SAVING GRACE Another Man's Trash Another Man's Treasure Author Keabetswe Mahlaba

PROLOGUE

Zane



Karen: you're what?

She asks getting up from her chair

She paces up a bit

And I'm getting annoyed by that

I hate it when a person just can't be still

She's doing this and she knows I hate it

Me : sit still !

I say with my voice down but very stern

She heaves a sigh, and fixes her dress

She sits down

Karen: I don't understand this

Me: what's there to

understand?

Karen: you're leaving?

Me: not forever

Karen: but still

She shakes a head closing her eyes for a brief moment

Karen: this doesn't make sense

Me: it's just for a job, don't make it a big deal

Karen: you have never gone to South Africa for a job

Me: well now I am

Karen: I have a very bad feeling about this Zane

Me : feelings !

I let out a fade smile

Me: you know what's good about feelings?

She gives me a bored look

Me: that I don't have them, so I am going. You stay here, and deal with your feelings

Karen: what if something happens when you're there?

Me: anything can happen everywhere, doesn't mean I turn down a job

Karen: thisI do not approve of

Me: I don't need your permission, just know your place

I get up

Me : get my flight ticket ready , don't book a return

Karen: exactly, how long do you plan to stay there?

Me: I never have a timeline for these kind of things

She sighs

I turn and face outside the window

Looking at the city

Karen: I hope you know what you're doing Zane

Always

I always know what I'm doing

This cannot be any different

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Zothile



This cannot be happening

Like not again

Well more like for the hundred time

Tears well in eyes

I feel my heart just aching

After not seeing him for a week

I think I'll be missed but this is what welcomes me

The door opens and he walks in

He looks at me, and the panty I'm holding

He says nothing but walks towards the bathroom

Me: who's is this?

He turns and looks at me

Me: this is not mine

He shrugs

Me: and the condom?

I reach down and pick it

He doesn't even have the decency to clean after himself with his whores

Worse this time on our bed, the bed we sleep on

He just had to

On our bed , like really ? Maybe it wasn't even the first

He couldn't even use the spare room

It makes me wonder where else in the house they fucked

He's just staring at me

I guess I won't get nothing out of him

Me: I'll leave

I place them on the bed

And walk out

Getting downstairs I grab my bag

I look back upstairs

Thinking he'll come after me

But he doesn't

I let out a sob as tears stream down my face

After a few minutes I gather myself

I walk out getting into my car, with my heart in pain

I take out wipes and clean my face

Before I drive off

And these damn tears are just not stopping

I stop by the side of the road

To avoid getting into an accident

Every time he does this , I just feel like it's the first time

I'm a woman who doesn't know her worth

I doubt there's any sane woman out there who could stand up for this, and every time still stay with the man

I just wish my heart can stop loving him

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Smangaliso



Tshidi: where are you?

I open the fridge taking out a bottle of water

Me: home

Tshidi: alone?

I chuckle

Me: who else could I be with? And would I be answering your call if I wasn't alone?

She laughs

Tshidi: one never knows

Me: I see, it's all cool

Tshidi: uber me, or come fetch me. I want to come and spend a night

Problem with women who say a man must, a woman who can't stand for herself. And depends on a man

They're nagging and too demanding

But they always make a man feel loved and needed

While on the other hand, an independent woman just makes you as a man feel like you're less and beneath her

That's why a man always needs to have some balance

Me: I'll come pick you, I need some food. We can have dinner

Tshidi: dinner will be great, even better. And we can finish with dessert

Me : great , I'll see you soon

I drop the call

And going through my call log

I have the urge to call her, but I'll rather not

I heave a sigh, and place my phone on the counter

I jog upstairs for a quick shower

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INSERT 01

A FEW DAYS LATER

Zothile

I look my best, even if I say so myself

But I would be lying if I said I feel the same

The weekend went by , and he didn't call

He didn't text, there was just nothing from him

I did my level best to hold myself not to call him or text him

I have been too desperate to him, and just loosing myself along the way

He doesn't even take me serious anymore

I shake my head as I feel tears burning my eyes

Me: get a hold of yourself!

I'm at work

I cannot afford to have a breakdown over this

I take a deep breath and gather myself

I open my laptop to work , as my phone rings

I smile seeing the caller

Me: hello

She laughs

Tshidi: why are you so formal?

Me: sorry cuz, I'm at work.

What's up?

Tshidi: well, nothing much. I just want to check up on you

Me: I'mokay

Tshidi: you don't sound okay

Me : just work

I swallow a lump on my throat

Tshidi: talk to me

Me: it'sI'm just tired, I have tried everything. But I'll just never be enough for that man, and it's enough now

Tshidi: he's still cheating even now?

Tshidi is my closest cousin, out of them all

She's the one person I can tell everything

And ever since I found him cheating 7 months ago

She's the one person who's been having my back

Tshidi : how about I come see you ?

Me: maybe later on during the week, I'm a mess right now. He hasn't called nor texted me, so I want to focus on work and keep him off of my mind

Tshidi: okay, but you know I'm just a phone call away right? You don't have to be in pain alone

Me: thank you babe

I drop the call

I am sure whoever came up with love

Never meant nor intended for it to hurt this much

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Zane

I place the gun in the safe locking it

Walking back to the bedroom

I take my jacket off

Sitting down on the bed

I grab my phone and check my emails

There's a few , I just find useless

And they go to the bin

I answer a few I find somehow serious

And confirm the one of the meeting with the client later on

I place my phone down on the bed

Now let's see what South Africa has for us

I've never even stayed more than a week in a place

Especially when I'm doing a job

I don't think I'll stay more than that here

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Smangaliso

Me: flowers and chocolates, with an apology card. Say something that makes sense

She nods

I turn back and head to my office

As I sit down the door opens and she walks in

In nothing but just a coat

And I know beneath it, it's nothing but just her. My dick just throbs at her sight

Me: fuck!

She laughs

Tshidi: hi lover

She smiles seductively, and closes the door

She locks it

And I know shit is about to go down

She cat walks to my desk

I stand still

Until she stands in front of me

Tshidi: I missed you

I smash my lips on hers, the kiss is just filled with lust

After a few minutes she pulls out

Tshidi: someone is starving

Me: for you, always

She smiles bitting her lower lip

Tshidi : let's make the best of what we have

I hold her waist

Me: what do you mean?

Tshidi: I have to see my cousin during the week, poor girl is having it hard

She laughs shaking her head

And she slowly unties her coat, exposing her naked self

Now I can't focus on shit but her

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Zothile

Adam: those look nice

I dart my eyes to where he's looking

Me : really ?

Adam: yeah, are you brightening up your office?

Me: could never be me

He smiles

Adam: a gift?

Me: a stupid one

Adam: you're a hard woman to please

Me: it's not even about that, I hate flowers

Adam: that's a first

Me: oh well

We close our laptops and get up

We've wrapped our meeting

And I'm glad I made it through this day

Me : see you tomorrow

Adam: bright and early

He grabs his things and walk out

I lean back on my chair, taking a deep breath closing my eyes

I'm way too young to die because of stress at just 26

I need to get a hold of myself

I cannot continue like this

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INSERT 02

I look at him

The begging he had to do last night

To make me to come here

And I hate that I'm here

To think I already put a notice at my apartment that I'm moving out

Now I don't think I want to move here with him anymore

He will be doing his cheating in the same house I'll be living in

What kind of a life is that?

Smanga: babe please sit down

I heave a sigh and sit down

Smanga: you look beautiful

Me: I have court

Smanga: okay uhmdid you get your flowers yesterday?

Me: yes I did

Smanga: oh

He looks and sounds disappointed

I don't know, maybe he thought flowers and a stupid apology card will make everything better

Smanga: I am sorry

He is not sorry

And will never admit that he got caught

Maybe I'm supposed to find him in bed fucking with a woman

For him to understand that I know he's a serial cheater

And he just can't help himself

Maybe he can

He's just a manwhore

And one pussy is not enough for him

Or maybe I'm just the woman that's just not enough for him

Has he no shame?

But what am I saying, of course he doesn't. If he had, he wouldn't be doing this

Smanga: I am sure that panty is yours baby

Me: I wear a 36, that definitely wasn't mine

Smanga: baby, then who's is it? I would never bring another woman in our bed

I wonder how many women he has brought into the same bed I sleep on

Doesn't he care about me?

Women today know witchcraft like they were born with it

Me: that panty is not mine, I don't wear silk panties. I only wear lace, and I hate the colour grey. I would never were a grey silk panty, that's just insane. It's not mine

Smanga: baby it's yours

I guess I am crazy

I don't know the kind of underwear I wear

And I also don't know my size

That was definitely a 32

Me: and the condom with your cum? That was also us

I haven't been here in a week

And the cum was still fresh in the condom

If that was us, and we had dropped it

By now it would have slightly dried out

And well, it would have gathered dust

But that was fresh

Could have probably been a thing of morning that day

He sighs rubbing his face

Smanga: baby I am sorry, can we please talk about this?
Honestly, I love you. And I don't want to lose you

Me: you have a funny way to show your love for me

Smanga: it was just a mistake

Yes!

His dick just mistakenly slipped into another woman's pussy

Me: I have to leave

I get up, he also gets up

He tries to touch me

But I move back, he sighs

Smanga: you're moving in, we will talk through this. I will stop with my insecurities, it's just the fear of other men seeing what I see in you. And I'm scared you'll find better and

leave me . But I'll work on myself and just do better

This is stupid

It's just the most stupid thing I've ever heard

Me: bye

I pass him and walk out heading to my car

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Smangaliso

Sindi: it was great as always

She leans down and pecks my lips

I smile

Sindi: until next time

Me: sure

She takes her bag and walks out

I sigh leaning back down

Whatever the fuck is wrong with me is no little thing

I'm busy fucking around

Hurting the woman that I love

And I swear it feels like I'm going to lose her

But it's just hard to keep up with Zothile

Her independence and beauty just scares me to the core

Hence I'm always with these women who are just beneath her

And I feel like I'm a man

I'm actually just an idiot

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Zane

Karen: I told you this nonsense will happen

Me : stop! Get me a lawyer

Karen: you didn't even get to do the job you went there to do

Me: Karen!

She sighs

Karen: fine, I can fly Jesse

Me : don't they have lawyers in South Africa ?

Karen : right now you're just mocking me

Me: find me a damn lawyer

I drop the call annoyed

Bloody stupid woman!

And to think I came here all this way for nonsense

The woman wanted her husband dead

She found out she's not getting any inheritance from him

And she decided to pull out

But she was just too late, and he caught up on her plans

Now they have cops behind my back

Like I'm so fucking assassin

Okay!

I am one

But who the hell turns on an assassin they hired themselves

I get she's protecting herself

But she's messed with the wrong guy

I will make her pay for this shit

I'm a foreigner here

If they dig on me, they'll come hard like a ton on bricks

I cannot have this shit

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Zothile

Zonke: it's late I know

I'm packing my things as she walks in

And I'm battling going to his house.

Or going back to my apartment

And I should be out of that place by tomorrow

This is a messed up situation

I'll have some time tomorrow hopefully

And I'll get to see Tshidi

Me: no problem

Zonke: there's a case I want to hand you

Me : okay

Zonke: I'll brief you well tomorrow, but suspect has been detained this afternoon and is in police custody

Me: what's the crime?

She smiles

Zonke: assassination

I pop my eyes

Zonke: this is a big one, and I need you at your best

I'm scared and excited now

I mean , I've only had 5 big cases in my entire career

And they weren't even that big

But this one, there's just something about it

Can't wait for tomorrow and hear what I have facing me.

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INSERT 03

Zothile

It's a very awkward morning

Last night I went to the apartment

But I arrived there and it was empty

He had moved all of my things to his place

I had no choice but to come here

And he had the nerve to want to touch me

I refused and he didn't hold back

Smanga: this is why we'll never work, we live in the same house now. But I'm not allowed to touch you, you're literally sending me out there to cheat. No man can stay with a woman who denies him sex

I would resent myself for letting Smanga have sex with me

Especially after what I found here

I didn't even want to sleep in the bedroom

I went to the spare room

Smanga: you know what, I won't beg you. No man can stand a cold woman

Wow!

I look at him with glossy eyes and he grabs his car keys and walks out

Still lost in his words

My phone startles me

And it's Zonke

I heave a sigh getting up grabbing my laptop bag

Maybe this case is exactly what I need

I shake off what he just said right now

And head out driving to work

When I arrive I head to my office

My PA hasn't arrived

I am early because I have to meet with Zonke

So she can brief me about the client and the case

I have to attend to it, seeing the client is already in police custody

And I must prepare myself before I head there

I settle down

And after a few minutes she walks in

Zonke: well bright and early

I smile

Me : I don't plan to disappoint you

She pulls a chair and sits down

Zonke: are you ready?

Am I?

Me: yes

Zonke: international

Me: what?

Maybe I'm not hearing her well

She passes me the file

In silence I flip through it

Me: there's barely nothing, yet this guy is wanted by Interpol and FBI

Zonke: Zane Walker, said to be an assassin and a diamond smuggler. Not just any diamonds, but black and pink. Not just any random people, but people of high profiles

I have never heard of this name

Me: who did he kill?

Zonke: this one? He didn't succeed

Me : oh , so it's attempted murder ?

Zonke: pretty much yes, but he was set to take out a minister.

Now that's no slightly thing

Shit!

Me: possible to see him today?

She smiles and I wonder what's the fascination?

Zonke: of course he's waiting

Me: okay, I'll get on with it.

But can I ask?

Zone: fire away

Me: why us? How did we get an international client, who's such a high profile criminal?

Zonke: we come highly recommended, and we do serve the best

She gets up

Zonke : now don't disappoint me

I nod with a nervous smile

Zonke: keep me in the loop

Me: will do

She walks out

And I page through the file again, and I just honestly find it useless

Which tells me he's not some mediocre thug

He knows what he's doing

And he's very smart about it

Guess he just ran into something he never thought he would this time around

I open my laptop going on to google him

And still, there's barely anything

Most of these charges ever laid on him

They've never been able to stick

Me: mhm!

I guess the only way to get the truth, is by hearing it from the horses mouth

My phone rings, and it's Sandile

I sigh annoyed

He's friends with Smanga

His best friend to say

You can even say brother's

That's just how deep the friendship goes

I just hope he did not send Sandile to speak on his behalf

Me: hello

Sandile: sorry to disturb

Me: it's okay

It's really not okay

Sandile: I want to meet with you

Me: if Smanga sent you to talk to me, I am not interested.

And I don't want to hear it

Sandile: he did not send me, are you two fighting?

I sigh

Me: why do you want to see me?

Sandile: there's something I would like to ask you

That's strange

Me: okay, I have to leave for a case at 09:00. I can surely see you after that

But that means I won't get a chance to see Tshidi again today

I will just have to see her tomorrow

I hope she won't be mad

Sandile: it's perfect, can we

meet at The Eat?

Me: perfect

Sandile: thanks

I drop the call just wondering what's that all about

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At Smangaliso's House

Tshidi looks through the bags

And sighs annoyed

Tshidi: when will she just give up? And understand that the man doesn't want her anymore

She clicks her tongue

Tshidi : some women just don't have self respect

She closes the bags and sits down on the bed

She looks at the test

Crossing fingers that it comes out positive

She even says a little prayer

She picks it up and almost screams jumping up and down seeing the results

Tshidi: yes!

She holds the test to her chest

With her best smile

Tshidi : this is perfect , now let's see

She looks at the bags and laughs alone

Tshidi: she better not unpack those, because she will be out of here sooner than she thinks. And I'll finally have the man and the life

She bites her lower lip, just thinking of how she's going to tell him

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INSERT 04

Zane

Him: you have messed with the wrong county

This has to be a joke

What's South Africa?

With its weak stupid justice system

And he thinks they have me

Conan: talk

I just look at him

I am really bored

This guy is no fun at all

He's not even making this interesting at all

Conan: smile all you like

Me: I don't smile, don't speak shit

He chuckles

Conan: we have you, there's no getting out of this one Walker....

The door opens and the stilettos click before I even lay my eyes on her

He looks at her annoyed

Him: who the hell are you?

She has on a blank face

Her: detective Conan, I would really hate to sue you and your entire department. How dare you question my client without my presence? Fuck no!

Conan looks at me

Conan: even she can't get you out of this

Her: excuse us, harass my client again. And I won't be so nice, I'll come for everything

Me : she's not my lawyer , calm your balls down

I look at her

Me: I don't know what joke this is, but get me a lawyer

She says nothing but pulls the opposite chair and sits down

Me : you're sexy as fuck

She gives me an annoyed look

And I smile

She slowly shakes her head

I look at this fool

Me : see ? That was me smiling

He clicks his tongue and walks out

I chuckle

Before gazing on this woman

Me: you can tell your firm to send me a real lawyer, but I would really like to see you again Her: you can start talking, what happened? Tell me everything, leave nothing out and don't lie to me. You can lie in a court of law, in front a judge. But don't lie to me

I shake my head

Like what is this really?

Me: fuck!

She takes out a black note pad and starts writing

I guess she's really serious she's my lawyer

Me: I guess whoever got you to represent me, really hates me that much to want to see me going to jail

She says nothing but is staring at me

Me: great!

Her: so you're just going to waste my time, and your time? it will be a very long day, I am not rushing anywhere. And you're stuck here, so we will sit around until you open your mouth and start speaking about why I'm here

I place my hands on the table, and lean forward

Me: you know, I wasn't kidding you're sexy. But I can't help and notice the sadness in your eyes, it's the one thing that's taking away your shine

She blinks quite a few times

Me: who is he? Just tell me and I'll deal with him

Her: Mr Walker

Me : call me Zane

She gets up with a sigh

Her: I am here to work, that's what you pay me for. And so if you won't give me anything to

work with , I'll be out of this door

I smile

She gets up

Me : I'll see you soon sweetheart

I wink she walks out annoyed

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Zothile

I am going to need all the strength I can get

I've never been so ticked off like today

Me: he's childish

She laughs

Zonke: what do you mean?

