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PROLOGUE

TRISTA

Trista Nyembezi Zulu, Strange right?

I mean Trista means 'sorrow' while Nyembezi means 'Tears'. Name is part of one's identity. Yet both my names are surrounded by somber. If I didn't know better.

I would say mother hates me. Who on earth names her child Nyembezi? If it is not hate then, I don't know what it is. For as long as, I remember my mother never showed me affection. She has always been as cold as ice. Ladies and gentlemen, my mother abhors me.

She once said and I quote: " No one would love you. Even your own father, never loved you enough to ensure that you were conceived in the right manner. You are not pure. Tainted you are. Plenty of days, I lie awake at night wondering. How you survived abortion. Even when you cheated death, peace is not destined for your kind. You are not destined for greatness. For

as long, as you shall live. You will be subjected to anguish. Somber will be the swayer in your life. It shall wear the crown, until you breathe your last. Curse is your third name".

Indeed, I lived in my mother's words.

FIFTEEN YEARS LATER...

Her words still, bare a loud echo in my tympanic membrane. It's vibration is strong enough, to make one deaf. Her words are still fresh in my memory, like flowers when they start to bloom at the beginning of spring...

Pain is what I've known, from birth.

Being gang-raped at the age of ten. Has taken a greater toll on my life.

Their voices still **TORMENTS** me in my sleep.

"Dude, make it snappy. We are running out of time" the first voice said.

"I'm not using protection on this one virgin and pure. Untouched as promised" the one reaping my clothes off said. Within few seconds, he was already inside me. Breathing heavily on top of me. Even groaning like a bull, so that his pleasure can be known.

Each thrust he made was rough and excruciating.

You could smell hate in each thrust. My tears didn't seem to faze him. In fact they seemed to make this whole thing ecstatic. His face was relaxed. Like he wasn't doing anything wrong. The smiles he made in between, made him look like he won the best treasure in his life...

"You just don't know it, sweetheart. Your tears doesn't make me guilty. In fact they make me pleased, to know that I'm good at doing what I was paid for. You give me power without commanding it" he said while depositing his load, inside me.

From that moment I knew, I would never be the same again.

"Man hurry up, this one is a jackpot. This one is what I call the golden Goose, that lays golden eggs. We get paid to hit it" the first voice said. The joy it carried, could not be missed.

I could feel my anger rising from my stomach like bile. Anger, I could feel it rise. At the tip of my tongue and the sourness it carried. I could vomit right in the spot. Hate, is what occupied my chest.

"Man hurry up, you been at it for a while now" the third and last voice said...

Torn my clothes were.

When they were done with me. I felt like a used gum, that was chewed and thrown across the street. Once it was sugarless. I could feel my soul leaving my body.

Powerless I was...

Blood was dripping from my vagina. Running through my thighs like a river after a heavy rainfall. I have never seen so much blood in my life.

I would never forget that day. For as long as, I shall live...

1

TRISTA

I was born and bred in a small village named, Ixopo.

LOCATED IN KZN.

The village is in a pocket-size. But the land scape is attractive. It is also rare to find children roaming around the streets.

Most groups of young men and women. Fled, to the City of Gold, Motherland and eThekweni. To seek for a better life. These areas are viewed as situations, offering opportunities...

As much as I would love to spend time explaining the Beauty of Ixopo. I can't, because I have other matters to get to, and one of those dreading matters is to wake up in the morning.

Whoever said one should wake up, in the morning and go to work should be arrested and charged. Waking up, in the

morning should be illegal, especially during cold mornings in winter. But at the end of the day, as long as the sunrise. We also have to wake up. On the other side. I'm always running late, because waking up in the morning is a struggle for me.

"Good morning, Aunty Annah"

"It is a good morning, Indeed. It is a beautiful sunny day and the birds are chirping outside, with joy. How are things at work?" and she starts.

God!

she loves my job and wonders, I do in the courtroom. Yep! You heard right, I have a law degree now.

"Everything is perfect, but I'm already running late. As much as, I would love to stay for chit chat. I can't"

After eating like a man, at an abnormal fast pace for a lady. I rushed to the door.

"Uh, Auntie don't prepare dinner tonight. I will knock off late" I shouted, already at the door...

I have made a name for myself. I own a small, law firm. Down the road in Town. **DAWN**: is the name of my law firm. Dawn is one of the most powerhouse law firm

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around the area. My team and I, have won many cases. On a scale of 10. We lost only 0,5 cases. That is because we don't handle many cases per year.

DAWN, written in bold letters.

This tradition never gets old. Every single day. When I come to work. I find the name fascinating, because there is a story there. Dawn isn't just a name. Reason being, Dawn symbolizes the beginning of a new period. While ours is accompanied by the beginning of justice to the voiceless.

"Good morning, Lizzy any emails for me?"

"Good morning, Miss Zulu. Only few. Here" she said handing them over. After taking my emails, I proceeded my journey and hit to the elevator, to the second floor.

Thando, my favourite being. She was already at her desk. She is one, of the best secretaries. I ever had.

"Morning Thando"

"Morning Trista, the smile on your face beams today. Did you perhaps get a morning glory?" She asked joking.

I released a snort.

Thando is my best friend. Outside this walls. She is one of the most bubbly person I know. I settle comfortably, on my chair.

"Whatever Tee, my schedule please!"

"Well, besides the meeting you have with Mr Smith, from Johannesburg. You are free for the rest of the day"

"Did he tell you what the meeting is about?"

"Unfortunately, No"

"Wait Thando...did he set up, an appointment?" She went mute for a while.

"No"

She blurted that out and started to avoid, making eye contact.

"Thando, please! Do tell him. I'm not available" she continued to linger.

"You're dismissed"

Typically Mr. Smith. He never respected me, because I'm a woman. I have turned him down several times because of this. If he really wants to meet with me. He would have to do it the right way or he would never get the chance to meet me at all. It is not like he knows me, in person.

Thando never listen to me. I told her plenty of time. That in this industry...

"You can't change the direction of the wind but you can adjust your sails to always reach your destination"

I don't know what she doesn't understand when I say " never set a meeting without an appointment" because in this industry you don't command and demand respect.

It is given it to you on a sliver platter.

Based on what you do...

2

TRISTA

Just the sound of her heels, clicking on the floor. You could sense bad news they come carrying.

You could hear, her shouting at the top of her voice.

"NYEMBEZI!!!..."

She throws herself in my office, without knocking. Even if she banged on the door that could have been better.

"Trista. Trista...Trista!" She shouted again.

I swear if Thembi doesn't stop shouting my name. I will smack her.

"What!?" I exclaimed. Looking at her like an angry bird. "Sorry, I have been calling your name for a while now. I thought you might be deaf, Miss Perfect" she stops, blubbering and her face fills with forlorn.

"Penny of thoughts?" She asked as if she cares.

"Nah, I will pass is just. Argh, nevermind. You were saying?" Just by looking at her face, you could tell she is, up to no good.

"Whatever...I been meaning to ask you, to borrow me few bucks. Since, I been feeling the pinch for a while now" that is my cousin for you, always looking forward to sucking me dry. As if I harvest money from trees.

"Thembi I'm just like you. I don't have any golden Goose, that lays golden eggs all the time"

The look she gave me. You'd swear, I grew horns over night.

"Fine. How about I tell Auntie Jessica that? and see what she has to say about that. You're the most ungrateful person I know, Nyembezi. You will rot in hell..." Her words faded out as she continued to talk, I could hear her from distance.

"Well, if that is the case. We would meet there" I said to myself. I just stared at her.

"My aunty's money nourished you, till this age. Now you want to thank us, With a plate full of shit? I ask for few thousands and you're already complaining. As if that would do any harm to your pocket. Nyembezi

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I have an upcoming event this weekend. Note this, I can't miss my treasure trove because you say so. I have to look stunning on that night. So just give me what I want. Nyembezi pay up before I tell your mother...Oops, she is Jessica to you. Duh! How could I forget".

Nyembezi, I so hate this name.

"Fine, How much?" I asked.

"Five thousand". Ohh Jesus! Come and save me. The smile on her face. I could wipe it off with a slap.

"What the hell? Them..."

She didn't give me a chance, to utter whatever I wanted to say because she interrupted me.

"Zip it. Play by the rules before Jessica shutdown this so called law firm. That is already a shame by the way, before it even start to generate income"

"Fine, I will transfer it" I can't afford to lose my law firm.

"That was easy. Good girl. It was pleasure doing business with you...Ciao". She said turning back to leave.

The sound of her heels, as they hit the floor. They were accompanied with an irritating sound. She had me where she wanted me. Right at the palm of her hand. Sometimes I wish, I didn't have to foot the bills for everyone. That feels like it in this

family. Well according to Jessica. They can ask anything. If I don't give them. She would make my life a living hell, as if she isn't doing a greater job in that department already.

She knows people from high places.

"Nyembezi, you are below me. Don't ever forget that. One wrong move. I can make your company bust within a blink of an eye" those were, her exact words.

GROWING UP...I was always the black sheep of the family. Even today, I still very much withhold that title. I'm not one of them. When it was family gatherings, dinners, parties, celebrations, anniversaries, Christmases and etc. I never shared the same table with them. On most occasions. I was the dog that, always gets leftovers.

Well my family loathed me, because of my appearance. According to them, I'm darker than the night. While everyone in the family is lighter. I was not worth bottling.

Tears streamed down my face. Darkened by mascara...

3

JESSICA

I bet you have heard stories about me. But my question is, do you even yourself?. Take a long look at yourself.

Can you even recognise the real you?

What I can tell you is that, I know the real me.

Nyembezi, her DNA bands and the blood running through her veins conclude that she is my daughter. Yet, I don't have the gut to Call myself, her mother. Neither her egg donor nor her surrogate because none of those titles feels right. I don't know, what to call her whatsoever. She has no title in my life besides tears. I named her Nyembezi because that is exactly, who she is

I remember TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO...

After I gave birth. There were plenty of days. Where, I wished to insert an object inside her vagina. I just wanted to give her a dose of medication, of what I went through when she was conceived. She got lucky, on my first attempt. She was only TWO WEEKS OLD, when my mother busted me. When I was about to insert an object inside her private part.

"Jessica, what the hell is wrong with you? If you don't want this child. You can just give her up for adoption. This is not how we do things. You cannot make her life miserable"

I didn't respond.

My mind was in my own land. Filled with Nyembezi's loud cries, as an object Pierced through her vagina with force.

My mother returned me to the land of living, with a slap. That left a sting on my cheek. Accompanied by a cacophony on my ear canal.

"What the hell is wrong with you?" I questioned.

"Yes, I don't want this child. But giving her to someone else is an easy way out. Don't pretend like you care about her. You hypocrite because you made it loud and clear that you don't want this child. When I was pregnant".

She released a loud heave. "Of course I want her. I was angry like an parent would be when her daughter is pregnant. At an early age. You can make me her legal guardian. I would take care of her" that is not happening not by a long shot.

Nyembezi is a curse...

She has unwanted aura roaming around her. The only thing she knew was to cry at the top of her lungs. She was not like jolly like other toddlers, she never smiled. She even went as far as refusing to be breastfed. Which was a jackpot for me.

I remember this other day...

When I bathe, Her. I poured hot water on her thigh by mistake when, I zoned out. That even left a burn mark on her thigh. Running from her waistline to her thigh on her left side. Her wound, was extremely deep that she was hospitalised for a month.

I didn't do it deliberately, but once it happened. I was over the moon.

A part of me, was thrilled. Her pain was my gain. Nothing personal. The peace, that came with it was priceless.

"Jessica where did, I go wrong with you?" She asked. Giving me an intense gaze.

"Stip right there grandmother of the year all of a sudden. Don't call her that. Her name is Nyembezi. You can call her Trista, but definitely not that" she stared at me in disbelief.

" Her name is Violet. She is none of those things you say she is. My granddaughter is beautiful violas. That blooms to flowers"

What a dream... I sympathize with her.

"Mama. Her name is Nyembezi Trista Zulu. That is exactly what, is written bkn her birth certificate and you will call her that. Don't give her names she doesn't deserve"

She left my room without say a word.

She was defeated, with her shoulders down like she is carrying a heavy load.

When Nyembezi was hospitalized. I didn't bother to visit her. Why waste my time?

My mother was starting to become a problem. Hence, I decided to play God with her life. A year after Nyembezi was born.

I MURDERED HER...and made it look like an accident. I burned her bedroom and made it look like she left the candle on.

So that, I can treat Nyembezi anyhow. I wanted...

4

JESSICA

Nyembezi to me she is not like other children. She wasn't made out of love, during her sexual intercourse. Her gestation period felt like a nightmare, the bond wasn't there. I hated every single moment of her pregnancy, from morning sickness, cravings, clinic appointments, quickening to her labour stage.

Nyembezi is a product of rape.

The sad part is, I know exactly who is the perpetrator. Her sperm donor, was my childhood best friend.

What I hated about Heth, is that he ruined that one thing for me. That made me look normal, not 'harebrained' as people called me.

I mean best friend is a combination of two words. Best is an adjective while friend is a noun. Best is a four-lettered word

and a friend is a six-lettered word. Combined they become ten lettered words.

A best friend is like an ocean, the waves they produce are stronger. When there is trust but Heth destroyed that within a blink of an eye. He was my only boyfriend not romantically. He was a boy who was my friend.

He accepted me with my flaws...

While to others. I was a deadly disease without cure. So the only way to protect themselves

was to quarantine themselves away from me. To stay safe.

Heth was the only one. Who didn't give a, Damn! What people said about me. Voices in the streets tried to make loud whispers to get him away from me, but he choose to stay and not listen to them.

"Seriously Heth. You hang out with the fattest girl in the hood"

"Dude you can do better than this" the so called friends of his told him.

"Heth things don't work like this you cannot play for both teams. You have to choose either us or her" fake friends if you were to ask me.

"Man this girl will ruin your reputation. No girl would ever want to associate themselves, with a guy who is a friend with a bimbo"

Yep!, Just because I was big-boned. My name was dragged through the mud. Heth lost his friends along the way just for me, wasn't he sweet?

As quick as he painted that image in my head. That I could be loved. He even removed it quicker...

I never considered his actions strange.

Multiple times, I caught him masturbating and my name never left his mouth as he jerked off. I was even ashamed to tell people what I saw because I knew people would accuse me of seducing him.

ONE DAY, ONE SINGLE DAY...

Ruined my life forever. Now I know, it only takes one day of tragedy. To change one's life forever.

The look on his face still haunts me. It was full of desire, hate and lust combined. I didn't even see any hint of love there.

According to his words...

"Jessica. I'm doing this because I love you. What hurts is that even dogs in the streets know that I would never be good enough for you to love me as much as I love you. I tried to be flash as rat with a gold tooth but everything I did was never good enough. What I like, about what is about to unfold. Is that my friends and I would ruin you for any other man"

He said including his other five friends. In total they were six.

My soul became paralyzed.

I failed to comprehend what was going on around me at that moment. When Heth grabbed and twisted my wrist, I already knew what awaits for me. As his goons started to undo their belts. Fighting back was a dead end. I allowed fate to take its course.

Heth and his friends. They made me take their penises in each and every hole. I possessed in my body from mouth to anal. Every angle of my body was sore...

There was blood everywhere. My vagina, my mouth and anus were oozing blood. My nose was filled with mucus.

His final words: " Jess. Did you think I could watch you float your thick thighs in front of me and you thought as a man. I

wouldn't do anything? I'm a man, I befriended you so I could get between your legs. He said while pulling the trigger.

Bang! He shot himself.

He was a coward he choose an easy way out.

DEATH!...

5

TRISTA

"Please!, I'm begging you. I'm down on my knees. Don't do this. You can take anything in the house".I said with tears already obstructing my view. My plea, didn't seem to faze him because he continued to take his belt off.

"Baby girl, if we wanted anything in the house could we have come straight to your bedroom?".

I halted as what he said registered in my head.

"What is going on?. I questioned with shock covering my face.

"Ahh! wait and see..."

"Nyembezi!"Thando shouted already banging her hand on the table."Huh!"

"I been calling you for like five minutes now. What is wrong?. Don't tell me it is nothing because you always do this.Nyembezi is there something you are not telling me?".

I never told Thando what went down fifteen years ago, it always had been my secret. My fear is that she would judge me and look at me differently. That at the age of ten. I was forced to take different men, in different sizes on the same day.

"Argh...Tee, it is nothing can't a girl zone out without being interrogated.Wait, then she starts to become a therapist.

"Nyembezi

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you know you can't bottle things up. It is not healthy. I don't want to hear that it is nothing because damn straight it is something. Even your skin looks pale one would think you are at the death's door. Dear sometimes talking about it helps to let it go".

Thando thinks it is easy to be in my shoes.

How do you even begin to tell your best friend that you have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, also known as PTSD. That you rely on SSRIs to keep going.

Even worse how do you tell her that you had your first child at the age of ten. Who you don't even know where she is?. What was her last meal. Who you don't even know if she has a roof on top of her head or just a simple thing is she healthy.

Does she take the ARVs or she neglected them a long time ago and kicked the bucket?

I'm HIV positive. I discovered that when I gave birth to Light. My viral load was high. Since then I have been on ARVs.

Where do you begin to tell your friend that you missed your child's first step, first smile, first word, or first day at school. That you don't know your child's favorite meal or even a mere thing her favorite color. That she was taken away from you the moment you heard her first cry. You never had a chance to hold her.

I knew that I was a child but I also knew that taking care of a child for Jessica isn't an experience but she gave her away just to spit me.

Light's birth gave me a sense of hope that I finally could belong to someone. That there is light at the end of a dark tunnel.

She was my PAINKILLER.

Her fetal movement carried a strong bond. She and I shared the same pain for eight months. We were knotted together by nature.

God never forsakes his children. They didn't love me but he gave me somebody to love, somebody to hold. How do you explain that you missed your daughter's 14th birthday from 01-05-2007 till 01-05-2021 and you're still counting?

YOU CAN'T!.

"Tee, I can't do this at the moment I have to be somewhere".I said already on my feet.

"But Tris, we just got here..."God knows I don't have time for this.

"Tee for once could you just shut up and ask no question would you die? And please cancel all my meetings for the rest of the day"

My life feels like the ghost of a chance. Things could be better if I find my Light.

Off I went. This kinder day always ends like this every time with me rushing home to drink like a fish just to numb the pain.

The pain lingers. It never gets old...

6

TRISTA

In life, one needs to understand that life is a two-way street.
What you give is what you get.

What I learned about this world is that its rotation is quite strange it is not about what happened in the past. It is about moving forward.

It doesn't matter who hurt you along the process, what matters is being able to forgive.

It doesn't matter who stepped on your toe. What matters is you saying: "I'm sorry that you stepped on my toe" you don't apologize because you're stupid. You do it because you want peace.

It is also not a problem if they hate you, the problem is if you also hate yourself.

What matters is that you need to know that: "The is only one person who would make you happy and that person is you".

In life we fall, we rise.

Crying over split milk won't do you any good. Mopping around failing to understand that some situations aren't problems to be solved but situations to be accepted. It is your biggest mistake you would ever make if don't accept.

Today is a brand new day thus means a new sense of hope.

Today I woke up early, ready to face the world and conquer my fears because I believe that no weapon formed against me shall prosper.

07:45 AM. The clock states and I'm already in my office sipping my morning coffee. Waiting for 08:00 on the dot for my colleagues to start coming to work.

15 MINUTES LATER...

Thando knocks on the door. I bet she saw my car in the parking lot.

"It's open".

She busts the door open. She doesn't usually knock. If she knows I'm free. I guess yesterday's episode shook her up a little bit. I don't know why she can't get used to this already.

"Is it safe if I could..."

I cut her off. "Tee don't be like that. It is that time of the month and yesterday I woke up on the wrong side of the bed. Please don't do this".

Normally Thando zips her mouth if ,she is offended and now I know she is.

"So let's get straight to business. Any meetings today, new potential clients. Hit me up girl I could do with some good news".

"Unfortunately no

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I rescheduled your meetings to next week I thought you could use few days off".

Okay!

"Anyway make an appointment with Mr. Smith. I'm ready to negotiate some terms"

You must see the smile on her face priceless and I can't trade it for anything. It contains light in the darkness. I know that smile.

"Is it business or pleasure? girl spill the beans tell me something juicy".Pity I have to disappoint her.

"No Tee I don't mix business with pleasure. Is either we play or we don't and I choose not to play. You of all people know that I don't like my man milky. I want my man hot and dark like how I take my coffee".She gave me a stare full of accusations.

"Well, lucky you. Mr. Smith is free for you anytime let me call him".

TWO hours later.

Mr. Smith is already situated at the coffee shop, waiting for me. The earliest bird I like that. A man who knows time is money he never makes a lady wait...and I think the lady in his life is lucky.

He even went as far as picking my favorite coffee shop and he even got a spot on my favorite table. ohh he got that spot is cozy and Rican.

"Good morning Mr. Smith. Im sorry...".He interrupted me.

"Ohh please!, Trista I know who you are, and do call me Cain. Mr. Smith is my father".

He said offering his hand for a handshake. Within few seconds his face went from smiling to frowning. I touched my face.

"Pardon me, is there anything wrong with my face?"

His intense stare continued to linger.

"It's just your face, your eyes. They look...", he didn't complete his sentence.

He rushed outside like he forgot something important.

Strange he calls a meeting and leave me hanging like a hot potato...

7

CAIN

No, no, no.

This is not happening.

This better be a bad dream because I want to wake up, ASAP. There is a part of me that wishes this is just a coincidence but people can't look alike not like this unless they are blood-related. You'd bet on your money that Trista is Light's duplicate.

You should have seen what I saw on Trista's face all Light's facial features were there.

I don't need a DNA test to confirm what I saw because by just a glance you could see that Trista's genes were dominant hence Light is a young version of her. The only difference skin tone...

Jessica stated that Light's mother is no more. She died due to birth complications because she was younger than the normal age that most teens have their teenage pregnancy. She wasn't even a teen. If Trista is her mother chances that I lose Light are higher.

I can't lose her not like this though.

The minute, I left the coffee shop. I called my daughter and booked the first flight that would depart to Johannesburg later on.

What I failed to put my finger on is why would Jessica say that the mother is dead if she is alive. Jessica made me commit a crime.

What Jessica did make me kidnap someone's child.

But my question was why would she give away someone's child?

When I found a piece of paper on her jersey
written in bold letters.

"LIGHT"

I became convinced that maybe the mother is deceased. I
knew from that day what to name her. I named her Light
because it felt right I could feel the connection between Light
and her mother whom I never got a chance to meet.

Hence I felt the need to honor her last wish on earth and
named her daughter exactly what she preferred to call her
because indeed, she is light.

Of all the things I went through. She was the only thing that
made sense in my life.

She came into my life when I needed her the most. After a
nasty break-up with my girlfriend. when I discovered that I'm
practically infertile because chances for me to have children is
below 5%. My sperm count is low. So having children of my own

in this lifetime I don't see it happening. I'm thirty-seven with only one child, no wife.

Subsequently, six hours I landed at O.R Tambo.

From O.R Tambo. I drove to Randburg which took me approximately 40 minutes to get home.

The first thing I did was to call Seth, that his wife must drop off Light after school since I'm home.

Then I called the devil in a human form.

Jessica didn't pick up. She picked up on my second attempt. I bet she did it deliberately to show that she is a busy person she doesn't have time to take personal calls during on-peak that is how arrogant she is.

CALL

"Jessica speaking

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who is the hell have the gut to call me during this time of the day. You better make it snappy I have a business to run".

Yep! this is the bullshit I been subjected to since I adopted Light fourteen years ago.

"Cut the crap, Jessica today I'm not in the mood. Who the fuck is Light's mother?"

She went mute for a while. You could sense dead air. she even held her breath.

"How can you be in the mood. Cain you're always sour for a man your age who can't have his seed nourished. You are bond to not be in the mood no surprise there".

If she wasn't fair, I could have done something I would regret.

"Cain, I told you not to call me. Light, as you call her she is bad news even your parents disowned you for that brat because they couldn't stand a black child in their white family. when would you get that through your thick skull?. Cut me some slack I told you her mother is a corpse, only her bones left which I'm not sure", and she continues to play dumb

"Who the hell is Trista?".I roared.

Now she answered rudely just to spit me.

"Ohh!, I take it you have met Nyembezi. I warned you to stay away from Dawn law firm and you choose to be hot-headed. She is exactly who you think she is...Sad part I don't know who you think she is".

She hanged up on me.

God, I can't lose her.

Not her, she is my tomorrow light with today...

8

JESSICA

What the hell is wrong with this boy?

If he thinks I'm afraid of his ass. Then he got another thing coming. His surname might carry weight but to me, he is a nobody. Not when, I know so much. If he pushes wrong buttons I shall sing. Once I'm done with him no one would want to touch him. His wallet doesn't make him untouchable if that is what he thinks. Especially when his family has a history of them being racists.

He cannot resurface now to cause trouble because his doings might put Light's life in danger because I, Jessica Zulu. When an unwanted creature plays in my territory I don't mind eliminating it. If he values his life he better keep himself on the leash or he might find himself six feet under.

Light would suffer which is a win for me.

I know that I already have a seat in hell, special reserved for me. So I'm not afraid to continue splitting blood and watch the family mourn.

Not when my marriage is hanging by a thread. Not when my marriage is on the line.

Cain's saga would give Khaya a thousand reasons to divorce me so that he can leave me broke. Khaya wants me to suffer because of his sins.

What he did fifteen years ago.

Started to haunt him. It is only a matter of time before I send him to his grave so he can meet his ancestors because he wants to take out a silver spoon in my mouth.

I'm not the one who told him to ask for a hand in marriage in exchange for Nyembezi's sanity.

He is the one who hired those goons to rape Nyembezi, not me, because of what?.

His vendetta with Heth.

Now he wants to make himself a saint because he believes Karma has finally visited him in a human form and then human is Jessica.

You should hear him.

"Jessica, how do you sleep at night knowing that you have a hand in your daughter's pain. She is your daughter for heaven's sake. When she used to live under the same roof you didn't care if she was breathing or dead. She tries to make a life for herself yet you're still playing dirty. Trista could have built a bigger Firm by now because she is the best thing since sliced bread but your evil deeds block her way. You make her

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make less income and you know her work is worth more not to be cheap as chips because you push away her biggest fish to fry".

What a shame!.

Nice speech. The problem is that I don't care who gets hurt along the way. I'm on duty serving my demons what I know is that they would never get satisfied until I meet my maker and kiss the world goodbye, but my kind normally lives longer.

"That is very funny, coming from you Khaya. When you hired those guys you were a happy man, you were delighted by your work. She wasn't a child then?. She suffered because of Heth's doings. That he raped your little sister. You felt the need to continue the pain on another person. Khaya faces it you didn't reduce the number of rapists. You increased the number by four. You might have not been there personally but you were there with your mind.

You're one of them Khaya, you were involved as much as they were. Before you point fingers know that 3 is pointing right back at you. Call me evil all you want but while at it check skeletons in your closet".

Khaya give me the upper hand in this marriage from day one and I'm going to use that to my advantage because I'm an opportunist.

Imagine me doing a job interview who would hire me?.

"Miss Zulu, could you please tell us your qualifications by profession".

I mean where do I start. I Don't even have a matric certificate. I come empty-handed.

I'm not even using Khaya's surname because our marriage is just pure business nothing personal. He even went as far as saying, "I don't see the need for you to bear my surname. You didn't give me an heir. Zethu won't continue the family legacy so why bother?".

My poor child.

The only qualifications I possess it is the most powerful organ to be rich. Mind corruption.

I'm a sweet whisper, I don't get a 'NO' for an answer...

9

TRISTA

"What Cain did was strange. I fail to understand what I did wrong honestly".

I said to Thando who her ears were already standing so doesn't miss a word. So that she must absorb every single word.

"But, what I know is that his features can't leave my memory it is more like they are meant to be there.OMG!, Cain is hot. I give him that but it is more than just his looks. He seems more experienced about this life thing. His aura has the power to soothe my soul. The is a part of me that acknowledges his presence".

