

WOUNDED NOT BROKEN

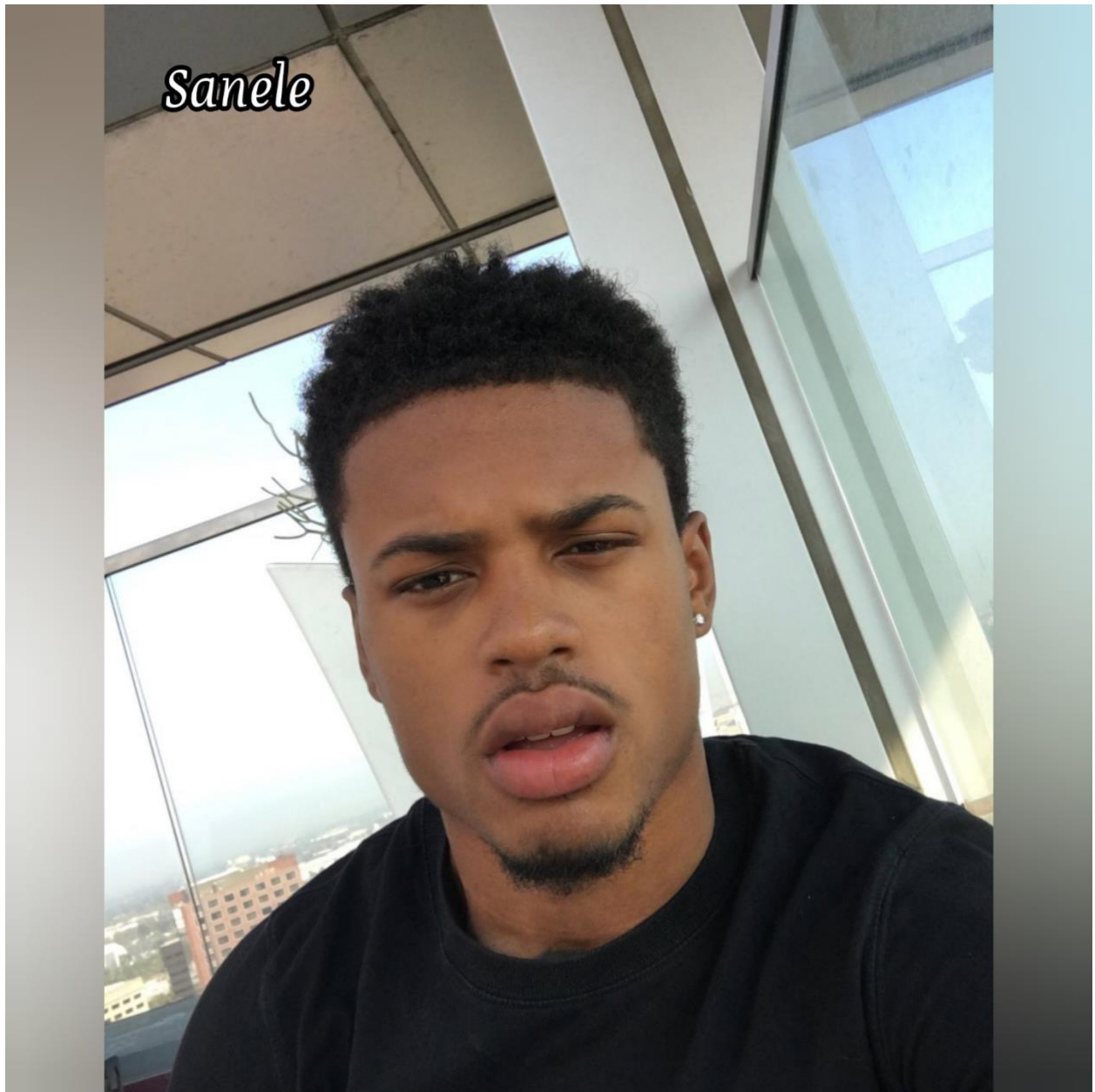


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PROLOGUE

Sanele

Sanele



Me : what ?

Dad : you heard me

Me : but I have a girlfriend

Dad : so ?

Me : so ? Dad I love my
girlfriend okay , and there's no
other woman or girl I see
myself with

Dad : tough luck

Me : tough luck !

I get on my feet and pace
around

Me : do you have any idea what
you have done ? You're ruining
my life

Dad : son , in this life we

Me : don't give me one of those
boring life lessons of yours , I

am not marrying that village girl
of yours

He chuckles

Dad : and you think you have a
choice ?

I stand still and look at him

Dad : she's going to arrive this
afternoon , and well I expect

you home tonight . So you can
take your wife to your house

I laugh annoyed

He better be kidding me right
now

Me : my wife , and to my house
? That's not happening

Dad : you don't want me to ruin
you boy , you'll get your head in
the game and do right

I sigh rubbing my head , he's
really serious

Me : dad please , anyone of
your son's could have married
her . Why me ?

I pull my chair back , and sit
down

He's still on his feet , and just
staring at me . He doesn't even
care

Me : I don't want her , I don't
even know her . How can I
possibly just be okay being
married to a stranger ?

Dad : you have a life time together , so you'll get to know her .

Me : come on ! What am I going to tell my girlfriend ?

Dad : Lerato will just have to understand

This is just nonsense

Me : no woman can agree to being with a man that's married , more like cheated on her cause she's in the picture already .

It doesn't even make sense

If that village girl comes here , my life with my girlfriend is over

Dad : lie to her , promise her marriage . Just do whatever you have to do , boy must I teach you everything ?

I take a deep breath , closing my eyes for a brief second

Dad : I'll see you later , and don't you dare think of not coming

He turns and walks out

I've never been so frustrated ,
Lerato is not going to
understand shit

And she's going to break up
with me after this

My father is a man who lives in
his own universe

How do you wake up , and just decide to marry your son off ?

Like for what reason is he even doing this ?

And he's not even asking me , he's basically just telling me

I hope that this is just some bad joke , and he will erase it . This cannot be happening

I've been with my girlfriend for four years , I love her so much

And I know she won't share me

She will not understand this ,
and she will think that I played
her for a fool

Who still gets married like this
anyways ?

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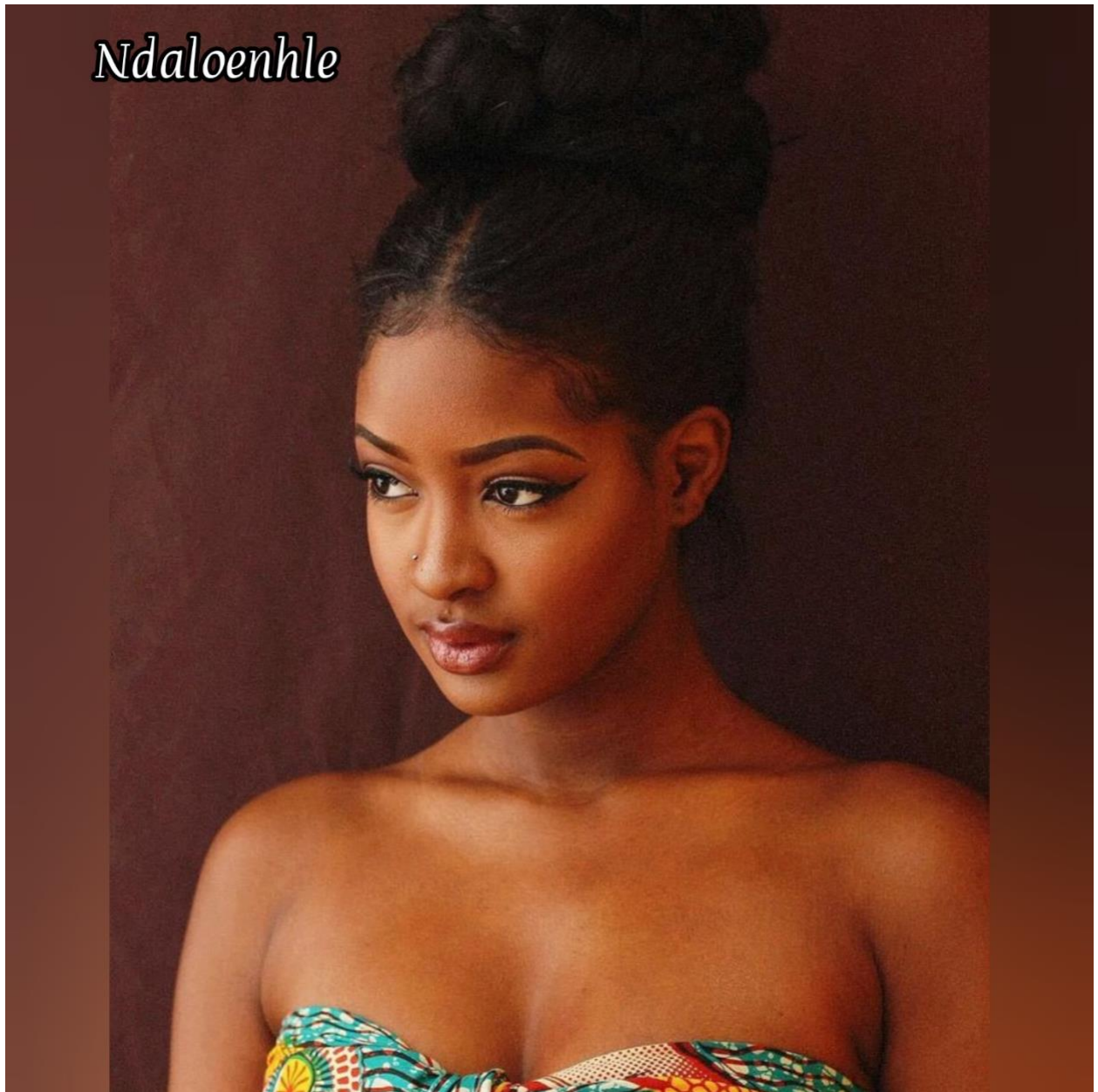
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Ndaloenhle

Ndaloenhle



Aunt : this house will even feel
fresh

Mbali laughs

Aunt : and it'll smell nice too

I'm just standing like a statue
next to black rubbish bins
plastics

That have my clothes in them

Aunt : at least , I got something off of taking you in . And feeding you , like I cared . It was all worth it , you better make sure you stick it out there with those rich people . And you should forever be grateful to me , because I didn't throw you out with dogs . They're rich , if

you play your cards right then
you will make it

The man in a black suit walks in

Aunt : oh they're here

She gets up , and gives me one
lousy hug I've ever experienced

Aunt : I'm going to miss you

She moves back , wiping off her fake tears

Aunt : look , now we can't even buy you a new bag to pack your clothes . This is so sudden , they should have given us more days with you

She looks at the man

Aunty : can't she stay ? Until we have gotten her a bag ? Look she has her clothes in plastics , what will the Magwaza's say

Him : ma'am no , we have to go . Mrs Magwaza will buy what she needs when we arrive

He opens the door for me , I lean down to carry my plastics

Him : leave them , you will buy
new clothes

Me : all of them ?

Him : yes , unless you need
some

I have my ID , that's the only
important thing I have

Me : okay

I leave everything , and walk
out

He follows behind me , and
there's a black Range Rover
parked by the gate

Not my aunt making so much
noise , with her fake cries

He opens the front seat door
for me , I get in

I'm scared , I wanted to ask to
sit in the back

He gets in , and he starts the
car

Before we're even three houses
away , I see my aunt throwing

those black plastics with my
clothes outside

Now I even regret looking back

I don't even know where she
met that scary Magwaza man
to even begin with

That she saw it fit to just sell
me to him for his son

I am just feeling numb , I knew
she didn't like me

But I didn't think to this much
extent

I don't even get the cause of
this marriage

But she did get a million rand
out of selling me

And I didn't even get a cent of
that

Maybe this was always the plan
from the beginning

To wait until I'm grown , and
sell me to the highest bidder

She has a daughter , and she's
never treated her like she
treats me

At age 21 I'm still a virgin ,
because she made sure I stay
away from boys

And that I get checked regularly
by the village older woman

But her daughter , is 19 . She's
even younger than me . And
she's never done any of the
virginity testing

But she knows deep insane
things that I know nothing
about at my age

At 15 she was already running
around with boys

And she was never told she
needs to keep her virginity like
me

I'm sure if I wasn't guarded so hard , I would also be living like a normal child

But I'm far from that

That woman is probably not a relative of mine

Villagers talk , and they always said she picked me by the side of the road

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INSERT 01

Ndaloenhle

The family seems nice

I don't know , I could be wrong

I mean , I've just met these
people

And the sister , is just sizing me
up and down

She looks so disgusted , like I'm
some disgusting thing

The brother with the wife
seems to be the quite one

And the last born , is just a loud
mouth

The so called husband , is
nowhere to be seen

And I can tell the father is not happy at all , this man scares me

His wife tried getting him to calm down

And said he will come

But it's almost 21:30 now

And everyone wants to retire
for bed

Sino : I'm going to sleep , this is
just nonsense

She gets up

Sino : and clearly Sanele is not
coming here , who would
blame him ? You're just
throwing this

She motions with her hand at
me

Sino : to him , forgetting he has
a model of a girlfriend . This
family is just twisted . I'm going
to my house tomorrow , I can't
stand for this nonsense

She turns and walks upstairs

Senzo : that was ...wow ! And everyone just kept quite , letting Sino speak like that to another person

He also gets up , and I guess this is everyone leaving the table

Mrs Magwaza : let's all just go to sleep , uhmyou still remember your room right ?

I nod

They all get up , until I'm left all
alone

If I could run away from here , I
swear I would

And like right now

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Sanele

Lee : why are you leaving so early ?

I know my father is pissed with me

As much as I'm not happy with his decision , I shouldn't have poked him

And that's exactly what I did

And now , I don't even know
what he might do . He can be
very unpredictable

Me : I have to rush home , and
get my maid

I'm not telling Lerato , anything
about that wife nonsense . Hell
will freeze over

I know she will leave me , and
she won't even think twice
about it

So best I say that girl is going to
be my maid

Lee : what happened to your
helper ?

I do have a helper , an older
woman

Because Lee is uncomfortable with a younger maid , she hired the one I have now

Me : she's around , I think the house is getting bigger for her . She's getting much older now , but I can't fire her . She needs this jobs , so best she has someone who will help her

Lee : that's sweet of you , so
this new maid ?

I have to play my cards right
with this one

Me : my mother found her for
me , she's from the village she
doesn't know much

She smiles

Lee : I guess I have nothing to worry about

Me : absolutely nothing babe

She knows my family , they like her

And so she doesn't think they would try and hurt her anyhow , because they approve of us

This marriage doesn't make
sense

I don't know why my father did
it

It just doesn't make any kind of
sense to me

So she doesn't need to know
about it

And she will feel degraded to
be honest

Because she will be regarded as
a second wife , yet she was
here way before this village girl

And also , she's a career
woman . And now I've been
dealt , someone who probably
doesn't even hold a degree

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Ndaloenhle

The door opens , and this cute
guy walks in

We're all sitting in the lounge

Him : morning family , and dad
before you go at me . I was
with the guys last night , we
lost track of time . I guess I was

just too happy , to celebrate my
wife

He darts his eyes my way

And that smile is so fake

I don't know if it's just me , or
everyone can see that he's lying

They said his name is Sanele ,
not that anyone told me

But I heard the sister mention it
last night

Sanele : well wifey , please lets
go . Our home awaits us , I
hope you'll love it

He's still on his feet , I don't
know if I should stand up or
what

Mrs Magwaza : it's okay , we will come see you some other time . You can leave with your husband now , and get to know each other better

I guess that's that

I get up

Sino : make sure you buy her clothes , because she's been

wearing these rags since from
yesterday

Sanele : watch your mouth

Is he really defending me ?

Sanele : where are your bags ?

He looks at me

Me : I

I heave a sigh

Sanele : it's okay don't worry ,
I'll take you shopping

He opens the door

Sanele : bye family

I say nothing , and just head out

He follows , and I take a step
back just so I can follow him

And he drives an M6

Sanele : you're getting on the
back

Wow , the tone has changed

I hold the handle , the door
opens his father walks out

Sanele : stop , come here

He says with a smile , opening
the passenger door side

Sanele : get in

He says with gritted teeth

I get in , as his father walks to
the car

He closes the door , and leans
against the car

His father stands in front of him

And I can't hear what he's
saying , but by the look of
things

It's very tense , and he's
definitely not happy at all

I'm looking through the mirror

And Sanele has his head bowed
down , as his father keeps
talking to him

After a while he moves back ,
and Sanele comes around
getting in the car

He looks pissed

Sanele : your presence is going to fucking annoy me

He says driving out

And a few minutes away from the house , he stops the car

Sanele : fucking get out and go sit in the back , that seat has its owner

And he's not kidding , I just
gather myself and get out of
the car going to sit on the back

He drives

Sanele : and when you get to
my house , you're a maid

Wow !

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INSERT 02

Ndaloenhle

We walk in , and there's a
stunning woman sitting by the
kitchen counter

She looks like she's just walked
out of a magazine cover

Her : babe

He smiles and walks to her

He stands in front of her , like
I'm not even here

And they kiss

It's so awkward , I don't even
know where to go

After a few minutes , they pull
out and she giggles

Her : babe , there's someone in here

Wow ! She noticed

Sanele : yeah sorry , this is my girlfriend . The woman of this house , so respect her if you want this job

I guess I really am a maid

But like wh said that I need a job ?

And why the marriage lie ?

Because it's not like I'm a foreigner , or that I needed means to be regarded as a citizen in this country

Her : be nice

Sanele : mhm , you'll use the
cottage

The girl gets off the counter

Her : the cottage is that way

She grabs keys from the key
holder , with her long nails she
hands them to me

Her : you'll find your way

I walk out , and I don't even
know where that is or what it
looks like

Maybe it's a room of some kind
, maybe cottage is a fancy way
of saying room

I walk around , the yard is big .
And this house is huge too , I

wonder if they don't have a
maid already . I mean why
wouldn't they ?

At the back , I finally see the
room

I walk towards it , I use the key
and it opens I walk in

It looks and smells clean

I take my shoes and leave them
at the door inside

I walk in , I see a bed . Walking
further in , there's a bathroom
with just a shower

I guess I can live with this

At least , I have a roof over my
head

That should count for something right ?

Although I doubt I will be getting the best kind of treatment here

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Sanele

Now that's done

And my woman did not freak

I think I'm good here , I just
have to keep the maid story
going

And I stay the fuck away from
that girl , so she will know her
place in this house

She's not even appeasing

Maybe if she was , I would tap
her once in a while

But , she's a no go area

Lee : do you think she has
clothes ?

I chuckle

Me : babe why wouldn't she
have clothes ?

Lee : I'm just saying , she was wearing a very worn out black dress . And it has lost its colour

And it's so fucking ugly

Lee : she looks too rural , and just dirty . She has he hair braided with wool , who still does that in this day and age ?

I laugh

Lee : don't laugh babe , it's actually sad . Maybe I should give her some of my old clothes . What do you think ? I think it'll be a nice gesture

Me : babe they won't fit her

Lee : how do you know that ?

Me : you're a size 26 model ,
did you see her ? She's like a 30
something

Lee : yeah you're right , I'll buy
her a few dresses

Me : why ?

Lee : she's in your house , she
can't embarrass you . Especially
when your friends rock up here

I don't care about that girl

And my guys , will probably
mock me for having her as a
maid wife

Lee : I'll ask for her sizes , and
have the clothes delivered
tomorrow

Me : don't overspend

She laughs

Lee : don't worry , you worry a lot . I'm sure 5 dresses won't kill me

She better not think anyone is her friend here

Just because she was bought clothes

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Ndaloenhle

Mavis was nice enough to show
me around

And I probably won't
remember most things

But I guess I got the important
rooms

The laundry one , and of course
the kitchen

I don't even want to think of
anything , I'll just be a maid
here and that's that

Clearly Sanele has a girlfriend ,
and a very beautiful one at that
. I won't lie , she's beautiful

He has no reason whatsoever
even looking at me anyhow

I'm in the cottage , it's almost
noon

I'm so bored

There's nothing to do in here

A knock comes at the door

I get up and open , and it's the girlfriend

Her : hi

I nod

Her : I'm Lerato by the way ,
you can just call me Lee

Me : Okay

Lee : I don't mean to be forward , but I noticed you didn't bring any bags

Me : uhmyes

I say as a whisper

The so called husband , played nice in front of his parents

Said he'll take me shopping ,
but clearly he won't do that

Lee : I'll get you a few things ,
I'm just here to ask for your size

Me : I'm a 34

Lee : okay should be medium
on top , and shoes ?

Me : yeah it is , 3

Lee : I won't be here tomorrow
, but I'll have the clothes
delivered

Me : okay thank you

Lee : you're welcome

And turns and walks away , I
close the door locking

I guess she's nice , in her own way

And I know for a fact , that Sanele didn't put her to that

He's definitely not the one who sent her

I'm sure he doesn't even care , that I have no clothes here . I don't know what that guy

meant , because he said it like it
was a sure thing I'll be bought
new clothes

But now it doesn't seem like it

And well , he just seemed like a
driver and nothing else

I guess he just spoke out of turn
, about things he knew nothing
about

Even my old rags would be better than not having any clothes

Now I'm just like some charity case to these people

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INSERT 03

A WEEK LATER

Ndaloenhle

He walks in , and I'm ironing his shirts

Mavis is not feeling well , and it's a bit cold

So her knees are acting up to
the coldness

I really am nothing but just a
maid in this house

And well I've made peace with
that

His family hasn't come here ,
not even once

So they're just like my aunt

She dropped me with them ,
and they dropped me with their
son

And well , no one cares about
me

He just grabs one of the shirts
I've just ironed

And he puts it on

Sanele : what the fuck is this ?

I look at him , and he's pointing
to a stain on the shirt

Sanele : are you stupid ? Do
you have any idea how much
this costs ?

Me : this The iron didn't do that , it must have been

Sanele : the only reason you're still in my house , is because you're keeping your keep . If you fucking fail at it , you'll be out of that door

He roughly takes the shirt off

Sanele : stupid !

And he just walks away

I'm left with tears burning my
eyes

It's abuse I endure in this house

Especially when it comes to
that man

He's very rude

And he doesn't mind his words
, he just says whatever he feels
and wants to say

I wipe my tears off , and
remove the shirt off the floor

I continue ironing the rest , I'll
have to wash this one myself

As if laundry is my job too

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Sanele

The presence of that girl
annoys me

She's still a village girl , and
clearly that will never be taken
away from her

Even the way she does things ,
it's just so outdated and
annoying

But she has to work , I can't
keep her at my place for
nothing . I didn't bring her here
and I don't want her

I knock at his door , and wait
for a response

He answers from inside , I open
the door and walk in

His eyes are glued up on the
laptop

I pull the opposite chair and sit
down

Me : you good ?

Bantu : mhm

He says not even looking at me

Me : are you busy tonight ?

Bantu : depends

I chuckle

Me : on ?

Bantu : why you asking me
ndoda ?

Me : I want to invite you and
the guys out

Bantu : tomorrow

I sigh

Me : fine , I guess I can deal
with tomorrow

He closes the laptop , and leans
back on his seat

He looks at me

Me : so I have this ugly village girl at my house , my father seriously went out of his way and found me some supposedly wife

Bantu : what ?

Me : yeah

Bantu : he arranged a wife for you ?

Me : can you believe that shit ?
And the girl looks so poor , I
don't even know why he
married her for me

Bantu : now this I would like to
see

Me : you should come over to
my house

He chuckles

Bantu : sure

I slide the chair back , and get
up

Me : I'll call the guys , and we
can finalize for tomorrow

He nods , I turn walking out of his office heading to mine.

