had to tell her
everything that's been
happening

Lisa : that's quite a lot

Me : I know

Lisa : but be honest with yourself , he's already acting up . Do you think you'll be able to handle this ? Babies demand a lot , and baby mama's are just spiteful . She'll have access to him all the time , and she'll use that to drive you away

That's also my fear

Lisa : you're only 20 , honestly I don't understand why you're putting yourself through this . Because Bayede doesn't even deserve you , he's just good at being a liar and a cheat . You're better off my friend

I sigh

Me : if only it was that easy

Lisa : you can still forget him , I know you will . Because it's not like your life depends on his

Right now I'm so conflicted , I don't know anymore

Lisa : the choice is yours , but I'm telling you . Right now you're degrading yourself , for a

man who knows the world
doesn't revolve around you

What's with the harsh words ?

I just needed a friend right now
, but she's spitting words like
she's been waiting to spit them
out

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INSERT 23

Bayede

She's done with her
appointment

As usual I got her some food ,
and treats

I always try to spend on her ,
every time I get to see her

I'm making up for all those
months she was alone

And she couldn't even tell me
her cravings

Me : you don't look good

She ignores me and continues eating

Me : did the doctor say everything is fine ?

Khosi : yeah

Me : are you sure though ?.

Khosi : mhm

She nods

Me : I don't believe you

Khosi : you have.....

She holds her lover waist

Me : what's wrong ?

And she looks to be in pain

Khosi : I.... think the baby...is
coming

Me : coming ...like right now ?

She starts breathing heavily ,
and I don't even know what to
do

But I know panicking right now
won't help either of us

I take my phone and call Mihlali

Khosi : ahhhhh

I hold her hand

Mihlali : is that Khosi
screaming?

Me : you need to get here right
now , I think she's in labour .
We need to rush to hospital

I drop the call

And in a few minutes they
arrive , seems like they've been
running

Mihlali just drives out without
asking any questions

Alina : when did this start ?

What's this ?

Alina : the contractions I mean

Me : a few minutes ago ,
seconds just before I called

Alina : has your water broke ?

There's even water ?

Khosi : no

Alina : the baby is still a bit far ,
we'll make it to the hospital

How does she know that ?

And how sure is she ?

Khosi screams again , and damn
my poor fingers

Me : go easy on the hand

The annoying look she gives me

Me : okay....I'm sorry , break it
however you want

She clicks her tongue , now why
is she angry with me ?

It's one hell of a ride , I hate
seeing her in pain . At one point
she even cries

And my soothing is not helping
one bit

Alina : I don't know how we'll
explain this to her parents

I forgot that no one knows
we're busy sneaking around ,
except us four

Me : I don't care about that

Mihlali : please be rational

I sigh

Because their fear , is the least
of my worries

Me : Mihlali will accompany
you inside , you'll call her
parents once I know what's
going on . And I'll leave before
they get here , they don't know

my sister . Lie and say she's a
friend or something , and she's
the one who brought you here

The looks they give me

And they must not , as much as
I'm good with lies . All of us in
this car lie

We get to the hospital , and I
can't wait for them to walk
inside

So I carry her myself inside ,
and she's attended to

Me : I need to leave , I'll wait
for Mihlali she'll wait with you .
I can't risk your parents coming
in here finding me , Alina will
call them

Khosi : okay

I kiss her forehead and they
take her , Mihlali and Alina
follow after them

And I go back outside to the car

For over an hour I'm waiting ,
no one is coming out

And I haven't seen her parents
arrive , I'm guessing Alina
hasn't called them

Mihlali is not calling , like
there's absolutely nothing

And I'm starting to get worried
right now , I just hope
everything is okay with them
both

Because I can't afford to lose
any of them

I sigh as I see Mihlali coming ,
I'm already out of the car

Me : what happened ? Are the
okay ?

Mihlali : they're okay

Me : the baby is born yet ?

Mihlali : no

Me : no ?

She sighs

Me : Mihlali !

Mihlali : it wasn't labour pains ,
it's Braxton Hicks

Me : Braxton who ?

She laughs

Me : share the joke

Mihlali : Braxton Hicks , it's fake
contractions

Doesn't make sense , like why
in the world would there be
fake contractions ?

And they be painful like that ,
like how madly painful are the
real ones ?

Me : so she's not giving birth ?

Mihlali : not yet no

I nod

Me : she's still yet to feel those
things again ?

Mihlali : unfortunately yes ,
let's wait in the car they're
coming

Me : they're not even admitting
her ?

Mihlali : no , it could be days
before she actually goes into
labour

These things are just crazy

She gets in the car , I lean
against it . And after a while
they come out

My heart feels for her , even
the walk . My poor baby mama
is drained

Khosi : hey

I hold her waist , pecking her
lips

Me : I'm sorry

Khosi : you need to talk to your
son

Me : okay I will

Khosi : and I wasn't going to
break your hand

Me : really ?

She's all smiles and dimples out
right now , being all cute

Khosi : yeah

I laugh giving her a kiss , she
kisses me back

Khosi : you need to fix things
with your girlfriend , or go find
another one

Me : we fixed things

Khosi : you did ?

I nod , she laughs

Khosi : good ! Finally , you'll
leave me alone

She laughs opening the car
door

Khosi : and stop cheating

She just had to say that

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INSERT 24

Bayede

A nagging girlfriend is annoying

Like we're trying to fix things
and be okay

And yet she still finds holes to
complain about

That's just annoying

She slept over , and acted up
the whole night . So I just let
her be

And now it's morning , she's grumpy lord knows for what

Sedi : I think we should take a break

I'm not even surprised nor shocked , she came here already in her moods

Sedi : I should leave

I let her be , she walks into the bedroom . And comes back after a while with her overnight bag

Sedi : so you won't even say anything ?

Me : what do you want me to say ?

Sedi : after everything I've just said , you mean to tell me you have absolutely nothing to say?

Me : well

She sighs

Sedi : maybe we should stop ,
and not even take a break .
Because I feel like I'll be

competing with your child and
baby mama

Me : don't be talking about
people you don't even know ,
and as for my son there's no
way in hell there'll ever be
competition between you two
or his mother for that reason .
You're just looking for drama

Sedi : things are no longer the
same between us Bayede

Me : okay

She looks hurt , and of course
let Bayede be blamed for that

Sedi : wow bye

Me : yeah

She'll be back when she feels
like being crazy again

For now I don't have the energy
to entertain her , not even one
bit

My phone rings as she walks
out , I pick up

Me : yeah

She screams , I move the phone
away from my ear . Putting it

on loud speaker , on the
kitchen counter

Mihlali : I'm sorry

She's laughing now

Me : what's your problem ?

Mihlali : I was heading to class ,
and I just got a text from Alina

Me : is everything okay ?

Mihlali : your people went to the hospital , in the morning hours

Me : what ?

Mihlali : yeah , and when she left home her water had already broken

Me : are you saying as we're speaking right now , my son could be born already ?

Mihlali : yeah

I think it hasn't sunk in yet

Mihlali : Alina said she'll text once she hears something , so I'll let you know . I have to rush to class

Me : okay

I drop the call

A part of me is happy sure ,
there's no doubt about that

But another one is just
shattered , like I'm missing the
birth of my son

I don't see how any of this , is
seen as justice to their
daughter whom I took
advantage of according to them

But do they see the injustice ,
they're doing to my son ?

Depriving him of his father ?

Like I don't know how much of
this shit I can take

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Nomakhosi

The begging I had to do , just so
Alina doesn't tell my parents
what happened the other day

Like I didn't give birth , and
nothing happened

So according to me , they really
didn't need to know anything

And that was fine , because
three days later here we are

And my baby is born , my
parents were both home so
they brought me to the hospital

And two hours in labour , the
little Zulu was born

It's been over 30 minutes now ,
and I'm happy and sad . I so
wish Bayede was here , that he
saw his son and held him first

Instead of people who don't
even care about us

Yet they're the first people to
see him , before his own father

Mom : so you said your father
can name the baby

It's not like she gave me much
choice

Me : yes

Mom : don't you think that maybe his name should be first?

Me : why ? He's my son , and at least I'm saying he can name him . Unlike his father who....

Mom : you will not dare
mention that don't try me
Nomakhosi

Me : so he won't even be on
the birth certificate ?

Mom : no !

It's not like I expected her to
have a change of heart

My mother is just a bitter
woman

Dad : I don't want to name him,
Nkanyezi is fine

His wife gasps

Me : well thank you

I'm sure she even wanted my son to have a curse name or something

I can't put anything past her

Me : can I please see Alina ?

Mom : why ?

Me : what do you mean why ?
Am I also not allowed to see
her now

Dad : stop with the drama , the
girls have gotten close . So
Alina can come see Noma

Me : thank you

Mom : she's not even family ,
why would you want her to see
the baby ?

Me : she lives in the same
house as us , in a few days we'll
be out . And of course , she'll
help me with the baby . What
difference does it make that
she sees him now

Dad : it makes no difference ,
we're leaving now . And we'll
call Alina , she will come

Me : thank you dad

Dad : take good care of the
baby

Me : I will

They both leave

I just want Alina to get here , so
I can call Bayede

There's no way in hell his son
will be born , and he doesn't
even get a picture

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INSERT 25

Nomakhosi

She finally arrives , I was
starting to think my parents
didn't tell her

Alina : hi

Me : hey

Alina : ohis he sleeping ?

Me : yeah , he just fed . He
loves food

She laughs

Alina : I would be shocked if he
didn't , you ate a lot

I smile , I sure did . But he made
me

Me : I need to call him please

Alina : your parents ?

Me : they're not here , they'll probably come back tomorrow

Alina : okay , I texted Mihlali when your parents called . I don't know if they're together or what

She takes out her phone and hands it to me

I video call Mihlali's phone

I know she buys Alina data ,
she's the aunt so it's okay to
use it

The smile on my face as his face
appears on the screen

Me : were you crying ?

He shakes his head , but he's
lying

His eyes are bloodshot red

Me : here is your son

He's on my chest , sleeping . He
just slept after eating

I move the phone to his face
more clearer , the silence is just
scary

I move the phone and look at
him , and he has his head
bowed down

Me : hey

This is supposed to be a great moment , but he's not even enjoying it

Me : please look at me

He slowly lifts his head , and he's crying

Me : I'm so sorry

Bayede : are you two okay ?

Now I don't even want to talk
about anything else

Because this guy right here is
hurt , and people I call my
parents are responsible for that

Bayede : come on , talk to me

Me : I'll call you again

Bayede : wait....at least tell me where you are ?

Me : what does it matter ? It's not like you can come see him

Bayede : please

He pleads

Alina has a very much disappointing look , but I tell

him either way . And I drop the call

Me : I hate them

Alina : I don't think you should have done that , what if he comes here ?

Me : well he has a jail rape threat over his head , so he won't

The nurse walks in , with some lady . She says she's from home affairs

And here to register the baby , I take the phone back and make a call

It rings for quite a while before there's an answer

Mihlali : mommy

I laugh

Me : sorry to bother aunty , I need your brothers full names and ID number

Mihlali : it's no bother , let me send you a text quickly

Me : alright thanks , we'll send you a picture of your baby

She screams , something must
be wrong with this one

Mihlali : I can't wait

Me : please send those

Mihlali : right now

She drops the call , and sends
them .

When the lady is done she leaves , and says she'll bring the certificate before we're discharged

Alina : your parents won't like this

I shrug

I really don't care anymore , I'm so tired of them and all this

Nkanyezi will use my surname
it's fine , but his father's details
will be on the birth certificate

Let them kill me for it

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Bayede

I hate that my reaction hurt her

I could have done better ,
pulled myself together

And just appreciated her efforts

But seeing my son like that ,
through a phone . When I could
have been there

When I know that I wanted to
be there , I wanted to witness
every single moment

And I was denied that

I just couldn't take it , hence I
broke down

But I knew I had to make things
right , just so she's okay

She just gave birth , I'm the last
person she needs to be worried
about

I walk in the ward , and she's
alone . It's a private hospital
after all

And well her parents have the money , they clearly have no problem throwing it on her

The little Mageba is wide awake , with his little hands in the air

And he's not even crying , he's just playing . Kicking , and making those baby sounds

I walk closer , and try to take
him . But this woman , has him
guarded

And she slowly opens her eyes
startled

Me : shhhh.....it's me

She lets go of him , and I take
him . She sits up

Khosi : you came ?

Me : I had to , I know I'm taking
a risk but I had to

She smiles

Khosi : Alina said you might ,
but I didn't believe so I told her
you won't

I chuckle

Khosi : how did you get in here?

Me : everyone has a price

She shakes her head slowly

Khosi : we have gone from
being liars , to now bribing
people ? Wow !

I ignore her

I did what I had to do , and I'll
do it again if I have to

I look at my son , and he's the
most perfect little human being
I've ever seen

Khosi : and why wasn't he
sleeping ?

Me : what kind of a question is
that ?

Khosi : his eyes give him away ,
I know how they are when he
wakes up

I laugh

Khosi : he eats a lot and then
sleep

Me : that's why he'll be awake
at night

Khosi : he better not , because I didn't fight with my sleep

Me : mhm But you guard him nicely . So if he cries you will hear , even when someone tries to take him

Khosi : motherhood instinct

And someone calls out for attention , I look at him and he

pops his eyes . They're not even that big , he has my eyes

Khosi : where is your phone ?

I take it out , and fiddle with it for a bit

Me : give me your thumb

Khosi : why ?

Me : just do

She hands me her hand , I place
her thumb

Me : there you go , now you
have access

Khosi : you must be brave

I chuckle

Me : do your parents have hold
of your account ?

Khosi : account ?

Me : your bank account ?

Khosi : no

Me : okay , you should write it
there for me

Khosi : okay

She takes the phone , I divert
my attention back to my son

Me : Mageba , Zulu omnyama
ondlela zimhlophe . Zulu
kamalandela , mtwana . Sthuli
Sika Ndaba , Ndabezitha . (Zulu
clan names)

Doesn't he smile , exposing his
toothless smile

Me : I love you so much , and I
promise I'll make things right . I
won't have you kept away from
me , I've been talking and doing
nothing for too long now . And
I'm tired , you're here now .

And you need your father , I
shall never fail you like I failed
mommy . I'll make it up to her ,
by being the best I can be . I

know I'm not perfect , but you
two mean everything to me .
You're my little family , and I
got you

I turn and look at her , she's
crying wiping her tears

I lean down capturing her lips
into mine , kissing her and she
kisses me back

Me : I love you

Khosi : I love you too

She mumbles back through the
kiss

Me : don't blame my son on
this one

We pull out slowly , and she
laughs

Khosi : you tricked me

She never cease to amaze me

Me : I'll be here the whole night
, I'll leave in the morning before
your parents get here

Khosi : there isn't even
anything to cover up with

Me : don't worry , I just want to
be with you two . I'll put him
down , when he falls asleep

She smiles , and this smile and
happiness I see on her face is
exactly what I wanted

Not the disappointment and
hurt I saw when she called
earlier on

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INSERT 26

Bayede

I wish I can stay , and not leave

But there's no chance of that

I can't have her parents find me
here

But I wasn't kidding , I'll fight
tooth and nail to be in their
lives now

I am tired , it's been a whole
damn 9 months . And I'm like
an outcast

I just can't take it anymore

Me : I have to go now

She nods

Nkanyezi is peacefully sleeping
on her chest

This boy must be loving it there

Khosi : thank you for coming , I really appreciate it

I lean down giving her a kiss , I feel an argument coming

But at least I'm getting the kiss , right ?

After a few minutes I pull out

Khosi : you can't keep doing
this ?

I knew it

Me : what ?

Khosi : you can't keep kissing
me , let's not forget ourselves
that you have a girlfriend

I chuckle

Me : I'm doing nothing wrong
with you

Khosi : must you be like this ?

Me : you're the mother of my
child , honestly it just makes
sense . Like stability is just with
you

She scoffs

Me : that's hurtful

Khosi : don't bore me

Me : well

I shrug

Khosi : focus on your girlfriend
or find another one

Me : I might as well , I mean
she walked out on me
yesterday morning

She laughs causing someone to
open one eye

Khosi : again ?

I nod

She's so amused

Khosi : why this time ?

Me : she said things are no longer the same , and she feels like she'll be competing with you two

Khosi : you see what your cheating is doing to this girl ? She's becoming insecure , she has no competition with me because I don't want you

Me : ouch !

Khosi : but as for Nyezi , that's just taking it too far . He's your son , and quite frankly no woman should even come before him when it comes to you . Not even me

I'm loving what I'm hearing

Me : she's dramatic

Khosi : how old is she ?

Me : 20

Khosi : and you're 21 , yet the two of you act like teenagers . You're long way past the dating stages , I'm sure you're not each other's first

Me : how old are you again ?

She smiles

Khosi : don't mock me , I'm 16

Me : and that's why you're the
mother to my heir and she's
not

She gasps , I give her a kiss on
her forehead . Kissing my son
on his cheek

He smiles a lot , for a person
who's been around for only a
day

Me : keep me updated

Khosi : be safe

That goes straight to my heart

It's people like these worth
keeping in life

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Nomakhosi

Only my father came in the morning , he didn't even stay long

He just bought me food , and spent a little bit of time with Nyezi and left

I was so tempted to ask him to go easy , on this threat of theirs

But the thought of him telling
my mother , I decided to just
keep quite

I might be wicked for saying
this , but I'm happy my mother
didn't come

Because if I had my way , I
would make sure she doesn't
see us like forever

I've never met a woman so
heartless like her

The doctor checked on us ,
when he was doing his rounds

And he's happy , we'll be out
tomorrow

I wish we can stay for more
days , so Bayede can keep
seeing his son

But I know we have to leave

I asked Alina to bring an extra blanket , and she gave it to my father

I just said I get cold at night , and he just left it there not asking any more questions

I'm just hoping , if Bayede comes tonight . He'll have

something to keep him warm at night

It's after 22:00 , and I'm wide awake . I am really hoping that he comes

As much of a risk as it is , and we didn't get to talk today . I'm sure my mother told Alina not to come , I wouldn't be surprised

I have the light off , because I don't know how reliable the person he bribed is

I'm slowly getting sleepy , but I hear the door opening and footsteps

I sit up , making sure not to wake up Nyezi

Bayede : you're awake ?

He asks shocked

Me : I was hoping you'd come

He smiles walking over , giving
me a hug

Bayede : how is the intruder
doing ?

I slightly laugh

Me : stop calling him that

He chuckles

Me : you staying over ?

Bayede : yeah

Me : I got a blanket for you to
cover up

Bayede : look at you , you care
after all

Me : about you , yeah . Not
your shenanigans

He sits down next to me smiling

Me : we're going home
tomorrow

Bayede : sadly , I won't get to see you anymore

Me : I know

Bayede : I want to talk to my father again , hopefully he can hear me this time around

Me : the problem here is my parents

Bayede : I know , but my father is hung on the threat they made . So it's hard convincing him to act

Me : will we ever have a normal life ?

Bayede : I'll do my best

He already is

Bayede : when he gets older
steal him , so I can see him

I laugh

Me : I will

Crazy , but probably I will steal
him . Because now , we won't
be allowed outside

He's still young , but as soon as I can take him out they will see each other

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INSERT 27

Bayede

I came home this morning ,
because I want to talk to my
parents

I am really tired , and I've
reached my final point now

Either they hear me , or I just
do things my way . This thing
has just been long overdue

Mihlali : you look like you're
guns blazing in

I chuckle

Me : stop talking nonsense

Mihlali : what's going on ?

Me : I just need to talk to your
parents

Mihlali : wait.....about baby
mama ?

Me : stop !

Mihlali : oh brother...don't do it

Me : and why not ?

Mihlali : do you think that's....

Mom walks in , at least she got
Mihlali to shut up . I'm not
looking forward to this talk

She greets and we greet her
back

Mom : what brings.....