This is strange because I just met him. To only find Thando's snooping eyes on me.

"What!, why are you looking at me like that?".

She acted innocent.

"Like what?"

Now she is throwing shades.

"Like you caught me doing something illegal that could land me to jail".

She just laughed the kinder laughter that she gives me. it is more than just a laugh. You can feel that it is not fake nor filtered. It contains so much love. Even her eyes glow when I'm happy.

"My bestie falling in love. Who would have thought?... My, my I like that." she said with a playful tone. This one is obsessed with my love life is more like she wants me to find, Mr. Right.

"No dear, it is not about love. It is just that in a long time my heart finally feels at ease around a man, which is rare for me. You could sense the love that he consumed his body you'd swear it is his lotion

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but it is deeper than that. There is something about Cain. I just can't put my hands on it. What I feel about him it is not relationship-related. It is this bond that I can't explain".

Thando is not Dr.Phil so things like this she isn't an expert so she normally doesn't say much. So she just keeps her mouth shut. While my mind continues to drift back to what Cain did.

I have been trying to get hold of Cain for a week now without success. I called his office and personal cellphone still no luck. This is strange because Cain has been on my tail for a while no but now is like he disappeared into thin air.

Later that afternoon, I called him. Lucky for me the call went through but I was greeted by silence.

"Good afternoon Cain. This is Trista speaking I been trying to get hold of you a while now. Can you hear me?".

He is still at it I wonder why he is getting cold feet.

"Sorry is just that I bee... never mind it is not important. What can I do for you?".

Damn! his voice. I hate that he address this call as if it is normal.

"Maybe you can start by telling me what is wrong?".You could tell by his silence that he is persistent to answer this question.

"Nothing is wrong Trista. I'm healthy as an Ox. Thank you for calling"

Now that is progress. we are getting somewhere. Sometimes j wonder why he doesn't want to address me by my maiden name.

"Cain, if you don't mind me asking. What is the problem, I could feel it in my bones that something is wrong. Is there anything I could do to help?".

He went mute like what I said caught him off guard like when a child was caught stealing candy and doesn't want Mommy dearest to shout and choose a number one answer silence.

"I don't think what I'm going through at the moment needs assistance, Trista. I mean how do you look unto someone and act like everything is okay while it is not. While what you do would cause them so much pain".

WOW!

It looks like we are getting somewhere, but that seemed more personal so I decided to back off so I don't seem too pushy.

"Anyway forget that I asked. I have a question for you why don't you add..."

I couldn't finish that sentence. A young lady decided to interrupt our call. The voice at the back said.

"Dad, I can't find my notebook have you seen it?".She asked.

"Look Tris, I have to go. Duty calls. Good night"

"Good n..."

He hanged up before I could say 'night'.Weird Cain has a child. I didn't know.

Maybe he decided to keep his private life, private...

10

CAIN

Everything you ever wanted in life is on side of fear.

I don't know which path to take. To turn a blind eye on the fact that Light has a mother or not underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, smallest act of caring since in them they have the potential to turn a life around.

I don't know what to do for the first time in my life because I'm consumed by two hearts. The one that says 'be selfless' and the one that says 'be selfish'.

The one that says be selfless, encourages me to tell Trista the truth about her daughter's existence and allows them to establish a relationship.

The selfish one is filled with fear of the unknown. That what if I expose my daughter to a toxic relationship.

The protective portion of my brain says:'what if she is good enough without her. She doesn't need her she is doing just fine without her'.While the persuasive portion of my brain says:'We all learn from our mistakes, to learn from them we have to make them. We need to know that rejection exists and we can't be rejected without persuading'.

Fourteen years of my life have always revolved around my daughter. It has always been her and me.

Light is what we refer to as that precious thing money can't buy. She is priceless. She doesn't need a price tag because none could afford her.

I know for a fact that Light has always wanted a mother figure hence I believe that she would jump to this opportunity of allowing Trista to mother her.

They are two ways for me to be able to keep my baby. The first way is to make Trista fall in love with me and drop the bombshell on her. While the second way is to leave the country and start a new life somewhere, but how do I subdue my child to life on the run. Also, how do I give her up to someone like she doesn't matter as if she is trash?

How do I give her up to someone who she barely even know. That someone who never cared, well maybe not enough to do medical checkups while she was pregnant because if she did Light wouldn't be on pills.

Does she know how difficult it was to break the news to Light that she is positive hence she is on pills her immune system is weak not like others?

It got harder as she grew older. I would never forgive Trista because of what my baby went through because of her selfish act. Light even fell into depression as she struggled to fall into terms that she is not like most of her peers. The mocking never stopped till I took legal action.

The time she finally understood what she is going through. we had a real talk and she took my words and allowed them to be her wings to fly places.

"Light, being HIV positive doesn't make you less of a human. In fact, it makes you remarkable that you're strong.No one should make you feel less about yourself.No one should discriminate against you because you share the same rights as they do...They should applaud you and you know why?"

You could see a smile creeping on her beautiful face. My beautiful cocoa.

"No daddy dearest you tell me", and man those eyes. I would kill to see them beams every day with joy and that voice I would die to hear call me 'Daddy'.

"They should applaud you because you're the bigger person. You choose life when plenty fails to accept their situation. You embraced yourself. You're young but mentally you're matured. Most young ones in your crisis neglected the pills and allowed themselves to die a slow, painful death. Yet you my dear you overpowered temptations. Your kind my child should be celebrated those who were born positive, those who got positive due to accidents, those who got positive for being loyal to cheating partners, those who got positive because they were

sexually violated, and also those who got positive for being prostitutes to support their families. They should be celebrated because they have the permanent scar of the pain they have been through but they choose life. Hence we should celebrate their lives".

She laughed, that is normally her way of saying father you are doing good. she is a bubbly young lady.

"Baby, know your worth.No one should discriminate against you and say you can't share nor use the same objects you touched.No teacher should tell you, that you ain't supposed to seat in class and learn because you deserve all the education you can get.No man should tell you that you can't share the same facilities with them. You can do anything you desire for as long you ain't putting anyone's health in danger", and you expect me to give up on this?

The talks, the bond.

You shouldn't!...

11

CAIN

If the world seems cold to you, kindle fires to warm it up. This matter of Trista has been giving me sleepless nights, hence I took the matter into my own hands.

It has been a month since I last spoke to Trista but just thinking about her makes my blood boil because she has been trying to reach out and I have been ignoring her.

I did my homework trying to reveal her skeletons.

You wouldn't believe what I have discovered!.

Nothing!.

This woman is like she doesn't exist. Not even a single trail on her. She doesn't even own a bank account according to the results. My PI found nothing under her name besides her

identity. This woman her personal information has been highly hidden. It is like I'm chasing a dead rat.

This woman has nothing under her name. The disturbing part is that even her car and house have been registered under different names, even Dawn doesn't exist it is not registered.

What I fail to conclude is that she has enough money to look for her daughter but she isn't doing anything. Does she think she would resurface at her doorstep? I traced her daily routine for 30 days and I didn't pick up anything unusual. For someone whose daughter is missing she is to relax.

I managed to get DNA samples between Trista and Light and they confirmed my biggest fear...

As a man who never gave up on his assets. I decided to pull few strings and I have Legal adoption paperwork ready. The only thing that is missing is Trista's signature which I know which buttons to press to get it.

Normally people would say: 'If you want to catch a child use a child. If you want to catch a thief use a thief. If you want to catch a man whose use a whore'. Hence I also say 'if you want to trick a woman use her best friend'.

BY THE END OF BUSINESS. I decided to visit Thando.

When I arrived at Thando's home, the site was an eyesore. You could tell by a slight glance that Trista gave her peanuts. I mean if she earned enough why hasn't she left her mother's nest and spread her wings. Her home is not even renovated, it is in ruins.

I knocked. An old lady opened the door. I couldn't be distinguished if she her mother or grandmother but I could tell she needs medical help which seems to come in handy.

"Good evening mam. I'm looking for Thando is she home?". I said jumping straight to the point. You'd swear she hasn't seen a white man at her doorstep. She snapped out of her shock a few seconds later.

"Good evening sir, uh...yes Thando is around let me call her for you. Please come inside".she was already disappearing in the passage when she said that.

Few minutes late Thando appeared on the same passage alone. she stopped in her tracks when she recognized my face.

"Mr. Smith, what are you doing here is everything okay!?" .Her voice was laced with shock and worry.

"Yes everything is perfectly fine Thando could you please sit down so we could talk".

"Mr. Smith I have nothing to address with you I could call Trista for you if her call isn't coming through. I know she is handy to handle sometimes but I can reach out for you"

Damn!

She is loyal to her friend but there is nothing money can not do because where money is involved even love isn't enough.

"Thando, everything is fine. Don't call Trista this is between you and me I.You want to make money right?.Then keep your mouth shut".She gave me a rude glance which you could see contains curiosity.

"What I'm about to discuss stay between us. I even have NDA ready. All you have to do is to sign it and once you do. Your life could change for the better. I'm even willing to give you R10,000 if you attach your signature".

I hand over the paperwork to her and you could see in her eyes that she was considering it.

"What is this about?".

Argh! I did state she was curious.

"The reason I gave you the NDA, is that once the matter is discussed you won't say a word to anyone. Even if you don't agree to the terms and you get to walk away with R10 000 which is free if you ask me. I mean you didn't even lift your finger to earn it".I said handing over the pen to her.

She smiled and attached her signature. Ohh!, that was easier than I thought.

"All set, since we have handled that. Now is time to discuss the big elephant in the room"

"Okay Cain, shot me what can I do for you?"

Money, money. Indeed you talk volume than words if I came empty-handed she couldn't have agreed. Pecks of being rich.

"Give me your bank account number so u can transfer your money right away".

She called out her account number.

"Okay all set, money in. Check your phone".

"Thando I hope your ears don't have too much wax nor you don't have deaf defects. You can hear properly because what I'm about to say doesn't need to be repeated".

She just concentrated because she wanted to.

"I'm willing to give you half a million in rands if you get me Trista's signature without her noticing. I would give you R250,000 before the job is done and the remaining after the job is done", Her eyes popped.

"If I may ask why?"

"Thando that is none of your business. Ask no questions, hear no lies. The only part that concern you get Trista's signature. The rest is my problem, not yours".

"What! Why?"

This isn't easy as I thought. This bitch is way too curious for my liking but I believe my NDA would keep her on the leash...

"Thando, I'm a man who doesn't like to repeat himself so are you in the game or not?"

She just stared at me shocked. At times like this, I wish I could slap her...

12

TRISTA

I'm a spiritual person.

I don't wake up every Sunday and get on my best outfit nor church ensemble because I'm not a Church goer.

I believe God is everywhere no place should be labeled as that is the place where the king of kings is found. I interact with God every single day. I don't need a date nor time to praise the Mighty but the normal routine that I don't miss even on rainy days is to call unto the Lord every morning and every night.

I'm not saying those who go to church should stop. I'm saying big up to you for being able to attain the word of God.

In my life, I have been through hardships but I never questioned God's existence because I know He lives within me. I made from God's image.

My life, since that night I have been violated, has never been the same. It has changed for the better because since then I have been seeking validation and I know that God was with me that night because states in:

"PSALM 23:1-The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He restores my soul, He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; you rod and staff, the comfort".

Hence, not even a single day I questioned the Lord by Light's formation nor existence because if God didn't want it to happen, it wouldn't have happened because God

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makes no mistake.

"Trista!!!"

Thando shouted when she opened the door and I snapped out of my thoughts.

"Huh!", I replied using a single word my mind hasn't recovered from my thoughts.

"And, she is at it again! how annoying?".

She said with an attitude you could feel inverted commas in that statement. You could sense sarcasm between the lines. I have been getting weird vibes around her lately. I wonder what went along the way.

"Your schedule!, You're free before lunch. After lunch, you have a meeting with Mrs. Mabusu.

Around 3:00 pm it is your first interview with that eighteen-year-old boy who was raped by his father".

She made faces like my presence is suffocating her. Like she couldn't wait to get over and done with this. Like a concerned friend I was, I had to ask.

"Tee, is everything okay, are we cool did I something wrong".

You could tell she was dying for this conversation to end.

"Madam, not everything is about you. The world doesn't revolve around you. Why would you assume you did anything wrong?. Now can I get back to my desk? I have E-mails to take care of and set up your so-called meetings or arrange your life for you so that it could be easy. Mam, now am I excused?".

Right!, She left before I could say a word.

Thando has been acting strangely for the past few days. Her behavior is quite strange for someone who is a barrel of laughs.

She has been giving me a cold shoulder for a week now. It is more like she can't stand me. I tried to reach out but she consoles herself. It is like every passing day she is building a wall and it seems too strong for me to reach out I could feel it in my heart...

13

CAIN

People normally have a say that states that 'patience is a virtue' that might apply to other people but not to a man like me who is fed to his suspense. Who doesn't know what the future holds?

It was late in the evening Light has already gone to bed. I decided to call Thando and shake her off a little bit because right now I'm annoyed. After all, she is delaying the whole process, I'm pissed off. Her giving Trista a cold shoulder might jeopardize the whole thing. It is only a matter of time till she detects what is wrong. She isn't stupid. I give her credit for that.

I just gave Thando few thousand and she is already getting cold feet.

The minute her cellphone started to ring she answered as if she knew I was gonna call but her heavy breathing sold her off that

she is scared. I could tell that she is not open to this whole thing but I would rather turn a blind eye for her to get the job done.

Now I only have one choice to blackmail her emotionally.

CALL

She kept quiet.

You'd swear she is still I couldn't hear any movement so far besides her breathing.

That is what you get when you play in the lion's den 'FEAR'

"Fine, now you're mute. I just hope for your sake you aren't deaf too. So I would do all the talking. All I want you to do is to make sure every single word pierce through your skull because your life depends on this. Every single word controls your breath".

She continued to breathe without saying a word because she didn't have the gut to hang up. This has been going on for the past few days, with me dashing out threats with her taking everything thrown her way.

This method never gets old.

It even gets better because her fear is calming my temper down.

"I have been waiting for a while now. This whole thing is starting to bore me. Make sure you get that cunt you call a best friend to sign those papers and I hope for your sake you didn't open them because curiosity killed a cat that had nine lives, just imagine what would happen to you with only one. If you do I would know because I have eyes and ears everywhere. That little red nightie might be the last time you are wearing it, one wrong move you are gone. If you mess with me, you won't live to tell a tale because accidents happen all the time. It might be your roof falling

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unplanned suicide, car crash Oops!... you don't have a car. God knows you don't get paid enough to afford one or you might find yourself in the middle of nowhere giving it in all fours to your new master or perhaps, you might find your old hag dead. I'm giving you only 2 days. Mind you the time is ticking!"

Poor her!.

She is a cry baby.

I could hear her crying from the other side. How hilarious she wasn't crying when she got a notification that she is R10,000 richer.

"Thando you're wasting my time. Those tears they don't faze me. In fact they leave me astonished...You were delighted when you took my money without thinking about the consequences of your actions". She continued to sob which was vexation

I mean why is she crying?

Nothing would happen to her because a barking dog seldom bites. I just want to make her comply because her kind moves at a snail pace when they have to get things done which is tedious if you were to ask me.

I decided to give her a breather and dropped the call.

THE next morning...

Light is already in her school uniform and eating her breakfast waiting for me.

Isn't she cute?

A vivacious young lady. She does almost everything for herself. I hardly notice her presence because she isn't a pain in the ass.

God, she is growing way too fast for my liking. She is already in the 9th grade and soon she would be leaving me and loneliness would visit me.

AGAIN!!!

"Good morning, Miss Smith"

"Morning Mr. Smith and you're still very much single. When am I getting a stepmom? I'm older now".

I halted on the spot that caught me off guard to think I'm the stepdad, not the biological father.

If I and her mother were an item.

This is why I need Thando to ensure that Trista signs those damn papers.

"Mood spoiler alert!, I would get a woman when the time is right and make that when you leave so let's drop this topic. Are you done with your breakfast?".

"Yes sir!"

"Okay let's go today I'm taking you to school. I'm your chauffeur use me as you want this is once in a lifetime offer. I gave your driver a day off"

Pecks of deep pockets. You do whatever you want whenever you want.

I just gave myself a day off, well more like torment day for someone because ain't done with Thando...

14

TRISTA.

NEW DAY.

New beginnings. What is there not to be proud of?

Despite your marital problems, financial problems, health status, life challenges. God gave you another opportunity to improve them. It won't only take a day but you will be amazed how a day of putting an effort makes a difference.

Thando walked into my office without knocking with a pile of papers and a coffee.

Well, I guess that means we are on good terms now because the past few days, she didn't walk in without knocking.

"Good morning love", her face was so bubbly as if she wasn't sour last week.

Okay!

From madam to love. Her mood changes like weather sometimes she is hot while other times she is cold, but I would let it slip for now because I missed my best friend.

"Morning, isn't this a lovely morning and my friend is back from the dead".

She gave me her Colgate smile

"And that is right she is, please do sit down and tell me what is going on?".

She dropped papers on the table and released a heave and gently pushed the coffee to me. She did the unacceptable, she just busted into tears. I guess what is happening is way too deep than I thought.

"My grandmother's brain tumor is back and I don't think she is strong enough to survive this one. Trist, has thrown away the towel she even went as far as saying she doesn't have to do the procedure. She has accepted her fate because the medical procedure is too expensive and she is done putting a strain on my financial life"

Jesus, I didn't have any come back from that. Thando threw a bomb on my face and it is ready to explore.

"You know that if you need help you can ask right?, I would be animated to help to help you cover the medical bill if she changes her mind"

That woman raised me since u were fourteen. She is like a mother to me, she took me through her wings and taught me how a lady behaves. She gave me love when my mother failed to.

"No, you already have done way too much

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this isn't your problem to stress about. Let's forget about my grandmother. Anyway, I need to attach your signature on these papers I have to submit them like yesterday, they need to be ready before lunch".

She already opened the papers to where I need to sign without allowing me to go through the papers. Which I didn't see anything wrong, Thando would never do anything to harm me in the future.

She and I are families not by blood but by bond.

"Done and dusted", I handed them over to her.

"Okay let me submit these, today is your lucky day and you're free. I'm taking you out. We are going to the spa".

"Tee, I thought you don't have money. Why are you spending money on me while your need money to pay your grandma's medical bills"

Thando laughed like a real laugh.

"It is nothing a girl can't afford, I'm just taking you out to say thank you for being part of my life. I have been saving few bucks.

Thando took me to the most expensive spa in town. That had my mind blown away. Its beauty was out of these words. Yet charges could leave one broke for a whole month.

This area was specially made for people who had sliver spoons into their mouths. But just being honest I need this just the pampering I could feel my soul relax. A day free from my life problems.

They served us the best wines and champagnes the world could offer.

Later on...

She took me out for dinner to one of the most expensive restaurants. I don't know what we are celebrating but I'm loving every single moment of it.

Just to have a small portion of food at the cost of R1,500 meals only excluding drinks mind you each person. Wait where does she get all this money from?

"Tee, did you perhaps do a heist that I don't know?"

Tee avoids eye contact.

"Hell no, can't just a girl take her girlfriend out without being interrogated. Just taking a girl out for dinner I'm already being accused of stealing... are you saying my kind can't have money?"

Now she is being defensive, I asked a mere question for that matter and she is already biting my head off.

My eyes popped and I raised my hands in surrender.

"Don't bite my head off, you know that is not what I implied. I apologize for poking my nose where it doesn't belong

"Sorry for coming too harsh, it is just that I been saving for this day for a while now. You questioning my intentions feels like you don't appreciate the little effort I put".

Since, I understand her concern and where she is coming from I just keep quiet and enjoy what is been given to me.

Why should I come, out as ungrateful?...

15

CAIN

IT is not every day when you wake up in the morning and get good news that brightens the rest of the day. It was around 6:00 AM when my ringtone disturbed me from my beauty sleep.

"If my brain cells ain't dead and my memory still functions correctly. I know that I don't own any insurance company then why the heck I'm I been disturbed during my resting hours?"

I answered without checking the caller ID.

"Sorry, Mr. Smith It wasn't my intention to interrupt you..."

I removed the phone from my ear and checked the name 'Thando' it reads.

"I'm not in the mood to entertain your sorry lame excuse what you called for better be good enough", I said yearning, I was still sleepy.

"Well, if your momma taught you that in life you don't have to rush you would crush. We won't be having this conversation. Anyway, I would get straight to the point. The job is done"

"What!?", I exclaimed because I wasn't expecting that. I even forgot to correct her for speaking about that baby maker who never cared about me.

"What!, What?. The last time I checked I don't starter. I said the job is done, didn't it?. So straight to the point by the end of the business, today give me what is due to me or she shall you know..."

She didn't complete that sentence,

"Or better yet I could tear those papers"

I decided to shut my gab, now I can see that she has grown a pair she can even throw threats so I let it slip.

"Of course I would, I'm a man of my words. I believe that actions speak louder than words. You outdid yourself and you shall be rewarded. Meet me in my hotel room later on. My driver would pick you up. A place away from people's eyes is perfect. We should keep it discreet".

I let her behavior slip because if she could betray her best friend what would she do to me.

"Now you are talking, just the language I like to hear".

Now she is getting in my pocket. So I decided to end the call. The first thing I did was to book a flight ticket. Then jumped out of bed to prepare for me. This girl left me astonished because seriously. I didn't think she could pull it off. I underestimated her powers.

Downstairs...

Light was eating her breakfast.

"Okay, where are we going?". She asked starring at my luggage.

"Morning to you too. How are you doing Daddy?... Did you sleep well?. If you did that after greeting would you die?"

"Argh, Morning Dad. I'm just worried. I thought you were going to be home for 3 months before your next business trip".

"Light, it is an emergency you know I wouldn't leave if it was not. I called uncle Seth. You will be staying with them this week"

My poor baby hates this moment. I could see that she is about to cry but she would survive it for only a week. Her drive hooted.

"Okay that is my cue

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bye Dad. Call me every day. Morning and night don't forget I would kill you".

She planted a kiss on my cheek, I just melted.

"Fine baby".

I blew her a kiss.

Around 3:00 pm.

My plane landed at Durban airport. My driver took me to Belz Boutique Hotel. I did all the necessities. Had Something to eat and took a nap since I was tired.

Later on.

Around 6:30 pm there was a knock on the door. I guess Thando never wastes time when money is involved. I opened with a smile because I was so eager to hold those papers in my hands. Fully parental care. Who wouldn't want that?

"Afternoon Thando, please come in"

She walked inside without returning my gesture. Why haven't I noticed that this girl is rude as fuck or I was way too consumed by the price to never care?

I poured her one of the expensive wines served in the hotel. I gave her the glass.

"No thank you I'm fine. I'm not here to dine and wine. This is business-related I want my R500,000, not your wine rest assured when you pay me. I could afford it. The last thing I need is to blackout without my money"

Damn when it comes to the money she is feisty and smart I give her that. She is aware of her surroundings. She doesn't wanna make mistakes.

"Okay, how did you pull it off. I'm curious".

She checked her watch.

"Mr. Smith, Cain, or whoever you are. I'm not your friend let's not pretend I'm one. I'm not here for chit-chat. The only thing that you and I have to talk about is my money and you about getting your papers. How did I pull it off? It is none of your business".

Straight to the point not bad. I went to my briefcase and took out a check handed it to her.

"Tell me you are joking right, really paycheck?. I want a real money hardcore cash. In the bag not some check God knows it might be invalid".

What the fuck, I thought she was a dump ass . I guess I underestimated her. I applaud my hands.

"Woman you are good I like that, you're not naive".

She smirked.

"Cain you think I care if you like me or you don't. Give me my money now. You were busy prestressing me for this shit?".

Since it was a dead end. I just went to take her money.

"All in there, you can count it"

I threw the bag of money at her.

"Relax I trust you. You won't double-cross me...Those papers I believe that they're too precious for you to pay this much. An arm and a leg so need for you to double Cross me"

She took out papers in her bag and put them on the table.

"Don't ever call me. This is the end of the road for you and me. Are we clear"

She whistled "crystal clear"

She banged the door on her way out. My driver walked in.

"Do we silence her?"

"No, she is harmless. Don't disturb me tonight. I have a celebration to get to"

Greedy, Greedy, Greedy...

I surrender. Thando betrayed 11 years of good memories just for papers. Damn this girl is green-eyed. What Thando did wasn't because of money. She did it because of greed, her desire for soft life led her to temptations.

Hence I like to say 'Money isn't the root of all evil, but greedy is'. If Thando accepted the plate she had she wouldn't have betrayed her friend.

Greedy you are the ruler ain't you?

That is a rhetorical question it doesn't need an answer. Just need someone who is more opinionated...

THANDO

It is extraordinary to find someone like me from having R0,00 bank balance to having R500,000 in the bag. It might not be much but I'm willing to use it to better my life. Hence I have taken a decision to flee to the City of Gold. The area has better opportunities for people like me, Without fancy degrees but fancy skills when it comes to cosmetics. I decided to open my own beauty saloon in Town combined with a small Boetique where by I would be selling flowers.

The first thing I did when I woke up. Is to kick my blankets and did my hygienic process. I dressed how I felt like a lady who has few thousands. I wore my beautiful red little suit, with red button heals and completed my look with a black design bag. My make up was ravishing.

I took an Uber to work. I couldn't stand smelling armpits in the taxi. The first thing I did when I got to work is to fill in my retirement form and a two weeks notice. Johannesburg awaits for me I can't waste anymore time on this Firm. The sooner I leave the better.

What I did to Nyembezi might look bad in other people's eyes but let's face it loyalty never pays the bills. What Cain gave me was a once off opportunity in a lifetime. It won't presents itself to me again.

It was around 9:00 when Trista came to work pecks of being the boss you do as you please. Sometimes I wonder how can she be this dark and still look this beautiful. This girl is what you call black the only white part in her body is her teeth. The only attractive part on her body is her face and her racks, the rest I can't say the same.

The best way to throw a bomb shell at someone is to do it with a gentle smile.

"Morning Thando", even her voice sounds perfect.

"Morning my love, let me prepare your morning coffee" I offered, it is no longer my job to be her lap dog remember?

"Thank you so much friend, I would kill for that coffee".

It is true what you don't know won't hurt you. So I just let her be. Being in the dark is quite better. I prepared her coffee just the way she took it. I went to my desk to take her present. The door was slightly open, so I just pushed it.

"Here you go"

"Thank you my love, you're a lifesaver", And a betrayer if you were to ask me.

"Anyway

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I have this for you" she took the retirement form.

"What is this?"

She asked with a confused face.

"Go on, open it".

She opened it with a questioning look. You could tell she was dying to read it.

"What is this!?", She asked shocked.

"Uh...you can't read let me do it for you"

"Thando I know exactly what this is, why now?"

"Well I got a promotion", she stood up with a smile on her face and she released tears, not because she was sad but because she was happy for me. I wasn't expecting that reaction from her. Why isn't she sad?.

"Damn, finally got a chance to improve her life. There were plenty of times. I prayed for this day for you Girl. I wished so many

times to give you a better salary but I couldn't because Dawn itself is drowning and not making enough"

She said hugging me. A knock on the door. Interrupted us. I glanced at the door. What my eyes landed on left my spine cold. What is Cain doing here?. Just Trista being Trista she welcomed him with her warmth smile.

"Cain, please do come in I been meaning to see you. You can't believe what I just heard. Tee has got a promotion"

Cain retrieved his eyes back at me with a suspicious look then glanced back at Nyembezi.

"Ohh yeah?"

He said biting his lips in a sedative manner and Trista returned the gesture with a smile.

"Thando please, do excuse us".

I couldn't believe this girl. How naive and stupid she is?.

I closed the door on my way out but I didn't leave. I stayed to ears drop. Cain this man is dangerous.

TRISTA

"Uh, please sit down. What do I own the pleasure for this visit. It has been almost two months. I been trying to get hold of you with no luck".

"Well, things has been a little rocky". Cain said.

"Okay I thought you were dead for a second"

"Lol, I'm a hard man to kill if that is what you insist".