Me: exactly that , look I'll be sure that I'm back at the office soon. Then we can talk

Zonke : alright

She drops the call

I park my car and get out heading to the restaurant

Sandile has arrived, I head to his table

Me: hi Sandz

He lifts his eyes and they're so reddish

Like he's been crying

He smiles briefly

But you can't even call that a half smile

I sit down worried

Me: what's wrong?

He shakes his head slowly

Sandile: I am sorry to do this, but I know you know half the things Smanga get to and what he does

Me: what things?

Sandile: the cheating

Oh wow!

Sandile: Smanga is sleeping with my girlfriend

No!

Sandile: he's sleeping with Sindi, I caught on their conversation on her phone yesterday. Like I can't believe this

Me : Sandile !

Sandile: he's my friend, women will always betray a man and each other. But Smanga!

Oh my word!

I knew there was someone, maybe more than one

But I never even thought its Sindi

Me : are you sure ?

He smiles and it's so painful to watch this

Sandile: you didn't know?

Me: Sandile no, well I can't deny that Smanga is not loyal to me. I never thought he could do that to you

He nods slowly blinking

He's really just fighting his tears

Me: I am sorry

He's sad and hurt

I may not like Sindi

But clearly he loves her

But she's also not loyal towards him

She's cheating with his best friend, a man you can even say they're like brother's

If she loved him that much, she wouldn't be fucking Smanga

For me I know she wouldn't care

Cause we don't like each other

With friends like Smanga who needs enemies?

He chuckles bitterly

Sandile: you've never liked Sindi, when I caught that she's been fucking him for over a month now. I thought maybe you knew, that's why you don't like her

I smile

Me: I don't like all of your friends, and for a reason. They also don't like me, and they cheer Smanga for cheating on me. Because they don't think I'm good enough for him, they

think I hold myself high and think I'm better than them. You've only been the one who's been nice to me ever since we met, that's why I distanced myself from them

Sandile: I'm sorry to have brought this to you

Me: it's okay really

That panty did not belong to Sindi

It was someone else's

Sindi is slim, and maybe a 28 definitely not a 32

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INSERT 05

Zothile

This shouldn't hurt this much

But it is

The door opens after a slight knock

I wipe my tears

Zonke: how

I lift my eyes looking at her

Zonke: no ...is this about the case?

More tears stream down my face

Zonke: I trust you Zo, but if you don't think you're up for this.
Then you can decline it, I'll

assign it to another lawyer. Even though I'd hate to do that

I shake my head

Me: his friend said, he's cheating with his girlfriend. I went to his place, after not going for a week. I found a panty, and he said it's mine. There was a condom as well, he didn't even apologize for being

caught. Why can't I just stop loving him?

I break down and she takes my hand

We walk to the couch

Zonke: you don't deserve this, you know that. You can afford to be on your own, this relationship is just shitty and

toxic . Just leave Smanga , he clearly doesn't see you for the woman you are . And there's plenty of men, who can see that . Men who can appreciate, and cherish you . He's definitely not that man for you , he doesn't respect you . These women know about you, but they still date him because he lets them have that disrespect on you

Me : it hurts Zonke , it hurts so bad

Zonke: I know sweetie, I know

She hugs me so tight

After a while, I gather myself

She hands me wipes

I clean my face

Zonke: I can give you a few days of rest, just to reflect and ask yourself if this life of pain tears and misery is the life that you want

Maybe I can use a few days off

Right now I'm even stuck with my things at his house

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Smangaliso

I try to push him off

But he lands another punch on me

I move back, hitting the wall with my back

Me : go take it up with your bitch , I don't like nor do I even love her . It was just sex

Sandile: she's a bitch now, because you've fucked her

I've never seen him this angry

But I'm not entirely to blame for this shit

Me: we can talk this out like men, there's no need for punches. This is my work place, you'll get me fired. And right now, you're just embarrassing me in front of my colleagues

Sandile: I don't give a fuck! You should have thought of that before you started poking your community dick everywhere, even with my girlfriend

Security walks over , and they ask him to leave

Sandile: I am telling you my boy, this is far from being over.

Watch your back

Me: I am not scared of you Sandile, but I won't fight you over a woman. Keep pushing me, and you'll see where you'll end up

He chuckles as security escort's him out

Now there's eyes and whispers everywhere

Me: what the fuck are you looking at? Fucking go back to work

I raise my voice at them

I click my tongue and head back to my office

My jaw hurts

He sure landed those punches

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Zane

Me: who are you?

I ask knowing exactly who she is

She smiles

Zonke: Zonke Dikana, I will be standing in for Ms Nzima

Me: who's that?

I just play dumb, cause I want to get her name

Zonke: Ms Zothile Nzima, the lawyer assigned to your case Mr Walker. I believe you two met yesterday

Me: where is she?

Zonke: she's dealing with a personal crisis, but I can assure you. You're in good hands

Me: I want my lawyer here

Zonke: I

Me: I won't tell you anything, it's my bail hearing tomorrow.

And I want my lawyer, not you

She sighs

Me : call her , and tell her to come see me

I get up

Me: she's fierce that one, after she wins me this trail. You should definitely reward her

She smiles with a slight nod

I walk out of the interrogation room and I'm led to the jail cell

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Zothile

I slept at the hotel

And he's been blowing up my phone

Since from last night

I couldn't bare going to his place

I don't understand why it's so hard to just leave a man who treats me like trash

The heart is really a stupid organ

Maybe he's meant to break it to pieces

To a point of no return

I listen to his message of this morning

And he's busy calling me a whore

That he will fuck up whoever the idiot I had in my bed

I shake my head

I'm going to meet with Tshidi today

While I figure out where I'm going to stay

My phone rings and it's Zonke

I have the best boss ever

We're not even friends nor that close

But she's always been there for me

And I can always cry to her about anything

Me : boss lady

She laughs

Zonke: no, you're the boss

Me: what are you talking about?

Zonke: I don't know how bad things went with your client, but he's demanding you

Me: what?

I ask a bit shocked

Cause that man didn't seem interested whatsoever in cooperating

Zonke: I went there, since I decided to stand in for you. I don't want to give this case to anyone, but he turned me away and said he wants his lawyer

Me: that's strange, because he didn't even tell me a single thing yesterday

Zonke: could be your luck today

I sigh

Zonke: I know I gave you days off, but this is the trail of the season. And he wants to see

you, now I can't lose this client. You'll just have to see him

Bloody bastard

It's like this is a game to him

Me: it's okay, I'll go see him

I can't afford to disappoint her or myself

Zonke: thank you, you can work from home because you're still off

Me : yes ma'am

Zonke: how are you feeling today?

Me: I'm holding on

Zonke: good

Me : I'll let you know how it goes

Zonke: all the best

She drops the call

I take a deep breath

This better be worth it

I guess now I'll have to look my best, and plaster a smile on my face

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INSERT 06

Zothile

Tshidi: you don't look okay

I sigh

I guess I just walk around sour

That everyone can just see it

Me: I found a panty at his house with a condom, and he said they were mine. He's

cheating with his friends girlfriend

Tshidi: what?

Inod

Tshidi: why don't you just leave that dog? He's clearly not appreciating you

Me: I wish it was that easy

Tshidi: it is that easy, you just love hurting yourself . Over a man who doesn't give shit about you, he just fucks everything that has a pussy. He lacks self respect as a man, and you're allowing him to degrade you . It's like everyone around you can see him for who he is exactly, except you

I swallow hard

Tshidi: look at yourself, you're a whole lawyer that's just choosing to settle

I take a deep breath

Tshidi: honestly, I don't know what you did to my cousin.

Because this is not her

My phone flashes, I grab it

Me: I have to go, I have to cut this short. I'm meeting a client

Tshidi: fine, but please Zo. Just think about yourself for once. Smanga is not it for you

Me : yeah

I open my purse

Tshidi: don't worry, I got this one. My man gave me his card

She flashes a black card placing it upside down

We laugh

Me: you go girl, this one is a keeper. Don't let him go, not many give out cards

Tshidi: never, I'm telling you first because I plan to tell him today. I'm pregnant

Me: wow, that's nice.

Congratulations cuz

Tshidi: thank you babe, I can already hear wedding bells

Me: here comes the bride

We laugh as I get up

Me: thank you for cheering me up

Tshidi: just budget for a baby shower rich aunt

Me: silly you

I grab my hand bag and walk out heading to my car

I get in and compose myself driving off to the police station

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Smangaliso

I look at the cut on my lips

I take my phone and try her again

Me: fuck!

She's blocked my calls

I chuckle bitterly

Me: I will fuck you up so bad Zothile

Voice: what do you care?

Shit!

I turn and face her

Me : babe I didn't hear you come in

Tshidi: you know why I took you from her? Because she doesn't appreciate you, you're a man with a good job. But she thinks she's better than you just because she's a lawyer

She walks further in

Tshidi: you should have heard her today, she accused you of having an affair with your friends girlfriend. And she went on about how she's moved to better, and you'll never see her again. She said she will open a case of harassment for you, I don't know honestly if that's the kind of a woman you want

to keep chasing . I love you , I love you so much I'm willing to give you time to deal with this issue . But right now , I am pregnant

She places the test on my desk

Tshidi: I never saw myself as a single mother, if it was another man's child I would abort. But it's yours, and I'm keeping this

baby . Even if you choose Zothile over us

She turns and walks away

Me: I'm going to be a father?

I say as she gets to the door

She turns her head looking at me

Tshidi: yes

Me: fuck baby!

I rush over her and pick her into my arms

She laughs

Making me chuckle

In the two years we've been together, I've asked Zothile for a child

But she was too busy on her career

She never agreed for one

Me: this is the best gift ever, let's get married

She moves back and looks at me.

And I instantly regret that , I wish I can swallow my words back

But I do my level best to hide my regret

Tshidi: yes baby, yes! I will marry you

What the fuck is wrong with me?

Tshidi: but if we're doing this, Zothile has to go. And for good, you can't keep hiding me or our baby. We're going to be a family now, we don't need a third party

Me: yes

She attacks me with a hug

Tshidi: oh I'm so happy

I hug her back so disappointed

I would be over the moon if this was Zothile

The universe is fucking with me

Look at what I've gone and done

Zothile will never forgive me for this one

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Zothile

Me: I heard you're ready to talk

Zane: I said, I want to see you. There's a difference

Lord please no

Zane: sexy as ever, but you've been crying. Why don't you let me deal with this fool? Just tell me who he is

Me: Mr Walker

Zane: sweetheart it's Zane

Me : stop calling me that

Zane: what?

I sigh

Me: do you understand tomorrow it's your bail hearing?

Zane: I understand, and that's why you're here. Isn't that so? We're still on the same page

Me: then let's talk

Zane: fine

Hopefully we're going somewhere

Zane: what do you want to

know?

Me: everything

He leans back on the chair

Zane: I came here for a job, it was petty if you ask me

Me: killing a minister is petty?

Zane: I go for world leaders, so yes it's petty. And worse the wife wanted him dead, for inheritance. But he was smart enough not to include her, on the night of the job she found out and decided to bunk on me . I already had my target , so she goes on to tell him.

Me: and that easy and simple you got caught?

He smiles , gosh he looks so cute

Mxm!

Why am I admiring him

But he should smile more

Zane: too simple right? But I'm an international criminal, and well I knew they put a IP on me

. So I wouldn't easily get away from them at the airport's , so that's why we're here

Me: I see

Zane: that woman is a fucker, pity I'm worse. And I'm going to fucking make her pay, she'll die on his place

Mhm-mhm

Me: stay the hell away from that woman, don't touch her or else you'll really go down. You can't be facing jail time, and you be busy plotting a murder on the side

Zane: you don't really think I'm going to let her get away right?

What has Zonke dealt me?

Me: let me go, I need to start working on this. I'll see you tomorrow, clean up well

Zane: you can tell me colour of the day, and we can just match

Stupid!

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INSERT 07

Zothile

I knock at the door

And he doesn't answer

I use my key and open

I can tell he's home

His car is here

I need an outfit for tomorrow

And I have no clothes with me at the hotel

Me: Smanga

I call him out, but he doesn't answer

I head upstairs

And loud moans are what welcomes me

My heart shatters

I open the door trembling and this is not happening

Smanga: you're the best I've ever had baby

He lifts his head as finds me looking at them

He pushes her off of him

And she falls down on the floor screaming

Tshidi: what the fuck!

She groans in pain

Me: Tshidi!

I shake my head tears streaming down my face

She goes on to cry

Smanga gets off the bed and comes to me

While she's on the floor crying

Smanga: babe I know I fucked up, I am so sorry. I love you and not her, I am so sorry

Me: my cousin?

No!

No! This is a dream, this is not happening

It can't be

Smanga: baby please I am sorry

She cries out holding her stomach

Tshidi: Smanga, my baby

Oh no!

He turns and looks at her in fear

He runs to her

Tshidi: let's go to the doctor

He hasn't stopped cussing

Tshidi: I swear if you lay your hands on me, I will have you arrested Zo. No matter how hurt and betrayed you feel, just because a man saw and found a

woman who loves him and is better than you . You cannot hit a pregnant woman

Smanga runs around, making sure they get dressed

Tshidi is just giving me smirks

This feels like a dream

My head is pounding

Smanga: please move, I have to rush her to the doctor. I can't lose my child

I close my eyes as they pass me

I trail down to the floor bursting into a sob

Now it makes sense

Why she would always tell me to leave him

That panty belongs to her

She's the one he's been fucking in here

On my gosh!

My own cousin

I'm beyond the words hurt

I cannot comprehend this at all

I scream as a cramp hits me on my lower abdomen

I get up slowly balancing myself with the wall

I grab my small bag, I can't carry the big ones

I don't have the strength

I walk down with tears streaming down my face

And this pain is not helping at all

I freak out as I feel some liquid coming out

Me: ouch!

I get into my car and call Zonke

Zonke: hello?

Me: I'm on the N1, please come follow me. If you can, I'm going to see a doctor. I found

I wail

Me: I found him in bed with my cousinplease ...I think I'm bleeding. Please come ZonkeI am scared

Zonke: I am tracking your car right now, please sweetie drive safe. I am coming now

I drop the call, and this pain is not easing

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Smangaliso

Tshidi: stop the car

I look at her

Tshidi: stop the car

Me: the baby ...

Tshidi: the baby is fine, stop the car. We reek of sex, and you want us to walk into a doctor's office

Shit!

I park on the side of the road

Tshidi: I forgive you, I forgive you for pushing me off like that . While I am carrying your son

I sigh

Me: I didn't think

I shake my head

Tshidi: I forgive you for saying you love her, and not me.

Because we both know that's a lie, you love me. Maybe not as much as I love you, but you love me. I understand you panicked

Me: I hurt her

Tshidi: she's not a child she'll get over it, and it's better this way. Now she will be out of your hair

I look up fighting my tears

Seeing her cry like that broke me

I will never forgive myself for this

Now there's no denying this

She caught us

I can't even flip the story anyhow to favour me

Or my whack lies

Tshidi: please go and get me and your son food, then we go back home

Me: what if something is wrong with the child?

Tshidi: we will go see a doctor tomorrow baby

I sigh starting the car heading to the mall

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Zothile

Zonke: it's okay

My heart is aching right now

I look at the doctor

Doc: Ms Nzima

Me: is everything okay with me?

He smiles

Doc : perfect , but you and the little one gave us a scare there

No!

Me: little one?

Doc: I am taking it you didn't know

Me: I am not pregnant

Doc : you are , 12 weeks to be precise

Me: no, there has to be a mistake. Can you take a good look at me, I am thick. But my tummy is very flat

Doc: you're carrying with your back

What the hell is that?

Doc: don't worry, in the coming few weeks you'll be showing

I close my eyes

Zonke : are you certain ?

Doc: very much, running a scan was the first thing I did

when she got here. We've stopped the bleeding, I need to ask you to stop with the stress. You almost lost the baby

Why can't I just get away from Smanga?

This was it for us

Finding him in bed with my cousin

There's no coming back from that

And worse she's pregnant

Now I'm pregnant, with his child

How did this even happen?

Me: I was on the pill

I say defeated

I've never worried about not getting periods

Because I've been on the pill

And I haven't been having my periods

That wasn't a worry for me

Zonke holds me

Doc : contraceptives are not a 100% method

Then what's the use If they're so stupid?

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INSERT 08

Smangaliso

I fucked up my relationship with Sandile

Now I have no one to talk to

I'm having it hard

Tshidi is busy walking around the house

Doing this and that

This morning she said she's fine

And she doesn't care at all

We were both wrong

We hurt Zothile

I guess I just preferred her over Zo

Because she always made me feel like a man

She made me feel like she needs me

And made me to stand up

Zothile is the independent woman

Who won't beg you if you don't beg her

Which made it hard at times to be a man to her

It's no excuse

I know that

But I love her, and I don't want to lose her

But right now it feels like I have

She will never forgive this

I fucked up

I've never seen myself without that woman

That's why I could never bring myself to break things off with her

She may not be my ideal woman

But she's definitely the one woman that my heart wants

I've never loved anyone like her

And I doubt I ever will

I can't even call her as she's blocked me

I could call her using Tshidi's phone, but I doubt she will answer

Especially after what Tshidi said yesterday

And I didn't even want her finding out about the pregnancy that way

The pain and hurt in her eyes and voice

Her cries pierced through my heart and mind the whole night

I didn't get any sleep at all

Every time I closed my eyes

That sight was the only thing I could see

Tshidi walks down dragging Zo's bags

I noticed she took the small one

Me: what are you doing?