She looks at me intensely

Mom : you have been in
contact with him ?

Voice : who ?

That's dad walking in as well

Mom : the baby

Dad : who's baby ?

Me : mine

Dad : what ?

I just shrug

I guess this just blew up in my
face

Dad : so you have seen the
baby ?

Me : yes dad I have

Mihlali : may I be excused ?

Mom nods and she walks out

Mom : when were you going to
tell us ? Because if I didn't

know him , I wouldn't have
gotten his aura from you

Me : what does it matter ? I'm
a father and I'm expected to
stay away from my son ...

Dad : with reason , do you want
to go to jail ?

Me : I might as well , because
what good am I being a dead

beat father . Yet I'm on the
outside , I'll rather be in jail . So
I'll have an excuse why I'm not
in his life , because right now I
don't have it . I'm just being a
coward , choosing to stay away
because of a threat

Mom : Nkosiyabo Zulu , please
talk to your son

She walks out

Me : I came here to ask , that
we reach out to those people .
Because I can't take this
anymore , but I see it won't
happen . So I'll just do things
my way , one thing is I won't be
kept away from my son

I get up

Dad : sit down

I sit back down

Dad : you'll be arrested that's for sure , and the law won't care to hear anything she says . I don't want you having a record , that'll be a complete change of your life . But you want to take responsibility , and I commend that . I'll go talk to those people , and if they still refuse to hear me out . Then they can take you to jail ,

if you're still not keen on letting them be . I can do my best to get you out , infact I'll get you out . But maybe you'll spend a week , or more in there

Me : why didn't you tell me all this before ?

He laughs

Dad : you're my son , and I'm a father before I am anything . I was protecting you , but now that your son is here you're being a father . And I can't stop you from doing that

Me : talk to your wife

He chuckles getting up

Dad : stop upsetting my wife

Me : doesn't she want to see her grandson , and just be a grandmother ?

Voice : don't be an idiot , of course I want to

Me : why did you come back?

Mom : this is my house

Me : let me go to mine

Mom : let us see the baby , you must have pictures

This woman ! I take my phone and show them the pictures , she's so emotional

And I'm happy that she's so happy . At least , I feel as if now they understand . And they'll finally just stand up with me.

We've been quite for far too long , and those people surely think they've won and we've accepted

Mom : what's his name ?

Is it not crazy , that I didn't ask Khosi what they named him ?

Me : Nkanyezi

Dad : thank God ! He wasn't
named after you

Me : well I named him Nkanyezi
, I don't know his real name

Mom : what do you mean ?

Me : you know those people
would never let me name him ,
so I don't know the name on
the certificate

Saying this whole thing , just
makes me see just how messed
up this is

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Nomakhosi

We're home , and I'm adjusting
to this

It's not all roses mothering a
new baby

But I don't know , maybe I'm
crazy or something

I'm even scared to leave this person all alone

Even just walking to the bathroom

I wonder when I'll get used to him being around

I'm dressing him now , he's just bathed . And I'm even scared to bath him

But I'm learning , I guess it's not that hard because he's not that much tiny

Mom : oh you're both up

She says just walking in my room , I don't even have privacy in this house

Me : yes

Mom : don't bath the baby this early

10:00 is early ?

Mom : he might catch a cold ,
and doctors are expensive

Okay !

The fact that she uses her
money on us again , I wonder if
she'll ever stop

Mom : here I brought your
phone back

No ways !

I look at her , hoping she'll say
she's kidding

Mom : I know how young
parents are , with taking
pictures and everything

I take my phone

Me : thank you

I'm still shocked

Mom : having your phone back
, it doesn't mean call that boy .

Defy me again , and he'll be in
jail

Just like that she walks out

I feel like screaming my lungs
out , I'm so happy . And
obviously I'm going to call that
boy

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INSERT 28

Nomakhosi

I am crazy right ?

After dressing Nyezi up , I place
him right on the bed in the
middle

I sit on the bed , opening my phone . And it's just messages and calls from him

Me : what ?

He called like everyday ! Okay , this is insane

I mean he knew I didn't have my phone , but he still called

And there's texts as well

This is just sweet ,I guess he
had hopes that I'll have my
phone back one day

I call him , and the phone rings
for a while . I'm so close to
dropping , when he answers

He goes quite , I guess he
doesn't trust about who's
calling

Me : hi

He releases a sigh of relief

Bayede : don't do that

I laugh

Me : are you okay ?

Bayede : what did you do that you got your phone back ?

Me : nothing , I was just shocked

Bayede : this means I'm free to call you right ?

Me : yes , we still have to be careful though .

Bayede : is the intruder okay ?

I laugh

Me : will you ever stop calling him that ?

Bayede : no

Me : well he's fine , he just bathed . Looking all sorts of cute

Bayede : send me a picture

Me : okay

Bayede : and listen , I need his birth certificate . I want to add him on my will

Another shock !

Me : you're 21 , what do you have a will for ?

He chuckles

Bayede : I have a son , I have an apartment . A car , and a few thousands in the bank . I'll be 21 in a week , I'm expecting 250 000 from my fund . I

wanted to use the money for other things , but now things have changed . I'm going to invest some , so it'll grow for him . And I think I'll buy a plot or something

Wow !

Me : uhm okay....can I send you a picture and you can scan it out

Bayede : that's fine

Me : we're going for 10 days
check up in a few days , I think
you can see him then . If we'll
just go with Alina

Bayede : you'll let me know

Me : I will

Bayede : it would be lovely
though , I can't wait to see you
two

He's starting

Me : let me send you the
picture

Bayede : okay , we'll talk

Me : bye

I drop the call , I take a picture of Nyezi and send it to him on WhatsApp

I take his birth certificate , and take a picture sending it on WhatsApp as well

He's online , he sends a voice note after seeing the messages

And I'm like for what ?

I listen to it , lowering the
volume

Bayede : take a picture of you
two together as well

I laugh

He's crazy , why does he want
my picture as well . He can just
have his son

But a selfie together won't hurt anyone , so I take it and Nyezi is just looking at me

I send it , and I'm getting crazy shocked emoji's

And he calls , I answer

Me : what ?

Bayede : his name is Nkanyezi !

Bayede is crazy , I laugh . I swear , we're going to get caught

Bayede : and I'm on the birth certificate !

Me : yes

Bayede : your parents know this ?

Me : no they don't know , they don't even know the name is yours

He laughs

Me : if my parents so badly want a child , who's life they'll control . They can go ahead , and make their own baby . You didn't make a baby for them

His laughter is just annoying me
right now

Bayede : you're savage !

Me : bye

I drop the call , he better leave
me alone . Before that woman
walks in here and takes this
phone

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Bayede

Being a father , now I'm busy
paying lawyer's

Drafting wills and all of that

But I want my son to have a
secured future

I'm glad Khosi got her phone
back , now we can
communicate better

I've sent her R70 000 , that's just savings I've been putting aside from my allowance

From now on , I'll just put her on my monthly budget

She has my baby to take care of , and I can't just let her be

I have to chip in and do my bit , even if it means I'm the only

one supporting financially it's
fine

She's a mother , and I can never
compare myself to her at all

I'm glad I'm taking care of that

Because now , I have this one .

And I knew it was only a matter
of time before she comes here

And here she is

We've just been staring at each other , so awkwardly for over a minute now

Me : are you done acting crazy?

She nods tearing up , I laugh getting up

Me : come here

She walks over and I give her a hug

Me : please be done completely , because next time I won't be here waiting for you to come back . You'll find another woman in here

Sedi : don't threaten me okay , I'm sorry

Until next time

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INSERT 29

THREE MONTHS LATER

Nomakhosi

Baby Nyezi is finally old , and
we're stealing him today

I can't believe I'm doing this ,
but we've done so many things

I really shouldn't be shocked by
this at all

Life has been good I won't lie ,
considering everything else
I'm back in school now , and I
wanted to go to a public school

My mother was the first one ,
to kill the idea . Because why
would I want to embarrass her?

Yet she's the one person who's
always throwing her money
talks in my face

So she refused the public school , and still insisted on the private one she pays

I'm trying to get back in shape , so I can go back into tennis

I prepared myself , and just accepted that I'll repeat this grade

Libo is in grade 11 now , and
she's since made new friends

Not that I blame her , I was
away for the whole year

Surely I can't expect her to wait
around for me , while she has
no company

But things are okay between us
, I can't say as before but
they're okay

It's a norm now receiving
monthly allowance from
Bayede

I don't even use it , I just think
one day it'll come in handy .

Along with the first 70K he sent

I just can't be reckless with money , just because I'm getting it

And I have no serious use for it , I have to be smart and use my mind

I mean at just 21 , the guy has a whole will . It gives one some food for thought

I mean he buys his son things ,
he doesn't say I send money
every month . And does
nothing

He busy clothes , and I always
have to lie about where they
come from

Nyezi has never been to his
father's place , but he has a
nursery there

One day he just video called us
, and showed us the room . I
was left amazed

So all in all , not everything has
been sour

But then it comes to the
holiday's they weren't that very
much exciting

I was inside the whole of
December , mothering my guy

And he's a big boy now , these
people just grow up

I'm sad , we never got to
celebrate daddy's birthday with
him . But he chose to video call
us for hours , so in a way that
made up

I have only seen him three times since last year November , but the everyday video calls are making things easy

The baby was still young , and for three months he wasn't allowed out

Unless the doctor check ups , and that's only when we saw him

I'm so happy about today , and
for the first time ever we're
going to his place

I've never been there , and I
don't know what to expect

Because it seems like they're
okay now with his girlfriend . I
just hope this won't be seen as
intruding , I don't wanna
interfere with them

I've packed a bag , just a change of clothes and nappies for Nyezi

Dad : where are you going again ?

He's the only one home , and that's a relief . That's why I chose to leave today

Because my mother would never , she would rather she sends Alina out with us

And I just want Bayede to be with his son today , no one else

Me : to the park

Dad : okay , I hope you have something warm for him . You

know Durban weather , can
change anytime

Me : all packed

I say patting the bag

Dad : I hope this will be enough

He hands me a few notes

Me : enkosi tata (thank you dad)

I take the money , placing it on the side pocket of the bag

Me : we'll see you later , and we won't be late

He nods with a smile

I leave , I've already called an
uber . Bayede sent his address

If it were up to him , he would
have come to get us

But we know that's a risk

Lately he just seems to be on a
hunger for it

He told me like months back ,
about a talk he had with his
father

And I wasn't all for that

Hopefully if he can get to see
Nyezi , like now once in a while
it'll put him on rest

We get to his place , and his
son is asleep . Once you

kangaroo my baby , he closes
his eyes

Bayede welcomes us from the
uber , he takes him from me
and he pays the driver

Me : I was going to pay that

He frowns taking my hand , and
we head to his apartment

It's clean , that's the first thing I notice as we get inside

Me : don't put him down , cause he'll make a mess . And if your girlfriend is responsible for this , she'll give you hell every time we visit

He laughs , walking to the lounge . He sits down with Nyezi

I place the bag down , my eyes
trailing around

Me : you have a beautiful place

Bayede : thank you

I sit down

Bayede : he's grown so much

Me : he has

Bayede : the call is deceiving ,
because he looks so small there
. Always trying to grab the
phone and eat it

I laugh , and that causes him to
open his eyes

He doesn't even look around
for me of attempt to cry , it's
just a shock

Me : he can't keep his hands
still , he's too busy

As it is , he's pulling his father's
thread black bracelet

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Bayede

If only this day , wasn't going to
come to an end

And they'll have to leave

Because we've had a great time
as a family , just being together

It's just been amazing

Me : e ta go papa (come to
daddy)

Khosi : look at his eyes

She laughs

Me : he's looking around

Khosi : he knows your voice

Me : he has to , I mean I talk to this guy everyday . I would be hurt if he didn't know my voice

His mother wasn't kidding , his hands are busy

Even when you feed him , he holds and ends up just messing his clothes

Now I understand the change of clothes business , one set of clothes doesn't work

Me : Nkanyezi

He lifts his head and looks at me

Me : e ta go papa (come to daddy)

The baby sounds , and just hands in the air

Khosi : why do you speak Setswana with him ?

Me : because I speak it , more than I speak isiZulu

Khosi : doesn't make sense ,
most kids choose dads culture
and all

Me : mhm....I already use his
surname baby mama . That's
enough

Khosi : right !

She gets up walking in the kitchen , and comes back with pizza

Me : you're sharing that ?

Khosi : no

Me : oh okay !

And she eats alone , with my boy looking at her

Me : you're even denying him ?

She laughs

Khosi : he can't chew , so he'll
just feed it off my breasts

Me : how long are you going to
breastfeed ?

Khosi : 6 months , more if he
still wants

I look at him with a smile

Me : you're living the soft life
young man

Khosi : stop being a nasty
person

I chuckle

Me : but have you thought
about what I said ? It's been

months now , and I don't want these stolen moments anymore

Khosi : you and your father will help me , and take a step back

She really doesn't wanna hear anything about this

That's why I've been quite for months again , because when I

first told her she brushed me
off

Khosi : you're here now , and I
know it's not ideal . But you call
and talk to your son everyday ,
sure it hurts cause you can't
touch him even if you see him
over the phone . But at least he
can see you , and once you go
to jail all that is gone

Me : but my father said....

Khosi : mhm , I don't know
what power or capabilities your
father holds . But take a good
look at my son

I feel like I'm being scolded
right now

Khosi : go on , take a good look
at him . See how handsome he
is

I laugh

Me : these are the Zulu genes

Khosi : and no son of mine ,
with such handsome genes will
have a father of a jail bird

Khosi can dish out words !

Khosi : I know you want better
than this , trust me I do too .

And we'll keep trying , because we haven't failed . It doesn't matter how long it takes , we'll find a way . And you going to jail , especially for something you didn't do it's just not it . I don't care what the law says , you'll never see a jail cell because of this . Because at the end of the day , this child is here and the law is not going to father him

Mihlali once said , baby mama
is not a child .

I'm just left stunned right now

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INSERT 30

Nomakhosi

My mother wasn't home
yesterday when we came back

That was some great relief ,
because I'm sure I would have
gotten a lecture . My father is
more subtle than she is

I have homework's to get to ,
since I didn't do them
yesterday

So I'm up earlier than usual
today , especially considering
that it's a Sunday

And Nyezi just had to be awake
as well , my son is not lazy

He only sleeps after he eats , or
you kangaroo him but other
than that he's not a person
with sleep

I walk down to the kitchen with
him in my arms , and hearing
sounds

Sounds like my mother is back ,
I guess she got home very late

Nyezi : papapapa

What the hell ?

And he says right as we get in
the kitchen

I could pinch him right now , for
goodness sake he's only three
months

What is he doing muttering
words ?

I look at him , with hopes that
he'll stop but no

He keeps muttering , and I swear to anyone else it would sound like baby sounds that makes no sense

But this is all Bayede's doing , now his son has taken his trait

Me : uhm...good morning

The eye my mother is giving me

I wonder if it's because of this
papa business , or maybe my
father told her we went out

My father greets back

Dad : he's hyper today

I laugh nervously

Me : too much

Dad : bring him here , while you
make food

I hand him to my father , and
even that doesn't stop him

He's just patting his mouth with
his tiny hands , muttering those
papa words

I feel like I'm going to have a
panic attack

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Lesedi

I came to see Bayede

I so wished I stayed the night ,
and came yesterday

But since varsity opened ,
things have been too hectic for
me

I'm only in my third year , he's
in his fourth and last

I'm just trying to cope with everything else

Since we fixed things , and I promised I'll stop with the drama

Things have been good between us . I really don't know how I'm going to cope , with the whole father thing of his

Right now I'm only here ,
because I got so jealous last
night

When he posted his little family
on WhatsApp

He always posts his son , but
yesterday he did the most
posting the three of them

In his lounge area , so it's clear that they were all here . It was all nice , having some family time

A part of me , thought maybe they even slept here

But when I arrived in the morning , he was all alone

And with no sign , of anyone
else being around

I think I'm way too young , for
everything I'm just putting
myself through

And I can't help but wonder if
it's worth it ?

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Bayede

It's a lazy Sunday , and I don't
even feel like doing anything

I just want to rest , that was
just the plan

And Sedi rocked up , I'm glad
she's just in with the plan

Because I have no intentions of
even going anywhere

We're laying on the couch , just
watching a series

My phone rings , and it's Khosi .
I know because I set a custom
ringtone for her

Me : I have to take this

She lifts her head a bit , and I
reach for my phone answering
the calls

Me : b.....

Khosi : am I disturbing ?

Me : why did you cut me off ?

She laughs

Me : it's not funny

Khosi : yeah I know , sorry . Are you busy ?

Me : no

Khosi : please refrain from using this papa word with your son ?

Sedi moves uncomfortably , I'm sure she can hear I'm talking to a female

She's too close not to hear the voice , even if she can't hear what the person is saying

Me : why ?

Khosi : we walk in the kitchen in the morning , and he's busy muttering it like it's the end of the world

I laugh

Khosi : don't even laugh , because my parents were there . They must have not paid

attention , or maybe they
thought he's just being a baby
there's nothing to it

But that was damn cute

Khosi : I've been waiting for
him to do it again , so I can take
a video for you . But he's not

I chuckle

Me : this guy will get us caught

Khosi : I guess my parents are not as observant , as they think they are

Me : and they didn't say anything

Khosi : no , anyways I just called to tell you . I am studying here

Me : how's school ?

As much as she acts okay ,
repeating a grade she knows
very well she could have been
past it hasn't been easy on her

Khosi : I'm trying

Me : always shout if you need
any help okay ?

Khosi : okay , bye

She drops the call

I put my phone away , focusing
back on the TV

Sedi : I...saw that your family
visited you

Women !

Me : my family ?

Sedi : your son and his mother

I wonder if this call didn't come through , when was she going to say this ?

Because clearly it's been burning her

Me : yeah they came

Now she goes quite

Me : is that a problem ?

She shakes her head , but it's all
a lie

Me : good , because she knows
about you . And she respects
you enough as my girlfriend ,
you don't need any drama with

her . Because she doesn't have
any with you

I hope that shuts her up ,
because maybe she thinks
Khosi doesn't know about her

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INSERT 31

Nomakhosi

I woke up , a very thankful
mother today

I looked at my son , and I just
figured not everything is all that
bad

It's Valentine's day today , and
I'm ditching school of course . I
want to take this man out on a
little date , just to spoil
ourselves

Noting much

I won't even tell Bayede , he'll probably be with his girlfriend

So today can all just be about us two

We love each other , and we're single . But that's no reason to be dull

I don't know if my mother is
home or what

But even if she is , if she refuses
it's fine we'll just have a picnic
in our room

We're still in bed , but of course
he's being grumpy . Because he
wants to get up

But I'm not ditching school ,
only to be awake like I'm going
there

It's the stupid contest today ,
and such things have nothing to
do with me

Maybe if things were still the
same , I would have gone . Just
to support Libo

But she has her new friends to
do that for her now , so yeah !
As sad as it is , I think our
friendship is dead

I'll rather spend my day with
my son

I'm on WhatsApp just checking
people's statuses

When a message comes in , it's
a bank notification . I tap on it

And almost scream , a whole
R5 000 . Reference baby
daddy's Valentine's gift

I laugh

Nyezi looks at me so awkwardly
, my son must have taken these
looks from his father

Me : utatakho uyaphambana
(your father is insane)

He smiles , throwing the hands
and feet in the air

Me : amakhaza bruh (the cold
dude)

I cover us up

Going back on WhatsApp , I see
he's online

I send him a thank you text , he
doesn't even take a second and
he calls

Me : you like making me and
my son fight

He laughs

Bayede : we'll buy him his own phone

Me : well thank you for the gift

Bayede : you're not single after all , so go spoil yourself

“You're not single after all”

What is he trying to say ?