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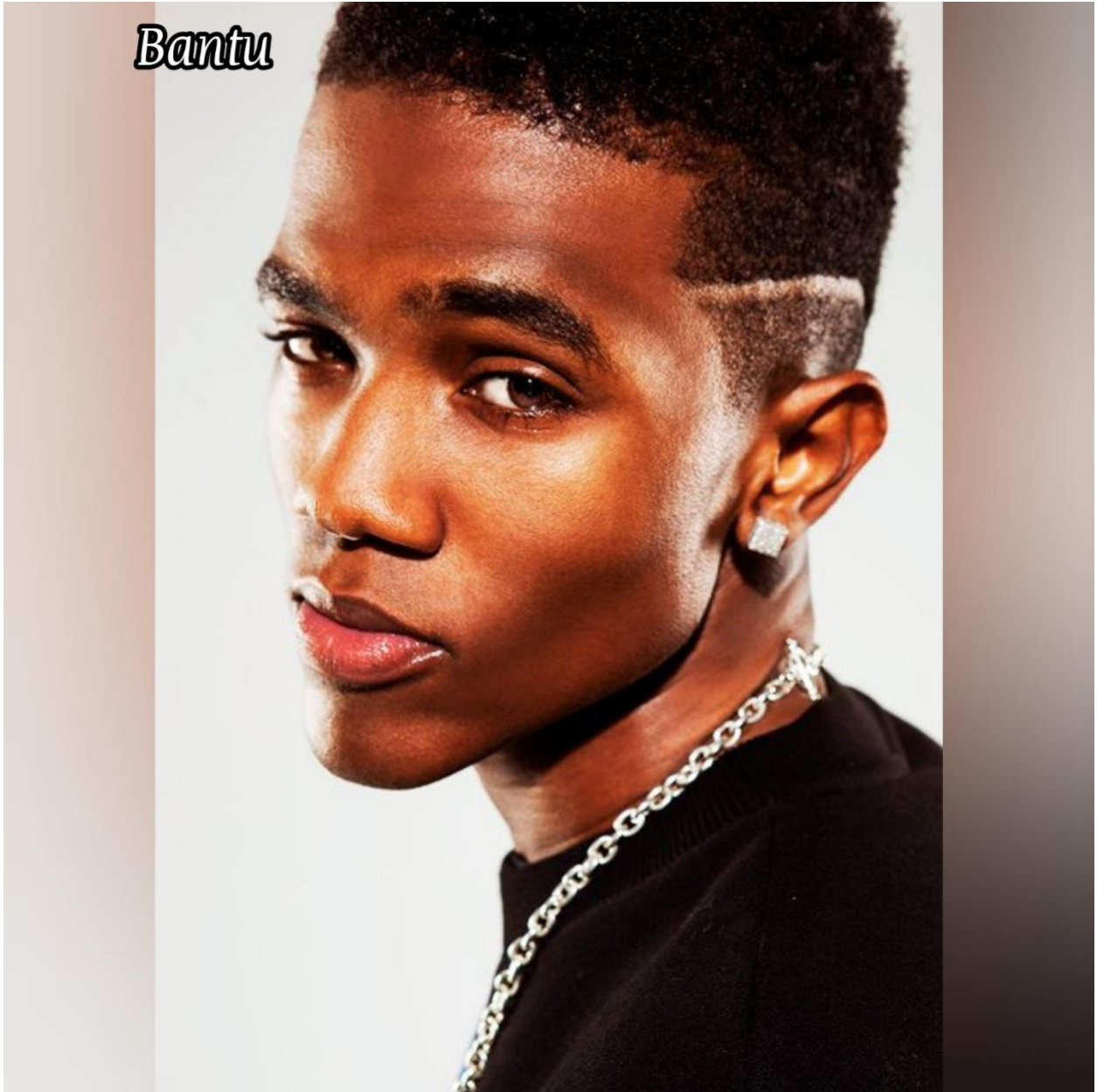
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Bantu

Bantu



I walk out of the bathroom ,
and she's putting on her dress

Roxy : please zip me up

I walk over , and zip her dress

Roxy : thank you

I nod , grabbing my wallet

I take out her fee , and place it
on the night stand

I get dressed

Roxy : you know , you don't
have to do this

Me : don't ruin what we have

I say not even looking at her

I put on my shoes , and grab my
wallet

Me : I'll see you

She nods with a smile

Roxy : it was lovely as always

I walk out , and take the exit to
the parking

I get into my car , and drive out

I make a call , it rings for a bit
before he answers

Mvezo : tata (dad)

Me : uright ? (Are you alright)

Mvezo : ewe (yes)

Me : and utyile andithi ? (You ate)

Mvezo : ewe aunty undenzele i'sandwich (yes aunt made me a sandwich)

Me : okay , ndiyeza I'll see you soon okay (I'm coming)

Mvezo : okay

I drop the call

And park , ringing the gate
monitor

And seconds later , the gate
opens I drive in

Great he's home

I don't want to spend much time here , I have to go home

I part next to his car , and put on my jacket

I knock on the door , wait for a bit before it opens

Could this be the so called ugly village wife ?

Me : hi

She lifts her eyes , and we lock
eyes

Her : evening sir

What the fuck !

Me : my name is Bantu

She keeps quite

Me : is Sanele here ?

Her : II really don't know

How is that possible ?

Me : I saw his car outside

Her : I guess he is

Me : can you please call him for me ?

Her : if he's upstairs , I'm not allowed there . You can call , or wait on him

What the fuck is going on in this house ?

Isn't she his wife ?

He walks down the stairs , and
she excuses herself

He shakes his head annoyed ,
with a click of a tongue

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INSERT 04

Bantu

Me : what the fuck was that ?

Sanele : oh well , you've had
yourself the pleasure of
meeting my so called wife

Me : so like all of that ?

He laughs

Sanele : did you see that girl ?
She's fucking ugly , and reeks of
village . If I had my way , I
would get rid of her in my
house

He can't get rid of her , because
he's a boy still following his
father's orders at his age

And the fuck he means that girl
is ugly ?

Like that skinny model of his ,
doesn't even stand a chance on
the so called ugly village girl

Me : oh

I sit down

Me : you don't want her ?

He laughs

Sanele : you know I have a girlfriend right ?

Me : yeah

Sanele : so what the hell will I do with that ?

Me : then why don't you kick her out ?

Sanele : so Magwaza can be on my case ?

He shakes his head

Sanele : I've given her a job as a maid

Me : so you're paying her ?

Sabelo : hell no

I'm just hearing nonsense right now

From a grown ass man acting like a boy

Sanele : she's so fucking bad at it . She's literally just useless , and worse I'm stuck with her

Me : your so called wife , is now
you maid ? And she's unpaid

Sanele : I feed her , she didn't
have clothes when she got here
except the ones she was
wearing . I gave her a roof , so
why should I pay her ? And she
eats my food , she showers
with my water . That's her
payment , the mere fact that
she's here in my house

Me : this is fucked up

Sanele : tell me

Me : mhm , she looks young .
Shouldn't she be in school or
something ?

Sanele : I don't fucking care to
know , even if that was the case
. Who's money was going to

take her to school ? Does she
even know what school is ?
Cause she looks dumb to me

Me : yours

He laughs

Sanele : not in this universe no

Me : you're going to fuck that
kid up , stand up to Magwaza

and stop being a boy . And take that girl back to where she comes from

Sanele : Magwaza paid a million for her , she's going nowhere

Me : so she's what here in your house ?

He sighs

Sanele : you're my boy , you know that . But this , I think it's best we leave it here . The conversation about the wife is done , I feel like you're coming at me too strong about this

I get up

Me : you'll find yourself in some deep shit , and don't say I never warned you

I head towards the door
walking out

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Sanele

I don't get that reaction from
Bantu

Out of the four of us , I'm more
closer to him

Honestly if I didn't have
brother's , he would be a

brother more than he is a
friend

And I didn't expect him to react
like that

Going on , questioning me like
there's some concern with that
girl

He doesn't even know her

She's not even lookable , I
mean if she was I would
understand

Even I would have tapped her

Just out of curiosity , and to
boost my ego nothing else

And definitely not to cheat on
my girlfriend

But just a fuck

I hope the other's will just
understand me better

Cause it's clear Bantu doesn't

But he's my boy , I'm not
putting much thought into it

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Bantu

He's still asleep

I sit down on his bed , and
remove the duvet off his face

Me : hey

I shake him slightly , and he
slowly opens his eyes

He's a light sleeper , just like
me

Me : good morning

Mvezo : molo tata (morning dad)

He moves and sits up straight rubbing his eyes

Me : ulale kakuhle ? (You slept well)

He nods

Me : okay , go pee and brush your teeth . Breakfast is ready , after it please take a shower and get ready for school , I have a meeting we're leaving early

Mvezo : okay

He pulls the sheets off of him , I get up

He trails to the other side and
walks to the bathroom

I walk out , heading to my room
I just grab my tie and walk out
heading down

I get in the kitchen , and sit
down fixing my tie

Me : morning

She looks at me and greets
back

Grace : sir , I was hoping we
could talk before you leave

Me : okay

Grace : my daughter is about to
give birth soon , and I have no
one home who can watch and
help her

I sigh

Me : how long do you need ?

Grace : 3 months

The fuck am I going to manage
for 3 months ?

Me : alright

She smiles

Grace : thank you

Mvezo walks in , still in his PJ's

Mvezo : good morning aunty

Grace : morning my boy

She goes on to set the
breakfast table

While I ponder on what am I
going to do now about this
situation of hers

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Ndaloenhle

I'm holding my burning cheek ,
and it hurts so bad

And Mavis is just standing there
shocked as ever , like she's
never seen anyone getting
slapped before in her life

I'm sure the poor woman
doesn't even know what to do
or say

She's clearly shocked

Out of nowhere , over a mere
tie that's supposedly not ironed
well

Sanele just slapped me

He walked in furious , and shouting at me . Already he was in his moods , that probably have nothing to do with me

As I tried to talk to him , he shut me up with a slap

I have tears streaming down my face

I don't know abuse , even
though I've been treated badly
and all

But no one has ever laid their
hand on me , not even my so
called aunt . As bad as she was
towards me , she's never hit me
no matter what

Sanele : trust me , next time it'll
be worse than that

He clicks his tongue and walks out

Mavis : oh child

She walks to me , I wipe my tears . As she rubs my back , and I wish she wouldn't

Mavis : please let me finish this

Me : I don't want trouble ma
....it's okay

The pity in her eyes , it's just
what breaks me even more

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INSERT 05

Sanele

Dad : how are things between
you and your wife ?

Did he have to come to my
office again ?

And for this nonsense of that girl , I thought now that she's here we're over these office talks

Me : fine

Dad : I hope you're not just harbouring her there , you're actually making progress

I chuckle

Me : you have got to be kidding
me

Dad : watch your tone

Me : she's at my house , I
agreed to this nonsense of a
marriage . So why must I be
monitored ?

He leans back on the chair

Me : I am not a child , and nor is she . If you want to know , you know where she is . You dumped her on me , and you've never even gone there to see her once . So please , give me a break . Wether we're working things or not , it has nothing to do with anyone

Dad : you better be treating that girl like she's your wife

Yeah well , like she's my wife
doesn't necessarily mean she's
my wife

Me : I have work to do , please
do excuse me

He stares at me , I open my
laptop

I just want him gone

This is my work space , I can't be having these kind of conversations here . It's annoying now

He doesn't see me going to his work , and bothering him

He gets up finally and walks towards the door

Me : please close the door
behind you

He chuckles shaking his head

But he damn closes the door
anyways

Me : fuck !

He better not go to my house

I'm sure she's not herself after
that slap

And he will see it , I don't need
that drama

Something has to give in , that
girl has to fucking leave my
house

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Ndaloenhle

Mavis has been so nice

She told me to rest most of the
day

And said she will finish

And Sanele won't know , she
won't tell

Honestly , the guy just hates
me there's nothing to it

Because everything he's on my
case about , it doesn't even
make sense . And it's not even
my doing

If only I had a home , I would
know where to go

But now , I'm just thrown
outside of this world

What do I even know about this place ?

But now I've never been this scared

It started with a shout , over the shirt with a stain

Then now the slap , regarding the tie

What will be next ? A punch

I cannot wait around here to be
abused by this man

I need to do something

But where will I go if I run away
?

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Sanele

These guys are just full of shit

We're at Club Venice , a club
that Bantu owns

And I told them about my
dilemma at home

And they all think I'm crazy , for
not even being taken by that
girl

I'm just glad about one thing ,
that we're all here and having
cold ones

I sure need this time out

It's been a while since we last
saw each other

Work and other commitments ,
they come first

I see Bantu on a daily basis ,
because we work at the same
place

Sandile : like does she scream
makhaya ? (Rural)

We laugh

Sandile : I mean like deep deep
rural

Me : I'm dating a model ,
anything below that is just not
for me

Bantu takes a sip of his beer

Bantu : there's nothing wrong
with her

Me : come on

Teko : so like on a scale of 1 to 10 ?

Me : 0

They laugh

Sandile : you've seen her , what do you say ?

He asks Bantu

This I would like to hear

Bantu : I'm not rating women ,
she's a woman in her own right

Me : what the fuck !

I laugh

Me : if I didn't know better , I
would think you want her

Sandile : hey !

I shrug

Sandile : at least just fuck her ,
so you can taste what you're
missing out

Bantu : that's nonsense , fuck
her for what when she's his
mind and not wife ?

His tone is off

Like Sandile just offended him
or something

Me : okay , okay enough of this
. That's not why we're here

Bantu : I need a smoke

He gets up and goes into the
elevator heading to his office

I sigh shaking my head

I'm not following behind him

Teko : that looked somehow

Me : he will be fine

He nods slowly

Sandile : but on the real , how long do you plan to just keep her in your house ?

I haven't even gone that far to think about that

Sandile : just fuck her !

Teko : you're planting a seed in his head , don't do that . And keep away from that girl ,

Bantu is right . You'll end up
having evil thoughts

Sandile : Bantu is gone , we can
stop being righteous

We laugh , calling another
round of beers

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Bantu

I sometimes don't get the
minds of those guys

I just left them because I got annoyed

A knock comes at the door ,
and I can see it's Teko

Me : sure

The door opens , he walks in
and pulls the chair besides me
and sits down

Teko : you left down looking
somehow

I chuckle

Me : are you insane ? What's
this now , checking up on me ?

Teko : we pissed you off that
much ?

Me : that's domestic issues , I'm not getting involved . I've already told Sanele , what I think about this whole situation

He nods

Teko : I hear you , give me a glass so I can leave

I chuckle grabbing the bottle of whiskey pouring him a glass

Teko : I can always rely on the best with you

He says after taking a shot

Me : and that's why you ran up here after me ?

He laughs

Teko : maybe

I shake my head slowly , he
downs the glass and gets on his
feet we shake hands he walks
out

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INSERT 06

Bantu

Mvezo : uyandinceda ? (You're helping me)

I chuckle

Me : ewe (yes)

I get up , he moves back
grabbing his school bag

We walk down

Me : we have to help each
other now

Mvezo : with ?

I chuckle grabbing the cereal box , and a bowl with milk

Me : Grace won't be around for a while , so we have to do a lot of things around here all by ourselves

Mvezo : like making my bed ?

Me : yes , but I'll help you

Mvezo : I can do that

Me : I know you can , so we
have to do that . And other
things as well

Mvezo : we clean and cook too
?

Can we even do that ?

Me : I don't think we will be able

Mvezo : what then ?

Me : I'll get a cleaning company to come once a week . For food , it's takeouts

Mvezo : okay

I hand him the bowl with cereal

Mvezo : thank you

I get busy replying to emails
while he eats

When he's done he takes his
bowl to the sink

I need that cleaning company
as in yesterday

I don't even know if I can
operate the dishwasher , or the
washing machine

Grace sure left me in a tiff , but
I couldn't tell her not to go and
be with her daughter

She's an old woman , and old
people they have those beliefs
of theirs

Mvezo : I'm done to go

I get off the chair , he grabs his school bag

We walk out , he gets in the back seat

He prefers it , at 8 years I think he's fine at the front seat

But he doesn't like it

I drop him at school and drive
over to Sanele's house

The gate is opened , but I know
he's still home

He can never make it to work
this early

I park my car , next to Lee's car

So she's here , maybe I'm
failing to understand this
nonsense that's happening in
this house

There's a wife who's a maid , a
girlfriend it's all just a mess

I knock , and the wife opens the
door again

Me : hi

I squint my eye , noticing the
bruise on her cheek

She moves back uncomfortable
noticing my stare

Sanele walks down with Lee
laughing

Her : excuse me

She walks away

Sanele : ah ! At least now I
know you're not angry with me

Lee : Hi Bantu

She greets with a smile , trying
to be cute as always . I nod

Lee : babe , let me see what the
maid prepared

And she's called the maid ,
even by Lee . This is a sham

Sanele pecks her cheek , and
she also walks away

Sanele : what's up ?

Me : you hit her ?

He sighs

Sanele : what's your deal ?

He won't even fucking deny it

Me : you know what , if you know what's good for you you'll return that woman back to her home

Sanele : and my father's million just goes with the wind ?

Me : don't say I didn't warn you
, you really think a person's life
is worth a mere fucking million
? I make that in a day , it's
change . And she's definitely
worth more than that , but you
wouldn't know cause daddy fills
your pockets . And your
father's money , doesn't give
you the right to lay your hand
on her . You can't stand up to
him , but you can raise your

hand to a woman that's
defenceless . You're just shit

I turn right at the door walking
out , getting into my car

He's standing by the door
watching me drive out

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Sanele

I'm pissed right now

I don't get what's Bantu's deal

Or what he wanted here so
early in the morning

I thought we were cool from
last night , but he just had to
come here and bust me

And that fucking village girl ,
why is she always fucking

opening the door like she's my
butler ?

I had to wait until Lee left , so I
can put this matter to rest

I've looked for her in the house
, and she's nowhere to be
found

I go outside to the cottage

I just open the door without knocking , and she's fucking naked

Not even a towel wrapped around her body

And I must say , she's fucking gifted

She has meat in all right the places

Her ass , her thighs and hips

Tiny waist , perfect tits

She's fucking perfect , you can hardly see all of that under the clothes she wears

And obviously Lee bought her maxi dresses , they're loose and don't hold her body

She quickly grabs a t-shirt and
hides herself with it

But it doesn't do much ,
because her thighs are still
exposed

My dick is twitching so bad

Her : l.....

I still haven't kept up with her
name even now

She swallows

And she can't even keep her
stare at me

I close the door , with my foot .
And actually turn back , locking
it

She moves back slowly , looking
somewhat scared now

As I walk towards her

Her : please don't hurt me

The nerve !

Me : hurt you ?

She is backed against the bed

Me : you're my wife , so how can I possibly hurt you ?

She flaps her eyelashes

Me : you have such a perfect body , I can't believe you've been hiding all of this under rags . You should show off , and let me see this

I stand in front of her , and grab
the t-shirt from her

She tries holding onto it

Me : let go , let's not fight

She lets go of it , I drop it down
on the floor

I look down her body

And fuck !

I'm with a model that's just all
bones and no meat

So this is a fucking sight for me

Me : shit !

I cup her boobs , and they fit so
perfectly into my hands

I rub on her nipples , letting out
a slight groan

I move my one hand , trailing it
down her back to her ass

She gasps scared , I grab on her
ass cheek

I can just imagine being buried
deep inside of her

Having all of that ass bouncing
all over my lower body , while
her moist is gracing my dick

She's shaking

I slowly move back

Me : uhmdon't do any work
today . Mavis will do it on her
own

She slowly puts her hands over
her boobs

I chuckle

Me : relax

I look around the room

Me : uhmI have to go to
work , I'll see you . And
remember , no work for you

I walk backwards , and finally
turn

I unlock the door going out

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INSERT 07

A MONTH LATER

Ndaloenhle

Things have just been strange
in this house

Lerato is barely around

For like three weeks now , I
haven't seen her that often

I can say she doesn't visit as frequently as she used to

And well , her boyfriend is very strange to say the least

I can't really say he's nice to me or anything like that

But he's awkward , and after that day he saw me naked

He became different

He doesn't tell me to do chores
around the house anymore

Mavis is back to doing most
things all by herself again

A week ago , he bought me
very skimpy close to nothing
dresses

And I couldn't even believe that
anyone can wear those

And he actually called them
dresses , when they barely
even cover anything

And I'm ordered to wear them
in the house

I'm even scared to move ,
because I think they'll tear

I'm scared to bend when I'm wearing them

My whole ass just gets exposed

The first day he ordered me to wear one , and after seeing how skimpy it was

I took it off , that earned me slaps and a few punches

And I must just say , that from
that day it sinked in that this is
his house

He calls the shots , and I just
follow suit

I hate my life here , I don't want
to lie

I hate my life

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Sanele

Things have been a slightly tense between Bantu and I

I guess he really thinks somewhat about the whole Enhle situation , and it pisses me off cause it doesn't concern him at all

But I don't care

And ever since I've been trying
to lure her in

She's very tempting

Sandile was right when he said I
should just fuck her

She's my wife after all , what
harm would I be doing ?

We're out having drinks , just
the two of us

Sandile : how is the home
situation ?

I laugh

Me : Lee is in Paris , she has
those fashion things of hers she
left three weeks ago

Sandile : and the wife ? I mean still not pleased with her ?

Me : well , I mean I'm headed there

He laughs

Me : I can't starve because my girlfriend is halfway across the world , when I have a wife at home

Sandile : you don't have to love her , you can just tap and leave . I mean , she's there . And she'll be there whenever you need and want her

Me : my sentiments exactly

I mean she's just there in my house and for what ?

So we might as well be fuck
buddies , and her body is
fucking worth it

But she better fucking know
her place when Lee comes back
, and don't act anyhow

Our fucking will definitely mean
nothing , and she better know
that

I can't go on fucking whores ,
I've been doing that for three
weeks now

And it must end

Lee will be back in a week , I
need Enhle before that

Sandile : let's get some more
drinks

He calls a waiter over , and
orders two more bottles of
whiskey

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Bantu

Me : you're tired ?

Someone pulled me in for a
movie night

And I just had to endure

Mvezo : yes

Me : okay , go brush your teeth
. I'll come and tuck you in

Mvezo : will Grace come back ?

Me : I don't know , her
daughter has a baby now

Mvezo : they need her

He sighs

Me : yeah , but we're doing fine
right ?

He nods

Grace has done me better with
her cousin

She also an older woman

And she comes around like
three times a week

She's just standing in her place ,
that's much better than the
cleaning company . Cause she
even gets our laundry done

Me : okay , you go on

He gets off the couch

Mvezo : don't forget about the
sleep over tomorrow

Me : yes I won't , Uve's mom
called me

Mvezo : yeah

He smiles

Mvezo : it'll be his mom and
just us

Me : mhm , you're going to
have fun . We'll pack for you
tomorrow morning

Mvezo : okay , goodnight tata

Me : goodnight boy

He walks upstairs , I switch off
the Tv

Grabbing my phone making a call , since he won't be home , I might as well go out and get some pussy

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Ndaloenhle

The door handle moves

It's very late at night

I don't know why I'm still
awake at this time

I can't seem to sleep

But now , I can tell someone
wants to open the door

I sit up straight , putting the
light now

I swallow hard , as more push
comes

Me :

I open my mouth to say
something , but nothing comes
out

I hear the sound of keys , and
now I'm really scared

I hear the door opening , and
my eyes are hooked there

Now I regret removing the key
from the keyhole

It has just become a norm

I almost scream my lungs out as
Sanele walks in

He looks at me for a few
seconds , and closes the door

He locks the door

And turns walking towards the
bed

Me : what

He looks drunk , like very drunk
. He can't even walk straight

And right now , I'm scared by
just the way he's looking

And knowing his past advances towards me , I don't know what to make of this situation right here

Sanele : I'm sleeping in here

What ?

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TRIGGER WARNING

INSERT 08

Ndaloenhle

Lord please no

I find myself just tearing up , as
he takes his clothes off

Leaving absolutely nothing on

Mavis is gone , it's weekend
she's gone home

Of course his girlfriend is not
here

So it's just us here

And he decided to go get drunk
, and come back forcing his way
in here

And this is what he's doing

Couldn't he do it sober minded
?

Sanele : what are you crying
about ?

He says pulling the sheets off of
me , and the lust in his eyes
cannot be missed

Even his breathing is uneven

Me :

I just tear up worse , as a plea
to beg him

He drags my legs apart , I shake
my head as I feel like my voice
is gone

Sanele : we're husband and
wife , we're ought to have sex

Not like this

And that gets me screaming ,
even though I know it's useless

But then maybe it might get
him to not do this

I did not say I want to sleep
with him , I did not agree to this

He slaps me so hard , as he
pushes my nightdress up

And just exposing my lower
body , sliding my panty to the
side

Me : Sanele please....don't hurt mepleaseI'll leaveI'll leave and never come back
Please don't do thisI beg you please

He presses his hand on my mouth , as I am now crying and it's out loud

I try kicking him , but he lands a
punch on my cheek

I feel like my jaw is dislocated

As I taste the blood in my
mouth

Sanele : stop fighting me !

He roars

I muffle those cries , but I can't
any longer

As he just shoves his dick
tearing me apart , without even
a care . He literally just forces it
inside

I try closing my thighs as the
pain shoots through , but he
roughly parts them

And slaps my thighs , like quite
too hard it brings me pain

I know he hates me , he doesn't
want me here

He's made that clear but did he
have to kill me like this ?

Sanele : fuck ! And the village
whore is a virgin

He's pleased with himself

So he doesn't even feel a tiny
guilty ?

There's no slight remorse to
him

Sanele : I've never had a virgin ,
fuck ! Baby you're so nice ohh
shit

I close my mouth as he moves
back , just ponding in inside of
me

It's no use crying , I tried
pleading

Maybe I didn't try enough

Even crying right now doesn't
matter

I just stare at his face , as he's
feeling all these emotions

His face changing expressions
and all

He's even sweating , his deep
grunts and groans fill this room

The smell of alcohol , it's just a
mess

His breath is stinking a bit yes

Tears are just streaming down
the sides of my face

I feel the sheets are wet , I
don't know wether it's my
blood or what

My lower body feels like it's on
fire

I cannot explain the pain I feel
down there

And he's just pounding in ,
having the best time of his life

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Sanele

I have a pounding headache

I open my eyes slowly

It feels like I've been hit by a
truck

The light just blinds my eyes for
that brief moment

I rub them slowly , and try
sitting up

It's the sound of the bed , and
I'm like this is not my bed

I look around , and for a second
I was lost

Until I catch on that I'm in the
cottage

Me : what the fuck ?

What am I doing in here ?

I look besides me , and there's
no one

I try remembering what
happened , but nothing comes
to mind

I'm naked yes

And I'm asking myself if I slept
in here

Me : uhmEnhle !

I call her out , my voice is very
hoarse

We must have really gotten
drunk last night

Oh yeah !.

I was at club Venice with
Sandile , and then from there I
got an Uber home

I even left my car at the club

And then I got home , but why I'm in here doesn't make sense

Why would I come to the cottage instead of the main house ?

I get off the bed slowly , seeing that she's not come in anywhere

I thought maybe she's in the bathroom , but clearly not

I pick up my briefs from the floor putting them on

And I pull up my pants , like what the fuck happened ?

I threw my clothes on the floor , like I'm some insane person

I pat for my phone , but I can't
find it

I look on the bed rest it's not
there

Even on the night stand

Me : fuck !

I'm sure Lee must have called
me , and she's going out of her
mind right now

Probably thinking I'm cheating

I pull the sheets off the bed

And my jaw drops just seeing
the blood on the sheets , even
the duvet is stained

Like this is a lot of blood , it's not stains . But it's a pool of blood

Me : oh shit !