Tshidi: clearing our bedroom, tell her to come get her things

She places them by the door and goes back upstairs

I drop my head down, as a tear escapes my eye

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Zane

We're in court now

And in a few minutes we will be seeing the judge

Me: where is she?

Zonke sighs

Zonke: something happened yesterday

She sighs

Zonke: and she had to see a doctor. She will not make it, but I'm taking your case

Me: no

Zonke: Mr Walker

Me: listen, if she's not here and the judge comes out. We're not doing this

Zonke: you will get bail

Me: she will get me bail

She better not think I am kidding with her

Because I am not kidding

This case won't happen without my lawyer here

And I want her

No one else

Zonke: this will just drag

Me: it's fine

She looks at me shocked, with her jaw slightly dropped

Me: this situation, it's the

boyfriend?

Zonke : sorry ?

Me: who is he?

She sighs

Zonke: Mr Walker, I don't think we should be discussing your lawyer. And right now, you'll just have to excuse me. I will not ask her to come to court, her wellbeing and mental health comes first

Me: I will find out on my own, it's fine

She just gives me a defeated look

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Zothile

I fix my shades

Thank the creators of make up

Otherwise I would be looking like shit

My eyes hurt like crazy

I grab my bag taking my lipstick

I apply on my lips

I take a deep breath

I get out of my car, and open the back door

I grab my bag and coat

There's just something about carrying this coat or putting it on

A lawyer's black coat is their integrity

I walk in , and eyes turn looking at me

As our eyes meet, he flashes me a smile

I shake my head slowly

Zonke gets up

Zonke : sweetie ?

She sounds so worried

Me: it's okay, I am okay. I have a case to win, let's start getting a bail

It might be hard, cause he could be seen as a flight risk

And I believe he is one

But I just have to convince them that he's not

After getting discharged last night

I went to the hotel

Zonke wanted me going to her place

But I didn't want to crowd her

I'll figure out what to do

I'm on my own right now

Me: I am fine

She smiles moving and giving me the seat

She goes on to take the other one

Zane: sweetheart, even with red eyes you're still sexy

I look at Zonke, and she's focused on her phone

Me: stop calling me that, my boss is here

He winks

This man here is a lot of work

And I'll need all the strength I can get, to survive this

And right where we are , it seems like I'll need strength and a whole lot more

He's not even taking this case serious

It's a joke to him

And he's too confident

And that can help or hurt him

Too much confidence goes both ways

I shake my head taking out the file from my bag

I just need to get through this

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INSERT 09

Zothile

Zonke: well done

We briefly hug and she heads to her car

Zane: I knew you had it in you sweetheart

Can he just stop! With the name calling

Me : are you trying to charm me

Zane: hell no, why would I do that?

Me: then stop calling me that

Zane: what should I call you? Baby

Me : use my name Mr Walker..... Zane: the name is Zane, just Zane

He's insane

Zane: you want to grab a meal?

Me: no, I'm your lawyer. Let's keep things professional, address me with my name

Zane: you never told me your name, remember that?

Me: it's

Zane: I don't wanna hear it anymore sweetheart

Wow!

Zane: that lunch, I am hungry

Me: by all means, you go eat. I might have gotten you bail, but trial is coming. And from the looks of it, it's going to be big

Zane: I love big, big is good

I did say he's not taking this serious

Now I have to work ten times harder

Zane: people eat

Me: no, I'm heading to my hotel room. I will call you, if there's anything to discuss

Zane: hotel? Why do you live at a hotel?

Me and my big mouth

Me: personal business, me and you don't do that

Zane: just indulge me, maybe I might just leave you alone

I sigh

Me: he cheated, he's been cheating. And he got my cousin pregnant, the one person I always confided in. And we had

plans that I move in with him, now I've lost my apartment.

And my things are at his place, I caught them fucking yesterday on our bed. Oh yeah, he fucked his friend over and fucked with his girlfriend too

Zane: let me fuck him up, just for making you cry

Ilaugh

Me: he's not worth it, bye

I head to my car

Zane: I don't have a ride

He calls

Me : you're a man with means , make a plan I get into my car and drive past him

He winks as I pass

I shake my head laughing

This guy is a piece of work

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Zane

Karen: I see you got bail

Me: yeah

Karen: your lawyer, she seems very young. We should get you another one

Me: I did not ask you for another one, don't fuck with me Karen

Karen: she doesn't have this, you will lose this trail

Me : are you a lawyer now ?

She sighs

Me: then shut up, and let people who went to school and actually know the law deal with this

I drop the call

She can be a nuisance at times

But she's good at what she does

I grab my jacket ordering food, and grab the car keys walking out

I had to rent a car to use around

It sucks having a savage lawyer personally

But it's damn good when it comes to the court room

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Smangaliso

Tshidi: when is your ex coming to get her things?

I look at the bags

Me: I don't know

Tshidi: babe did you even tell her to come?

Me : tell her how when she's blocked me ?

I'm following the trail she's heading

And I saw her getting that guy bail today

Against everything the prosecution came with

She fought

It was actually amazing to see that

Even though it was just streaming online

And I wasn't at court

I do badly wanted to

But after what happened yesterday

I know she wants nothing to do with me right now

And it hurts

Because how I am going to apologize?

I don't even know where she is staying

Tshidi: let me do it

I just look at her bored

She takes her phone

I get up and walk into the kitchen

As much as I want to hear if Zothile will answer her call

I also don't want to hear Tshidi being bitter to her

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Zothile

I get up from the bed, fixing my tank top

I open the door and heave a sigh

Isn't he just cute?

No!

Me: what do you want?

Zane: I'm hungry sweetheart, move

I make way for him

He walks in with the take away bag food

Me: how did you find me?

Zane: is that a rhetorical question?

He sits down on the bed , and looks over at my laptop

I don't mind that

Cause I am working on his case

Me: is that food?

Zane: yeah, unlike you sweetheart I am not stingy

I laugh walking over

I open and take out the food

Me: thanks, you can leave

He looks around

Zane: so many shopping bags

Me: just 5

He smiles and it just quickly fades

I wish he smiled more

It actually makes him look less criminal

Zane: just by getting me bail, you spoil yourself

Me: in case you missed me saying I don't have my clothes with me

Zane: that ...

I eat, and push my laptop towards me

My phone rings , I sigh seeing Tshidi calling me

I wonder why I didn't block her too

I answer the call on loud speaker, and recording the call

Tshidi: can you just stop forcing yourself on this man, like come get your things. Or else I'm burning them all

Me: try me

Tshidi: he doesn't love you, he's met a real woman now. We're having a child, and getting married. Stop acting

desperate, it's so beneath you, and it's degrading

Me : do not burn my clothes Tshidi

Tshidi: if you don't come to get your things by tonight, you'll find them burnt. You must stay away from my man

She drops the call

Me: okay!

Zane: you need to stop associating yourself with crazy people

And look who is talking

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INSERT 10

Smangaliso

Tshidi is a crazy woman

Last night I left and went out to have a few drinks

I came back, and I didn't see the two bags

I asked her and she ignored me

Only to wake up this morning and find out that the clothes and bags have been burnt

In my backyard

Me: are you out of your mind?

Tshidi : I told her to come get her things

Me: you had no right, do you have any idea how much those clothes cost?

She folds her arms with attitude

Me: ten times more your clothes, you have

Two officers walk in , and they're with Zothile

Me : see what you have done ?

I look at her, and she's tearing up

She's so stupid

It's not even funny

What did she think was going to happen after burning her clothes

Zothile is a lawyer, and she knows her rights

Me: Zo please, we can talk about this. There's no need to involve the cops

Zothile: I told your girlfriend not to burn my clothes
Smangaliso

Me: I know, I am sorry. Please let me refund them, she's pregnant and cannot survive jail

Zothile: I don't wear cheap line

Me: I I know that

Zothile: do your best shot

I sigh taking out my phone

I still have her banking details

I log into my bank app

Tshidi: it was just clothes, it's not like she cannot afford them. She just wants your money, you don't have to pay her

Me: either I don't pay her, and you go to jail with my fucking child. Or I pay her, and save

you . It's your fucking stupidity that has gotten us here, so shut up

I send Zo 600K

She takes out her phone and looks at it

Zothile: you two better stay away from me

She and the cops turn away and leave

Tshidi: did you have to call me stupid in front of her?

Me: well

Tshidi : how much did you send her

None of her business

Me: that's none of your business

She grabs my phone and her jaw drops

Tshidi: over half a million rand!

Me: and because of this, you can forget that marriage

I yank my phone off of her and walk inside the house

I can hear her crying outside

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Zothile

Zonke : he paid you ?

Me: yeah

She laughs

Zonke: is this relationship done?

Me: most definitely, they're having a child and getting married. So I fit nowhere there

It hurts, I just never thought Tshidi would do this to me

Zonke: I know it hurts, but you're going to be okay. You will get through this

Me: yeah hopefully

Zonke: how is it coming with the case?

Me: well

Zonke : your client cooperating ?

Me: he's crazy, but we're doing fine

Zonke: I think he likes you

Me: I am a professional

Zonke: I'm glad

She gets up

Zonke : I just came to check on you

Me: thank you so much, I really appreciate it

We hug and I walk her out

Walking back to my room , I find my phone ringing

I reach for it

Me: Argh!

lanswer

Me: Zane

He chuckles

Zane: and you're not dead

Me: what do you want?

Zane: nothing, I am checking up on you

Me: well, thank you. I have work to do

Zane: right, I'll see you soon

Me: no, you won't

Zane: don't say such things, you're hurting me sweetheart. Be nice

There's wind , it's like he's walking

Me: it's late at night, where are you going?

Zane: are we there now with each other?

Me: Zane, please stay out of trouble. You don't need more troubles than you already have now

He chuckles

Zane: oh don't worry, I'll be very careful this time around.

But this time around, I'm just going for an innocent walk

Me : for your sake , I hope you are

I drop the call

This man!

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Smangaliso

Me : can we talk ?

He looks at me

Me: please, I come in peace

Sandile: what the fuck do you

want?

Me: I know I fucked up, it was never to hurt you. It wasn't international, no excuses. I know I ruined what we had

Sandile: then you shouldn't even be here, you fucked my girlfriend. And you had the guts, to spit on my face. It wasn't my fault that Zo wasn't enough for you ...

Me: don't say that, you know I love Zo more than anyone. And I know I hurt her, she deserves better. Way much better

Sandile: oh she already has

better

Me: what do you mean?

He smirks

Me: Sandile who is she fucking with?

Sandile: don't annoy me, get off my property

Me : please

He shuts the door on my face, and locks before I can push myself in

I knock quite a few times, calling him out

Until I hear him talking on the phone

Like he's called the cops, he's definitely talking to cops

Me: fuck!

I step away from his door step, and get into my car driving home

I am furious

I know I have always been the cheater

And Zo has always been loyal, like always

She's never and I mean ever cheated on me

So who could this guy she's with now be ?.

And where was he all along?

I will fucking find out, and shit will hit the fan

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INSERT 11

A MONTH LATER

Zothile

We walk away from the crowds With cameras just flashing

We get to the parking

Zonke: you did great

Me: thank you

We hug briefly

Zonke: Mr Walker, please stay

out of trouble

Zane: yeah

As if

Zonke : come see me tomorrow morning

Me : yes ma'am

She walks away getting into her car

Zane: you did it

Me: mhm, and don't be back here again. You're a criminal, at least be smart about that and don't get caught

He smiles

Zane: lunch?

Me : no , I just want my bed and

Zane: people have to eat

I am hungry

But I really just want to lock myself in

Me: fine

He leads me to my car, and I let him drive

It has been a crazy month dealing with this case

And him nagging me

He just doesn't know when or how to stay away

Understanding I'm his lawyer and not his friend

We've spent just a lot of time together

For nothing even useful

This trial was just insane

At some point, I didn't even believe that I'll win the case

But I did it

It was just a miracle honestly

The way the media were not giving us a break

They even asked to the court to allow the trial to be broadcasted

That knocked me off

It scared me

I was nervous half the time in that court room

And for a whole two weeks

We didn't get a break

Going to court everyday, it was crazy

Zane: don't over think it

I look at him

Me: what?

Zane: you're lost in thought, you won its over and done with . I won't need your brains any time soon

I smile

Me : don't need them ever again

He chuckles

And I know it won't be long, before he's gone and done something else

But if he goes on and gets caught, he's the next lawyer's problem

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Zane

Karen: yes she got you off

Me : stop being sour

She sighs

Karen: when are you coming back Zane?

I sigh

Me: soon

Karen: a day exact

Me : just soon

I drop the call as Zothile comes back and sits down

Zothile: you didn't have to drop your call because of me

Me: it was useless

She smiles

Me: you look very beautiful

Zothile: stop trying to charm me

I chuckle

Me: I long did that

Zothile: something is wrong

with you

Me: no

Zothile: when are you leaving?

Me: I have business to take care of, which is why I'm cutting this lunch early so I can prepare myself

Zothile: you just avoided a 25 years sentence

Me : all thanks to you , don't worry . I will be very smart

She shakes her head

Me : don't look so disappointed now , I won't die

Zothile: I wouldn't care even if you did

Me: right

I take out my card and pay for the bill

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Smangaliso

My heart is beating so fast

How can she do this?

So she's really moved on

And she's never looked as beautiful as she does right now

Looks like she's even gained some weight

And now she's busy entertaining this guy

The very same criminal she was defending

I would be damned to just let her leave me just like that

I still love her

And I don't see myself without Zothile

No matter how fucked up our relationship was, and how I've hurt her

I love her more than I've loved anyone

I still want to fix things

I won't let this be

I get into my car and drive off following her

For a month now , I still don't know where she stays

But today I will

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Zothile

It's late, and I know Zane would never rock up at my hotel room this late

I was preparing for bed

I got disturbed by the knock

I open the door, and shock takes over me

I try pushing it back, but he pushes it to me

I move back, he walks in and closes the door locking it

I am scared I don't want to lie

How did he even find out where I am?

I haven't even bumped into him in over a month

I did my best to avoid him

Ever since the last time I saw him

Me: I will scream, Smanga get out

Thank god I have a gown on

And he won't get to see my tummy

I've gotten very good at hiding it

Me: leave

Smanga: I just want to talk

Me : I don't want to talk to you , please leave

He walks closer to me

I scream, and he holds me placing his hand over my mouth

Smanga: you just couldn't wait to move on from me, so you can go whoering around with your criminal client. You've turned into a whore now, fucking every dick

I shake my head as tears stream down my face

Smanga: no one will have you if I can't have you

I bite his hand and he slaps me so hard

I move landing on the bed

I grab my phone while he curses

I dial Zane

Ask me why I have him on speed dial I don't know

Zane: I'm ...

Me: he's here in my hotel

Smanga: fucking bitch

He grabs my phone I scream and he throws it against the wall

Smanga: you dare call him

He grabs me and I land on the floor

My hands go to my stomach as he kicks me

Right now I'm just thinking about my baby

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INSERT 12

Smangaliso

Fuck!

What have I done?

I just got carried away

And I got angry, I lost my cool

I ran out of that hotel room as fast as I could

I left her on the floor

I don't even know if she's still alive or what

I couldn't feel a pulse when I tried to find one

She couldn't wake up

Even after throwing water on her face

I fucked up!

I get to my house and run upstairs

Tshidi: I have been ...

Me: not now!

I rush to the closet

I grab a few clothes

I go to my safe

I take out the little bit of cash

Tshidi: what's going on?

Me: stop coming after me

Tshidi: you can't ...

Me: stop!

Tshidi: we have to talk

Me: not right now

Tshidi: my mother wants to know when your family will come and ...

Me: I told you there's no marriage that's going to happen here

Tshidi: you can't get me pregnant, and just throw me out like trash

Me: I don't have time for this

I walk into the shower, and take a quick cold shower

I need to change these clothes

I'm getting away from here

I don't know where I'll go

But I am not staying around to go to jail

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Zane

Me: who is he?

She looks at me

I stare right back at her

Me: I can find out on my own, or you can just make things easier for me. And just tell me who the fuck he is

Zonke: you don't need this trouble, you escaped prison

Me: who is he?

Zonke: let's wait for Zo to wake up ...

Me : fine don't tell , I'll find him myself

I look at her laying on the bed

And her sight from the hotel room just come into my head

She was just helpless

And he didn't hold back beating her up

She kept crying in the car to the hospital

She kept saying her baby

Touching her tummy, brushing it over and over

And that's when I realised she's pregnant

I didn't even notice the whole month we spent together that she's pregnant

Me : he will get what's coming to him

I caress her cheek

Zonke: if you get arrested for assault ...

Me: I already killed and framed the husband for the murder, you want to know where he is right now? In police custody, and there's no getting away.

Cause he was caught with the murder weapon

Her jaw drops

Me: and you think I'll get arrested for assault?

I turn and walk towards the door

Zonke: Smangaliso Zuma, he lives in Midrand. I'll send you his address

Me: that wasn't so hard Zonke

I open the door and walk out of the hospital

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Smangaliso

This damn woman!

And she's still following me

Tshidi: you can't leave me here

Me: would you rather I stay here with you, and go to jail?

She pops her eyes

Tshidi: jail for what?

Me: I saw Zo with another man, I got angry and I hit her. She could be dead for all we know....

Tshidi: you did what?