Me : please don't bore me

He laughs

Me : your son is awake , video call so you can talk to him .

We'll be busy during the day

Bayede : okay , give me a second

I'm glad he doesn't ask we'll be
busy with what

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Lesedi

Lisa came over last night , and
we studied together

I guess it always helps , because
it's much better and easier than
when I'm alone

And we just ended up talking , I
found myself telling him about
Bayede's little family

And she was so bored , told me
I should just walk away because
I don't fit in anywhere

Of course , I don't think she
understands the love I have for
Bayede

And my heart is just not ready ,
to give up yet

Lisa : no text , no calls like no nothing ?

She's just been on the phone for over an hour with her boyfriend

Who will be here soon to pick her , and they're going to Gold Reef city

Me : he's probably busy

Honestly , I also feel bad . Like
how can Bayede forget today ?

Even on our anniversary , we
didn't do anything spectacular

And last month on my birthday
, he took me to a spa and then
a dinner date

Honestly God can't hate me so much , to give me such a boyfriend that's not romantic

And now Lisa will have more reasons to just bash him

Lisa : face it friend , you just can't deal with a man who has a family besides you

We're having breakfast , as we hear a knock at the door

Lisa : that's probably Jake

She gets up to open , but doesn't move from the door

Me : what's wrong ?

Lisa : come see this

I walk to the door , and it's a
delivery guy

Him : good morning , I'm
looking for a miss Lesedi
Motaung

Me : that's....me

Him : please sign here for me

I sign , and he gives us the things . We walk back inside

Lisa : wow ! I take my words back , but how much is the money

It's a red roses bouquet with notes of money , around the roses

Lisa : that looks like a thousand
maybe

I laugh

Me : what do you care ? A
thousand is still fine

There's chocolates , and all
kinds of sweet treats

And a small card with a happy
Valentine's day message

Lisa : mhm

She says sniffing the roses , I
hope it's not jealousy

Because she disses Bayede ,
every single chance she gets

I take my phone and call him

Bayede : babe

Me : baby , thank you so much .
I got the delivery

Bayede : you're welcome my
love , I'll see you later okay ? I'll
come pick you to around 16:00

I squeal

Me : okay I love you

Bayede : I love you

I drop the call

Lisa : and ?

Me : well , he says he'll be here
at 16:00 to get me

She nods

Lisa : he went all out

Me : well , it's allowed

I have a feeling , this is going to
be a great night for us

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INSERT 32

Nomakhosi

We just went to the beach , and
didn't stay long there

Because I don't want him
catching the cold

We're back home , still early in
the afternoon

I haven't seen anyone , except
Alina . So I don't even know if
my parents are home or not

I want to bath Nyezi , feed him
so he can sleep

My phone rings as I'm busy
undressing him , it's Mihlali

I laugh before I answer ,
crossing fingers she doesn't
scream this time around

Me : hi aunty

Mihlali : hi mommy , you guys
are sneaky

Me : oh are we ?

Mihlali : why didn't I know ,
you're going to the beach .
Because this day is for lovers ,
and I also am your lover

Honestly if you can think long and hard , about anything she says

You'll end up with a migraine

And she must have seen the picture and video I posted on my status

We do talk with her , like everyday . And we do call

She's a very much present aunt
in her nephew's life

Me : there's no uncle who took
you out ?

She laughs

Mihlali : I'm as dry as they
come , you guys should have
invited me

Me : I'm sorry , we won't
exclude you next time

Mihlali : that's what I love to
hear , how is he ?

Me : busy kicking like no one's
business , and I'm going to bath
him now

Mihlali : okay , I love you two

Me : we love you

Mihlali : give my baby kisses
from me

Me : will do

We hang up

I pick Nyezi up , walking to the
bathroom . I pour warm water
in his baby bath

He loves water crazy , cries when you put him . But a minute in , he's just at his happiest .

Then we fight when he has to go out , he cries . Forgetting that he didn't even want to get in

After the bath , I walk out with him wrapped in his baby towel

I sit on the bed , and breastfeed him . It doesn't even take long .
And he starts being sleepy

Me : you're a cute handsome boy , who smells so good and fresh .

Because he can fight the sleep sometimes , and just keep opening his eyes

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Lesedi

I'm so excited going into this dinner . I even bought a new dress , just to look good and prepared

I mean , when a man makes an effort . You must meet him halfway

Lisa long left , so I'm on my own now . Trying to get done and be all sorts of cute

It's minutes before 16:00 , and
I'm not done with my make up

I haven't even gotten dressed ,
but I know he will wait

This will only take a few
minutes , and I'll be done

There's a knock at the door , I
can't even just shout come in

That will be rude

I get up , wrapped in a towel .
And I open the door , and it's
him

He looks so handsome , now I
remember why I fell for this guy

He has just good looks going on
end

Me : hey

He smiles leaning down , and
giving me a hug

Me : babe , you'll smudge my
make up

He chuckles

Bayede : you're not even done ,
you'll fix yourself up

I laugh

Me : okay , let me go get done
then

Bayede : do you have beer ?

Me : no

He laughs

Bayede : I'll take juice

Me : help yourself

I leave him walking back to my
room

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Nomakhosi

He's asleep now

I've managed to clean up , and
put his things away

Before I binge on a series , I
need snacks . So I won't have to
get up a lot

I leave the door opened , and
he's in the middle of the bed

I made sure to balance him well

I hurry to the kitchen but stop
on my tracks , when I hear a
familiar voice

I slowly peek through , making
sure my whole head doesn't
pop . And it's him

Mr Zulu : you two are childish
honestly , and I came here so
we can talk like adults . It's
been over a year now

Did he just say my parents are
childish ? I wonder what they
did or said to him

Mom : you will not come into
my house and disrespect me
like that

Mr Zulu : maybe if you as the wife , you weren't ruling in this house . This matter would have long been resolved

Mom : well it's my house , so deal with it

Mr Zulu : my son is tired of you two , and quite frankly I am too. So here is what's going to happen , wether you like it or not we'll be in our grandson

life. Take my son to jail , I'll have him out within a day . And I'll fucking turn your lives upside down , forgetting you're parents to the mother of the Zulu heir . Don't test me , I've been patient enough with you people and I'm over it now .

Dad : there's absolutely no need for these threats of yours , we can talk and

Mom : there's no talk that will happen here , these Zulu people will keep their rapist son away from my daughter . And I won't hear a thing from you , no one is going to tell me how to raise my child . You wasted your time coming here , I won't listen to anything . And there's no man here , who will sit down and discuss my daughter

She looks at my father

Mom : if you so badly want to prove just how manly you are , go make your own child out there and prove yourself . Not with my daughter , don't forget she's not yours

I don't know how , but in this moment I find myself in the lounge with them

Tears are burning my eyes , I
swear with just a blink they'll
fall

Me : what do you mean I'm not
his ?

They all look at me

Dad : Nomakhosi....

Me : ma ! (Mom)

She clicks her tongue and looks
at Mr Zulu

Mom : leave

The man sighs and walks out

Mom : what were you doing
ears dropping to things that
don't concern you ?

Me : things that don't concern me ? You've been lying to me all this time , and now that I've found out you want to blame me ? Who is my father ?

Now I'm crying , I don't think I've ever felt such pain before

Me : is this a thing with you ? Keeping children away from their fathers ? You're doing to

me the same exact thing you're
doing to my son

And she slaps me , her husband
gets in between us and stops
the second slap

I don't even know what to call
him now , because it seems like
my whole life has been a lie

Me : I hate you , I really hate
you

I walk away heading back to my
room , I get in locking the door

I feel like screaming my lungs
out , and just have a mental
breakdown

But I won't wake my son up , I
won't traumatize him like that

I walk to my wardrobe ,
grabbing my sports bag . It's big
enough to carry his things

I just throw them inside ,
without even packing well . And
just a few tracksuits for me

With tears blurring my eyes ,
and I keep wiping them but of
course they keep falling

A knock comes at the door , I ignore it . I grab my uniform and school bag

I request an uber , and take my bank card as well as my phone

I pick Nyezi slowly , and carry him . I feel like I am going to burst

I take a piece of paper , and
write on it . I walk out ,
whoever was knocking is gone

I head out , and I only hear
shouts and loud voices from
their room

I leave the paper on the table
and I walk out , as I head to the
gate the uber arrives

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INSERT 33

Nomakhosi

I feel like I'm going to lose my
mind

And this Uber driver keeps
looking at me , like I'm some
mad woman

Him : can I call anyone for you ?

I shake my head

Him : are you going somewhere specific ?

Me : I.....I need a hotel or something

Him : okay , even around is find?

I nod

Him : okay let me check for you

I don't even why know I'm
trusting a stranger man

But I did make a child with one

I keep wiping my tears off , and
I'm just glad Nyezi is not waking
up

Because as much as I love my son , I wouldn't be able to deal with him right now

Him : okay there's one that's just 25 minutes away

Me : you can take me there

He keeps on driving

Him : and you're sure there's
no one I can call for you ?

I shake my head , he finally just
lets me be . And we get to the
hotel

I guess I'm just glad to see it's
really a hotel , and I'm not
being kidnapped with my son

He drops us off , and refuses
when I try to pay him

I thank him and he leaves , only
after making sure that we got a
room

And I'm thinking I can finally
just cry and let all this hurt out

Nyezi wakes up , and he's
grumpy himself right now

So he wants my full attention , I
can't have time for myself

I'm trying so hard to pull myself
together , and I'm failing
miserably

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Khumalo Household

Mr and Mrs Khumalo walk out
of their bedroom

Emotions still high , no one
willing no calm down and be
rational

Mr Khumalo : I really don't understand what your problem is

Mrs Khumalo : yes blame me

Mr Khumalo : if it wasn't for you , Nomakhosi wouldn't have found out all of this

Mrs Khumalo : oh what's the big deal ? She's a Khumalo by

blood , she might not be your
blood but she's your brothers
blood and that makes her yours

He takes great offence from her
words

Mr Khumalo : that Zulu man ,
had no business knowing about
our private family matters .

That you had no problem just
uttering out in front of him

She looks down , now
understanding what he's
talking about

Now those people know her
daughter is not her husband's
child

And if this gets out , it'll ruin
her reputation

Mrs Khumalo : I.....

Her eyes trail over to the table ,
where she spots a piece of
paper

She walks closer and takes it ,
her husband follows suit

Mrs Khumalo : she's gone

She says looking at him , he
takes the paper from her

Mr Khumalo : you kept the truth away from me , but were so willingly to tell it to a stranger . I don't know who I am now , I won't let you do the same to my son . If Bayede can't see his own son , then no one will

He reads what's written on the paper out loud

And Mrs Khumalo's heart
pounds so hard

Mrs Khumalo : you said she's in
her room

Mr Khumalo : and I told you I
knocked and she didn't open

Mrs Khumalo : oh where could
she be ?

It's late now , nearing 20:00

Mr Khumalo : suddenly you
care enough

He grabs his car keys , and she
runs after him

Mrs Khumalo : where are you
going ?

Mr Khumalo : I'm going to go
out there , and find my
daughter

He gets in the car , and she
follows . He just let her be as he
drives out

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Zulu Household

Nkosiyabo is in the lounge with his wife , cuddling on the couch

Nkosiyabo : I'm telling you , those people are insane

His wife laughs

Nkosiyabo : but in all honesty , I feel for that girl . She didn't look okay at all

Opelong : but can you imagine , finding out the man you called your father is not your father . And especially like that , in that manner things happened

Nkosiyabo : hence I say they're
crazy

She slowly sits up

Nkosiyabo : what ?

Opelong : after Bayede asked
you to hold off , do you think it
was wise you got involved ?

He sighs

Knowing his son , he might not
be happy about what he's done

Nkosiyabo : he might bite my
head off , but we'll

He's interrupted by the gate
monitor

Opelong : who could it be so
late ?

Nkosiyabo : I don't know , let me check

He gets up and goes to the door , right after opening the gate

He waits , and his wife stands behind him

He's stunned seeing the Khumalo family

Nkosiyoabo : I give you three seconds , to leave my property .
Before I blow your brains off

Mrs Khumalo stops on her tracks

Mr Khumalo : I'm sorry , my daughter left home and I'm looking for her

Nkosiyabo : and you figured you'll find her in my house ?

Mr Khumalo sighs

Mr Khumalo : there's nowhere I haven't looked , this was my last option

Nkosiyabo : you see how you two are pathetic ? Get off my

property , and I'll go find the
mother of my grandson

They both look at him

Nkosiyabo : I said leave

Relevantly Mr Khumalo turns
and his wife follows

Opelong : you have to find her
Zulu

He turns and looks at his wife

Nkosiyabo : I'll find her

He assures her , and she's put
at ease . Knowing her husband
will never let her down

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INSERT 34

Bayede

We arrive at her place , but as she unlocks the door

My phone beeps

Sedi : babe please don't ditch me , not tonight please

She walks in , I take my phone out and check

I have a little baby , I cannot afford not to pay attention to my phone

And it's a text from my father , he's rather very brief .

And he has got me so worried , he says we need to find Nkanyezi and his mother

A thousand thoughts run
through my mind right now

First instinct , I call her and it
rings unanswered

Me : I have to go

Sedi : but

I don't even wait to hear what
she's saying anymore

Driving home , I'm like some
maniac . I make it in less time

I find my parents , and my
mother looks somewhat

Dad : let's go

I guess no words will be
exchanged , we head to our
cars

Dad : do you have any idea
where she could be ?

Me : she doesn't even have any
favourite place if that's what
you mean

Dad : let's drive out , I've made
a few calls

He goes out first , and I just
follow him . I call her again ,
and it rings for a while

Khosi : hello

That's new , and she's crying

Me : where are you ?

I ask as calm as ever

Khosi : at Sky hotel

Me : don't drop the call

I signal to my father , and he pulls over . We both get out of our cars , he's on his phone

Dad : she's at....

Me : I know , thanks for calling .
And helping out , you can go
home now . So mom can relax

He nods

Dad : she found out her father
is not her biological father , so
go there with a sound mind

I'm taken aback by that

Like how is her father not her father ?

Me : okay , I'm going to get them and go home . Those people can deal with their nonsense on their own

He walks to his car , making a U-turn driving back home

And I drive to the hotel , she
gives me the room number
when I arrive

I head to the room , and she
lets me . I just engulf her into a
hug she breaks down

I see Nkanyezi is sleeping on
the bed

Me : I'm sorry , let's go home .
I'm not leaving you two here

After a while she calms down ,
and pulls back

Me : do you have anything ?

Khosi : the bag is over there

I take the bag , and her
backpack . She picks Nkanyezi
up

Khosi : my money gone for
nothing

She says as we walk outside

Me : you should have just
called me to begin with

She frowns , I chuckle

We get to the car , and I drive
to my place . With Lesedi killing
my phone with calls

Khosi : are you not going to
answer her ?

Me : no , she's not happy . I was
with her , when my father
called

Khosi : your father called you ?

Me : yeah

She nods , and the rest of the ride is just quite

As we arrive , Nkanyezi is little grumpy . But she manages to soothe him back to sleep

Me : I'll go put him to bed , in his room

Khosi : please bring a fleece if you have one , I'm feeling a bit cold . I need to cover up

Me : let's go to bed

Khosi : I'm not sleeping in your bed , where you sleep with your girlfriend

I chuckle

Me : we're going to use the
other room , it'll be ours

She smiles

Khosi : make sure he's well
balanced

Me : don't worry

I walk to the nursery and lay
him down in his cot , I sit with
him for a few minutes

And I walk out , texting my
father that we're home

Me : come here

I take her hand and we walk to
the other room

We get in bed , I hold her . And
we sit in silence for a while

Khosi : I don't understand why
they would lie to me like that

There are no words I'm going to
say that will make her feel
better

She has to vent , and cry . Even
scream if she wants to

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Nomakhosi

The first thing I look for when I wake up opening my eyes is my son

And I see Bayede next to me , I sit up

Bayede : it's still early

Me : I need to check on...

Bayede : he's here

He pulls the blankets off him a bit , exposing his face

I release a sigh of relief

Me : I thought he was in the nursery , when did

Bayede : I waited until you calmed down and fell asleep

Me : I was worried , he's never spent a night alone

Bayede : I know , how are you feeling ?

I shake my head

Me : I really don't know

He nods

Me : let me go pump , he will be hungry when he wakes up

I get off the bed , and walk to the bathroom . I pee first , and wash my hands

I bump some milk off , Nyezi tends not to like it , if my breasts are too full

I walk back to the bedroom ,
and he's still not up

Me : he needs to wake up

Bayede : do you want to wake
him ?

Me : he will cry

Bayede : myeke (leave him)

His phone rings

Me : please answer your
girlfriend , before she storms in
here

He laughs

Bayede : it's my dad

He picks the call

Bayede : Mageba

He listens for a while

Bayede : why?

The expression he has , I'm sure
he got the call dropped on him

Bayede : my father wants us to
come home

Me : when ?

Bayede : now

Me : why ?

Bayede : I asked why , and I got
the call dropped on me

I laugh

Bayede : go take a shower , I'll shower with him

Me : how cute

I get up , I guess someone will eat once he's showered

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INSERT 35

Bayede

We get home , and it's only
now this guy seems to be
hungry

Khosi : your son has no timing

I laugh opening the door , and
it's so quite

You'd swear there's no one in
this house

Me : sit down and feed him

I take his bag from her , placing
it down . We go to the lounge

And sit down , she takes his
small blanket and cover up as
she breastfeed him

But he keeps removing it

Me : why is he fighting ?

Khosi : I don't cover him , but
we're in your house . Your
father can walk in

I swear I'm smitten by this
woman

I move over and sit next to her ,
placing a kiss on her cheek

Khosi : what's your deal ?

I have scary eyes my way

Me : why is he looking at me
like that ?

Khosi : why did you kiss me ?

He's my only man and he's very
jealous

This can't be true

I kiss her again , and it's like
he's just getting annoyed more

He finally pulls out , and stares
at me .

Khosi : stop upsetting him

One last more kiss , and he
cries

Me : why is he crying ?

Khosi : I told you , he's my only
man . You can't kiss me

I chuckle , he settles down as I
move away

Me : you're a Mageba , you
should side with your people

Khosi : not when it comes to his
mother no

And everyone finally walks
down

Mom : why didn't you call us ?

Me : you called me , you should
have expected I'll be here

And just as I was about to hold
Mihlali off , I'm too late and
she's already screaming

Dad : you'll scare the baby

Mihlali : oh no ! He knows me

And he laughs looking at her ,
my poor baby is so used to
these screams they even make
sense to him

Mihlali : look at you the last
time I saw you , you were this
small . And now you're this big

She takes him , Khosi has
already covered up

Mihlali : you have to see the
mad shopping I did for you ,
you'll remember me even when
I'm gone . I'm not some dead
beat aunt

Mom : Mihlali !

She takes the bag

Mihlali : we'll be in my room

Dad : won't you let us have him
, before you disappear with
him?

Mihlali : I will be back , he's just
arrived and he's not leaving
now

Mom : but....

Mihlali : the day is still long

And just like that she's gone
upstairs

Mom : wow !

It sucks being them , no one
exists when Mihlali sees
Nkanyezi

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Khumalo Household

No one hardly got any sleep .
Mr Khumalo was on the streets
driving around , the whole
night

And he's only walking back
right now

His wife is on her feet , hoping
he'll just take her out of her
misery

Mrs Khumalo : where are they?

He looks at her , drained and
tired . And her reddish eyes ,
says she has been crying

But he could care less , because they're in this situation because of her . Well his thoughts

So her feelings can be put aside right now

Mr Khumalo : how am I supposed to know ?