There was something about his aura and eyes that made my soul feel so relaxed and I wonder why it is that. I have never felt like this around any male species. Why him?. I have never had a relationship. It was casual sex here and there nothing deep.

"What can I do for you Cain?"

I was standing by the window. Looking outside and admiring the beauty of Ixopo. The richness of the green. That came with a calming sense to one's soul.

"I want to invest few millions on your Firm".

I stilled at his words."I don't understand what do you Stand to gain from all of this?. Dawn it is already a sinking ship. You stand to lose more than to gain" . He ignored my question.

"It has nothing to do with that it is more than that Trista". His foot steps were approaching towards me but I didn't bother to look. I felt his hands around my waist and he sniffed my neck.

"Dam..."

I jumped because that caught me off guard. My heart rate was beating faster than usual. It always happens when I get unaware physical touch. I get scared and feel caged nor consumed by that night. Since one of them took it from behind.

" I'm so sorry, I didn't mean to scare you"

Tears streamed down my face. I moved to another spot. Cain followed me and cupped my face in his hands.

"Hey, hey... it's okay. Let it all out".

He said putting my face on his chest. It was the first time since I broke into tears in front of someone since it happened.

THANDO

I was so annoyed. This girl decided to bust in to tears. So I don't know if she took the deal or not...

I guess I can never out-complete this girl. Now Dawn is about to get millions and I know Cain has that kinder money lying around. I chuckled...

Lizzy was on her spot. This girl would never make it in life. She is an ass licker.

"Lizzy I'm about to start my own thing in Johannesburg. Would you like to come along. I would double your pay. What do you say?" I said raising my eyebrows.

Waiting for her response. She better not disappoint me...

CAIN

I might have not, had a mother figure to groom me on how to treat a woman but I have a daughter, and I know, how I would want another man to treat her. Especially on days like this. Even if I'm cruel. I wouldn't have forgiven myself if I left Trista sobbing so hysterical. It is my responsibility to look after a woman when she needs a shoulder to cry and lean on. Despite all the evil deeds I have done in my life. I couldn't add to the list by leaving her like this.

"Tris...Can you walk or must I carry you?" I asked concerned. She just gave me a nod, as her response. I stood up so that I can give her a hand. Since we were sitting on the floor.

"Okay, get up"

She took my hand in order to get balance, her hand was like a glove it fitted perfectly with mine. I took her handbag. We walked out. Stange Thando wasn't on her desk, I guess she has started to do as she please. What shocked me further even the

receptionist isn't on her spot maybe it is lunch time. I decided to mind my own business.

I drove straight to the hotel room, I didn't wanna raise red flags. How, would I explain to Trista, how I know her place. If we just met. As soon as I got to the hotel. I took her to my room.

"Do you need water?"

She shook her head no. Her eyes were puffy and red. It broke my heart to see another half of Light this broken especially when I'm clueless on what is wrong.

"Can I?", I said offering to take her clothes off. She couldn't go to bed with her clothes on.

"Yeah sure, please borrow me your shirt". She said while taking her shirt off.

Then it hit me I asked her to take her clothes off in front of me. She wasn't even timid to show her nakedness. So I prevented

myself from starrng at her and looked for a shirt for her and didn't I wish that I didn't return?, because I found Trista only on her thong.

JESUS!.

Is this what you meant when you talked about sexy because damn your child is banging hot.

To stop eyes from roaming around her body I stared into her eyes and I could feel that it was intense because she returned it with the same gaze...I handed the shirt to her and rushed out.

Ashamed, I was. Why I'm I even starrng at her like that.

AFTER an hour of getting fresh air. I returned to the hotel and peeped through the key hole because I didn't want to have any awkward moments. I couldn't see anything obstructing my view so that means she is sleeping. Slowly I opened the door and

released a deep sigh when I saw that it was light off for her. She deserve that rest after crying like that.

Distraction, is what works during time like this.

Work the only thing that could keep me busy. I took my laptop and checked my emails but I couldn't concentrate.

When I look at my bed, the view was amazing. This woman is beautiful. She doesnt have an ass nor curves like other women I have been with but I would kill to suck those boobs. To lick that velvety skin. Her skin is dark but you could tell she takes good care of her skin by just looking at it from a distance. I wouldn't mind... "Wait why I'm having this thoughts and comparing her to other women, because she isn't them?"

I stood up and pulled a wood chair along the fire place and sat next to the bed and just glanced at her. A part of me kept saying what I'm doing is wrong, but I can't also ignore the fact that it is also nice.

Why would her mother name her Trista?

I mean why sorrow

This woman looks like a beautiful flower to me. If she was mine I could call her "Uhm Violet, Pearl, Diamond, but no Diamond sounds too much but I could definitely go for Violet. Yes, definitely Violet". I laughed at my silly thoughts and let it slip.

It was late when Trista stirred from the bed.

"Hey" she said with a rusty voice.

"Can I have water" I didn't move, I was amazed on how she still looked this fine after crying though I shouldn't be surprised because I know how another part of her looks like even on her sick bed.

"Earth to Cain" she clapped her hands together. I moved to get her a bottle of water and a glass.

"Sorry, here".

"Thanks", She took in the water at a faster pace I guess she was thirsty

"Do you have food, I'm hungry and I need to take my meds".
She is on medication, what for?. Then it clicked on my mind.
She is positive.

"I ordered lasagna, so you could help yourself. Let me give you privacy. I have to face call my daughter".

TRISTA

After Cain left. I ate like a dog, don't look at me like that I'm staying. After eating I took my meds, I always carry them with me for days like this.

When I was done. I put my clothes on, when I was about to leave Cain opened the door.

"Wait where you going?"

"My house isn't obvious"

"No you are staying, you can't go at this time. I thought you would stay and we could watch Netflix on my laptop over snacks.

"What why?"

He held his chest in a playful manner.

"I feel used right now". He said with a mocking voice.

"Mmm, I can't say no to free junk food and free movie so. Okay".

He borrowed me his comfortable clothes.

We settled comfortable on the bed. He scent I would die to smell it. It is manly and different. It is a mixture of his shower gel, after shave, cologne and his natural scent.

He took my other leg and tucked it between his thighs. Pinning my head on his chest, I could feel his groove and slab chest underneath his shirt. He rested his hand on top of my boobs. The other one playing with my hair. The best position to watch a movie. It was my first time being close to a man without sex being involved...

18

TRISTA

01-05-2007.

It was Friday, late in the evening in the middle of nowhere. Only a two-room house was situated there. After a long journey of traveling and passing along shrubs , big trees and the bush. In a bumpy gravel. No one in their right state of mind dared to travel this road, only Jessica could pull it off. Together with her goons. There I was, in the middle of nowhere with a nurse and a doctor. Well, Jessica left in the morning annoyed by my screams. Who wouldn't scream if they're in labour?. Well, Nyembezi shouldn't.

I was having a prolonged labor.

Pre-term birth hand-in-hand with long hours.

I gave birth with a semi-cersarian at 34 weeks due to stress and the failure to copy with everything. My body was resisting this

pregnancy due to not eating well. I lacked appetite, the only thing that made sense was to cry. I been locked in here, since Jessica discovered I was pregnant. She couldn't risk people's eyes in her business. During pregnancy I developed severe respiratory distress syndrome.

The pain of labor, I would never forget it for as long as I shall live. I suffered the worst pain. Not to mention the severe pain I felt as I was hit by a strong cramping in my abdomen, groin and back. As well as the achy I felt. This was extended to for thighs as well for twenty hours.

The doctor inserted three fingers in my vagina.

"Mam, I'm gonna need you to push even when your delation is slow. I'm gonna count to three and you would give it a try. 1, 2, 3 push!" The doctor said. I could barely hear him.

He slapped my thighs.

"Mam, I'm gonna count again and this time you do as I say. 1, 2, 3 push!!!" We been doing this for a while now.

With me pushing and no luck. My forehead was dump with sweat, I can't even count how many times I urinated myself.

Around 08:30 pm.

"Nurse, her cervix is dilating slowly we need to perform the emergency c-section because we might lose the mother it has been twenty hours and I'm still counting. The child is already at a greater risk because, I can't detect any movement on sonogram. Hurry up bring all the tools", the Doctor stated while running around to help the nurse to get the tools.

Why haven't they seen this early.

My cervix was not 100 percent effaced and 10 centimetres dilated for a vaginal delivery. Therefore my cervix has not softened, shortened nor effacement and it was already 20 hours

only 4 remaining and the baby was not yet ready to move into birth canal.

I fainted during the operation.

I was awakened, after they were done with everything. My whole body was sore.

"Mam, can you see me?", The doctor asked incredulously moving his finger on my face

"Just give me a nod, when the view is clear" I was defeated, I even forced myself to nod.

I could hear my baby crying in the next room.

"You gave birth to healthy baby girl, let me call the boss and let her know" he said leaving me.

I could hear the doctor's voice in the next room.

"Boss, the baby is here", he kept quiet as an indication that he was listening.

"Okay boss, I will do as you say. The girl would be taken away and the mother mustn't see the child. Do..."

"Hey, Hey, wake up!!!"

Someone said shacking me so aggressively. I literally jump from the bed to be welcomed by a man's face. Where am I?

"Violet, are you okay?"

What the fuck, did this white man just call me by his girlfriend's name. I was still shocked from the nightmare. My body was soaked in sweat. I was even shivering in fear. I stood up in a fast motion and took my clothes and dressed faster. I'm sure I

looked like a mess as I felt. It took my bag and stormed out. Leaving Cain standing there.

I banged the door on my way out. I can't tolerate such nonsense. Violet, who the hell is that?. Do I look like some of his booty calls. I walked to my house it was only fifteen minutes away...

CAIN

To say I'm shocked would be an understatement. I'm beyond that. I don't know what did I do wrong. What happened shocked me, because Trista was literally shacking in her sleep. Even pleading. I wonder what the dream was about because even the sheets are wet from her sweat.

I tried calling her, it took me straight to voicemail. I decided to let her breath she would open up. When she is ready. I'm not her boyfriend.

It was five o'clock in the morning and I couldn't go back to sleep I decided to call Light. It rang few times. Maybe she is still sleeping. Today is Saturday and she is lazy on this days.

"Dad" her voice came through I was about to hang up.

"Hey baby, are you okay?"

"Dad I'm fine. Why are you calling this early?"

"I just wanted to hear your voice"

"Dad, is everything okay"

"Yes, baby everything is fine"

"Okay call me in three hours. I'm exhausted" she hanged up.

I threw my phone across the wall and sit down on bed. My hands on top of my head.

My tears fell, how do I help her?, Because I feel worthless for a man not being able to help her...

19

THANDO

2 WEEKS LATER.

I'm already in the city. Everything is blending perfectly and Lizzy decided to be my tail and followed me to Johannesburg. My beauty saloon is up and running. I rented a small cozy flat in Sandton and its location is perfect easy to grab customers attention. What I like about this place, ladies don't mind to pay fortune to get their nails and hair done. This flat is the best because it didn't cost me an arm and a leg, since I'm a beautiful woman. The landlord reduced the price, in exchange for sheets. At first I was hesitant, but my cousin knocked some sense in my head.

"Thando, this is Johannesburg. Most girls do it all the time. With a petite nice body like yours. You don't even need to own this beauty saloon. Man with deep-pockets are willing to take care of girls like you"

"What! girls do that here?" I asked shocked.

"Don't be stupid Thando, that doesn't suit you. You know very well what people back home say about me and it is true" Zandi said like it is something normal.

"But Zan..."

"Don't bore me Thando". She snapped.

"Do you know how much that flat is? but he decided to reduce the price just for you. Yet you fail to give him pussy? Baby girl here pussy is the key to many locked doors. If you don't do this forget about that saloon because he will make sure you don't get a flat those people work together. Imagine wonders you would do with that flat. You wanna be better than Nyembezi, this is one of the sacrifices you have to make" she made a valid point so I...

"Fine, I will do it" , I finally gave in.

Since then I have never regretted my decision. THANDO's Beauty Saloon, the name says in bold letters.

Not even a single ounce of my body miss KZN. Johannesburg was made for people like me. Without even a mistake. I'm making enough money already. Numbers are good so far. In two weeks time. I would be doing the official launch.

Guess what Nyembezi is invited she would get her VVIP invitation. I can't wait to gloat in her face.

I sipped my champagne, Listening to soft music and enjoying every single moment of it.

Nyembezi I don't even miss you one bit. I wish I did but I don't.

CAIN

A week has come and went.

This is the second. I been trying to get hold of Trista but no luck. So I decided to took the matter into my own hands. I arrived in KZN last night...

Tonight I'm going to her house. I passed by Dawn yesterday and she hasn't come to work since.

Later on. I knocked on her door. What I saw next left my soul in a range of anger. I'm busy worried sick while she is having a company. You could tell by this guy's appearance that they are having sex. I mean how do you explain a man in a woman's house. Shirtless only in his boxers. The explanation is pretty simple.

"Ohh hey

white boy". He offered his hand, for handshake. I smacked his hand away. My blood was boiling. I just stared at him. Yet he continued to provoke me.

"Uh, so you also hit a black ass?" he questioned rubbing his hands together.

What the heck!.

This is boys that Trista sleep with, because a real man doesn't kiss and tell. He respects his lady.

"I don't blame you Bro, I would kill for that black cunt and those black tits".

I couldn't control my temper anymore. For a man my size. I won't allow myself to be disrespect by a boy. The next thing I know blood was dripping everywhere. I have never beaten anyone to pulp like this boy.

Trista halted on her tracks. Her body only rapped in a towel.

"What the fuck are you doing Cain?"

She snapped her nose flaring with anger. I bet if she heard what this boy said she would be rejoicing.

"I had to"

I stated looking at this boy unconscious on the floor. Groaning in the pool of his own blood.

"Cain you had, absolutely no right!!!" she shouted pocking her fingers on my forehead.

"To come to my house and beat up guys in my house. Definitely not you" she popped her eyes.

I didn't interrupt her. "I'm sure your girlfriend Violet is waiting for you at home. So please leave. The last time I checked I'm Trista not some V, bitch in your life".

Since I had no energy for her tantrums. I turned with a tail between my legs and left. I drove to the nearest bar. Order few shots. To get my blood running, and I moved to Scott. I'm a man who could handle his liquor sour. The night was still young. So the bartender kept them coming.

My eyes roamed around the bar. I spotted three pair of eyes. Looking and fucking me with their eyes. I decided to join them. A little bit of fun with beautiful ladies never hurt. As long it won't even do any harm in my pocket.

"Ladies Hi" I waved.

"Hey", the one with blonde hair said. Two others kept quiet.

"Can I join you?"

"Sure, as long as you are buying", a shorty with short hair said.

"No problem, let's get the party started".

Booze and Cigars owned the table. Around two o'clock in the morning. We left the bar. We went to the nearest BnB. The fun never stopped. They gave me the best lap dances. I was horny and ready to Fuck.

We drank alcohol and indulged in the best sex...

20

CAIN

When I woke up. I was welcomed by the most disturbing scene. Naked, surrounded by three women. I didn't bother to check if they were still breathing. I got off bed, dressed and headed to the hotel. When I got there, the first thing I did was to book an appointment with a doctor. Lucky for me, I got squeezed around 12:00. Then I hit shower because I was reeking alcohol and sex. Yesterday I did what we call 'Three sheets to the wind'.

I even woke up with the with the worst headache of them all. I don't normally have a hangover, because I know how to handle my liquor but this headache is a sign that yesterday I went in to heavy. I did my hangover remedy. While at it I called Seth.

CALL

"Dude, what the hell? Have you checked the time?" He always likes to complain when I call him.

"Some of us have wife's and we wake up to morning glory..." He laughed, he really enjoys teasing me this one. "Wait stretch that, it is something you would never know. I mean at thirty seven still no wife. Man what are you waiting for? Jesus?"

I grinned my jaws and chuckled. To Seth every men on this planet should be married as a symbol that he is indeed a man. He left his mother's nest, so he must take a wife. Who they will begat children together and multiply.

"Seth, I know you still live in a fantasy but man you need to wake up and realise that we are in another century. Things are different. Anyway I been meaning to telling that I have serious problems. I'm facing the lion head to head"

"What is wrong man?. I been meaning to ask. I been getting a weird vibes around you lately?" He asked concerned.

"Light has a mother Bro"

"What the hell? I thought Jessica said the mother was six feet under!?" He exclaimed shocked.

"I know right?"

"Man this conversation need face to face. I would call you later. I'm running late for meeting", he hanged up. Says a man who said I'm disturbing his morning glory. That is life for you.

AT THE DOCTOR...

"So you are telling me that you had drunk sex yesterday, with three women?" She asked incredulously.

"Correct" I answered with a bored tone. She has been asking that question for the past twenty minutes now. I don't know whether it is hilarious or shocking.

"Okay, I will check you high blood pressure level. Then run HIV test for you" she said gathering equipments near her. After doing the necessities.

"Okay, sir your results came back they say you are clear" I was literally holding my heart. It was the first time in my life been that careless. Well, under my supervision.

"Your HIV viral load can't be detected now but to be safe rather than sorry I will put you on Post-exposure prophylaxis. Since you came within a period of 72 hours. I would need you to come back after two weeks, to do blood test. To confirm if you're clear. You would be on PEP for 28 days. You better not skip a single dose as prescribed in a period of 28 days". She said fixing her glasses.

"Anything else?" I couldn't wait to get out of here. This woman has been giving me silly stares like having sex is a crime.

"Yes I need to measure your liver enzyme and Complete Blood Count (CBC) if they are made prior for commencement of PEP". She stated, that was accompanied by one of her stupid looks.

After I was done. I got the a message that left me overwhelmed.

Trista: "Can I come over at your hotel room, I feel like I was unfair on you yesterday. I know how boys around here can be like when a black girl has a relationship with a white man can we meet". Since I know where she came from.

"Sure

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I would be waiting" I replied, like that didn't remove the gloomy in my heart.

Finally, I might come clean.

TRISTA

I don't know why, I was nervous. I mean Cain is someone I know. My heart was literally pounding in a painful manner. I could tell something was not right. I literally have to move out of the road, in order to do breathe in and out. After my soul has calmed down, I drove to Cain's hotel.

When I got there, I did all the necessities. Then I went to his room.

I knocked.

Cain welcomed me with a smile that could literally make a lady loose her clothes despite the environment.

"Hey, please do come in" he welcomed me in.

"Hey, how are you?. Well no need to answer that. I could tell by your smile".

He ignored me.

"Here" he said making a space for me on his bed and the junk on that bed. Man I loved it!.

After we settled. We stared at each other without saying anything. I blinked first. Who wouldn't?. Ocean blue eyes, that is one of my weakness.

"Cain, look I'm sorry about how I spoke to you yesterday. I might never had a mother figure to teaching me how to talk to a man but the lady in me. I know it is not how we do it. But I'm sorry that I never had a father to teach me how a man should act, but I know communication is better than violence" he smiled.

"Tris, I'm sorry I bought violence in your own home. One thing I won't be sorry for is beating his ass".

"Mxm, whatever man. Apologie not accepted". He gave me a look that said girl shut up.

"Cain stop it" I said laughing.

"Okay that is way enough for one day, Tris I have something to tell you"

My laughter literally disappeared. What does he have to tell me?

"Tris, I know this won't have an impact on your life but..." You could tell he was debating on how to tell me.

"My father, started molesting me when I was seven. He used to force me to wear tight trousers. So that I could look like a woman. He used to call me his lover, saying I look like my mom not him. Therefore I'm no man. His reason for me to wear tight trousers was to kill my fertility rate which he succeeded. I cannot have children of my own. My semen it is useless, it is like water dishes. It can be deposited once you are done but it can't perform it functions. Since the optimum temperature of

scrotum must be below 3 degrees than body temperature If it is high. Your fertility rate is reduced and I wasn't the lucky guy who wore tight trousers and got the chance to deposit healthy semen. Hence ..."

He halted midway.

He left me still shocked and banged the door on his way out.

I just froze, what he said was too much to take in...

TRISTA

This life thing, I feel like I didn't get the memo. Most of the time I feel like one step forward is like ten steps backwards. I don't know how to approach this life thing anymore. It feels like a test I didn't study for. Everything was fine between me and Cain. Then it suddenly went to pear-shaped.

I know this is a pipe dream. It takes everything to open but just a single ounce to isolate yourself altogether... I know that Cain won't open up anytime soon. It might take decades heck even centuries, but the worst part is we won't live to reach that far maybe a century yes! but centuries. Nah!, I just don't see it.

My heart is bleeding. I knew from day one that Cain and I have a lot in common. I just didn't know it was this deep. What he went through must be painful. I, for a fact know how it is like, it happened once and the are still days I wish I could just die. So if he was raped repeatedly, how does he feel. My question is for how long?.

Cain has been gone for an hour now.

The naive girl in me is convinced that he is still in the building. He left his phone and car keys, and I know he cannot go far without those. His cellphone started ringing on the nightstand. I ignored it for the first time but it went on for the second time. The caller name 'My baby'. I just literally felt jealous and I answered just to spit him and his girlfriend because I know what I was doing was invasion of privacy.

CALL

"Can't a girl get an orgasm, with her boyfriend without being interrupted. Girl take the bat and leave Cain is mine he doesn't want you. Get that is your stupid skull" I snapped. The caller on the other side kept her mouth shut. Within seconds of recovering from an insult. She just busted in to tear and wasn't I, angry?.

"Sorry, mam I don't mean to sound rude but I'm her daughter not girlfriend", you should have seen me I removed the phone from my ear embarrassed and just drop the call. Couldn't the

world just open and swallow me. Now my stupid ass made me look like a possessive girlfriend and I'm not one.

Cain walked in the morning. His hair was a mess. You could tell he run his hands through it constantly. He kept a poker face, so I couldn't tell if he was sad or not. He shirt had few buttons undone. I jumped out of bed.

"Cain are you okay?", I asked concerned.

"Tris I'm fine you could go back to sleep" he said getting in the covers. Since I already insulted her daughter and I know how he is feeling right now. I just cuddle with him and kept quiet. I didn't wanna come to hard and add salt to the wound. He returned my gesture and held me close. He was caging me but I wouldn't trade this for anything. Man it feels right. You could only hear our breathing across the room because that is the only sounds we produced.

It was around ten

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when Cain woke me up. With wet kisses on my neck. I could feel my lady part respond. How does he do it?. Most guys have to do too much work to get that girl excited. His kisses moved to my forehead.

"Tris, Tris, Tris, wake up!!!"

I had to wake up because I don't want this to turn into something else. I didn't want awkwardness between us. He shook me a little bit. "Tris come on"

"Morning, I'm awake can you stop doing that"

His elbow was balancing his head looking at me. How could he be this beautiful and still broken?. Cain is way to muscular than other men that have graced my bed. Well only two.

"Come get up and hit a shower. I'm taking you out for breakfast"

"Thank you sir, I'm keen to that" I said heading to the bathroom.

We want downstairs. To grab breakfast in the restaurant...

"Morning. Follow me" the waiter said blinking to Cain. This is what is meant when they say a handsome man should be charged and arrested because this feels like a crime to me. Women can't contain themselves around him.

"Your table, sir." She said handing out menus. This girl acted like I don't exist. Since Cain wasn't my boyfriend. I said nothing, I don't wanna look like a jealous girlfriend.

When our breakfast arrived.

The devil decided to walk in. Jessica, I have three years without breathing the same oxygen as her. I could feel my appetite jump outside the window and she is coming this side.

"Nyembezi, what a pleasant surprise. Long time. It has been what? Five years"

"When you see someone you haven't saw in a while Jessica you say hello" I uttered with a bored tone. Inverted commas were audible in that 'hello' she ignored me, like always and turned to Cain.

Didn't her face just become sour?

She gave Cain a disgusting look from head to toe.

"Cain, I'm watching you" she said indicating with her two fingers. Doing I'm watching you gesture and Cain on the other hand pretend like he doesn't know Jessica.

"Ohh, cat has got your tongue now? You can't speak. For your sake I hope you always be mute when she finds out" she said with an evil laugh. Yet Cain didn't give her the satisfaction.

"Nyembezi, I wish. I could say it was lovely to see you but it wasn't" she said walking away.

"What was that? Do you know her?" I questioned curious.

"I should be asking the same question" I rolled my eyes.

"Don't give me that"

"Give you what? Why was she speaking to you like that?" How unbelievable.

"I should be asking you that. She is no one important to me. Just a lousy neighbour. From my hood and you??

He didn't say anything like he was counting his next words.

"No one important let's drop it"

What the hell?

So Cain will pretend like he doesn't know Jessica?

That didn't seem like nothing to me...

22

JESSICA

"Jessica!!!"

"Jessica, Jessica!!!", He shouted at the top of his voice downstairs.

Here we go again. I knew he would do this. This boys lacks self control. Everytime we have episode like that. It ends like this, with him coming to my house shouting like a fool he is. I decided to present myself to him. He was pacing up and down, waiting for me as if he would do anything.

"Cain, you know this is not a restroom. You don't do as you please. This a mansion, not some bar respect that"

I commanded, like a Queen I am. He stilled at the sound of my voice and the look he gave I'm scared. If looks could kill I would be lying in the morgue" Pity it doesn't faze me. He isn't the first to look at me like that and I will make sure he isn't the last.

"Jessica what on earth is wrong with you!?"

He snapped, okay I can see he grew a pair of balls now. He thinks he can address me anyhow he damn wishes.

"Cain, let's set the record straight. I might be few years older than you but I'm definitely not your peer. This is my house not a sheeben. You don't do as you please. Now if you want to talk to me go home. I won't say to your mother because she failed you. As for your father I don't even Wanna go there", he looked at me like he was ready to attack but he wouldn't dare.

"How do you know Jessica?"

He asked humbly in order to get me to comply.

Problem with Cain is that he reacts faster, when he has problems. That would be his downfall.

"Cain, do sit down. Water, wine

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brandy, Scott, champagne, juice?", I offered even though I shouldn't but what I'm about to throw his way it needs something to swallow it with. It is a hard pill to swallow for a weakly duckling like Cain.

"No I'm fine, I would stand" I chuckled.

"Trust me this gonna need you to put your arse down, in case you faint".

Like a dog he is, he did what he was told.

"I hope you're ready for a story time", he gave me a slight nod.

"Okay! Here we go. Once upon a time. There was a young girl who fell pregnant at the age of fifteen only few months left for her turn sixteen. Few mouths after turning sixteen she gave

birth to a girl who looked nothing like her, but she is beautiful I would give her that. Her birth wasn't joyous. Hence her mother abused her emotionally and mentally. Just to break her because she hated her. That girl is Jessica and the baby is Nyembezi. Yes! Light is my granddaughter well that is what her DNA say. If it was different circumstances. I could have loved her she is lighter unlike her mother but still she has her resembles. So for that I hate her"

I concluded my story with a mischievous smile and the look on Cain's face priceless. Moment like this I wish to capture them and watched them later. Just to see how many faces I break everyday with just few words.

"What???" He asked with an angry tone.

"Mmm, what a shame your girlfriend didn't tell you that? A relationship built on top of lies it won't last Cain. Wake up and smell the coffee and leave this girl alone. She won't forgive you, she has my blood running through her veins. She is bound to be evil" I made a valid point. Cain didn't reply .

"I can prove it. I would give you triple the amount you gave Thando, to get Nyembezi's signature. That is how much I'm willing to pay to show you this girl doesn't give a fuck about you".

Cain knew he was fighting a losing battle.

Hence he just left without saying a word. If Cain thinks he can outsmart me he got another thing.

"Ohh, Cain before you leave. Don't even think you can beat me at this. Don't think you're the only one digging dirt and skeletons on people. Two can play the game, doing it alone it is not fun at all"

He didn't respond he continued to walk.

I'm a lady who is always one step ahead. Cain thinks that Nyembezi would still feel the same way about him after what he did. Then he doesn't know Nyembezi. I might haven't raised

her but that one is my baby. I trust her in making irretional decisions. She always put herself first.

When Cain's car drove off I decided to send him a little massage.

Cain: "WARNING- if you let Nyembezi find out about her daughter. You better kiss Light's ass goodbye. She will make sure you never see her or better yet touch just little amount of her hair. Don't do what I wouldn't do. Be a good boy.