I place my hands on my head

Looking down myself , now I can see the blood on my thighs it's just slightly visible

That I didn't even notice when I
was getting dressed

I stand still on my feet , just
looking on the bed

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INSERT 09

Ndaloenhle

I woke up , well more like just
decided to finally get my dead
body off the bed

And he was still snoring there
next to me

That just shows how peaceful
he slept

When I cried the whole night
until morning , right next to him
and he didn't even care

I took a shower , got dressed in
my rags I arrived to their home
with . I didn't even want their
clothes on me

As I walked out , and headed
past the main house . The plan
was just getting out , to open
the gate

His whole family was walking in

The parents and the brothers

They took that chance from me
to run away , and never look
back

Sanele has been awkward
towards me , the past month I
noticed that

But I didn't think he would hurt
me like that

I never even thought about it

I guess that serves me right and
my stupidity

Maybe I should have run away
earlier when he started
changing

Now I'm just some damaged
goods , and I'll definitely never
amount to anything in this
world ever again

Or to anyone

We're sitting in the lounge

I couldn't leave , because of
these people who just arrived
here

Athi : Enhle are you okay ?

I look at him , not sure what to
say

Athi : waitwhat happened to
you ?

I keep my head down

He tilts my face and I face him ,
and there's gasps from his
family

But he doesn't seem to care
about them

Athi : what the he hurt you ?

He's getting angry

Or is it just me ?

It's clear , I'm a very bad judge
of character

Voice : Enhle

I look at him , he looks like he
came in running

My heart beating so fast like
it'll just fall out of my chest

He looks at his family , but
quickly darts his attention to
him

Me : II didn't call anyone

I says shaking my head , my
voice is trembling I'm scared to
death right now

He goes down on his knees
with tears streaming down his
face

Sanele : I am so sorry , please
forgive meI'm so sorry , I
don'tI have no excuseI.....

I'm shocked as he just burst out
into a sob

Mrs Magwaza : what is
happening here ?

Within a split second Athi is up
and on his feet , and right next
to Sanele

He picks him up with his neck

Their mother screams , it's just
a lot of commotion

I think I lose myself into it , and
only come to when Mrs
Magwaza screams even more
her screams echoing in this
lounge

I look over and Athi has Sanele
down on the floor , and he's
beating him

All I see is just blood on white
tiles

His father is sitting down like
nothing is happening

Senzo is trying to get Athi off of
Senzo

Athi : you're a rapist now !

He roars on top of Sanele ,
more blood is just flowing

I don't know where I get the strength , but I'm up and off the couch

I'm headed out the door , and to my luck the gate is opened

I'm limping , and just dragging myself to get to that gate

I'm praying and hoping that no one follows me out

I get out , looking up and down
the street

I don't know which way is
which

I've never left this house

I go down , not knowing where
it's going to lead me

But I'll rather not be near that
house

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Sanele

I open my eyes , and it's not
happening

I feel like shit , worse than how
that hangover felt like

I finally open my eyes , or
should I say eye

Because the right one , is
completely shut

I feel like my face is swollen ,
definitely my lips are

I cough , and it feels like my
insides are tearing up

Voice : are you an animal now
Sanele ?

Definitely that's my mother's
voice , and it doesn't sound
pleasing

I move the eye that can barely
see

Me : I....

My throat is so dry , I doubt I
can utter anything right now

Mom : I cried because I'm a
mother , but trust me . From
today , you're no son mine

I just see a figure passing , and
her fragrance is left behind

And I know it was her going out
, leaving

But where the fuck am I ?

This is not a hospital , I'm not hearing any machines beeping

For a while it's just quite in here , and I can't even move shit

I'm thirsty , but I guess no one is here to help me

It doesn't even feel like I've been given anything to numb

the pain , I feel it and it's
shooting through my whole
body

Vividly it all comes back

What happened last night with
Enhle

I hurt her , I hurt her so bad

The sheets were covered in her
blood

Tears stream down my face

How the fuck did I get to do
that shit to her ?

I close my eyes , and her cries
and screams along with pleas
grace my ears

Its so excruciating

And I caused her all of that

I was drunk yes , but not to that
insane point

Maybe my lust for her got the
better of me , and I just
couldn't handle myself

But that's no fucking excuse

I'm a lot of shit yes

I can't deny that , but now I've
added rapist to the matter

I remember the panic when I
saw her sheets

And I ran out to the main house
calling her out

Seeing my family there , and
her tearing up like that in front
of them

The fear that was in her eyes ,
as she looked at me walking in
that lounge room

Athi

He got pissed , so pissed that
he just lost it on me

He sure did do a number on me

After this , I don't think
anything will ever be the same
ever again

Even with my family

My mother's words , those
sounded like she's done with
me

I know for a fact my father is
going to fuck me up

If I think Athi did anything to
me

I haven't seen anything , nor
felt anything yet

I fucked up !.

I fucked up so bad , and I wish I
knew why

Or why I did the fuck that I did

Could I have just been so
influenced by words from
Sandile ?

When he said she's my wife
and I should just fuck her , she's
ought to give it to me

But no !

I can't be that weak

I acted on my own , and I can't even blame anyone for my shit

No one forced me right ? Like there was no one who even helped me

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INSERT 10

Sanele

Senzo : what happened ?

I'm in my house

In one of the rooms downstairs

That's where they've put me ,
after that beating from Athi

I've been left alone overnight

With no one watching me , or
helping me with anything

Senzo walked in here , and
today I feel slightly better

Me : I was drunk

Senzo : that's no excuse

Me : I know

Senzo : do you have any idea
what you have done ?

Me : yes

I try and sit up , feeling the pain
shoots up through my whole
body

Me : Iwhere is she ?

Senzo : why are you even asking about her ?

Me : I justplease

He sighs

Senzo : we don't know

Me : what do you mean ?

Senzo : she left while Athi was
beating you , we don't know
where she is

Me : since yesterday ?

Senzo : yes

I panic a bit

Me : she doesn't know anyone
here , she could be anywhere .

And what if something happens
to her

Senzo : something already
happened to her

Me : you know what I mean ,
Joburg is a dangerous place

Senzo : clearly

Fuck !

No one is ever going to let this
go

Senzo : honestly , Athi beat you
very lightly for what you've
done

Me : you can't blame me , nor
hate me more than I already
hate myself . But right now ,
you have to help me find her

Senzo : you chased her away ,
you never wanted her to begin
with . She's gone , let her be .
There was no need for you to
hurt her like that , so she can
leave you alone

He turns around and walks out

Me : Senzo !

I call out , but I guess he's gone

I slowly get off the bed , I don't
know how I'm going to drive
being in pain like this

But I'll just have to make do

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Bantu

Me : you don't look okay

He sighs downing his 5th beer

Me : if you're in shit , and you need help I can't do anything unless you talk

He looks at me

And he's angry , I know this look and it's not good

Me : what happened ?

Athi : your so called friend
happened

Me : what did he do ?

He sighs rubbing his head

Athi : hefuck !

He shakes his head , with a very
deep heavy sigh

Me : okay , I think this has nothing to do with you . So if it's Sanele and his shit , I'm not getting involved . Even if he needs saving

Athi : I need another beer

Me : okay , now you're going to get drunk

Athi : right now , I need it .

Before I kill my brother with my own handshe fucked up bad

Whatever he did must have been big , Athi doesn't get angry easily

And he missed work yesterday

I'd hate to fire him

So whatever shit is going on
with him , he better get it
under control

We might be friends

But Athi is my boy , he's who I
got and not Sanele

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Sanele

Joburg is a big city

And there's only so much
where I can go

And without any help , I don't
think I'll find her anytime soon

I get out of my car , and walk
inside limping as I am

The police officer looks at me

Me : can I please speak to
anyone who's in charge

Him : what happened ?

I shake my head

Me : I'm not here about myself
, I need help

Him : what kind of help ?

Me : II need help finding a woman who was raped . She's been missing since yesterday , and she doesn't know anyone around here

Him : uhmlet me call someone for you

He walks away , I'm on my feet until after a few minutes another officer comes

Him : Detective Mabusa

He holds his hand out , I shake
it

Mabusa : please , follow me
this way

We walk through the corridor ,
until we reach the office

It's his I guess

Mabusa : take a seat

I sit down as he pulls his chair
and sits down

Mabusa : let's start by with
your name

Me : Sanele Magwaza

Mabusa : Njinji , so you're saying what happened ?

Me : II need help looking for ...

I sigh

Mabusa : take your time , what happened to you ?

Me : my brother beat me

Mabusa : oh ? Is he the one who hurt the woman you say you're looking for ?

Me : no , look I've been looking for her all day . They said she left yesterday , and no one knows where she is . She's from some village , she's new here and doesn't know anyone besides me and my family

Mabusa : and how do you know this woman ? What is she to you and your family ?

Me : she's mymy wife

Mabusa : you're loosing me

Me : it's an arranged marriage , her name is Ndaloenhle . I'm not entirely sure about her surname , I never took the time

to know her to that extent .
Cause I didn't want her

Mabusa : the officer said , you
said she was raped ?

Me : yes

Mabusa : by who ?

I look down

Me : me

Mabusa : what ?

Me : I don't know how this happened , but I admit I did it .
I'm the one who raped her , she ran away when my brother was beating me up

Tears burn my eyes , but now is not the time

Mabusa : do you understand that you've just admitted to committing a crime ?

Me : yes , I will take my crime and be held accountable. I'll face the consequences , I don't care about that . But please , just go out there and look for her . I can't do it on my own , she must be lost right now

He sighs

Mabusa : who can attest to this
?

Me : my family

Mabusa : we have to find her ,
because without her opening a
case we can't charge you for
this rape story

Me : it's not a story , and I'm admitting to it . You can ask my family , and they can attest to it then you can charge me . But please just go find her

Mabusa : it doesn't work like that , and I'm going to need more details about her . For now , I'm taking you to your family . I'll hear their side

He gets up

Mabusa : were they there when
all this happened ?

Me : no , but they came in the
morning

He shakes his head

Mabusa : let's go

I get up and we walk out

Me : I came with my car

Mabusa : it's okay , drive ahead
of us . I'm taking two officers
with

I nod walking out to my car , as
he calls out two officers

I get it my car , and they take
the police van

They follow me as I drive out to
my parents home

We arrive , and they follow
through

We park and get out of the cars

I knock on the door , Athi opens
and his eyes are bloodshot red

Athi : you came for a finish ?

Me : II'm not alone

Athi : and you think cops will protect you against me ?

Mabusa : sorry sir , I'm detective Mabusa . We're here with your brother I believe , to acquire about something

He makes way , and they walk
in

We sit down , as everyone is
looking at us

Me : II heard Enhle is gone ,
and I've been driving around
looking for her . But Joburg is
big , and I know alone I won't
find her soon . I went to the
police to ask for help , and I
told them what happened

Athi : what happened ?

He's still angry to say the least

Me : the rape

They all go quite

Me : the police can't charge me
, because she's not here . But
all of you here know what

happened , they just need you to attest to that . And I'll be kept in police custody , until they can find her

Mabusa : until we have a case from her

Mxm !

What more case does he need ?

Dad : we don't know what
you're talking about

Me : dadwhat ?

They all go quite

I'm just dumbfounded like what
the fuck is going on ? Like what
does he mean they don't know
what I'm talking about ?

What are they talking about ?
Because they were there , I
even got a beating because of it

Me : dad !

He says nothing

Me : but you guys were there ,
you even beat me up for it

He chuckles

Me : what's going on here ?

Athi : you're not making sense ,
like none at all

Me : and this doesn't make
sense as well , the way I look all
because of you . Tell me that
you didn't beat me , because I
raped Enhle

Athi : sure I beat you , but
brother's fight all the time . It
was just that

Are they really refusing
everything that happened ?

What am I missing here ?
Because I know they would
never protect me

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INSERT 11

TWO MONTHS LATER

Sanele

I am just a mess

I haven't been myself , I'm
sleeping less

I've even lost weight

It feels like the walls are just
closing in

Like I'm loosing touch with
reality

I can't get rid of the screams
and cries from that night

And every single night , it's like
they get clearer and much
more intense than the last

Lee can see I'm not okay , and I
can't even tell her what
happened

Everyone at home is just acting
like it didn't happen

The cops ended up not doing
anything , nor arresting me

And since we knew nothing
much about Enhle

They said there isn't much they
can do to find her

They said if she really doesn't
know Joburg as well as we said

And doesn't know anyone ,
then she will come back

But she hasn't even today

We didn't even have a picture
of her , that would have helped
a lot even for a missing
person's poster

So till today , no one knows
where she is

If she's still okay , or still lives

It's like she's just disappeared
off the face of the earth

The relationship with my family
is no longer the same

Senzo has distanced himself
from me

Athi doesn't talk with me ,
more like he's just cut me off

He doesn't want me anywhere
near his wife and daughter

It hurts

But then I can't say I blame him

I haven't seen the guys , I
haven't spoken with all of them

I haven't told them what
happened , so they still don't
know anything

I fear what Bantu will say ,
because he long told me to kick
Enhle out

It didn't have to get to where it
got

My mother barely says two
words to me

One thing I know , my father is
one person who will never
overlook what I did

The fact that he didn't say
nothing , or do anything

Doesn't mean it's over for him

I don't know , maybe he blames himself

Because he's the one who brought Enhle to us

But I know for a fact that he's going to fuck me up for what I did

I've been trying , to find her

Asking anyone , I can on the
streets

But without a picture , it's hard

I even drove down to the
village , but she didn't go back
there

And the aunt didn't care much ,
she wasn't bothered that she's
missing at all

She said she's just acting out ,
but once poverty hits her she'll
come back crawling

I guess she was just saying ,
because she doesn't know what
really happened here

I do feel like she's haunting me

I have no peace

Qoli : you have that meeting in
Joburg

Me : oh yeah , I'll go there after
lunch

Qoli : alright

The door opens Lee walks in

Qoli : I'll take my leave

She gets up and walks out

They greet each other , she
closes the door

Lee comes to my side , and she
sits down on the desk

Me : nice surprise

She smiles

Lee : I'm worried about you

Me : I told you I'm fine

Lee : babe , don't you think you should see a psychologist ?

I laugh

Me : for what ?

Lee : the nightmares , you
never even tell me anything
about them

Me : everyone gets nightmares

Lee : but not every night , you
don't even look like yourself
right now

Me : babe please , I'm fine
really . This will pass , it won't
be a forever thing

She sighs

Me : if it gets too much , I'll go
see a doctor

Lee : it's been two months ,
trust me it's too much

I hold her hand

Me : just be with me , and I'll
be fine

Lee : fine

I chuckle

Me : give me a kiss

She leans towards me , and we
kiss

Lee : let's do lunch

Me : we might as well , I have a
meeting after

Lee : alright

She gets off the desk , I get up
grabbing my jacket

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Bantu

Mvezo : Uve is going to have a
baby sister

I look at him

Me : what ?

Mvezo : his mother is having a
baby

I frown

Me : who told you that ?

Mvezo : Uve did

Me : oh

Mvezo : he's very happy

He puts the pencil down

Mvezo : will he still be my
friend ?

Me : why wouldn't he be ?

Mvezo : because the baby will
be his friend now

I chuckle

Me : it'll be a while before
Uvelile can play with the baby ,
so he will be your friend

Mvezo : okay

He goes back to his drawing

I guess he's worried now the
baby is taking his friend away
from him

But I'm glad he's gotten used to
Grace not being here

It doesn't look like she's going
to come back

Her three months has long
passed

But Sophie is doing well , so
we're fine

I spend more time home
though , because I haven't
gotten used to her that well

For her to watch Mvezo

Hence I haven't seen the guys
in a while

Athi never got to tell me exactly
what was bothering him with
Sanele

I never even asked Sanele about it , we haven't gotten together in a while

But I've noticed , that even he's not himself

But if people want you to know about their things , then they'll tell you

So since he hasn't said anything
, I opted not to ask anything
either

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INSERT 12

Sanele

The away the rank tends to be full of people and all kinds of things

And this guy just chose to have the meeting there

All because he wants to eat
rank food

I'm not parking my car there

I'll just park here , and take the
walk there

It won't be much of a walk

I get out of the car , and take
the walk

But as I pass through the slight
passage , I hear a scream

And it's a voice of a woman

I try and ignore it , but
something in me doesn't let me

I check my wrist watch

Me : fuck !

I'll be late for this meeting now

I head towards it , as the
scream even gets much worse

It's slightly dark , but I see the
guy struggling with the girl

And she's fighting him , but he's
clearly stronger like he is

They look like some street kids

Her : ndiyacela ungandilimazi
(please don't hurt)

The voice !

I know this voice

I rush towards them

Me : hey !

He gets startled and looks at me

Me : let her go

Out of nowhere he takes out a gun and points it at me

And he fires the shot , not giving me a chance to even duck

I hold my shoulder , and he
runs off

I look at her , and she's backed
against the corner crying

It doesn't even look like her

It's clear she's been living on
the streets

Me : pleasecall an
ambulance

I go down on my knees , not
being able to contain the pain
longer

I reach in my pocket , taking
out my phone

And it's then she rushes to me ,
and takes the phone

Enhle : the number

She's shaking , and still crying

I call it out , as I slowly go down

Me : I'm ...so sorry , about

She moves back talking on the
phone

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Ndaloenhle

Not this guy !

Is this some kind of a curse or
what ?

He might have saved me from
getting raped

But if he dies here it'll be all on
me

I screamed and called out for help

Seeing the ambulance was talking longer to come

But now I find myself in police custody

All because the police said I'm the one who shot him

It must have been me , clearly I
wanted money from him

It doesn't even make sense ,
how I would lure him into that
passage

A man of a statue , and a
beggar like myself

How do I even overpower him ?

I tried pleading , but they didn't
want to hear anything from me

I pray and hope he lives , just so
I don't go down for his murder

I know he wouldn't care to
clear my name up

But I pray and hope he lives

As dirty as I am , and filthy and
all

This cell even feels so much
worse , it's worse than under
the bridge

After running away from that
house , I had nowhere to go

And under bridge that's where I
ended up

I've been living on the streets
ever since

There was no going back to the
village

With what money and means ?

I had just made peace with my
situation

Even if I died on the streets
there , it wouldn't have
mattered for me

I kept to myself there under the
bridge , that's where I was at
most times

Today I had just gone roaming
around , when I bumped into
that guy

And he dragged me there into
that passage

I knew he was going to rape me

I guess I've been very lucky to
say the least , being on the
streets for months

And no guy has ever seen the
need to help himself with my
body

Until today

And Sanele just had to rock up
there playing hero

And now he's shot , I'm in jail

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Bantu

Me : what ?

Athi : he's been shot

Me : by who ?

Athi : I don't know , and I don't care . I left as my father was on that call

I chuckle

Me : so you don't care that your brother is shot ?

Athi : I don't care about him

Me : what did Sanele do to get
to you like this ?

I just have to ask now

Cause clearly there's a rift there

Athi : you don't want to know
what he did

Me : indulge me

He sighs

Athi : did he tell you he was
dealt a wife ?

Me : mhm , what's her name
again ?

I don't even know her name

Athi : Ndaloenhle

Me : yeah , I've met her like
twice

Athi : she's been missing for
two months

I get off my chair

Me : where is she ? Did she run
away ?

I haven't kept much in contact
with Sanele

Athi : she ran away

Me : from his abuse ? And not
being acknowledged as a wife
there , with that skinny Lee
roaming around . Being thrown
in her face , and she was called
a maid

He goes quite

I guess I'm very much wrong

Me : what did he do ?

Athi : he raped her

I feel the room just coming to a
stand still

Athi : we fought , more like I
beat him . But she left , and we
have no idea where she is

My veins are popping , I feel
like my head will burst

I can't even contain my
breathing

Athi : he fucked up big time , so
even if whoever shot him had

killed him I wouldn't care . That
girl will never be same again ,
after what he did to her

I drop the call grabbing my car
keys

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INSERT 13

Sanele

I woke up , and I was in hospital

Lucky thing , the bullet didn't
do much damage

It was just on my shoulder

It's nothing to cry about

Even though now I have a cast ,
but it doesn't matter

Lee : babe what happened ? I
thought you had a meeting ,
what were you doing in that
filthy place ?

I sigh

Me : I

I can't take that picture of her
out of my mind

I kept saying she was dirty and
all when she moved here

But fuck !

What I saw broke me in a way ,
because I know she's like that
because of me

If I didn't rape her , she
wouldn't have run away and
went on to become a street kid

It's all my fault

Me : I need to go

Lee : what ?

Me : get the doctor to
discharge me

Lee : are you out of your mind
right now ?

Me : no

Lee : where are you rushing to
?

I need to go back there , even if
she's not in that passage
anymore

But I need to go back there ,
I'm sure I'll find something

Or someone will know
somethingn

I need to find her

I just have to , I can't sit in this hospital while she's out there like that

Lee : the day you're ready to tell me what's wrong with you . You'll know where to find me

She grabs her bag and walks out , clearly annoyed

Unfortunately I can't tell her
anything

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Ndaloenhle

Second day in here , and I feel like I'm loosing my mind

These women in here are scary , and they look like they can kill anyone

I'm so scared

Trying to keep to myself , and
not stand on anyone's toes

I swear , it feels like I'm going
to be stuck in here

Who's going to come and take
me out ?

Like that person will be coming
from where ?

When the day began , I thought
maybe they'll have mercy and
let me out of here . Realised
they made a mistake

But no one has come

I guess those cops , really have
made their minds that I shot
Sanele

He probably won't care to even
tell the truth

Just as long as I'm away from
him , and I'm no longer a thorn
in his life

It's times like this I wish I had a
family

A mother or father even
siblings

But I don't even know my own
parents

My aunt always said they're
dead , I don't know how true
that is

Because even if what people
said is true , then my parents
didn't even want me

I'm just a curse to be honest

And I just seem to attract
trouble wherever I am

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Sanele

I'm discharging myself

The day has gone by , and now I
can't go back there cause it's
late

I guess I'll have to go tomorrow

I'll spend the whole day in
Joburg CBD if I must , just to
hear anything

I just have to find her , by all
means

The door opens , and I must say
I'm shocked seeing him here

And he looks calm as always ,
with that dark aura of his

I chuckle as he walks over

Me : they told you I caught a
stray bullet ?

He just stares without saying
anything

I sigh

Me : you'll probably hate me right now after hearing this , I fucked up . Enhle left , and I found out she's been living on the streets I guess for two months now . I was trying to rescue her , from some other street kid . And he shot me , now I want to be out of here and go out there to find her . I feel like shit , seeing her like

Out of nowhere , I'm brought
to as I feel him grabbing me by
my neck

I don't even know when he got
to me

Me : Ba.....

With force , he just bashes me
against the machine next to the
bed

My head hitting hard on it , I
close my eyes feeling the sting
pain . Like my head is splitting
into half

He grabs me back , only to bash
me against it again

I try pushing him off , letting a
grunt

As if I've made him worse , he
grabs my head

I see the blood on the machine

And no doubt it's my blood
from my head

Me : fuck man !you're
hurting me

I'm on the floor , and he's on top of me throwing punch after punch

I thought Athi fucked me up , but fuck !

He did nothing like this

Bantu is giving it to me , he's on a mission to kill me

I spit and cough countless times
, as blood just comes out of my
mouth

And he's on my face with
punches

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Bantu

I feel someone pulling me , I get
up throwing a punch

Darting my eyes , I see it's the
doctor

He touches his cheek , coming
with blood from his lip

Me : don't fucking put your
hands on me , you don't know
me like that

He moves back , right on the
floor raising his hands

Doc : siryou'll kill him ,
please this is a hospital and

Me : don't fucking insult me

I stand over Sanele , his face is
swollen , both his eyes shut

He's bleeding everywhere on
his face

I crouch down grabbing his jaw
, he lets out a scream

Me : you fucking better pray
that I find her , or else you
won't live to see tonight

I move back

Me : this is fucking far from
being over , mark my words
boy you don't know me . And

you messed with the wrong
woman

I turn heading for the door , my
knuckles are full of his blood

And it's just getting me stares ,
but I don't care

I take out my phone sending
out a message

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INSERT 14

Bantu

Me : I need you to please watch
Mvezo for me , I'm going out

It's like 21:00

And I feel bad , because Sophie
should have long left

But she couldn't leave because
I was nowhere being home , at
her knockoff time

Sophie : okay , not a problem

Me : please , use any of the
rooms

I know she won't go anywhere
near mine

Me : I'll try and make it early in
the morning

Sophie : not a problem

I jog upstairs to his room , and
he's already in bed

Me : hey buddy

Mvezo : Tata (dad)

Me : Sophie is going to sleep
here and watch you okay ?

Mvezo : you're leaving ?

Me : yes , daddy has to go and find his friend . She's missing

Mvezo : okay , I hope you find her

I lean down and place a peck on his forehead

Me : thank you , I will find her

Mvezo : I won't bother Sophie ,
I'll be a good boy

I chuckle

Me : I know you will be , I'll be
here in the morning and I'll
take you to school

Mvezo : okay

Me : I love you

Mvezo : I love you

I tuck him in getting off his bed

I walk out and head downstairs

Me : I'm leaving

She nods

I walk out getting into my car ,
as my phone rings

Me : yeah

I answer driving out

Teko : I have a guy here , at
MTN taxi rank . He seems to
know something

Me : I'm on my way

I drop the call

I could let him get whatever he can , but best I do it myself

I'm not going anywhere until I find her this night

I drive in high speed , headed to MTN rank

I park my car a bit further and
walk by foot

And he's with Athi

I had to call all my guys into the
streets tonight

There's no rest until she's
found

Teko : tell him what you told us

I look at the guy , and he sure does look like he lives on the streets

Him : sheshe was taken by the police

Athi : what ?

Him : they said she shot the fancy guy

Athi : what exactly happened there ?

Him : II don't know , I wasn't anywhere near . I only went when I saw a group of people , they said she was crying and called for help . The guy was laying on the ground bleeding , looking like he was shot

Me : police stations now

Teko : on it , let me get the
crew

He walks further from us taking
out his phone

Athi : can they keep her in jail
for two days ? I mean isn't that
insane ?