Mrs Khumalo : what do you mean..... you've been out there the whole night

Mr Khumalo : you go out there as well , and see if you can find them

He walks past her

Mrs Khumalo : now is not the time to be blaming each other ,

Nomakhosi could be dead . You
heard what she said

Her last words on that note ,
came across somehow to them
both

Mr Khumalo : then maybe
you'll be glad , you didn't even
want that baby to begin with

She sits down wailing

Mrs Khumalo : your brother
raped me , he forced himself on
me . And you're going to throw
that in my face ! I raised
Nomakhosi , I raised her

She breaks down , while his
own tears steam down his face

Mrs Khumalo : not once , not
even once did I treat her like
some rape product . So please ,
don't you dare judge me

Mr Khumalo : it does not matter , how you justify your feelings right now . There was absolutely no reason for you , to utter the words you said . Resulting in her knowing , I'm not her father in that manner

He walks away from her , and she's left crying on her own

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INSERT 36

Bayede

Mihlali really disappeared her
nephew

And she hasn't come down
even now

We've all had breakfast , my
mother did the dishes with
Khosi

And she's still up there with her
nephew , I guess we won't see
them anytime soon

Unless he is hungry for the food
he gets from his mother

We're now in the living room ,
and it's slightly tense in here

I knew , we weren't just called
home for breakfast . There had
to be something else

And I guess we're about to hear
and find out right now

Dad : are you two okay ?

I nod , Khosi has her head
bowed down

You'll swear it's a lie , she was
in the kitchen with my mother
doing dishes with her

Mom : we Khosi my
husband told me what
happened last night , when he
went to your home

And I still don't know what happened , now I'm shocked hearing my father went there

Mom : no words , no sorry will take away the pain you're feeling . But I'm asking , you're a mother . You have a son who needs you , in all aspects . Both emotionally and physically , as well as mentally . If you're unstable as a mother , you

won't be able to care for
Mageba

Is that his name now ?

But that's not the point , this is
a serious conversation

Mom : I've never exchanged
words with Bayede , for getting
a minor pregnant . Because I
believe I raised a better man ,

and I believe I trusted my son
to know better . I don't
condone what he did , and I
swear if he were to do it again I
would stone him to death

What ?

Mom : what's done is done
now , here you are . I don't
know what's going on between
the two of you

Khosi : we're just co-parenting

Wow !

Me : that was quick !

She shrugs

Mom : okay fine , but there's an issue lingering . That of your parents wanting him arrested for statutory rape , and they're

within their rights . Even for
defilement

This woman ! She will never
sugar-coat anything , to please
anyone

Mom : they came here last
night looking for you

Khosi : they did ?

She sounds shocked

My mother nods

Mom : they did , and my husband told them to leave . And he said he will find you on his own , and they left with that knowledge . That he might find you , and of course he'll bring you here . We all know the situation , being here means you're close to Bayede

Me : the possibility of jail , if they go and report me

Khosi : can I please just say something ?

Mom : of course

Khosi : finding out what I found out last night , being in that hotel room alone with Nyezi .
And I couldn't scream nor cry

however I wanted , all because I didn't want to expose him to such . It made me to think , and just decide on the spot . I don't live for myself now , because I made a choice and it came with consequences . And now I have to deal with them , there's no running away . I live for that little boy , I lost so much that I'm willing to do better . I was forced to stop school , I lost a whole year , and I'm back this

year repeating a grade . You're a mother , and you don't want your son going to jail . I'm a mother , and I don't want my son growing up without his father . But one thing I realised is that , even now this whole situation is still not fair on my son . We have to lie and sneak around , just for him to see his father . Quite frankly , I won't let my parents do to my son what they did to me . Today I

sit here , and I don't even know who my father is . I'm done living for them , I am done being dictated to . I am making my choice right now , and that is Bayede is welcome to see his son whenever he wants . He can call anytime , and he can ask to be with him anytime . I don't care what my parents will do , if they still threaten him I'm not getting involved . As a father , he will have to make his

own choice . I'm not going back there , for my sanity and the sake of my son . I want to focus on school , better my life and just be the better mother I can be . It was very clear , that I will not get any truth from my mother . So I see no point in begging her , I'll just go on with my life . I'm sorry , to all of you if my choice will end up taking your son to jail . But like I said , as a father he can make his

own choice . Because I , as a
mother have made mine

That was a mouthful , and I
think we all heard her loud and
clear . Like very crystal

And I didn't know anything
about this change of heart

Mom : you won't go back
home?

Khosi : no , I will get a hotel for now . While I look for a place , and I'll just continue life on my own

All this is just new to me , I understand we didn't talk . But she didn't even hint

Mom : you said you're back at school , how will you juggle that . And living on your own , with a small baby ?

Khosi : it probably won't be a walk in a park , but I'll make a plan Mrs Zulu .

I don't know what my father is smiling about

Dad : do you have money to rent out a place ?

Khosi : I don't think I do , rent is very expensive . And babies

don't come cheap , so a rent
won't work for me . I'll just
have to find a small place I can
buy

He nods

Mom : I hope you two are not
thinking of cohabiting with
each other

Me : what....no ! I didn't even know about any of this , until right this moment

Khosi : I have no plans of cohabiting , I want my own place . And I don't want to be dependent on him

Him being me ?

Khosi is savage to this day I still
say

Dad : this could have great
consequences , especially if
your parents are still gunning at
him . As much as I'm not
excusing my son , I'll fight for
him this time around and it'll
be ugly

My poor baby mama , she
swallows . And I don't blame

her , my father can be very
scary at times

Dad : find a place , suitable
enough for Mageba and I'll buy
it for you

This is shock ! I did not see it
coming one bit , and it has all of
us shocked even my mother

Dad : I'm not taking responsibility away from the father , but that's my first grandchild . He's the Zulu heir , and I'll make sure he's taken care of . And as his mother , the two of you are just included in a package

The smile my mother now has

Mom : and if it's okay by you , you can find a place near by .

Where you'll be able to bring Nkanyezi here in the morning , and you'll fetch him in the afternoon . I would say leave him for a week , and take him on weekends . But he's still too young , and you two are still very much attached to one another . I'll help watch him , if that's okay with you . I work a lot yes , but right here in the comfort of my home . And

Mihlali is also here on some days

Me : I can also watch him when I have no lectures

Mom : you'll watch him here , not there at your place

You see Khosi nodding ?

Me : wow okay

Dad : you might have your girlfriend's over , I don't want my grandson exposed to such things

Me : great ! Just bury me , why not ?

And then at the mention of girlfriends , I remember Sedi

I haven't called her , I haven't attended her messages

I'm sure I'm single right now

Mom : this talk is done , now we hope you both know if your parents fight it won't be nice

Khosi nods , I guess she's really done and ready for whatever

As for me , I was long ready .
Just that she put me off

But right now , I'll support her
choice and decision

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INSERT 37

Nomakhosi

I might be seen as crazy right now , or maybe even exaggerating

That maybe I should take time , try and find the truth

Go home , beg and plead with my parents in a civil manner

But no !

I won't do any of that , I'm okay
on my own as I am

I am not suddenly turning my
back against my family

And now trusting Bayede and
his , no . I don't even know
them that well

I'm just doing this , for my son's
sake . And my well being

I've been lied to , and if that heated moment never happened I would have never known

What parents don't understand is that , it's not the bad or good treatment

It's just about knowing true self and identity , and I've been denied that

Bayede helped me look for a few places earlier on , we'll keep looking

But I'm hopeful we'll find something soon , because I have school to get back to

And I need a place as soon as possible , today we're spending the night at his parents

They took Nkanyezi , since
Mihlali was with him the whole
day

I feel like I have no child , he
only comes to me to feed and
that's it

Maybe he's just happy , being
in a house where everyone just
wants to have him

Bayede : are you okay ?

I nod against his chest

Don't ask why I'm in his room ,
when his mother gave me a
room to sleep in

Bayede : look at me

I slowly lift my head , he
caresses the side of my face

He brings his face closer , and
the devil that lives in this boy
it's too much

I initiate the kiss first , and he
welcomes me . It's been a while
, feels like forever

He deepens the kiss , his hands
all over my ass . And I'm horny
as crazy

But lord no ! Not today no , and
not with me

I slowly move on top of him ,
sliding my hand down inside his
brief. And Mtwana is up okay

But I'm not having that inside
of me , I refuse !

I pull out of the kiss , I look at
him

Bayede : really ?

Me : I'm not sleeping with you

Bayede : but ...

Me : mhm , I can always walk
out of here

He tightens his hold on me

Bayede : don't

I lay my head back to his chest

Bayede : you're sleeping ?

Me : yeah

He chuckles

Bayede : so you're going to sleep with your hand inside my briefs like that ? Touching my dick ?

Me : yeah

Bayede : okay

I close my eyes , and we stay in
silence until I'm caught up by
sleep

I'm woken up by one hell
sensation of pleasure between
my thighs

I am lost out of my sane senses

I slowly open my eyes , and I'm
covered still . My thighs and
legs are locked

And I feel him down there , I
can't stop nor control the
moans out of my mouth

I slowly remove the sheets ,
and he has his head buried
deep between my thighs

His tongue is doing things to
me , like the guy can use his
mouth

He's twisting and twirling inside
of me , my clit is just feeling the
most

He rubs and bites , from time to time he nibbles

And I feel like I'm going to die , I'm moving my lower body like crazy

My toes hurt from just twirling

Men will embarrass you , why would he pleasure me in his parents house ?

I can't even moan louder ,
everyone would hear me

I can't hold on much longer , as
my legs fail me shaking insanely

He's the only balance , I bite my
arm to suppress my moans as
pleasure takes over

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Bayede

One thing is that , no matter
how much she'll mock me and
all

She'll always be in sync with me
, and we both can't even deny
it

She has her one hand all over
my head , the one just on my
lower back

And her leg is over mine

After a few minutes , she slowly
pulls out of the kiss

Me : do....

And I'm interrupted by a knock
at the door

Khosi : it could be your parents

I get off her , picking up my
sweatpants . I put them on and
walk to the door

I open and it's Mihlali

Me : what do you want ?

Mihlali : good morning to you
too

I nod

Mihlali : uhm

She tries and peek in the room

Me : seriously ?

Mihlali : isn't it the whole point that she's out of your room , before anyone wakes up and realise she's not in hers ?

Khosi laughs

Me : stop talking nonsense , go check Nkanyezi from your parents . If he's awake ask for him

Mihlali : fine

She turns and walks away , I
walk back heading to the bed

I lean down kissing her again ,
and she kisses me back

Me : you know , I'm in love with
you

She smiles first , more like
blushes before she laughs

Khosi : stop boring me

I chuckle leaning down for a
kiss again

Voice : guys really ? At least
close the door

I turn and look at her

Mihlali : dad says Zulu is still sleeping , they'll bring him down with for breakfast

Me : okay you can leave

Mihlali : can you guys just stop , and come join me downstairs

Me : sure

Mihlali : Khosi ?

Khosi : mhm....mhm

That's accompanied by a nod

Mihlali : that's not encouraging

She leaves , closing the door
behind her

Khosi : can I just go shower ?

Me : can I join ?

Khosi : no why ?

Me : we're saving water

She laugh

Khosi : go save water elsewhere
, not invading my privacy

She gets up

Me : I've seen you naked

Khosi : and I might do things in the shower , things I don't want you knowing about

With that she walks to the bathroom , and I'm like did she just hint a self pleasuring session ?

I'll be damned

I go lock the door , and head to the bathroom . I take my sweatpants off getting in the shower

She has her back turned against me , I hug her from behind

She leans her head back , I suck hard on her neck

Trailing my hand down to her
coochie , I rub on her clit slowly

Khosi : Ahhhh....mhmmmm

I slide one finger inside of her ,
and she parts her legs a bit

I play with my finger inside of
her , and the more wet she gets
I slide another finger

Khosi : ohhhhhh

She has her lower lip bitten

Me : I miss you

I whisper against her ear

Khosi : I...miss you too

I turn her around , and pick her into my arms . She locks her arms on my neck

I slowly slide my dick inside of her , and she welcomes me with a bit of a struggle

I take slow deep thrusts , as she accommodates me further

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INSERT 38

Nomakhosi

You know maybe I am crazy

But I do get this whole age
difference thing , like I really do

But I think it's so blown out of
proportion , and just so
unnecessary

The way Bayede is with me ,
he's never made me feel like
I'm a child to him

Like ever !

He's always just caring , and
making sure I'm fine like always

I don't know , maybe as time
goes on he will change

But for now , he hasn't shown
that to me

We finally did take that shower
, and together . So I guess we
saved water

Bayede : feeling any pain ?

Me : no

He takes my hand as we walk
out of his room going
downstairs

Me : most people do have sex
three months after giving birth

He chuckles

Bayede : women have a lot of
things , so one never knows

Since I didn't bring a change of clothes for me , and wasn't anticipating to spending the night

I'm wearing his clothes , I'm keeping them . He won't get them back again

As we get in the dining room , everyone is already at the table eating

Nkanyezi is having his hands on
his grandfather's plate

And he's just letting him be ,
like this guy licks those hands
and goes back to touching the
food

It can never be me , babies
make us eat disgusting things

Mihlali : yhoh about time

We greet sitting down

Mrs Zulu : what happened to
your arm ?

I should have taken that hoodie
, now my arm is exposed

This is embarrassing

Me : Iit's nothing serious

Mr Zulu chuckles , and I just want to run out of here

Mrs Zulu : are you a vampire ?

She asks Bayede

Bayede : what ? What do I have to do with her bite mark ?

Can we just not do this ? Like please , these are the parents

Mrs Zulu : I hope you two are using a condom , because Nkanyezi is still too young to have any other siblings

Should I be like , I'm not sleeping with him ?

Mr Zulu : now the sheets make sense

The sheets ?

Bayede : like can you two
seriously just stop , this is
awkward

Mrs Zulu : okay , I think it's time
for you to stop eating eggs and
bacon . And just go eat
nutritional food for you

Thank God !

I'm very happy to take my son ,
and feed him . Mihlali brings
me his small blanket to cover
up

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Lesedi

Two days , like a whole freaking
two days since he left

He hasn't called , he hasn't
texted

I've called , I've texted . And he
ignored me

I think when a man doesn't
want you , he shows you clearly
through and through

I've just been a fool , and I
decided to play blind as if I
don't see

But now it's very much clear ,
and I get it . He has a family
now , basically I fit nowhere in
his life

I want to go back to his place ,
and get my things and I'll be
done with him

I won't keep enduring such , it's
clearly I'm not a priority to
Bayede

And he doesn't care enough to
make me one

I swear I'm the one who's
always fighting for this
relationship

Honestly it feels like I'm the
one who courted him , and not
the other way around

He just wanted me , and now
that he has me he doesn't care
enough to keep me

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Khumalo Household

No one is talking to anyone ,
husband and wife are living like
strangers

Mrs Khumalo has their helper
put off , just until they're done
dealing with their issues

Mrs Khumalo : it's been two
days , I think we can call the
police now

Mr Khumalo just looks at her ,
without uttering any words

Mrs Khumalo : the more time
that passes , and we're sitting
here doing nothing it could....

His phone rings , and he
doesn't believe his eyes seeing
that it's his daughter calling

Mr Khumalo : sweetheart
please tell me that you're okay

Khosi : I'm sorry dad , but I'm
okay . We both are

He sighs in relief , while Mrs
Khumalo looks at him in
anticipation

Mr Khumalo : come home ,
come home so we can talk
and....please just come home

She pleads , and his daughter
feels it . That she tears up

Khosi : I'm not coming home
ever again , I'll let you know
once I've settled . And you can
come see Nkanyezi whenever
you want

Mr Khumalo : there's nothing
that cannot be fixed

Khosi : lies , and threats .

Depriving my son of his rights ,
destroying my life in the
process . The school wasn't
going to force me to stay home,
but I was forced to . I

disappointed you I know , but
that didn't mean such drastic
measures had to be put on me .
Because they didn't change

anything , instead I lost myself .
A whole year of school , I lost
my one and only friend . My
son was denied his father , I
just.....

And she cries

Mr Khumalo : I'm sorry , I'm
really sorry about everything .
Come home so we can talk

His wife takes the phone away
from him

Khosi : I'm not coming back , I
want to live on my own

Mrs Khumalo : do you see just
how selfish you are ? We raised
your child for you , and today
you have decency to just up
and leave along with him . You
embarrass us to that Zulu
family , and you have us

stressed going crazy looking for
you all over

Khosi : at least I'm decent
enough to let my son know his
father

And she drops the call

Leaving Mrs Khumalo's jaw
dropped , not believing the
words she's just heard

Mr Khumalo : well done ,
parent

He grabs his phone from her ,
and walks to the bedroom

Mrs Khumalo : she will come
back running here , does she
think babies survive on water ?
She will be back , and get off
that high horse she's on

She sits down , fuming with
anger and frustration

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INSERT 39

A WEEK LATER

Bayede

Khosi and Nkanyezi have been living at home

While the sale to her apartment was being finalized

Of which my father just gladly bought , without even thinking twice

And it's big enough for the two of them , it's a two bedroom apartment

With a bathroom , a kitchen and a lounge . There's just enough space for them

But it didn't come fully furnished , so she had to go buy things for it

That's what she's been busy with the whole week

Mihlali was helping her , so she can be done quickly

And be back to school by next week , cause she already missed out a lot

Even though my father dragged me there today

And he paid for her whole year of school fees , and he demanded that she be given notes of everything she missed so she can catch up

The poor principal was
intimidated , but in the end we
got what we wanted

I wonder how she'll feel about
that

She's been down , pretty down
after calling her family

And obviously the call didn't go
as planned , but she's still
adamant on her decision

And well cops haven't come for
me , and it's been a week

So we don't know what's going
on , or what they're thinking

Since they've been home , I've
been there as well

I just wanted to be with my son
everyday , first time I go back
to my place today

I'll see her tomorrow , when
she goes to her apartment as
well

It's not far from home , just 10
minutes or so. And she'll be
able to walk , because it's a
walking distance

I get inside , and it's just sour in here . I can't even sleep and I'm tired

But I need to clean first , this space feels exactly the way that there hasn't been anyone in here for a while

As I'm busy cleaning Sedi just rocks up , and she can clearly see I haven't been here

Me : uhm....babe

I should be ashamed of myself ,
since Valentine's day I haven't
talked to her

She finally stopped calling and
texting , and I was relieved

Me : please come in

Sedi : you seem busy

Me : yeah , I wasn't around

Sedi : I know , I've been coming around everyday . I knocked , until I removed myself

Me : I was home

We sit down in the lounge

Sedi : whatever was happening home , must have been huge

What lie am I even going to tell?

Sedi : anyways , I'm not here for that . I just came for my clothes

Here we go again !

Me : you know I fuck up , like I fuck up pretty bad . I can't say much , but shit happened

concerning my son and his mother . And I just had to be there babe , okay I had to be there . Like there's a whole lot of things you know nothing about , things that I'm trying to make up for . Because I don't want to lose my son

She just looks at me , and I'm like what will convince her

Me : I love you , and I know I haven't been the best . And I probably don't deserve you , so if you're done with me just know it hurts . But I won't force you , I can only hope you'll give me one last chance to redeem myself

Sedi : you'll never change
Bayede

Me : I never , because I didn't see the need to . But now , I see

Sedi : how do I trust what you're saying ?

I hold her hand

Me : take a broom , help me finish sweeping . Don't take your clothes , don't leave . And don't dump me , spend the

night . And let's continue , and
let me prove to you that you
can trust what I'm saying

She smiles , I peck her lips

Sedi : you're a fool

Me : yeah I know

I pull her closer , smashing my
lips against hers and she kisses
me back

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Nomakhosi

I don't have the strength to
move these things around

But I've packed a bit , and I'm
still yet to unpack and pack
some more

I woke up very early , just so I
can be done . And get a chance
to catch up on school

Missing out a whole week , that
doesn't look good for me

But I'll just have to push myself

If only Nkanyezi can sleep right
now , or just be busy with
something

But he's busy gawking his eyes
at me , and he doesn't seem
like he'll sleep anytime soon

A knock comes at the door , I
go open and it's some guy

He dashes his smile , and he's
just cute okay . There's nothing
about it

Him : hi

Me : hi

Him : sorry to bother , I'm
Kgothatso . I think we're
neighbours

Me : right

A moment of awkward silence

Thatso : oh yeah , I'm here to
ask for some sugar

Are people this crazy and
creepy , or it's just him ?