CAIN

If one hasn't walked in my shoes they would think it is easy.

Being in a battle in a matter of heart and brain. It is one of the most losing batle anyone in my shoes would lose. I'm fighting with my own demons together with a battle I don't see myself winning. The fact that Jessica could sell her granddaughter to someone and drink wine like everything is okay. Makes her more dangerous that woman is unstable.

Honestly I want to tell Trista the truth about Light but what Jessica told me. Made me to close the matter for now...

23

CAIN

Jessica: "WARNING- if you let Nyembezi find out about her daughter. You better kiss Light's ass goodbye. She will make sure you never see her or better yet touch just a little amount on her hair. Don't do what I wouldn't do. Be a good boy"

It has been a month since I got this message. Yet it still makes my stomach turn. The fact that I don't know Trista on a personal level is what scares me the most. Not knowing how she reacts when she is angry is what gives me cold shoulder.

On the other hand Light hasn't been in a good space.

She had a huge fall out. Her anxiety level has peaked up on another level she has been pushing me away. Even her therapist says she isn't participating anymore.

Trista has agreed to come to my house. For a couple of days. Since she understands what my daughter is going through. She has been there before.

"Mr. Smith. Ms Zulu will land at O.R Tambo in thirty minutes should I go and pick her up or you would do it?" My driver asked.

"I can't leave Light alone. Can you please go and pick her up. She knows that you are coming"

"Fine Sir" he said walking out.

"Is it safe if I come in?" I asked peaking my head in Light's room.

"Sure", I walked in and sat next to her.

"How are feeling?"

"I'm fine Daddy" she made a silly face and forced a smile.

"Baby?" I called her softly.

"Yes?"

"I want you to meet someone, Her name is Trista", and what she did next didn't she shock me. She technically jump on top of her bed. Where does she get this energy from. I thought were we Sad.

"Ohh My God, is she your girlfriend. I can't wait to meet her"

Wow!

"Something like that. She is a girl who is a friend. We haven't touched that matter but I wouldn't mind if she was my girlfriend. You know she is so sweet just like you and you gonna love h..." My cellphone interrupted me

"Sir

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we are downstairs..." He hanged up. An hour has passed already.

"Baby I need you to bath and come downstairs. She is here. You need to look amazing not like your proble..." Light didn't even bother to comply she was already running downstairs. I followed her but I bumped on her on my way.

"What is wrong?"

I asked concerned. My face filled with forlorn.

"Father!"

She doesn't usually call me that. If she does I know she doesn't like something but what is there not to like about Trista?

" You didn't tell me she was that black. From head to toe" she snapped.

Someone hold me before I smack this ungrateful child. Who taught her that? because I didn't.

"What? Because you're light skinned. Doesn't give you the right to talk about her like that. You gonna respect that woman. Trust me you would because God wouldn't held me accountable for what I would do next" I roared. She jumped.

"Father! You can't force me to like Someone. I can make that choice for myself. If that black girlfriend of yourself is still here. Make sure our paths doesn't cross" she walked to her room and banged the door.

I wasn't in the mood for Light's stupidity. I went downstairs. Trista was standing next to her luggage. With her hands on her waist. This woman is a rare gem. I wouldn't mind making her my wife. Waking up to such beauty, would be a blessing. God when are you blessing me?

"Hey"

I said hugging her from behind and she did it again. She jumped again, what is wrong with her?

"Hey, hey It is me. I wouldn't hurt you" she sighed. You could tell she was relieved.

"Cain"

She jumped on top of me. She took my lips with her's. She didn't rush in to kissing me. She just brushed my lips with her's. I could feel my boy getting excited and she went down. She didn't continue what she started. She better not be kidding me.

I grabbed her neck and bought her lips on mine. She wasn't that short. This time I went in to aggressive. Our lips dancing together on the same rhythm. Our breath were so loud. Someone interrupted our moment by clapping her hands.

"Wow, look who it is?" Trista turned at her direction.

"Wow isn't my black stepmom. Already turning my home into..."

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TRISTA

Wait a minute!...

I'm not gonna be disrespected by someone else's child. Which I didn't give birth to. If she was mine corporal punishment was going to be legalized now!.

I grabbed this child's and took her to the lurk.

"Young lady Sit!" I pointed the couch. She gave me an attitude still standing and folded her hands. I raised my hand to slap her but my hand stopped midway.

"Trista, I didn't raise my daughter like that. Laying a hand on her won't teach her manners. In fact it is going to make her be more disobedient"

He had a point, but I'm not leaving this brat. All my life people have made me a walk over. Since I respected Cain. I grabbed her hand and forced her to sit her arse down.

"Young lady, I'm not your mother. I don't know who mothered you and I don't care, but you gonna respect me. I'm an elder to you. I'm a your father's friend not yours. All my life I have tolerated shit" she just kept quiet.

"Cain, I'm sorry for swearing at your child" I said raising my hand to stop him from saying a word.

"I might be black but I'm a human being. I have blood running through my veins just like you do. I'm not a stick. I have feelings

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I'm not immune to pain. I can feel it. Respect me..."

I said raising my hand to slap her. Cain decided to be a superhero and stopped me. Again!

"Tris let me take you to the guestroom. She is not worth it. Light I'm gonna deal with you right after this"

Tears glittered in her eyes...

Is she gonna Cry. Wait! did he say Light...

"What? You don't deserve that name. It doesn't suit you.
Tsk..."

Cain wanted to cool everything down. He took me upstairs.

"Wow this room is amazing"

"You like it?" He asked.

"Like, I love it" I uttered like I just got a candy and I can't wait to indulge it.

"Can I lay down. I'm tired"

"Sure" he left.

CAIN

To say I'm disappointed would be an understatement. I'm embarrassed. I blame myself for her behaviour I never bought a woman home.

"Light?"

I muttered softly. In order to get her to talk I need to approach her like an adult not a teen.

"Dad?" She was avoiding eye contact I could tell she was embarrassed but she was also annoyed.

"What is wrong talk to me?"

"I don't like her okay, is that a crime?" I ignored her tone. I'm the one who bought Trista in her life.

"Why?"

"First, your so called girlfriend. Started by insulting me and on top of that she got the nerve to talk to me like that?. I recognise her voice" What is she on about because she just met Trista.

"Light what are you talking about?" She rolled her eyes. Now she is being sassy for nothing.

"So your girlfriend didn't tell you? Wow the woman you keep dad... Big up to you." She took her iPod and headset and left.

Is this what life looks like.

When you have your both girls in your life I can't deal.

TRISTA

This child made me loathe Light as a name. To think her and my daughter share the same name. It literally erased the good imaginary memories I created with my daughter. She just drained all my energy. I wonder why Cain called me here. This 'Light' of her's look fine to me. She has a judgement ass, for someone who is mixed race. You could tell she has genes of both parties, Black and White. I wonder who is her mother.

I feel sorry for Cain's girlfriend if he has a daughter like that. I could have long killed her. Even now I'm breathing fire.

Who tolerate such human being?...

25

CAIN

Seth called me an hour after Light left to inform me she is at his place. I know once she starts to pull stunts like this she won't come home. Since I'm at fault, for bringing Trista in her life I let it slide.

It was in the evening...

Trista and I, we were sitting in the hearth. After having dinner. She was reading her book with her reading glasses on. Didn't she look adorable. I on the other hand I was busy on my laptop with a coffee on my side. The silence in the room was soothing. It wasn't uncomfortable like it would be with other women I have been with.

Light put her book on the glass table. She stood up and walked close to the fireplace. I know what captured her eyes. The portrait on the wall. It also capture my eyes like it is the first time.

She examined it for a while...

I was prepared for the next question. Strange it never came. I stood up, I was eager to hug her from behind but I know the end product of that so I stood beside her. Once I knew she was completely aware of my presence and my gesture I hug her from behind.

"She is beautiful" she caught me off guard I didn't respond.

"Even though we started on bad note. I wouldn't mind if she was mine. I would kill to have a daughter. Her face reminds me of myself when I was younger. The only difference is her skin tone and hair texture. The woman who begat her, she is lucky. She gave birth to a Queen. She isn't afraid to stand her ground and voice her word. She is fierce" she released a loud heave.

"Do you think I would ever find her?" That question left a smile on my face.

"Who?" I decided to act dumb.

"My daughter" she stated you could feel the pain in her voice.

"You would if you look hard enough

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you would be amazed with the outcome. Have you tried to look hard for her?" I questioned.

"To be honest I haven't. Even though I want her in my life. I don't think I'm ready to raise her. I just have to face my demons before welcoming her in my life. I fear that if I rush it. I would make the same mistake as Jessica" she stared at me with pleading eyes that I shouldn't ask her anything she won't answer. She was looking purposely down.

I guess it is true, when they say if something is yours. It is hard to recognise it. I won't tell Trista that Light is her's. That is a test she must study and pass herself. I don't want to tell her and put her on unnecessary pressure. This is a process that doesn't need to be rushed.

I turned her to face me. Her height is average. So she isn't too much distance from our faces. She gave an intense stare. I grabbed her neck and pushed her against the wall. Her eyes sparkled with joy. She leaned in and kissed me aggressively. I guess she doesn't like it slow or I make her blood rush. She can't hold herself. Kisses she gives me. They speak volumes and say "fuck me and fuck me now!". She gave me a large amount of her tongue but it was perfect, it wasn't sloppy...

I felt jealous that there was a man before me and he got a taste of this. That had a sting on my stomach. I could feel it like acid in my stomach.

Her hands moved in my chest laying attention on every groove and slab of my muscles. Her hands were underneath my shirt. Which she took off in less than a minute. That even shocked me because I didn't know how. While I was still recovering from the shock. Tables turned I was the one pinned against the wall. She kissed me like her life depends on it. I tore her shirt because what she did got me excited. She was moaning softly in my

mouth. Buttons shattered on the floor. I cupped her breasts in my hands. These racks are big and they fit perfectly in my large hands. When I trailed kisses on her neck. She pushed me away. Trying to steady her breath.

"Sorry I can't do this here. This is a home to your daughter. I can't just disrespect the place by having sex here" she said holding her forehead. Then touching her lips.

She stared at my lips like she could do it again.

She grabbed her book. On top of the glass table. She left me there. I stood down defeated. Every time I try to distance myself from her. I feel like something is luring me in.

God your child is delicious. I could have her for dinner, lunch and breakfast. Without any complaints.

TRISTA

First thing I did in the morning.

Is to leave because I didn't want to be all over the place. Light deserve a piece of mind. This is her home not mine.

I headed to THANDO Beauty's Saloon.

To say I'm proud would be an understatement. I'm over the moon. I'm dancing with joy. This place is amazing. My friend did an amazing work. This is what I call 'spontaneous'. This is perfection.

I walked in. It looks like I'm the first customer today.

"Morning Lizzy" she was shy to talk to me.

"Lizzy I'm not holding any grudges against you. I know in this life thing one needs to make changes in other to better her life".

"Really" she asked curiously.

"Yes really. I'm not selfish to withhold you from achieving your goals. If this was your calling who am I to stop you?. Anyway get back to work let me not stop you. I will wait for Thando

Tee walked in with her cousin Zandile an hour later...

They were laughing and jolly but didn't their laughter disappear?.

"Nyembezi what are you doing here?" Thando snapped. Am I missing something am I not Welcomed here?

"Nyembezi, I'm gonna need you to leave now" she shouted. I didn't respond. I took my handbag and left.

It wasn't my battle to fight.

I went to my car and drove off... I didn't cry. Why must I cry over split milk. If Thando doesn't want me in her life.

Who am I to force things?...

26

THANDO

People who hasn't been in my shoes would say: "I'm a poisonous snake".

It's okay!.

You are lucky you ain't me.

So you won't know what is like. My name means love but, I as a being, I consume so much anger and hate. Ever since Nyembezi has been part of my life. I have never had the spot light. I'm a shadow in the dark. You know how difficult it is for a shadow to be recognised in the dark. Heck! it doesn't even get recognised that is me.

All my life I have been fighting for recognition and I never got recognise. It even got worse when I opened doors for Nyembezi. She sucked all my dime. She made my talent look like nothing. Not in so many words.

Even the day I launched THANDO'S Beauty Saloon. Did I get a "congratulations?". Trust me I didn't.

People were so consumed by the presence of Nyembezi. You should have heard them.

"OMG!, Miss Zulu. I been dying to meet you in person. I love you work"

"How do you do it, keeping it young and fresh"

"When will Dawn, move its branches to other areas. We need our own Dawn here in Johannesburg. KZN can be far sometimes"

You should have heard her bragging.

"Very soon. I don't know the timeline but soon" she said with that glamorous smile of her's.

Bitch!, This is my night. She didn't even bother to correct them to celebrate me. It is like what I do was not important.

Since that day.

I loathed her to core. There were plenty of days I wished to tell her the truth about Cain's vendetta. But I knew my actions will come to spit me and I didn't stand a chance against him because I know how far he can go. Cain has the ability to kill someone and still attend the funeral and cry his heart out. That is how dangerous he is. He got no conscious.

"Who the fuck? Does this bitch think she is?" I asked Zandile. Pacing up and down.

"Where does she get the nerve to come here after the shit she pulled on that night" Zandile rolled her eyes.

"Could you sit down. You're making me dizzy" Zandile said with a bored tone.

"How many times. Did I tell you. To stop being a coward and tell her how you feel. She ain't God to you. She doesn't hold oxygen in your life. Stop complaining and decide where you want her in your life. In or out" she said clicking her tongue and walking out.

I was so angry. That I cleared everything on the table. What was a glass

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when it met the ground it shattered. Into pieces.

TRISTA

I didn't go straight to Cain's house. I drove around the hood.

Around 4:00 pm. When hunger strived. I drove to Cain's house. When I walked into the house. I could hear someone crying in the kitchen. Light was sitting on top of the counter sobbing.

I rushed to her.

"Light?" She raised her head slowly. Her eyes were bloodshot red. That told her off that she has been crying for a while now.

"Hey, it's gonna be fine" I uttered. Holding her cheeks and getting in between her legs.

"Talk to me, what is wrong?"

"It is nothing serious"

"Light, I'm willing to listen to anything. No matter how small it is".

"How do I say this without painting my father as a bad man. I'm not saying he isn't a great Dad. Some days are better than others. There are days where I wish I knew my mother. While other days I rejoice that she is no more"

What?

I guess what she is going through is bigger than me.

"Why would you rejoice that she is no more?" I asked concerned.

"I rejoice that she was a coward. She chose an easy way out and left me to face this world alone... As a girl child it is hard. To walk in the mall and see other girls doing shopping with their mothers and I can't have that because she chose death over me. Couldn't she hold on and see me grow?...yet other times I feel bad for having these evil thoughts because if it wasn't for me she would be alive. She died when she gave birth to me. Am I a bad person for feeling this way?"

It wasn't my place to answer that...

The only physical medicine I know for days like this is to be held tight. I just hug her so tight.

"Light, look at me" I said directing her eyes to face mine.

"Light, I won't say anything because what I say might sound judgemental. Hence I choose to keep quiet. I can't give you advice when you are in this state. So do you want ice cream" I said walking to the fridge to get ice cream.

"Sure" she grabbed two spoons so that we could share.

I don't know what came over me. I just went to her and kissed her forehead.

"Light, your past and thoughts don't define you. The choice you make does. One thing I would bet my money on. Is that your father love you"...

CAIN

My nostrils were welcomed by the most divine smell. I sniffed where the smell came from. In the kitchen, which meant someone was performing magic in there. Since I'm a man who like to take care of his stomach. I dropped my briefcase on the dinning table and rushed to the kitchen.

My eyes landed on the most pleasing scene...

I stopped on my tracks when the scene was clearly memorised in my cerebrum. What a lovely view. Memories like this need to be captured. I snapped a picture.

They both halted due to the clicking and flash of the camera.

"I'm home" i stretched my hands in the air and pulled some dance moves.

"Hell no, Daddy stop it" her laughter filled the entire kitchen. I haven't heard her laugh like this in a long time. Is like that laughter died the day she became fully aware who she was...

I became overwhelmed with joy and hugged her. I called Trista with my hand to join us. Indeed I'm was to big. I can cover both of them in my arms without any struggle.

"Okay what are we cooking, it smells good in here?" I made a silly smile and rubbed my hands together.

"Well Mr Smith, Welcome to Light's restaurant. I'm Light. I'm glad to announce to you that today I will be serving you Spinach and sausage lasagna. For your dessert I would grace your table with Malva pudding. Now please do seat down and relax" she was preparing the table. I looked at Trista, who was busy with the pots and muttered.

"Thank you"

She threw me an air kiss.

Once we, were done eating. Trista and I, washed the dishes. Light went to watch her favourite series on Netflix. Which I didn't even care what is the title. I'm not a TV person so plenty of things that happen on TV I'm clueless.

"Thank you" I said to Trista who didn't respond.

"Tris?"

"Huh!!" She said still at it.

"I said thank you" I repeated.

"Sure" she said but she didn't give me fully attention like she normally would. That got to me. I stared at her. I analysed her features. Take everything little detail as it is but my intense stare didn't seem to intimidate her. I wonder how she do it.

I scooped her from the floor and put her on the counter and got in between her legs. She just stared at me like I mean nothing to her. I don't know how she can switch her feelings this quick one minute she is into me and the next is like I'm a nobody.

She isn't like other women.

I'm used to being chased. In order for me to give women attention not this. I'm not used to being the chaser. I leaned in and brushed my lips against hers'. She didn't move to accommodate my intentions she just sat there still and not moving.

She has been at it for a while now.

Once she recovered. She pushed me away from her.

She rushed upstairs.

TRISTA

When days are like this. I just want one thing booze.

Light's presence in my life gives me mixed emotions. The next minute she makes me happy, the next she makes me want to be a mother, the next minute she makes me guilty for not searching my daughter hard enough or should I say for not even trying.

The conversation I had earlier with Light made me question my intentions as a mother. Questions like:

"I'm I a good mother?"

"If my daughter is alive, does she loathe me?"

"How is she doing?"

"What does she looks like?"

"Is she beyond intelligent? Or she is just like other people like me. Who aren't gifted but we work hard"

This questions has been messing with my head since I had the talk with Light.

"If I were to find her. Would she love me? and understand. That I was young and my hands were tied".

But if she asks "why now?".

"How would I respond?" or I will cross that bridge when I get there?...

I just got off the shower and a knock disturbed me...

CAIN

I knocked once on Trista's door and didn't wait for the response. I just walked in. My actions shocked her because her towel fell on the floor. She was left naked for my eyes to see.

She tried to pick up the towel. I kicked it aside and grabbed her neck and pushed her against the wall she...

Just stared at me trying to cover the lust in her face but her eyes sold her off. I went to the door and locked it. I took slow steps towards her. Removing my shirt off and licking my lips and locking my eyes with her's.

"Kiss me Trista" I whispered in her ears slowly and bold.

My eyes went back to her lips. Her lips slips against mine once before opening her mouth with my tongue. She went in a slow

motion. I could tell today she wanted it slow. I followed her rhythm.

Her hands went to my slacks. She could feel my dick harden.

She moved her lips to my ears.

"Can you feel him?" She asked biting my earlobe and wetting it with her saliva as she she licked me.

"He is hardening, nice and slowly. I can't wait to feel him inside my cunt"...

After that she went down on me. Giving me sedative look. She didn't remove her eyes from mine. Once she got down. She placed her face right close to my dick and kissed my manhood, still in my slacks.

"Cain, I love him" she said moaning softly.

She undid my belt and unzipped my trouser and let it fell. Once my dick came face to face with her face she smiled "man I love this

I know you can ride it better". My dick wasn't big. It was an average 7 inches. It was enough to make a lady come... She took my dick slowly into her hand and started stroking him. She split saliva on him and took her hand to her mouth to wet it. Mind you her eyes didn't leave mine.

"Fuck!!!" I cursed. Who is this woman, because it is clear she isn't a girl?

She took him into her mouth slowly. she didn't increase her pace. While at it she played with my balls, massaging them. I don't usually moan or groan during blow job but it seems like today I have met my match. She alternatively used her tongue and hands in between. Sometimes she sucked my balls and jerked my dick... She made moans in between. That got me excited. Her hands roamed around my body, sometimes they went through my thighs. The sensation that came with it made me go crazy... I was breathing heavy and groaning like a bull. Lucky for me. This room is sound proofed.

I could feel it coming. Yet she continued sucking. I pushed her head further in, so I could hit the back of her throat. When I released. "Fuck Trista, you are mine and mine alone" I thought she wouldn't swallow but have surprised me and swallowed my everything. She didn't allow an load to be wasted. She gave me a million dollar smile after she was done. I grabbed her hand and brought her to my face and sucked her mouth. It was salty. I carried her and threw her on the bed she giggled.

I pulled her over the edge of the bed and went down on my knees. I came face to face with heaven. Nicely trimmed. I went up to her face again and kissed her. I moved down her neck. Since she was dark. I knew it won't leave love bites.

Lavishing her breasts and sucking them till they were raw. Her nipples were aroused. I gave her belly kisses as I moved down her thighs. I stopped when I reached heaven.

"This is my home from today. No man is welcomed in here." I said planting a kiss in her labia. I spread her labia so I could give

everything attention... I drove my tongue inside her and that shattered a moan from her and I loved that sound. She made the most glorious sounds- raw, intense absolutely delicious sounds as pleasure started to kick in as I plundered and ate her out. She grabbed my hair and pushed my head deep.

I don't know why man expect this to smell like roses and flowers because this is a part of a human body...

I danced my tongue around her clit. Blew air here and there, with heavy breaths.

I stopped and pinched her clit few times. When I felt that she was close. She started writhing and tantalizing against my touch. I knew she was close. She was trying to hold it. I inserted two fingers. I reached her g-spot faster because I now how to locate it. It is 2-3 cm in the vagina right behind the belly. I stroked it reaching the 'come hither' I got her were I wanted. Since I knew she was positive I remove my mouth and used fingers my because I could feel she was close. That drove her mad because her toes curled, her eyes rolled back and her back arched from the bed to meet my fingers. She exploded. Her

squirting made the entire mat wet...when she started to recover. She moved her hand around my neck and whispered.

"You are the best man, I have ever had". Didn't that put a smile on my face?

"Condom?" She asked as she took me to the couch.

"In the first drawer in my night stander"

Once she got it. She opened it, faster that I thought she would. She took it, in her mouth. Then she rolled it in my shaft her eyes didn't leave mine...

"Your upper body on the couch, you legs down please!"

Okay! I did what I was told.

She got on top of me. " I don't want either of us to forget this night" she said that wetting her lips.

She wet her hands and stroke my shaft.

She took my crown in her pussy. Nice and slow. I could feel it wet even with a condom. Damn! She didn't rush it. She took time to adjust to my shaft and she started moving. We both couldn't contain our moans and groans. Why should we when it is this good.

"You're mine Cain. Mine alone"

Since it was this good "Yours alone. Trista fuck!!!" I grabbed her breasts as she went up and down.

She put her arms around me and she started pushing my dick out going up. The same time I met her thrust and I could feel my dick going further in... Our moans filled the room.

"Fuck, Cain you're delicious. We are doing this the whole night..."

Jesus!

Where does she gets the stamina?....

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TRISTA

Wow!

I mean wow!

I'm worn out right now. No one, I mean no one has ever given it to me like that...

I give Cain the best Crown to knowing how to lay it. Once we were done, all sweaty and tired. I threw myself to bed. I pulled out my wipes on my toiletry bag.

"I can do it for you, you know?" and he begins to become nauseas. He pulled the covers to get in. I bet he wanted to cuddle.

"Cain, could you please go to your room. You are crowding me" he glanced at me shocked and speechless.

"What? man just leave" he turned to the door ashamed. He unlocked the door and left.

I don't know why he is acting like this. He knew it was just sex right? It means nothing. We were just offloading some streams. Nothing special. I bet in his mind what I did was wrong. Yet I don't see anything wrong. Men do it all the time after having sex with girls. So this was not some boyfriend and girlfriend sex. I don't do cuddling after sex. Couple of times I had sex. My two fuck buddies knew that once we are done. It is clothes on and leave.

I couldn't hold my eyes anymore. As sleep overpowered me. I dozed off...

Someone woke me up with a knock.

"Aunty Tris, are you are wake?" Light asked on the other side of the door...At least we are making progress. She gave me a respectable title. Instead of a black stepmom. I laughed when I thought of that day. It isn't bad after all, because it is true I'm black. So I shouldn't be mad when someone points out. I should apologize.

"Sure baby I'm coming" I said picking up the mess Cain and I made.

"Can I come in?" She asked again.

"No honey. I'm coming. Go downstairs". I couldn't subject the poor child to this. The smell of sex in the room is dominant.

"Okay baby" I could feel her foot steps. I guess she left. I let out a breath, I was holding. "Thank God, she isn't her father's girl" she could have just let her self in. Like her father, thankfully Cain raised an amazing daughter. That made me respect him more.

When I got downstairs...

Light was humming a song.

I sniffed playfully. "It smells divine in here".

"Please! Sit down my lady. Your breakfast will be served any time from now" she said putting a plate in front of me.

"There you go" she bowed her head dramatically.

"Thank you!"

"Where is your father by the way" I asked eyeing the stairs.

"Well, he left early looking like a mess" Cain likes to act like a child.

"Why" I asked innocently.

"He was sour. When he is like that, I play far...farr... From him"
she said with a small

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bold voice. Her eyes popping our and her hands spread out...

This girl is what I call a princess...

I guess she has her days like everyone else.

"Baby come seat here" I said pulling a chair close to me. She sat
down.

"Baby?"

"Hmm?" She said making puppy eyes.

"I'm sorry, on how I talked to you the other time. I shouldn't have addressed the matter like that because I understand why you acted that way personally. I won't say it is because of the call, but I personally understand where you were coming from. It has always been you and your Dad...no one else was involved in the picture. I guess you panicked. Thinking I'm here to steal your spot I'm not. Him and I, are just friends"

That 'friend part' I said at a low tone. Thinking maybe she heard us last night. To my surprise she didn't look at me suspiciously. I pretend like nothing happened to.

"Just friend?" She asked accusing me of something.

"Yes"

"Mmm, if you say so. Go on" she smiled.

"Just know Cain, called me personally so I could help you out with your anxiety"

"Thank you" she said out of nowhere.

"What for?" I asked shocked

"For making me and my father this happy. I have never seen him this happy in a long time. Since it is sorry day. I'm also sorry for calling you black stepmom, but to kiss my father like that friend?" couldn't the world just open and swallow me.

"Lol, but I would make the most beautiful black stepmom. Honey look at me... I wasn't talking to you like that because you called me black because hell! I'm black. I just did that to correct your tone" I stated.

"Really? I thought you said all that because I said you are black" she laughed.

"No, I didn't do it because you said that. I hated your tone it was disrespectful. Honey, when you look at me. You see black, so if you don't see black. Then you aren't looking at me or else you are turning blind..." I made a valid point.

"Okay black Queen, go on" she said acting like she was taking her crown off.

"I fully give it to you, you are loving and kind. I would kill to have a mama like you" that made me she'd a tear.

"Come here" I was speechless.

I just hugged her...

CAIN

All my life, I have never had my ego bruised like this. Thirty seven years of my existence, I have never been the one told to leave. It was the other way around. It has always been me fucking, once I offloaded. The lady had to leave. I didn't even care to nurse her wounded pride already. I only cared about throwing money on their faces once we are done. I never knew that a dose of your own medication hurts like this. I always thought they were nagging me, I'm not their boyfriend. So why should we cuddle?

If this how they felt?

I might as well never forgive myself. For being a self-centred bastard.

"Bro?..." Seth said waving his hand on face to get my attention. I just gazed at him without uttering a word. He stared back.

"What?..." I asked bored, shrugging my shoulders.

"Really now? You are the one who called me here Man. Not the other way around. I could be at home right now, with my wife and kid. I'm here staring at you. In the bar on Monday with bottle of beer on my hand and you just gonna stare into space? Like I'm some fucken robot that can't talk?" Why is he being all sassy now? What is wrong with him.