Me : cops are idiots , they're
capable of doing everything
except their job

Teko walks back

Teko : I've sent word

Me : if we don't find her
anywhere in these police
stations , boy you better
believe we'll be back . You can't

hide nor run from us , we'll find
you

Him : I swear , I didn't do
anything . I only even know her
, because I know she used to
stay under the bridge . And was
alone most of the time

My heart sinks , but I can't
afford to fall apart

Not right now , not before I find
her

Me : let's go

I say to the guys

Teko : I'll call if there's anything

Athi : I'm leaving with Bantu

We part ways as we head to my
car

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Ndaloenhle

I can't even close my eyes to
sleep

Just how terrified I am

And this place reeks

In the afternoon some big
coloured woman was brought
in here

She looks even worse than the
other three

I don't see myself out of here

I've even tried praying , I don't
know which God because I'm
clueless about these things

I just want to be out of here ,
these four walls will drive me
crazy . Like nothing matters to
me right now , like getting out

The more time I spend in here ,
not knowing what's going on

The less of a miracle happening
I'll have

I'm startled feeling the jacket
I'm covering myself with move

They've taken the small blanket
I had

And I just grabbed this jacket ,
because we found it in here

Whoever it is , places her hand
on my boob

I turn quickly , remembering
that ordeal with Sanele

And what almost happened
with that guy

And it's the coloured woman

Me : please don't hurt me

I say with tears already
streaming down my face

Her : scream and I will snap
your neck

She places her hand over my
mouth , and she's really
pressing me down

Her : I'm going to please myself
with you , you're really some
fresh meat . Except that you
stink , but pussy is pussy

She says licking her lips

Wasn't it enough that a man
already took my body , and did
whatever he pleased

And now this woman is about
to have the same pleasure with
me

Like what wrong did I do ?

She grabs my thigh with her rough hand , I shake my head viciously

Her : you're a little fighter huh ?

She laughs

Her : I'm going to

She moves back hearing
footsteps approaching

I'm off the floor in a second ,
standing on my feet

Tears just streaming down my
face

Lights go on

And a police officer shows up by
the burglar

Him : youcome here

He says at me

Him : I don't have all night

I move slowly towards the door
, tears blurring my eyes

But I can't help and just think
the worst

What if he also wants to hurt
me ?

He opens the door , and I walk
out

Him : let's go

I just follow behind him , not even knowing where we are going . But I just follow suit , trying to stop my tears

We enter a room , and I almost scream my lungs out seeing Bantu with Athi

But the fear in me , doesn't let me

What if they're here to make
sure I rot in jail ?

I'm sure they've heard that I
supposedly shot Sanele

I stand still on my tracks , not
knowing what's what

I swear a drop of pee comes
out as Bantu walks towards me

I thought Magwaza was scary

But there's something about
this man , it's like he walks with
shadows

That's just how heavy he is

That's why I never kept contact
much with him , those two
times he came at the house

Me : I swearI didn't shoot
himIit wasn't me

I close my eyes feeling my chest
closing up , and I'm loosing my
breath

I let out a slight scream as I feel
his arms around me

This must be a dream , he
cannot be hugging me

I'm dirty , I stink so bad . Even I
wouldn't hug myself

I'm wearing a torn and worn
out dress , with flip flops that
have holes

He cannot be hugging me , but I
just find myself breaking down
in his arms

And he has me so tight , he's
not letting go even when I try
moving back

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INSERT 15

Bantu

Athi can't even bare to look at her in the state that she's in

Sanele would be having great ancestors , if he doesn't feel ten times worse the fucking pain he put her through

I wipe her tears

Me : go in the car with Athi ,
I'm coming in two minutes

She looks at me shocked , but
scared at the same time

Me : he's not going to hurt you
I promise

Enhle : I'mI'm leaving ?

Me : I'm not leaving you here

She clearly doesn't believe me

Athi : let's go

He says walking towards her

She looks at me one more time
and turns walking out with him

Me : listen here , I don't know what kind of a fuckery you run around here Mabusa . But you're going to pay for that shit

Mabusa : Dzedze , I had no idea about this arrest

Me : is this not your station ?

He keeps quite

Me : and your fucking cops ,
they give me run-arounds .
Trying to act all clever with me ,
do whisper to them who the
fuck I am

He leans against the wall

Mabusa : wewe don't have
to make a war out of this

Me : it's already war

I walk past him going out

I get to the parking lot

I find Athi leaning against the
car

He must have known she won't
be comfortable being in the car
with him alone

Me : let's go

He gets in the back seat , and I
get on the driver's seat

She's sitting in the front , I
know Athi must have insisted
on it

I drive off

Athi : my car is with Teko , he's
told the guys to back off .
They've left the stations

Me : tell him to come to the
house

He nods pressing his phone

We arrive at my place , and
Teko has already arrived

He's parked by the gate , Athi
gets off and walks to him

I drive in , I'll see them
tomorrow

I park by the driveway , and get
off opening the door for her

We walk inside the house , and
the lights are on

They're never off , Mvezo is
scared of the dark

Me : what do you want to eat ?

It's like it hasn't sinked in yet ,
that she's out of that place

I know it'll take a while with her

So I need to exercise that
patience when it comes to her

Me : anything you want , I'll
make it

Enhle : can I please bath ?

I nod

Me : come

We walk upstairs to my room

She might be uncomfortable ,
but I don't know which room
Sophie slept in

I don't want to open a room ,
and see the woman sleeping in
there

We get in , and I know my
clothes probably will be small
to her

But I'm sure she can pull
sweatpants

And she's definitely lost weight
, from when I first saw her

Me : let me run you a bath

I walk to the bathroom and run
a bath for her

I call her in

Me : I'll put clothes for you on the bed , and things to lotion

She says nothing I walk out of the bathroom

And head to my closet , taking out sweatpants and a t-shirt for her along with my briefs and half socks

I go down to see what I can
make her to eat , even if she
doesn't want to eat

I'll offer her food

I make a sandwich , it's the
least I can do

I head back upstairs , and
minutes go by she doesn't
come out

Me : fuck !

She better not be drowning
herself in there

I will fucking kill her dead self

I walk in , and she's in the
bathtub scrubbing crying

And she's even bleeding

I approach , and touching her
hands she looks at me

All of that anger just disappears

Me : you're hurting yourself

I take the scrub from her

And she just breaks down , I
swear it's the most painful

Like there's no cry that's painful
like a silent cry

It's like all emotions are just
being poured out , and even
your heart fucking feels the
pain like literally

I know she's hurting , and bits
by bits it'll get to her

I pull her out of the bathtub ,
and grab a towel

Walking to the bedroom

Right now , she will just have to
let me do this

I dry her using the towel , her
arms and thighs are bleeding
slightly

I take the lotion , and lotion her

And take the clothes , I dress
her up

Me : please eat

She shakes her head

Either she doesn't want to , or
she's just feeling somehow
right now

Which is understandable

And it's fucking middle of the
night

I'm sure she's even tired , it has
been a long day and night

So I won't force her to eat , just
for tonight

Cause even I'm drained , driving through Joburg looking for her

Going from police station to police station

That was the 3rd one Athi and I went to , where we found her

The guys had gone looking to other police stations

We weren't even leaving
Pretoria out , some went
through that side

Cause we had no idea which
cops took her and where

It was a draining search

Even though I wish I knew
earlier about all of this

She wouldn't have spent
months living on the streets

And mostly definitely , she
wouldn't have been in jail for
two days

I know what holding cells can
do to one

You basically just do feel like a
prisoner

The fact that you're kept at
court , in just holding cells

It doesn't erase anything

It still feels like a fucking prison
, she shouldn't have go through
all of that

I open the sheets for her

Me : get into bed

She says nothing wiping her tears , and she gets into bed

I cover her , tucking her in

Me : did they hurt you in there
?

I just have to know , that place
is just infested with twisted

people . And anyone can take
an advantage of anyone

Enhle : she tried ...but I was
called out

It comes out as a whisper

I walk back to the bathroom ,
draining the water from the
bathtub

I wipe some of it that dripped down , when I carried her out

I sit around in the bedroom , for almost two hours

And the sniffs are completely over , and I know she's cried herself to sleep

I walk out , leaving the door opened

I head down , and get in the
lounge

Just as I am , I just throw myself
on the couch

Closing my eyes

I don't even bother for a
shower , or even taking my
shoes off

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INSERT 16

Bantu

I open my eyes

And I'm up because Sophie
walked in the kitchen

I'm a very light sleeper , any
kind of movement around me

And I can't sleep

I get off the couch , my back is slightly hurting

I walk in the kitchen , we greet each other

Me : thank you for staying in last night , and once again I'm really sorry

Sophie : no it's okay

I nod heading out

I walk to Mvezo's bedroom ,
and he's still asleep

I sit down on the bed and wake
him up

Mvezo : morning dad

Me : morning

He sits up

Mvezo : I'm going to school ?

I chuckle

Me : yes it's that time

Mvezo : okay

I get off his bed

Me : please , don't go into my room . Even if you need me , just call out

He frowns

Mvezo : is your friend okay ?

Me : mhm ?

Mvezo : you said your friend is missing

Me : oh yes she's okay

Mvezo : you found her ?

Me : I did yes , and that's why you can't go in my room . She's in there , and she's okay yes because she's not hurt . But she doesn't feel well

Mvezo : okay

Me : go pee and brush your
teeth , so we can make the bed

He gets up and walks to the
bathroom

I have meet with Athi and Teko

But then again I don't want to
leave her alone

Maybe they can come over
here

I guess I'll be missing the office
for a few days

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Ndaloenhle

I open my eyes slowly and look
around

The place is unfamiliar , but it's definitely not a jail cell

The memory of last night , just plays right in front of me

I close my eyes taking a deep breath

I'm lost still , like what was that ?

Did Bantu really come to my rescue , and attend to me like he did when we got here?

I could be dreaming , but I'm wide awake

Now what ?

Where to ?

Is it maybe safe to find ways to
go back to the village

I mean clearly this place is just
not for me

I heave a sigh , taking a deep
breath

I don't remember when last I
slept on a bed

I know I must get up , and get
out of this house

But a few more minutes sleep ,
it won't hurt anyone

And I'll need this rest , trying to
go back to the village

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Bantu

I dropped Mvezo at school

I have files to grab at the office

But the guys were already at
my place

So I came back

I'll head to the office , maybe
before I fetch Mvezo

Me : uhm ...I have a visitor ,
she's in my room . Please make
her something to eat , and take
it to her . I'll rather that she's
not disturbed , I'm sure she
plans on sleeping the whole of
today

Sophie : anything specific I
should make ?

Me : no , just anything

Sophie : alright

Me : I'm going out for 30
minutes

Sophie : okay sir

I grab my car keys and walk out

The guys are standing outside ,
leaning by Teko's car

Me : did you find him ?

Teko : drove passed MTN , and
he's there

Me : I'll say , give him money .
But he'll probably waste those
thousands on drugs , get him
cleaned and keep him with the
guys

Teko : alright , I'll drag him to rehab if I have to . But he'll go

I nod

That guy came through for us , and if he didn't tell us the police took her

We probably would have still not found her even now

I'll rather he gets clean , and I'll
give him a job

He'll have something to live for

Teko : let me get going

We get into our cars , he drives
out first . I'm with Athi

I drive out to the hospital

Athi : we're here to provoke
people

I chuckle

I can't be out long , I have to go
back home

We get out of the car , parking
by the gate

And there's security at the door

And spotting me , he's just quick to walk towards us

Him : sir you're not allowed in here

Me : what ?

Him : you're not allowed in here

Athi : this must be a mistake

Him : I'm not mistaken , I know
it's him

Me : me what ?

Him : you beat up a patient in
there , and on top of that you
assaulted a doctor

Me : assault..... that's serious
allegations

Him : I'm just doing my job

Me : and if you don't let me in
there , you'll kiss this job
goodbye

Athi sighs

Athi : he's not kidding , and
he'll probably kidnap your boss
and torture him or her just to
get you fired

He moved back swallowing

Him : I don't want trouble
please

Athi : just let us in , they won't
even see him inside

He says nothing but just nods

I take my cap and put it on ,
making sure my face is hidden

We walk inside , I have my head
held high like nothing is wrong

Athi goes on to find his ward ,
they changed him into another

We walk in , and he's like a
corpse on the bed

Athi : I'll stay watch

I walk closer to the bed ,
looking at him

He has one arm bandaged ,
from the shoulder down

His head and face is covered
with bandage

He's eyes are swollen and
closed

His lips are very much busted
and swollen

Me : I wonder when he'll be up
, he seems out of it

Athi walks over , and looks at his file

Athi : he's in a coma

Me : what ?

He nods

Me : like a few punches here and there , and he's in a comma ?

He laughs

Athi : few punches , man this right here says you fractured his skull . Dislocated his jaw and shoulder , he sure suffered a concussion on the head . And the side of his brain part , had a clot of blood

Me : wow

I'm just annoyed , and
disappointed . Like this is just
nonsense

Athi : wow !

He laughs

Athi : this is fucked up , and all
you can say is no

Me : I need your brother awake
and living , I'm going to be his
living nightmare

Athi : you don't need to tell me
, I know

I look at Sanele

Me : told you this is far from
being done

I fix my cap , Athi puts the file
down

And we walk out

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INSERT 17

Ndaloenhle

I walk down and it's so quite

Like there's no one in here

I woke up a while back , I sure
overslept

And the sun has even changed
direction

I had to find my way around

I'm holding the plate that had
food , and was placed next to
the bed on the night stand

I couldn't leave food , so I ate

And I'm sure I'll need my
strength

I spot the kitchen , and walk in
placing the plate on the kitchen
counter

I see the door , I can only hope
it's not locked

And as I open it pulls back , it's
not locked

I get startled as the figure
comes up

He just stares at me as I move
back

Bantu : and where do you think
you're going ?

His strong aura is very heavy

Me : II wasn't running away with your clothes , I looked for the clothes I came with . I couldn't find them , I overslept and the sun will rise soon . I have to find my way back to the village , I don't know how I'll do that but I have to . I have no place here , and I can't go back toto the streets . I'll rather go back home , even though I know I'm not welcomed . Ithank you so much , for

getting me out of jail . I don't know what I would have done , and I don't know how to thank youI'll forever appreciate what you did for me

The silence is too much , I lift my eyes and look at him

He looks so bored , if I wasn't in this situation I would be laughing right now

Bantu : nice , go grab my car keys in the kitchen . On the key holder near the cupboard , I'm low on fuel on the car I was using

What ?

Did he hear anything I said to him ?

Bantu : my clothes are a bit tight to you , so you need clothes . I would go alone , but I don't want to buy you things you don't want to . Let's go before it's late , and I need some rest . My back hurts , a couch is no place to sleep at

Me : ...what ?

He looks down at my feet

Bantu : my shoes won't fit you ,
I'm a 7 . We're going to the
mall like this , you'll buy shoes
there

I stand still , not sure if he
heard me or what

Bantu : you're not going
anywhere , do you honestly
think I'm letting you leave ?

Me : but

Bantu : mhm , I can only
protect you when you're in my
care

Protect me ?

Is he being for real right now ?

His phone rings , and he looks
at it with a sigh

Bantu : Roxy ?

He listens for a while

Bantu : listen I don't know who
said you can call me now , I
don't want to fuck you
anymore . We're cutting ties ,
don't call me again

He drops the call , I'm left just
looking at him with my jaw
down

Bantu : the key

Yhoh !

I turn back , and grab just a set
of keys on the key holder

There's like 5 , he didn't specify which . He just said keys

I hand him the keys

Bantu : lock the door while I get the car out

He walks away from the door step , I look at him as he walks to the garage

Is this man awkward , or it's
just me ?

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Bantu

She picked sneakers , jeans and sweatpants

Hoodies along with t-shirts

There are no dresses in anything that she bought

She didn't even look at dresses
, I think I do get why

She didn't even want to take a
lot of things

But once I saw what she was
taking , I just added more of the
kind

We're back home

I have somewhere I need to be
, and it's late now

I'll just have to miss supper ,
because I have a supper to
disrupt

Me : you'll use this room , I
would say keep using mine and
be comfortable in there . But I'll
bother you everyday , morning
and night . So best you get your

own room , so you can have
your privacy

We're in the guest room next
to mine

Me : the closet is that way ,
you'll put your things in order .
The bathroom is there

She nods

Me : come , I need you to meet
some people

We walk out heading down to
the kitchen

Me : buddy

He looks at me

Me : go call Sophie for me

He walks out , but looking at
Enhle

We stand around in silence ,
until he walks back in with
Sophie

Me : I'm going out , I'll miss
supper don't wait up

Sophie : okay sir

Me : I'll come tuck you in when I get back okay ?

Mvezo : okay

Me : this is my friend , her name is Ndaloenhle . She will be staying with us , so let's be welcoming to her . And Enhle this is Sophie , she helps us around here . And my son Mvezo

He nods , but it's like a million things are going through his mind

Sophie : it's a pleasure to meet you Sisi

Enhle : nice to meet you too ma

I catch Mvezo smiling shaking his head

I'm wondering what's that
about

Me : okay , I'm leaving . And
please everyone eat , I don't
wanna hear about anyone
starving themselves

He laughs going to his chair ,
Enhle has her head bowed
down

I walk out

I drive out

And it's a good thing that I was
told everyone is there

Arriving , the gate is not closed

I drive in , and park by the
driveway

I get out , and knock by the door

Nothile opens , and she looks so scared as she lays her eyes on me

I chuckle walking in , and all eyes on me

Me : nice

Lee : what are you doing here
after what you've done to a
man you called your friend ?

She raises her voice at me

Me : do you perhaps have a
death wish ?

She gets on her feet

Lee : get out , and you best believe Sanele is reporting you as soon as he wakes up from coma

Me : it's fine , we'll be cellmates , and he will become my bitch how about that ?

She walks towards me like she will burst

Athi : don't ...

She raises her hand to slap me ,
I grab her arm twisting it

She cries out in agony

Me : for now , you can help me
and be a ward mate to that
rapist boyfriend of yours .
You're really annoying right
now

Lee : what ? That village girl ,
fucking wanted my man . He
gave her exactly what she
wanted

Athi shakes his head , and I look
into her crying eyes snapping
her arm

She lets out a scream of agony
going down flat on the floor

Senzo gets up

Me : boy sit down

He looks at his father

Athi : Nothile , drive home

He throws his car keys at her

Me : you drive safe now , and
greet my goddaughter for me

She swallows going out

Mrs Magwaza : Bantu what is
the meaning of this ?

I pull a chair and sit down , she
gets up going to Lee . More like
rushing to her

Me : don't , don't do that .

Leave her then , she'll get to go
to the hospital tomorrow

I'm not even looking at her

Mrs Magwaza : she's hurt

Me : and you don't want me to
do worse to you , it's just a
fucking arm . She will live

I look at the husband

Me : yeah Sabelo

He clenches his jaws

Me : here is what's going to happen here , I'm still yet to fuck your son . He better get out of that coma as in like yesterday , the more he's there I'll get more pissed and I'll kill

him . But I want him to suffer ,
and I'll cut him limb by limb and
I'll fucking feed you his flesh .

A chair moves , and it's Senzo

Me : boy , you're becoming an
annoyance like a fly in glass of
milk

He stands still

Me : good , now you went and paid a million rand buying an innocent girl for your fucked up son . I don't even care to know why , but now I want 1 billion

Sabelo : what ?

Me : you're going to sell all your assets and companies , even this house and the cars . I know they all amount to 1

billion . I want it , and you have
a week

Sabelo : you're fucking

I grab a fork from the table ,
and stab it through his thigh

He groans in pain

Grabbing his thigh looking at
me

Senzo : somebody better do something before this mad man kills all of us in this house

I look at him

Senzo : sorry

Me : boy , you have a loud mouth it's annoying

He goes a bit behind his
brother

I look back at Sabelo

Sabelo : I can't

Me : you can , you will . And
you're going to , remember you
can't even run away from me . I
will haunt you , and you know
that

I get up

I grab the bottle of wine and
pour myself a glass , downing it

Me : dinner was lovely

I look at the wife and Lee who
looks like she's dying

Me : take her to the hospital ,
or call someone who's a doctor
to come help before tomorrow
. I will know , and I'll use your
steak knife slicing your throat

She swallows

I walk out

Senzo : Athi you're a doctor ,
where are you going ? help her

Mrs Magwaza : Athi !

I chuckle moving away from the door , I walk to my car and get it driving out

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INSERT 18

Bantu

Me : what ?

He chuckles

Athi : you're sleeping , I'm
called in at the hospital

Me : speak sense

He laughs

Athi : apparently we have a
case of a broken arm

I chuckle

Athi : I hate you for this

Me : I'm sure your family
requested you deliberately

Athi : And I have you to thank
for that

Me : don't call me again

I drop the call

Turning facing up , laying on my
back

Now I won't fall back to sleep

I get up , walking to his room
and he's not in bed

I chuckle to myself

It's a weekend , and he's up
early

But during the week , he has to
be woken up

He can't seem to wake up on
his own

I walk out , and pass by Enhle's
room

It's closed , I open the door
slightly and she's still sleeping

She needs this much rest

I close the door back slowly and
walk back to my bedroom

I make the bed , and go take a
shower

I walk out dressed walking
down

Me : hey

He looks at me

He's sitting down on the floor ,
watching cartoons

Mvezo : I woke up

I laugh sitting down

I won't even be on his case at
all

Me : I'm not going to be on
your case , because it's a
weekend

He laughs

Me : tell me something , are
you okay with Enhle being here
?

He sighs

Mvezo : she's your friend

Me : yes , but it's always been us . And now there's her

Mvezo : she's going to live with us forever ?

I hope so

Me : if she wants to

Mvezo : okay

This little dude hasn't answered me

But they only met yesterday ,
and maybe I shouldn't
bombard him much

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Ndaloenhle

I've been in this room the
whole day

I don't know how I'm feeling

The way I've cried the past
three days

And now it's like I can't even
shed a single tear

Even thinking about everything
that happened

I don't know if something is
wrong with me or what

Am I not supposed to be
breaking down walls , instead
of building them ?

I don't feel whole at all

And it doesn't even feel like me
, it's like I've lost a part of me

But then again I did , but the
feeling makes me feel dead

And I don't think I like it

How do I move on from this ?

I don't want to be trapped into
this pain

Feeling this cold , basically I just feel like I'm a corpse

If that even makes sense

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Bantu

It's middle of the night when I
hear I scream

And it's loud , as muffled as it is

I get off the bed , and walk out
shutting Mvezo's bedroom
door shut

I can't have him waking up to
this

I open the door in her bedroom
, and she's still in bed

But by the way she's moving ,
it's like she's fighting

I remove the sheets off of her ,
and she's sweating like insane

I shake her slowly , calling out
her name

She finally opens her eyes
gasping

I hold her tight

Me : calm down

She hugs me back , tightening
her grip on my back

Me : it's okay

After a while , she finally calms
down and she moves back

Enhle : I'm sorry , I woke you up

I want to ask what was
happening

But I know after trauma , at
some point you're bound to be
haunted by it

Enhle : I'll go back to sleep

She says pulling the sheets
covering herself

Me : will you be able to get
some sleep ?

Enhle : yes

Me : okay

I turn back walking out , I leave
the door slightly opened

Walking back to my room

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Bantu

I thought I was over this , and
Sophie was doing well

And now this ?

I really don't need all of this

And Mvezo was just getting
used to her

Me : is there anyone that you
can recommend ?

Apparently her kids don't want
her to work

Three months has already
passed

And she was only supposed to
stand in for Gladys

She's clearly not coming back

And Sophie's kids are against
her working permanently

Sophie : my middle daughter

Me : how old is she ?

Sophie : 24

Hell no !

I need a helper , not someone
who's going to work on
seducing me here

I sigh

Me : it's okay , you can finish
the week . I understand

She can see I'm against her
daughter coming

I'll just have to find someone
else , I don't know where

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INSERT 19

A WEEK LATER

Sanele

I slowly open my eyes

And everything just hurts , even
moving slightly

I'm in a bit of a fuzzy , not
remembering anything

Or where I am , or what I'm
doing here

I try to get up , the door opens
and a doctor walks in

I look around and see I'm in
hospital

My throat is so dry

Doc : Mr Magwaza , finally !

Me : uhm

I heave a sigh

Doc : oh please , take it easy

Me : water

Doc : let me get that for you

He pours me a glass of water

I take the glass with my shaky
hand , and drink

Doc : it's good to see you back

I shake my head a bit confused

Doc : do you remember
anything that happened ?

Me : what am I doing here ?

Doc : okay , you were in a coma
for a week and few days

Me : what ?

He nods

Me : what happened ?

Doc : I think we should take things easy

Me : please tell me

Doc : okay so you were first admitted here , because of a gun shot wound to your shoulder

Oh that

Me : yeah I remember that ,
but wasn't I leaving ?

Doc : you were , but you were
attacked in your ward

I trail my mind , and it all comes
back

Bantu !

He fucking put me in a coma

Doc : do you remember ?

I look at him

Doc : because that man
assaulted a doctor as well , so I
would advise that you open a
case

Is he insane ?

Open a case for a man who
won't even make it to the
police van

What's the point ?

Me : no

Doc : sorry ?

Me : when can I get out of here
?

Doc : Mr Magwaza

Me : if the doctor wants to lay a charge , he can go ahead . I'm not doing that

Doc : okay , but unfortunately I will have to keep you around for a few days

I'm screwed

Where is Enhle at this point ?

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Bantu

I look at her

And she's drenched in sweat
again

But she's feeling cold

It's been two days now , not
counting the first time it
happened a week ago

She's not crying

It's just the screams , and the
vicious fighting in her sleep

She has her head bowed

She's closing in slowly , and
headed for a very terrible
downhill

If she was crying , I would get it

And say she's actually dealing
with the trauma

But this face she's pulling , it'll
be hard to break these walls
down

She'll close up , and never let
anyone in

She spent the week in her room
, not even going downstairs

She's barely eating now

And if I let this continue , this
will be the kind of a person she
ends up being

And I can't have that

Me : come

She looks at me , I hold my
hand out

Me : masambe (let's go)

Enhle : where ?