Me: I have to go

The door roughly opens

Me: shit!

He squints his eyes and just charges for me

Me : call the cops

I say to Tshidi who is just dumbstruck

He lands punches on me and doesn't hold back

I scream out in pain as I feel my tooth being knocked off

I spit it out with the blood

He throws me over to the glass table and it breaks

With bits of glasses piercing on my back

My face feels swollen from his punches

I cough, coughing blood

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Zane

She opens her eyes slowly

She looks around and tears stream down her face

Zothile: Zane my baby

Me: shhhhhh

I hold her hand

Zothile: my baby

Me: it's okay, your baby is fine mommy

Zothile: really?

Me: yeah, the doctor

confirmed it

She closes her eyes and nods

That's just relief

Me: I am sorry I wasn't there

She opens her eyes and shakes her head

Zothile: what were you doing?

Me: killing the ministers wife

She gasps

Zothile: is that why your knuckles are bruised?

I shake my head

Me: I was beating your stupid ex

Zothile: you did what?

Me: mommy catch up

Zothile: you didn't kill him also did you? You'll go to jail

Me: I am not going anywhere

She sighs

Me : should I call the doctor to come check on our baby?

She smiles

Zothile : our what ?

Me: I don't understand why you didn't tell me you're expecting

Zothile: I wanted to keep it all to myself, until I was ready to tell

Me: you didn't even show

Zothile: I do show, I was just hiding

Sneaky woman

She was busy doing trials, while she's carrying a baby and hiding it

Zothile: how bad do I look?

Me : sexy mommy

She smiles

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INSERT 13

Me: thank you for bringing me food

He smiles

Zane: I'm taking you to my hotel room

I look at him, taking the bottle of water

I take a few sips

Zane: I will not be at ease, the doctor is discharging you

Well she is happy with everything

She said she wants to take one last scan today

I'm just thankful that my baby is okay

I may hate Smanga right now

But I don't hate my baby

I don't have anyone

I only have this human being inside of me

I'm an orphan, and I was an only child

So I have no siblings

I'm basically the one person I have

And now this baby will be my family

Zane: did you hear me?

Me: how did you kill the ministers wife?.

He smiles

He's so creepy

It's not even funny

The murder is all over the news

And the minister is arrested for that

And well, they're spinning it that he killed her because she had supposedly hired Zane to kill him

So this is revenge

Zane: let's not talk about that

Me: I don't want you going to jail

Zane: you care so much, it's actually cute

Mxm!

The door opens and the doctor walk in

She smiles

Doc: Mommy

Ilaugh

It's all thanks to this criminal

The nurses and doctors now call me mommy

Just being here for a day

Doc : are we ready to see our person ?

Me: yes

Doc : okay , please lie down for me

Zane helps me on the bed

And he lowers my sweatpants

He bought me clothes

He's so thoughtful

Like he just thinks about everything

The doctor puts the gel on my tummy

I take a deep breath

Zane holds my hand

The way he's looking at the monitor, it's just crazy

Doc: well, there's the

heartbeat

Zane: it's very strong

Doc: I am very happy, mommy and the baby are healthy. I

couldn't be happier, that's why I'm letting you guys go

I smile

Zane: it's a boy

I look at him

Zane: what?

Me: who said it's a boy?

Zane: come ondon't tell me you didn't see that thingy dangling in there between his legs

The doctor and I laugh

Me : dangling ?

Zane: yeah I saw it

I know I'm over 14 weeks now, so yes we can know the gender

But I didn't see anything dangling

Doc: well, it's true

Me: really?

She nods

Me: wow, okay!.

Zane: I told you, that's my boy

He must leave me alone

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Zane

I don't like that I have to leave

But there's a shipment of pink diamonds

I cannot lose out on those billions of money

So I have to go

She got discharged

And I took her to my hotel room

She checked out at the hotel she was staying at

And I made sure to put security detail on her

This is where being a criminal helps

As we're being called

Just for making a living differently from how others make it

I made a few calls, and I was afforded three guys who will watch her, all thanks to my connections

As soon as I get back

I will be sure to send one of my guys

I just need one

And I'll know they're safe and protected at all times

I hand her the fruit salad and milkshake

Zothile: thank you

Me: you're welcome mommy

Zothile: so I have been elevated from being sweetheart to mommy?

I chuckle

Me: I am leaving tomorrow

I don't like it

Zothile: running away from your crimes?

I laugh slightly

Me: no, I'm not running away from anything

Zothile: okay, at least you're leaving and there's no charge on your name.

Me : soyou're not sad that I'm leaving ?

Zothile : do I have reason to be ?

Me : you love hurting me

She laughs

Zothile: you're a dramatic man

Me : can I spend this night with my boy ?

She looks at me confused

Me : please

Zothile: don't get any ideas please

I chuckle

Me: yeah, I just want to cuddle that's all

Zothile: good, I have to go see Zonke tomorrow

Me : I probably won't even be here when you wake up

Zothile: mhm, criminals move in the dark

This one will never let me have rest

Me : for the record , I will miss you

She smiles, and she will never say it

But I know I'll be missed too

Zothile: where is he?

Me: somewhere

Zothile: where?

Me: I can't tell you that, and you don't need to know

She sighs

Me : do you still care ?

Zothile: no, I hate him. I loathe that man. I thought I had lost my child, if you didn't get there when you did....

She shakes her head

Zothile: I don't know what would have happened

Me: nothing happened to our boy, he's good and so are you.

As for that idiot, he is where he belongs. Don't worry, he will see daylight when the time is right

I hold her hand

Me: you take care of my boy

She laughs

Zothile: let me eat, it's late

A lawyer indeed , very good at just dodging things

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INSERT 14

Zothile

I feel so much better today

I would be inside, and just hide away from the outside world

But life goes on

Smanga has always been nothing, but just a cheater

But I never thought that one day he would put his hands on me

I am not bad

Nothing is broken, so I guess I am really fine

And the fact that I didn't stay for many days at hospital

It took all of this much pain

And being shown just how much of a trash he regarded me as

But this is life

I am still hurt over the fact that , my own cousin dealt me over a man

Yeah!

Never trust anyone

And never say you know anyone

Tshidi has shown me that

Right now I am just picking my life

And moving on

Zane was right

I woke up this morning, and he was gone

He had breakfast on the bed side

And I knew he was gone

I will probably never see him again

Without a doubt he has left the country by now, and headed wherever he's going

He assured me last night that I am safe

And Smanga will never hurt me again

Still didn't tell me where he is

I can't help but keep wondering if he killed him

Or maybe he's still alive

I mean this man just kills in cold blood

And he doesn't have any regrets

I've been looking at that charge against the minister

And by the looks of things

It's definitely sticking in

He sure did his thing

Zonke: I thought you will want

to rest

I smile

Me: I am okay

I don't think I am ready to come back to work though

But since she asked to see me

And then Smanga happened

I couldn't come cause I was laying on a hospital bed

But I am here now

Zonke : you look better

Me: I feel better

Zonke: that's great

She opens her drawer and takes out a contract

She hands it to me

Me: what's this?

Now I am scared

I just hope I am not getting fired

Zonke: go on , read it

I swallow hard opening it

And I'm shocked

No!

I am beyond shocked

Zonke: the Walker case got everyone talking about you, and this law firm. I don't know how many emails, you might have of law firms trying to take you. But I know I have to secure my gem.

Me: this is real?

She smiles

Zonke: you deserve it, you worked your ass off for it . At some point, even I had doubts that Walker was going to walk out . But you did it , even having media in court. Which didn't make things easy, but you stood still and you didn't crumble. No wonder the man was so confident, because he had a shark of a lawyer

I slightly laugh

I think Zane just has a huge ego

It's nothing else

Zonke : so what do you say ?

Me: I can't believe I just made partner

Zonke: it's yours if you want it

If I want it?

I would be stupid to turn down this offer

Who makes partner in their law firm at just 26?

Me: no need to even ask, thank you so much

Zonke: no, thank you. I am glad to have you on my team. From day one, you've proved to be one of a kind . I know you haven't had any big cases like the Walker one, and not a lot of people had faith in my decision. They thought maybe a senior with more experience, should have taken the case. But you proved them all wrong

I nod slowly

I'm just getting emotional right now

Zonke: you've had four cases with us, excluding this one. You've won three, and got a less sentence on one. Now that's s milestone, and we should appreciate it

Me: I promise you, you will never regret this. I will make you proud

Lord!

I hope my parents are smiling down on me.

And they're proud wherever they are

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Smangaliso's House

Tshidi's mother walks in

And she looks at the filth in the house

There's even a smell of some kind

She looks at Tshidi who looks like her whole world has crumbled down

MaTshidi: what's all this?

Tshidi sniffs and wipes her tears and mucus with her hand

Tshidi: this is all Zothile's fault

Her mother frowns

MaTshidi: what?

Tshidi: she's angry that Smanga chose me, that I'm the one pregnant with his child. And he asked me to marry him, in front of her he chose me and our child

She lets out a sob

Tshidi: ma, she had her thug boyfriend come into our house and he attacked Smanga. Then took him with, right now I don't know where my fiancé is. He could be dead, and I will be left a single mother

MaTshidi: Ntombi's daughter has always been jealous, just like her mother. They just cannot accept defeat, but you

also can't settle for this. Just look at this place, look at yourself. It's just a mess, the house even stinks. Open the doors and windows, clean this place. Take a shower and look beautiful, this is nonsense

She looks around with a disgusted look

MaTshidi: where is she?

Tshidi get up from the floor

Tshidi: I don't know, I haven't seen her since she wanted to get me arrested for burning her cheap clothes. And she took 600K from Smanga

Her mother's jaw drops

MaTshidi: 600 000?

She asks shocked

Tshidi: yes, over two suitcases and cheap clothes. After I told her to come take her things

She cries

Tshidi: with Smanga gone, I don't have any money. While she took my man's money

Her mother is still shocked about that much money

MaTshidi: don't worry, I will deal with this. Just get yourself together

She just thinks to herself, of what she can do if she can get her hands on that money

She lets out a fade smile as she thinks of a plan

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INSERT 15

Zothile

I hadn't checked my emails at all

Until Zonke said what she said yesterday

And I was shocked to have like 7 offers from other law firms

But I was polite enough to turn them down

I am happy where I am , I don't see myself leaving for any reason

And right now, things are happening for me

It would be stupid to leave

Two opened room for negotiations

And three left their offers opened

In case I ever change my mind

But that will never happen

Unless something happens

And it forces me to rethink about my career

But for now , I am all good

I'm walking out of the shower as my phone rings

I reach for it

And I see the international number

I involuntary smile

Me : no ways

It can't be him now can it be?

But who else could be calling me, from across the world

Me: hello?

Voice: mommy

I slightly laugh

It's so good to hear from him

Me: there's no getting rid of you, is there?

Zane: never, how's my boy?

I don't understand what's his obsession with my child

Me : he's good , sleeping a lot today

Zane: he's a good boy

Me: yeah, where are you?

He chuckles

Zane: I can't tell you that

Me: right

Zane: I'll keep calling, but once I settle I'll give you a number so

you'll be able to reach me as well

Me: meaning this one will not be existing after this call?

Zane : yes

This is a lot of work

Zane: we have to talk

Okay!

That sounds very serious

Me: about?

Zane: I'll FaceTime in a few hours, don't sleep. Then we can talk

Me : you're not in trouble are you ?

Zane: not yet no

I shake my head

Me: okay

Zane: I was checking in , I have to go now

Me : okay , be safe . And don't get caught

Zane: no getting caught

This is me and the criminal

A whole diamond smuggler and an assassin

Talking like we're best friends

This relation is just strange

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Zane

Karen: it's good you're back

I just look at her

Karen: this relationship with your lawyer, cut it Zane. It's not good

Me: who died and made you

Karen: you know who you are, do you really think a whole lawyer can entertain a man like yourself? She got you out, it should have ended there

Me: I am talking and you cut me off

She looks down for a second

Karen: I care

Me: don't, go make sure I'm set for that shipment. And stop trying to play advisor, for my life. I don't pay you for that

She sighs

Karen : I hope this doesn't come back to bite you

She turns on her heels and walks out

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Smangaliso

I don't know this place

But it's dark

And it's a very confided space

I have cried for help

And it seems like we're in the middle of nowhere

It's dark in this room

I have never gotten such beatings

It's like every time the door opens, a different guy walks in

And they just beat me however they want and leave

I'm chained to a chair, that has one broken leg

And this position I'm in , is just so uncomfortable

I'm in unbearable pain

And I'm naked in here

It's cold

It sometimes just feels like a freezer of some kind.

I am wishing for death

But it's just not coming

I can't endure this pain

Now these are the consequences of my doings

I should have just left Zo alone

I know that guy she was defending is responsible for this

He probably has his thugs doing this to me

I should have run away when I got the chance

Look at me now

I fucked up big time

And I cannot take this punishment

I haven't been given any water or food

I haven't used the toilet, I've peed on myself countless times

I have a wound that's just bleeding on my thigh

One of the them just came in here, just to stab me

Fresh blood just keeps gushing over dried blood

I wonder if there's anyone that's even looking for me out there or what

If not, then I am dead

They will bury me

That's if I won't be fed to dogs

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Zane

Me: how is he?

Ghost: surviving by a thread

Me: mhm

I don't want him to die

I want him to live and get to see Zothile thriving, doing great things beyond what he thought

Becoming the woman that he was scared of

The woman he's been intimidated by

Becoming ten times what actually scared him

Death is too easy for dogs like him

He needs to perish

In a life of sorrow, pain and misery

Me : send the guys in

Ghost: got it

Me : after that , you can let him leave

Ghost: you've made our stay worth it

I chuckle

Me : release your men of their duty , I have got that covered now

Ghost: understood

Me: what you have done for us will never go unnoticed

Ghost: your word is law

I drop the call

I've sent one of my best

The man that I trust with my own life

And I know Zothile and my boy will be safe with him watching them

But I will never tell her that

And she will never know she's being watched

I just care about their safety right now

And nothing else

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INSERT 16

Zothile

I didn't sleep, waiting for this call

And here it has come

I'm just wondering what's all this about

And why did he wait until he left?

Unless maybe whatever he wants to talk about, came to him after he left

Me : do you have good or bad news ?

He smiles

Zane: depends on what good or bad news are to you

I chuckle

Me: getting smart with me, it's

fine. I am listening

Zane: how much do you want for maintenance?

I frown

Not sure that I am understanding him well

Me: maintenance?

Zane: yes for my boy

Okay!

This has gone too far

Zane: I know you still have like what? 5 months before delivery, but I want to start supporting and helping financially right now. For cravings and all, even the little shopping. So will 35K be enough for now?

I am shocked

Me : you want to pay maintenance ?

Zane: yes

Me: waitZane me and you what are we?

He smiles

Zane: parents to our boy

Is this man mentally disturbed or what?

Zane: don't look at me like that , I am perfectly fine

Me: I don't mean this bad, but

I sigh

Zane: I did not father him, but he's mine. And I am doing this for him, and not you

Of my gosh

Zane: 35K?

Like he's serious

Ilaugh

Me: for real?

Zane: I am here, every step of the way, being away like this means nothing. I will be there for some appointments, even though I might miss some. But let me take responsibility

I have never heard this

Where in the sane world has anyone heard of such?

Me : do you have kids ?

Zane: I have one who's coming soon

Ilaugh

Either this baby is lucky

Or I have met a mental case

Me: and how long will you keep up with this?

Zane: for as long as I live

Wow!

We have that silence

Because right now I see he's serious

But it doesn't make sense to me.

We're not dating

We're basically nothing to each other

And here he is , ready to step up and be a father to my baby

Let me just humour him

And see just how far this will go

Me: why 35K?

Zane: I was just asking, you can tell me how much you want.
Don't be scared about that, money is not a problem

I smile

Me: let it be normal and even please, either 30K or 40K. Get rid of that 5

He chuckles

Zane: 50K it is, so for now until he's born. That's the amount I'll be sending monthly

Waitso I'll be getting like 50K every month

For like five months

Zane: but when you go shopping for clothes and the nursery things, let me know and I'll top up the money. The rest, we can discuss when he's born. I'll raise the amount

No!

This is a movie, like a real true film

Me: okay, well thank you

I am stunned good people

And this doesn't even feel real

Zane: I will make the transfer, and put extra for you to spoil yourself

I smile

Me : I made partner

There's that fade smile

Zane : you deserve it mommy , I am proud

Me: all thanks to you, for messing up and having me

clean after you. Who knows?

Maybe if I hadn't represented you, I wouldn't have gotten this

Zane: mhm, thank my criminal self

Disgusting

We laugh

Me : don't be so proud

Zane: I make things happen

Someone who is so proud, of breaking the law and taking lives

Zane: you need to get a house and move out of the hotel

Me: yeah, I have been thinking about that

Pregnant and living in a hotel, is really not ideal

I need a home

Zane: please, chose a safe neighbourhood. Where you'll have high tight security, that will put me at ease. Knowing you and my boy are safe

Me: those kind of places are expensive

Zane: and that's why you will know the price, but your pocket won't feel it

Ohhhhh!

Did he just offer to buy me a house?

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Smangaliso

I am pinned down on the floor

By one guy, who's on my neck

And I can tell what's going to happen here

The other one is busy pushing my ass cheeks apart

I am crying

But it's useless and won't help me with anything right now

I scream in a agony, as he just shoves his dick in my asshole

I have never felt so much pain

It feels like my bones are breaking

He's treating me apart

And as I feel the liquid on my ass going down my thighs

I know I am bleeding

Sure I fucked up

But do I deserve all of this?