"Dude, I don't wanna talk okay?"

"Okay, you can settle the bill when you leave I'm out" he stood up, attempting to leave.

"It's her"

"Her? Who?" He asked get back down.

"Trista" I just said her name forcing it out of my mouth because just saying her name, give me a bitter taste on my tongue.

"What about her?" Seth asked like he cannot wait to leave my sorry ass.

"Well last night...you know?"

"I know wh..." He stopped talking. "Man get the fuck out of here. You tapped it. How was it?" Seth asked so thrilled, like he was about to win something.

"You see that...That I'm not telling you. Have I asked about how your wife is like?"

"Whatever

so why are you sour? I don't get it." I was even embarrassed to say this.

"Once we were done with the deed. She kicked me out..."

"So what is wrong with that? Because she ain't your girlfriend... I don't see anything wrong with that." He said like he didn't understand my frustration.

"You don't get it man?" I asked furious.

"Get what?"

"That I..." I stopped midway. How do you say that without sounding weird?

"What the hell...Dude get out of here. Isn't to early for you to be throwing the 'L' word?" He don't get it does he?

"Man matter of heart has nothing to do with duration or how long you knew someone. Once it strikes, it strikes" I said without backing down.

"Buddy leave this girl alone. She is way to young for you. She is twelve years younger than you. Your relationship is even doomed before it even begins. My advice as your homie leave

this chick alone. Focus on your life. She is toxic bro. Who on their right state of mind have a child at the age of ten?"

Now Seth was uttering nonsense. He ideology about relationship is that the girl must be less than five than the guy. Heck even five is a lot to him. What happened to love isn't about age?

"Seth you know that in a relationship, it is not about age. Right?..." I asked curious because it feels like I'm missing something.

"Heck we remove age matter to you. Thus the Same woman who had a child child at the age of ten. Cain leave this girl's black ass. Before I do something that cannot be undone. I won't watch my homie, throw away his future for a woman who couldn't keep her panties on"

Wow! just wow...

"Seth, I think it is late now I'm gonna leave" I said checking my watch.

"No you seat your ass down" he forced me to seat down.

"Cain let me tell you something. You are successful handsome bachelor alive during this era. I won't allow you throw that away for a black cunt. That knew how to worship dick at ten" I don't know what came over me. I just threw a mean punch on Seth's face...

"Seth you don't..." I couldn't complete that sentence to defend Trista because Cain stopped me with a punch. After that it was punches after punches we threw at each other. Till they kicked us out...

When I got home.

It was around 11:00 pm...

The house was so silent. I could tell everyone was sleeping. I went to Light's bedroom. She wasn't in her room. I panicked, then it hit me. Trista is here. I rushed to the room Trista is using. They were sleeping safe and sound.

I walked in. Without making noise. I went to Light's bed side and kissed her forehead.

" I love you baby, you are my light in the dark. I don't wanna lose you" I whispered.

"You know you won't right?" Trista's voice made me jump. I thought she was sleeping.

She got out of bed.

"Come" she said heading at the door.

I followed her, she went to my room. It was the first time she got in here.

"Cain, Light might not be my child. But I won't allow you to act this way around her. Getting drunk and coming home in bruises. That is not on. She deserves better than this. You can do better Cain. That girl was raised by a phenomenal father, not some Weak man. Getting comfort from booze..." She snapped.

I just placed my lips on her to shut her up because I hate myself enough already as it is.

"Shhh..." I said placing my hand on her mouth to stop talking.

"Don't saying it, I know" I attempted to kiss her but she moved back.

"Cain, we can't do this"

"Shhh... Just enjoy the moment and stop talking"

Last night when we were done. Trista took a shower and left.

As I was picking down condoms on the floor. I got the most shocking results of my life. The condom busted. By the look of things. You could tell it busted while we at it.

I took a shower and rushed to the nearest pharmacy to get the PEP because I know the drill. I just hope I didn't contact HIV...

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CAIN

Ever since that day. I never had the audacity to look at her and tell her what went down that night. I feel daft as a brush, for not being a man enough and tell her what went down. But it is not like that will cause her any harm, I was the one in danger not her. The fact that my semen doesn't reproduce and multiply it easy the guilt.

I can't even be in the same room with her because I'm ashamed of myself. For not being able to defend her. Instead I acted like a fool who used his hands to communicate. I'm not even happy as Larry. I can't even be there for my own daughter. I can't even contact Seth because I'm still very much in midst with him. I don't know were does he get the whole nervous system from sensory neuron to connector neuron till motor neuron to insult womanhood like that.

I may not be a woman but I know falling pregnant is not inconvenient and deciding to go through with it is a choice because getting an abortion is legal.

Yet, Trista's love was stronger than that she gave a soul a chance to breathe. It was not a force to go through this pregnancy, it was a choice that she has to live with for as long she shall live.

"Light?" Trista softly called Light you could tell she was acting strong. If it was for her she wouldn't leave.

"Don't do it. It is not a goodbye. You are just few hours away and I would call every day"

Light said with tears already glittering in her eyes that is my cry baby for you. I guess their bond is stronger than I thought and that makes me happy as a father.

"Okay I'm not saying goodbye. So I guess, I should say see you later. One last thing could you please take care of your Dad for me" she said with a pleading voice.

I don't know how she do it.

One minute is like she would kill for me and the next is like she doesn't care. Maybe I should stop analysing women because they also don't understand themselves. So how can Cain Smith do it?

"Sure I promise" she said giving out her pinky finger. Their pinky fingers interlocked. Trista brought Light into a hug. Light being Light, she placed her big head on my favourite spot. Man those boobs, they still keep me up at night. Sometimes I jerk off when I visualize them.

I just stood along the stairs and admired the splendid view.

"Okay ladies..." I said pushing Trista's bags.

"I hate to be the party popper

but Tris we have to leave. Your flight will depart in 2 hours time and you know the procedure my dear"

She ignored my presence. She cupped Light's face in her hands. She planted kisses from her forehead, eyes, nose, cheeks to her mouth. Light giggled like a toothless toddler. She whispered something in her eyes and Light's eyes shined to core.

"I love you take care" she said talking her into another hug.

The drive to the airport was quiet.

No one dared to say anything.

"You know..." I moved my eyes from the road for few seconds to give her attention. She stopped talking for few minutes. I hated that because men hate it when you try to open up and we listen and you stop halfway.

"Nevermind" she said doing 'Argh' with her hand.

Since it wasn't my place. I let it go.

When we got to O.R Tambo after 35 minutes. I didn't allow Trista to leave. I looked the car. I wanted to address the elephant in the room.

"Why are you locking me outside?" I asked nicely...

"I beg your pardon?" She said raising her eyebrows. Women and attitude, it is like their love for luxurious things. You cannot separate them.

"Trista, don't test my patience. Not today you heard me"

"Mxm, Cain I'm not your girlfriend for starters. Stop treating me like one. I don't owe you a damn explanation. You went quiet

on me since that night and you have the liver to tell me that..."
She stared at me like she hated me.

She banged the door.

"Open this mother fucken door, I want to leave. Don't..." She snapped and stopped talking.

Sometimes getting into an argument with her it is not worth it. I unlocked the door.

She banged the door when she left. You could smell her anger.

She pushed her bags aggressively. When she walked off.

"One day I'm gonna wife your annoying ass woman" I said to myself..." It is a promise. I intend to keep"

TRISTA

I'm dead tired. The first thing, I would do when I get to my apartment is to take a quick shower and give my body some rest. When I got to my apartment my cellphone startled me inside my handbag. It was ringing, 'Light' her name even brighten the cellphone screen. I wonder why? She is calling me. I only left few hours ago.

"Hey" I answered going through my handbag to get my keys. My apartment, wasn't a luxury like other apartments you see on TV. It was comfortable for a single lady. Two bedrooms, one bathroom, sitting room and kitchen. What more can a lady ask for?

"Are you home already?" Light asked

"Yes baby" I answered unlocking the door. My eyes landed on a human figure. I screamed...

"Tris, is everything okay?" Light asked concerned.

"Drop the call, I been waiting for a while now" Jessica said. Her eyes burning with fire, not the good kind.

"Light, let me call you later" I said dropping the call and not wait for her response.

"What the hell!" I snapped. "Who let you in Jessica?". She released a fake laugh.

"Don't be stupid Nyembezi, we both know how I got in. I got the keys. That is how" she stared into my eyes blinking. You could tell by just looking at her that she is down in the mouth.

"Stay away from him!!!" She roared. Her voice breathing fire.

"Who?" I asked because I was clueless what is she on about.

"CAIN!!!" She shouted. Why is she shouting, Again?

"And who are you to give me orders by the way?" Trust me I asked because the last time I checked. She is a nobody to me.

"Nyembezi, I'm warning you. Cain isn't someone you wanna associate yourself with. He is not good for you kinder. I'm warning you, As a mother now
games aside"

"So you wanna be a mother when it suits you?" I asked because that belittle me. What came next I didn't expect it.

Jessica pushed me against the door. Then she started chocking. Using all her energy to suck the life out of me. I couldn't fight back. Her actions took me back to that young girl she used to choke. Her beautiful face turned to something else. Now I know what was meant when they said 'Beauty is only skin deep', because this woman's doings aren't as beautiful as her face. When she felt like my body was closing off she released me. I coughed roughly. She put her hand on my mouth.

"Shut up!" She commanded.

"Now young lady listen to me. You better listen to me carefully because I believe, I won't come back for this tomorrow. What I say goes. You don't question me. I'm the captain of this ship, I rule your universe. When I say jump, you say how high...you don't question me" she said that her eyes turning dark black with range of anger.

"Now, that you can hear clear. Stay the fuck away from Cain. You're not the lady he usually goes for. You my dear, faint heart never won fair lady...Cain goes for women with class and you don't have that. So now I'm gonna go...and you stay away from him. If you don't I'm gonna know" she said fixing herself.

"I rather not come back here. I'm busy as a beaver. So me coming to put you in control is a waste of my time. Know the kinder you associate yourself with because it is clear Thando isn't one of those anymore. CURSE!" She said splitting her saliva on the floor, with a disgust look.

I don't give her the satisfaction of crying. I'm not that young girl anymore. I went and held the door for her.

"Leave! Don't stand there with curls in your hair" she walked out.

She turned to look at me "Ohh by the way... Don't feel to special. I don't have time to keep you waiting. I was just doing damage control. Leave that boy alone" she smiled

"Or what?" I questioned in challenge.

"Uh... Please Nyembezi, you are a dog that only barks you won't do anything" she said whistling and walked like everything is normal.

What is wrong with this woman?

JESSICA

Cain sometimes can be reckless and I hate reckless people.

What was he thinking.

He had absolutely no right to make Trista and Light meet. If he thinks he got it under control. He is damn straight wrong. It is only a matter of time before they find out.

Light and Trista are better divided, than United. Does he know how his actions affect me. My marriage is hanging by a thread because of this 'rape saga'. Now he want the media to know.

Does he know how doomed I would be. Khaya doesn't know about the child saga. If this reach his ears he won't tolerate me anymore because as it is things are worse. He doesn't respect me anymore. He can fuck a whore on our marital bed with me around. He can't divorce me because I'm holding him hostage using this rape matter...

When I got a call from Seth telling me that Nyembezi is in Johannesburg that got me mad. To make matters worse her and Light have met that nearly sent me to my early grave, but that was nothing compared to the fact that Cain was falling in love. Knowing how reckless a man in love is.

I had to feed Trista lies. Knowing that her self-esteem is wounded and that no man would love her. I know she would stay away, because her playing happy family with Cain...

Is like she is having fun at my expense...

Now I have to do damage control. I swear to God. I would kill this child with my bare hands...

My phone rang.

CALL

"Thando, what do you want?" She can be annoying this one.

"My money..." She said.

"It has been a week now. I did what you told me. I kicked Trista out of my life. She has no friend, you can do as you please with her. Yet I don't see any notification. Do the right thing. Today is your due date or..." She said.

"Or else wh..." She hanged up on me.

This bitch...

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CAIN

It has been a MONTH and I haven't heard anything from Trista. I been trying to call her, that alone was a struggle because I couldn't get hold of her. At first I thought she was been her usually self but her silence began to rub me off in the wrong way. I decided to visit her. The dust between Cain and I, have settled down. So I could technically say we are cool, no bad blood. Things aren't literally back to how they used to be but there no weird vibes between us.

Hence, I managed to get Light to stay at his place. For few days.

I came to Ixopo two weeks ago.

I haven't talked to Trista, but I been keeping eyes on her. Usually I would pass at Dawn and get a little glimpse of her.

I could tell from afar that something is bothering her.

Today I decided to grow an extra pair and face her.

It was around 12:00 pm. When I decided to check in, at Dawn. She managed to get a new receptionist besides Personal Assistant. Her receptionist was kind. She squeezed me in without an appointment and she wasn't a bitch about it.

Trista door was slightly open.

I stood there for a while to examine her. She wasn't at her best. She was a mess. Her hair wasn't at it best. Her shirt had wrinkles here and there but her bugs in her eyes told me she slept here. I didn't realise that she took it this far. She wasn't taking a good care of herself. I debated with myself whether to knock or leave...

But Trista spotted me before I could turn to leave.

"Cain you don't have to do that you know?" She said making me halt in my tracks.

"Hey...I wasn't doing that. I was going to grab a coffee for you. You look like hell" I lied through my teeth.

She waved for me to come in, " leave that please do come in" she said sitting down on her desk.

"I thought... I should pass by and say 'Hi' you know" she gave me an intense stare that told me to stop lying.

"I'm telling the truth" I said sounding stupid.

"I never said you are lying. You just sold yourself out. What are you doing here Cain because the last time I checked I'm not your type. What do you want from me? Because I'm not as beautiful as supermodels you usually go for" what the heck is she on about?

Who told her that? because to me she is a ten. Without hesitation.

"Tris, what are you on about?" I questioned because I'm dumbfounded.

"Ohh

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so you wanna play dumb? Pity I don't have time for your games. I bet Violet wouldn't mind if you spent this time with her"...

She said rushing to the door. She didn't make it to the door because she fainted half way.

"Tris, wake up" I Shaked her. She didn't move.

I scooped her in my hands and rushed her to hospital because I knew ambulance might take longer than they should.

Two hours has passed with me, sitting here like a fool. No one said anything to me...

A doctor came out of her ward thirty minutes later. I stood up...

"Doctor what is going on?" I questioned quicker than I should.

"Are you family?" He asked.

"I'm here husband how is she?" I asked because curiosity was getting the better of me.

"Follow me to my office. I have few things to tell you" he said walking away. I followed him like a tail. Dying to know what he has to say.

"Sir please do sit down"...

"I have good news and bad ne..." I interrupted him before he could complete his sentence.

"Could we stop with formalities and get straight to the point" I snapped.

"Well sir your wife is five weeks pregnant..."

Wait! What did he just tell me? Everything he said after that went blur. I couldn't comprehend what he said to me, I did calculations in my head and the last guy she slept with is me.

"Wait how? Doctor I'm infertile I can't have children..." I blurted that out.

"Sir, I don't know your medical record. The test we run on your wife we detected high level of Human Chronic Gonadotropin (HCG), which means she is pregnant. What worries us is that her body is dehydrated and under pressure. If she doesn't take enough fluids in her body and have enough bed rest she might

lose this child" I was speechless could it be that this below 5% worked in my favour?

"Sir my sperm count is below 5% to make children, does that mean I'm not infertile?" I asked.

"Sir 5% below doesn't mean never. You could still have children but that means your chance to have children is above 95% to not happen. So if you did with below 5% you got lucky"

I couldn't contain my happiness. Are you kidding me?

I was animated.

I stood up and did an air punch "YES!" I shouted.

Who is this woman? She made me a man amongst men. She made my only dream come true.

"Is she awake?" I asked the doctor laughing.

"Yes, but we are still running few test. Since she is positive we can't take the risk...Can you come back tomorrow during visiting hours?"

" I understand Doc"

To say I'm overwhelmed is an understatement. I'm over the moon... I couldn't contain my joy. I called Seth to share the good news.

CALL

He answered on the third ring...

"Man talk to me..."

I couldn't contain my happiness. I just busted into tears...

Not tears of sorrow. Here I'm talking about tears of joy.

"Man you are crying. What is going on?" He asked concerned.

"Man, God finally heard my prayers. Trista is pregnant" I said proudly.

"What?" He asked shocked.

"How? I thought you sperm cells are useless"

"Well not to Trista's womb Bro"

"Uh... Can I call you later" he hanged up.

Why is he being cold? Isn't he happy for me?

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TRISTA

Why on earth, I'm I still here?

I don't get it. They have run several tests on me but no one is saying anything. Doctors and nurses they come and go, but none has the audacity to tell me what is going on...

I haven't seen Cain whatsoever. Where the hell is he?

An hour later Cain decided to grace me with his presence, but he wasn't alone. He was accompanied by another pair of eyes. Once he stepped inside he rushed to hug me.

"Thank you so much!" His voice was filled with so much joy. I decided to play along.

"Sure, what is going on? because I'm tired to be in the dark" I asked bored. Who wouldn't be?

We are talking about my health here.

"Mam, I'm Dr Khumalo. I have your results back with me. But first I would like to say, Congratulations!" He said literally confusing me.

"Uh, what for Doc?"

"Mam! Could you please wait for me to say my piece. As I was saying, Congratulations! Whether you're jumping for joy, still in state of shock or feeling mixture of both. We are here to support you every step of the way to have a healthy pregnancy" he said with a smile that reached his ears.

"Wait what did you just say to me?..."

"Mam, if you didn't get that I could still repeat" he said politely.

"I heard you correct Dr, what I don't understand is how. I have never had unprotected sir" Cain was just standing there and not telling me that this is a prank.

"Mam, using protection is not 100% secure. You know that a lot could go wrong" he doesn't get it does he?

"Doc

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I'm positive do you understand how that could be harmful to someone's health?" Right now I wasn't concerned about myself. I was worried about whoever the baby daddy is.

"How long?"

"Five weeks..." Cain blurted out. So he could talk? Wait did he just say five. According to the maths Cain is the father and why is he standing there not panicking.

"Cain can I ask you somethi..." I didn't complete that sentence because the doctor stopped me.

"Mrs Smith, now is not the time for that. I want to explain your procedure that you have to take since you are positive and pregnant" Wow! Now I'm Mrs Smith? I didn't bother to correct him

"Mrs Smith, since you are positive. You have to start immediately with your medication to prevent the spread of HIV from your child, because you are already late. Your pregnancy should have been detected early. Your husband should have told you about Condom burst, so you could have been monitored. I hope the medication we would prescribed for you would be effective. When you are positive and pregnant you are in need of ART for your health preferred first-line regimen should include an AZT+3TC backbone combined with NNRTI: AZT+3TC+NVP or AZT+3TC+ EFV. Alternative recommend regimens are TDF+3TC (or FTC) +NVP", he said. You could swear he was speaking in tongues.

What on earth is this doctor saying?

"And I'm supposed to know exactly what are those Doctor?" I questioned because right now I'm lost.

"Well you would find the names in your prescription, but you won't have to take all the medication. Some you would have to leave them as time pass and NVP you would take it around time of birth. I would explain the process when the time is due. But the one you should take through out is ART called Antiretroviral Therapy"

Jesus!

Isn't his job to explain this whole thing to me.

Why did Cain bring me to public hospital?

"One last thing. Since you are dehydrated. Dehydration must be treated by replenishing the the fluid level in the body. My advice is that your intake of fluid in the body must improve. I would come to check up on you later on..." He said walking out.

How rude can he be?

So this one staring at me can't talk now?

CAIN

When the doctor walked out.

Trista gave me the most evil look. Therefore I knew I was in deep shit. Not only was I reckless, but my child could be born positive. I walked closer to her bed. She changed within seconds from worried to angry.

"How could you? How could you? How could..."

She asked that question. Throwing punches on my chest with tears streaming down her face.

"How could you? How could you make me pregnant without my consent?" How do I answer that when I didn't plan for things to turn out this way?

"You selfish prick, all this time you knew? Hence you were avoiding me..."

"It is not like that, when I discovered that the condom busted. I don't see the need to tell you because I'm infertile" I said with assurance.

"Lies, lies, how many times would you look into my eyes and lie?" "I haven't lied to you" I pointed out.

"Damn, straight you haven't?...you started by my daughter now this? You thought I didn't know? I wanted you to come clean but you went on and looked in my eyes and lie? You looked in my eyes over and over, and still continue to lie...I want this thing gone..." She snapped.

Wait! what?....

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CAIN

Wait what...?

"Wait! What!?" I exclaimed shocked. "So you knew all this time?"

"Wow! Just wow, that is all you care about?, So I look like a fool to you. So you think I would not recognise the fruit of my own womb? Hmm?" She asked with her eyes popping out of their socket.

I have never been caught red-handed.

"How long did you plan to take me for a ride?, Huh?" She asked you couldn't mistake the hate in her voice. Those eyes of admiration she gave me were gone. They were replaced with another burn 'HATE' written all over them.

"I'm sorry" I said with tears streaming from my eyes.

"Fucken wipe those crocodile tears, they don't faze me. We both know you ain't sorry that I know. You are sorry that your lies have finally caught up with you. If I didn't find out. You wouldn't have told me. I gave you two months to have human decency. You choose not to. You looked at me, wiped my tears but you never had the gut to tell me. So tell why must I spare this child...?" When she planned to kill our child that is when I knew that her hate runs to deep.

She doesn't know me this one. If she think, I would let her cut my child's life short. She got another thing coming...

"Tris, I know everything I say right now. Won't make any difference for my actions. I won't try to justify them but I need you to listen and listen good. That child you're carry is my only seed that managed to succeed. That child is the beginning of new season for me after Light. That child whether you like it or not, has 23 chromosomes that are mine. As much as that child

has yours. Before you terminate it, just know not only you're killing part of me. You are also killing part of you. I'm giving you a go ahead. I accept my sins, all of them. If my child has to be a sacrifice for all of them. Go ahead and do it. You can come and take Light with you... I'm just glad my child's existence wasn't made out of hate. It might have been lust but I know it was painted with a little bit of love. Whatever you decided, I'm gonna live with it. Once you've been discharged

Light would be ready to move in" I said those last words piecing through my heart to core like a knife. I walked out...

Feeling like a coward...

TRISTA

Have you ever been in a situation. Where by you don't know how to react to your surroundings?

That is me.

As much as I want to hate Cain for his actions. There is a greater part of me that loves him to core. That admires him for raising and nourishing a child that isn't his, as a single father.

"Well, well, well!..." A voice said at the door. When I glanced at the door. I was welcomed by Jessica's face. Why is she everywhere?

Like an annoying mosquito. That doesn't know when to stop. This woman would turn me into a sinner.

"Well, look at what we have here" she said staring in my eyes.

"Who knew?" she said shrugging her shoulders. Since she can talk for days. I decided to listen to her.

"I'm impressed with you. I can tell you are a cut of my own cloth. A little Birdy told me, that you are expecting..." She stopped talking to study my features.

"Are you sure? Darling that Cain is 99,99% biological father?"
She asked incredulously.

"What is that supposed to mean?" I asked because that question startled me.

"I knew you were a whore, from day one. How could you trap an infertile man with a child that isn't his?" She said laughing like she just proved a point.

Why does it seem like everyone knows so much about me, besides myself.

"Well, Cain seems hundred percent accurate that the child is his so?" I said with an evil smile.

"For how long? Because between you and I, we know the child isn't his. So why don't you just stop wasting his time..."

"Really now? Jessica. What is your obsession with me. I don't live under your room anymore. I don't stuff your food anymore. What is it that you want from me this bad?"

"I want to see you drop dead Nyembezi. The fact that you are still breathing annoys me to core"

Jesus!

If people who perform witchcraft are deadly. They have nothing on this woman. Didn't God make a mistake?

Is she real my mother? God would forgive me to question his doings but who wouldn't?

I thought Jessica would leave after saying her piece but she didn't. She continued to linger. Looking at me like I should just die on the spot. If looks could kill I would be dead by now. Five minutes has passed but she isn't giving up. Since I don't like to stop people from doing evil deeds, I let her be. Now I was stuck, into two perspective land.

The does and don't...

What do I do with this child?

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TRISTA

THREE MONTHS LATER...

It has been three months now and I haven't heard a word from Cain. The last time we talked it was when we had a fall out, but Light and I talk almost everyday...Argh! She is my pillar of strength that one.

I'm 18 weeks pregnant now. I'm on my second trimester. I won't say the experience is bad but some days are worse than others. Morning sicknesses and cravings are controlling my life right now but I won't trade this moment for anything in the world, because it is priceless.

"Doc I don't get it. Why are you using this cold gel again?" I asked the doctor, while moving my upper body because my body hasn't gotten used to how cold it is. It would never get used to it.

"Miss Zulu, how many times do I have to tell you this?" He asked while pressing the transducer where he applied the cold gel. I just gave her puppy eyes...

"Okay since I like you. I would tell you again! and I hope for the last time. I don't apply cold gel to torture you. I do it because it is necessary to be applied in order to produce the best results for the ultrasound scan. Ultrasound gel is a conductive medium that creates a bond between the skin and ultrasound transducer. You get it now?". I laughed because I could see the frustration on his face everytime we do this.

"A little" I said showing him with my fingers.

"Okay, there you go. There is you baby. Can I turn on the heartbeat sound?"

"Yes please" once he was done, the most beautiful sound filled the entire room. The sound was soothing. During times like this I wish Cain and Light were around...

"When would you stop eating like a pig?" Ms Lewis asked.

"Mama how many times do I have to tell you. It is not me, it is the baby" she laughed

"Go on, blame the poor child" she said walking away. Leaving me on the couch

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eating like a pig as she said.

Well Ms Lewis is Seth's mother...

I bet you asking yourself how?, I also did that myself.

Right now I'm staying with Ms Lewis, at Ismangaliso Wetland Park. The reason I'm here is because Seth says I'm much safer here than at my apartment. He told me that Jessica was plotting to tamper my car so I could have an accident. So this is

the last place she could look for me. Why would she look for me where Seth's mom live? I no longer use my personal device.

So far everything is perfect. Even though I miss Cain each and every passing day.

SETH

Cain hasn't been himself for the past three months. He has neglected his life completely.

Things are out of control because I had to take Light to live with me. Right now Cain is at his weakest point.

I have never seen him this broken, but two weeks ago he was coming out of his shell. Is like he came to terms that Trista is gone and she is not coming back.

The reason I helped Trista, is because I couldn't watch Jessica plot to kill my nephew or niece. Whether I like it or not that child has my blood. Cain and I, we are half brothers but he doesn't know. We share the same father.

How? That is a story of another day.

While I was still enjoying my peace, Jessica decided to walk into my study without knocking.

Can't a man have privacy in his own house?

"What the fuck? You just can't walk in like that. What If I was jerking off?" I snapped.

"Ohh, please is not like is something I haven't seen before" she said brushing me off. That is one of the most stupid mistakes I would forever regret in my life because being reckless is what got me in this mess in the first place. That night was supposed

to be harmless, but it turned into pain. Since that day she has been blackmailing me. Threatening to tell my wife. If she didn't have evidence it could have been my word against her's but now. I'm her puppet.

"What can I do for you?" I asked because her aura is annoying.

"I want you to find that bitch for me. I don't understand how could someone disappear like that within a blink of an eye. Is like she literally turned into a ghost. Find her dead or alive. I want her head because this time I'm gonna kill her. Find her now!" She said banging the table.

"Why don..."

"Don't start with me. You piece of shit...find that bitch and bring her to me because what I would do next you won't like it"

She didn't wait for me to respond.

She turned on her tracks and walked out...

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SETH

After Jessica left.

I took matters into my own hands. I made up an exculpation to my wife and fled straight to Ismangaliso Wetland Park. I had to give Trista some heads up.

Knowing that Jessica can be Pet Peeve, she has to know.

When I got here last night, I didn't see Trista. My mother said she went to bed early. Sometimes I ask myself why am I helping Trista because as much as I won't admit it I contributed to her struggle as much as Cain and Jessica did...

Sometimes you I wonder why I changed horses in the midstream, but I could tell is a matter of moral fibre.