Me : iza (come)

She sighs getting off the bed

She doesn't take my hand , but
I take hers anyways

We walk to my bedroom

Me : get in bed

She looks at me stunned

Me : I have an early morning ,
and you need to rest too

Enhle : but

Me : Enhle get in bed

I open the sheets , she sighs
getting in bed

I get in as well , she keeps to herself

I pull her closer to me , she's a bit hesitant

But I don't let go , until she relaxes her body

Resting her head on my chest

Me : you should go get your
hair done

Enhle : I want to cut it

Me : like a cut ?

Enhle : no , like remove all of it

I smile

Me : okay , I'll do it before I
leave in the morning

Enhle : you will ?

Me : yeah , unless you want to
go to the salon

Enhle : no

That was quick

That's another thing , not
wanting to get out of this house

This has to stop

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Ndaloenhle

These dreams are starting to
annoy me now

I don't know if it means I'm
reliving what happened or what

But I'm just trapped into a dark
room

It's like I can't find an escape

It's just walls , and darkness

There's no light , not even from
a small hole even a window

So I'm fighting darkness in my
dreams

I'm fighting to not stay inside it

Because I feel like it'll consume
me , and I'll have no way out .

And end up making peace that
I'm in the dark

But the last few hours , were
the most peaceful hours of
sleep I got

I never thought I could be so comfortable , in the hands of a man

It was so warm , and very comforting

I guess he's still sleeping , I've been looking at his face

And I've never been a fan of dark skinned guys

Cause I always thought , we'll
have dark babies

Cause I'm also dark

But this man has looks

Okay !

I need to stop , and he probably
has a woman

I mean , he's a father surely
there's a mother

Even though I haven't seen her

But I don't think he would have
brought me into his house , if
the wife was here

I slowly move , getting off him

I get off the bed , and head
towards the door

Bantu : why are you sneaking
out ?

His rough voice , brings me to
turn

Me :

Cat caught my tongue

Bantu : uyaphi ? (Where are you going)

Me : my room

He just stares at me

Me : thank you , I managed to sleep

He shrugs , I don't know what
that means . But I get out
anyways , going to my room

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INSERT 20

Bantu

Sabelo : why are you doing this
?

Me : my money

He sighs

Me : Sabelo , I will start with your wife . And follow by your rapist son , and you'll go out having his flesh

He leans forward

Sabelo : you're an arms dealer , why are you doing this ? That girls fight , is definitely not your battle

Me : she's in my house , under
my roof . So definitely , she's
my business

He shakes his head frustrated

Me : your son started war , and
I heard he's up from his coma

Sabelo : I don't have the money
you want , my businesses and
our home is what we have

Me : what you have , and I
want all of it

Sabelo : I didn't send Sanele to
do what he did

Me : you brought Enhle here ,
for him . And you left her there

I lean back

Me : if you can pay 1 million ,
for someone . Then they must
be meaning something , and
when someone means
something to you ...

I chuckle

Me : you definitely , most
definitely take good care of
them . And you didn't , so you
gave away your million rand .

You can definitely give away a billion , and not even care .

Sabelo : you're asking me

Me : I'm telling you , and your week is over . If I don't get that money , by the end of today .
I'll pay your wife a visit

I get up

Me : I know you heard me

I walk out heading to my car

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Sanele

It was a shock for me

Finding out that Lee is also
admitted

As weak as I am , I just had to see her

And she has a cast on her arm

They've operated on her , the whole thing looks so heavy

But I guess that's because it's cement

Me : what happened ?

I'm in her ward , and she
doesn't even look happy to see
me

Me : baby

Lee : don't call me that

She shakes her head crying

Something is going on here

Lee : how could you Sanele ?

She sounds broken now

Me : babe

Lee : don't !

She raises her voice

Lee : you raped her !

Shit !

I move back

Lee : say something damnit !

Me : please come down , I.....

Lee : don't tell me that shit ,
you raped that girl

Me : I don't know what happened , I was drunk and

Lee : get out ! You're a piece of shit , and you deserve hell . I fucking hate you , get out !

Me : please lets

Lee : get out

She breaks down , and the door opens a nurse and doctor walks in

Doc : sir please leave

Me : I just

Doc : you're upsetting the patient , I'm asking you to leave

I look at her

Me : baby I'm sorry

I turn walking out , limping to
my ward

How did she fucking find out ?

I'm screwed , because right
now I know she's done with me

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Ndaloenhle

There's no one in this house

I don't know where Bantu is at

But I've figured that the man
disappears all the time

I'm guessing his son is at school

He looks like he's in grade R or
maybe 1

But Sophie is also not around here

I don't even know why I'm out of that bedroom

I get a glass of water , as a knock comes at the door

Should I even open ?

Like am I allowed to open the door for other people

I open anyways

And another version of Lee just appears , just that she's light skinned

Her : where is Bantu ?

The accent

Me : I don't know

It comes out as a whisper

Her : and who are you , his
maid ?

What ?

So the maid thing is really
following me

Her : move , I'll wait for him .
Make me some salad , and a
glass of wine

Voice : fucking leave

Whoa !

He says behind her

She turns and looks at him , and
I should excuse myself

Bantu : what kind of are we
done don't you understand

I walk away as he's still talking

I go back to my room , I can't
deal

So I'm a maid again

I get in and sit down on the bed

Minutes later he walks in

Bantu : don't ever let anyone
call you a maid

What's with the hostility ?

He walks in , and sits down on
the bed

Bantu : ready to cut the hair ?

Me : what's your son's name
again ?

He smiles , and he's so cute

Bantu : Mvezo

Me : where is he ?

Bantu : at his friends

Me : and where is MaSophie ?

Bantu : she left us

Me : so who works here now ?

Bantu : you ask a lot of
questions

Me : yes , but I'm going to stop

Bantu : there's no one , I'm still looking

Me : why did she leave ?

Bantu : she was standing in for Grace , they're cousins . Grace's daughter has a child , I'm guessing she's not coming back . And Sophie's kids , are against her working full-time

Me : oh okay

At least he wasn't mistreating
her

Me : where is your wife ,
girlfriend or his mother ?

He chuckles

Bantu : I haven't married my wife yet , and I don't have a girlfriend . His mother is dead

Ouch !

Me : I'm sorry

Bantu : for what ?

Me : your loss

Bantu : I didn't lose anything

Why is he insensitive ?

Bantu : come let's go cut your
hair

Me : who is she ?

Bantu : Roxy , someone I used
to fuck with . She's like a fly

I let out a laugh out of nowhere
, he stares at me it's so
uncomfortable

I get off the bed

Me : let's go

I don't even know to where , I'll
rather we go cut this hair than
have that moment again

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INSERT 21

Ndaloenhle

I look at my bald head

I've never cut my hair , I don't
even remember if I've ever

Yes , my hair was long and all

But after spending two months
living on the streets

It got ruined , and was just
looking bad

I'll just start it afresh , and grow
it back new

I'm brought to , when he holds
my hand

We lock eyes in the mirror

I don't know what I'm doing
right now

Because this man , will never
look at me anyhow

I clear my throat getting up , he
lets go of my hand

Me : thank you

I feel fresh though , I must
admit

Me : where can I find a broom ?

Bantu : don't worry , I'll do it

I nod

Me : I'll help around , since
your helper is gone

Bantu : help how ?

Me : like clean , do laundry and
cook . Whatever she was doing

Bantu : how much am I going to pay you ?

Pay me ?

He's hosting me in his house , I can't possibly expect any kind of payment

Me : I did not say I'll work for you , I said I'll help around

He chuckles

Bantu : how old are you ?

Me : I'm 21

Bantu : shouldn't you be in school ?

Me : I just ended in matric

Bantu : you should go back to school

Me : I heard Varsity is expensive

Bantu : did you pass ?

I nod

Bantu : where are your results ?

Me : back in the village , unless
if my aunt destroyed them or
threw them out

Bantu : you can always get
them at the department of
education , just as long as you
remember your examination
number and your ID number

I sigh

Me : I lost my ID

I left with it when I was running away , but somewhere on the streets of Joburg I lost it

Bantu : you can make a new one at home affairs

He's just talking about a lot of things I don't see happening

Bantu : we'll get those thing ,
next year you're going to
school . It's August now , the
year is almost ending

Okay , I think that was a lot

I walk out , heading to my room
leaving him

I walk into the bathroom , so I
can wash my hair

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Bantu

For the first time today , we've
had the most long conversation
we've ever had since she got
here

And I heard her laugh

It was the most pleasant thing
ever

I thought she would come out ,
and sit with us

But she's in her room

She hasn't come out , of her
room since she went in there
after cutting her hair

Mvezo : I'm lazy for school

I chuckle

Me : then you should go to bed early

Mvezo : will we eat pizza ?

Boy !

Why am I buying pizza just for him to sleep early ?

For his own good , I might say

Me : okay

Mvezo : creamy chicken

Me : I'll buy you your own

He laughs

Voice : uhm

I turn and look at her , and she
has on one of her hoodies
covering her head

Enhle : I thought I should
comecook

I smile

Me : okay

Enhle : what do you want to eat
?

Me : you can make whatever ,
you can make

She nods

Mvezo : but dad !

I look at him , and he's sulking

Mvezo : I asked for pizza

Me : you wanted

He sighs

Enhle : it's okay if you're
ordering

She's looking at him , and I
don't like the expression on her
face

She's thinking Mvezo probably
doesn't like her

Me : I'm ordering your pizza ,
Enhle is cooking for me and her

I say to him and face her

Me : please do go cook , I
would love to eat your food

She nods hesitantly , walking to
the kitchen

I look at Mvezo not knowing
what to make of the situation
that just happened right now

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Sanele

Senze : you have no idea what
you have done

I feel like I'm being told some
fairy-tale story right now

Bantu puts me in a coma , he
goes on to break Lee's arm

And threatens my family ,
stabbing my father with a fork

Like what the fuck !

Me : where are they now ?

Senzo : I don't know , but I know they're homeless . Dad seemed to really be on a run-around today

Me : call them , they can go to my place . We can't have them roaming the streets

He laughs annoyed

Senzo : are you being for real
right now ? We're all in this
situation because of you

Me : okay fine , blame me . But
I still don't get how Bantu
wanting 1 billion from dad is
my fault , I'm not the one who
paid 1 million for Enhle

Senzo : but had you not fucken
raped her then

Me : enough ! You go out there and find our parents , and take them to my house . The doctor won't discharge me , so I'm stuck here for a few more days . I can't do much , make yourself useful

He came here , and I've been awake since yesterday

No one has bothered to come
see me

I don't even know who told him
I'm up

Or maybe he used to come
here

But he's shitting on me right
now

As for Bantu , I don't know who he thinks he is

He's gone too far now

What does he want my father 1 billion for ?

He's just being stupid , and I want to be out of here so he can tell me exactly what his fucking problem is

He's just overdoing this

Wasn't him beating me up
enough ?

And I know I deserved that ,
because I fucked up

But as for everything else , I
don't get his problem

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INSERT 22

Ndaloenhle

Bantu : dinner was lovely ,
thank you

I just nod , my back turned
against him

I'm doing the dishes , it's like
very late

And Mvezo has long gone to
bed

I don't know , if I'm to say that
boy doesn't like me

Or he just doesn't want me
here

I mean , wouldn't that be
insane ?

Sure I haven't spent much time
with them

And I'm always keeping to
myself

But then again , he was just off
in a way I didn't understand

Or maybe that's just how he is

I guess I'll see as time goes on

Bantu : can you come to bed ?

I turn and look at him

Bantu : it's been a long day , I
need to rest

Me : you can go sleep

Bantu : you're going to bring
me cold air when you get into
bed

What ?

Me : I'll be sleeping in my room

Bantu : no

Me : what do you mean no ?

Bantu : I mean exactly that , I really need to get enough sleep tonight

If only there was a way , to stop
the screams and all

Then I wouldn't bother him ,
and deprive him of his sleep

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Bantu

Only that money is reflecting
this morning

I knew he was a smart man

And he also knew , I wasn't
kidding with him

He'll figure himself out

There's nothing as annoying as
rich people

They think money is everything
, and that money buys anything

Even people

He basically bought Enhle for a million

Like she's some possession and not a human being

And for an old man his age , it's fucking disgusting

When someone uses what they have , over others to be superior and all

You just take it all away

And just see what power will he then have ?

Without his money , Sabelo Magwaza is nothing and he has nothing

There's no another woman he
will buy , and deprive them of
their lives

Just because he wants to
secure women for his son's

Like they're incapable of finding
women on their own

I still don't see why he bought
Enhle for Sanele

Because Lee is there

That man is fucked up , and
now poverty will humble him
for everyone

I want to take Enhle to get her
ID today

And tomorrow , I think we'll go
to the department of education

It shouldn't be that hard to get
those things

She's awfully quite this morning

Like there's a lot of things going
on in her mind

And she's rather keeping
herself busy

Me : finish eating so we can
leave

I don't know what I'm dealing
with this morning

He's been eating for over 15
minutes , and the bowl doesn't

even look like 2 spoons have
been taken out of it

Mvezo : I'm full

Something better help me , I
don't know what

But it better help me

I don't have a son who acts out
, I just don't

And right now , I wish to know
what's going on with this boy

Me : Mvezo

And Enhle just takes the bowl ,
giving him a cloth so he can
wipe his hands

Me : give him the food back

Enhle : you can't force a child
to eat

She says and turns around

That tone said a lot , and I don't
need this

These two are the last people I
don't need who won't get along

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Ndaloenhle

Now I'm certain that boy
doesn't like me

He was sulking for his pizza last
night

He didn't eat my food this
morning

He came back from school , and
went to his friends house

When he came back , and I
offered to make him food

He told me he's eaten , his
friend mother gave them food

The way I was feeling , I didn't
even feel like cooking tonight

But I did anyways , and Bantu
ate alone

Cause apparently , Mvezo has a stomach bug

Okay !

It really must be a thing for me , to just be hated wherever I am

Even by kids

Mvezo : dad can I please sleep with you ?

I side eye him , not sure where
that is coming from

Is it a thing that happens in this
house , or he just rocked up
with it ?

I feel Bantu's eyes on me , I
dart my eyes like I wasn't even
looking at Mvezo

Bantu : okay , go brush your teeth I'll come tuck you in . And don't mess the sheets getting in

He giggles after hearing that from his father

Mvezo : goodnight

He just says , and I'm so tempted to just shut my mouth

But stupid me , I say goodnight
back

He walks upstairs

And we're just left in awkward
silence

Even earlier on , when we went
to home affairs

It wasn't this awkward

Bantu : I'm sorry about that

I side eye him

Bantu : he has his days , where
he just wants to sleep with me .
It's not a thing that happens
always

I nod

I don't get what he's
apologising for , if then that's
the case . Cause it's not like
there's a matter here

Bantu : please come here

He motions to his lap , and I'm
like what ?

Bantu : please

I remain still , he chuckles
getting up and he walks my way

He holds his hand out , I get up

Bantu : I

His phone rings , he takes it out

Bantu : I have to take this

Great !

Me : goodnight

I turn away , walking upstairs to
my room

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INSERT 23

Ndaloenhle

It's been a few days , I'm just
keeping to myself

And just doing what I have to
do here

As for everything else , just
leaving it as it is

Mvezo and I , we're just
awkward I guess

We barely even speak to each
other

After that night he wanted to
sleep with his father

I never went back to Bantu's
bedroom to sleep

And I lock the door at night ,
just to keep him out

I don't think I've had any of the
nightmares the past few days

And I'm thankful for that

But last night was somehow I
just didn't sleep well , hence
I'm up this early

I've already cleaned , and made
breakfast

Their clothes are fixed , and
now I'm doing laundry

I don't know how long I'm
going to stay around here for

But it really is such a bother
that I'm not doing anything
with my life

And I also don't know , just how
real Bantu was when he said I'll
go to school next year

Even though we went to the department for my results , and remake of another certificate and statement of results

But does that mean , I'll still be living here even last year ?

Its end of August now , and the 5 days September holidays are coming

Today is the last day of school

I don't know how Mvezo and I ,
are going to survive

Being together throughout the
whole day

They both walk in dressed
already , for school and work

They greet , I greet back

I've set the table they can help themselves , they don't need me in here

I grab the laundry basket and walk out

Even though I wanted to make myself some coffee

I can have it , once they're gone

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Bantu

This is getting too much

And I can't say nothing to Enhle
, cause she did nothing

I'm just stunned by the change
of behaviour on Mvezo

Because he's never been a bothersome child like ever

Mvezo : aunty is not eating ?

I look at him puzzled , and he has his eyes darted outside where Enhle is at by the washing line

Mvezo : I'll dish up for her

Okay , now what's this ?

I want to address this issue ,
and suddenly he's being nice

He's never even called her
aunty , or anything

Because he barely talks to her

But I need to understand this
better

Me : buddy

He looks at me

Me : remember when I asked
you , if you're okay with Enhle
being here ?

He nods

Me : and you never really
answered me

Mvezo : I'm okay

Me : but you don't look okay ,
and you don't do okay things .
You don't eat her food , and
that must be making her sad

Mvezo : but I don't want to be
sad

Me : what to do mean ?

Mvezo : if she leaves us , like
Grace and Sophie did . Then I'll
be sad , I'll miss her and I'll miss
her food . I don't want that

He shakes his head

Okay , I didn't realise that

Me : okay I'm sorry , but Enhle
is not going to leave us

Mvezo : you like her ?

Boy ! What are you asking me ?

Me : we're not talking about
that

He laughs

Mvezo : I'll stop being not nice

Me : thank you

Mvezo : you can call aunty to
come eat

I chuckle getting up , and I walk
outside to where she is

Me : I've been asked to ask you
to come eat

She just looks at me

Me : please

I need these two getting along ,
what's happening right now I
don't like it

Enhle : okay

I wait until she finishes hanging
the shirts , and we walk back
inside together

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Sanele

I got discharged yesterday

I'm back in my house

And I'm living with my parents ,
who are not speaking to me

My father sure gave me a
mouthful

That we're all here like this , it's
all my fault

Forgetting he's the one who
paid 1 million for her

Surely Bantu just wanted
money from him , just to spite
him

Because I told Bantu how much
he paid

But he's out here acting
somewhat

But it's done , they might have
lost everything

But they have a roof over their
heads

The fact that it's my house and not theirs , it really shouldn't matter

I tried talking to Lee , but she wants nothing to do with me at all

She even threatened with a protection order

And the way she's so angry , I
know she's not kidding

So I'll just have to keep my
distance for now

Until she's ready to see me ,
and we can talk

I don't think I still stand a
chance of being with her

Especially after everything that
has happened

It's just been a lot

And she's still in hospital , I'm
being blamed for that as well

Right now , I feel like
everything has just gone wrong
. And I'm the one at fault

And even I need to figure myself out

And after everything that has happened , I don't think I still have my job

I doubt Bantu would let me work his company still

I'm sure I'm a stats , in the unemployment rate

But I can't dwell on that , I'll
have to dust myself

Right now I might as well be
taking care of my parents

So I do need a pay check month
end

I take out my phone and make
a call

Teko : sure

I chuckle

Me : I didn't think you'll answer

He laughs

Teko : you still live

Me : very much so

Teko : oh well , that's good

Me : sorry to bother you , but
can we meet ?

He goes silent

Me : there's just something I
want to discuss with you

Teko : nothing that gets me
into trouble

I chuckle

Me : no

Teko : alright , we can do that

Me : thanks man

Teko : sure

I drop the call

I hope I can still count on my
friends having my back

Even though it might look
somehow , because there's also
Bantu

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INSERT 24

Ndaloenhle

Bantu has his friends over
today

I don't even know , if I can call
them friends or what

But Athi and Teko are there ,
and there's other two guys

They've been in his study office
, for a while now

More like hours

And Mvezo is at his friends
house

That child doesn't like being
home clearly

And I've just been in my room

It felt somehow , being in the house with 5 men

I had to get those thoughts out of my mind

And trust that , they wouldn't hurt me out of nowhere

I even felt so bad thinking about that

I guess after what happened ,
paranoia can get the best of
someone

I walk out heading downstairs ,
and even though their voices
are muffled

I can't hear exactly what
they're saying

But these people have been
here for a while

I hope I'm not overstepping
anything , right now

But food can't hurt anyone
right ?

And I'm sure they also need to
eat

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Bantu

Athi : she looks good

He says as Enhle walks out

After serving them , and
they've filled their stomachs
now

First time they get such a
treatment in my house

And she really cooked food for
men

Meat and pap , with gravy

Not those fancy foods

Just normal simple food , and it
was very much delicious

Enhle knows her way around
the kitchen

Me : she's been doing good

Athi : I can see that , and that's
good

Teko : don't hurt her , or else
someone will snatch her

I chuckle

Teko : mhm he's right , good women are hard to find .

Sanele called and asked to meet me .

Me : did he say what he wants ?

Teko : no , I'm supposed to meet him tomorrow

Athi : the burden of the parents
, must be weighing hard on his
shoulder

Me : what are you doing ?
They're your parents

He laughs

Athi : I have a wife , and a
daughter to take care of

Me : it's not like you can't afford to give them a new start

Athi : you shouldn't have taken their money , what's with this now ? I'm not getting involved , Sanele took them in

Me : he doesn't have a job anymore , I don't want your brother in my company . And

I'm not giving him his
severance package

Athi : they're not kids , they'll
figure themselves out

Me : if you were my son , I
would chop your head off

They laugh

Athi : mhm leave me alone

Teko : I might not even go there
, if he's in need of help he'll
expect it from me . And I might
just kill him for that

Athi : you're fucked up

Teko : do you know what
unemployment does to one ?
And your brother is very much
arrogant , he might shit on me .

I'll lose it , cause once he opens his mouth he just doesn't know when to stop

Athi : I don't know , because I have a job that's secured .
Unless the man above decides to hit me with a tragedy

They laugh

Teko : as it is said

I get up , and walk out of the study

I walk to the kitchen , and she's drying the dishes

Me : I'm sorry for the mess

She turns and smiles shaking her head

Me : thank you for cooking

She did something , I did not expect and never even though she would do . I mean it wasn't a must , nor was it expected

Especially with the guys around here

She nods , and goes back to her dishes

I just wanted to thank her ,
nothing much

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Ndaloenhle

For the first time ever , I put
Mvezo to bed today

He actually asked me to tuck
him in

I didn't even know what that is
, or how does one do it

But he explained , and I got it
right

I've been in my room for a
while , just not catching sleep

This seems somewhat , as I
walk out going to Bantu's room

I knock a bit , and there's no
answer

It's late , so maybe he's asleep .
But it's unlike him . He can go
on for hours wide awake

I open the door slowly , and
peek through but there's no
one in bed

I turn to walk away , but the
figure that walks through has
my eyes gawking out

He just walked out of the shower , and he's naked

Like butt naked , and his dick is just there

I don't think I've ever seen such a huge long dick

Not that I've seen many

And he turns around , my eyes
are stuck on the that firm ass
he has

It's the funny feeling I'm getting
, and I'm like this is wrong

I shouldn't be here

What will I say or do if he
catches me staring at him ?

I turn back walking to my room
, I get in closing the door

I sigh laying down on the bed ,
closing my eyes

And my mind just trails off

How will I get the picture of
Bantu naked out of my head ?

Why couldn't I just leave , when
I saw he was naked ?

Voice : are you coming to bed ?

It's him , I open my eyes within
a second

I didn't even hear him opening
the door

I had kept it closed

Bantu : come

Me : II'm fine , I haven't had
dreams in days so

Bantu : mhm , is it because you
saw me naked ? Now you can't
stand spending a night with me

Oh lord !

How does he know that I saw
him ?

He takes my hand and gets me
up , he moves closer closing the
space in between

My breathing just betrays me ,
like what's this now ?

Bantu : it's okay

He tilts my chin with his fingers
, we lock eyes

He leans down , brushing his
lips over mine

I place my hands on his waist ,
he takes my lower lip kissing
me slowly

I hold tight for balance on his
waist , with both my hands

I get the hang of the kiss and
kiss him back

He deepens the kiss , and I just
feel like I'll burst or faint

I slowly move back pulling out
of the kiss , but not away from
him . Our bodies still touching
to one another

For a few seconds , we're in
silence just looking into each
other's eyes

Bantu : I love you so much

He must not rip my heart , not
like this

I try to move , but he holds me
tight

Bantu : I can't keep being quite
like I don't love you

Me : pleaseno

I plead with him

Bantu : let me

I shake my head slowly , feeling
all sorts of emotions

Me : I'm way too damaged for
that

His facial expression changes

Bantu : don't you ever call
yourself damaged to me ever
again

Me : I don't want to get hurt
Bantu

Bantu : I'm not going to hurt
you

He's just saying

Men will hurt you , they will
always hurt you

Doesn't matter how loyal you
think they are , or how much
they say they'll be loyal

How much they say and prove
that they love you

They will always hurt you

I wouldn't know , but my aunt
always said so

After 5 failed marriages , in a
space of 6 years

Yes

So the fear , I don't want to go
through that

Sanele hurt me enough , worse
we didn't even give ourselves
that chance

But already , I have that
experience that men will hurt
you

Me : look at me , there's nothing special here . And there was that Roxy woman , clearly you've been a man living like a bachelor . I'm sure there's more besides her , they're beautiful and smart like her . If not even more , I can't compete with such . I'm just me , I don't want to be in this situation . Where I'll always be asking myself if I'm good enough for you , if you even

truly love me or it's just pity .
Or just because we're living
together at the moment

He sighs

Me : trust me , you'll find a
better woman . Someone who
will love you , and be
everything you want in a
woman . Right now , I'm so
scarred . I don't even know if I
can open my thighs for a man

He smiles

Me : I hope you understand me

Bantu : I hope you hear me
right now

He picks me up , and places me
on the dressing table . Won't I
even break this thing ?