I wonder if Zothile is alive, and she knows what happening to me

My cries dies down, as pain blocks my chest

This guy is not having mercy on me

He's just going in and out of me

He's even grunting

That's how much he's enjoying himself

While I am hurting

Who knew a man could cry to this point of pain like me?

I feel so disgusted, and violated

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INSERT 17

Zothile

Zane wasn't kidding with me

He did send the 50K, and he added with 20K on top

And said that's for me to spoil myself

I've been looking at houses

And there's one I liked

But I hate that it's in Sandton

I really don't like the place

But I'm viewing the house

He said whenever I am ready he is ready

I cannot believe he's going to buy me a house

One that costs millions

It feels like a dream of some kind

I don't know why this man is making life so much easier for me like this

He's always been a handful

From day one

But lately , he's just proving to be what I need

This is a strange predicament

I get up and fix my coat

Making sure my belly is hidden

I am not ready yet to expose my baby

I place the bill on the side of the table, right next to the cup of tea I was having

I grab my bag, and smile to the waitress who was serving me as I walk out

I head to the parking lot

And my mood just dampens as I see Tshidi and her mother

Aunt: oh look at you Zothile

They're standing right besides my car

They've have taken things so far as to follow me around

Me : please get away from my car

Tshidi laughs

Aunt: what have you turned into?

Me: what has your daughter turned into? I used to cry to her, I used to tell her everything that man was putting me through. While she stabbed me in the back, she even twisted the knife

Tshidi: oh get over yourself, the man loves me. We're having a child and getting married

Me: yes, he loves you and a whole lot more before and after

She scoffs

Aunt: stop being bitter Zothile

Me: See why I chose to stay away? Because I knew that I'm the orphan no one was going to hear out, you were all going to take her side. Even though she's the one who wronged me , but I knew you'll take your child's side. And it's fine, I really don't give a damn . But you should stay away from me, I'm really asking

Aunt : oh that we can do , we just want the 600K , her fiancé gave you

I chuckle

Me: you must be thinking I'm an idiot, you're not even getting a cent of that money. He knows she goes to China city, I'm sure he even told you that you can't compare my clothes to your cheap clothes. Don't do

this to yourself, you just scream desperation

She frowns

Me: you two will do me a favour, stay the hell away from me. Or I'll have you charged with harassment, and I'll serve you protection orders

They move away from my car

I laugh shaking my head

Me: bloody cowards

Tshidi: you think you're better than us, just because you're a lawyer now. Tell you're criminal boyfriend to bring Smanga back

And she tears up

I wonder where he is

Me: I am better, I don't even think . But I know , I'm better than you and there's nothing you both cannot do or say about that . I flex and can afford myself, I don't open my thighs for a manwhore of a man just to have money . You're in for a big surprise, I know Smanga like the palm of my hand. He's yet to show you exactly who he is,

you haven't cried sis . You're still yet to cry

I smile

Me: I wasn't kidding, stay the fuck away from me. Or I'll ruin you both

I open the car door, and something just doesn't sit right with me

I take a deep breath

I call Zonke

Me: hey sorry to bother

I walk away locking my car

Zonke : are you okay ? Sounds like you're outside

Me: came to have coffee, but now I stumbled on my aunt and her daughter. It turned somehow, they were near my car. I don't feel ease getting into that car

Zonke : don't , I am coming send me your pin

Me: thank you, I am sorry to bother you so much

Zonke : don't worry about it sweetie

I smile dropping the call

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Smangaliso

I look around and see that I'm dropped at my gate

I don't know for how long I have been passed out

Every inch of my body hurts

I get up slowly, flinching and groaning in pain

The gate is opened

I guess this woman is still in my house

I walk in slowly

There's no joint in my body that's not painful

My ass is on fire

I can't believe , I survived being raped by three guys

They should have just killed me

Now I really don't see a point in living really

What kind of a man am I going to be ?

I will never feel like I am man enough

Other men violated men

I will never accept that as my reality

I don't know where to from here, and how to pick up the pieces

I open the door, and her mother looks at me with shock

I really don't know what she's doing at my house

She calls out to Tshidi

Who comes in running, and the shock that overwhelms her

Tshidi: baby

I just look at them

Tshidi: oh my gosh ...look at what that man didl am sure

that sour bitch told him to do this, I am so sorry. Zothile will get what's coming to her

I heave a sigh and walk past them

It's a struggle getting upstairs

I get into my room , she also walks in

I guess she's been following me

Tshidi: oh baby

I take a deep breath

Me: what ...is your ...mother doing inmy house?

She pops her eyes

Me: I wanther gone, and you too as wellI want to bealone. So please ...leave

Tshidi: you can't kick me and our baby out, where are we supposed to go?

Me: the tittle deed of this house, says me. There's nowhere where it says you

Tshidi: Smanga no baby, they put you to this didn't they?
They just want to hurt us, because Zothile is busy pretending like she's hurt by us being together

Me: we hurt Zo, she loved us both very much. And this is what we did to her ...but no. I want you out of my house, because I just want to be alone

Tshidi : baby please don't do this

Me: pack your things and go, you don't want me to call the cops. And have you escorted out

Tshidi: I hate you

I walk over and sit down on the bed

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INSERT 18

Zane

Zothile: I love it

She says with a slight laughter

Me: you do?

Zothile: yeah, it's just beautiful

Me: well then, mommy it's yours

Zothile: for real ... no kidding?

Me: the kidding is not my thing

She laughs

I don't think I've ever seen her this happy

Like she's so happy, there's even glow on her face

It's a beautiful sight to see

Zothile: you see this?

She flips the camera and makes me look around

Me: yeah

Zothile: this, should be the nursery. I think it's big enough

She flips the camera back to herself

Me: you know best, and the room is big. So it will work

She smiles

Me: once you've worked out the budget for the nursery, let me know

Zothile: taking on serious daddy duties

I chuckle

She better get in line

Me: yeah, there's no other way

She smiles

Zothile: let me leave you, after this I have to go to the office

Me: take it easy with that

Zothile: don't worry

Me: now you can use this number to contact me

Zothile: for real?

There's just something that's pleasing about seeing a genuine smile on her face

It's just incredible

Me: yeah, you now can call me

Zothile: I would say you're reformed, but that would just be a lie

We both laugh

Me : greet my boy for me

Zothile: I will

Me : tell me , do you feel safe ?

She sighs

Zothile: after the stunt with Tshidi and her mother, I was scared to even get into my car. Cause I found them near it, I thought maybe they did something to it. But it's fine, they did nothing. And I do feel safe

Me : it's okay , they wouldn't dare hurt you

Zothile: she ...well, they both blame me for whatever is happening with them and him

Me: well it's their problem, and it has nothing to do with you. Don't let them get to you like that

Zothile: yeah

Me: okay, you take care

Zothile: I will, and you too

I nod dropping the call

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Smangaliso

I groan as my body hits the floor

Me: ouch!

I cough out, holding my neck

I curve into a ball crying

I can't live like this

He should have just let me die

Sandile: what happened?

I don't know what he's doing here

I had to throw Tshidi and her mother out

I've just been like a zombie in my own house

I can't eat , I can't bath

I can't even do anything

I just want this pain to stop

I'm better off dead than living like this

Sandile: I haven't seen you in work, over a week now. Like a friend I used to be, I got worried. I came to see if you're okay, and I find you trying to hang yourself. Just look at how bad you look like

I burst into a sob

Sandile: what happened?

Me: they raped me, they raped me okay!

It's so painful

Like it hurts

I feel like they have stripped me of my manhood

Sandile: what?

I shake my head crying

Me: I can't live like this manyou should have let me die. I have nothing to live for anymore, I'm nothing but just a broken soul

Sandile: I don't know what happened, but this is not you. Who raped you Smangaliso?

Is it even worth retelling, and having him know all the details of what happened?

He won't look at me the same

Me: I....I beat up Zo

Sandile: you what?

I wipe my tears

Me: I just got angry seeing her with that Zane guy, I went to her hotel room . One thing led to another, and I laid my hands on her . She called him , I ran away before he could get there . I wanted to run , but he came here and he beat me up . Then he took me to some place, a room middle of somewhere. There were different guys there , and everyday they would beat

me up . They starved me , andbefore they let me go ...

I shake my head slowly, just replaying everything that happened

Me: they raped methree fucking guys raped me. I could be sick now, because they were not even using condoms! Man I am doomed

I bury my face on my hands over my knees

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Zothile

I smile to myself

Despite every single bad thing that has happened

There's still good in all of this

I got a promotion and just made partner

I have a brand new house

My bank account is just fat

My baby is healthy and doing well

I couldn't be more happier

Slowly but surely I will pick myself up

And I will be okay eventually

For now, I am going to try my level best

And just do everything in my power I can do to be better

Not only for me, but for my son as well

I hope and pray I never see Smanga again

Despite this baby, I want nothing to do with that man

And I don't want him anywhere near my child ever

I will do everything and anything to protect my son from him

And his better wife or girlfriend, whatever she is

I want them nowhere near us

I will do all I can to avoid them

Just as long as I'm not bothered in my work place

He shall never know where I am

And he will have no contact with my child

Unfortunately I cannot hate this little human being I am carrying

He is the one family that I have got

And that's why I didn't even think of aborting

He's my family

And all thanks to him choosing me to be his mom, I will not feel like I am all alone in this world

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INSERT 19

FIVE MONTHS LATER

Zothile

Doc: are you ready?

I smile

Me: nervous, he's been too busy these days

Doc: his time is near, he's making you aware

Me : I'm not ready to part ways yet

She laughs

Doc: now you'll bond hand in hand, and make more memories together

Me: true, but if I could make him delay, I would do it

I feel like I can protect him when he's still inside of me like this

Just from everything and everyone

We're on our final check up

In two weeks time or so he will be here

The delivery date is never that accurate

He can come late or before the date set

So any day from here on in two weeks, someone could be here

It's been a peaceful five months for me

No Tshidi or Smangaliso

Even her mother

They tried calling me for a stupid family meeting

And I didn't even bother myself

Because I knew no one was going to stand up for me

They were all just going to take her side

Despite the fact that she betrayed me first

By being with a man I was with

I am so glad I'm over Smanga and I don't even care about him no more So I just let them conclude that I am wrong

For whatever reason

Without even gracing them with my presence

My mental health and sanity came first

My work has been priority

And I haven't cared much about anyone who has no impact whatsoever on my life

Doc: let's see

The door opens

And I lay my eyes on him

He dashes his seconds smile

And I cannot believe he's here

Zane: I am not too late am I?

Doc: right on time Mr Walker

He walks over , and I just get all emotional

I didn't think he would be here

I haven't seen him in two months

Lord knows what he's been busy with

But for two months he hasn't come this side

Even though he kept in contact

And still kept up with his maintenance duties

Zane: hi mommy

My cheeks hurt, no

Doc: I will give you guys a minute, and then we can see our person

We laugh as she walks out

And he leans down, I lift my upper body hugging him back as he wraps his hands around me

He smells so good

I just inhale his scent

He places his hand on my tummy rubbing it

And the kicks that follow

He laughs pulling out of the hug

His face just inches away from mine

Me: I feel like he loves you more than me

He chuckles

And brushes his lips over mine

I'm taken aback by that

But as he slowly kisses me

I kiss him back, with his pace

The kiss goes on for a while, and he pulls out

I slowly open my eyes to find him staring at me

With a grin

Me: did you just

He raises his brow

Zane: I kissed you yes

Lord!

Me: have you always wanted to do that?.

Zane: I did it now, cause I wanted to

I laugh

Me : get away from me , I am feeling hot

Damn what a kiss!

I'm left feeling somehow

He chuckles

Me : you didn't say

Zane: I wasn't missing this, I wish I had my way. And you could give birth in England, and stay there the first three

months of your maternity leave
. Before you come back for
work

This takes me back

Because I didn't even think he could say such

Me: England?

Zane: that's where I've settled

Me: why would we give birth there?

Zane: I just want to be there, and I don't want to miss the first important months

Tell me this isn't a father

But then again, I'm always fearful

What will happen when he finds love and he has his own family?

Won't my son have to take a step back?

And what will that do to him?

Like it scares me

The doctor walks back in

He's the one who recommended this one

And he's been paying for every doctors appointment

Like we have a doctor on speed dial

Things I never thought I could have

Doc: are we ready?

I look at him, he smiles

Me: yes

Zane: I hope my boy has been behaving

The doctor smiles

Doc: he's one good champ this one, my favourite of them all

We laugh

We go through the whole scan process

And we all just couldn't be happier

This is a happy moment

Doc: I don't foresee any problems here, you'll even give birth naturally. He's turned very good

I swear God and my ancestors are looking down on me

This is my blessing

Me: uhm can I ask?

Doc: anything

Me: with just two weeks as the delivery timeline, is it safe to travel? Like go abroad, and even give birth there. Also what would be the procedure for that , like will the baby be a South African citizen or he'll have to be a citizen from where he's born?

Zane looks at me shocked

I guess he just thought I will shut him down

Doc: well, I'm sceptical about you traveling. But there's no harm in that, if only you can do it before the period of a week. Because with just a week left, that could mean anything. But in this week, it can even give you time to settle and make

birth arrangements . In most cases , a child takes the mother's citizenship and not that of the father

Me: I see, well thank you

Doc: as your doctor, I would have to be in contact with whichever doctor who will be assisting you. To make sure they're aware of your progress,

and the journey of your pregnancy to this far

I don't think that would be a problem

Zane's phone rings

Zane: mommy, I have to take this

I just nod

He places a kiss on my forehead and walks out answering his call

Doc: he's one amazing father

First time she says this

Me: he'she's not the father

She looks at me shocked

Ilaugh

Me: he was actually my client, I represented him in a case he was involved in

Doc: yes, the case that made news. I recognise you two from it

Inod

Me: but he's just been taking responsibility, the father and I are just a thing of the past. He stepped up, and he's doing everything a father does and even more

She smiles

Doc: wow! This is just God showing up for you, it's truly a blessing

I smile rubbing my belly

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INSERT 20

At Reception

The doctor walks out of the room

And heads to reception, filling the prescription for Zothile

The nurse looks at the doctor and smiles

Nurse: your favourite people are still here?

They both laugh

Doc: yes, and can you believe they're not a couple?

The nurse looks at her in shock, not believing this

Nurse: it's a pity they broke up, because they sure do make a power couple. There's just something about two people with power being together

Doc: well, I had a talk with her today. Just admiring them as always, she just shocked me. Said he's not the father, she and the father didn't work out

Nurse: but how? I mean he's so supportive, from the first time they came here

Doc: true, even when he's away. He's always present with Skype, through every

appointment . But he was her client , remember that big ministers case ?

The nurse nods

Nurse: yes, she's the big shot lawyer

Doc: yes, they bonded from thereon. And he's never looked back, she gets all the support

from him. Imagine he travels all the way from England, to be available for her appointments. And now she's thinking of going to give birth that side

The nurse claps her hands once

Nurse: some women are just blessed, honestly I would have long claimed a man like him. I swear, there isn't many like them

The doctor smiles

Doc : he has a reputation this one

Nurse: well, dangerous men always win. They just surpass the good ones

She laughs

The doctor shakes her head with a smile grabbing the prescription

Nurse: this woman better take this man, before another one comes and takes him

Doc: those two are going far in life, I doubt either will ever settle for anyone except each other

Nurse: mhm, some ancestors work overtime for their kids. I feel like mine are sleeping

They both laugh

She grabs the proscription

Doc: let's stop with the gossip, let me get back to work. I'm sure they're waiting for me now

She turns as walks back to the room

Doc: sorry I took long

Zothile smiles

She looks at them, and indeed these people just look like they were made for each other

They're just so perfect for each other

She wonders if they see what she sees

Zane has his arm over Zothile's shoulder

She's sitting on the bed, right comfortably next to him standing

Surely anyone can see what she sees here

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Smangaliso

It feels like forever since the last time I saw the sun

I guess it just felt different inside

Being locked up in a mental institute for months

It hasn't been easy

But for my health and sanity

I had to do it

I can't believe the same Sandile I betrayed

Is the one that's been with me every step of the way

After I told him what happened

He figured I wasn't myself and I wasn't okay

He booked me in

And an evaluation was done

This became home to me

I didn't even think I would be out in five months

I thought it'll be more, maybe even a year

I'm glad I did this

I got the help and therapy I needed

Being locked up here, meant not seeing anyone for those months

Sandile called once in a while

I really didn't want to communicate with anyone

I just wanted to focus on my healing

I had lost all hope

I didn't think there's anything left for me

But now there's that slight hope

Maybe not all is lost

I can still try and pick up my life and go one

It's sad now I live with HIV

But that's something I had always thought happened

Three guys having their way with me and no protection whatsoever

But I made peace with that

I'm fine on my meds now

And I'm slowly gaining the weight I had lost due to the stress and being depressed

Sandile: hey man

He smiles, we should bump

Sandile: you look good

Me: well I am trying

Sandile: that's all I want to hear

The guilt I am feeling

Thinking of what I did to him

And how I hurt him

And now he's been the one person supporting me through this ordeal in my life

I had a brother here more than a friend

And I ruined that for us

Me: I am sorry....

Sandile: no man, it's fine. We're over that now, I've moved on

Me: please I know it won't erase anything. But I am sorry for sleeping with your girlfriend like that, I betrayed you and our friendship

He chuckles

Sandile: thank you for apologizing, but I am over it now. I've healed and moved on , Sindi and I are good . She told me, she's always wanted you and not really me. But it happened that I went for her, and you didn't. But when the opportunity presented itself, she just had to do it . So I'm cool

Wow!.

And he's very chilled about this

I doubt I would be if it was me

Sandile: ready to pick up your life?