I've just moved in , and he's
asking me for sugar ?

Me : o-kay

He even has a cup , I take it .
It's a good thing , I've already
unpacked the groceries

I just smell that scent and I
know he's here

I turn and he stands right
behind Kgothatso

Bayede : who the fuck are you ?

The guy gets startled and turns
looking at him

Thatso : I'm....

Bayede : what do you want ?

Thatso : sugar

Bayede : are you a fool ?

Poor guy !

Bayede : she literally just moved in , and you're asking her for sugar . Shouldn't she be the one asking you ?

Thatso : uhm...eish

Bayede : I don't know you , you don't know me . Don't step on my toes laiteaka (my boy)

Thatso : I meant no problem

Bayede : you're the problem here , so fuck off . And go look for sugar somewhere else

I have never seen nor heard
Bayede look or speak like this

I hand the guy the cup , and
what do you know ? Bayede
takes it

Bayede : leave

Thatso : mycup

With just one look , he's gone .
And Bayede closes the door

Me : what's with the hostility ?

Bayede : am I going to have
problems with you staying
here?

Me : no

Bayede : I don't want these
boys anywhere near you

This one !

I place Nkanyezi on the kitchen
counter

Me : these are mine ?

Bayede : no , you're busy giving
idiots sugar

I laugh

He walks closer , and picks me up placing me next to Nyezi

He puts the money bouquet down , and his son just goes for it

He grabs a R200 note , and as soon as it's in his hand it goes to the mouth

Bayede : Zulu , I know you're a rich kid . But please don't eat money

He takes it away from him , of course he gets all grumpy

Me : a whole bouquet of money , are you showing off ?

He chuckles

I guess I won't get much words
from him , he's angry about the
sugar guy

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INSERT 40

Nomakhosi

Now I'm tired

But I've done the most , and
Bayede moved the furniture
right

This looks and feels like home
me

I walk in the lounge , and he's
sitting on the floor

His son asleep , next to him

Me : he's finally asleep

He nods

I smile walking closer , I sit
down on the couch next to him

Me : are you angry ?

A sulking Bayede is very
amusing

I lean down , placing my hands
on his chest . My head rest
against his

Me : angry at me ?

He shakes his head

Me : would you be hurt if I have a boyfriend ?

He sighs

Bayede : why would you have a boyfriend ?

Why does he have a girlfriend ?

Okay ! That doesn't count , she was here before me

Bayede : is there anything I
don't do for you ?

Me : well ...nothing

Bayede : then ?

Me : you're still not my
boyfriend

Bayede : I'm your son's father ,
that literally just ties me to you

I laugh

Bayede is just being a big baby
right now

Me : where is your girlfriend ?

He laughs

Bayede : she stopped by
yesterday

Me : and you're okay ?

Bayede : after I persuaded her
not to leave for the umpteenth
time

I move back , and he lays his
head back

Me : so you begged her not to
leave you ?

Bayede : I don't beg no one , so
no I didn't beg her

Me : what is wrong with you ?

Bayede : nothing , but she
didn't leave

Me : so no break up this time ?

Bayede : yeah , this time . Until
next time

Me : even if you were the last
man on earth , I would never

Bayede : ouch !

We laugh

Me : you're a great example of
men are

Bayede : don't ! You're hurting
me

Me : you don't take this poor girl serious , and it's just.....

Bayede : ah ! And you're the mother of my son , what do you care how I treat other girls out there ? Like when it comes to me baby mama , there should be no woman power

I give up !

He sees absolutely nothing
wrong , playing with this girl's
feelings

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Bayede

I'm with Thapelo

We're just having a few beers ,
before I head home

Thapelo : you look depressed

I take a sip of my beer

Me : I swear baby mama is
going to send me to an early
grave

He laughs

Thapelo : a 17 year old has you
by balls

Me : and she's loving every
single moment of it

Thapelo : what did she do ?

Me : I went to her place , found some idiotic fool there . And I tell you this , I don't want any man near my wife

Thapelo : wife ?

He burst out laughing

Me : that's my wife , and I feel like going to spend the night there

Thapelo : what happened to you ?

Me : she happened man , and you know every time I tell her about Sedi I think she'll get mad or something . But she always laughs and ends up just bashing me

I shake my head

Thapelo : you're having it tough

Me : baby mama is torturing
me

Thapelo : why don't you just
tell her that you're all for her

Me : I told her that I'm in love with her , and she laughed said I'm boring her

Thapelo is a lost cause by telling him all of this , because he's just amused

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INSERT 41

Nomakhosi

He pecks my lips , before he
gives me a full blown deep kiss

Of which I gladly return back ,
with the same passion

He flips me over , he parts his
legs and I get in between them.
Getting on my knees

Me : please stop intruding

He laughs

Bayede : the intruder is
sleeping peacefully

Me : this is his home , not yours

He chuckles

Bayede : it feels great as a guy
to sleep out

I laugh

Bayede : can I have some
morning glory

Me : that's why you came back
here yesterday ?

Bayede : it's the best part of
just waking up next to you

He takes my pj short off

Me : did you have sex with your girlfriend ?

He frowns , grabbing my ass

Me : Bayede !

Bayede : no , I didn't

Me : you said she came over

Bayede : yeah she did , but we didn't have sex

Me : how come ?

Bayede : I'm using condoms with her , and she hates them .
So we hardly have sex

Me : I don't even know why I'm risking with you like this

Bayede : I'm your person

Me : get me sick , even with a simple STD . I will hate you forever , my so called person

Bayede : I won't put your life at risk like that

I pull his briefs slowly , and he chuckles

I lean over giving him a kiss , he trails his hands taking my pj shorts off

My panty follows , I move back. Rubbing his dick on me

He gets on an amazon position , and I slowly sliding his dick inside of me

He deep groans , and I feel him
deep within inside of my
coochie

This position hits hard , not
even riding him comes to it

He has his knees bent back , I
move slowly as I accommodate
him better not to feel any pain

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Bayede

The feeling you get when you
understand that a woman is
fucking you

Like how in the hell am I not supposed to go all crazy over this woman ?

When she's able to unleash such feelings from me

I cup her boobs , meeting her deep thrusts

She balances on my legs , I pull her down and deep thrusts

She lets out a slight scream as she graces my dick with her cum

She slowly gets up , trailing down . She looks at me

Right as she strokes my dick , she leans her head down

Sucking on my balls , and I'm like what the fuck !

Men get their balls sucked out there or is it just me ?

Is it okay to wife her like right here right now ?

Her other hand still stroking my dick , and mtwana is feeling all this she's doing

Within minutes , he reacts and she pulls back

With some of the cum ending
on her cheek

I have been worn out before ,
but fuck ! Never like this

She slowly moves up laughing ,
and she pecks my cheek

She gets on top of me , and
plays with my beard

I'm even worn out to talk ,
she's outdone herself and she
knows that

Khosi : so Mr CA

I chuckle so lazily , I want to
close my eyes and sleep

Me : mhm ?

Khosi : your first salary , as soon
as you start working

Me : yeah ?

Khosi : what will you do with it?

I chuckle

Me : I don't know

Khosi : for real !

I nod

Why are we even talking about my salary , when I haven't even started working ?

I mean I'm still studying , sure looking at a few internships .
But she doesn't know that

Me : why are you asking ?

She laughs

Me : see the power you have ?
You even ask me about my
salary , like my woman

Khosi : see I know what I want
with your first salary , if you
don't know what you want with
it

Me : indulge me

Khosi : I want a car with your
first salary , like maybe a
Bentley or a Rolls Royce

I chuckle with a smile , planting
a kiss on her forehead

Me : first salary is yours baby
mama

She squeals , I close my eyes .
Catching my sleep

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Nomakhosi

I had to get up and check on
Nyezi

Who was already up , playing
on his own . He wasn't wet , so
he wasn't even crying

I've cleaned , and made
breakfast as well

He's taken his morning bath ,
and fed

All this , and Bayede is still dead
in my bed .

I take his son , and we walk to
the bedroom .

Me : vusa ubaba wakho (wake
up your father)

I put him on top of his father ,
what does he do ?

He just looks at him , and then me . Boom ! He lays down

Bayede chuckles

Me : Yhoh mare , Nkanyezi uyabhora sham (you're boring)

Bayede puts his hand on his back , he still has his eyes closed

Me : can you just wake up , and
leave my house

Bayede : do you want that
sugar boy coming back ?

Me : ah you'll die of a heart
attack , you're still young

He slowly opens his eyes

Bayede : promise me he won't
come back here again

Me : I don't control him , but if
he comes I'll tell him to leave

Bayede : mhm

Me : wake up , and go eat

Bayede : I'm spending the day
with you two

Me : okay fine

I won't say another word , I
don't get how he gets jealous
over me

I'm not jealous over him and his
girlfriend , so I won't help him
in this jealousy party he has

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Bayede

When you have a threat as a
guy , and you can clearly see it

Like there's no even denying it

And this guy is it for me

He's back here again !

And he's the reason why I said
I'm spending the day here , it's
all because of him

I knew he would come back ,
guys nowadays don't give shit
okay

Wether she's pregnant or the
baby is already here , they take
her and do what you fucking
failed to do

Me : you again ?

Him : man...I just want my cup
back

Me : fuck off

He raises his brow

Me : what ? You wanna put up
a fight ?

Him : no , but can I have my cup

Me : go get another fucking cup

Him : but that's my cup , and I
want it

Me : you're seriously starting to
annoy me , now listen and
listen very carefully Whatever
shit you're thinking of let it go .
It won't happen , you don't
wanna fuck with me

He stares at me

Me : I'm not kidding with you

Him : so....no to my cup ?

I shove him out the door

Him : whoa.....no need to get
physical

Me : what do you want to see ?

Him : message received loud
and clear

He turns and walks away

Him : some guys are lucky
bastards

He says under his breath , but I
hear him loud and clear

Me : I'm well aware son

He shakes his head , guess he
heard my response right back

I walk back inside

Khosi : seriously ?

Me : I thought he wasn't
coming back here

Khosi : I don't control him

Me : well leave me alone

She laughs

Khosi : don't be coming here to cause fights , that was just unnecessary . That's his cup , I don't even want it

Me : fine then I'll throw it out

Khosi : you're being dramatic

I take Nkanyezi from her , and
walk into the lounge

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INSERT 42

Nomakhosi

Nkanyezi seems to be loving
going to his grandparents

He's always happy coming back
there , so I'm happy about that

Because it eases my stress , I
know he's okay and safe

So I don't have to worry about
him

But this doesn't seem like a
very good morning for me

Because here is my mother , in
the principal office

And I was scared when I got
called out of class , I wondered
what did I do

Mom : sit down

And she's alone

Me : I really have to get back to class

Mom : when will you stop this nonsense of yours , and come back home ?

Me : I'm not coming back , and this is a school . Should really

family issues be discussed
here?

She laughs

Mom : you have grown a
tongue now

I keep quite , before I earn
myself a slap or something

Mom : will you explain yourself,
who is paying for your fees ?

My stupid self didn't think
about that

Me : you can stop paying , I'll
go to a public school

I won't give her the satisfaction
, I won't run back to her

Mom : I was paying for your fees I found out they're already paid and covered for the whole year , who paid them ?

What ?

Mom : now you're mute ?

Me : I.....I don't know

Mom : lying is your thing ?

I must have fed it off her

Mom : it's fine , I'll ask the principal in and she'll check for me

And she does just that

But the shock is on us both , when we hear that Nkosiyoabo Zulu is the one who paid

Nkanyezi's grandfather will
never cease to amaze me

Me : can I please go back to
class ?

I'm so done with this , now I
can focus better . Just pushing
myself with school and not
worrying about fees

Because I wasn't going to be able to afford them

On my way to class , I call Bayede . In hopes that he answers and he does

Bayede : is everything okay ?

Me : did you know that your father paid for my fees ?

Bayede : yeah

Me : and you didn't tell me
why?

Bayede : because I didn't know
if you'd appreciate that or not

With his loud mouth , it's a
shock that he didn't say
anything

Me : okay

Bayede : who told you ?

Me : my mother is here , we
found out together from the
principal

Bayede : she's at the school ?

Me : yeah

Bayede : well , did she harass
you ?

I laugh

Me : no

Bayede : this is not funny

Me : I know , but you worry a
lot . She just told me to stop my
nonsense , and go back home

Bayede : and that's it ?

Me : yeah , the reason she came to school was because she wanted to pay my fees

Bayede : your mother is strange

Me : I know okay , anyways let me go back to class

Bayede : I miss you

Me : yhoh ! Demons walk on
earth

I drop the call , right as he
laughs

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Bayede

It's not that I'm guarding Khosi

Sure , I don't want no man
around her

But I'm also loving them having
their own space , and me
having to see them all the time

I make it a point to see them
everyday , I see the young
Mageba mostly during the day

When I'm done with campus
classes , I go home and spend
time with him

In the evening , I make it a
point to come see them

Khosi is not doing sports anymore , so I chip in where I can to help her with school work

It's been only a few days , and I've noticed that she dedicates way too much time on school work

Not that's not a bad thing , but no I think she over does it

And I want to find a way to
approach her about the matter
, without offending her anyhow

I'm tired today , I drove out a
bit looking for a plot

But then I stumbled upon a
beautiful mansion in LaLucia

And I think it'll be perfect for my family , now the plan is taking the money for a plot

Adding on it , I'll just buy the house instead . And I've already spoken to the estate agent

I want the house to be in my son's name , I'm just securing for him

Because he can't live in an
apartment his whole life

Sedi is around , and I'm not
even in her mood . But I won't
even say it

Because an argument is
something I don't have energy
for right now

Sedi : you're okay with me
spending the night ?

Me : yeah

Like since when does she ask ?

As much as she was okay for a
fuck , now really she isn't and
there's no space for her

She might just as well be gone ,
because even the urge to
soften her . I don't have it
anymore

Sedi : I should have called I
know

Me : remember I gave you a
key , and you returned it back .
You had access around here ,
and you chose that you didn't
want it

Sedi : babe it wasn't like that

Me : yeah well , I'm not
fighting . I was just saying

She sighs

Me : can I sleep ? I'm really just
tired , had a long day

Sedi : okay

I lay back down and , send
Khosi a goodnight message

I know she won't answer to it
anytime soon

So I won't wait for a response ,
because I really want to sleep

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INSERT 43

Bayede

I'm woken up by my phone ,
and just by the breeze I know
it's still early

But the ringtone , is for Khosi . I
can't ignore her calls no matter
how lazy I am I lift my head

I grab my phone and answer

Me : baby mama

I'm still in my sleeps

She laughs

Khosi : I'm sorry to call so early
, can I bring Nyezi over ? I need
to get done with my

assignment , and he's already
up

She sounds stressed

Me : okay

Khosi : so it's fine ? I can bring
him ?

Me : sure of course you can ,
bring the assignment as well

Khosi : you offering help ?

I chuckle

Me : yeah

Khosi : okay , thanks

Me : alright

I place my phone turning , and I
turn to a somewhat Lesedi

How did I even forget that she's
here next to me ?

Me : morning

She keeps quite , I get up
heading to the shower

I need this shower to wake me
up , so it's a cold one

I can be very lazy in the
mornings , just depending on
how I woke up

And when I'm done , right after
getting dressed

The door opens , and I know it's
Khosi . I gave her a key

Sedi seems to still be in her
moods

And it's right at this moment
I'm like they don't even know
each other

I walk out of the bedroom , and
I'm welcomed by the noise of
Mageba

Why is he making noise ?

I laugh taking him from his
mother

Me : hey , you good ?

She nods

Me : what's with school work
so early in the morning ?

Khosi : I have no other time to
do it

Honestly I feel the need to address this issue , she's really overdoing this thing

I doubt everyone who's in high school eats papers daily

When does the mind rest ?

Me : let's go to the lounge , bring the assignment let's see it

Khosi : I need coffee

Me : then make yourself some

She takes the kettle , just as
Sedi walks in . And what an
atmosphere to be in

Sedi : can we talk ?

She's just being rude

Why not greet , when you don't even know this person

Me : I'm busy

They both stare at me , until she decides to go back to the bedroom

Khosi : what is wrong with you?

Me : what did I do ?

She sighs

Khosi : is that your girlfriend ?

I nod

Khosi : why didn't you say she's here ? I would have called Mihlali to come get Nyezi

Me : well , he's my son and not hers . Trust me , if I didn't make

a child for your parents . I
didn't make a child for my
parents , not even my sister

Khosi : but your girlfriend is
here , and now she'll think I'm
just using my position and
disrespecting her

Me : she can leave

Khosi : I still say , I hope your son is a better man than you

I chuckle , taking my loud better man son to the lounge

I don't understand why he's talking so much this morning , and he's loud

It's like he wants to be heard or something

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Lesedi

When you're shown pure plain
disrespect

There's nothing you can do but
just excuse yourself

Unless you have the energy and
time to dish some back

And so I don't , Bayede can
have his baby mama . And I
won't be around for that

I know I am not crazy , people
co-parent out there

But I doubt they're as those
two are , surely there must be
more going on

And she's just with him willingly

I am taking my last shred of
dignity and leaving

He walks in as I'm packing my bag

Me : I will leave and I will not be back again

He's leaning against the door frame

Me : I don't know what future I thought I'll have with someone's baby daddy , but I

was just stupid . And even after seeing how you were just playing me , I kept coming back time and time and again . Even though you had a child , while still in a relationship with me . I thought I could handle you , but I can't . So I am done , and it's over . You could have just told me nicely to leave , you didn't have to use her to get to me

Bayede : I am not using her ,
what do you take me for ?

Wow !

Me : at least she means that
much to you , and you'll protect
her dignity . Some women are
just lucky

I take my bag and walk past
him , seeing she's in the kitchen

I use the lounge door to leave ,
and he follows behind me . Just
to look at his son

And now I see exactly how I
mean nothing to Bayede , and I
probably never did . But him
having his own family , just
sealed it for me

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Nomakhosi

I'm all done , I can take my son
now and leave

Because I need to sleep

I was up early so I can study ,
and get done with my
assignment

But Nyezi decided to be up as
well , and just be too active it
was just too much

I walk in the lounge , and what
do you know ? He's sleeping

Me : how did you get him to sleep ?

He chuckles

Bayede : he fell asleep on his own , it must have been a crazy morning

Me : well it sure was

Bayede : you done ?

I nod

Bayede : come here

He holds his hand out

Me : where is your girlfriend ?

Bayede : she dumped me , and
she's gone

I shake my head

Bayede : I am not depressed ,
so please don't give me
lectures

I walk closer taking his hand ,
and I get on top of him . I
straddle him

I lay my head on his chest ,
hugging him from his lower
back

Bayede : what's wrong ?

Me : I'm just tired

Bayede : are you coping with school ?

I shake my head no

He runs my back

Bayede : you're overworking yourself , why ?

What's the point of lying ? I'll probably fail and he'll see it

Me : I'm....I struggle , like it's not every subject that I ace .
Before I fell pregnant , I always had sports to pick me up academically . But now I can't continue with tennis , so I have

no backup . That's why I push myself so hard so I don't fail

Bayede : do you think maybe , if I get you a tutor it'll be better?

Me : I've never had one , so I don't know

Bayede : okay , we can try it out
and see how it works . Stress is
not good for you

I chuckle

Me : school is very stressful ,
right now we have a project
coming . And I don't even know
how I'm going to get through it

Bayede : what's the project about ?