The first thing I did when I woke up. I went to check on Trista.

The door to her bed room was slightly open. I heard her talking
I decided to ears drop.

"Gracious God our Father, who is loving and kind. I pray that you comfort me in suffering, lend skill to the hands of my healers, and bless the means of used to cure. Father I quote your word of wisdom in the Holly Book; from John 14:6 that says ' I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the father but by me' hence I believe that I should not worry about what is happening in my life or where would I be in the next years because Father you are the way. All my worries and struggles are written in the scripture of my life because you are the truth and the life. I don't have to worry about what I went through because is in Christ I'm given everything. My heart still beats at approximately 4000 times, per hour, each pulse, each throb

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each palpitation is my trophy that say I'm blessed . My Lord of lords, I put all my hope unto you. My faith that you would never forsake me my Alpha and Omega. Give me such confidence in power of your Grace, that when I'm afraid, I may put my whole trust in you, through our saviour. I thank you the Ruler of the universe for blessing me with another the day in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen!"

I never knew that Trista is a prayer warrior.

To say I'm shocked is an understatement I'm astonished...

Now I know why Jessica can't leave this woman alone. She working hand in hand with the devil to crush this woman's spirit and I don't think that would happen anytime soon.

You could tell by her confidence when she prays, that she knows who she is taking to.

Once she said Amen!

I decided to knock, like I just got here...

"Come in!..." she said standing up.

"Here" I offered my hand to help her up.

"Thank you"

She looked at my facial features like she was examining me...

"Uh, What brought you here?" She asked concerned.

"Is everything okay?"

I didn't answer her question. My eyes roamed around her body.
My eyes landed on her baby bump.

That made me decided not to tell her, what Jessica is up to. I don't want to put her under stress. That could put a lot of strain on her health, since she is expecting.

"Nothing, I thought I should come by to check on you since you are all alone. In different environment. How is the baby treating you?"

She smiled and rubbed her belly.

"I'm not complaining, so far everything is perfect. Sometimes I wish Cain was here to share this moment with me"

That hit hard. My mood literally changed because I'm the cause of this...

"Uh let me leave you to whatever you were doing before I interrupted you..." I said already leaving. My guilty conscience couldn't stand her...

TRISTA

Okay!

What was that?

I could tell by Seth's actions that he was dismissing me but I let it pass and continued to mind my own business.

Since that is one of the most cheapest remedies you would ever find that is not cost-effective. In fact it is free of charge. I don't have enough time to mind how people act around me.

I have a lot on my plate already...

A baby on the way. A daughter who doesn't know about me...

So if I mind other people's business. When would I attend my own?...

TRISTA

"Mama, is Seth home?" I asked Ms Lewis.

She was preparing lunch. To say I'm not enjoying my stay here. I would be lying. I literally do nothing, the only thing I do is my laundry. I wish I wasn't a temporary visitor here because I wouldn't trade the peace I get here with anything in the world.

"No he left four hours ago. I thought he said goodbye" she said.

"What? He already left?" I asked amazed because this is something new to me. I thought he would linger a little bit longer.

May a day or two, because I didn't see him when he arrived. He also left without telling me.

"What he didn't tell you?" She asked.

"No he didn't and I wonder why?"

"Well, he said he is rushing someone maybe that is why he didn't tell you. Anyway sit down"

Maybe that is how Seth is.

Strange, that is how I could describe him so far...

"Let me help" she smacked my hand like a child who has stolen a candy...

"No V, sit down. You are pregnant. I don't want you to over work yourself. You should sit back and rela..."

"Wait, what did you just call me?" I asked shocked. Why is everyone throwing this V name on me. First it was Cain now her...

"Why are you shocked? Seth told me it is your other name" she said like nothing is wrong, like everything is usually.

"No it is not" she just laughed at me.

"Come on Tris, I'm old not stupid" she continued to laugh.

And I, on the other hand. I'm shocked.

I wonder who is this V or Violet woman. Does she look like me. Is she no more?...

Why do people constantly repeat calling me by her name?

I have to get to the bottom of this...

JESSICA

"Boys all eyes on me"

They all gave me attention. All five of them.

"I'm putting a price tag on this young lady's head" I showed them a picture of Nyembezi.

"This girl has been missing for three months now. My P.I cannot trace her. Therefore it means you are looking for a ghost here. I believe that you have the potential to get this young lady. I'm giving you guys five days max. I want her head breathing or dead"

They all stared at me listening to me alternatively. Now this is the kinder team that I like

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this guys are what I call go-getters. They are hunters. They are predators, they know their preys and how to get them.

"You know what is beautiful about this offer?" I questioned.

"No boss" said one of my guys.

"I'm willing to pay fortune for this one. Therefore she is a golden goose"

"How much boss?" Another guy asked. This one knows his money. To him it is not about getting the job done. It is more about his bank account.

"Boys I have a rat, running around. I need you to catch that rat for me. I'm going extra miles for this one. I'm paying more than I normally should. Each one of your would get R100,000 if you find her..."

"What!?!..." they exclaimed shocked.

"You heard right boys...R100,000 just to find her"

"Yes boss!"

"Yes boss!!!" They screamed with excitement, bumping hands with each other.

Money, money, money.

I'm happy I have you. Look at all the power you gave me. I could control men with testosterone. They bark like dogs. If someone told me having money doesn't make them powerful. I wouldn't mind to sue them. Back in the days woman wouldn't call shots, but now I can because I have you.

"Boys let's tone down our excitement a little bit... let's focus on this young lady" I said handing out documents about Trista's daily routine.

"Those are places you must look at them carefully... don't leave any stone unturned. If it means you have to shutdown the country to find her then do it" I handed guns over...

"If she runs don't hesitate to put a bullet in her skull. If she fights back don't hesitate to bash her head against the wall. I want to see her take her last breath or her body cold. I have let her live way to long" they all looked at me shocked...

"Boss, if I may ask what has she done to you?" I don't take questions or orders from anyone. I do as I please.

I took the gun from the table. Aimed straight on his forehead.

Bang! Bang! Bang!...

I fired three times. His body went cold, as it hit the floor.

"Any question?" I said pointing my gun at them.

"No questions Boss"

"Good as I wa..." Someone interrupted me.

"What the fuck!?"

Someone Snapped at the door...

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JESSICA

"Ohh..." I said looking at him.

"Come in Cain. Boys meet my competitor. He has been a pain in my ass for a while now. Come..." I pointed a gun at him, daring him. If he do something stupid. I will blow his brains out.

"What the hell is wrong with you...?" He shouted.

"Just leave her alone okay?" He asked with his face dripping sweat from anger. How ridiculous...

"And you would never respect my property would you? You would never understand that this is my territory?" I said shooting him an evil stare.

"Cut the bullshit, I don't have time for your chit chat. I want you to leave her alone" now he sounds funny.

"Cain where do you get the audacity to tell me what to do?. First you managed to by pass the security until you reached my study. Which is upstairs. You passed along the stairs to get here. You see the same way you can't stay away from my property is the same way I can't stay away from her" those words were accompanied by the most evil laugh ever recorded in the book of Satan.

"Name your price..." He said with pleading eyes.

He doesn't get it does he?

"It has never been about the money. It has always and will be about making her suffer" I said that licking my toy, in my hand.

AFTER few minutes of silence...

Cain decided to do something stupid. He came rushing towards my direction. I shot his left shoulder.

Bang!...

To my surprise he didn't groan in pain, he just whimpered to acknowledge the bullet on his shoulder.

"Boys cuff him!!!..." I roared sending out instructions. They did what I said... I called my mess cleaner...

CALL

He answered on the first ring. What I like about him, his is available anytime I want him. When I say jump he says how high?

"Boss!..." He answered. I could never get used to the power. The word 'BOSS' contain. It gives me a blood rush, but in a good way...

"Wiper I need you to come by my house. I have a Bobby bag.
That need to be attended" I ordered.

"On it

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Boss. I would be there in thirty"

I hanged up.

"Boys take him to the basement, I'm coming..."

CAIN

I woke up in a cold room.

My body shivering from cold. I studied the room. It was unpleasant and dirty. I was tied down on electric chain. Only in my underwear. They took my clothes off...

I examined the room further.

There were guns across the table. One dim window. No rays of sunlight, penetrated on this room.

They were different tools around here that can end one's life in a blink of an eye. Who is real this woman? My eyes landed on two guys smocking across the passage. Their faces were not familiar, they were new to my eyes so thus my cerebrum. They didn't look like guys from earlier. My concern is where is Trista? Why does Jessica want to kill her? Isn't she her daughter? Doesn't she feel any remorse towards her?

I felt the sound of her heels coming from the passage...

I could tell it is her.

"Ohh...you're awake. Bingo!..." She said taking a butcher knife on the table.

"How are you? Do you need water?" She asked grinning.
Holding still water on my face...

I splitted saliva on her face.

"What the fuck!?" She punched my face.

Dammit! She throw punches like a man. I could feel my nose dislocate.

" You see what your curiosity has done to you. We wouldn't be here if you stayed the fuck away from her. Stayed the fuck away from my business" she said stretching my thigh with a butcher knife. She brought the knife to her nose and sniffed...

"Can you smell that?" She asked laughing.

"Uh, so he can't talk now. Cat has caught your tongue?...I have a proposal for you. I want you to leave her alone. You have Light that is more than enough. You can't have them both. You are the only one who could bring yourself. Out of your own misery. Simply by minding your own business."

"Over my dead body" I'm not giving up on Trista anytime soon.

She used force to pierce the knife through my thigh, where she left a stretch.

"Oops! I just wanted to put that down. You think you know her don't you?. Well you don't. 1: she long knew about her daughter but she didn't tell you. 2: this should tell you that she is unstable, you cannot predict her next move"

"Why do you hate her?" I asked.

"Because I can...and you choose to suffer for her sins. You choose to give her something she doesn't deserve, Love and for that you would pay"

"What the hell is wrong with you?" I roared.

" I would tell you later" she said walking out. Leave the knife still stuck on my thigh oozing blood.

"Boys beat him" she whistled walking out...

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SETH

It has been a WEEK.

Since Cain has been missing. The good part is I know who took him. The only problem is that my guy, doesn't know where Jessica is holding him hostage. You see Jessica knows how to cover her tracks. She has specific people for each job.

She doesn't risk making the same people do multiple jobs.

Jessica doesn't know it is only a matter of time till her cover blows up. When you want to catch a big fish like Jessica you need to plan everything spontaneous. You need perfection because she can out do you and when she strikes back she aims to destroy not leave a mark. I can feel it in my blood that my brother is still alive.

"I will find you soon Brother" I said planting a kiss on his picture.

Today I'm moving Trista from Ismangaliso Wetland Park.

Knowing that Jessica is willing to pay a huge lump sum for whoever can find her. I had to move her as soon as possible.

I did this job solely, even when I have a guy who is a Snitch on Jessica's cover. I can't risk people's eyes on this matter. We are living in the fourth industrial revolution, the standard of living is too high. Loyalty is sold and bought. It doesn't come free. Anyone can turn their back on you for any offer as long as it has a cherry on top.

This time I decided to take Trista to Mpumalanga. Eureka City, a ghost town that is in a state of vandalism. I know that she won't look for her there.

I managed to get her a decent house. Nothing fancy but decent according to buildings found there. My mother decided to leave

with her. She has grown fond of Trista. I guess she takes her like a daughter she never had.

"Mother make it snappy we have to leave faster, it is getting dark. The sooner we leave the better" I said clapping my hands. Taking their bags and running to the car, to place them.

The sooner we leave the better...

"Trista come, baby" she said giving her hand. You could tell by looking at her she is drained.

She even lost few pounds. That broke my heart because she should be enjoying this moment with someone she loves. Not moving from one place to the next.

TRISTA

We arrived in Eureka late before midnight...

Seth didn't even stay, for an hour. Once he offloaded our luggage he left...

Honestly speaking I'm tired emotionally, physically and mentally. The only thing that keeps me moving is the book of God and prayer.

When I woke up. I ate processed food.

While I was still eating my phone rang.

CALL

*Unlock the door..." Seth said on the other side and hanged up.

I peeped through the window and saw his truck packed outside.

Does he ever get some rest.

I opened the door and he stepped inside. The sound of his boots as they hit the floor. Filled the entire room since it was dead silent...

I returned back to my chair. He examined my face for a while. I could see pity all over his face. I don't want that from him

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I'm a strong woman he shouldn't give me sympathy.

"Tris..." He took my hands into his. "I'm sorry you're in this mess because of me. I shouldn't have told Jessica about your pregnancy"

"You did what?" He didn't respond.

"So it was you all this time. I thought Cain was your friend and for you to step on his toes that was low" he let out a heavy sigh.

"I know trust me, I regret my actions. Hence I made it my responsibilities to protect you from her. I know how she is hungry for your blood and I promise, if I'm still on the land of living. I'm not six feet under she won't touch you" I didn't bother to respond, because I know how irretional she can be. I for a fact I know Jessica's worst behaviour and how far she could go.

FEW MINUTES LATER...

Of silence. "I have brought something with me. Since Light and Pearl they are on their mid-term break I thought, they should come and stay with you guys for a little while. I would come pick them up after three weeks. Pearl loves her grandmother. I hope you can get to know each oth..." Everything he said after that went blur. I rushed outside.

My daughter is here.

"Light? Light!?!..." I shouted calling her name running towards the truck. I haven't seen her for a while now. I might have lived fourteen years without her, but once you know something. The heart grows fonder when it doesn't feel it around.

"Aunty Trista?" she said crushing her petite body on mine. Cain and I, haven't told her I'm her mother. The timing is not right.

"Oops! Sorry I didn't mean to over do it"

"Wait... You are pregnant?" She asked placing her hand on my baby bump.

"Wow, this is fantastic. Is the baby my sibling?" She asked with hope that she would finally be the bigger sister.

"Yes!" I answered with a smile stretching on my face.

"Jesus! this perfect. Pearl I'm going to be someone's sister"...

Pearl just stood there looking at us. I guess she is the shy one. On the other hand my baby was so Jolly. Making me turn, so she could check me out.

"Thank you so much, for making my wish come true. Also making my father a father again. He once lost all his hope. I love you"

She said crushing me into a hug and Pearl joined us...

This is what I call happiness...

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CAIN

The fact that I'm still breathing right now. Has made me realise that indeed God is the ruler of the universe, He is the one who withholds the Crown of life. He is the one who can give and take.

If it wasn't for Him, I wouldn't be breathing right now.

To be tortured a fully week, without a break. To the point were by I could feel my soul giving up, to the point were by I could feel my veins closing up but because Jesus hasn't said: 'YES'

I'm still breathing. But I don't know for how long. I could tell that my health is hanging by the thread. Jessica only give me a meal once a day. Sometimes I won't call what she give me food because she give rotten food. Sometimes she makes me drink my own urine, because she can't waste water. Water is way to precious for someone like me.

Lucky for me she gave me clothes after day one of being in my underwear the whole day.

Today I haven't gotten any meal and I can tell it is close to noon. My eyes couldn't keep up. I could feel the close.

"Wake up!..."

She shouted splashing cold water on me. I don't see the point to react because I would stay with this clothes until they are dry.

"So you are still alive? Good" she said looking at me with a poker face.

"Why are you doing this? Why do you hate her like this? What has she ever done to you that you can't let it go?" I asked plenty of questions at once because I don't get it.

"You see Cain you would never understand because it is more like what has he don..." She didn't complete her sentence she just went quiet.

"Jessica you know that whether you like it or not you will reap what you sow. I hope for your sake you know that if you live by the sword you will die by the sword" I blurted out to get her to speak.

"Cain you think I care? I long gave up on this life thing. People keep telling me to let it go but I can't. What happened to the society where by if a woman is raped, she damaged goods. No man is going to love her"

what the heck?

"Who told you that?" I had to ask.

"My mother..." She said without explaining further.

"Why?" I'm not letting this go.

"Okay since you like to poke your nose where it doesn't belong. I would tell you. I hate Nyembezi not because I want to

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is because I also don't love myself. I blame her for everything that has happened to me. I was only fifteen when my best friend and his goons decided raped me. I even hate myself for referring him as my best friend but he once was. Heth was a coward he killed himself that night, while he was still doing it. I told myself I would seek revenge nothing is as sweet as revenge. But that bastard choose an easy way out. I managed to live with myself the first month it happened but my world came crashing down, the day I realised that he might be dead, but his part isn't. When the doctor told me I'm pregnant..." She said with tears on her face. I never knew I would see Jessica cry. She wiped her tears and continued...

"Okay I'm not crying" she said blowing air on her face.

"My mother kicked me out. She said she couldn't be seen in public with a disgrace. She wouldn't give a roof to someone who is disgrace. I had nowhere to go...till some old lady took me in. But she died before I could give birth. There were days I went to bed on empty stomach" what she is telling me has nothing to do with Trista.

"I understand you pain. What I don't understand is why Nyembezi has to pay for sins that ain't her's?" I asked concerned.

"Because every child suffer for their parents sins. Since that day I tried to do abortion and I didn't succeed I told myself. That I would make her life a living hell. My mother took me back the day Nyembezi was born I felt like she loved her more than she loved me" what is wrong with this woman. Does she has a loose screw on her head.

"But what you just told me doesn't justify you Mr actions" I pointed out.

Out of nowhere Jessica just stood up and roamed around the room...

"You don't get it do you?" She shouted.

"You don't understand what is like to be me. You don't get it. Do you?" Trust me I don't because as far as I'm concerned her actions ain't justified.

"What?" I said looking at her.

"Do you know what is like to be told that you would never be a mother, because during labor lot of things went wrong. Do you know what is like to look at your husband nagging you about giving him children knowing very well that you can't because you gave birth to someone that killed those chances for you. Do you know what is like to have to steal someone's child for you to support and raise them like your own to save your marriage"

"You piece of shit, you failed to raise your only child to raise someone else's child" I blurted that angry. How could she hate Nyembezi like this and have the audacity to love a child that isn't her's.

"You shut up..." She said throwing a punch on my stomach.

"Go ahead and kill me Jessica, you busy calling people cowards while you are the biggest coward" I said splitting out blood from my mouth.

"Dear if you thought I would kill you that is where you got it wrong. You are more useful to me alive that dead. I love to look at you. Look dead as a doornail...dead is an easy way out.

I want to torture you so that when you live you can be able to tell your girlfriend" she said like it is normally.

"Don't worry you would get out of here soon. Your friend is coming for you I know. He doesn't like to confront people he likes to act unlike you. Don't ever forget that you are suffering because you don't support the society you are a hypocrite. You

love a woman who is raped. While the society say damaged goods can't be made wives".

"Fuck off, I want you to live longer and see me love Nyembezi like she isn't a rape product"

She laughed.

"She didn't tell you she was raped? Her daughter is a rape product? Sometimes I wonder what kinder relationship you share" she laughed.

"What did you say to me?" I questioned...

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TRISTA

THE past two days, was the best days of my life. I could even write a book about it, and believe me. I would win a Nobel prize for telling the best story ever told.

To say I'm not animated.

I would be lying because I'm beyond that. In fact ecstatic is the best word to use, because my heart is dancing with joy. I even forgot what I have been through. The girls are the best medicine to numb the pain.

Pearl has finally come out of her shell and I can tell you once she gets to know you. She is what I call 'Hail-Fellow-well-met'

Me and the girls never run out of activities to do. Everyday we have something to do. Bored never visit us. Eureka might not be the best location, but I can tell you that my soul is more at peace here. In the place Where The Sun Rises...

I haven't heard any complaints from Seth. And you know what the say " no news, is good news"

"Rise and shine!..."

Light said shouting. Placing my breakfast on the table across the room.

"Wakey. Wakey. My lady" Pearl said jumping on my bed. How old is she again?

"How is our baby today?" She said placing her hands on my tummy, then her ears to listen to the baby.

"Hello, in there. I hope you can hear me. I'm your bigger sister. I can't wait to stuff you with ice cream and chocolates...No, you

little pumpkin. It is not happening" she then laughed at her stupidity.

So now she doesn't care about me? Why does it feel like this baby, is gonna steal my spotlight...

"I can't believe this" I said wiping my non-existing tears.

"Don't be a cry baby. Jealousy doesn't look good on you dear mother. Can you hear that pumpkin. Mommy is a cry baby"
Light teased.

Ms Lewis knocked on my door.

"Come in, Granny" Pearl shouted sometimes I even forget. She is in the room. But her class act can be felt when she is around.

"Girls

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please excuse us!" Ms Lewis said. Dismissing them. They started to sulk and didn't the look cute as a button...

When they walked out she sat next to me. She let out a heave.

"Tris, I'm concerned" she blurted out.

"Huh! Why? What is wrong?". I asked concerned...

"Tris, you are getting too attached. I'm worried, that when they leave you will have a mental breakdown" since I knew she was telling the truth...

I decide to keep quiet, because I could feel it in my bones that I have made my life revolve around them.

SETH

Not knowing which step to take next. Can make one lose her sanity.

I been sitting on my study for like six hours tops and I can't seem to figure it out. Which move to take next. Even my Brady bottle, is close to being empty.

When, I was about to walk out.

Jessica welcomed herself in my study.

"What the fuck? I won't address this matter over and over" I said pushing her across the wall to choke her. She laughed and placed her lips on my neck. The sensation that came with it, felt good. That made me weak before I lose myself in the moment I banged her against the wall.

"Wow Seth that felt good. I would advise you to do it again but pity. I'm not here for that" she said moving to sit on my desk,

exposing her thigh. I choose not to give her the satisfaction and looked at her face.

"What?" I snapped.

"Relax boy, I won't bite" she said flexing her body to look sedative.

"I have a proposal for you" I looked at her signalling her to continue.

"Well I have your friend..." She said acting stupid.

"I know..." I killed her joy.

"Then why haven't you tried to get him?"

"I won't answer that..." I answered like a genius. Not selling myself out that I don't know where the location is.

"Whatever. I want R10, 000, 000 In cash. In exchange for your friend..."

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SETH

"Are you out of your mind"

I had to ask. Like seriously. Who does she think she is...

"Let's not make each other, look like fools.

You know exactly what, I mean Seth. You aren't a fool now are you?. I want

R10, 000, 000. In cash.

I looked at her, like really look at her. Can

she even write that amount of money down, without getting goosebumps.

Maybe she can't hear herself, when she

speaks sometimes.

"You know what, go fuck yourself!" She looked at me, shocked. As if she couldn't believe her ears.

"I'm not your lap dog, Jessica. Go ahead and kill him...In fact, once you are done. Deliver his head, rapped in a present box"

"What the fuck Seth!" She snapped, I guess she can't handle. Fighting a losing battle because she ain't getting any cent from me.

"Seth, you either comply or I'm gonna tell your wife. What went down the other day"

I just busted into laughter.

"Go ahead and tell her. To even reduce your work load. She is somewhere around, the house. You think I care?" I asked incredulously.

She looked at me shocked.

"Exactly...what I thought. You wouldn't tell her. You know why? because if you do. You won't have any leverage against me. So instead of telling her, you rather keep that information to yourself. So I can be useful to you because if you tell her. I'm as good as useless...you know what is funny?" I asked looking exactly inside her eyes.

"What!?" She shouted frustrated.

"You won't kill him. You know why?. Don't answer that. I would answer it for you. Cain is your only close access to Trista. If you're hurting him, you are also hurting her. But if you kill him. You know that the pain would fade away, as time goes by. She won't mourn forever, and as far as I'm concerned. I know you want her to feel pain for as long as she shall live. So eliminating her loved once. Won't hurt like, you want it to. You know it hurt

more. When they are alive and suffering. Once, they die. The Mentality has a tendency, of say their are resting now. They won't feel any pain. You know that the mind

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can make up with death and live with it, cherish memories you had because that is the only living part left with that person, Memories...so you see why I won't give you any penny?"

I asked looking at her like a fool she is, because I could feel that my smatter talk

got her to behaviour. She has been doing as she please. For a while now. It ends here.

She just stared at me, in disbelieve.

"Are we done here?" I asked with a bored tone, because her presence was beggining to rub me off in a bad way...

"Don't think this is over, it is far from over. I would watch my back, if I was you" she threatened.

"Well, I would love to see you try. You see Jessica. You are a dog that always barks, but not bite...as you came" I pointed the door for her.

She walked out like she has a tail, between her legs. Even her walks has changed. That is what I call walk of shame...

CAIN

I'm tired, beyond tired.

I don't even want to get started on my

body. It felt like my days are numbered.

Jessica walked in here, looking angry like a bull.

"Boys uncuff him!" She commanded.

"Okay what is going on? Am I missing something?" I asked.

"Just shut up, don't talk unless. I say so. Now!" She shouted.

Her goons, did what she said. You could tell she is breathing fire. Once they were done. I massaged my wrists, they have reddened due to being cuffed for a while. They were even sore.

"Listen to me, this is far from over..." she whispered in my ear.

"Boys, drop him at his house"

WHEN I GOT OUTSIDE...

I felt like the sun, is blazing hot. Almost two weeks. Without seeing the Sun.

I couldn't keep my eyes open. The Sunlight was blinding my view...

The drive to my house felt longer.

Jessica's drive dropped me on the gate. He didn't even stop, the car. I had to get out while he was driving. That putted pressure on my wounds. Lucky for me. He wasn't driving at a faster speed.

I limped to my house...

The smell that hit my nostrils, made me appreciate life.

I never knew. I would appreciate smell of a clean house, like today. The first thing I did was to put my phone on the charger and called Seth.

CALL

"Cain?" He answered.

"I need a doctor, call him to come by my house as soon as possible. I'm getting weak. Each passing second" I uttered. "Target?" He asked.

"Stabbed thigh and shot shoulder" he hated up.

I couldn't go UPSTAIRS.

I just sat down on the floor, next to the refrigerator after drinking water. I could feel

my eyes getting heavy. As my vision started to become blur...

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SETH

My doctor and I didn't waste any more time..

We rushed to Cain's property. We were greeted by a trail of blood from the gate. We didn't waste anymore time. We rushed inside. To find Cain. Lying unconsciously on the floor

Luckily we bought a stretcher...

"Cain, can you hear me?"

"Seth. Stop with formalities. Help me to put his body on the stretcher and let's take him to the operation room"

The doctor stated, balancing Cain's body on the right posture. He won't understand why I'm acting like this. My brother's health is on the line here...

"Seth make it snappy. We might lose, Him" the doctor stated.

OPERATION ROOM...

"Give me scissor, Crow's Bill Forceps, gunpowder, rubbing alcohol, tray and sterile gauze" he said examining his wound, with surgery gloves on.

"How is coming along?"

I asked because anxiety, was feeding on me. I couldn't remaining on the same

place. I kept pacing up and down. I can't lose him. At least, not like this. Cain has to fight back. He has, a child on the way and a daughter. Those two beings still need a present father...

"He got lucky, the bullet. Didn't hit the subclavian artery, which feed the branchial artery. As well, as the branchial plexus. The large nerve bundle that controls arm functions" he stated.

"He is shot, in the ideal manner. He need to keep his wound clean" he said pressing hard on the wound.

Cain groaned...

"Fuck man! Take it easy" Cain said to the doctor. He said trying to open his eyes.

"Man

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welcome back" I smiled.

"You are one lucky man. The Glock 19, bullet didn't do any harm. I guess, whoever shot him. Didn't aim to kill. But next time remember it takes one bullet. If they shot you on branchial artery. We could be humming funeral songs now" the doctor said patting his shoulder.

He didn't bother to uplift his trousers...

He took the knife, and cut his trousers to expose his wound.

"Dammit! This looks deep"

The scar looked disgusting, this woman is a psychopath.

"I would have to perform a surgical suture on this one"

AFTER, the doctor was done with everything. He performed, plasmapheresis because he has lost to much blood...

Don't be surprised. This underground doctors. Have any blood group. They steal blood from hospitals. For such emergency.

"My work is done here..."

He said taking off his surgical gloves. After he packed his equipments.

"I will give you. Your package, before the end of the day" I said.

Cain was dead, quiet.

"Man, stay away from trouble".

He took his belongings, and left...