Me: more than ready

He laughs

Sandile: and maybe now you can finally be with her now

I chuckle

Me: no ways! Besides, I doubt any woman would want to be with me now. So I am staying away from that gender

We laugh

Sandile: you're still you man, stop thinking otherwise

I take a deep breath

Sandile: and there's no crazy Tshidi anymore

He takes my bag walking to his car

That one was something

Two months after being admitted, I reached out to her

And I wanted to see the baby

She refused seeing the doctor with me

She brought me scans

But a lot of things just didn't add up

And the more I would push, she would push back

I requested a DNA, even though it was advised that it's not safe

But I wanted it anyways

And on the day of the tests, she ran away

No one knows where she is

And she hasn't even contacted her own mother

It's evident that baby wasn't even mine

She lied

She played me for a fool, and I just fell for it

I ruined a good thing over insecurities and just nonsense

Tshidi was just that nonsense

I've closed that chapter, it's done and I am moving on

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INSERT 21

Zothile

Zane: we're really doing this?

I smile

Me : you want us there

It's like he's been waiting to ask since yesterday, after leaving the doctors

But he did not ask

And I thought maybe he believed me there

Zane: but are you okay with it?

Me: yes, just as long as you'll be taking care of us there. Then I'm fine and okay, by all means. I don't mind

He smiles

Zane: you have no idea what this means to me

I doubt anyone knows what he does for me

And this is just a small little thing

Compared to everything he has been doing

And not asking for anything in return

Surely I can do this

Zane: my home is your home, don't worry. I will make sure I take care of you personally

I laugh

Me: people will say and anything, just to get what they want

Zane: I'm a man of a word

Me: always has been

And I would be lying if I said he wasn't

This surprise visit

I didn't see it coming

And I thought I was going to be alone giving birth, with no one by my side

With his unpredictable schedule

I didn't think he would be around

And now, he will get to witness it in his country

And also get to spend the first few months with the baby

How can I deny him such though?

Me: I will talk to Zonke, and see how far she is with my papers

Zane: can she just not disapprove to this

Honestly, I have a feeling she is going to

That's why I don't think I am telling her about giving birth out of the country

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Zane

I caress her smooth cheek with my hand

She's sleeping

And I don't know how

Because someone is busy kicking in there

And it's actually just funny

I don't get why he's also not sleeping with his mother

I grab my phone, and dial Karen

It rings for a bit

And she answers

Karen: say you're coming back

Me: I need my house cleaned, I am bringing a guest

Karen: wild guess? That young lawyer of yours

Me: drop the attitude, just do what I'm telling you to do. And let's not have troubles over that

I drop the call

This issue she seems to have with Zothile

I just don't get it

Because she doesn't even know her

But she doesn't like her

But she's always off where Zothile is concerned

She better not fuck things up for me

I am more than happy that they're coming with

And that I'll get to spend time with them

It'll beat having to communicate over the phone

And my visits this side, have always been short

Nothing more than a week , just a few days

I'm grateful for this opportunity

I place my hand on her tummy, nothing beats feeling these smalls feet kicking

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Zothile

Zonke: leaving?

I smile

Me: I'll be back, besides I'm taking my maternity leave. So

once it's over, I'll be back and ready to start working again

Zonke: I thought maybe you want to leave

Llaugh

I hinted that a bit

But I'm still not certain about telling the truth

I mean the whole truth

After all, I've kept my business with Zane away from her

Well if I can even call it that

Because I don't know what it is

He was my client, and she's my boss

I really don't want her to look at me anyhow

All because of this

Zonke: you enjoy this time, and you take rest

Me: I don't know about the rest, now it feels like real hard labour will start

She smiles

Zonke : oh you'll make a great mother

I heave a slight sigh

Me: I really hope so

Zonke : don't overthink it too

much

Inod

I am excited and scared at the same time

I don't know what this holds for me

I came to see Zonke so we can talk

Zane has everything organised

And we're leaving this evening

As soon as we get to London, we'll see a doctor

So they can be in touch with my doctor this side

I hope and pray that everything goes well

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Smangaliso

The reality of my life is sinking in

Tshidi sent me a message last night, I was surprised she still has my number She was apologizing, for ruining things between Zothile and I

But then again I am also to blame

I'm the one who couldn't be loyal to my woman

And I gave other women the right to just disrespect her

But she also told me how the baby wasn't mine

It was some Nigerian guy

And she planned for an abortion

She didn't say where she ran off to

She was just merely apologizing

But I think we're a bit too late for that

Cause even if I were to apologize to Zothile

It wouldn't erase anything

And it won't take away the pain and hurt I caused her

I knew how much she relied on Tshidi, just for moral support

And I ruined that

I'll forever regret my decision

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INSERT 22

Zane

I place a kiss on her forehead

Me: hey mommy

My hand brushing her arm

She slowly opens her eyes and looks at me

I smile

Me: we're home

She has been sleeping most of this journey

Even on the plane she slept for like hours and hours

Driving from the airport coming here, she also slept again. That was just too much sleeping

Me: here, put this on. The weather is cold, on this side of the world

I hope she can survive in this coldness

And won't regret her decision to come here

I'll make sure I make their stay as comfortable as I can

She grabs the coat and her fleece

I get out and open the door for her

Helping her out of the car

I've called the doctor

He will have to do a home visit for this one

Because she travelled quite a long distance

She ties the fleece on her breasts

And places the coat on her shoulders

I take her hand walking inside the house

And Karen is just the first sight that welcomes us

Walking down the stairs

Zothile looks at me

And she doesn't have a friendly look

I'm sure she's wondering who this woman is

Karen: now I see why the need for a doctor

She stands in front of us

Karen: welcome home Walker

I chuckle

Me: is the doctor ready?

Karen: finishing his set up

Inod

Me: mommy, this is Karen. And she's my assistant

Zothile: I see

A man is going to have it hard

My phone rings I sigh

Me: just a second

She smiles

I place a peck on her cheek walking away from them answering my phone

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Zothile

I don't like her, and she doesn't like me

That's a given

Karen: is this what you do with all your clients?

Me: and what exactly is this?

She smiles and it's so fake

Karen: whatever this is, you're doing with Zane

Me: assistant, his personal life has nothing to do with you.
And call him Mr Walker in my presence, he didn't say you two

are friends and on first name bases. At least have some respect, and stay out of "this", because it doesn't concern you. Neither does he

She frowns

I chuckle hearing his footsteps behind me

Zane: sorry about that

He hugs me from behind and places a kiss on my neck

His hands on my belly

I look at this Karen with a smirk

Zane: are you eating first, or taking a nap or seeing the doctor?

I smile

Me: can't we just do them all?

He chuckles

Zane: I can make that happen

He moves back and takes my hand we walk up the stairs

He even carries me half way through

Me: I am tired

He chuckles

Zane: I know mommy

He opens the door to the last room

And I've never seen anything this beautiful

Me: wow!

I'm just mesmerized by all this

And it's stunning no lies

Zane: you rest, I'll go get you something to eat. And I'll check how far the doctor is

Me: your house is really beautiful

Zane: I'm glad you like it

And it's so warm in here

All the cold that's outside, is not felt as soon as you step foot in this house

Me: can I ask?

Zane: yeah

Me: do you and Karen have a thing going on?

Zane : no we don't

Me: like never?

Zane: never, and never will

I smile

Me : she wants you

Zane: mommy

I sigh

Me: I'm just saying

I'm not stupid

Zane: well, she won't get me. So you have nothing to worry about

Me:1...

He laughs

I stare at him, and he smirks with a grin

Me: I did not say I'm worried, besides your relationships have nothing to do with me

Zane: keep saying

He places a kiss on my forehead

I find myself just hugging him so tight

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Zane

Karen: she has attitude

I lift my eyes and look at her

Karen: I don't understand why she's here, are you dating her now?

Me: what I don't understand, is you suddenly feeling you can interrogate me

She sighs

Karen: it's justthis doesn't make sense at all

Me: well, just leave it at that. And make peace with that, she's here. And the last thing I want, is her getting stressed by you . She's about to give birth, the stress she really doesn't need . I can't reprimand you Karen, like you're a child. If you don't like her , it's fine . But you don't have to be on my case about her , she doesn't concern you and she's not your business . Like at all

I get up

Me: refrain from being at my house, unless I ask. For now, I just want her at her safest place

Karen: you're really

Me : yes , don't come to my house

She shakes her head slowly

Clearly looking disappointed

I've always let Karen be

She's nothing more than just an assistant to me

In the business that I do

There's things she takes care of

And because we're close

I've let her to just be comfortable with me

But now I see, with Zothile here that might be a problem

So best she stays back

An angry Karen I can take any day

But never a displeased Zothile

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Zothile

Me: I think it's too soon

He looks at me

And it's like I'm the one crazy

Zane: barely a week and few days

I sigh

I'm not feeling well today

And he wants to say the baby is coming

I'm not ready for him

We still have a while full week ahead of us

Zane: I should call the doctor

It's tiring

We have that man on speed dial , both of us

And he does check on us , like daily

Me:1....

Zane: can you please just sit

down

I smile

Zane: it's not funny, like please

Me: fine

Zane: the baby is coming, I'm calling the doctor

Wow, what's the point?

He's not even listening to me at all

This is a waste of time

He takes his phone, and fiddles with it

I pick up the remote

Me: I am hungry

He smiles, and bites his lower lip

Zane: there's no running away from this

Great!

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INSERT 23

Zane

Labour is painful

Let women be respected for putting up with such pain

At some point I even wished I can take her pain away

She was crying and screaming

It was just a mess of a thing

And now someone is finally out

And it's the best feeling ever holding him in my arms

They've just wrapped him with a sheet

And he's crying, and he looks hungry too

My poor boy

Zothile: oh

She screams

Me: what's wrong?

I look at the doctor's and nurses

Zothile: ahhhhhhh

They rush to get

Me: what is wrong?

Nurse: there's another one

Another one?

Zothile: I want to push

And the screaming start again with the tears and all

I'm looking popping my eyes

Just shocked

There's another baby coming

But how?

I mean all along we've only known one baby

Doc: it's a girl

What?

I look at Zothile, and she closes her eyes with a smile

She pushed another baby

I mean I saw it

But would I be wrong if I ask where this baby has been?

Doc : Ohhh , they're surely identical

Nurse: will you be able to hold her too?

Right now I am in shock

I balance the boy, as the nurse hands me the girl

What the hell?

She's so quite, she didn't even cry for a minute

Me: doc you never said anything about this one

He looks at me and smiles

Doc : she was hiding , we couldn't see her

Wow!

Now there's two

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Smangaliso

I am glad that I was given my job back Even after months of not being present

My boss said he understood

And it would be unfair

To just cut me off when I was going through something

Apparently mental health, is a very serious problem

It's not like I just decided to bunk work, for no particular reason

At least that's one thing I have good going on

Still being able to work

I can be able to pick up the pieces of my life and go on

I've had a lot of things changed in my house

Gave out most of my furniture

Now there's just more space at home

A knock comes at the door

I'm rearranging the kitchen

I head over to the door, and open

I'm stunned seeing her

Me:hi

She smiles

Sindi: hey

The awkward silence

Sindi: uhm ...can I come in?

Me: I'm in the middle of something, the house is a bit messy

Sindi: I'm sorry to disturb

Me: it's okay

I make way for her, she walks in

I take a deep breath before I turn and face her

Sindi: it's good to see you

Me: mhm

Right now I'm just conflicted

Sindi: I'm sorry to just show up

Me: it's fine, what brings you by?

She clears her throat

Sindi: I want us to talk

Me: about?

Sindi: us

Oh shit!

She smiles and holds her hand out

I slowly take her hand

And she walks over to the couch

I sit down next to her

Now I'm just anxious to know exactly what's this about us

I can't even look at her in the eye

Sindi: relax

She says letting go of my hand

And she caresses my cheek

Sindi: it has always been you Smangaliso Zuma, always. And now it can be

Fuck!

Is she not kidding me?

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Zothile

I am shocked

How does a whole human being hide herself?

For a whole 9 months

And doesn't even show a tiny bit

Not even by a finger

This is a miracle

I've just been overwhelmed

Not knowing what to make of this

And worse, I've been planning for a boy

The nursery and clothes

Everything is for the boy

There's nothing for this little miss

Right now she's wearing the white vest

It belongs to the brother

Zane: mommy

I look at him and smile

Zane: she's here now

I slightly laugh

Zane: don't worry, we will make plans and accommodate her as well

Me: yeah

He's been amazing

I woke up , and he was here with them

He helped me breastfeed

I don't know how I was going to survive alone

With two kids

I guess coming here was a good decision after all

Zane: what are you going to name them?

Okay!

Me: I've never even thought of names, I don't know

Zane: his?

Me : as well , I have no name for him

That thought never even crossed my mind

Zane : you can't call them babies

We laugh

Me: can you name them?

He pops his eyes

Zane: me?

Inod

Me : only if you're comfortable with that

Zane : oh mommy

He leans down and kiss me

I kiss him back

I don't know what these kisses of his suddenly mean

But I hold nothing against them

After all it's not like I don't enjoy them

Zane: I will be honoured, but I'll be giving them English names

Me: that's fine

Zane: okay, Jada and Jaden

Gosh!

Me: Mr Walker that's beautiful

They're identical yes

But those names suit them perfectly

Zane: we're parents now

I smile, he holds my hand. We intertwine our fingers, looking at these two

My beautiful blessings

Oh well, should I say our blessings now

Cause this one is one determined father

And I cannot take that away from him

I'm happy to have him

And I hope nothing changes

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INSERT 24

Smangaliso

I look at her, she's holding the home pregnancy test

And again it's negative

I hate seeing my wife suffer like this

And it breaks me

She wants a child so badly

Unfortunately I cannot give her one

After I got myself together, I decided to go get a vasectomy

And it's not reversible

So there's no way we can have kids

Tshidi did a number on me

I didn't want to have the same thing happen again

Sindi and I, we were already together then

But there were not talks of kids

And I actually thought maybe the relationship won't work

But four years later, we're here and married

Pity, there'll never be any kids

But she wants kids, something I cannot give her

And I just can't bring myself to tell her the truth

Me: baby

She sniffs and wipes her tears off

She turns and looks at me

Me: please stop hurting yourself like this my love

Sindi : I just want a child

Smanga

Me: I know

Sindi: your family already looks down on me, and they talk about me behind my back.
We've been married for three years, been together for four.
But we have not even one child

Me: come here

I hold my hand out

She walks over, with tears streaming down her face

I engulf her into a hug

Me: it would be a blessing to have kids, but if we can't it's fine. It's not the end of the world, I love you baby

She sighs

I know there's nothing I can say , that will make her feel better

But I can only try

I have no regrets not having these kids

Maybe if only it was with Zothile

But she's moved

Cause I haven't seen her in four years

Except in media, where she's making moves

Winning cases, and just stepping up

But to this day, I have no idea where she lives

But I know she's still around Joburg

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Zothile

Zonke : all the best

I smile

Gosh!

I'm so proud of myself

I can't believe this is me now

A whole law firm owner

Zonke is taking her retirement

And the firm was on sale

Sisters bought it

And now, I own it

Me: this is unbelievable

Zonke: you're going to do great, I have no doubt about that

Me: thank you so much, for everything you have done for

me . I'm the lawyer I am today , because of you . You stuck with me through and through , and you gave me a chance when no one would

She smiles

Zonke: you're the lawyer you are, because of your hard work and determination. Keep it up, and you'll go far

I wipe my tears as the door opens

Jaden: hi auntie

We laugh

They just budge in , like they own this place

She ruined these kids

Jaden: mommy we gotta go

Me: where is your sister?

Jaden: in the car

Me : I hope she's not on my phone

He shrugs

Zonke : go , I still need to pack up

Me: wish I could stay and help, it's movie night. And tomorrow, we're up for shopping

Zonke: you're doing a great job with them

Without the help I have , I wouldn't be surviving

We hug with Zonke

I take my bag and this one, we leave

We get to the car, and someone is laying on my car seats

I want to burst right now

But she's the baby

She might cry a river and it'll never end

Me: Jada, sit up I'm about to drive

She sits up, and puts on her seat belt

Jaden: I'm sitting in the front

Me: Jaden please no

He laughs and goes to the back

I heave a sigh driving

It's been a crazy four years, adjusting to being a mother

But I'm holding my head up high

And just doing the best that I can do

This motherhood business, is a whole learning curve

And you learn as you go, because there's no manual

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Zane

Karen: something bothering you?

I look at my phone

Karen: expecting an important phone call?

I sigh

Me: what's it with the

questions?

She smiles

Karen: I was just asking

Me : don't ask , just do your job

. Leave me

She shakes her head, focusing back on her laptop

I grab my phone and send a text

Hopefully she'll call once she gets it

Because I've been waiting for a call, and it's been three hours

I can't afford to be this uncertain, especially with the job I have tonight

Just then a text pops up

I smile opening it

I guess she's still caught up

"You know how it goes, call me tonight. And please, don't get caught"

I chuckle

She just had to say that

Now I can go out there in peace

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INSERT 25

Zothile

Zane: hi mommy

I smile

Me : you look like you didn't sleep

He chuckles

Zane: just got home now, I'll get to shut some eye

I doubt Zane will ever give up being a criminal Like it would be a miracle if he ever does

I don't even bother myself encouraging him to stop

Because I know he never will

Unless he decides to change on his own

Zane: you look like you can use a kiss

I laugh

Me: I can use that and more

Zane: don't tempt me like that

Me: why did you start?

Zane: stating the obvious

This man!

Zane: where are my kids?