He gets in between my thighs ,
like he's trying to prove some
point

Bantu : I love you , I never said I
want a woman who will love
me back . Roxy and all those
women , they're not you . And
that's why they'll never amount
to anything to me , because
they're not you . And when the
time is right , you'll open these
thighs perfectly for me . I'm not

there yet , and I'm not even in a
hurry to get there . And best
believe , when the time is right
you'll beg me to make love to
you

Sies !

I frown

He laughs , picking me off the
dressing table

He walks out to his bedroom ,
with me in his arms

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INSERT 25

Ndaloenhle

I've been awake for a while

But the way Bantu has his hold
on me

I can't even move

I wonder who said to him I'll
run away

I want to go pee , and make
breakfast for Mvezo

He eats my food now , so I
don't mind cooking it doesn't
bore me like it used to

A knock comes at the door , it's
very tiny

I'm guessing it's him

Why is he up so early , when
it's holidays ?

Bantu : shit !

So he's awake , I'm inside the
sheets covered

He sounds somehow right now

And I'm sure that's because of me being in his bed , he should just get out and see his son

Bantu : ngena (come one)

Is this necessary ?

The boy doesn't even know I sleep in his father's bedroom

Mvelo : molo tata (morning dad)

I will die , I don't even want to move an inch

Bantu : ukahle ? (Are you okay)

Mvezo : ndilambile mna (I'm hungry)

Bantu chuckles

Mvezo : did aunty leave ?

Why does he sound sad ?

Bantu : why ?

Mvezo : she's not in her room

Poor boy , he really must be
hungry

If he even went to my room

Bantu : no , she didn't leave

Mvezo : uphi ? (Where is she)

Bantu : ndoda , go to the
kitchen ndiyeza (I'm coming)

Mvezo : ah okay

It goes quite for a while I guess
he's gone

If tables were somehow , I
would think Bantu is ashamed
of me

Why couldn't he just tell the
boy I'm around in the house ?

But I do understand him at this
point

Me : let go

He removes the sheets off of
my head

I lift my eyes looking at him , he
smiles

Me : khandiyeke umntana
ulambile (let go of me the child
is hungry)

Bantu : why are you grumpy ?

Me : I'm not

Bantu : who lies to who first ?

Yhoh !

It's too early for this

Bantu : fine , give me a kiss and
you can go

Me : a nton ? I haven't even
brushed my teeth (I'm kissing
you for what)

He chuckles

Bantu : andik'buzanga , it's a
morning kiss kwi ndoda yakho (I
didn't ask you , to your man)

Me : is that what dating people do ?

Bantu : pretty much yes

Me : it's disgusting

He leans forward , bringing his face towards mine

He pecks my lips , I don't
bother kissing him

He bites my lower lip , causing
me to gasp he takes my lips
into his

And just like that , I give in

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Bantu

I finally woke up , and joined
my people having breakfast

Me : granny wants you to visit

He looks at me

Me : so when are you going ?

Mvezo : ndiye emakhaya ? (I'm
going to the village)

This boy

Me : yes

Mvezo : okay

Me : awufun ukuya ? (You don't want to go)

Mvezo : zange nditsho (I didn't say that)

I laugh

Me : okay , we're leaving
tomorrow

He nods focusing back on his
food

Me : it'll be only until after the
weekend , that's like 5 days

Mvezo : it's okay

I look at Enhle

Me : please pack , you're
coming with

Enhle : huh ?

She looks at me like I'm insane

Me : it's not that bad

Enhle : why are you taking me
to your family's home ?

I shrug

Me : I'm not leaving you behind

Enhle : I don't have appropriate
clothes

Me : you'll buy them , you have
the whole of today to do that

Enhle : I've cut my hair , I don't
want to around with a bald
head in front of people

Me : you'll wear a doek

Enhle : I'm not going there to
be a daughter in-law

I chuckle

Me : stop with the excuses ,
we're leaving tomorrow
morning

Enhle : will we be staying there
?

Me : for a day , my brother will
bring Mvezo back

Enhle : mhm

She continues eating

This is crazy , both my people
don't seem happy about going
to Eastern Cape

Too bad for them , we're going
there

And Mvezo not being around
for these few days , will give us
free time in this house

And when you have intentions
about a woman

You take her to your home , so
she knows your people

You never marry a man you
don't know his roots

I'm giving her that opportunity

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Sanele

Me : what do you mean , I
should let this go ?

Athi : hayhiii , you're not stupid
Sanele

He chuckles

Athi : well , maybe you are . But
let this shit go , you don't want
Bantu on your ass

Me : I live with our parents , he took everything they had

Athi : dad sold them

Me : because he fucking threatened to kill our family , and what did you do Athi ?

He shrugs

Me : you're really sucking up to Bantu right now

Athi : I have a wife a child to live for

Me : oh really ? And I guess you don't fucking care what happens to your parents

Athi : oh I care , but I also value my life . And you , your father

should warn you if he really cares . You have no idea who Bantu is , and he's still yet to fuck you up . Putting you in a Coma for a week , was nothing

Me : we'll see

Athi : okay , you go ahead and go there

I'm going to see Bantu , and
we'll put whatever this is on
the table

I've been going around trying
to find Enhle , without any luck

Teko turned seeing me , so I
won't even beg him

It's best I go see Bantu and talk
to him

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INSERT 26

Ndaloenhle

Mvezo is sleeping

We've just arrived , and it's late

I'm tired

I could use a bath , and some
food and a bed

I don't blame this boy for
sleeping

Bantu : you okay ?

I nod

Even though I'm a bit scared , I
mean it doesn't make sense
why I'm here

He could have brought Mvezo
to see his grandmother

And left me back , he said we're
only sleeping tonight

Tomorrow we're leaving ,
Mvezo will come back on
Sunday with his uncle

I don't get the need for me
being here

I had to buy two dresses ,
they're so long and they even
have sleeves

And I made sure it's not tight
dresses , I just couldn't do with
a dress that'll be showing my
shape

He's carrying Mvezo in his arms
, as he knocks at the door

He doesn't even wait for an answer , he just opens the door and walks in

I follow behind closing the door

A woman comes in , clearly walking from the lounge

She smiles , there's slight resemblance there

Her : you just had to travel late
Bantu

He laughs

Bantu : nozala khame , my
people are tired (mom wait)

She looks at us , and I'm slightly
behind him

She laughs

Her : weeeeh Bantu , you didn't
tell me you're bringing me a
daughter in-law

Whoa !

Somebody needs to stop her

Bantu : she's here now ,
surprise

Why is she not correcting his mother ?

Bantu : can I go put him down ?
He's heavy

Her : take him to his room , it's clean

And just like that , I'm left with her alone

It's so awkward , if only the ground could open and just swallow me in

Her : I know you must be very tired , but come have a cup of tea with me before you retire

So it's a thing , the tea like it's a thing

I side smile as she holds her
hand out

I take it , as we walk to where
she came from . And it's the
lounge , she was binging on
Real House Wives

This woman !

We sit down

Her : what's your name ?

Me : Ndaloenhle Gwala

She smiles

Her : where is home ?

Me : small outskirts outside of
Mthatha

Her : Bantu is bringing cows
back home

We laugh

Her : it's a good thing , ndingu
MaRhadebe ke mna kodwa
ndingu mama kuwe (I'm
MaRhadebe but I'm mom to
you)

Is this like a full welcome ?

I was so scared , and this woman is so chilled like aibo !

MaRhadebe : finally , I thought something was wrong with Bantu . All his brother are married , even the youngest

Bantu : Nozala ! (Mom)

He walks in and sits down next
to me , pouring tea

There's a teapot , on the small
lounge table

I guess the woman was about
to have her tea

MaRhadebe : I was just saying

Bantu : she knows I'm not married , and I'm yet to marry my wife . And she knows that's her

Do I ?

MaRhadebe : at last ! You have taken my worries away

Bantu : where is everyone ?

MaRhadebe : only Bangizwe is home

Bantu : I'll see him tomorrow , we're tired . It was a long drive

And it really was

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Sanele

I went to look for Bantu , but
there was no one at his place

I know when he's placed
security he's not around

And I even went to the office ,
they did say he's not in

I wonder where he went to

But I'll keep on trying , until we
get to meet and talk

I didn't take his threat as an idle , and I know he's very much capable of seeing it through

Sandile : this is fucked up

Me : I asked to see Teko , he agreed but changed his mind the next day

Sandile : did he say why ?

Me : no

Sandile : you think he's siding
with Bantu ?

I sigh

Me : man , I don't think there
are sides here .

Sandile : yeah , this is bad

He doesn't even seem
somehow , like he's just saying

And now I think I'm getting this
friendship

I shouldn't have gone too far ,
with my domestic issues to
them

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Bantu

I grab her hand

Me : why are you leaving me in bed ?

I slowly open my eyes , looking at her

Enhle : does that child not wake up early when he's in the village ?

I laugh

Me : I'm sure he's up

Enhle : and hungry

Me : yeah , they'll see what to do with him in the house

Enhle : is that how you want your family to view me ?

I sigh

Me : I haven't paid bride price ,
they can't be expecting you to
do wifely duties . Even if I had ,
I didn't bring you here to slave
away

Enhle : then you don't bring me
to your family home , and
expect me to act like a
girlfriend

She pulls away walking to the shower

I have a two room outside

When I'm home , I don't sleep in the main house

She comes out of the shower , with a towel wrapped around her

Me : you're serious ?

She ignores me , and lotions

She even gets dressed

Me : ndicela i'coffee (can I
please have)

She laughs heading to the door

Enhle : uyandiqhela Bantu
(you're getting used to me)

She walks out , I sigh leaning
back on the pillow

I reach over for my phone

And it's like 06:00 in the
morning

No , like it's too early

And I can't have her waking up
this early just because we're at
home

My mother will just have to
excuse us on that one

She's not a slave here

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INSERT 27

Ndaloenhle

Mvezo : molo Auntie (morning
aunty)

This baby !

Me : morning boy

I take his hand we walk inside ,
I don't even know what he's
doing outside this early

Me : where are you coming from ?

Mvezo : to pee outside

Wow !

He's acting very rural indeed , I guess when he's this side he sure adapts

MaRhadebe is also up

I greet her , she greets back .
Mvelo walks out of the kitchen

And she's making porridge
there by the stove

MaRhadebe : why are you up
so early ?

I even feel ashamed , that I
found her up already

Me : I thought this one is up already , and most times he's hungry

She laughs

MaRhadebe : don't worry about him , I'll take care of him . You shouldn't leave your man in bed , coming in here to slave away for us . Make yourself tea

, and go back to bed . Bantu
shouldn't have let you out of
bed

This woman ! She's a whole
shock , what mother of a
boyfriend can say this ?

Me : he wasn't happy

She laughs

MaRhadebe : he shouldn't ,
make tea and go back to sleep .
You'll wake up , when he wakes
up

Me : he asked for coffee

MaRhadebe : and you'll make
yourself a cup as well , it's chilly
in the morning

I make the coffee , and walk
out with the two cups

I pray I don't burn myself
opening the door

Bantu : I'm convinced you're
not upset

I place the cups on the night
stand

And take my clothes off , going
to lock the door

Bantu : and now ?

Me : MaRhadebe told me to
come back to bed

He chuckles taking his cup

Bantu : so you would rather
listen to her , than me ?

I laugh

Me : leave me alone

I take my cup and take a few
sips

He's staring

Me : what ?

Bantu : I'm happy

Me : mhm ?

He smiles pecking my check

Bantu : Mvezo was somehow ,
because he was scared that you
would leave us like Gladys and
Sophie . After he has gotten
used to you , and all that . But
we spoke , and I assured him he

understood . And I think you two are okay right now , it's much better . And my mother she loves you , it's a given . She didn't even shy away from that , and that's what makes me happy . My son and woman get along , my mother and woman get along . What more could a man ask for ?

Me : caffeine is getting into your head

We laugh

Bantu : my love is big enough
for us

I shake my head slowly with a
smile , drinking my coffee

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Bantu

Mom : what's going on ?

Me : we're leaving , Bangizwe will bring Mvezo on Sunday . I already spoke with him , we'll meet in town as we leave . But he had already agreed

Mom : Bantu , why would you come here only to hurt me ?

I look at her confused

Mom : you arrived yesterday ,
and today you want to leave

Me : nozala(mom)

Mom : don't do this , I'm only
just getting to know my
daughter in-law

Me : we didn't even bring a
change of clothes for days

Mom : don't we have a town here ?

I look at Enhle

I don't think she will be happy about staying more days here , that's not what we agreed on

I was happy that we'll have time at home alone

But then again , I also don't
mind being here

But I don't know about her

And this is not what we spoke
about

Enhle : how far is it ? We can go
and hurry back ?

I nod

Enhle : okay

Mom smiles

Mom : there problem solved ,
enkosi MaGwala (thank you)

She walks back inside the house

Me : I'm sorry , I didn't know
she will act like this

Enhle : it's okay , I guess it
won't hurt us

Me : you're not angry ?

Enhle : no , take the bag back in
room

Me : okay , I love you so much

I hold her , placing a kiss on her forehead

Me : tell Mvezo we're going to town , we'll be back soon

She walks inside the house , I go to my room and put the bag with our clothes back

As I walk out , she's also walking out of the house .

We walk to the car

Enhle : Mvezo is asking for Pizza
, and treats

Me : hayhiii (no)

She laughs

I drive out

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Ndaloenhle

This Bangizwe brother is very wild

Too wild for my liking , and he seems too somewhat if you ask me

We met him at town , and we bought clothes to keep us for the whole week

And enough toiletries

Also got a few things for Mvezo

We even got groceries for his
mother

We came back a while ago

And he's with his brother ,
somewhere in the yard

I'm in his room , packing our clothes

Mostly mine , cause he didn't get a lot of things unlike me who had nothing

He already has clothes here

He walks in , as I put the plastics away

Bantu : don't tell me I lost the
phone

I look at him confused

Me : what phone ?

He walks over , and sighs seeing
there are still plastics I haven't
opened

Bantu : this ...

He fiddles with them , and
takes the phone out

And it's an iPhone 13

Bantu : it's yours

Me : what ?

Bantu : so what are you smiling
about ?

I laugh

Me : why would you buy me a phone ?

Bantu : you need it

Me : for what ?

Bantu : for me to call you , what else ?

He sits down on the bed

Bantu : Bangizwe wants us to
go out

Me : who's us ?

He's not even looking at me ,
he looks like a 5 year old right
now

Bantu : just for a few drinks

Me : where exactly ?

Bantu : at town

I said that brother is wild

Me : and who will be driving ,
when you come back late and
drunk ?

Bantu : I'm not going there to
get drunk

Me : hamba Bantu (leave)

He looks at me , I walk past him
grabbing the toiletries plastic

I walk to the bathroom

Bantu : I love you

I keep quite , he walks behind me and places a kiss on my neck

Bantu : I won't get drunk , I'll be back before 21:00 . I promise you that

Me : fine

Bantu : I love you

I just nod walking out , and he
follows through going out

I sit down on the bed

I don't know why I feel the way
that I do , but I'm anxious right
now

And it's not a lovely feeling ,
and it's unsettling

I feel like those insecurities and
whatnot are kicking in

He's in his hometown

Surely he's done things here
and met girls

He's going to a club or tavern

There'll be girls there , looking
all kinds

And dressed sexy , legs out
boobs exposed

Won't he get tempted ?

I mean , he's stuck with me
with long dresses with sleeves

And sweatpants with hoodies ,
like all the time

I can't help myself right now

Or maybe I'm just overthinking
, and it's not good

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INSERT 28

Bantu

I wonder if she has connected
the phone or not

Bangizwe is having a blast

And we met some guys , I know
from here at home

And it seems like it'll be a long
night

I hate that I could see she
wasn't okay when I left

Maybe I shouldn't have left ,
and stayed

Besides she doesn't know my
mother that well

Maybe she thinks I've just
abounded her there

And now I'm out having fun ,
while I dragged her home

I dial my mother , and it rings
for a while

Mvezo : phone ka gogo
(granny's phone)

Why is he answering it ?

Me : uphi uAunty ? (Where is)

Mvezo : in her room

I laugh

Yes it's her room

Me : please give her the phone

I know it's late , bit it's not even
a walk going to the outside
room

Mvezo : ka gogo ? (Granny's)

Me : ewe (yes)

Mvezo : okay

I can hear shuffling , even when
he's walking outside

I can hear the air , until there's
a slight knock

Mvezo : it's dad

Enhle : okay , get inside it's cold

It goes quite

Enhle : what ?

Whoa !

Am I in the dog box ?

Me : Bhabha (baby)

She goes quite

Me : should I come back home
?

Enhle : for what ?

Me : you're angry at me

Enhle : I'm not , why are you
calling ? It's late , and umntana
had to walk in here (the child)

Me : okay , I'm sorry . I just
wanted to check up on you

Enhle : I'm fine , I'm sleeping
Bantu

I shake my head slowly

Me : please connect your
phone

Enhle : I'll do that tomorrow
morning it's late now

I sigh

Me : I love you

Enhle : okay bye

And she drops the call

I guess that's that

I stand up

Skhu : don't tell me you're
leaving now

Me : I have

Bangizwe : wait a minute ,
you're not going to leave me
here . Have at least two more

Skhu : yeah , two more and
we're leaving

They're just lying , and right
now I don't want to drink

I won't be drinking

Voice : I thought my eyes were
deceiving me

I sigh

Sibo : still handsome as ever

I look at Bangizwe , and he
better have not orchestrated
this shit

Sibo : can my girls and I join you
?

Me : no

Skhu : yes

Bangizwe : stop being uptight

Sibo looks at me , she's just a few inches away from me

Sibo : your brother is right , you're a bit uptight . I haven't seen you in what ? 7 months , but here just incase we don't end up in my bed or yours

tonight . Just call , when you
can and let it be before you
leave

She hands me her card , and I
see it's her business card

But it does have her personal
number

She smiles staring at me , and I
can see she won't go away

I slide the card in my back pocket

She bites her lower lip , looking back

She calls her friends over , it's three girls with one gay guy

They walk over , and the guys make space for them

They bring over another round
of alcohol

I pour a glass of whiskey

As conversation goes around ,
and everyone starts drinking

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Ndaloenhle

Is it sane , that he's out there
having fun

And I'm here tossing and
turning

Not being able to catch a
glimpse of sleep

This is just stupid

And maybe this is why I should
stay away from relationships
and all

Clearly I'm not cut out for this

That's why I can't even say I
love him back

Because I don't want him to
know I love him

And I don't want him to see me
vulnerable like that

I don't want to be taken
advantage of

He'll be comfortable in that I
love him , so he has that space
and place in my heart

Now I so wish we had left

Or I was better yet left off in
Joburg

I'm tempted to connect that
phone , but I don't even have
his number

So how will I even call him ?

It's late now , like very late

It's just the sounds of dogs
from a distance afar

I wonder if I'll be able to get
some sleep

By the look of things , it doesn't
look like they're coming back

And so many thoughts are just
going through my mind

Where is he going to sleep , if
he doesn't come back ?

I mean , if he was coming back shouldn't he be here already ?

I'm sure two or three hours have passed since when he called

And he sounded like someone who would have come home

I also got some hope that he would come back early

If I had said he should come ,
when he asked if he should
come back

But clearly after that , he didn't
care . He's having fun

Sunday is very far to be honest ,
if this is the kind of behaviour
I'll be dealing with , the whole
time we're here

It's only been two days , just
two days

I don't know how people in
relationships deal with such
things

If they do

I just know that I can't , it's just
not for me

I can't handle worrying about a grown ass man

While he has no worries where he is

If I show or say how displeased I am about all of this , next thing I'll be seen as if I'm controlling . Or telling him what to do , and how to live his life

I think I'm better off , because I
know my short comings

And I can never be a woman
enough for Bantu

No matter what he says , at the
back of my head that will
always be there

I wipe my tear off

Turning to the side

Hopefully I can find some sleep
, a good rest might just do me
good

I'm overthink right now , and
it's doing nothing but just
hurting me

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INSERT 29

Bantu

I stand by his bedroom door

I had to walk him up , just to
make sure that he gets to his
room

Without even waking mom and
Mvezo

Me : hand me a blanket , and a
clean one please

He looks so out of it

I slowly shake my head

Me : Bangizwe

He turns and looks at me

Bangizwe : waitwhat ?

I sigh

Me : give me a blanket

Bangizwe : are we not sleeping
?

Me : we are

Bangizwe : sowhere are you
taking a blanket ?

Me : I'm going to sleep

He goes quite

Me : I'm not sleeping in your room

Bangizwe : go into your room

I walk in with a sigh

This conversation won't go anywhere , it'll just go over and over again

Just the same thing said
differently

Me : I'm not going to wake up
Enhle , it's late now after
midnight

And she sure isn't happy where
she is

I know I fucked up

I grab one of the blankets in the
plastics

I know my mother has one or
two new blankets in every
room

Me : take your shoes off and
sleep

Bangizwe : go talk to Enhle , I
don't want her to hate me .

And she didn't look like she
likes me very much

Me : okay , you're drunk . Sleep
, and leave my relationship
along with my woman alone

I walk out closing the door

I go downstairs , and head into
the lounge

Laying down on one of the
couches , I cover myself with
the blanket

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Ndaloenhle

I'm done cleaning in the room

The way I'm so down , I don't
even want to go outside

I spent the night alone , only
God knows where Bantu slept

It must have been very nice
where he is

Honestly , if I could leave this
place today

I would

I walk out , and as usual his
mother is awake . She sure
doesn't entertain sleep

I can just tell by the chimney in
the other roundavel

I walk to the main house , I just
want to check on Mvezo

I am really not in the mood for
anyone

I'm graced by sounds , even
though it's not shouting

MaRhadebe : my couches are really not for carrying grown men to sleep on , especially when people have their own beds

She doesn't sound happy at all

Bantu : I'm sorry , but

MaRhadebe : I don't want to hear it , you should have slept

with Bangizwe in his room . Not
on my couch

Men will embarrass you , like
they will embarrass you and
make sure

I knock , MaRhadebe opens the
door for me

It's slightly opened

I take just one look at Bantu
who's still in his yesterday
clothes

And he looks like he barely
even slept

I really was worried about
someone who was having fun

And he looks very much fine ,
still all in one piece

I greet , like he's not even there

They greet back

Me : ma , is Mvezo up yet ?

MaRhadebe : he's in the
roundavel , one of his cousin
came this morning

Me : okay

I turn walking out

He grabs my arm

Bantu : please lets go talk

Me : I want to talk to Mvezo

Bantu : you will do that , but
please

I just stare at him , I'm not even angry right now I'm just bored

Bantu : please

He takes my hand and we walk to his room , we walk in he closes the door

Bantu : I know I fucked up last night , and I'm sorry . Sure I got drunk , but I won't even blame

the alcohol . I had a choice to leave after I called , but I didn't . We got home around 01:00 , if not later . And I didn't want to wake you up that late

I move back from him

Bantu : but I slept at home

Me : please , don't ever embarrass me like that .

Sleeping on your mother's
couches when you have a room

He sighs

Bantu : I didn't want to wake
you up

Me : even if you got back at
dawn Bantu , you should have
come to your room . What do
you want your family saying

about me ? Sleeping on a couch
like you have no place to sleep

He keeps quite

Me : okay

I walk past him walking out

I go into the roundavel , and I
find three kids

I don't who's the other one ,
cause MaRhadebe said cousin
she did not say cousins

I greet them , they greet back

I ask Mvezo to bring me his
laundry

I realised that there's no helper
here , even though the main
house is a double storey

MaRhadebe seems to be doing
all the work by herself

Mvezo brings his laundry out ,
and I go near his father's room
to wash it

While I'm still washing , Bantu
comes out of the room

He's showered now

Bantu : can I bring mine ?

I keep quite , he walks back
inside

And comes out with two pants
including the one he was
wearing last night , and 3 t-
shirts

Bantu : I'm really sorry about
last night

I take a deep breath

Me : please get away from me

His sorry is going to end up just
annoying me

Because he's a grown man with
sense

He was in his minds

When you do something with intent , there's absolutely no need for you to apologize

Cause you knew what you were doing

Bantu : okay , but I love you

He says walking away

I continue washing , until I
reach inside his pockets

And a business card comes out
of his pocket

Sibongile Gama , and she's a
lawyer . There's office numbers
and personal one's

Now should I believe she's just a lawyer , and there's nothing there

But these pants are new , we didn't come with them . And he definitely didn't get them here

I know they're new , because I picked them out for him yesterday

I take the card and walk inside
the room

I place it on the night stand ,
and go back to continue doing
the laundry

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INSERT 30

Ndaloenhle

Bantu : nozala is asking if you're okay (mom)

After doing laundry , I stayed in here

The room is actually a two room , there's a bedroom and lounge

I'm watching Nigeria movies

Me : I'm fine

He sighs sitting down

Bantu : please tell me what go
do , cause I can't take this .
Shout or

I close my eyes for a brief
moment

Me : remember how I asked
you to leave me alone , about
these love and relationships
business ?

Bantu : I thought we were past that , I mean we spoke about it right ?

Me : the same way , we spoke about you not hurting me . I told you Bantu , I can't afford to compete with the kind of girls you keep

Bantu : and I said I will never do that to you

Me : I will ask , is Sibongile
Gama just some lawyer ?