Me : we're still waiting on the teacher to pair us first , and I know I'll be alone

Bayede : why do you say that ?

Me : I'm a loner in that place okay , ever since things

changed between Libo and I . I
have no friends at school

Bayede : what happened ?

Me : I lost a whole year , and in
that year she wasn't sitting
around waiting for me . She
made new friends , and they're
all in grade , 11 this year . And I
have no space in her life
anymore , I think

Bayede : maybe it just wasn't
meant to be , and in life
friendships are not forced
either . You'll be fine , and I'm
sure they'll pair you with
someone

My classmates are just strange ,
honestly I don't see anyone
who'll want to work with me in
there

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INSERT 44

Nomakhosi

It feels somewhat now , having
just spoken about this

And admitting that I'm
struggling at school

I'm so glad I just didn't lie , and
pretend to be all okay while I'm
not

I pull back , he trails his hand to
my neck bringing me down

Me : I should be taking Nyezi
and we leave

Bayede : why ?

Me : I'm tired , I want to go to sleep

Bayede : you can sleep here

Our lips are just a few inches away from each other

Me : I'm not kissing you

Bayede : why not ?

Me : you were kissing your girlfriend , and now you think I'm going to let you be all over me ?

Bayede : but I didn't kiss her

Me : Bayede !

Bayede : I didn't

Me : you're starting again

He chuckles

Bayede : I wasn't in her moods last night okay , I didn't touch her . I didn't even kiss her , I just slept . This morning you woke me up , after talking to you I went to take a shower . I didn't touch her , when I got out of the shower you were

arriving and I just came to you
guys

I peck his lips

Bayede : I could use a real kiss

I laugh

Bayede : she's gone , can you
please stop punishing me

Me : are you happy that she's gone ?

Bayede : yes , it was just long overdue

I lean down giving him a kiss , and his dick is always ready to rise to any occasion

I laugh getting off him , and he already has one crazy boner

Bayede : you can't leave me like
this

Me : use your hand or
something

He frowns

Me : I am going to sleep , so
please bring Nyezi

I walk to the other room , and
it's just like how I left it the last
time I was here

I take my shoes off and get in
bed , he puts Nyezi next to me

I hope he's learnt his lesson , to
just sleep in . And not wake up
so early and for no apparent
reason

I keep quite when his father
just joins us in bed

I guess we're all sleeping

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Bayede

I'm with Thapelo , and my mind
is not even here

I'm thinking knowing Khosi ,
she won't jump into a
relationship with me

Some of the things she said
jokingly yes , but then again I
also know how to listen

And that means I have a lot to
fix , and that I need to do better

Me : I'm coming

Thapelo : where are you going ?

Me : you can come with

I get up , heading to where Sedi
is

Thapelo : really ? I thought you
said this was over

Me : Sedi can we talk ?

Lisa : she.....

Thapelo : fuck off , he wasn't
talking to you . Get lost

And she's up and gone

Sedi : I have nothing to say to
you Bayede

Me : I know , I just have
something to say to you

She gets up , and we face each
other

Me : I am sorry , for all the lies
and the cheating . I won't say , I
never loved you . Because that
would be a lie , I did love you .
But then again , there's a
difference between being in
love and loving someone .

She looks down , and I can see
my words are hurting her

But it's time I put this matter to
rest , and we both move on

Me : my baby mama didn't come to the apartment to disrespect you , she didn't even know you were around .

Because she gave me hell for that , so she wasn't happy . She respected you and your place as my girlfriend , and she's not petty to use her baby mama status to be spiteful to you .

That was just me fucking up as always , and it had nothing to do with her . So please just

know we're done , because I failed to love you right and be better . And it was just selfish of me , to want to keep you . But then at the same time failing to love you right , so I am sorry for all that I've put you through . I know if it was someone else , they would have long left at the first lie or cheating . But you stuck around , and not because you're an idiot or anything like that . But

because you loved me , I could have done better . But all that doesn't matter now , because honestly we guys act right and do better for those we want to

She wipes her tears

Me : I hope one day you can forgive me , and find love .

Don't hate it because of me , and don't think every other guy

will do you dirty like me .

There's good men out there

Thapelo : like me

She laughs

Sedi : that's awkward

Me : no it's not , if he ever
shoots his shot . If you are all
for him , give him a chance .

Sedi : he's your friend , and I'm sure he doesn't even see me like that

Me : if that's how you think , then your soul mate will pass you by . Don't limit yourself like that , and don't categorise everyone in the same sector . He could be better than I was , even if you move you'll take something new and better from me . If my friend finds love ,

from my former lover I'm all for
it . No one belongs to anyone
here , and the heart wants
what it wants . That's why we
have polyamorous relationships
, polygamy and polyandry .
We're all for each other here

Thapelo : he's not shipping you
to me by the way

We laugh

Me : no , I'm not . I'm just saying . Friend or not , we're all entitled to love .

Sedi : well thank you for the apology , you have no idea how much it means . It probably would have taken me so long to move on , wondering what I did wrong not to deserve you . But now I understand , so thank you so much . And I hope from your words , you took your own

advice . So I trust that you
won't do your baby mama any
dirty like you did me , because
she's for you

I chuckle

Me : she doesn't even want me

She laughs

Sedi : I know you're not blind ,
give it time

I nod with a smile

Thapelo : okay , I think we can
leave now . No hugs needed

Me : really ?

Thapelo : yeah

We laugh

Sedi : it's fine , I have to get to
class anyways . Bye guys

Me : sure

Thapelo : bye

She walks away

Thapelo : I am telling you ,
Opelong needs to give you
some sort of something . Or
maybe pray for you , so that
you can marry baby mama as
soon as possible

I laugh

Me : what ?

Thapelo : don't laugh , I mean you did all this for her . The old Bayede would have left Sedi cry for months and months , but no . You want baby mama to see you have grown , and changed

Me : yeah well

Thapelo : well then , my maker is very much capable of helping you

Me : your maker ?

Thapelo : come on ! You know my parents couldn't have kids right , but Opelung did her things and voila here I am

Oh no !

He's starting with this nonsense of his , and I'm not listening

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INSERT 45

Zulu Household

The couple is binging on the couch watching a movie

With their grandson laying
down on the floor

The little Mageba looks so worn
out , but he's fighting sleep

Mrs Zulu : don't you think this
has gone for far too long ?

Her husband can hear the
worry in her voice

Mr Zulu : what ?

She sighs looking at him

Mrs Zulu : the situation
between Khosi and her parents

Mr Zulu : but that's not our
business

Mrs Zulu : what do you mean
it's not our business ?

Mr Zulu : it means exactly that

She sits up straight , and looks
at him

Mrs Zulu : Khosi is a child , she's
out there living on her own .
Isolated away from her parents

Mr Zulu : and who's fault is
that?

She shakes her head

Mrs Zulu : I'm not saying , but I think we can talk to her

Mr Zulu : talk to her and say what ?

He takes her hand into his

Mr Zulu : we may look somehow right now , because

of how we handled this situation . Some people would have taken her back home , and not encourage her to be on her own . But I'm not other people , the situation may benefit us too . But that's not the reason , I am not scared of those people . And if it came to it , I would demand Nkanyezi by force . But right now , this situation doesn't need any of us interfering . I did what I did ,

because I didn't want to get involved . And I still don't want to get involved even now , I won't let her suffer while she bore us an heir . I'll take care of her , but her family issues have nothing to do with me . If those people want their daughter , they should reach out to her . They're the ones who should be on mending things with her , are we the ones who lied to her ? We weren't even there , and

had I not gone there she probably wouldn't know the truth even today . Motho wame (my person) all I'm saying is this , falling young pregnant and disappointing her parents has nothing with the child not being told her true identity . And they can't hide behind the fact that she fell pregnant , this issue is a totally different thing . I'm not getting involved in people's messed up

family issues , I'm sorry I'm not getting involved

He gets up

Mrs Zulu : I wasn't fighting

He smiles pecking her lips

Mr Zulu : and I'm not either , all I'm saying is if they want their daughter back they should

reach out . They're the parents , they really should act their role . Like you said , she's a child . And right now she feels abandoned by them , so now who's duty is it to assure her about her parents failures ? If Mihlali was in the same situation , I wouldn't have even let her out that door to begin with . Do they even know where she is right now ?

His wife just scratches her head
, seeing this has just taken a
turn in which she wasn't
anticipating

Mr Zulu : they're just pathetic ,
they should be out there
bringing their child home . In
the sense to talk , and also
accommodate her in what she
wants to know . Of course she
acted out , but what did they
do ?

She just looks at him , not knowing what response to say

Mr Zulu : I'm not helping a grown ass man and woman , how to be parents

Mrs Zulu : okay

Nkanyezi cries , and he crouches down picking him up

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Khumalo Household

Mr Khumalo walks in , placing
his brief case down on the floor
in the lounge

He just walks past his wife
going to the kitchen

And she follows after him , she
looks at him as he takes a
bottle of water from the fridge

Mrs Khumalo : is this how we're going to live in this house?

Mr Khumalo : what do you want ?

She sighs

Mrs Khumalo : will you just stop blaming me for her behaviour , because I did the

best that I can raising her . And she had the guts to walk out that door , and to say she's never coming back here . That was her decision , no one forced her . I don't understand why you're blaming me for this

Mr Khumalo : can you just stop , I raised her too . Or was it just you alone ? Stop seeking pity , because even after everything I still stuck with you and her . I

love Nomakhosi , and I loved you too until you changed and showed me the kind of a woman you are . Stop playing a victim , because I've been here from the beginning . And I've done my part , all to the best of my abilities . Right now , you're just being selfish

Mrs Khumalo : what ?

Mr Khumalo : you're busy
acting up , and I don't
understand what's so hard
about telling the child the truth
she wants

She tears up

Mrs Khumalo : I owe
Nomakhosi nothing , I gave her
life . She should be thankful for
that and....

Mr Khumalo : so what ? Now you should be applauded for that ? No one forced you to give her life , that was your choice !

Mrs Khumalo : and well this is her choice , it's fine . Let her stay out there , and be the woman she wants to be

She turns walking away heading to their bedroom

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INSERT 46

Bayede

I'm glad I ironed things out with
Sedi

Ex drama is not something I
need

I'm home , I just dropped by . I
need to talk to my mother

Mom : what do you want ?

Me : a favour

She laughs

Me : I can even pay you

Mom : Bayede Zulu , you never
cease to amaze me

Me : so can I shoot ?

Mom : I'm listening

Me : can you please babysit
uZulu tomorrow night ? By

21:00 the latest we'll come get
him

Mom : what's going on ?

Me : we have plans

She smiles nodding

Mom : evening plans ?

Me : something like that

Mom : and they don't include
you two making another kid ?

Me : have some faith , we're
not doing that

Mom : Khosi didn't say
anything to me when she
picked him up

Me : that's because she doesn't
know

Mom : right !

Me : so ?

She laughs

Mom : I will babysit , I love
having Mageba around . And
for that you don't have to pay
me

I chuckle

Me : thank you

Now that's done , I can leave
and go see my people before
heading to my place

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Lesedi

I appreciate Bayede talking to me , and just being honest

Like for once he was totally honest , and he didn't try and make me feel bad

Or even shift the blame on me ,
even just trying to convince me
otherwise

Lisa : what was that all about ?

I know the only reason she
came to see me was because of
what happened

Me : we were just talking

Lisa : you said you were done
with him

Me : and I am , we're done with
each other

Lisa : then what did he want ?

Me : peaceful parting ways ,
there's nothing to it

It's a break for me , I'll see
dating another day

For now I just need to focus on
myself , and literally just love
myself enough

So that next time , I'll be able to
walk away where I'm not
appreciated enough

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Nomakhosi

Bayede told me not to go fetch
Nyezi today

I wonder why , because he
couldn't even tell me why

He just gawked at me , and I
just left it there

I'm just sitting on my own ,
awaiting the craziness to end

People are busy paring up , and
I'm not even bothered

I've already made my small
peace , that I'll struggle alone
there

Voice : hi

I turn my head in some kind of
a shock

Me : hi

I clear my throat

Her : mind if I sit ?

I shake my head

She pulls the chair next to me
and sits down

Her : I'm Kedibone , you're
Nomakhosi right ?

I nod

It's very strange to talk to anyone at school , because it just doesn't happen

Kedi : okay , I would like to partner with you if you don't have a partner already

Some shocker

Kedi : is that okay ?

Me : yeah sure

She releases a sigh of relief ,
and smiles . It's just awkward

Kedi : thanks , let me get my
bag I'm coming

And what do you know ? Just
like that I've found myself a
desk mate

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Bayede

I'm walking out of class , my
phone rings

I chuckle answering

Me : what's the school gossip ?

She laughs , and it's just insane
. She's caught , and she wants
to deny

Khosi : there's no gossip

Me : come on , I'm listening

I love these gossip moments of ours , I don't have a girlfriend anymore

So who will we gossip about ?

Khosi : so as people are busy paring themselves , I'm just there sitting down . A whole white bean inside brown beans

I laugh

Like what the hell ? A white
bean inside brown beans

Khosi : so this Kedibone girl
comes over , it was so awkward
. I barely said 10 words to her

Me : then how did you talk ?

Khosi : with nods , what else ?
And a few words here and
there

Me : and she's your partner ?

Khosi : I almost choked when she asked

She's dramatic !

Me : see I told you , you worried for nothing

Khosi : okay that information is not needed

Because I am right

Khosi : bye

Me : I'll see you later

Khosi : still won't tell me ?

Me : no bye

She drops the call

I shake my head laughing ,
heading to my car

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INSERT 47

Nomakhosi

My breath is taken away

We see such things on TV , and
read about them on novels

Of which we know they don't
exist , just imagination running
wild

I watch him as he sits down
slowly , he doesn't even look
like myself

I smile , just looking around
admiring this place

Like it's beyond the words
beautiful , even stunning

It's just magnificent , this guy
here outdid himself

Let credit be given where it's
due

I turn my face to him , and he's
looking at me . I can't
comprehend his look

Me : are you okay ?

He smiles with a nod

But he's lying , he's nervous .
And I don't get why

Me : all this for me ?

He chuckles

Me : to what do I owe the
pleasure ? I know I didn't forget
my birthday

Bayede : no it's only coming

Me : exactly , so what's with
the dinner ?

Bayede : just thought we could
use a night out

Me : a very romantic night out?

He chuckles

Bayede : I lack those words
you're seeking for , don't make
me nervous

We're getting somewhere

Me : you're nervous Zulu

He looks down for a second ,
and bites his lower lip

Me : I appreciate being wined
and dined , just wish I could
know what I did . The first time
you take me out , it's this huge .
I must have outdone myself on
whatever that is

Bayede : damn ! You know how
to torment a guy

I laugh

Bayede : are you happy at
least?

Me : if you're aiming to ask if I
like this , then no

That disappointed look

Me : I love it , and I'm more than happy . So thank you very much

His nervousness is just being awkward right now

Me : since when are you nervous around me ?

He chuckles

Bayede : I've never done
anything like this , so

My poor baby daddy , trying to
charm me with all kinds of
romance

Me : can I get a kiss ?

He's caught of guard , and he's
quite for a few seconds

Bayede : yeah sure

I get up walking to his side , he pulls his chair back

I sit on his lap , he places his hands on my waist . One lowering to my ass slightly

I place my arms around his neck , leaning down and we kiss .

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Bayede

One date won't get me this woman , that much I know

I still have so much to prove , and show her that I'm capable of treating a woman right

Because right now , all she knows is how I treated Sedi .
And she definitely doesn't want a taste of that

Not that I was planning to give it to her , because I know very well that she's a dime

We just got back , and my mother didn't even want us taking Nkanyezi

But the plan wasn't that he sleeps there , and his mother wouldn't be comfortable sleeping on her own

We're at her place now , I'm just dropping them off and I'm leaving

Me : thank you for tonight

She smiles

Khosi : I should thank you , tonight was beautiful

Me : can I tuck him to bed ?

She nods , I take him from her .
And walk to the bedroom , I
tuck him in bed . And place a
kiss on his forehead

I walk out heading to the
kitchen , I find her leaning
against the kitchen counter

I walk closer , standing in front
of her . I just lean in for a kiss ,
and she kisses me back

Me : I'll see you tomorrow

She smiles

Khosi : okay

She walks me out , and I drive
to my place

I could have slept over , but no
! I'm doing this differently

We'll parent together , like
we've always been

A relationship , is something
else differently that I have to
work for

And not take advantage of the
fact that we share a child . I am
not entitled to her , and so if I
want her I have to work to get
her

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Nomakhosi

We're working on our project this week . And since we're working on our own time and not at school

I asked Kedi to come to my place , because I can't go to hers

I have Nyezi to watch over , I'm not comfortable with him at his father's place without me

He might be single now , of which I don't know if he is or not . But believe he is single

But my son being in the midst of his girlfriend's , is just a no for me

And well , I could leave him at his grandparents

But this gent now knows time ,
it's just crazy

Yesterday I found him grumpy ,
and his grandmother said he
knew it was time for mommy to
come

So I'll rather we work with him
here

I'm just making us snacks , so
we can snack while working

Kedi : you know I thought I was
coming to your family home

I laugh

Me : no , I live here .

Kedi : people are living out here

I laugh

A knock comes at the door , I
wipe my hands and open

His gorgeous self is standing on
my doorstep , I last saw him
yesterday morning when I was
dropping Nyezi at his parents

He's just been awkward since
our date night a few days ago

And honestly , this him is new
to me and I'm having trouble
getting used to

Me : hi , come in

He smiles , and walks in

Me : I thought you'll come later

Bayede : mhm , can I take Zulu
out ?

Me : out ?

He nods

Me : to ?

Bayede : where we can stuff
our faces with candy

I laugh

Me : will he be sleeping with
you tonight ? With his high self
candy energy

He chuckles , shrugging his
shoulders

Nyezi loves sweet things ,
Bayede knows this . And he's
just being crazy right now

Me : oh sorry , this is Kedibone
. She's working with me on the
project

He just nods going into the
lounge , and that's where his
son is at

Me : talk about being rude

Kedi : you live with your
boyfriend ?

I laugh

Me : I can tell you he's not my boyfriend , and that I don't live with him . But then you might just end up wanting him , and he'll just use you . Any girl that's just not me , he uses them

I don't even know how true that is , but then no one should be willing to take Bayede

Unless he's willing to be taken ,
cause they'll cry a river

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INSERT 48

Nomakhosi

Surprisingly Nyezi is out and down . I guess their outing worn him out

Me : did you have fun ?

I ask sitting next to him

Bayede : can I have a kiss ?

I look at him with a smile , and
his facial expression just
finishes me off

Me : why are you begging ?

He sighs

Me : what's wrong with you ?

Bayede : nothing , I miss you

Me : but I'm here

He takes a moment

Bayede : you just won't get it

I chuckle getting on top of him ,
I straddle him

Me : why don't you just talk to
me ?

I cup his face

Bayede : you never take
anything I say serious

Never thought the day will
come and I see Bayede like this

Me : I think you're lonely

I'll just let him be

He chuckles

Bayede : so ?

Me : you need a girlfriend

He laughs

Me : and I think Kedi wants you

Bayede : who's that ?

He asks with a frown

Me : the girl who was here
earlier on

Bayede : take a good look at yourself , and look at her . And then digest my type , please don't hook me up

Me : are you sure ?