"Welcome back. Buddy"

He just laughed...

CAIN

"Where could she be?" I asked myself.

Four months, with additional weeks...

"I'm leaving" Seth uttered.

"It's okay man" I didn't even bother to look at him.

"What is going on?" He asked.

"I want to see, my daughter. Can you drop her off, tomorrow?"
I asked. I miss my daughter.

"Uh, about that. I sent the girls to my mother. They will be back after school holidays"

"Ohh, I see" I said, in a lower tone.

"I have to bounce man"

He said walking out...

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CAIN

When you're happy time moves faster.

It was crack of dawn...

When, we were cuddling. Covered in sweat, with the room smelling like sex. I never knew that sex aroma, can smell this good.

After having the forbidden fruit.

I never knew that woman. Who is up the duff, can pull tricks like that. This woman continues to amaze me. From roll in the hay, love making to just kinky. With her, sex has never been a bore. Sometimes, I feel like I can't keep up.

She even made me want to put a ring on it.

She made me retire. My 'play the field' title without asking. That is how devoted, I'm to this woman. I wonder if men wander around without trying to find them, Their bones. What are they thinking, because I can finally stand up. In the crowd and shout "I have found my wing, my ribs, my helper!" because this woman was specifically made for me...

But you could tell, by looking at her. That she is not okay. She has been having abdominal pain since yesterday. I examined her, as she forced herself to go to the bathroom

"Holly crap! Cain it is coming!..." She shouted in the bathroom.

"What? You are only seven months pregnant. You can't go on labor now?" I said. Already calling our OB. She is having a home birth...

We can't manage to take any risks.

I helped her walk to the operation room...

HOURS...

Has passed. Since they have been in there. I didn't even have the gut to go hold her hand. I fear, that the worst might happen. I was sitting with Light in the kitchen. No one dared to say anything.

When, the OB. Came to the kitchen. We both stood... you could tell by his shoulders. That something is wrong

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and my instincts are never wrong.

"I'm sorry..." he said with pleading eyes.

We both waited for him to continue.

"Unfortunately, you daughter and wife. They didn't make it. We found a trace of food poisoning in her system. She died due to shock. When sh..." what he said after that. I couldn't detect it. Light just busted into tears...

"No, No, N..."

"MAN WAKE UP!" Someone said shaking me.

I woke up.

Faster than, I intended. That my head hit hard on the bed headboard. My body was shivering in fear. Covered in the pool of my own sweat..

"No, No, No. I have to find her" Seth was just standing there staring at me.

"Man are you okay?"

"I have to find her..."

TRISTA

The Sun in Eureka, is always blazing hot.

But my body has now been able to blend with the environment. Lucky we always stay inside...

We can't afford to be seen roaming around the streets...

Today, I have an appointment with my doctor. Well I got a new one. Seth has already prepared everything. The doctor now stays with us. Seth say he can't afford any mistakes.

"Do you want to know the gender" the doctor asked preparing equipments.

"No, I would rather keep it unknown. Any gender is fine with me. I just want a healthy baby. That's all, I pray for everyday"

I smiled to myself. Thinking about how perfect my little baby would be. If the baby had Cain's ocean blue eyes. If both our complexions could be incomplete dominance. Those little ten fingers and ten toes. The baby can have my hair that is, natural

and midnight Black. Also my bushy, velvety, eyelashes. My dainty nose.

God, the baby would be perfect...

"I'm sorry mam, I can't detect any movement on the sonogram..." she said.

My heartbeat tricked, up within seconds...

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TRISTA

"What!?" I exclaimed, shocked.

"Mam, I would advise you to calm down. The baby might be sleeping. Come on, stand up" she gave me her hand to help me stand up.

"Breathe in and out" Dr Daniel said, blowing air out slowly.

"Okay, now you are focused. I would like you to walk around. If you have chocolate around the house. Could you please have a few bites, in order to stimulate the baby to be active. The baby might be restin..."

I rushed into the kitchen, to do as I was told. My hands were shaking with fear of the unknown. I couldn't even grab the chocolate slabs. It fell several times...

"Mama, is everything okay?" Pearl asked. Looking at my shaking hands. "Uh, let me help you with that" she gave me pity eyes. As if she understood. What was going on under the sun.

TEN MINUTES AFTERWARDS...

"Ms Zulu, could you please try to relax. I have to focus here" she replied the cold gel on my abdomen. Then she gently poked my stomach.

She focused on the sonogram screen. The look on her face. Made me accept the sad reality that my baby is no more...

After a while...

She released a heavy sigh.

"We are clear" she said, pressing the heartbeat sound. The room was filled with joy.

"Cleared, healthy heartbeat and breathing detected"

I released a breath

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I didn't know. I was holding. I thought I knew what fear is. Today proved me wrong. I only heard about it. Now I know that it is every Mother's fear to lose her child...

"You got one lazy baby Ms. Zulu. I would advise you not to be lazy the whole day. You can start doing exercises. Do activities around the house, because if we move at this rate. We would have a problem during labor. You child mustn't be lazy. It is not healthy. I would advise you to be careful, and prepare yourself for the unknown. Pregnancy is live changing. It is not inconvenience. Know that, the umbilical cord can 'strangle' a

baby by cutting off oxygen flow through the neck to the brain. This may involve compression of the carotid artery. You must be able to detect when your child is stressed, you will have certain indicators such as Abnormal Heart Rates, Decrease in Fetal Movement, Maternal Cramping, Vaginal Bleeding and etc. Monitor these signs carefully. she said.

"For now your baby is fine. We would do ultrasound next week to check everything. Do stay away from junk food" she said packing her things. It is strange on how she lives with us. But you could barely notice her presence...

She walked out.

"Don't ever do that to Mommy please I'm begging you" I said more like to myself than the baby

CAIN

Since that nightmare...

Seth has been crowding me. I don't know who told him I need supervision.

Only a week left. The girls would be back home. I can't wait to see my Light. My wounds are healing perfectly fine...

Seth and I, have been keeping a tail on Jessica.

So far she hasn't done anything stupid...but we can't relax. She can be irretional and unpredictable.

"I need Jessica's daughter" I said to Seth. He gave me a 'why?' looking.

"I think, this bitch might be our pawn to this game. Jessica wants war. I'm gonna give it to her."

Seth looked me and whistled...

"I'm your man"...

"Let's do this" i said polishing my gun...

"How do we do this" Seth asked curiously.

"I would let you know. For now, I'm still eating brain bones"

"Okay whatever you decided. I'm your man, shout anytime"

Seth, is a keeper. He always have my back...

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TRISTA

A week went by faster than it came.

I'm helping Pearl and Light to pack their luggage. Seth would be here to pick them up. It's only a matter of time, till school reopens.

"Auntie Trista, Do you have to remain behind?" Light asked, this one calls me. Anyhow, she feels like it. Sometimes I'm Stepmom, sometimes Mama, sometimes Auntie. I wonder why?

"I wish, I said 'No' but I have to burst your bubble. I have to stay behind"

"Why?" She asked that is Light for you. Always curious.

"Several reasons. Which, I can't tell you" How do I look at her, and tell her my life is in danger...

"Uhm..." she said and remained quiet. Her eyes were starting to water with tears.

"Girls hurry up, Seth would be here anytime" Ms Lewis shouted in the passage.

While we were still packing. A car hooted outside.

I checked through the window. I saw Seth's truck.

"Mama, please unlock the door. Seth is here" I shouted.

"Okay dear"

Pearl and Light run to the kitchen to welcome Cain. I decided to lie down.

CAIN

By the time we reached Eureka. The suspense was already killing me.

The minute Seth's Mom busted the door. I couldn't contain myself. Light threw herself in my hands. I hugged her right away.

"Daddy

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I missed you so much" she said. I planted a kiss on her forehead. I moved to Pearl. After showing my girls some love. My eyes roamed around the room. Searching for that one face, I would kill for and die for.

"Where is she?"

"Well, she went out for a walk" Pearl said with a straight face.

"What the heck, tell me you are joking. She do know how dangerous it is out there" I snapped.

"Jeez, Daddy don't bite her head off. She is in the bedroom. The first room on the passage" I rushed there immediately.

When I got there, she was sleeping safe and sound.

"Ohh my baby..."

She was about to doze off. "Tris.." I called out her name. She jumped out of bed. To meet me halfway. She crushed her small body on mine. Well not small anymore. She looked like a whale. More like a sexy whale...

"Hey take it easy"

"Jesus! You came. I've been waiting..." she bursted into tears.

To be missed by someone genuinely. Is the best feeling ever. I never knew that women can give the warmest hug. Till our paths crossed....

JESSICA

I may have been born at night, but not last night.

Seth thinks he can cover his tracks. What he doesn't know. Is that nothing can remain hidden from me, Forever. Everything has a way to reveal itself to me.

If he thought taking Trista to Eureka was a smart move. Then he made a mistake. He literally threw her to the lion's den.

What I like about that location...

I can do anything around it, and get away with it. "Boys, we need to prepare our swords. In four months time we have a mission" I said laughing.

"What kind of mission boss's?"

"Blood splitting kinder mission. Prepare anything you may need. I'm going to help someone give birth" I said looking at my knife, already sharpened and shiny. Ready for fun.

"Let the fun begin, Rest In Peace Nyembezi. In advance. This time, I won't miss..."

FOUR MONTHS LATER...

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CAIN

LOCATED SOMEWHERE IN THE BUSH...

"What are we going to do with her?" I asked looking at Zethu. Who is tied on a chair like a dog, covered in blood. Seth, has shown me a side of him. Which I never knew. He has beaten Zethu to pulp.

"Keep her breathing for now!" He said looking at his phone. For the 5th time now. "Expecting a call?" I had to ask. He is acting weird.

"Nothing, is..." his phone rang.

"Hold on for a sec" he walked out to take his call. So now he takes calls in private?

"Mmmm" Zethu said, mumbling since Seth tied her mouth.

"Just shut up!" I snapped...

My cell phone vibrated on the table.

"Dr Daniel" my screen lights up.

CALL

"Talk to me " I answered.

"Well, sir. Your girlfriend is due in two days. You will have to come down here, because anytime from today she might have a child" My heart skipped with joy.

"Thank you Doc. We would be there" I dropped the call. Seth walked in, whistling.

"Prepare the truck we are leaving. Late at night. Trista is having a baby in two days" I chuckled.

"Damn, Brother. I'm happy for you. It's about time. I guess it is true that you will never have a rose without the prink. Boy, I'm happy for you. I know, what this means for you. You been dying for this moment your entire life"

He took his gun on the table and checked his bullets.

He fired, Right between Zethu's eyes. Blood spread everywhere. Walls were painted red...

"What the fuck, did you just blow her brains out" I snapped wipping, blood that landed on my face.

"You see that boy, is a price you pay. For being Jessica's daughter. Nothing new about that

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it is more like old chestnut" he said, tucking his gun on the back

"You shouldn't have done that. You don't get to make that call. She isn't Jessica's biological daughter" I shouted at the top of my lungs. I was annoyed by his actions...

"Dammit, it was never part of the plan"

"Would you relax, I just put this girl out of her misery. It is better this way. If she knew it wasn't her mother, things could have been worse because I was still going to kill her. I wasn't going to spare her" I just let him be.

"Light is coming along..." I uttered. My baby can't miss such a big day.

JESSICA

"Perfect, we will be there" I hung up.

"Boys, get ready. I would come pick you up. I have to pass by a friend's house".

"Sure thing Boss" they said, running around to pack their tools. We been waiting for this day for four months now.

I drove to THANDO'S Beauty Salon.

THIRTY MINUTES LATER...

I walked in, I found her busy. I guess she has done pretty well for herself. I have never found this place empty on my visit.

"Jessica, what brings you here?"

"Well" I looked at the lady who was doing her nails.

"Can I please steal her for few minutes"

"Okay" she answered looking purposely down.

We went outside...

"It is the day" I blurted that out. The minute we got to my car.

"What day?" She asked astonished.

"Hello!" I waved my hand on her face. "Nyembezi is having a baby. You idiot. Don't tell me you forgot because I will be offended. Four months, of planning and you want to throw it down the drain" I shouted angry.

"Tell me you're joking?..."

"Shit I forgot..." she run, her hands through her hair. "When are we leaving?" She asked...

Fuck! this girl is a fool.

"Today Dammit, pack your shit we are leaving at nine. You're dismissed.

CAIN

Adrenaline was playing tricks on me. I felt like I could run to Eureka. I can't wait to meet my other half.

"Light!..." I shouted.

"Pack your bags we are leaving... Trista will deliver our little one in two days" she rushed to her room without any interrogation. I guess she missed her, four months is a long time.

Seth walked in.

"We're leaving at 8:45pm"

"Perfect, it's about time"...

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JESSICA

Everyone was ready for this day. I have taken twenty of my strong men. In total we were twenty two , including Thando and me.

Black was the theme of the day. Everyone was dressed in black customs. Ready to have some fun.

My phone beeped with a message from Dr Daniel.

MESSAGE NOTIFICATION...

"Boss, keep your journey discreet. They are also heading this way" I read the message and laughed.

"We are clear, we have already spotted them. So when will she have a baby?" I asked worriedly.

" Well I don't know when specifically but two days from now on. Anything can happen"

"Two days from now on, that is a very long time. Give her something. That you have to make her deliver early. We can't stay on the bus for two days" I stated.

"Okay Boss. I have Pitocin which stimulates the uterine muscles to contract and the force of the contractions will gradually help to dilate the cervix. I also have prostaglandins which trigger muscles in your uterus to contract. These contractions help expel the uterus lining. I have few with me such as misoprostol is a pill taken by mouth or placed in the vagina

also Pitocin can be given through intravenously in small amounts to ripen the cervi..."

I cut her off. " You are the doctor here. Do what you are supposed to do. We would be there tomorrow morning" I hung up.

THANDO

I looked at Jessica shocked.

"What exactly is your deal with her" I don't really understand this feud.

"What is your story?" I asked. If she had to prepare twenty men to attack it might be bigger than I thought.

"She is my daughter..." she avoided eye contact afterwards.

"What? You mean, The Jessica. The most famous business woman ever lived in KZN. Is Trista's Mother. That explains a lot" she didn't reply she went mute.

"Damn, she was born with prevelages. That explains why she opened a law firm. At an early age"

"You got it all wrong Thando. She never enjoyed any of those. She opened that law firm with her own sweat and blood. She was a brighter kid at school. I never bothered to take her to school. She did it on her. She isn't who you think she is" she said dismissing the conversation. I took the signal and zipped my mouth

CAIN

By the time we reached our final destination Light was already snoring. I don't know how many times she asked: " Are we there, Yet" I guess she is as happy as I'm.

By the time we got to Barberton it was 00:51 am and we were only 2.1 km away from Eureka. Which estimated time is five minutes. Which might take long due to road conditions...

By the time we got there. Trista and Ms Lewis, we in the kitchen still talking.

Wow!

Having fun much...

49

TRISTA

Time flies.

Cain and Seth got here around around 01:30 am...

We stayed up talking and having fun. By the time is was 03:30 am, we all went to bed. Cain and slept together.

His presence, felt like it came with assurance of safety because I slept like a baby. Plenty of nights. It is like my sleep has fled. I get weird dreams most of the time and I cannot take Sleeping pills. I'm scared of the side effects. I'm taking a lot of pills as it is already.

When I woke up. In the morning...

Cain was no longer on my bedside. As I went to the bathroom. A knock startled me.

"It's open..."

Dr Daniel walked in with a pile of medication on her tray. "Good morning my love, Rise and Shine. I have few pills with me" she said, handing them over.

"Am I supposed to take them on an empty stomach?"

"Yeah, sure"

I gulped everything down, in one go.

"Let me leave you to relax" she walked out.

JESSICA

MESSAGE NOTIFICATION...

"Done!" It reads.

"Boys let's move" I commanded.

As soon as the bus hit the road. The bus driver was really killing the engine...

Since Thando knew Trista was my daughter she has been giving me weird stares.

"Talk

you know?" I gave her a side eye.

"Huh!" She said, raising her left eyebrow.

"You know you can say your piece and stop staring at me like that"

"I just don't get it Ms or Mrs?"

"Ms..." I replied

"She is your daughter, why are you doing this?"

"She is not my daughter, okay!. She is more like his daughter than mine. Nyembezi is a product of rape. I never loved her. I made her life a living hell, because I loathed her for her father's doings" she screamed. Making everyone in the bus look at her. Okay! I guess this explains why Trista was always living in her bubble. She found comfort in her own bubble more than other people.

"But it was never her fault" my voice wasn't audible enough. It was like I was losing my voice.

Right there, I felt a sting of guilt hit me. She didn't deserve this; she only needed a friend. Not some backstabbing bitch for a friend...

"Don't even think about it, what is done is done. There is no going back now or I would silence you myself" she pressed the gun on my forehead.

"I won't" my voice was shaking with fear.

"Good, that is what you get for making a deal with the devil there is no turning back" she said planting a kiss on my lips. "After this job you are my whore"...

TRISTA

I was just lying there. I couldn't feel my legs. When I tried to wake up. A sharp pain hit my abdomen with force. "Ahhhhhh" I shrieked.

Cain came running to my rescue...

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TRISTA

Cain, helped me to stand up...

"Take it easy"

Cain took my hand into his to give me balance...

By the time I stood up. I felt something cold running through my thighs and wet my legs afterwards...

"Shit, did you just wet yourself" Cain asked laughing.

"You mother fucker my water just broke"

"Whoa"

He cupped me up and carried me to the operation, like I weigh nothing.

When I looked at my thighs. I saw blood clots also dripping on my thighs. The smell, of blood hit my nostrils.

"Cain get me a bucket now!" I shouted.

"Why" I slapped me

"Do what you are told Dammit!" Poor Cain he was panicking.

When he brought the bucket...

I just spitted my vomit inside. Those blood clots we disgusting. This isn't how labour is supposed to be.

JESSICA

Due to driving speed. We reached Eureka before the estimated time.

MESSAGE NOTIFICATION...

"She is having a baby. Get here now" Dr Daniel message clarify.

"Boys let's move, I'm using the back door. You will use the front door. When you get there hold everyone hostage...Separately, don't go in with groups. They will spot you easily. Keep your radios close. Only use them when you need backup" I walked out.

My phone beeped

"She is alone in the operation room you can strike"

When I got to the back door. Lucky for me Dr Daniel, left the door opened. I could hear Trista screaming across the room. I guess Dr Daniel, did a number on her. For her to scream like a slaughtered cow.

"Hello there!" I said smiling.

I locked the door, behind me. So that it could be just the 'TWO' of us. No disturbance.

"What the hell? How did you get in here?" She asked shocked.

"How many times did I tell you, not to undermine me?. So you were going to do this without your mother? So you were going to bring my Grandchild, Without the baby's. Grandma's consent? How selfish? Can you be dear Nyembezi?" I asked smiling.

"Look

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it is just me and you" I compressed my laughter.

"You are lying Cain and Seth they are both here"

How cute?

"I guess, this pregnancy was a wonderful experience compared to the last one. Supporting little pretending family. No one is down for you. None of these people are real, like I'm to you" I said placing my backpack down. To prepare my toys, because fun is about to go down.

CAIN

I rushed to Dr Daniel, Light, Seth and his mother. I've to seek for assistance. Trista is losing too much blood. I halted on my tracks when a gun was pointed on my face as I got to the dinning room...

"Right on time. Move..." some guy said. His voice sounded horrible.

When I scanned the room, I spotted Thando.

What is she doing here?

There were about seventeen men, in the room. When I did quick calculations in addition with Thando. They were eighteen. They all had pistols in their hands. In different sizes and names...

I never knew that Jessica can pull something like this off. I give her the crown of masterminds. This here, needs a deep thinker. I tried to turn on my tracks to check on Trista.

"One step, I would blow your brains. Now come and join others. Don't spoil fun" Thando said.

"Move man..." the one pointing a gun at me said. I moved slowly like I was calculating my steps.

"Just sit the fuck down Cain" Seth shouted.

The guy next to him inserted the gun silencer on his mouth.

"You shut up!..." the guy roared

I sat down slowly. Looking at my daughter shaking in her boots, scared for her dear life. I'm the one who brought her into this mess. She could have remained behind.

"Shit!" I exclaimed angry.

"Baby, Daddy is sorry for this" I said looking at Light. She just gave me a nod as her response.

"Hey white boy, you shut up. You don't call the shots here we done"

51

SETH

I was born ready for such things.

I knew Jessica would act like this. Hence I got my boys on stand by for backup. The only problem is that I've got to get hold of that "Emergency Button". Which I left on the kitchen counter. If only I could get a chance to get hold of it...

I don't know how to distract these guys, we are outnumbered here. We are only 'four' and they are 'eighteen'

Wait!

We are four? and they are eighteen. How did Jessica find out? I looked at her.

"This bitch!"

I jumped on top of her to strangle the life out of her. The other guy shot my arm.

"Arhhhh, you sold us out. You good for nothing Doctor. You will pay for this" I snapped...

TRISTA

I heard a gunshot fired across the house.

'Bang!'

Tears streamed on my face with mucus...

"Wipe those tears. You look pathetic" Jessica said

"Now stop being egregious, it is not the best make up on you" she said. Taking out a butcher knife.

"What are you going to do with that?" I asked.

"Wait and see. Well, if I haven't taken your eyes off by that time I hope" she said, eyeing that beast on her hand.

"Now lay down." I didn't comply.

"Nyembezi, if you don't do as I say. I will kill you and I won't hesitate" she snapped...

I did as I was told. As soon as my back hit the bed. She rushed towards me and ripped my dress into two pieces...

I glanced at her, shocked. She ran her hands on my belly and placed her head on my belly and said the weirdest thing ever..."Ohh God how I would kill to have this moment. Don't

worry dear it will be over soon" she said while locating my bikini cut

"Don't worry I know how to do it, The most common incision is made horizontally just above the pubic bone. The muscles in your stomach will not be cut. They will be pulled apart so that I can gain access to the uterus. An incision will then be made into the uterus, horizontally or vertically, I will decide" she took her knife.

"Now let's bust this stomach open" she said cutting my stomach open. The pain that I felt I couldn't describe it...

"Ahhhhhhh" I screamed...

SETH

I felt something pushing me to the urge to act faster. It was like my mind wasn't my own. I ran to the kitchen and pressed the emergency button. Five guys followed me. By the time they got here. I long threw out the emergency button through the window.

"I'm not running" I raised my hands in surrender. They all looked at me. "Back..." he pushed me back to where everyone was.

FIFTEEN MINUTES PASSED...

No one dared to say anything.

Wait for it...

Bullets started flying everywhere. Everyone was screaming and running for safety. I took my mother and Light. I wanted to hide them in the basement.

"Bang! Bang!" The sound of gunshots left a sting in my ears. My eyes landed on Light who was groaning. She has been shot twice in the stomach...

Dammit!

I scooped her up and proceeded on my journey. Once I reached the basement. I took my sweater off. And tied it aggressively on her gun wound to stop the bleeding. "Mother compress the wound to prevent her from bleeding. Keep her awake don't stop talking to her"

"But Set.."

"Not now, Mama" I rushed outside. Knowing they are safe there.

Blood and dead corpses occupied the area. All Jessica's men are down, only Thando's body is missing here...

TRISTA

Once Jessica ripped my stomach open she took the baby out..She didn't even care about my child's health, because I was supposed to take the Nevirapine pill before delivery and she didn't care...

Once she was done, she took the baby out, she cutted the umbilical cord and examined the baby's private part. "He is a boy" she laughed. The pain I felt. I would rate it 10 out 10. That is how extreme it was..

"I could cut off all his dick, and call it circumcision." She laughed. The baby wasn't crying. Jessica slapped his butt twice to open up his gaseous exchange organs.

She placed the baby down whose cries filled the entire room "OMG look at this, we are having another baby" she said taking the baby out.

Twins, how the hell did that happen?

"A girl, it looks like you are having fraternal twins" Jessica said, cutting off the umbilical cord. Lucky for me. There was no injury to any of the children. Therefore, maybe they are not infected. Once she was done she left me opened. The wind that penetrated made everything more excruciating... I could feel my soul leaving my body.

TRISTA

"You see these babies. I'm going to sell them at black market. Their organs would perform better functions if they were given to other useful people" Jessica said while rapping my babies in towels...

That would happen on my dead bed. I don't know where I got the strength from. I reached for a towel next to me. Then, I tied my stomach. To prevent any further bleeding. I reached for the gun on the little table...

Jessica was occupied with my babies to the point. Where by she didn't see my moves...

I shot her five times on her shoulder. She fell on the floor, on a slow motion. Clothes she had on, were ruined her shoulder was dripping blood.

I jumped on top of her and stabbed her several times. On her stomach. Her blood flowed on the floor like a river. My hands were covered in blood.

I moved away from her to check if my children were still breathing. I released my breath when I realized that they were alive...

"Where the fuck is the key?"

She gave me an evil glance and laughed. I don't get it. How can someone still find humour on her dead bed?.

"Nyembezi just stop fighting. Fighting fate is fatal. This is how it was meant to be. You and me, alone with your little devils to die" I rushed to her, gave her a hot slap on her cheek and made her face me.

"Look at me and listen to me" she looked aside. I turned her face to mine, with a slap " I said look at me you good for

nothing mother, don't ever call my children that. This better be the first and the last time" I snapped.

"And if it is not?" She asked. "What you going to do about it. Devils" you could hear inverted commas on 'Devils'. My anger was rising to another peak. I was about to take my gun when...

"TRISTA ARE YOU IN THERE" Cain's voice hit my eardrum. "YES, YES, YES!" I shouted those words out. As they were the only words that came to my brain.

"Trista open this door"

"It is locked, Jessica has the key" she tried to move and I knocked her off, with the back of the gun. It was light out for her.

Cain kicked the door open...

CAIN

I walked in...

To be welcomed with blood everywhere. The sight was
eyeshow..

I rushed to Trista who her stomach was rapped in a towel. "Are
you okay?"

"I'm fine, our babies need cleaning. I also need surgery" she
fainted after saying those words...

Seth walked in later on.

"Call your Doctor she needs medical attention" I shouted.

"How deep is it? " Seth asked...

"Well according to my knowledge the optimal range for cesarean incision length is between 12 and 17 centimeters and this cut looks bigger than it should. At least she managed to stop the bleeding I hope she lives because It's important to know that a C-section isn't just one incision or cut

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but rather two. The surgeon will make an abdominal incision, and then a uterine incision to remove the baby. Both incisions are about 4 to 6 inches - just big enough for the baby.

According to what I'm looking at. This isn't ,done correctly"

I said taking my tools to prepare doing stitches because she can't stay for long like this. God knows how much damage has caused as it is.

"Where did you learn all of these?" Seth asked astonished.

"Well, I was once in medical school. Learning to become a gynaecologist but live happened. I drop on the fourth year" I said shrugging my shoulder.

"And you never bothered to tell me?" He asked furious.
Sometimes I wonder why likes to act like my older brother.

"Does it matter Seth, what happened has passed. It is not like you were going to help" I said placing Tista gently on bed and started to stitch her up. Lucky she has fainted this proses was going to hurt more without sedative.

After I was done stitching her up. I listened to her pulse. It was there but faint. "Bring me some water" I instructed Seth. He did as, he was told.

When he brought water. I poured it on her face. This was the only way I could use, since we didn't have equipment. Trista's chest started to rises slowly.

"Were is my daughter?" I asked

"Shit let me go get them" I looked at our babies rapped in towels the still had blood stains but they looked perfect.

Few minutes later Seth walked in with my daughter and his mother. My baby had blood stains on her shirt and she was rapped with Seth's sweater. That only meant on thing...

JESSICA

I woke up, tied on a chair.

This idiots literally rapped my whole body, with a rope. I couldn't breath.

Seth, threw a punch on my face. This aggressive bastard. When I scanned the room, there were only four of us.

"How many of you were involved?" I laughed.

"Why don't you figure that out?" I decided to play a smart ass. Trista kicked me on my stomach.

"We aren't fucken playing with you" she shouted, her forehead veins popping out. I guess she is angry. I have never seen her like this.