Me: grabbing snacks

Zane: okay, I'll call them later

Me: they will be happy to hear from you

Zane: I miss them

Me: they miss you too

This man has been a father for the past four years

Maintenance allowance increased, from one child to two

And he's paying for preschool, medical aid is also on him

Like there's nothing he's not doing for them

He does everything for them , so effortlessly

Without even being asked

Jada: hi mommy

I look at her

Me: hi Jada

She giggles

Me: we have to go now, before they see I'm talking to you. And this call won't end

He laughs

Zane: still sexy as ever

Idiot!

I drop the call, as Jaden walks over

Me : are we all done ?

Jaden : yes

Jada nods

And I'm thankful we're done

I hold their hands, and we head to the exist

Voice : Zothile ?

I lift my eyes, and my heart pumps seeing Sandile

Sandile: oh my, it's really youwow! You look really beautiful, it's like you haven't changed a bit

I don't know what kind of bad luck is this

Me: hi Sandile

He smiles

Sandile: it's been years, we don't know you anymore. Just on TV

When you win cases for the likes of Zane Walker

Every other corrupt person, and big criminal just target you to represent them

I haven't held a small case in years

It's always these ones that interest the public

Me: yeah

Sandile: well, it was good to see you. You know Smangaliso got married to Sindi

Hearing that name

I take a deep breath

Me: good for them

Sandile: yeah, I let things be and just forgave him

Wow!

Me : so you're friends again ?

He laughs

Sandile: crazy right? But yeah

Me: that's nice, I would love to chat but I have to go

He looks at Jaden and Jada

Sandile: the kids are yours?

Me: yes, bye

We walk past him

And I'm annoyed right now

What are the chances that he's going to tell Smangaliso?

Honestly my kids and I have been in peace

I don't need this drama

My kids were fine, and I was fine without Smangaliso knowing about them

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Zane

Me: what's eating you up?

Since yesterday , she hasn't been okay

I might not be there

But I can tell

The phone call earlier yesterday , wasn't like the one later on

And this morning

Meaning something happened that just threw her off

She heaves a sigh

And it's a heavy one

Zothile: I saw his friend yesterday, and I was with the twins

Me: mhm, you think he's going to tell him?

Zothile: probably yes, said he's married to the friends ex. I guess he didn't work out with my cousin, I wouldn't know because I cut my family off

Me: will, does it change anything?

Zothile: Zane, I don't want him anywhere near my kids. Like I don't want him

I smile

Me: then you have nothing to worry about

He shouldn't force my hand

Because if he knows what's good for him

He will stay away, and go on with life like the kids don't even exist to him

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Smangaliso

Me: thanks for inviting me out, I needed this

Sandile: anytime, what's wrong though? Cause you haven't been yourself, and it's just hard not to notice as your friend

Me: Sindi wants a child

Sandile: and you don't?

Me: not with her, no

Sandile: what?

Me: it doesn't matter

Sandile: no, she's your wife. What do you mean you don't want a child with her?

Me: I know you care about her

Sandile: she chose you man, I am over that

Me: still, just don't go telling her my business. But I did a vasectomy, so either way I can't have a child with anyone. I wanted kids with Zothile, but Tshidi happened. And the thought of being a father, I just got too excited at that

Sandile: a vasectomy can be reversed

I shake my head

Me: not this one

Sandile: that's fucked up, and you should tell her the truth.

Yeah well

Me: I'm married now, we're happy. I don't want to ruin what we have

Sandile: but it's like you've trapped her into a marriage, with secrets lying behind. And she doesn't know

I sigh

Me: this is not easy

Sandile: I am sure, but move man. Zothile has, I saw her yesterday. And she was with two kids, maybe they're yours

What the fuck?

Me: what?

Sandile: they looked old though

Me: how old?

Sandile: like 3 or 4

Me: twins?

He nods

Sandile: a boy and a girl

Can it be that they're mine?

But would she have kept quiet and not told me

Me: well, she was with that guy she was representing.
Remember the assassin or was it diamond smuggler, both

He laughs

Sandile: I remember, but he's white. And those kids didn't seem mixed to me

Me: man come on

Sandile: it's possible that she was pregnant, when you two called it quits. Besides, that woman was glowing during that guys trial

She's always been a beautiful woman

Maybe her glow was because she moved away from my toxic self

But what am I going to do with this piece of information?

I mean, if those kids are mine can I stay away?

How would Sindi even take this

Me having kids with another woman

But that was four years ago

Me and her weren't even together officially yet

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INSERT 26

Smangaliso

Sindi: are you okay?

Me: yes

She sighs and sits down next to me

Sindi: I overheard you and Sandile last night, I heard a car drive in . And I thought it was you, I wanted to warm up your food . But I heard you two talking, and I listened

Just great!

I thought she was sleeping when I went to bed

I am fucked

I clear my throat

Me : so did you hear everything

Sindi: I was hurt, hearing you could be having kids with your ex. I didn't stand to listen to everything

It's possible, she didn't hear me talking about the vasectomy

Sindi: I am sure right now you're interested in knowing those kids

Me: surely Zo, doesn't want them anywhere near me.
That's why she didn't even tell me

Sindi: that's great, and you should keep it like that

I look at her

Sindi: I am not evil, but I want kids and I can't have them. You

are not going to hurt me like that, not with kids of another woman . And you love Zothile , maybe not as crazy as before. But you still have feelings for her, this woman and her kids might be the piece that ends my marriage. So if you want them in your life, as a part of your life . You can't have me , so you'll have to choose

What the fuck?

Sindi: remember I love you, I chose you over Sandile . I went for a man I've always loved, and I stood my ground. Even when you wanted to push me away, I was here. When you felt you weren't a man enough because of what happened, I stuck through . It wasn't pity, but it was because I love you. And I want us, just us. I will never love Zothile's kids, and

your family will accept and love her. And I'll just be a glory wife, I can't stand for that. So either it's Zothile and her kids, or me. Your wife

She gets up

Sindi: I got her number, it's saved on my phone. Call and ask if the kids are yours or not, then make your decision. I'll wait for you, and if you chose

them we can peacefully divorce and part ways . I will not be a part of you, and her kids

Right now I know she's hurt

And I'm just stunned by that ultimatum

I battle with myself to make the call or not

I finally grab her phone, and scroll through her contacts

And the contact is here

And definitely not the one I had , she has changed it

But it's been years

So it's understandable

I dial, and it rings

My palms sweat

Zothile: hello?

I take a deep breath

Me : please don't hang up , it's

me Smangaliso

Zothile: I should have known, so Sandile ran to you and opened his big mouth

She sounds angry right now

Me: I am so sorry Zothile, for the cheating I put you through. For sleeping with your cousin, and ruining your relationship like that. I am very sorry, for laying my hands on you and beating you like that. I know sorry won't erase anything, but I just want you to know I live with that regret everyday. I lost you, and I won't lie and say I've fallen in love ever again. I guess that's my karma

Zothile: please, save that for someone who actually cares. Don't think you'll come into our lives, and cause chaos. I am not that Zothile, who took your shit. Try me this time around

Zuma, and I'll drop a ton of bricks on you

I sigh

Me : are they mine ?

Zothile: yes

Fuck!

I just get all emotional

Me: I am so sorry

Tears burn my eyes

Zothile: don't call me again

Smangaliso

Me : can I

I wipe the tear that drops on my cheek

Me : can I see them please ?

Zothile: I'll send you pictures

I guess she really doesn't want them anywhere near me

Me: I'm married ...

Zothile: to Sindi yes, I heard

And it's all Sandile

Me: Tshidi lied about her baby, it wasn't mine. And she ran away

Zothile: you were a grown ass man, and knew what you were doing. So please, spare me. I don't even feel sorry for you, and you're married so exactly what do you want?

Me: I would have loved to know them, but

I sigh shaking my head

Me: I can tell you're still angry with me ..

Zothile: that's too much energy to waste

Me: Sindi told me to choose, either you and them or her. And she's been through so much with me , I can'thurt her like this . She wants kids but we can't , because I did a vasectomy. And she doesn't know, this will break her. But it also sounds like you don't want them anywhere near me . And I completely understand that , I don't blame you at all

I turn my head making sure she's not standing somewhere else listening

Zothile: I am not surprised, you've never chosen me . It was always someone else over me, so even my kids you'll choose other people over them . Enjoy your life and marriage Smangaliso, don't ever call me again . I swear , I will file for harassment

Voice : mommy daddy is calling me

There's a sweet tiny giggle in her background

I'm just stuck on voice

But who is daddy?

Could it be that she's dating?

And my kids are busy calling another man daddy

As if I don't exist

Zothile: answer your phone Jada, I am coming

I want to ask, but I don't want to offend her

Zothile: I hope I was clear, don't call me again. And don't come anywhere near me

She drops the call

I hurt this woman, like I hurt her so much

The phone beeps, and it's a message on WhatsApp

It's three pictures

Each of one, and one where they're both at

My heart breaks

Is it worth it?

Or again I'm making a big mistake?

I take my phone and send the pictures to myself

I delete them on her phone

I stare at their picture together

And tears just stream down my face

It hurts, at the same time I'm happy I'm a father

But what good am I being a father that's not present?

Can I live with my decision?

But what if I choose them , and Zothile denies me access

So loosing my marriage would have all been for nothing

I open my eyes as I feel her hands, wrapping around me

Sindi: I love you, I love you enough to be honest with you. And giving you a choice, it's not forced. I don't want to be placed into a position, I cannot be able to handle either. If you want them it's okay, but I'll be gone

I nod against her chest

Me: Zothile will never let me anywhere near them, there's already a man they're calling daddy. I don't want to lose you

Sindi: thank you baby, it's just us. I hoped you wouldn't call her, but I'm glad you did.

Because I still have you in the end

I hug her back, as I feel the pain in my heart

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Zane

Zothile: I told you that fool was going to tell him, he called.
And had the nerve to say, his wife said he must choose. But it's not a shock, he chose his wife over them. He asked for their pictures, and I sent them.

But I told him, he must never contact me again. And he should stay away from me, and my kids

Me: he heard you mommy, please don't worry okay?

Zothile: okay, I don't even know where he got my number

Me: you're one big shot lawyer, now that's not hard. It's easy to find your contacts

Zothile: I hope my peace won't be disrupted

I chuckle

Me : don't worry , we'll talk tomorrow . Get some rest

I appreciate the loyalty that just came with this

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INSERT 27

Zane

Jaden: daddy we miss you

I smile

Me: my boy, I miss you too

Jaden: When are you coming?

Me : daddy is still busy with work

He sighs

Me: but I will come soon

He smiles

Jaden: is soon tomorrow?

I chuckle

Me : no , but it's very soon . But it'll be a while , before I come see you

I can't afford to go to South Africa now

I've just gone and stolen diamonds worth billions on rands

So if they dare suspect me

I don't want it to seem like I've run away

And if a scandal might follow, I don't want my kids involved

I don't want them being caught up in the middle of this

Jaden: oh

I hate not seeing him happy

Me: don't be sad

Jaden: then we come see you

That would be nice

Me : really ?

Jaden : yes send money , we come

Ilaugh

Me: okay, I'll send money.

Mommy will buy the flight tickets. And you can come

I hope I'm not being forward here

And she can spare us a few days , or maybe even a week

Jaden : I go call her

He leaves the phone

This man cannot wait, he's in a hurry, and we'll both be in trouble

He doesn't have a bone of patience in him

I send money for flight tickets, and extra in case they might need something

Zothile picks up the phone and laughs

Zothile: what's happening now

Me: hi mommy

She smiles

Me: he says they miss me

Zothile: they do

Me: he said I should send money, and I did

Zothile : so now we have to come there ?

Me: I did a job, I can't leave incase they try and implicate me

Zothile: I understand

Me : so is it possible to score us a few days ?

Zothile: I've just taken over it's crazy, but I'll see what I can do. No promises

Me: that's all I'm asking

Zothile: how much did you send?

I chuckle

Me: enough for three tickets, and extras

She laughs

Zothile: these kids have you wrapped and they know it

Me: we just can't help ourselves, he just told me to send money

Zothile: and he knew you were going to send it

Me : yeah well , he know I have it . What excuse would I have ?

Zothile: it's okay, I'll see what I can do and confirm

Me : alright , kiss the princess for me

Zothile: I will, she will probably go crazy when she hears we're coming to see you

Now that's promising

And definitely giving vibes that they're coming

Me: we have catching up to do

Zothile: are they missed alone?

I slightly laugh

Me: that's not possible

Zothile: good, we'll see you

soon

Me: can't wait

Zothile: bye

She drops the call

Voice : so she's coming here ?

I heave a sigh

Me: Karen, I'm going home.

Next time, don't eavesdrop on my conversations

I get up and grab my phone

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Zothile

It's crazy to leave right now

But maybe we do need this

With Smangaliso now knowing the truth

I don't know what drama he can cause me

He might have chosen his wife

But he can sleep, and turn waking up on another side

And maybe just being away is what we need

My kids just being away from this

If I could, I would send them away on their own

But I hate my kids being in London with Karen there

That woman doesn't like me

And she's capable of hurting my kids

So I'll have to leave with them

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Smangaliso

Sindi: we're okay?

Me: yes

She smiles

I hold her hand

Sindi: I am happy baby, we'll keep trying until it finally happens

She takes my hand into hers

Sindi: And then we can be happy, with our own kids. Kids conceived in marriage, and kids you will be there from the beginning. These ones, they

might as well not be yours. It's like a sperm donor situation

Sperm donor situation

I don't know, but maybe it really is a good thing we'll never have kids

At least I will know, somewhere I did father two kids

That's something I can cherish, even from a distance

Me: there's something I need to tell you

Sindi: no more kids please

Me: I have low sperm count, so I chances of me having kids

I shake my head

Sindi: what?

Me: I went to see a doctor, and they ran testes. I was very worried, that we're not conceiving . I didn't want to suggest you go check, without checking myself first. Most men make that mistake, accusing women. While they're the ones with problems

She gets off me

Me: I am sorry, I just thought it's better I tell you now. So we can just stop trying, because I hate seeing you sad and crying after every negative test. Now we know the truth

Sindi: I need a minute

She walks away heading upstairs

I heave a sigh of relief

Last night I was on Google

Searching any kind of problems that could cause men not have kids

Excluding vasectomy

I just had to lie

This way, she can stop nagging me about having kids

There's a part of me that's happy

I have kids with Zothile, she's happy and she kept my kids

I know she loves them, even though they're mine

This whole situation is sad, but that one thing makes me happy

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INSERT 28

Zothile

Me : don't lose each other please

They laugh

Jada: mommy we're not kids

Listen to this

Me : you're a kid Jada

Jada: I mean, not a baby

Me: you're my baby

She smiles with her hand on her mouth

This one is a sucker for love

But who wouldn't be?

With Zane around , she gets treated like a lady

She's taken to spa's, she does her nails and hair at salons

We don't do that

She's a child with standard with him

She gets taken on dates

He says he wants her to know love and see it at home

So she'll never get played by a guy out

And she shouldn't be impressed by money from a guy

So she'll stick with a guy, even if he treats her bad

Just because he has money

And she shouldn't grow up thinking that, if I a man spends his money on you it means he loves you

Or that he won't leave you

Even that she doesn't think money is love

And doesn't stay around with a man that's not good for her

Just for the sake that he can take her out

So all these things, they shouldn't come as a luxury to her

But as part of life

Honestly, without Zane I wouldn't be the woman I am

today . And the mother I am to my kids

I'm so thankful to that man

I don't even know how to thank him

No manwell , not many men would do what he has done for us

My kids have someone to call dad

And he doesn't make them feel like he's not their biological father

That's why I'm doing this right now

When it comes to them , I put everything aside

I know they miss him

So they'll get to see him

I know he misses them too

Jaden: daddy will buy this

He's pointing to a sports car, as we walk away from the airport parking lot

Me: that's expensive

He looks at me with a smile

Jaden : daddy has money , he works

Me: your daddy is a criminal

I laugh as he frowns

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Smangaliso

Sindi : please behave on your trip

Me: yes baby

We hug and kiss one last time

Me : are we good ?

Sindi: yes, I will use this time while you're on your trip. And just make peace with everything, you chose me baby . I can still stand and choose you too, I know it's sad. We both wanted a child, but we can't. And that's our reality. We both will learn to live with it

I'm glad now that's over

And hopefully nothing about kids will come up

Not adoption , or even surrogacy

Me: take care of yourself, I'll see you in three days

I'm flying out to Cape Town

It's just business

Sindi: I love you

Me: I love you too baby

I lean over and peck her lips

Me : bye

She smiles

Sindi: bye

I walk away from her,

As she stands by and watch me walking away

I walk inside the airport

My eyes have got to be lying to me

Their pictures were not doing them any justice

Me: Zo

She turns and looks at me

Fuck!

She's as sexy as ever

You can't even tell she has two kids

She's just flawless and glowing, she's beautiful

Me: hi

Zothile: Smanga

Her tone is just cold

But I don't blame her, I hurt her too much

Me: they're beautiful

Zothile: yeah, thanks

Me : can I just greet them ?

She sighs

Me: I won't say nothing I swear

She just nods slightly

Me: hi guys

They look at me with popped eyes, and they shy away

I crouch down in front of them

Me: what's your name?

Her: Jada

She gave them English names?

I just brush that off , it's not like I have the right to say anything

Me: what's your name champ?

Him: young Zane

What the fuck?

He even has a frown

Me : well , it's nice to meet you guys

I get up

Me: it's him? He's the one they're calling daddy, the assassin

She walks closer to me, and seems like she would kill me right now if she could

Zothile: that assassin, has been around since day one. When you beat me up , in a hotel room and almost killed my kids. They're alive because of him, he got there and saved them . He's been sending maintenance for the past four years, for both of them . He's paying their pre

school, he's a father to them.