Bayede : yeah , pair her with that sugar idiot . I'm fine

I laugh

Me : he left the building

He sighs

Bayede : good

Me : spend the night

I lean down to his ear

Bayede : I have things to do in
the morning

Me : okay , you'll leave then

That's a whisper

Me : please daddy

I plead nibbling on his earlobe

I am not going to play this game
with his , he wants to act all
right

So I'm wondering if that means I have to now wait for him to be done or what? Until he's ready

I'm not there with him , he can do this alone until he tells me what he wants

I mean here I am playing it safe on the pill , I'm not staying away from the dick

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Bayede

She can see right through me

And she's so not doing this with
me

I'm out here acting all by myself
, trying to get my shit together

Because I want her for me , and
I want her to be with me for me

Seeing exactly how I'll treat her
, not what she knows and saw
me doing to another

It was a great night , but as
always . Every time sex with her
is just something else

I place a kiss on her forehead ,
she's tired . We were busy half
the night

I put my jacket on

Khosi : leaving already ?

With a sexy sleepy voice

Me : yeah , I'll see you during
the day . Let me take Zulu
home

Khosi : to your parents ?

Me : yeah , I know you don't
want him at my place

She smiles , eyes half opened

Me : happy birthday

Khosi : thank you

Me : I'll send your present
through

Khosi : you brought me one ?

I laugh grabbing my car keys

Me : leave me alone

She covers up as I walk out , I
go into the other room and
take Nkanyezi

He's awake , and very calm this
morning I wonder why

I have to go past my place first ,
and get the things I've brought
her

Then we'll come back just to
drop them off , and we'll leave

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Nomakhosi

It couldn't be a great day for
me

It's my birthday , and I was
woken up by a lounge full of
presents

Of which Nyezi just grabbed ,
and teared some . He even ate
some as well

Got our project today , and we
outdid ourselves with Kedi

95% that's not so bad at all ,
even though it was a rough
week

I'm hoping I can relax right now
, and just enjoy my day

Bayede took his son to his
home , and I'm fine with that

Because I know his parents are
there

I'm just lazing on the couch ,
stuffing my face with my
birthday treats

I was shocked to get a birthday message from Libo , like we haven't talked to each other in so long

But I responded anyways , because I hold no grudge against her . She was my friend

And we had great times together , I can't dispute that

And we didn't part on bad ways
, so there's no need to be sour
towards each other

And I still love her , because at
one point in my life she was a
great deal

She helped me , and stood by
me when time's were tough

My phone rings and it's my father , I haven't spoken to him since the last time I called him

Me : Mtungwa

Dad : how are you sweetheart ?

Me : I'm okay , trying to pick up everything

Dad : I'm glad to hear that , can I see you today ?

Me : just you alone ?

Dad : yes

Me : okay , we can meet

Dad : will you bring the little guy ?

Me : you want to see him ?

Dad : I miss him so bad

I laugh , I'm feeling so happy

Me : okay , I'll bring him

Dad : happy birthday my love

Me : thank you daddy

Dad : I'll send you the location ,
and is 12:00 okay for you ?

Me : 12:00 is fine

Dad : okay

We drop the call , and I call
Bayede

Bayede : baby mama

Me : my dad just called

Bayede : everything okay ?

Me : he wants to meet

Bayede : your mother ?

Me : he said alone

Bayede : oh okay , should I be
worried ?

Me : no , I think it's because it's
my birthday nothing much .
And he wants to see Nyezi

Bayede : today ?

Me : yes around 12:00 , he said
he'll send me a place to meet

Bayede : okay , I hope you can
be available later on for dinner

here at home . Mom wants us
to celebrate your birthday

Me : that's sweet of her , I
don't think it'll be a problem

Bayede : alright , I'll bring the
intruder around 11:00

Me : stop calling him that

He laughs , I drop the call . He's
dramatic , my son didn't
intrude on anything or anyone

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INSERT 49

Bayede

Mihlali : you see how you're
ruining Nkanyezi ?

She sits down next to me

Me : what are you talking about?

Mihlali : looking grumpy

I laugh

Me : I don't know where he gets those expressions of his

Mihlali : from you clearly ,
what's on your mind ?

Me : Khosi says her father
wants to see her , well with
your nephew

Mihlali : after all this time ?

I nod

Mihlali : do you think that
maybe they want to convince
her otherwise ?

Me : I doubt , I mean she said
it's him alone .

Mihlali : but you look worried
Zulu

Me : that's because I am

I sigh leaning back

Me : I don't know what he wants , she's made so much progress . I don't want her dragged back , but I'm also not saying she shouldn't have a relationship with her family .
But they're toxic

She laughs

Mihlali : hey ! Either way ,
because of this little guy we're
family with those people

Me : I know , I just hope they'll
be fine

Mihlali : they'll be fine , I trust
baby mama . She has grown so
much , in a space of months . I
guess being a mother does that
, because it channels one . And

now she lives for this gent here
she'll make sane decisions

I don't doubt her , but at the
end of the day family is family

I just hope whatever this
meeting is about , it's not about
to abrupt her life

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Nomakhosi

Bayede insisted to bring us here
, and said we should call when

it's time to leave . He'll come
fetch us

And I'm shocked , I don't want
to lie

This is a hotel suite , and it
seems like my father now lives
here

We've been here for a minute ,
and he's busy gushing over
Nyezi

But I have a thousand
questions going through my
mind right now

Dad : are you okay ?

I look at him , placing the bag
down

Me : what's going on ?

Dad : with what ?

Me : this dad !

He sighs

Me : you live here now ?

Dad : it's your birthday , can we just spend this day . And let me

have time with my grandson ,
and then we can talk

I sigh

Me : I hope this is not your way
of shutting me down

Dad : no

Me : okay then

We walk to the lounge area ,
and sit down

Dad : I got cake , I hope you'll
enjoy it

I laugh

Me : I still love cake

Dad : you two look good

Me : I've been trying

Dad : I see , and I see he's
grown now

Me : they just grow every
second

He chuckles

Dad : that is true

Me : how have you been ?

I don't know , but something is just off about him

Dad : holding on just fine , just that worries do occur from time to time . It hit hard knowing you left home , and in that manner

Me : I'm sorry

Dad : no , we handled the
whole situation just wrong .
And I as a father failed you

That just hits me

I don't even care about how
everything was dealt by them

Because in the end , here we
are

But the father thing , I just keep
quite though . And we finally
just focus on our day together

Until later on , and Nyezi is
drained and tired

It took some time , to get him
be okay around my farther
again

But babies know people they've met , and there wasn't a day my father didn't pay attention to him

Dad : I know you have a lot of questions

Nyezi is asleep , and it's just us now . It's the perfect time to talk

Me : I do , but the bigger question is will you answer them ?

Dad : is it about the father issue?

Me : that too , but right now I want you to tell me what's going on

Dad : your mother and I are getting a divorce

Me : because of me ?

Dad : no , we've long had issues. Issues that we just chose to ignore because of you , but now that you're out of home and you seem to be handling yourself . There's no use holding on anymore , the

marriage long died . We just
kept it up for your sake

Wow !

All this is new to me , I know
we weren't the perfect family

But I thought I was the one
person neglected , not that
their marriage was on the rocks

Me : are you sure you two are done ?

Dad : yes , we're just waiting for the divorce to be finalized

Me : and you've been staying here all this while ?

Dad : no , I was in Lagos all along . I came back a few days

ago , wanted to settle before
getting in touch with you

I nod

Me : did she cheat ?

I just have to ask , I feel like I
don't know myself right now

Dad : no

Me : so you found her with me?

Dad : not exactly

Me : then how ?

I can see this is hard to him ,
but I need the truth

Me : please just tell me

Dad : does it matter that much that I'm not your biological father ? Even if I were to tell you this truth , that by blood we are related . And I am your father either way , because you're a Khumalo . It's not that you don't know who you are , or that you don't know your identity because you do .
You're still my blood
Nomakhosi , we're family

I think now I'm just confused
more than anything

Dad : I can't tell you who your
father is , but he's my blood
just as he's yours . Your uncle's
, aunts and cousins even
grandparents those people are
your blood . It's just that
biologically I didn't father you ,
that's the only truth we've
denied you . And beyond
anything else , you can ask your

mother . Just know that you're
my daughter , DNA or not .
You're a Khumalo and that's
not even a lie . I love you , and
I'll never stop loving you . This
distance between us scared me
so much , that I thought I'd lost
you . I'm not buying you back
into my life , because I know I
was weak and couldn't handle a
woman like your mother . I
failed you , and I can't reverse
the time

He gets up and brings his laptop and phone back , and a brown envelope

Dad : I cashed on my policies , savings and even the fund I had saved for you . Even from my share of everything we're splitting with your mother .

Unfortunately she gets to keep the house , so I hope your accommodation is secured . But if it's not , you'll have enough

money to make sure that's taken care of . So I'm giving you everything , I had in plan that it'll be yours when I die . Have them now , you've claimed your independence and so you need this stability .

Why is this man filling my head with so much information all at once

Dad : use this money wisely ,
save some and make
investments . Make sure that
Nkanyezi's future is also
secured , which is why I'm
giving him a 18 percent share in
my company . You'll be in
charge of it , until he's 21 . But I
want my grandson taken care
of at all times

My phone beeps , but I'm a
crying mess . As I was busy

listening to him , tears just
found their way in my eyes

Dad : this is the share contract ,
and they're in his name . You
just have the power of attorney

I wipe my tears off , looking at
the contract . I'm not clued up ,
but I can see

And there's the share , and my son's name is there . And it's clear

Dad : you can take it over , and bring it back once you've read everything

I trust my dad , I know he wouldn't do anything shady . So I just sign it

I get up , and give him a hug

Me : I'm so sorry about
everything , for falling pregnant
so young I know I disappointed
you

Dad : it's okay , it's all done and
in the past right now . We all
did mistakes , I also should
have done better . So do
forgive your old man

I laugh through my tears

Me : I love you , don't abandon
us

Dad : I will never

I guess I can live with his truth
right now , because my mother
won't tell me anything

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Bayede

We've just put Zulu to bed , it'll
be a long night because his

mother says he slept at the
hotel as well

We're cuddling on the couch ,
she looks so drained

Me : so did you talk ?

Khosi : yeah , and it was just a
lot

Me : feel like talking , or you
just want to digest everything ?

Khosi : let me tell you

She slowly lifts her head and
looks at me

I listen so attentively , I don't
even miss a single word as she
narrates everything that
happened

And I'm left in shock

Khosi : now I don't know if he's my uncle or what ? But I guess in the end of the day it doesn't matter , maybe as time goes on I'll find out who my father is .
But then again , I've never felt like I don't have a father or that he's not my biological father .
So at the end of the day , it's about the man who raised me

Me : take everything one day at a time , if you're ought to find your truth then you will . If not , then maybe you're just not supposed to . And don't push that man away , because it takes more than a sperm to be a father

Khosi : you're right , and at the end of the day he did say that we're family . Blood family , so it's not like I'm that lost

Me : yeah , and now we have a 4 months old who owns shares in a company . And what do you know , woman you're a millionaire

She laughs

Me : so you still want my first salary ?

Khosi : yes Daddy

I chuckle

Me : okay mommy

She pecks my lips , I just pull
her down for a deeper kiss

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INSERT 50

A YEAR LATER

Nomakhosi

It's a beautiful day , the sun is
out and shining bright

Even the mood is not dull , it's
just smiles everywhere and
happiness . There's laughter

And you can tell people are
happy

Well there's a few tears , but
oh well it's all tears of joy

The proud faces that these
parents , and grandparents .

The aunts and uncles , are just
wearing here today is priceless

Not forgetting the girlfriends
and the wives , some are
fiancé's

Witnessing all this , it's just a
sight

Mihlali : your mother is crying

She says passing me , I turn my head and look at her

She's crying alright , but I know it's all tears of joy

I shed a few myself , I mean who wouldn't ?

Both her kids are graduating today , and it's the most proudest day of her life

The cheering and clapping of hands as Mihlali was on stage and got dressed in her coat and hat

I understand why KaMageba is crying , she did great as a mother

Bayede's son was busy frowning and I didn't get his deal at all

His father's name is called , he places a kiss on my cheek

Bayede : I'll be back

The drama of this guy , he just couldn't bring himself to sit with other graduates

So he's taking a long walk to the front , that even a few jokes

are shared causing us all
laughter

Nyezi : mama (mom)

I look at him

He frowns , and at this moment
I see just how Bayede ruined
my son

Nyezi : funa Gogo (I want
granny)

Me : Khame (wait)

And I hold him right so he
doesn't slip down

I just want to walk out of here ,
so he can get on his feet

But this is a proud moment for us , as daddy is officially introduced as a qualified chartered accountant

Mihlali : ah look at you

I laugh , she takes Nyezi

Mihlali : so proud

Me : well I am

Mihlali : he's coming , can I just disappear with my love ?

I nod

These two are just inseparable , but it's fine . And it's actually just a beautiful thing to just witness

He gets to me , and hugs me so tight . And I know if his parents

weren't here , he would be
kissing the lights out of me

Me : I'm so proud of you

He smiles

Bayede : you're finally going to
get your car , like I can literally
just smell it

Me : the way you make me
sound like a gold-digger

He laughs , taking my hand into
his

Bayede : I just want you all to
myself tonight , can you let
your parents have Zulu ?

Me : of course

After a few minutes , Mihlali comes back with Nyezi who has a graduation hat on his head

Mihlali : yes the Zulu men are very intelligent

Bayede : born intellectuals

I laugh

Mihlali is so bored , now her expensive weave is so ruined

But it serves her right

Bayede : this man has stakes in a multi millionaire company , he deserves this honour

Mihlali : my kids are secured with a rich uncle

These people they just never
stop , I take my son as they
laugh

And I disappear outside with
him

He's treated like some Yakuza
in this family , it's just crazy

Nyezi : yabuya Nageba ? (Is
Mageba coming back)

Me : ewe uyabuya (yes he's coming back)

He doesn't call his father dad , he'll rather say Mageba or Zulu

Anything from their clan names , or his name . Even though his speech is not that perfect yet

He's a year and 4 months now , and he even walks . He started

learning how to walk at 8
months

But he still trips and fall , it's
not that perfectly established
walk

Because even during a walk ,
you can leave him behind
thinking he's still following you

Only to find out he stopped walking , and just stood around

They finally come out , and my heels are killing me . I so want to be out of them

Nyezi : Nageba (Mageba)

He picks him up

Mrs Zulu : haven't we taken
enough pictures ?

We laugh

Mr Zulu : let's leave these kids
here , they'll find us at Sea Park

Bayede : yeah we're right
behind you

Mrs Zulu : Khosi get some rest ,
and take those shoes off

Me : ewe mama (yes mom)

They both kiss Nyezi leaving

Mihlali : you my good sir
deserve this it's yours

She gives Nyezi the hat

Mihlali : I'll see you my good people in Sea Park

Me : bye

Mihlali : I'm bringing a guest , please tell your parents not to embarrass me

I laugh

Bayede : if it's a boyfriend ,
you'll be embarrassed so don't
do it

She laughs walking away , and
we also leave heading to the
car

Bayede straps Nyezi in his seat ,
he brings my slippers and takes
my heels off

Me : thank you

Bayede : I wasn't a fan of these long things anyways

We fought , but in the end I won wearing my shoes

He gets on the drivers seat and drives

Bayede : we won't stay long there

Me : just as long as we show face , your Natal people are dramatic

He laughs

Bayede : what time is your father landing tomorrow ?

Me : around 14:00 he said

Bayede : okay

Me : why ?

Bayede : I'm just asking

I don't believe him

A lot has happened in the year ,
yes my parents got divorced

And my father moved to Lagos ,
but he comes around every two
months

We have a great relationship
with each other , he's just the
best like he's always been

My mother moved on with her
life , I tried reaching out at
some point

And she told me she wants
nothing to me , and just came
out straight told me I'm a
product of rape

That was hell finding out , I
don't want to lie . I went into
the darkest time of my life

And having to find out that the
man I called dad my whole life

Is brother to this rapist who is
my biological father

Now everything he said made
sense , and my world came
crumbling down

I lost myself in a way that I've
never . I just got careless with
everything , and I just didn't
care

I failed that term , and boy was Bayede furious with me

After paying a tutor for me ,
and I passed so well only to fail
on the third one

He took Nyezi to his parents ,
and stayed with me at my place
. He made sure that he digs me
out of that place , and that I
found myself again

But lord ! A lot of things have gone so wrong and just worse

After that whole two months and three weeks , I found out my mother is dating some police guy

It was after a week I'd heard , of the relationship . And she was found dead in her house

The police boyfriend killed her ,
and he killed himself

And that was the end of it , she
died with our relationship
messy as it was

And shocker was me actually
finding out my real father is still
alive

And he's in Sun City , serving
his sentence of the rape there

I debated many nights and days
, fighting to go see him or not

It was only earlier this year I
went , of course with my
father's permission

And I had no words for that
man , all I uttered to him was

that his rape product had come
to see him . Just so he can see a
masterpiece of his work

The shame I saw on his face
was enough for me , and he
hasn't even tried to reach out
or anything

And I'm fine with that

Because finally , I'm slowly
making peace with the
consequences of my reckless
behaviour during my darkest
hour

But such is life

Voice : hey

His touch brings me out of my thoughts , and I turn looking at him

My eyes are so blurry , it's only when I blink and the tears fall down I see him well

Bayede : it's okay

Me : I'm sorry , I got lost in thought

Bayede : it's okay

He pulls me towards him ,
giving me a hug

I pull myself together , when I
remember Nyezi is in the car
with us

I look back wiping my tears ,
but he's not here

Bayede : Mihlali took him

I nod

Bayede : come we need this
moment before we go in there

I laugh

Me : probably just being
emotional

Bayede : we both know it's not
, let's go to the back

We get out going into the back
seat , he brings my head to his
chest . His one arm caressing
my back

Bayede : I love you three so
much , we fucked up sure . But
this is life , and perfection
doesn't exist . As hard as it is ,
we're still pushing

He's right ! And he and his family along with my dad , they've held me down at my worst

That's how they ended up calling their parents my parents

I was just their little daughter fighting demons , and their lives stopped just for me

Me : let's go inside , I'll talk to
KaMageba . And then we can
leave

He long pecks my forehead ,
before we walk out . And I
don't even care about my face ,
that might be puffy right now

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Bayede

Walking in the kitchen , and I
find my mother busy making
porridge

Not the person I wanted to see
this morning , like at all

But what the hell ! I'm here
now , and I can't turn back

Me : KaMageba

Mom : Zulu

She turns and looks at me , I get
a glass of water from the fridge

Mom : did you know your sister
was bringing an English

boyfriend to the dinner
yesterday ?

I shake my head no , and she
laughs

That's what happened at the
dinner at Sea Park , Mihlali's
guest was some white English
guy

Mom : the uncles think she should be taken down to KZN , and be taught about her roots

Me : they should get over it , nowadays anyone can date whoever they want to date

Mom : mhm

Me : I know you're not against the relationship

Mom : of course not , why would I ?

I sigh

Me : okay that's a relief

Mom : you know what would give me relief ?

And here it comes

Mom : you marrying Khosi , and making an honest woman out of her

I down the glass of water , maybe we shouldn't have come here after our dinner

Mom : two kids Bayede , two kids and no marriage . Like really ? You have taken three years of this girls life , do you

understand that ? I have to
countyou know what I mean

Me : yeah I know

Mom : then man up , and do
something about it

Me : she's still in school , and I
have no intentions of making
her quit . And you can relax ,
there won't be any more kids

from now on . This wasn't done
nor made deliberately , it was
an honest mistake that
happened

Mom : I understand that , but
please

Me : yeah

I walk out of the kitchen , it's
not that I'm not hearing what
she's saying

I am

And it's not that I'm saying it's
nonsense , because it's not

And she's right

But we dealt with a lot , after
Khosi found out how she came
about

It wasn't just that , but it was
also words her mother said to
her

That woman broke the mother
of my kids , and I never thought
she would ever recover

She wasn't herself , she didn't
care anymore

I was there , because there was
nowhere else I would rather be
at

And I believe she fought to be
here today

Two months later , we found
out she was a month pregnant

And it was like we were back at the beginning , just when I thought we were getting back to how things were

I found out she was on the pill , like she got on it when I broke up with Sedi last year

And she's been so consistent , until when everything went sour

She stopped being on the pill ,
because it was the last thing on
her mind

Two three nights happened ,
and they resulted in her getting
pregnant

And Khosi took the pregnancy
so hard , and who could blame
her ?