The look on his face says it all

Bantu : we used to have a thing
way back , even before I moved
to Joburg permanently . And
there were hook ups here and
there , when I came around .
We met last night at the club ,

and she gave me her card and said I should call her in case we don't end up together . Of course that wasn't going to happen , that ship sailed . I took the card just so she can get away from me , I wasn't even going to call her . I slipped that card in my pocket , and it slipped my mind to get rid of it

Me : I told you this , and I'll say it one last time . And I don't

want you to feel pity for me , or
feel like you should be
sympathetic for me . Or maybe
I need special love , I don't .
Because I think I know that this
is me now , and I've made
peace with that . I can never
get back to the Ndaloenhle ,
who knew nothing and was
robbed like that . I don't want
you to think you must tip toe
around me , or treat me like an
egg . I am not strong Bantu ,

and if this is the drama that comes with relationships . Then is definitely not for me

Bantu : Bhabha(baby)

Me : please let me finish

He sighs with a nod

Me : I can't compete with lawyers , when I've never even

exchanged words with a lecture . And I'm not saying I want you to feel my insecurities , or that I'm projecting them on you . I didn't sleep last night , I only caught sleep early hours of the morning . I couldn't help but overthink , and cry myself thinking of what you were doing and who you were with . I can't handle all of that , when you leave and say I'll be back in two hours let it be two hours .

Don't add an extra hour , and I'll be wrecking my mind of what's happening in that extra hour . I don't know , but I'm too weak for such . And it'll get tiring , always having to assure me . Cause I know , I will never see myself worth of being woman enough . And any woman who comes closer to you , in that manner makes me feel like I'll have to prove my worth to you

Bantu : don't say that

Me : I don't have any worth

Bantu ...

He pulls me closer to him , and
hugs me

I shake my head against his
chest , tears streaming down
my face

I pull off him and get up

Me : I'm sorry , I don't know what I was thinking . It hurts because I really do love you , but you deserve a woman you can fully love . And she can see you beyond everything else , and I'm not her . Because I'm battling darkness and demons , I'll just be a burden for you to love

Bantu : you're not a burden to me , and you'll never be

He's just staring at me with a straight face

Me : maybe we rushed this , and let feelings get in the way of everything . Maybe I'm not ready , and who knows ?

Maybe I'll never be ready , and

I know I haven't healed . I
thought I can get through this ,
trying this relationship with you
and giving it my all . But all this
business of fun you're busy
with , and all these women you
seem to just attach everywhere
. It's just not for me , I can't
take all of that . And there's
your lawyer card by the night
stand , don't let me get in the
way of you calling her if that
was your intentions

I walk out of the room , not
even knowing where I'm going

I wish I was familiar with the
place , I would get some air
right now . Away from his home

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Bantu

Mom : what did you do ?

I frown

Me : what ?

Mom : you're sulking , and she's cooped up in that room of yours . I gave her headache pills , and I know there's no headache there . Even though she said she has one

I sigh

Me : I met Sibbo last night , and she gave me her card . Stupid me , I left it in my pocket and forgot to throw it away . And Enhle saw it , because I asked her to do my laundry

Mom : you're really boring me right now

Me : mom !

Mom : don't mom me , you can't be having a woman like Ndaloenhle by your side . And yet still have eyes , for girls like Sibongile

Me : I don't have eyes for her , I wasn't even going to call her . I just took the card , so she could get off my face

Mom : you should take your drunkard brother , and leave

Me : leave and go where ? I thought you wanted us to stay until Sunday ?

Mom : you're leaving me with Enhle , before I get annoyed by your disgusting behaviour

Disgusting behaviour ?

Like really !

Me : I'm not going anywhere ,
I'm not going to leave these
grounds . Unless I leave with
her , because I don't want to
make matters worse . She kind
of broke up with me , so I have
a lot of fixing to do . She said a
lot of things that hurt me about
herself , and I saw what I did
wasn't right . I hurt her

It broke me to hear her talking
like that

And it was right there and then
that I knew , that if I stand a
chance to keep Enhle like I plan
to

Then I need to change
drastically , because she's
fucking worth it

She's for keeps , and I don't
want to lose her

She was pouring her heart out ,
and it wasn't for me to see her
as a burden as she might have
said

But it was a pave way of how to
love her , in the sense that she
will get it and be assured that

really I love her and she's worth

it

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Ndaloenhle

This woman is not even that old
, that what she's doing right
now is normal

Mvezo called me out , said his
grandmother is calling me to
come see her

I get to her , and she says she
wants us to just busk in the sun

I thought , she was joking

But no

And her son just had to sit here
with us

I really don't want to see Bantu

I just wonder if he has nothing
else to do

MaRhadebe : that girl has no
shame

I dart my eyes to where she's
looking

And it's a beautiful light
skinned skinny woman

Your Lee and Roxy types

MaRhadebe : she's just passing this way , because she didn't get a call from you

I side eye Bantu

Bantu : nozala ! (Mom)

She clicks her tongue , and calls the woman over

And I hear the Sibongile name

Can this be her ?

If that's the case , then it's clear
Bantu has a type . Because
she's no different to Roxy

And I don't even look half of
what his type looks like

She walks in , and greets as she gets to us

The smile she has , as she looks at Bantu

MaRhadebe : how is your mother doing ?

Sibo : she's doing well , and very much happy that I've come to see her

MaRhadebe : very good , we do miss you kids when you disappear long in the cities

Sibo : we will come home regularly , right Bantu ?

What ?

Bantu : mhm

I feel like just standing up and walking away right now

Sibo : anyways , it's good to see you're well after not calling last night

MaRhadebe laughs

MaRhadebe : what business do the two of you have now ?

Sibo : oh ma , I saw Bantu last night . And gave him my number

MaRhadebe shakes her head

MaRhadebe : a beautiful lady like yourself Sibbo , you want to be played by men . Just be glad he didn't call you , because you would be good for being one thing to him . What can you

possibly gain from a married man , who's also a father ?

Girl doesn't believe

Sibo : married ?

MaRhadebe : yes , this is Ndaloenhle uMaGwala . My daughter in-law , his wife and mother of his kids . What are you doing with Bantu ?

I don't know what Bantu is smiling about , cause he's just annoying me right now

His mother is lying , I'm not his wife nor mother of his kids

What kids ?

And this girl of his , looks like she'll drop dead right now

Sibo : I didn't know

MaRhadebe : now you know , I don't have son's who are bachelor's . My son's marry , they marry and settle down with women amongst women . I mean good worth women

Wow that's some hyping right there

If only I could laugh

Sibo : okay , I'll take my leave
now

MaRhadebe : bye

She turns and walks out , as
fast as she can . If she could run
, she would

MaRhadebe : you bore me

Bantu mxm !

She says getting up , and
walking inside the house

I'm not sitting here with Bantu ,
I am not

I get up and walk to his room ,
laughing slightly . MaRhadebe
is something else

After a while , he walks in

I'm in the lounge watching TV

Bantu : I brought you food

Me : I'm not hungry

Bantu : please eat , you haven't
eaten the whole day

Me : and that says I'm not hungry Bantu

Bantu : I know you're angry , and you're hurt . I'm sorry I fucked up like that , but I'll never do that shit again . I'm committed to us , I wasn't going to sleep with her nor was I going to call her . After that card thing , I didn't even exchange any words with her

I cover myself with the fleece
and ignore him

If I hear another I'm sorry from
him , I'll lose my mind

Rather he stays away from me
, because I don't want to see
him

But since he can't seem to do
that , he can always just keep

quite . And not say anything to
me , like at all

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INSERT 31

A FEW DAYS LATER

Ndaloenhle

The past few days , I just had to
put up face

For the sake of MaRhadebe , so
she doesn't stress herself about
us

But I'm glad Sunday is here ,
and we're leaving

I don't know if I'm just glad ,
we're going to Joburg and we'll
be sour there to each other

Or the fact that I won't have to
put up face for anyone

We're packed and ready to go

Mvezo is saying goodbye to his grandmother

For someone who wasn't keen on coming to the village

He sure had fun , and the village did him good

Bantu : we will call , once we arrive

MaRhadebe : okay , and take care of my daughter . The next time she enters this yard , I want to be welcoming her as one of our own

I'm not dating her son anymore

Bantu : I'll go work harder

He laughs

MaRhadebe : you better

We say our goodbyes , and
head to the car

I wouldn't even be getting on
the front seat with him

If only Mvezo wasn't going to
fall asleep on the back seat

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Sanele

Lee : you have got to be kidding me , do your you have any idea what this has cost me ?

I sigh

Lee : 3 modelling gigs , that's how much money I've lost . All because of you , and your family along with that lunatic friend of yours . He belongs in

jail , and that's where he's
going

She's angry

Not even trying to hear
anything my parents are trying
to say

She came over , cause my
mother was the one who asked
her to

Lee : look at just how you're living , all because of him . And you expect me to let all this go ? This is my life we're talking about

Me : I understand that but

Lee : but nothing , I still have the hospital report . And I'm going to report Bantu , you're a

rapist . He's an abuser , both of
you deserve to rot in jail

She gets up

Lee : and from here on , I want
nothing to do with you
oMagwaza

She takes her bag

Lee : you you also deserve
to rot in jail for what you did to
that poor girl . You disgust me ,
just like that abuser friend of
yours

She clicks her tongue walking
out

I guess she's really done with
me.

Dad : if that girl values her life ,
she will stay away from
opening a case against Bantu

He says walking upstairs

There's strain on my parents ,
and I just hope this doesn't
come in between them

Or they separate

I've gone back to Bantu's place
, and it's clear he's not around

I even asked Athi , but he just
dismissed me

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Ndaloenhle

The tiredness is not the same
as when we were going there

Today is a bit better

I graced the shower as soon as
we arrived

Mvezo is asleep now , we got
him food on the way

I knew I wasn't going to cook ,
when we got here

I'm already in bed

But my eyes are not closing ,
yet I am sleepy

Voice : Bhabha (baby)

I sigh

I should have locked that door

He walks , and sits down on the
bed

Bantu : let's go to bed

Me : I'm in bed Bantu

Bantu : our bed , I'm not
sleeping in the guest room .

Neither are you , and our bed is
cold . I can't sleep , it feels
somewhat without you next to
me

I say nothing

Bantu : okay , we sit the whole night

Me : what part of I don't want this anymore , didn't you get Bantu ? We're done

He chuckles

Bantu : you're not about to break my heart , and my son's

heart like that . What's done here ?

Me : you should tell your son why we're done

Bantu : maybe in your head , cause there's no such . We're going to fix this , I'll stop fucking up and we'll be okay

Me : mhm

Bantu : and I'm not kidding
with you , let's go to bed

I ignore him

He carries me off the bed , I
feel like I could slap him

Walking to his bedroom , and
he puts me in bed

He comes in behind me , and
brings me closer

He cuddles me , and it feels so
right and warm being in his
arms

I close my eyes as I feel sleep
catching up with me

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Bantu

She turns and faces me

I side eye her , she slowly opens
her eyes

I can't comprehend her look

She sighs sitting up , and rubs
her eyes

Me : can we talk ?

She gets off the bed

I sigh

She walks to the bathroom ,
and I thought she was walking
out

I fight with my thoughts , until
she gets back

Thinking she'll walk out

She comes back to bed , and
sits up straight

She looks at me , and this look
is intimidating

I don't know why I'm suddenly
nervous

She's still not okay about what
happened

Me : I'm sorry about what happened at the village , I shouldn't have taken the card . Doesn't matter for what reason I did that , and why . The fact that I took it , and even came home with it says otherwise . I might have forgotten to get rid of it , but maybe it's a good thing it happened . Because I know , you asked yourself a lot of questions that night . And maybe , at the back of your

head you're still asking if something happened . But I can assure you , apart from taking that business card . Nothing happened , and I wasn't even that drunk . I'm sorry I made you feel somehow , and slept on the couch by the house . Even Bangizwe told me to go sleep in the room , and I insisted on not wanting to wake you up . Lesson learnt , and I'll never do that shit again . And I

mean both , I might have never been in a relationship before even with Mvezo's mom . It was just a fling , and he happened . But I kept my son , because he was there . I'll know my limits from now on , and consider you in everything that I do . Not because I feel pity , or that you want me to love you somehow . But because you're the woman I want , and you definitely deserve to be loved

right from me . And when you
don't want something , it's
definitely I must that I don't do
it

I take her hand , she still has
her eyes locked on mine

Me : it hurts me , when you
compare yourself to these
women . Because you're not
them , and you'll never be .
Because if you were them , or

looked anything like them I
wouldn't even be with you . I
told you you're going to school
next year , and I meant that . I'll
make it happen , no need to say
you're nothing . Just because I
used to fuck a lawyer , it's not
the lawyer I want but you . And
if you don't want an education ,
it's fine . I really don't give a
fuck , and I'll never even force
you to get it . I know there's
tons of things you can do , and

that's if you want . I'm here for you , and what you want .

Whatever you put your mind into , I'll always be here for that . Even if you wake up tomorrow , and say you want to be a housewife . I'll fucking be here for that , and I'll still be damn proud . If you want to do something , I'll be by your side supporting you through it .

Because I am all for what you want , please stop looking

down on yourself . Or thinking you amount to nothing , that's not how I see you . And to me you're worthy , and definitely woman enough . You hurt me , when you utter those things like you're a nothing . And it mean I'm failing as a man , because if I was doing everything right you wouldn't be having those thoughts

She takes a deep breath

Me : I don't like what you're thinking

She turns fully and looks my way

Me : you don't have to prove anything

Enhle : for my sake

It's a plea

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INSERT 32

Bantu

Me : you don't have to do this

She takes her pj top off , it's like
I'm talking to alone

Enhle : I didn't sayI'm doing
this for you , it's for me

I've seen her naked , but I've
always made it a point to hold
myself

Even though my dick reacted ,
like it's fucking doing right now

I have a sigh , getting hot
flushes

Enhle : tell me to stop

She says getting on her knees ,
taking her shorts off along with
her panty

Me : you broke up with me , so
you want to use me for sex

She laughs

Me : please don't regret

She leans forward and captures
my lips into hers

I kiss her back

It's slow and soft

I lay back , and flip her on top
of me

We kiss for a few minutes , and
I pull back

I lift her up , bringing her
coochie to my face

She gasps looking at me

Enhle : what

Me : let me

I position her well , and kiss her
mould

She's shocked by her reaction

I place my hands behind her ass
, bringing her down

My tongue graces her open ,
and she moans slight

I suck and nibble on her clit ,
the more pleasure builds up

The more her moans increase ,
and she's a slight screamer

This room is going to need to
be sound proofed

I slide my tongue inside her open , she brings her thighs together against the sides of my face

Her body just reacts , her waist slowly moves as she rides my tongue

That just fucking turns me on insanely

I'll give her control

Just until I'm certain she's okay
with sexual encounters

I'm still a bit stunned right now
, cause I don't know where this
just came from

Out of nowhere

I wasn't even in a hurry to have
sex with her

She tries moving back , her
breathing uneven

I hold her tight , making sure
she doesn't move

Enhle : Bantubaby please
....let memove

I shake my head

Enhle : I need

She lets out a faint scream ,
that's just aggressive in a way

And her cum graces my tongue
, she holds my head tight

Until she calms down

She moves

Me : no , don't get off . Just go
down

She's panting

Enhle : whatwhat was that ?

I chuckle

Me : it's called an orgasm

She shyly smiles

Me : you were begging for it

She laughs

Me : take my briefs off

Enhle : I didn't ask you to take anything off

I chuckle

Me : you're freaky

She trails her hands to my waist
, pulling my briefs down

Enhle : that can never be me
.....I was

She lets out a gasp of shock

Me : you've seen it before ,
what's the shock ?

Enhle : I

She swallows

Enhle : it wasn'tthis big

Me : you're up close and
personal now , and it's erected

The silence !

Me : get on your knees

I remove her thighs , parting my
legs

She just stares at me

Me : if you're satisfied with that
we can

She gets on her knees , and I'm like she really wants to do this

Me : slowly , rub it on yourself .
Make sure you're wet enough ,
before you slide it inside

Enhle : it will hurt ?

There's fear , and it's understandable

Me : a bit , but once you relax
you'll enjoy it . You will
accommodate it , don't worry

She even looks scared to touch
it , I take her hand putting it on
my dick

Me : if it's too painful , stop

She nods , and slowly rubs on
herself

She closes her eyes , and I'm
just throbbing to feel her moist

She slowly leans down , taking
it in

You can't miss the discomfort
on her face , and I'm thinking
she'll stop but she doesn't

Me : fuck !

I curse under my breath , as she goes in gracing my dick

She opens her eyes , and stares deep into mine

We have that eye contact , I assure her

She places her hands on my knees

Me : thrust slowly , don't rush

She nods , taking the first few thrusts that are so uncomfortable for her

She stops and looks at me

Enhle : isn't this done the other way around ?

I laugh

Me : it's done however , and
I'm giving you the power to
dominate me right now . I'll
have my time with you

She balances herself better , as
she takes more thrusts

The more she goes in , and she
accommodates me better

She picks her pace

I don't know , but it feels
fucking damn good having a
woman fuck you

And she gets this Amazon
position , taking me however
she wants with her pace . Being
in control

The tighter she holds on my knees , her facial expression says it all

And I lift up a bit , thrusting in with her pace . I don't want to take over , and end up hurting her

Her moans turns into screams of pleasure

She clams up , and leans down
pulling out of her as she's still
on her wave of pleasure

I get off the bed , and bring her
across

I get on my feet , her cum
sliding down her coochie

I tap my dick on her coochie ,
before sliding in

She grabs the sheets , biting her lower lip

She lifts her ass up a bit , I bring her one leg up to my shoulder

And thrust in slowly , the more I go in and picking my pace

I'm tempted to pull out , as my dick jerks

But the way she's so warm ,
and her coochie gripping on my
dick

I let go as she hits another
orgasm , I cum inside of her

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INSERT 33

Ndaloenhle

Bantu : Bhabha (baby)

I have my back turned against
him

He long woke up , and went to
take a shower

I'm tired , I want to sleep

My body feels somehow

I didn't know that sex gets
people tired

I didn't even think I can do that

I mean , even my reason for
initiating it

It was just insane

I can admit , that in a way I
wanted to see if he can sleep
with me

If I can be able to be a woman
to him

And I think , he saw right
through me

I rushed it , but then it's fine

I don't regret it really

At some point , I did feel that
pain

And it felt like I was being
opened again , for the first time

But having my eyes opened half
the time

Made it easy

Cause I saw it was him , even
when I felt the pain

I knew he wasn't hurting me

Bantu : please look at me

Me : come this side

He chuckles , I uncover my
head

He walks over to the side

Bantu : really ?

I can barely even keep my eyes opened , I could use some more hours of sleep

Me : mhm.

Bantu : you're not waking up ?

I shake my head no , knowing very well I have to wake up

Bantu : next time , I won't be greedy . I won't let you be this drained

Why is he lying ?

He sure can go on

After he said he's giving me power to dominate him , I thought it was all about me

I didn't think he would take charge , but he did and he did me thourouly

Bantu : how long will you be in bed ?

Me : I will get up to see that hungry baby

He laughs

Me : or you can just take care
of him for me , and make sure
he's okay

Bantu : and your man too

I lazily laugh

Me : the man can take care of
himself

Bantu : you're strange

He leans down , and we kiss

Bantu : I love you so much

I smile , and force my eyes to
look at him

Me : I love you

It's that intense stare , that
causes me to close my eyes

He's quite for a while , until he
burst out laughing

He's annoying , I know I'm crazy
right now . He doesn't have to
rub it in

I broke up with him , and now I
love him . I really need help ,
like real help

I pull the duvet annoyed
covering my head

Bantu : we won't bother you

Those are the last words he
says walking out

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Bantu

Me : would you be happy if we
have a baby ?

He looks at me

Me : and the silence ?

Mvezo : a baby like Uve's mom
?

Me : yeah

I say with a nod

Mvezo : but where will we get the baby ?

Here goes nothing

Me : from aunty

Mvezo : she will give us the baby ?

He asks a bit shocked

Me : yes

Mvezo : so the baby will be
hers too ?

Me : I think so , yeah

What is this child asking me ?

Mvezo : oh

He fiddles with his fingers

Me : you haven't answered me

Mvezo : what ?

Me : would you be happy , if we have the baby ?

Mvezo : the baby will call aunty mom ?

Me : yes

I nod

Mvezo : well , if the baby is
ours . Can I also call aunty mom
?

Are we there ?

Mvezo : I think so

Mvezo : that's better

I chuckle , not understanding
what's better

And this baby talk is too soon

But if she shows up pregnant , I
need to know that my son
won't feel somehow about that

And I don't know , if it's a good
thing for her to fall pregnant

I know it would be good , but I
just mean like right now

Especially not knowing if she
wants to have kids or not

But I so hope she doesn't ask
for a morning after pill

Or even gets on prevention pills

Mvezo : do you like her ?

This question again

Me : if I answer you , you have to promise and not say anything

Mvezo : a promise is a promise

I chuckle

Me : okay , you can't tell aunty
we were talking about the baby

Mvezo : okay , I won't . I
promise

Me : thank you

Mvezo : so ?

I slightly laugh

Me : yes I like her

He nods , focusing back on his
cartoons

I get up walking up , I check on
her

And she's still asleep

I walk out , going to my study

I settle on my chair , and open my laptop . Now this is not what I expected to grace me

The fuck did he want ?

Coming to my house , so many times

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Sanele

Right now , I don't know if
we're going forward or what

But I just feel like we're stuck in
one place

And nothing is going right

Dad : at my age , how do I even
start over ?

Sino : you're asking yourself
that ?

The attitude of this girl !

Sino : I still don't get it , how does Bantu demand your money just like that . You give it to him

Dad : you think I just handed it over ?

Sino : well baba , you sold everything . Everything !!

She raises her voice

Senzo : this is a mess , and
unfortunately we still don't
know why you did what he
wanted

Dad : you were there Senzo ,
didn't you hear him threaten to
kill your mother ?

He sighs

Sino : what does he care about that girl ? How is what happened with our family his business ?

Dad : because she stays with him now , I'm sure he will

Me : he what ?

They all look at me

Me : he stays with her ?

Dad : sit your ass down ,
because we're here all thanks
to you . Had you not treated
that girl the way you did , we
wouldn't be here

Me : yeah blame me

Sino : you raped her Sanele ,
like what kind of a human being
are you ?

I keep quite , there's no use
even saying anything

I get up

Dad : leave Bantu alone

Me : I'm just going out for air

He says nothing , I head to the lounge and walk out

He welcomes me by the door , just as I close the door

And I'm frightened , because I did not expect to see him here

Bantu : what were you doing at my house ?

Me : II just wanted to talk

Bantu : talk about what ?

Me : everything that happened
, man I understand I fucked up .
Sure do what you want to do to
me , but you don't have to
torment and torture my family
for my deeds . They didn't do
anything

Bantu : I am not crazy , and I don't go around doing nasty things to people who have done nothing to me . Your family provoked me first

I sigh

Me : okay , but man to man . You need to stop , and give back my father what's his

Bantu : he can go back to that village , where he bought a human being for a million . And he can want his million there

Me : Bantuokay listen , you're just overreacting all of this . If it's about what I did to Enhle , then let the law deal with me . It's not like I didn't report myself to the police

He chuckles , and it actually
scares me

Bantu : the law deal with you

Me : she's here now isn't she ?
You have her in your house , so
she can go open a case . I'll
account to my crime

He walks closer

Bantu : so you can go to jail for what ? 5 years , and come back and rape again ? Or even feel like you're redeemed cause you went to jail , is that going to give her what you took from her ? Will she get it back ?

Me : don't fucking say that , I'm not a rapist . I've already lost a lot , I'm paying for what I did as it is . I don't go around raping

He just grabs me , by my collar
and he pins me against the wall

Right next to the door , before I
even let out a scream

He pins his elbow on my throat
, blocking my airway

Within a split second , he rips
my pants with the knife I didn't
even see it . I try to kick him ,

but he moves his foot back it's
a miss on my side

I'm praying that someone
comes out of this hose , before
he kills me right here on my
door step

The pain that shoots through
me , as he moves back . I'm
feeling it , throughout my
whole body

And I'm looking at the dagger in
his hand , dripping of blood

I slowly look down , my hand
going to my dick

And it's fucking hanging by a
piece

Me : youyou cutcut

I lift my eyes and he's gone ,
like there's no sight of him

I trail with the wall , and reach
for the door

I've never felt this much pain

I open the door , and I can't
balance myself

Voice : ma !

It's Sino calling out , as I fall
down on the floor

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INSERT 34

Ndaloenhle

You cannot not be startled
waking up , and someone is on
your face like this

I woke up a while ago , and
stayed with him in the lounge

But I fell asleep , because he
was watching cartoons

And those things sing , like after
every two minutes they're
singing

I just couldn't

I somehow fell asleep , in that
midst

And now , I open my eyes and
he's just a few inches away
from face

I don't know what he was
looking at

Me : hi

I say with a slight laugh

He smiles

Mvezo : you sleep a lot

Me : yeah , I know

He laughs moving back as I sit
up straight

Me : where is dad ?

Mvezo : he's still not back

Me : okay , did you eat ?

Mvezo : I ate then , I'm hungry
now

This one and food

Me : okay , let me go wash my
face . I'll come back make you
something to eat

I get up walking up , and I go to Bantu's room

I just need to wash my face , so I can be fully awake

I walk to the bathroom , and wash my face

I walk out drying my face , with his towel

I grab my phone on the night stand , and I dial his number

It rings , on the second ring he answers

Bantu : Bhabha (baby)

Me : where are you ?

Bantu : driving back home , I'll see you in a few minutes

And I can hear the car sound

Me : okay

Bantu : did you need anything ?

Me : just snacks

I don't like those sweet things
that are in the pantry

Bantu : I will pass by the garage
, what kind ?

Me : buy like you're buying for
me , and not Mvezo

He laughs

Bantu : okay , we'll go shopping
tomorrow . I'll just buy a few
tonight

Me : okay , thank you

Bantu : I love you

I smile

Me : and I love you

I hear one deep proud chuckle ,
I drop the call and walk
downstairs

I make steak and chops , with
chips for him

Me : come eat

He walks in , and sits down

Mvezo : enkosi mama (thank
you mom)

What ?

I'm stunned and shocked , and
he just goes for his food eating

I hear the car outside , and I
rush to the lounge

A minute later he walks in ,
with the plastic

Bantu : what's wrong ?