"Fine, twenty two" I said feeling like a snitch.

Cain pressed the radio.

"Call them for backup"

"Boys can you hear me. I need backup I'm shot" my voice sounded like nothing is wrong.

"Okay Boss we would be there!, Let's move" they shouted to each other on the other side.

FIVE MINUTES LATER.

They walked in...

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CAIN

When they walked in...

My eyes landed on a man. I haven't seen in like five years. I barely even remembered his features. I thought he was long dead. I thought they buried him long time ago...

"DAD...?"

I was shocked beyond my major. To the point I felt like I was a toddler learning to speak..

"Dad..."

"What..." I felt words being swallowed at the tip of my tongue.
"Are...you doing..."

"...here?"

So he betrayed me, Again!. I thought he had long stopped this life.He was working with her all along?

"Son, I'm sorry. I had to" when I looked at everyone. Trista looked traumatized. To the point where her body looked like she had woken up from ICU and she barely recognised her surroundings. I know that look something is off.

"No, No, No" she shouted those words.

"Tell me, I'm Hallucinating. It can't be..." now she is speaking in riddles.

"Cain it was them, All three of them who violated me that da..." her voice wasn't even able to come out. Seth took her into his arms to shield her.

"What? Father, wasn't I not enough? To go and rape a ten year old daughter?" I asked angrily.

How dare he?

"Son, listen to me. I had to. You saw how poor we were. I couldn't resist Jessica's offer. It was my only chance to become rich" I can not believe this.

"So you saw it fit? To rape any innocent child. You do know that you left her positive?"

I shouted that question.

"Oh God No" he covered his mouth.

"I didn't know I was positive then. Please, tell me she didn't have a child. I was the only guy who didn't use a protection"

Holly Crap, it even gets worse.

I have never seen Trista breathing fire like this. She literally took the gun from me. She fired right at him. Until the gun ran out of bullets. My father's body hit the ground. As his soul left his body.

"Damn," Seth said, whistling. I guess everything is hilarious to him.

TRISTA

When I held that gun.

Something in me was controlling me and I couldn't over power it. As soon as I fired the first bullet. It is one after the other.

Until, I saw Cain's father drop dead. Thando literally urinated herself.

There was a panga balanced by the wall.

"Tie them up" Seth did as he was told. I was playing with the panga in my hand.

"Now your friend is dead. Would you please tell me why you raped me. I want closure" I said.

They just stared at me.

"Okay! It looks like I'm wasting my time here. Your mother would explain on your behalf. I reaped the first guy into two pieces. From his head to his neck. His blood splashed on the room till his veins lost the fast flow. Only to ooze blood slowly.

"Okay who is next?" My eyes roamed around the room.

"My bad you're"

"Please I'm begging you don't do this" he pleaded.

"When I begged

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did you stop?"

He shook his head 'No'

"Damn, straight you don't. Why should I?" I was curious to hear his answer.

"I have kids" did he just blurted that shit out of his mouth.

"Wasn't I a kid when you did it?"

Before he could respond his head was already flying across the room. His blood spread landed on my face. At that moment my blood phobia flew across the room.

"Ohh there she is" I said looking at Thando. This time she shitted on her trousers.

THANDO

I was a mess. To the point where I shitted on my pants as Trista came towards me.

"So tell me what is your story?" She asked.

You could tell she was dying to hear my response. Which would sound like an excuse to her.

" I swear to speak nothing but the truth"

She slapped me. "You idiot. I don't have time for this. Now talk, I'm listening". She said passing the panga right between my eyes.

"Okay, Okay, Okay" I said in reassurance that I'm speaking.

"Cain bought me, for half a million. To make you sign over to him fully legal parenting guidance for Light" Cain cursed under his breath.

"Tell me something, I don't know please! because I already know that" she said like it is nothing

"You do? " I was shocked. All this time she knew and she didn't bother to confront me.

"You know what hurts, in all of these?" She asked side eyeing Cain.

"Hmm" I replied with a one word answer more like a sound...

"The fact that Cain bought you, doesn't hurt. He is an opportunist, he saw an opportunity and he took it. The fact that he gave you half a million and you took it doesn't hurt. What hurts is your betrayal. In fact I don't care about the people who betray each other, every single day. LOYALTY, you failed to give me that. I didn't expect it from Cain. I wanted it from you because you were my friend Thando not him. Maybe now I can expect LOYALTY from him since he is the father of my kids. Back then I didn't have that right" she said, mouthfully.

I was ashamed of myself. I betrayed a friend. Who needed me.

"But you know what, I will have to chop those hands off. So that they shall never ever again. Hold money in their entire existence from now on.

She took a chopper and chopped my hands off without any hesitation. I saw them fall on the ground. Moving for the last time. My cries pierced through the house roof.

"You shut up" Trista put a master tape on my mouth...

54

TRISTA

"Now that she doesn't have a hand mother , could you please tell me your story" I said looking at Jessica.

"Okay! How do I start?" She asked, this fool?

"Anyhow it suits you as long as, I understand that is all that matters"

I said I was already bored. I was in a lot of pain already as it is. Even though they stitched me, the pain was there. Lucky Light and my babies were rushed to hospital. The chopper left two hours ago with Ms Lewis.

"Make it snappy, I have babies to get to" I said, clapping my hands. To get her to talk.

"Fine, twenty five years ago. There was a girl named Jessica" I hit her with a punch. She groaned..

"You think I'm joking? Or I'm here to listen to some Story time? TALK!" I roared.

"Fine! I would tell you why I was hostile to you. Only on one condition. You letting me live" After she ripped my stomach. I don't get why she thinks. She gets to make that call.

"Who said anything about you dying? Death is way too easy. You have to leave with a permanent mark like Thando. In fac.." I said that as I pierced a sharp object inside her eye.

"Ahhhhh " she screamed in anguish, but since she had a tape on her voice wasn't too loud. She tried to cover her eye, as blood dropped through it. Which was a struggle. Since her hands were at back.

"Continue to scream, I would do it with the other eye. And blind you shall be. Because eye transplants are expensive. They might even give you the mantis shrimp eye. Since, it has 16 color-receptive cones and can detect ten times more color than a human, and probably sees more colors than any other animal on the planet. And for your information Eye transplants don't exist. There is currently no such thing as an entire eye transplant. More than 1 million nerve fibers connect each eye to the brain and once cut, they cannot be reconnected. So I won't hold my breath if I was you. I would value that one eye left"

She stopped screaming...

"Now continue" I said, eyeing Jessica.

"Your father violated me with his other five friends. I had to take six men, at the age of fifteen. You popped along. My mother kicked me out because of you. People talked because of you. I was labelled the Bitch. A whore who couldn't keep her legs close. I was viewed as disgusting, in the eyes of the community. My life was hanging by the thread. People even placed a price on my head just to see me dead. After you came

along, My mom took me in again. I thought she was going to love me, but she didn't acknowledge me. Instead she loved and accepted you. My anger grew each passing day and I made an ought; that from that day onwards. I will make your life a living hell" she laughed.

"And trust me love. I succeeded" so it was always her aim.

"Jessica I don't understand your feud. Your rivalry towards me is unnecessary. Your hostility towards me makes you look more like him. You are a rapist as much as he is..."

"Don't compare me to that fool!" She snapped.

"Why not?"

Does it hurt that you tried to convince yourself that you are better than him? I'm going to kill you, one of the slowest painful deaths. That will ever be recorded in history." I said, stretching her cheek with a knife...

"Well, I think death would be an easy way out. I once check her medical records. And she is diabetic. I think giving her serious wounds would do for now. You can chop her leg off and she would have a no healing leg, shoulder that would never perform its functions and a non healing stomach. Imagine the condition whereby you eat but your digestive system doesn't work properly because I could tell that her stomach and intestines are also damaged" Seth said, turning on an electric shear. I looked at him shocked. Did just say that?

Damn he is heartless...

"Jessica, I won't kill you. God, would deal with you. In an appropriate manner" she looked at me and forced a laugh. The pain didn't allow her.

"There is no God. There is no such thing as God. There is no such thing as Karma. It doesn't exist. If there was God. You wouldn't be here. He could've protected me. Heth and his friends wouldn't have raped me. Don't tell me about Someone who doesn't care. He doesn't exist. He is in your head. If He existed, why did He let you suffer?" We are all going to die. The only difference is how? So if you think you're sparing me. You

got it all wrong" she said looking at me like I'm crazy or possessed or something..

"You are lying...God is a living Father, He never forsaken his children" I shouted angrily. That did a number on my stomach..

"You look forsaken to me. Look at you. You are now a murderer. A conving monster. You are just like all of those monsters out there" Jessica is testing my nerves today.

"A monster that fought for justice. That reduced the number of rapists. If that is my title for being a monster I fully accept it"

"Tris, I think you have said enough. Don't mind her. Cain the chopper would return soon. Take her to the hospital and check you kids man. They need you. I would clean this mess" Seth said.

Cain looked caged in his own thoughts. I touched him. He jumped "Cain let's go. I have to go to the hospital. I need medical attention. I can't go on like this."

SETH

Once they've left.

It was only Jessica, Thando and I...

I won't even include Thando because she long fainted. I called my doctor on standby.

Pecks of deep pockets. You can have many people on your payroll.

"So let the fun begin..." I said rubbing my hands together and switching on the Electric Shear.

"So, I must remove this leg? So tell me?. How would you walk now and tell my wife that I cheated on her with you. Right now you would look like a vegetable that depends on machines to survive...Just imagine life with a leg that won't heal, an open stomach that won't heal, a shoulder that won't heal. Believe me, worms would feed on you. Till you take your last breath. Ohh don't think your money would do any wonders to you. I have hacked all your bank accounts. That money is mine now. So you will have to survive on clinic appointments" I said chopping her leg off.

She closed her eyes, and tears finally fell on her pathetic face.

"If I don't make it, please go to my house to my study. The pin is Trista Birthday. Give it to her. She needs more than I do" she said, choking.

I called my doctor for an emergency. She can't die now...

55

CAIN

As soon as the chopper landed on top of the roof of LIFE BRENTHURST HOSPITAL. They were already waiting for her. Seth informed them about our arrival. They immediately rushed her to the theatre. I guess they wanted to check for errors. Is better to be safe than sorry because by the time we got here she loong fainted.

As I was waiting in, the waiting area...

A doctor passed. "Sorry sir?" He stopped.

"Can I ask, I have a daughter whose name is Light. She was delivered here early on. With two little twins whose names are unknown. Since we haven't got a chance to name them. If I may ask how they are doing?"

"And at what time did they get here?" He asked.

"About four hours ago. They were brought here by a chopper. With my female doctor" I answered.

"And you are family or?" Can he stop with his formalities?

"I'm their father..." then it hit me Light is my half sister.

"Well brother and father" it felt weird to say that.

"If you are talking about a young lady who was shot. She is still in theatre. Bullet removal was successful. They are performing surgery. The babies were cleaned and placed in a postpartum room. Since they came here without their mother. Without even name tags so we don't want any mix up. I can take you to them..."

As we walked to the postpartum room the doctor continued to give me a briefing.

"Mr Smith, your daughter would need blood donation. Her blood group is O, so you will have to call all your family

members because currently we are running low on that blood group type. So my advice is that family members should donate blood for her"

"You can run a test on me..."

"Okay let's do it after thirty minutes..."

GOD!

They looked perfect...

I can't believe I'm finally a father. To two beautiful toddlers ever. I can't distinguish who they look like because both of our features are dominant. The young lady took my eyes.

You could tell by mere glance that they are mongrels, by just looking at them. Their complexion is too early to detect how it would look but right now they look fair white...

I wished to share this moment with the love of life and daughter.

Jesus, she is my sister now it feels strange...

SETH

My doctor managed to bring Jessica to live but he said she is still very much in danger. Once I got everything in control...

Thando is still breathing. I wonder how life would be with one eye and no hands. I guess Trista did a number to her. She is a badass. I didn't think she had it in her.

By the time the chopper landed it was already noon. I passed by Jessica's house. Straight to the safe and took what she told me to take...

By the time I got to the hospital

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Cain was roaming around the hospital...

"Hey, talk to me. Anything wrong?" I asked incredulously.

"Yes. Light needs blood transmission. I haven't heard anything about Nyembezi" Cain showed me an emotional side of him. I guess Nyembezi means a lot to him. You can tell he feels like digging his own grave to suppress the pain. But he is holding on. Just for them. I guess he is a better man than I'm even with his faults...

TRISTA

When I opened my eyes.

My view was blinded by the light that was placed on my eyes. The helping sound of machines. Dr Khumalo was here. I guess Seth hired him. Since he is more familiar with this hospital.

"C...A...N" the tube in my mouth made it difficult to speak.

"Mmmmm" I made a sound.

"Ohh, you are awake, let me help you with that" he said, removing the tube in my mouth. "Can I have wat..." My throat was sore.

"Ohh yes! Here..." he gave water with straw.

When I got a little strength and my voice was audible I asked about my little one's.

"Can I see my children?"

"Ohh yes I've been waiting for you to wake up. They need to be breast..." he stopped talking.

"I totally forgot you can't breastfeed. But we have given them Nevirapine pills since a period of 72 hours hasn't elapsed. We ran a couple of tests and they seemed clear. But we will run the test again just to confirm." Dr Khumalo stated.

"What about Light?"

"Well she lost too much blood. Your case is better than hers. She needs blood donation"

"What is her blood group?"

"Well she is O and Cain is A. Their blood is not compatible"

"I'm O, I can donate my blood"

"Trista you can't you are positive and you need blood yourself"

"She is positive, also so why not?"

"We don't know about side effects. But since you insist. I will do it"

"Thank you, don't tell Cain"

He took me to my kids. At least they survived the storm...

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TRISTA

I was still in the postpartum room. When Cain walked in.

"They are perfect ain't they?" He said touching me on my shoulder. I pushed his hand off. Just because I understand, his betrayal doesn't mean I'm not angry.

In fact I'm swimming in the midst of anger...

"I'm sorry" he said with an apology tonen. I just gave him a glance. He took my little girl and handed her over since I was in a wheelchair.

"Thank you" I said, taking my baby girl's features.

"She is beautiful" Cain said.

"Would you just shut up? I'm tired of listening to your silly voice".

"I said I'm sorry. What more do you want?" He snapped.

"I want you to shut up. So I could bond with my babies properly" he closed his gap.

AFTER A WHILE...

"Why didn't you tell me they were twins?" What is wrong with this guy? Was he always this annoying?

"I didn't know. I guess they couldn't detect the baby on a sonogram. But either way they are healthy. Why should we question why there are two" I said annoyed.

"Mam and Sir, I would advise you to both leave. You are disturbing the kids. They need to rest. Tomorrow, we will move them to your ward. For now it is late..." the nurse on duty Said.

Cain didn't argue. He wheeled me out.

"Which one?"

"15"

As soon as we reached ward 15. He helped me to get to bed. Once I was settled he looked at me like he wanted to ask something.

"ASK YOU KNOW AND STOP! " I shouted. Then calmed my voice "looking at me like I stole something from you" I said more calmly now.

"How did you find out about adoption paperworks?"

"Huh what? Come again" I said, taking my ear to him.

"I said ho..." I interrupted him.

"I heard you for the first time. I'm not deaf. I can hear you hundred percent" he looked at me with pleading eyes. Didn't he look funny?

"Fine, I will tell you. The 1st time, I visited you and Light. I could see that your logic was off. I asked myself questions like why me? Why not someone else? Why does his daughter look like me? Is he dating anyone in my family?... Then one day, I was alone. I snooped around the house. I switched off the CCTV cameras and did as I pleased. I was always eyeing your study which was always locked. That day I tried my luck. I opened the door and the door opened in my favour. Bingo! There, I was inside your study alone. No distraction. I checked everywhere. As I was about to give up. My eyes landed on a drawer that was slightly open. Only those paperworks were there. I examined them

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me being a lawyer. Everything made sense. I knew it wasn't a forged signature. Then the date triggered my mind. Thando acted weird during this time. This other time she made me sign a pile of documents without allowing me to go through them. Then she goes and spoils me. With a large amount of money which I couldn't understand how she accumulated it. Then the next day she resigns. Then Boom! All of a sudden she is a High-flier and runs a salon that it's net-work is more than half a million and above to open. I put one and two together and I got three. It drove me nuts at first. Then one day I understood her frustration, where her betrayal came from. She needed money and I was the ticket to that. Hence I long forgiven her, because poverty can be uncomfortable. But that day she lost her 'Best Friend' title in my life. I didn't say anything because my relationship with Light was starting to bloom. So I kept quiet and looked at a brighter side. You gave her something, I couldn't have given her at that time" Cain listened to me alternatively.

But the look he gave me, was like 'WOW'

"Why are you looking at me like that?" I asked, blushing.

"I thought it would take you forever to know she was yours. I guess you had your mother insist. I'm sorry" I would kill him this time if he repeat his 'I'M SORRY'

"You do know that you aren't as smart as you think you are. Right?" I asked.

"Why would you say that?" He looked offended.

"If you wanted to cover your tracks about paperworks. You could have used a date that has long passed and a stamp. Maybe it wouldn't have made sense to me"

"Whatever, have some rest" he kissed my forehead and walked out...

CAIN

When I walked outside Dr Khumalo stopped me in my tracks.

"Sir, I have some good news for you. Your daughter slash sister. Has found a donor for her blood transmission. We would do it in three days ASAP"

"Yes" I did an air punch. You should've seen my heart. Ohh my...

I was content.

"Thank you doctor, if I may ask who is the donor?" I am so jovial. That I could pay this person hard cash. He or she deserves it. Their generosity would save my daughter. My mind rejected those words 'my daughter' I pushed the thought aside, but she is my daughter. Despite the DNA.

"Well the donor would like to remain anonymous and you know I can't disclose doctor and patient confidentiality.

But have a lovely evening" he walked out.

I couldn't care less or be mad. What matters is for Light to be okay. It would be selfish of me to stop it because, Only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches.

I don't know her pain she does...

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JESSICA

THE NEXT DAY...

I thought, I knew what life was. But what I'm feeling right now. Has proven me wrong. Seth has wiped my bank accounts clean. Khaya filed a substitute divorce. They didn't even need me to be there.

Seth's doctor dropped me to the public hospital. Once he was done stitching me up. I found these sutures useless. These stitches would never heal. Now I will have to remove them.

When Seth said I would suffer. I thought it was a joke. I've money. Why would I? I thought out loud. Not knowing what he has done. I won't heal because People with uncontrolled diabetes may develop poor circulation. As circulation slows down, blood moves more slowly, which makes it more difficult for the body to deliver nutrients to wounds. As a result, the injuries heal slowly, or may not heal at all. I won't heal due to

the fact that I have many damaged areas. Wounded shoulder, stomach and chopped leg.

Yesterday I was turned down at a public hospital. Their beds were full. They sent me to a clinic that lacked a mere thing like a water container. The bed I got was unkempt. Dirty sheets.

"Mam, pack your things. You are leaving now" a nurse with an attitude for days said. She has been like this since I got here.

I only suffered a day...I feel like it is more than enough. I can tell that I won't survive the night...

If this is how Trista felt for those years. I wish I could turn back the years.

I remember my mother's words: "You will Rue the day, you messed with my granddaughter's life. It will only take just a day. Mark my words"

I always thought, I ached up my sleeves. Till today. It feels like I would meet my maker. But knowing that karma is a bitch. God will keep me through. To face my evil deeds. I know I will surely suffer. If you're "Dead meat" means this. I advise you. Do not hurt people. Unless you are hundred percent sure, you will never get caught.

Death of a thousand cuts, if you feel like this. Please! Do forgive me. I never knew living with permanent marks hurts to the core.

I won't say I regret what I did because I was hundred percent aware of what I was doing. If I say: "I'm sorry" it means I'm a coward who doesn't want to face the bitter consequences of her actions...

Lesson learnt: 'Pen is mightier than the sword'

CAIN

It was around 12:00 pm...

The twins before they were moved to Trista's room. I requested that they pass by Light's room first so she could meet her siblings.

The room was jolly and warm.

It was Seth, Light, twins and I, in the room. Busy laughing and having joy.

Until...

Dr Khumalo walked in.

"Morning everyone" no one dared to reply. We were curious to hear. What he comes carrying.

"Well Light I have good news, your mother decided to donate blood for you" the room went quiet.

"What!?" Light exclaimed, shocked.

"Wait you didn't know that Trista is your mother. Well she told me that yesterday. When I took her to the postpartum room. At first I was hesitant but her reasons were valid. Why did she want to donate her blood so badly? Even if she is badly injured and positive. It's every Mother's dream to protect their daughters"

Holly Crap. Is this man insane?

"Dad, Trista is my mother and you never told me. WHY!?" she roared.

"Doctor but she is positive. She cannot do blood transmission, it is risky" I pointed out. Not minding Light's tantrums.

" The results of her viral load test are: A low viral load. Which means she is less likely to transmit HIV. But it's important to note that the viral load test only measures the amount of HIV that's in the blood. An undetectable viral load doesn't mean HIV isn't present in the body. Therefore, I thought I could do the first experiment on them. That people with less viral load can they transmit blood to the next positive person and not have any side effects. Trista is my once in a lifetime opportunity"

If Dr Khumalo has lost his mind. This is not the right place.

"Well Doc, according to you. What is the lowest viral load?"

Seth asked

" Viral load is described as the number of copies of HIV RNA in a millilitre of blood. But your doctor will normally just talk about your viral load as a number. For example, a viral load of 10,000 would be considered low; 100,000 would be considered high.

A lower HIV viral load is below 10,000 copies. The virus probably isn't actively reproducing as fast, and damage to your immune system may be slowed, but this is not optimal. A viral load that can't be detected - less than 20 copies - is always the goal of HIV treatment" Dr Khumalo said.

"What are you saying exactly? I don't understand nor catch your point" I said because I need some elaboration.

"Well, as I wa..."Light cut him off.

"I said leave this is about my health not yours. You lied to me all these years. You knew my mother and still lied. We both know that this blood donation is impossible. In fact get out"

I don't respond...

Since she was boiling. I decided to give her space. I guess Dr Khumalo was led by adrenaline, because yesterday he told me that, "the donor wanted to remain anonymous" and today he

blurted that out. You could sense passion in his voice for this experiment. And it is not happening, not by a long shot.

TRISTA

My body was sore. I knew my body was starting to acknowledge the pain. Hence I decided to donate blood for my daughter. Dr Khumalo said he would run a few tests and we would do it in three days.

Seth walked in...

"Hey, Jessica said I should give you this" he said, handing over an envelope.

"Thank you"

"Sure I would leave you to it, no sweat..." he left.

LETTER

Written in 1996.

By Rose...

I know by the time you read this. I would be long gone. Well if we don't get to meet me. I'm your grandmother. Jessica was my daughter. I for long blame myself for her actions. I'm sorry for everything. She will put you through. I failed to love and support her. When she needed me...I named you Violet. I hope and believe you will get a chance to be address by that name.

Yours Grandma.

Lots of love...

You could tell she wasn't a writer. She forced herself to write those words.

I took a piece of paper and wrote:

By TRISTA

"I would start by saying 'I'm sorry' but no amount of excuses I would make would justify my actions.

01-05-2007

It was Friday when you were born. That made me remember this: It's Friday-Jesus is praying. Sunday is coming. Pilates struggling.

It's Friday. See Jesus is walking to the Calvary. His blood dripping, His body stumbling and His spirits. But you see, it's

only Friday. Sunday is coming. The world winning people are sinning and evil is grinning.

The Solders nail my Saviour's hands to the cross, they nail my Saviour's feet to the cross. They raise him up next to criminals to see. It's Friday but let me tell you something Sunday is coming.

What happened to their King and the Pharisees are celebrating. That their scheming has been achieved but they don't know it's Friday and Sunday is coming...

He is hanging from the cross feeling forsaken by his Father; he left him to die. Can anybody save him?

But I'm proud to say as he saved Jesus. He also saved me and gave me you me. My Light. My Lambency. You were born on Friday, to me every Friday marks the day Jesus died and your birth made it feel like you were born, with a part of him. That he left on the cross. Don't let the world Tain you. I named you Light for reason. Live according to your name. I might have been an absent mother. Cain would tell you why? one day.

Love Nyembezi"

"Cain I love you, I might have never told you when I was alive but, I do...look after our children for me. Name my baby girl Honor and my baby boy Liberty

TRISTA"

CAIN

I went to find Trista. How dare she?

I found her bed being fixed. Nurses were folding everything into place. "Where is she?" They didn't reply.

One of them handed a piece of papers to me.

"Cain I love you, I might have never told when I was alive but, I do...look after our children for me. Name my baby girl Honor and my baby boy Liberty

TRISTA"

"What is the meaning of this?" I asked.

"I'm sorry sir, she passed on this morning.."

"And you didn't tell me?"

"She had no next of kin on her file nor an emergency number"

"Has Dr Khumalo passed here?"

"No, he was busy this morning. He was helping a couple to deliver a baby" the polite nurse answered. Then they just left me there..

I felt like my whole world is spinning.

"She...is...no..more" I shall forever hate those words...

Seth stood next to me.

"I'm sorry. That she is no more. I know, my father was a one messed up man" I gazed at him dismayed.

"What did you just say to me?" I asked exasperated.

"This might sound weird but you're my half brother. Your father raped my mother and I came along. I'm not mad because my mother loved me enough to not feel the void" for a second I wanted to be mad at him. Then I knew I would look like a hypocrite...

"It's okay brother. Welcome to the fam"

We Bro hugged.

"I know why she did it" Seth looked at me

"She knew, she was positive and her blood cannot be donated. I think she told Dr Khumalo knowing that he would tell Light that she got a donor to reveal her paternity. I guess she knew a stranger would blurt that out without worrying. Since he doesn't know the truth. Now she is no more and Light now knows who her mother was. I know myself. I wouldn't have told her. It could've been my secret till

Advertisement

I took it to the grave. My only worry is. How do I break the news?" Seth didn't respond...

"Your father was a piece of shit. Now I have a daughter who is my sister. I would never forgive him for this" Seth just laughed.

"I will look for a donor for her. I can make few calls. Don't worry she will live. That is a promise to you Dear Trista" Seth said.

"Thank you brother. I got to admit it this feels weird knowing I've an older brother"

"At least, she died and left you with 3 portion of her loving soul"

"Damn! Straight she did"

"Rest In Peace, Love. Till we meet again"

These words on her tombstone would cut deep.

IN LOVING MEMORY:

Of Trista Nyembezi Zulu.

Devoted Daughter, A Good Mother, A loving Friend

1996 -- 2021

I feel like she deserved 'A Wife title' also.

God! She died young. Don't you think?

This is my story. Written In words. The sad part was, but is the journey that I lived. Today, I'm dropping the pen. As I allow deep sleep to consume me. I could feel my soul leaving my body. At peace I was, I know I died fighting my battles.

Don't feel sorry for me because I lived, most of us exist, that is all. I lay down my swords . Knowing I'm a sinner. In God eyes, but I raise my hands as repent my sins "Father, I died fighting for survival"

Don't feel sad that I'm no more, Because:

'2 Timothy 4:7-8 Say: I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day:

and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing'

Beloved there are crowns. Waiting for the righteous ones. Those who have been redeemed by the blood. Those who are washed have their clothes in the blood of the Lamb.

These are they, who have gone through tribulations. They have gone through trials. Jesus says: "Don't give up, there is a crown of life".

Believe me I have gotten that crown. I've lived, and served my purpose. Yes, I did...

That is me, Trista Nyembezi Zulu. A mother to three beautiful healthy children.

Light shall continue my Lambency with her Light. Light I named her that because she is pure, good, and holy, as opposed to the darkness of evil. ... She is the symbolic Light of truth and goodness is contrasted with deeds of darkness

Liberty you are born free my boy and you shall have these, freedom, autonomy, self rule, self determination, home rule, independence. I fought for those, For you.

Honor, Mama fought for you to have these:

Privilege, glory, tribute, prestige, fame, merit, importance, illustriousness, notability, respect, esteem, approbation. Own them...

Now, back to the real world. All of you I must say. Only two words left...

.....**THE END**.....

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