It was too soon , and there were no plans of having a second child

She's only in grade 11 and 18

She struggled accepting the baby

I don't want to say she hated the baby , but I know she was going to have a hard time dealing with the pregnancy

One night I found her in
bathtub full of red water , it
was just a month ago

Meaning she was two months
at the time

I was late , I was very late .
Because in that bathtub , our
baby was lost

The baby couldn't handle the stress Khosi was under , and it was all just too much

And just like that , the baby was gone . And I had accepted , that I was going to be a father of two

Even though things happened the way they happened , I had accepted

But it's not something that can just be forgotten

I am a father of two , and I'll always acknowledge my daughter as part of our lives

It was my mother who told me she was a girl . And we did everything we were supposed to do , so we can introduce her to our ancestors

All of that was done , and we
also got cleansing

But the wound is still fresh

Now I just want to do things
right

Because when I was given a
chance , to finally be her
boyfriend

Things soon changed , and we
couldn't focus on that
boyfriend girlfriend relationship
anymore

We had to make sure she was
okay , and that she made it out
of dark hole alive

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Nomakhosi

I put on my dress , I've been
sitting on the bed for a while

The door opens and he walks in
, he leans against the door
looking at me

And he says nothing

Last night we came back late ,
our date was beautiful though

Since he started last year , and
he never stopped

He always has these amazing ideas of dates , and he always delivers

We're together now , even though my mental breakdown did put a strain on us

I just hope we can be able to revive our relationship . Not to mention loosing the baby

Sometimes I feel like it's all my
fault

Yes we weren't planning on
having one , but it happened
and she was there

But I let my messed up life get
in the way of giving our
daughter a chance at life

And we lost her

I don't understand how I was in a bathtub , and I bled so much that there was absolutely nothing to salvage

Why didn't I feel anything ?
How could I pass out like that

What was I even doing in the bathtub alone ? When Bayede had made it his daily thing to bath me

Maybe if I had waited for him , I
wouldn't have lost the baby

I have so many regrets , and I
hate myself for being such a
failure

I sometimes can't even look at
him in the eye . Because I ask
myself if he doesn't blame me ,
the same way that I blame
myself

Me : you know I'm okay

I say turning and facing him

Me : I know yesterday got you worried , but I'm okay . I'm slowly making peace with what's done , I'm finding healing and self love again . It's just that when these past things come to mind , they can be too heavy

I'm just trying to make
conversation , as much as
dinner was great

I know what happened in the
car worried him

He sighs walking further in

Me : I loved her , I really did . I
know it wasn't an ideal
situation for me , and at some

point I even thought of
abortion . But I knew just how
selfish that would be ,
considering I was pregnant at
15 and I kept the baby . And
well at 17 , I could still keep the
baby and raise her . It was in
my recklessness that I found
myself in that situation . And
it's a lot I know , because I'm
also a lot to deal with

Bayede : don't say that

He walks to me

Bayede : you'll never be a lot
for me to deal with , no matter
what . I'm here , and I'll always
be here . It's not even by force ,
but it's by choice

Some men deserve to be put on
a pedestal

Me : I'm sorry I lost the baby

It's only been a month , but it
feels like just yesterday

And every time I'm alone with
Bayede , I'm reminded of the
loss

And I just can't help but be
sorry

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Bayede

After dropping Khosi at her apartment , I left

Because I couldn't stay long with them

Knowing her father was arriving
, and I had asked to talk to him

And I know , she's the first
person he'll be going to see

And I need to talk to him before
that

And that's why we're here now
, I literally cornered the man to

meet me as soon as his plane
landed

Me : thank you for sparing me a
minute of your time

Mr Khumalo : Zulu what can I
do for you ?

It's not even funny , how this
man let his ex wife dance on his
head

But the attitude he fucking has
towards me , it's just insane

But I don't blame him , I am not
his favourite person at all

Me : I want to right my wrongs

He has one damn cold stare ,
and he's not even blinking

Me : I have wronged you , so many times . I took your daughter's pride , got her pregnant twice very young . And so it's time I fix my wrongs , and do right by your family

Mr Khumalo : and you're telling me this because ?

The man is not even impressed

Me : because my family is expecting me to marry uMa ka Nkanyezi , and they expect me to do that right now . Which is not going to happen

Mr Khumalo : then what exactly do you want to right ?

Me : don't get me wrong , I am not against marrying Khosi . But right now it's just off timing , and me and her haven't even

spoken about such . We just lost our child , we're still dealing with the loss . And Khosi is having a hard time , a marriage is the last thing on her mind .

Mr Khumalo : you're still not answering me

Me : I want to do right , by paying for taking her pride . And I also want to pay lobola

for my kids , both of them . I
will pay damages as well , and
I'm asking that Nkanyezi takes
my surname . After I have done
right by your family

Mr Khumalo : did you talk to
her about this ?

Me : no

Mr Khumalo : what if she
refuses ?

Is he being for real ? Refuse like
for what reason ?

Me : then she refuses

Mr Khumalo : and you'll just let
her be ?

Am I crazy ?

Me : no , I won't

He chuckles getting up

Mr Khumalo : I'll be waiting for
your uncle's

And he leaves

I swear this man is never going
to like me , and I just made

things worse by getting his
daughter pregnant twice

But I don't regret it , and I don't
love her any less . And I was so
looking forward to having a
little princess

Nkanyezi is giving me grey hairs

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Nomakhosi

We're to spend the day with
my father today

We only saw him a bit
yesterday , and he was tired
from his flight

So we left him to rest , and
agreed to meet today

Bayede arrived early in the
morning , had breakfast with us

And just said he wants to take
us somewhere , we'll be back

before we have to meet with
my father

I've been asking him where we
are going , but he's not telling
me anything

Nyezi : mama (mom)

When my son calls me , I
always cringe . Nyezi has a way
of just calling out people

It's like you can already feel ,
what he's coming with

Me : Zulu

Nyezi : siyaphi ? (Where are we
going)

Mhm !

I look at his father and he
smiles , how nice to be him

Me : angazi (I don't know)

He goes quite for a few minutes

Nyezi : Nageba (Mageba)

Yes let them be , and keep me
out of it

Bayede : Zulu

Nyezi : siyaphi ? (Where are we going)

Bayede : angazi (I don't know)

Nyezi : yhoh !

That yhoh ! Is not happy at all

Me : just tell him

Bayede : I can't tell him
because you're in the car with
us , and you're not supposed to
know

Me : you're frustrating him

He chuckles

Bayede : your son needs to stop
intimidating me

Like father like son

Bayede : Zulu ?

He calls him out a few times ,
with no answer

Bayede : ungikwatele ? (Are
you upset with me)

Silence !

Bayede : talk to him

I laugh

Me : just tell him where we are going , and he'll be okay

I am not getting involved

Bayede : Mageba

Nyezi : ntwana (mtwana)

I feel like I'm raising a toddler
with an old soul

Bayede : ungikwatele ? (Are
you upset with me)

Nyezi : hayhiii (no)

This is some good moment
laughter for me

Until we get to LaLucia , and I'm shocked what are we doing here ?

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INSERT 53

Nomakhosi

I am without words

Like I did not expect this , and I
didn't even see it come

So this is some great shock for
me

Like this is our family home , it
just needs it's people to occupy
it

Our pictures are here

Even the scans of Nyezi , from
the first one to the last one

Like it's so crazy

We have his blue room , and he
seems to love it

I don't know what to say

In that master bedroom , I am
made to feel like some queen .
The room is just so me

What finishes me off , is a
portrait of me in the lounge

Like I'm just the first thing
people see when they walk in
here

Honestly this is too much , and I didn't expect anything like this

Bayede : do you like it ?

I'm in the lounge now , and I can't stop the tears

This home was designed to fit us , and it's furnished for us

Bayede : I didn't mean to make
you cry

I laugh through my tears

Me : when did you make this ?

Bayede : last year , the plan
was to buy a plot and build .
But I saw this house , and I
thought it'll be perfect for us .
But then I saw the need to

revamp it , and just have it fully done into what will be our family home . Even though we have a landlord you know

I look at his short self , busy walking around

Me : not you too

He laughs

Bayede : Nkosiyabo bought you an apartment , I have my apartment . This is his house , the deed is in his name

oNkanyezi are living the soft life!

Bayede : so you would move here ?

Now this is a perfect place to
raise a family in

Me : of course

Nyezi : ndlu kabani le ? (Who's
house is this)

It wouldn't be him to keep
quite

Bayede : yakho (it's yours)

Nyezi : zohlala la ? (I'm going to stay here)

Bayede : Yebo (yes)

And he walks away , to the kitchen .

Me : is he being for real

He laughs

Me : if we're going to live like inmates in this house , we can't deal

Nkanyezi is like his grandfather more than he is his father

He just has that authority thing with him , and sometimes it's creepy

I mean he's only a baby , but he does things of a 3 year old at only 1 year and few months

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Lesedi

When a man loves , he really
loves

And he doesn't even shy away
from showing that off

It's true , that when men enter a relationship they know what they want

Bayede has a perfect family , he's loving and he's being loved back

You can just see it on his face , it's not forced he does it with love

I was never the one for him ,
and I'm glad in the end we both
accepted that and moved on

He's right where he deserves to
be

They're so perfect for each
other , these pictures do them
justice . And I see their son has
grown , he's like a little version
of his father

Voice : I'm still hurting that I missed my boys graduation

He hugs me from behind placing a kiss on my neck

Me : mhm ...but he knows if you had means you could have made it

Thapelo : yeah I know , I spoke to him last night . He told me

he's in talks with his uncle's ,
about doing things right the
cultural way

Bayede always knew what he
wanted , and now he's exactly
going after it

Me : oh wow ! But they suit
each other , I've been looking
at these graduation pictures .
Her olive green , matching his
suit I tell you they're just goals

He chuckles

Thapelo : don't tell me you
want a family too

I laugh , caressing his cheek
with my hand

Me : me and you still need to
graduate first , and then we can
start a family

I really wish Bayede all the best
, because he taught me how to
love and appreciate myself

I am so glad I'm finally over him

And I'm happy now , more
happier than I've ever been

Who knew his best friend
would be my happy place

And the first time he heard
about us , we all just laughed
about it

And he said it's because of him
we ended up together

Cause as he was apologising to
me , he was manifesting this .
Because he knew I am a good
person and needed to be loved
truly

And what better way , than for his best friend to take me .

That was just insane , but it become a good laugh for us all

There's no bad blood , and there's no hard feelings at all

Had we been able to go for his graduation , we would have

Just that Thapelo had soccer training in England , and only came back yesterday

He couldn't get time off , even for us to be in South Africa for a day

We moved here late last year , when he got the opportunity of his life

To play for the team this side ,
he just couldn't decline

And we had been together for
only 3 months

But when he asked me to move
with him , I didn't even hesitate

And so far so good

I believe I got my happy ending
as well , might have not been
my beginning but it definitely is
my happy ending

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INSERT 54

Nomakhosi

I'm just lost in my own
thoughts and mind

It's way too early for this

And I'm just asking myself ,
how can one bleed so much
heal and still love ?

Will I ever heal , and I'm even
scared to think about love

At this moment , even I don't
think I love myself that much

I'm back again to where
Nkanyezi is the only reason , I
live for

I turn my head , as the door
opens . And I'm thinking it's
him again

Only it's his father

Bayede : hey

I give him a lazy smile , and he walks in further

Bayede : seems like you've been awake for a while , are you okay ?

Is he okay ? Coming here so early . He sits down on the bed , leaning down and he pecks my lips

Me : I'm okay

Bayede : where is your son ?

Me : in his room , he slept here
but was too quick to leave as
soon as he woke up and
realised he's in my bed

He chuckles

Bayede : such a dramatic man

He really is dramatic , cause I don't understand why he left

Bayede : can I get in bed ?

I nod

He gets up , taking his clothes off just leaving on his briefs . I move back a bit , and he gets in bed . He snuggles closer , cuddling me

Me : you're so cold , where were you ?

Bayede : driving around for 3 hours , I don't even know where I was going

Me : add another 3 more hours , and you would have landed in Free State

He chuckles

Me : don't do that again , next time please just come to me

Bayede : I sometimes fear of how you may look at me

I lay my head on his chest , placing my hand to his side

Bayede : I failed you so much with Nkanyezi , and still again I failed you this time . And it just

makes me wonder , if I'm even
man enough to be with you

Me : you've never failed me

And that's not a lie , the risks
he was okay with taking during
Nkanyezi

He tried his best , and it can
never go unappreciated

Me : as for now , I don't see how you failed me . If anything I failed us , I'm the one who lost the baby . And it was because of me and my stress that....if I just got a hold of myself . We wouldn't be here

Bayede : I don't blame you

Me : you don't ?

Bayede : I don't , and I never will . Because if it was meant to be , the baby would have survived . The same way that Zulu survived , remember how you went for check ups every week ?

I nod

Bayede : maybe we would have had the same situation , or just one you're monitored daily .

What happened surely was
meant to happen , there's
nothing different that could
have changed the situation .
We just need to heal , one day
at a time . And we'll be okay
again , but can we just not lose
each other . Because even
today , I'm still in love with you

I smile

Bayede : I don't want to lose
you , and the way we are right
now scares me

We're fighting to heal right now
, and we're fighting to save our
relationship

I'm just fighting the blame
game , that I have going on
towards myself

Bayede : we need each other

Me : I know we do

Because I need him more

Bayede : and we have Nkanyezi

, you know he needs his

parents . He doesn't know

anything , he knows nothing .

So to him we're still the parents

we've always been , and that's

the least we can keep doing for him . He's here , and our pain and hurt shouldn't make us neglect him

He's right

It would be very selfish to cry over a baby we lost , and neglect the one we have

Me : promise we'll do better
now

He chuckles

Bayede : we've been trying , so
we'll be fine . And do way much
better

I tilt my head looking at him

Bayede : am I still your
boyfriend ?

I laugh , with a nod

Bayede : good , cause I worked
hard to get you

He leans down giving me a kiss

Bayede : I need to sleep a bit , I
got an email from one of the

companies that offered me a
job . I have a meeting with
them at 10:00

It's 06:00 right now , or surely
after it

Bayede : please wake me up
before time , so I can freshen
up

Me : do you have anything
decent to wear here ?

Bayede : I have a suit
somewhere in your closet

I'll go and look for it

Bayede : once you wake up ,
please keep the door closed .

I laugh

Bayede : don't be a savage
person okay , we know your
son will not let me have peace

I don't understand why he's
afraid of the same person
who's like him

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Bayede

The knock is so persistent , and
I can hear it's him

I don't even know why he's
knocking , and it doesn't sound
like he's going to walk away

I slowly get up , and I open the door . He's still in his PJ's

I stare down at him , and he lifts his head looking at me

I feel like we're at war right now , because he's not even saying anything

Me : yini ? (What's it)

Nyezi : sabona Nageba (hello dad)

I chuckle , picking him up

Me : uright ? (Are you alright)

He nods

Me : ufunani ke ? (What do you want)

Nyezi : zobona wena , funa
mamam (to see you , I want my
mom)

Is it even legal for one to be
woken up like for no reason at
all ?

Nyezi : bonile moto akho (I saw
your car)

He must have been to the lounge , and he just figured I'm here . And he had to wake me up

Me : okay ndoda

There's no sleep after this , at least I did get some

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INSERT 55

A MONTH LATER

Nomakhosi

We're in a better space , a
much better place

And I couldn't be more happy

We moved into Nkanyezi's
house last week

We've settled fine , and I'm
loving the new home

Bayede found a job , and well he seems to be doing great in it. Two weeks back he paid everything owed to my family

His mother wasn't that happy , because she wanted him marrying me

But I am fine with the way things are , and I'm in no hurry for marriage

And I believe Bayede will marry me when he thinks the time is right , and if he wants to

I mean the decision should be his , and he shouldn't be forced at all

I'm finally holding my head high , even at school

I'm much better now , my first results weren't that pleasing

But now , I'm very much happy about my scripts . And Bayede is very proud

After all his money paying for a private school , and a tutor are not going in vain

Bayede : what are you smiling about ?

We're in bed , it's a miracle his son hasn't walked in here

I'm on top of him

Like how can I just not be thankful for this man

Life has been tough , and he
stuck around . Not many would

Me : I'm happy

Bayede : so early in the
morning

Me : yeah

He smiles laughing , and he pecks my lips . I bite his lower lip , pulling it up a bit

He deep chuckles , grabbing my bare ass cheeks

Me : I'm in love with you

Bayede : you've always been , always

I laugh

Me : don't be cocky about it

Bayede : oh but I am

He French kisses me , I lose all my sane senses. And he has me flipped , within a split second .

I trail my hand to his dick , and
stroke it . He deep groans
inside my mouth

Bayede : let's go shower

Me : I am not having sex with
you in the shower , I want you
to have me anywhere in this
room

He laughs

Bayede : I am not having sex
with you , we're leaving

Me : what ?

Bayede : yeah

Me : where are we going ?

Bayede : outside

Me : outside ?

Bayede : let's go

Me : you'll drag me out of this
bed

He laughs getting up , and he
just picks me up

Walking in the shower

Me : don't bore me

Bayede : I'm going to check on
the intruder , be done when I
come back

And I'm left all alone in the
shower , and well I might as
well shower

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Bayede

All that annoyance is wiped off within a split second , as soon as she lays her eyes on the cars

Khosi : is this ?

She places her hand over her
mouth

Me : my first salary all gone , I
don't even have a cent left
from it . I couldn't decide which
one to buy , so I figured let me
just buy them both . So yeah ,
there you go . Your Bentley and
Rolls Royce

Seeing her this speechless , just
melts my heart

Khosi : don't lie

She laughs

Me : about ?

Khosi : there's no way in hell
your whole salary went here

I chuckle

Me : they didn't come cheap

Khosi : oh that I know , believe
me I know

Me : so no lies

Khosi : this is way more than
your salary , and I don't even
want to know where you got
the rest of the money

We laugh

Me : typically money spenders

She ignores me approaching
her cars

But her son , just walks back
inside the house with a frown

I go back following him

Me : Zulu

He looks at me , as he sulks
throwing himself on the floor

Me : Ini ? (What's wrong)

I sit down on the couch

I hope he's not angry , because
we didn't say the cars are his

Me : uright ? (Are you alright)

He shakes his head no

I pick him up , placing him on
my lap

Me : Ini ? (What's wrong)

Nyezi : yakhala mamam (my
mom is crying)

The intimidating Mageba has a heart , this one is a softie . A low key mama's boy

Me : uright umamakho (your mother is alright);

He shakes his head

Nyezi : ha.ana , yakhala (no , she's crying)

Now I have to wait until she comes back , and he can see that she's okay

Now I'm the one comforting the son

It's like after 15 minutes or so , and she comes back holding her car keys

Khosi : what a morning

She frowns looking at him ,
laying on my chest

Khosi : don't tell me he wants
my cars ?

I laugh , because I thought the
same thing

Me : lucky for you , no . He's
sad that you're crying

Khosi : oh my poor baby

She puts her car keys on the table , picking him up

And the hug he gives her , there's no prouder moment than this one

Khosi : ngiyak'thanda Zulu wami (I love you)

Nyezi : thanda mama (I love you mom)

Khosi : kiss ?

He gives her a kiss , and I guess now he's okay . Because he was on the bridge of crying

Me : I feel so excluded

She laughs

Khosi : my son is having a
moment

What a wow !

Khosi : see how we bled ,
healed and loved ?

I look at her , and she smiles I
return the smile back

Me : we've done it all

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THE END