Not just by sperm, but it counts.

Like he's there, and he's dad

I look down

Zothile: next time you see us, if you ever. Just turn the other way, I won't be this nice again

There'll never be a repair here

I just stand still and watch as they walk away

Me: shit!

That should have been my family

Zothile is the kind of a woman I'll forever regret loosing

I fucked up a good thing

And a nothing but fucking professional killer

Has taken her

It's true when they say

Another man's trash, is another man's treasure

Today I'm seeing that

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Zane

Zothile: we just saw him

Me : it's okay , don't let that get to you

She sighs

Zothile: okay, I'm glad we're coming there

Me: yeah?

She smiles

Zothile: it'll do us all good

Me: can't wait to see you, have a safe flight and stop worrying

Zothile: fine

Me: bye

I drop the call

I'm happy they're coming

As for this guy, I am not even concerned about him

My tiny problem right now is Karen

I just want her away from my house, for as long as the kids and their mother are here

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INSERT 29

Zane

I walk in and she's lotioning her legs

With a towel wrapped around her waist

I lock the door and walk over to her

Zothile: are they finally asleep?

Me: yes

Zothile: the excitement is always too much, when they see you

Me: it never ends

She gets up, and walks to her dressing table

She puts down the lotion and walks over to me

Me: I missed you

Zothile: really?

Me: yeah

I untie the towel, she lets it fall down

I lean over for a kiss

Me: is there someone?

She giggles

Zothile: no

I smile picking her into my arms as we kiss

She deepens the kiss, pulling my sweatpants down

I take them off

And walk over to the wall, I pin her against it

She clings her legs to my back

I rub my dick on her coochie

She lets out moans into my mouth, as I slide through inside of her

She's still tight as last I had her

Her flaps wrap around my dick, clinging tight hugging onto it

Me: fuck!

I pound into her

Knowing I won't last, I should be taking slow thrusts

But I've missed her

It's not the same over the phone

Now she's here, into my arms

With me inside of her

She pulls out of the kiss, and throws her head back

Zothile: shitahhh baby

She sinks her nails into my back

Her thighs shake against my waist

I pound in harder

And shoot up my load inside of her

I place my hand on her ass cheeks parting them up a bit

Going in deeper

Zothile: Ohhh fuck! It's too soon baby

She brings her head to my neck , sucking on my neck

I'll be left with hickeys like I'm a teenager

I chuckle

As she pushes me back and squirts

I hold her so she doesn't fall

I move over to her dressing table

With her still in my arms

I place her down, and turn her around

I slide my dick in , fucking her from behind

She lifts her one leg to the small chair

I land a few slaps on her ass cheeks

She places her hands in the mirror

Opening her eyes

I place a kiss on her back, and lift my eyes looking at her

We lock eyes

I grab on her ass cheeks, she brings her leg down bringing them together

Her cum graces my dick, she closes her eyes screaming in pleasure

Zothile: Ohhhh shit

My dick twitches inside of her

Just seeing her sight, as she cums on me

It sends me off

I cum, and pull back some of my cum dripping on her ass

I bring her around to face me

I cup her face taking her lips into mine

Zothile: you're killing me

I chuckle

She kisses me, I kiss her back

Placing her on the dressing table

I place her one leg up on the table, sliding through

Zothile: Ahhhh

She throws her head back, cupping her boobs into her hands

I grab on her thigh, as I pound in

Taking hard strokes, my dick going in deeper inside of her

My dick pulls out, shooting cum

And she's quick to slide it back

Llaugh

Me: fuck! You'll get pregnant

She opens her eyes lifting her head

She looks at me

Zothile: I don't care please don't stop baby

Me : you get what you want ...

She laughs, lifting her other leg

She brings her hand down, and rubs on her clit

Zothile: oh fuck!

I move back as she squirts

I walk over to the bed stroking my dick

She moves up and looks at me

Zothile: it's wet here

Ilaugh

I sit down on the bed

Me: you're going to scrub my carpets tomorrow

Zothile: I'll be pregnant tomorrow

We laugh

Zothile: you can't make a pregnant woman work, like that's just against every right

Me: mhm-mhm, come here mommy

Carefully she slides down the dressing table

And walks over to me

She straddles me, taking my dick inside of her

Me: you're on a mission?

Zothile: only you do me the way you do me

I smile sitting up , placing my hands on her lower waist

She clings her hands on my neck

I thrust in underneath her

As she starts moving her waist

We hug tight, she captures my lips into hers

We kiss slowly and passionately

She presses down as I shoot up my load inside of her

She pulls out of the kiss

We lock eyes

And I flip her over

She lays on her stomach on the bed

I get up, and bring her up

She gets on her knees, laying flat on her stomach

Her hands grabbing on the sheets

I slide through , grabbing on her waist

I thrust in , sliding my hand underneath her

Rubbing my finger on her clit

Zothile: Ohhh my God! BabyAhhhh shit!

I slide out taping my dick on her coochie

She squirts, with muffled cries of pleasure

Me: now the bed is wet

She turns over , and lays on her back

She presses her thighs together

Still squirting

Me: mommy where are we sleeping?

She throws her head back, aching her back

Me: this is a mess

I chuckle

She calms down, and looks at me

Zothile: come kiss me

I lean over , and lay on top of her

Giving her a kiss

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INSERT 30

Zane

Jada: daddy

I smile

I went out, to check on them

And I left the door unlocked

She's awake now

And just let herself in here

Me : princess

She looks over to the couch

Jada: why are you sleeping on the couch?

I laugh

Me: you don't want to know

There was no way, I was sleeping on a wet bed

And she wanted to take the dry side, women are just abusive

When I refused and decided to sleep on the couch, she invaded me

Right on this couch

This woman lacks peace

She walks over

Jada: mommy is snoring

She frowns

Me: leave my woman alone, if you weren't in our room you wouldn't be hearing her snore

She giggles

Me: where is Jaden?

Jada: making his bed

That's my boy

Me: okay, I'm going to get up and come so we can have breakfast

She smiles

Jada: I am hungry

Me: I know

Jada: okay come

Me : right now

She laughs walking out

What I wouldn't give for these kinds of mornings

It's always a bliss when they're around

Just having them walk in our room when they wake up

Best feeling ever

Me: mommy

I place a kiss on her forehead

My hand rubbing her back

Zothile: mhm

Me: my kids need me

She groans, I laugh

Zothile: can't they just let me have you?

Ilaugh

Me: they're awake, so it's war

Zothile: this is not fair

She lifts her head

We lock eyes

Me : you know I'll ditch them for you

She smiles

Zothile: am I not going to get into trouble with some English woman?

I chuckle

Me: no

Zothile: we need to be safe

Isn't it a bit too late for that?

Me: safety is the first thing you think about, besides you might be pregnant right now

She laughs

Zothile: don't use my words against me please

Me: we'll get tested, but I know I am clean. I tested last month, and I haven't been with

anyone for three months . So I am clean , I don't mind testing again with you

Zothile: I haven't seen you in five months

Me : exactly

Zothile: fine, but we're doing that test

Me: yeah

I lean over for a kiss

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Zothile

Someone is in the play room, and having the best of her time with dolls

Me: did you eat?

Jada: yeah

Me: okay, your dolls look nice

Jada: mommy you snore now

What?

Me: aibo!

She smiles

Me : you're a mean person Jada

She just shrugs with a pout

I close the door walking down

And the two are still eating

I had to shower and clean the bedroom first

Me: good morning boys

Jaden: morning mommy

I give him a kiss

Jaden: daddy is not a boy

Me: who is he?

Jaden: daddy

Ilaugh

Me: your daddy not mine

Zane frowns

Me : stop being nasty

I pull a chair and sit down next to him

Jaden: daddy what is a criminal?

Wow!

What is wrong with this child?

Zane looks at me, I grab his juice and drink it

Zane: a criminal is someone who does bad and wrong things , they get arrested and go to jail

Jaden smiles and gets off his chair

Jaden : see mommy ? Daddy is here , he's not a criminal

Great!

And he walks up

Zane: you said I'm a criminal to

him?

I shake my head no

And he laughs

Zane: you're corrupting my son

Me : he said he's "young Zane" to Smanga

He smiles

Me: he's already corrupt

Zane: he just knows how to put people in their places

Of course

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Zane

Me: I told you not to come here

Karen: work Zane

I look up , to see that Zothile is not coming down

Karen is just dramatic

Me : drop the attitude !

Karen: if you were answering your phone, I wouldn't be here

Me: my family is here Karen, can you respect when I say don't come. If I don't answer calls, it's because I'm busy. When I'm not, I'll get back to you

Karen: you

She looks behind me

And I sigh

I turn slowly and look at her

Me: mommy

Zothile: are you busy?

Me: no, Karen was just leaving

Zothile: okay, Jada is asking for you

Me: okay

I look at Karen

Me: you know your way out

Karen: but I came all the way here

Me: and I told you not to come

I turn and walk away heading to the play room

I'm probably going to be turned into a makeup ghost

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INSERT 31

Zothile

Me: hi

She clenches her jaw

For a woman, she really has an aura about her

And quite frankly, it makes her feel unattractive

Not just to men , but to everyone else

Karen: I understand you and your kids are here, but Zane has to work. And he cannot ignore or neglect his work, just because you and your kids are

here . After all , you know best to spending his money

I laugh

Me : and we're still yet to spend it

Zane: it's just sad, he's so sure of you. And you're only using him financially, for the benefit of your kids. You're even using

them, now he thinks he's a father

Me: listen, I most definitely don't care what you think. And you don't know as much as you think you do, but it's fine.

I walk closer to her

Me: what you need to understand, is that me and my

kids we're not going anywhere. And don't push me Karen, because you'll lose your dear job . And you'll never get to see him again, forget about him. That's the best you can do for yourself, I'm here to stay. And just because you fucked him, me and you we're not on the same standard

She gasps

Me: you can leave now, and don't think you'll have him.
That one is mine

I open the door for her

She sizes me to and down, and clicks her tongue going out

I close the door, and walk to the play room

Jada: mommy no ...

Jesus!

I've only just opened the door

Me: I'm sorry, I need daddy I'll bring him back

She groans so loud

I hold my laugh

Jada: daddy go and come back soon

Zane: okay baby

He opens the door and walks out

I take his hand we walk to our room

We started having sex three years ago

We didn't commit to anything though

It has always been just sex

And I knew when I wasn't around there were other women

I lock the door

And head over to sit on the bed

Me: was it Karen?

He looks down and sighs

Me: she's always hated me, but this time she was different.

And felt powerful

Zane: I'm sorry, I was drunk and so was she. We were working late, and one thing led to another. But after that, I told her it won't go anywhere. I was even safe with her, and I didn't leave any condoms

I get up and walk over to him

I cup his face

Me : please don't sleep with her again

Zane: it shouldn't have happened to even begin with, I'm sorry it won't happen again

Me: I am ready for you now, I know you've been waiting and you've been patient with me. I wanted to heal, and not bring you my hurt. I didn't want to see Smanga in you, I wanted to

love you for you. And not even expect you to change yourself for me or the twins, but to be you and I'll also be able to love your criminal self.

A tear drops down my cheek

Me: you know I've never cared before, and I've never questioned you. But now it hurts, and that's how I know that I am ready. I want you now

, I'm ready to commit . Please if you still want me stop with these women , I've never felt this pain before . Even when I knew or heard there was someone , but now I just want to cry . Because it feels like I got cheated on

I shake my head, as more tears stream down my face

Me : it's crazy I know , you didn't cheat

Zane: technically, I cheated because I've long given my heart to you

I lift my eyes looking into his

Me: you're my saving grace

He smiles wiping my tears off

He leans down capturing my lips into his, and we kiss

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Zane

I'm glad we got over that Karen issue

But I know her

She will always and try to throw it in our faces whenever she can, and she gets a chance

And that cannot be good for us

Four years later, I finally have the woman

We started having sex, and I told her I want to marry her

But I could see she wasn't in that space

And so I told her we cannot date, but we can continue to satisfy each other sexually

Just I won't commit , because I don't want to get hurt

I knew back then , that I loved her more than she loved me

And she wasn't ready

Zothile: I think we should move

I look at her

Me: who is moving?

She smiles

Zothile: me and the kids

Me : you don't like Sandton anymore ?

Zothile: South Africa as a whole , and you're here. We miss you , and it takes time to see you. Also, now I seriously just want to be with you. I don't want a long distance relationship

One thing about Zothile is that she's clingy

Me: what about your law firm?

Zothile: I'll hire someone who will take over, but I'll still oversee things

Me: why do you want to move

I know this woman

And when something is going on , I can just tell

Zothile: fine! I hate that he knows, and he might have chosen his wife over them. But we'll keep bumping into each other now, and he'll keep seeing them. The whole situation, I just hate it. If we move here, he will never find

us . I need this peace , for my kids sake . And he was somehow , when he put together that you're on my life and theirs . I had to say some harsh words , to put him back in his place

Me : come here

Now I know, as much as she's giving us commitment

She also wants to be away from that man

She walks over and straddles me

Me : are you pregnant yet ?

She laughs

Zothile: baby stop ...wait, do you want to try right now?

Me: don't seduce me, I want to take you out on a date. I need to know if you have cravings

Zothile: the only craving is you right now

I laugh laying back down

She slides and gets her head inside of t-shirt

Hugging me from behind

Me: these clingy methods of yours are very funny

She laughs

Zothile: leave me, if only I can live under your skin

I smile placing my hands over her

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INSERT 32

A YEAR LATER

Smangaliso

Zothile: I do

The smile on her face is just priceless

I don't even remember when it was the last time, I saw her with such a smile

She looks so beautiful and radiant

She doesn't even look like she's just given birth

It's like each time I see her, she's just more beautiful

Priest: I now pronounce you husband and wife, ladies and

gentlemen Mr and Mrs Zane Walker

The pain that strikes my heart

A lump gets stuck on my throat

I close the laptop as they kiss, with such biggest smiles on their faces

The twins holding their little sister

Busy showing her pointing their fingers, trying to show her the parents

I kept watching the clip over and over and over again

And it's been a week since they got married

For a whole year they disappeared

I didn't see nor hear anything

Until a week ago

I saw they were getting married

I fucked up a good thing

Another man saw what I failed to see and couldn't appreciate

I can't get over her

I still love her

If I could have one last chance to have her back

I would take it in a heartbeat

There's no moving on from the only woman my heart yearns for

And I know she will never give me time of day

I'm tired of living like this

Living in a marriage and yet I feel so trapped

I'm not even happy

I don't love Sindi, I want to love her yes. But I just can't bring myself to

I heave a sigh wiping my tears off

I send the documents over to my lawyer

I close my laptop, and head out using the kitchen door

I go over to the tree, with the rope already tied on it

I failed myself, I failed Zothile and I failed my kids

What's the point of me living a miserable life?

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Zothile

Me: okay thank you

I drop the call overwhelmed with just shock

Zane: mommy

I swallow and look at him

Zane: what's wrong?

He takes my hand into his

Me: that was Smangaliso's lawyer

He raises his brow

Me: he committed suicide, and he left everything to the kids.

Like everything, his money.

The house and cars, even his

policies. Basically, everything that he had in his assets

Zane: what?

I sigh

Me: hehe was asking for a meeting so he can go over everything. Apparently his wife is deciding not to fight this, because they weren't married

in community of property . And well , I guess she's still shattered maybe . This happened in the early hours of the morning

Zane: wow!

Me: the wow is that he didn't exclude Ava from his assets, they'll be shared amongst the three equally

Zane: he what?

Me: he left a letter, saying he knows about her. So they're siblings with the twins, you did right to them and he will do right to her as well

Zane: wait ...why did he kill himself again?

I laugh

Like what kind of a question is this?

Me: I think he was just depressed, but on the letter he said something about loosing me to a man who treasured what he treated as trash ... whatever!

I chuckle shaking my head

Me: maybe Smanga thought there's no better after him, that I would crumble. And never be able to stand up again, or find love

I look at him with a smile

Me: he just missed the part, where I found you and you took

me out of my mess and you saved me

He leans down and we kiss

Voice: mommy Ava is heavy come take her, Jaden is breaking his arms

What!

We pull out of the kiss and look at her

Me: how many times did I tell you and Jaden to stop picking Ava up?

Ava : she's chubby so she's heavy

Me: that's why I tell you guys not to pick her up

Ava:sorry

No!

She's not sorry, they just can't leave that baby alone

And they start crying when she starts being heavy and their tiny arms can't handle her

Zane: I'll go save him

I laugh as they both walk out

I never thought they would adjust this well

But they were happy that we're going to be living with daddy

Who proposed just three months after we moved

And well, we was pregnant

I waited to give birth before getting married

So we've been married for a week

And we're heading to our honeymoon in Canada, in just two days

We're taking the kids with

We'll be there for a whole month

There's no way I can leave them that long with a nanny

He walks back in with Ava

Me: baby girl, what are they doing to you?

I take her from him

Me : some siblings you have Ms Walker

She smiles, I give her a kiss

Me: they must be thinking you're their dolls

I am so happy I'm a mother again

I swear it's like I planned to mother Zane's child

No regrets whatsoever, I'm at my happiest right now

Even the twins have taken his surname now

I have a man who loves me, and showed me that not all men are afraid of women who progress

I look at him and find him staring at us

I blush

Smiling like a retard

This criminal makes me happy, I wouldn't even want to change him for anything

Who knew my saving grace was a man like Zane Walker

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THE END