I look back and walk closer to
him

Me : He called me mom

Now why am I emotional ?

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Bantu

This boy !

Is something wrong with him or what ?

I mean , I thought that conversation was between us

I don't know how Enhle feels , being called a mom

And what happened to keeping quite ?

I mean , that was about the
baby

And a baby who's not even
here to begin with

I give her a hug , I don't know
what's the meaning of this
reaction from her

We pull out and kiss , for a
good few minutes

Enhle : where are the snacks ?

Me : here

She takes the plastic

Me : uhm so what you said
when I walked in here

She shakes her head and goes
on walking to the kitchen

I heave a sigh , taking a deep
breath

I didn't think the mom word
would be spat out so soon

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Ndaloenhle

I get off the bed , with Bantu's
semen running down my thighs

I take the most awkward walk
to the bathroom ever

And he's laughing behind me

I pee , wipe myself flushing the
toilet

I wash my hands

And walk back to the bedroom

Bantu : I have to take Mvezo to school , and stop by the office

Me : okay

Bantu : I'll be there for an hour the most , I'll come pick you up . And we'll do breakfast , before getting things you need

I nod

Bantu : how do you feel now
being called mom ?

Was it really a thing , or maybe
it was just a slip of the tongue ?

Or maybe he just said it in
passing , and it didn't mean
anything to him

Bantu : doesn't it make you feel
awkward or somehow ?

I chuckle

Me : no it doesn't

Bantu : so you're okay with that
?

Me : are you okay with it ?

I mean that's his son

And maybe he probably doesn't
want him calling some woman
who's not his mother mom

He shakes his head

Me : you can't use your voice
anymore ?

He laughs

Bantu : no , I mean as long as
you don't mind it . It's fine with
me

Me : okay , let me go see that
he's up

I pick up my gown , and walk
out going to his room

I wake him up , and make his
bed while he brushes his teeth

I go make breakfast , and leave
them eating to go fix their
clothes

When I'm done , they go to
shower . And I clear up in the
kitchen

I make myself a cup of coffee ,
after a while they both walk
down dressed

Bantu : I'll see you in a few

I nod , and get up pulling
Mvezo

I fix his tie , he thanks me and
walks out

Bantu walks over to me , he
places his hands on my waist

We lock eyes , and kiss

Bantu : I love you

Me : and I love you

Mvezo walks back in , I move
away from his father

Mvezo : now I can call you
mom right ?

I guess it wasn't just said in passing

Me : yes , you can

Mvezo : great ! Uve come meet my mom

What now ?

He calls out , and his friend walks in from the lounge

He greets , we greet him back
and he's just looking at me

Mvezo : I'll have a little sister or
brother too , I told you my
mom is here

What ?

Uve : sorry I didn't believe you

Mvezo : I don't lie

Yhoh !

Bantu : okay , to the car . I'm
coming now

Mvezo : bye mama (mom)

Me : bye baby

Jesus !

They walk out , Bantu looks at me and laughs

I'm still stunned like did all of that just happen

Bantu : you did not sign up for this , but you'll be fine

Me : he wants a sister or brother too ?

Bantu keeps quite

Me : did you hear that ?

Bantu : mhm I heard that

Me : wow

He pecks my cheek

Bantu : baby I'm leaving , finish your coffee . Go shower and be ready please

I just nod , because I'm like what happened ?

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INSERT 35

Ndaloenhle

We're at some restaurant ,
having breakfast

He said we'll go buy things after
we're done

He has my hand in his , over the table

It's just how he's so comfortable , just being seen with me

He doesn't even mind holding my hand in public like this

Bantu : are you okay ?

I realise I've been staring

I smile with a nod

Bantu : there's

Two cops walking to our table ,
my insides go cold

I look at Bantu , holding tight
on his hand

Bantu : it's okay , don't panic
and don't cry . We don't show
weakness in public

I'm lost at what he's saying

What's going on ?

Seems like he knows something

Cop 1 : Mr Bantu Dzedze

He looks at him

Cop 1 : detective

Bantu : I did not ask you

The arrogance

The two cops chuckle , now we
have eyes on us

Cop 1 : read him his rights , get
up time is up

Cop 2 : right , you're a tough
one . You're under arrest for
breaking Ms Lerato Seati's arm
, don't even try to deny it . We
have the proof , even enough
evidence from her doctor . You
have the right to remain silent ,
anything you say can and will
be used against you in a court
of law . You have the right to an

attorney , and if you cannot
afford one . The state will
provide you with one

He says , cuffing him

Now I get what he was saying ,
when he said I shouldn't cry

He knew he was getting
arrested

Does this mean , he really hurt
Lee ?

And he looks so chilled , like
he's not getting arrested in
public like this

Cop 1 : lets go

Bantu looks at me

I don't see worry , I don't see
panic

Bantu : Teko will come get you ,
go home . I'll see you later , I
love you

He says with a smile

And I'm like , is he aware of
what's happening here ?

They walk out with him , I even
feel like running out of here
crying

What am I going to tell my son
?

That his father got arrested in
front of me ?

Tears burn my eyes , I bow my
head

I can feel the eyes on me ,
everyone will be talking about
us now

I don't even know where Teko
is

Voice : ma'am are you okay ?

I shake my head not even
looking

Him : please come to the back ,
away from people's eyes

I lift my head , and it's the
restaurant's manager

I see by his tag

I follow him , and he leads me
to an office

He gets me glass of water
offering me a chair

Him : is there anyone I can call
?

Who ?

Even if I say Teko , I don't know
his number . So basically
there's no one he can call

Him : it's okay Mrs Dzedze , if there's no one I'll personally make sure you're home safe . It's what Mr Dzedze would want

He knows him ?

Me : I'm not his ...how do you know him ?

Him : he's my boss

Me : your boss ?

Him : the restaurant is his

Oh wow !

I didn't know that

Me : do you know Teko ?

Him : yes

Me : he's the one who you can
call

The door opens and he walks in

Teko : don't worry , I'm here .
Let's go , thanks TK

The guy nods , I get up and we
walk out

Me : I want you to take me to him

Teko : we can't , he's in police custody right now

Me : he still has the right to a phone call

Teko : yes he does , but they'll want to toy with him for hours

I sigh as we get to the car

Teko : they won't allow you to see him , until they think they can make him talk or whatever

His phone rings

Teko : get in the car , answer the call . We have to go fetch Mvezo from school

I get in the car , he hands me
his phone I answer

Me : h Hello ?

Bantu : I'm sorry breakfast got
ruined , and we can't

Me : tell me you're coming
back home

I get all emotional

Bantu : don't cry , I'm not there
to comfort you . And hearing
you cry , just breaks me . I'll see
you later

Me : Bantu

Bantu : trust me

Easy for him to say

Me : those men sounded very
much sure of what they were
talking about

Bantu : and I'm very sure of
what I'm talking about , go
home and take care of our son .
I love you

I wipe my tears off

Me : I love you

We're quiet for a few seconds ,
I take a deep breath as he cuts
the call

Teko gets in the car , I hand him
his phone

And I'm just lost in thought ,
but I pull myself together
seeing Mvezo

Mvezo : wow , you're picking
me up ?

He's so happy

Me : yes

Mvezo : you should do it often

I laugh

Me : okay baby

We get home

Me : go change , I'll make you something to eat

Mvezo : okay mom

Me : thank you

Teko : not a problem , don't
worry

I wish it was as easy as they
keep saying

He leaves as I make something
for Mvezo to eat

He comes down , and eats
watching cartoons

Strange he doesn't go to visit
his friend today

We spend the whole afternoon
together

Mvezo : dad is working late ?

Me : yes baby , but he will be
here when you wake up in the
morning okay ?

I hope he will be , because I will have no lie to tell him

Mvezo : okay

Me : go brush your teeth , pee and put your sleeping wear . I'll come tuck you in bed

Mvezo : okay ma (mommy)

I smile

I guess I'm really a mother right
now

And I better fill those boots

Even the situation forces me to

I don't know what will happen
now

If Bantu will come back really

I gather myself , and go upstairs
and find him getting into bed

I tuck him in , and stay with him

He tells me about his day , and
gets me out of my troubling
thoughts

Until he falls asleep , and I'm
back to overthinking

I go down in hopes that he will
walk through that door

Until it's past midnight , and I
give up that he is coming home

I drag myself to Mvezo's room ,
and get in bed with him

Making sure I don't wake him
up

I cuddle him , in hopes to find
sleep

I have to be up in the morning ,
and I hope Teko will be back to
take him to school

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Bantu

Me : what nonsense is this ?

Mabusa : we have a report from her doctor , the one who treated her when she was admitted . She has a case , and even said she has eye witnesses

Me : the Magwaza's ?

Mabusa : you would know , I wouldn't

Me : don't get smart with me

He sighs

Me : I let you be with that
nonsense , arresting my wife .
What is it that you and the
Magwaza's want from me ?
Like what nonsense of a plot is
this ?

Mabusa : I'm just doing my job

Me : you're full of shit , and I'll
bring you and this police
department down

Mabusa : you're not giving me
.....

Me : I should be with my wife
and my son right now , but I'm
here . Stuck in your fucking
interrogation room

Mabusa : if I get you out , it'll raise eyes . I don't want to step on your toes , I appreciate you taking a step back . I don't want war

Me : get me out ? Fuck you , you're going to let me walk out of here . And make sure that stupid case disappears , just like that . Your lapdogs arrested me in public , in front of my wife

He gets up and paces around

Mabusa : how do I ...

Me : don't make your problems mine . Get me out , get rid of that report . Tear it , or burn it . Bribe your men if you must , I don't care

The door opens , Teko walks in

Mabusa : how did you get in here ?

Teko : wena Mabusa wa tena , o itirile peba . Kore o bata go nyela hela , o marete (you're annoying, like a mouse . You'll shit your self , you testicles)

Mabusa : you can't just walk in here , and swear at me

Teko : voetsek (fuck off)

I get up

Me : we'll see you around

He shakes his head slowly

Mabusa : I'm going to lose my
job because of you

We walk out

Teko : this piece of shit , let me
make that whore disappear

Me : get to it

Teko : no one will ever know
what happened to her

We get in the car

Me : how are my people ?

Teko : she's a natural mother ,
she kept the champ . Even
though she wasn't okay

He drives me home , and leaves

I go to our room , and it's
empty

I go to Mvezo's room , and
they're asleep

I go take a shower , and go back to his room

I pick her up slowly , making sure I don't wake up either of them

And I cover Mvezo , so he doesn't get cold . Making sure his sheets won't fall down

I walk to our room , and lay her
in her bed

Getting in , and I hold her in my
arms

Me : I'm sorry I'm late

I kiss her forehead

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INSERT 36

Ndaloenhle

I feel the hands around me ,
and I know it's him

I've gotten so used to his touch
, in just a short space of time

I don't even panic , when he
holds me and I'm not aware

The scent on the sheets , we're
definitely in his room

And I know very well where I
slept last night

I heave a sigh of relief

Bantu : I'm sorry I was late

Me : how did you get out ?

Bantu : Bhabha , jail is not for innocent people . They don't stay in there

I turn and face him

He looks very much fine , just like when he was being handcuffed in front of me in public like that

Me : did you hurt her ?

Bantu : why would I ?

Me : why would she lie ?

He keeps quite

Me : if I'm with a man , don't
you think I should be with a
man who will be honest with
me ?

He sighs

Bantu : I don't want to hurt you
, so let's not talk about this

Me : what ? Were you sleeping with her too ?

He raises his brow

Me : Okay fine . Don't bother telling me

At least he's home , and I won't have to answer Mvezo about why he's not home when I said he will be

I get off the bed , and walk to
the bathroom

I pee and wipe myself , flushing
the toilet

I wash my hands , and wash my
face

It feels a bit somehow ,
because I was crying

I get out , and walk downstairs

Preparing breakfast , and I
make sure Mvezo is ready for
school

His father will take him , even if
Teko doesn't come

At least I don't have that stress
anymore

After breakfast , his father
walks in

They greet each other

Bantu : you're ready ?

Mvezo : yes

He looks at me

Mvezo : mom , you're coming
with right ?

This child !

Me : I didn't shower

Mvezo : you look clean , just go
dress nice

Aibo !

Mvezo : please , I want my friends to see both my parents dropping me off . You'll walk me to the gate , holding my hand . And dad leans against the car looking at us

I find myself laughing

What kind of acting scene is this that we're doing now ?

Me : you need to stop watching too much TV

Mvezo : cartoons don't do that

Then I don't even know where he learnt that

Bantu : let's go , mom will find us in the car

He grabs his bag , and they
walk

I head upstairs and make sure I
look decent

I even make sure that I wash
the private part

The drive to the school is quite ,
not awkward no

With Mvezo just talking , and
we both engage him where we
can

And when we arrive at school ,
we sure give him his grand
entrance

And the little man , is so
confident walking with me to
the gate

The stares are there , and he
has one hell of a smile

Me : you behave yourself okay
?

Mvezo : always , don't kiss me
my girlfriend won't be happy
she's jealous

Lord help me !

He's 7 , what does he know
about girlfriends ?

Mvezo : see , that's her

He points with his head , and I
see the blue eyes blond hair girl

And she's looking at us

I'm like !

I'm shook , to the core

Mvezo : mom bye

He says with a smile letting go
of my hand

Me : bye baby

I don't move an inch watching
him , and as soon as he's in the
school premises

The so called girlfriend walks to
him

And now I'm jealous

What's my baby doing with the
people who stole our land ?

He slightly turns and laughs
shaking his head , seeing I'm
still looking at them

And they hold hands as they
disappear with the crowds

I clap my hands once walking
back to the gate

Bantu : and what was that ?

Me : your son's girlfriend

I say not paying him attention ,
and get in the car

He gets in , and he doesn't
drive

Bantu : I'm not a saint , nor am
I an angel . I'll probably not
even see heaven , if it does
exist . But I didn't go around
sticking my dick everywhere ,
and I've never slept with Lee .
The reason I said , I don't want

to hurt you . Is because of what she said , when she found out what Sanele did to you

I cringe at hearing his name

He holds my hand , I turn as face

Bantu : she said you asked for it , seduced him and he just gave you what you wanted

Me : what ?

It comes out as a whisper

Bantu : this is why I didn't want to tell you this , but I can't have you thinking I fucked with her . She's angry because I retaliated when she said that , and from what Athi said they're no longer together . She probably

blames us for that , and she can use whatever she wants to use . Just to tear us apart , even if it means taking me to jail . For something I didn't do

Now I feel bad , like I feel very bad that I accused him like that

I need to do better , and not let my insecurities get the better of me

But I also can't believe that
another woman could say such
a thing about another woman

Yeah ! This world really is cruel

Me : I'm sorry

He heaves a sigh

Bantu : it's okay

He drives off

Bantu : I drop that boy to school everyday , and I don't even know he's dating

We're there ?

Me : don't traumatize me , I can't deal with my son dating

He laughs

Bantu : that's why he wanted
you , so you can see his
girlfriend

Me : said I shouldn't kiss him ,
his girlfriend is very jealous

Bantu : oh wow , she's a keeper

Me : she's white

He dies of laughter

Me : I will die if Mvezo brings
me a white daughter in-law

Bantu : it's just race

Me : they took our land

Bantu : Bhabha stop ! You have
apartheid in you

Mxm !

Me : it's fine , it's my portion

Bantu : my poor boy , he still
has a long way to go

This girlfriend talk is not over ,
he still has to tell me how it
came about

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INSERT 37

Ndaloenhle

He puts the dish in the
dishwasher

And he comes back sitting
down

Me : let's talk

Mvezo : what did I do ?

Me : nothing

Mvezo : oh

We laugh

Me : it's about the girlfriend

Mvezo : mom !

Me : what ? It's just us , dad is busy in his study he won't even hear us

Mvezo : okay

Me : so why do you have a
white girlfriend ?

He laughs

Probably because I have a
frown right now

Mvezo : she's just white , it
doesn't mean anything

Me : what's her name ?

Mvezo : Hayley

Wow !

Me : andhow long have you
been dating ?

Mvezo : when I started school

Yhoh !

Me : so like how's the
relationship ?

Mvezo : I like her , she likes me

I heave a sigh of relief

At least they like each other ,
it's not love

The stage will pass

Kids have a tendency of having
girlfriends very young , and he
can come back next week with
another girlfriend

Me : so like , she's good ?

He nods with a smile

Me : what do you do ?

Mvezo : we play together at school , and share our lunch boxes . Also we sit together in class

Good !

No kissing there , although we saw they hold hands

Me : and you hold hands ?

Mvezo : only when we go to class

I nod

Me : why is she jealous ?

Mvezo : she says I'm cute

I laugh

Me : at least she's not a liar

The smile , like no . My boy is a charmer

Me : it's good , but don't rush to get married . At least wait a few more years

Mvezo : like how long ?

Me : like20 years or so

I mean , he'll be 27 then

Mvezo : isn't that long ?

Me : not at all , before you
know it it'll be 20 years soon

Lord forgive me for lying

Mvezo : okay then , I guess I
can wait

Me : good

Mvezo : let me go see Uve

Me : bye , and don't be talking
about girlfriends there

He gets off the couch laughing
walking out

And laughter erupts behind me

Bantu : what are you doing to
that boy ?

Me : we were just talking

Bantu : wait 20 years

I shrug

He leans behind the couch I'm sitting on , and places a kiss on the side of my face

Bantu : just let the boy be

No !

Bantu : don't you want a daughter in-law ?

Me : not that one no

Bantu : you're going to be a
very territorial mother , like
that's a given

Me : that's fine

He laughs

Bantu : I fear for our kids , get
rid of politics . And leave
apartheid alone

He brings his hand to my boobs
over my t-shirt

He rubs on my nipple , causing
me a very pleasurable feeling

Bantu : we should have a baby

That comes out of nowhere

Me : why ?

Bantu : just , I think it'll do us good all in this house . Just to have a little mini someone

I've never even thought of having babies

Me : you're serious ?

Bantu : yes

I'm think he would laugh , and
say hell no

The conversation is closed

Me : mhm , maybe we can try

I can literally feel him smiling

Bantu : thank you , but I should probably marry you first before I get you pregnant . My mother would kill me

Me : I wouldn't even know who you would even pay bride price to

He slides his hand inside my t-shirt , and continues rubbing on my nipple

That's now erect

Bantu : who were you staying with ?

Me : my aunt , even though there had always been rumours that she found me next to the road . That we're not even related

Bantu : mhm , that's
complicated

I nod slowly

Realising that , basically I have
no family whatsoever

Me : I know she wouldn't care ,
but she took 1 million from
Magwaza . She surely can take
your 5000

Bantu : you're worth so much more , don't worry we'll find a way to navigate through this

I hope so

He slides his one hand to my lower waist , reaching my honey pot

I laugh

Bantu : your son is gone , let
me get one . I need that room
sound proofed as soon as
possible , you're a screamer

Me : blame your long thing

We laugh

Bantu : lets go shower together

I get up , he pulls back with his hand

I walk around , and he picks me up into his arms as we kiss and he walks upstairs with me in his arms to his bedroom

He gets us both undressed , and we walk to the shower . He's holding my hand

He sets the water to
temperature

We walk in , standing under the
water as we kiss

He picks me up , and places me
against the wall

Balancing me with his arms , his
strength holding me

I balance my legs on his waist ,
to his back locking them

I places my hands to his head ,
as he deepens the kiss

And I feel his tip on my
entrance , as he puts it in and
out

Me : babyplease

I'm yearning for him

And slowly he slides it in
through , until I feel like he's
poking something

And I'm quick to place my hand
on his lower stomach , like I'm
pushing him back

Bantu : askies (I'm sorry)

He whispers

And he starts taking in slow
deep thrusts

And letting out groans in my
mouth

The water is just intensifying
the pleasure , as it hits my
nipples

I throw my head back , enjoying
the feeling of his dick ravishing
me

My ass hitting hard on the wall ,
making contact

I can't contain my screams and
moans

No wonder he says I'm a
screamer

He buries his face on my neck ,
and I lock my legs tight against
his back

As I have an orgasm , and he
doesn't let go . He continues
thrusting in

Until I feel like I'm expanding ,
and I know he's about to cum

Bantu : oh fuck !

I look at him as he looses himself , leaving his semen inside of me

He turns the water off

And places me on my feet , he gives me a brief kiss

And turns me around ,
pounding in taking it from
behind

I balance my hands on the wall
, trying my level best not to
loose balance with my feet

It is slippery , I can admit that

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INSERT 38

Bantu

How we ended up having sex
on the floor , than being on the
bed

I don't know

She's laying on top of me , I
have my hand brushing her
back

Me : you need a bank card

Enhle : why ?

Me : just incase nonsense like
what happened , happens again
. I can't risk leaving you two
anyhow , without any source of
income

Enhle : why do you say that ?
You're here , and nothing is
going to happen

Me : I'm not saying it'll happen
, but we don't know Bhabha
(baby)

I sigh

Me : in this way , I will be at
ease . Knowing you have
money on you , to sustain you
two . I'll also show you all my
cards , and their pins . And
where they stay , cause I don't
keep all of them with me

Enhle : you're just scaring me
with this talk

Me : I'm sorry , but there's
nothing to be scared of

My phone rings

She moves off of me

Now I have to get up , I'm not
even in the moods

I reach for it and answer

Me : sure

He sighs

Athi : did you do it ?

Ah finally !

He's been quite , and I've been wondering about this matter

Me : what ?

Athi : Sanele , did you do it ?
Did you cut his dick ?

Me : why would I do that ?

He sighs

Athi : no one knows about what he did , my father sure . I know he would love to give his son , a taste of his medicine . But that man is going through the most right now , and he wouldn't cut him . As for Teko , he has no reason to . Me I'm capable , but I know I didn't .

I chuckle

Me : and so you think it's me ?

He keeps quite

Me : I didn't do that , and worse Lee had me arrested yesterday . In front of my woman , do you have any idea how that felt ? I don't know what you Magwaza people want from me , but it's getting too much now

He burst out laughing

Athi ; fuck ! I called you for a reason , and now you're fucking putting a show and scoring points ku mntu wakho (to you person)

This fool !

Me : yeah ndoda , bye

He's still laughing as I drop the
call

I'm just glad Enhle is not near
me

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Sanele

Surely this hospital now feels
like home

I'm always here , time and time
and again

It just doesn't end , and it's
starting to be annoying right
now

I look at the doctor as he walks
in

And I don't know how long I've
been out for

Doc : Mr Magwaza

I just nod

Doc : glad to see you're awake

Me : please tell me you were
able to help me

I'm even scared to look , or
even touch

Doc : uhmyou're alive , I

Me : no ! Tell me that you could patch it back , please

He sighs

Me : doctor

Doc : Mr Magwaza , the surgery was very complex . And the

intention was to save you , but
as we were perfuming the
surgery we came across
complications . And it was in
between letting you live
without it , or loosing your life .
And you're here now , so that
means

Me : noooooo !

I let out a sob , pulling the
sheets off of me.

Doc : sir please , you'll hurt yourself

I pull the hospital gown , and it's gone . Like it's completely gone

Me : nono ...no , thishow could you do this ?

Doc : it was to save

Me : I didn't give permission

Doc : sir you have to
understand that it's ...

Me : I am going to sue you and
this bloody hospital

Doc : Mr Magwaza

Me : get out , and I want to
leave this place

Doc : a gun shot wound , and
being beaten to a Coma . Are
two different things , you need
proper medical care right now
this injury was

Me : get out

He sighs

I grab the glass of water next to me , and throw it against the wall

Doc : sir

Me : get out

He sighs walking out

I can't help but break down , I
don't even care who will hear
me

They cut my dick off , they
completely removed it

Why couldn't they just save it ?

Like what kind of a punishment
is this ?

All of this for just one woman ,
just one

It's not like I went out there
and raped thousands

I regret what I did , to this day

Her screams and cries haunt
me every night

Isn't that punishment enough ?

Did I really have to lose my dick
?

How do I go on with life from
hereon ?

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Bantu

Teko : I created some files , for
like two weeks back . Some
modelling gig in Canada , one

that was promising to be very much permanent if all goes well . Got her passport and visa on the system , and there's the flight to Canada that she took . So it'll be just like she left the country for a job , and she never came back

I nod slowly

Teko : I disposed of her body , no one will ever find it . They'll

never know what happened to
her

Me : good , it didn't have to get
here but she wasn't giving me
much choice

Teko : it's best this way

Me : I'm trying to build
something here , and there are
certain parts of my life I will

never show my woman . I will never tell her , and I don't even want her finding out about them . Like ever

Teko : I get you , heard anything about Sanele ?

I shake my head

Me : I'm not keeping tabs , I just hope he will stay away

from me . Or I will torment him
, and have him raped so he can
understand very well what shit
he did

Teko : let's hope he's learnt his
lesson

Hopefully he has

He better not come at me like
his now dead girlfriend

Or even make accusations
against me

He should go play far from cops

And try getting his life together
, and I'll do the same

As for a case , he shouldn't
even bother himself

That house of his doesn't have
security

I knew that , I've always known

Hence I know , no one saw me

At this point , it's his word
against mine

Best we leave this , as it is .
Because he won't go far

Teko : let me get going

He gets up

Me : thanks for what you did

Teko : I have your back brother

I chuckle as he turns and walks
out

I lean back with a smile
grabbing my phone

I call her , it rings for a bit

Enhle : hello

Me : don't cook tonight

Enhle : oh ?

Me : what ? Have you already started ?

Enhle : washing vegetables

We laugh

Me : stop , I'll bring something to eat

Enhle : okay

Me : I love you

Enhle : I love you more

She just said that right ?

And she drops the call laughing
, probably knowing that I'm
smitten right now

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INSERT 39

THREE YEARS LATER

Ndaloenhle

Cebisa : tata aka funi (daddy he
doesn't want to)

Mvezo laughs

Mvezo : she tells on everything

Bantu : she's a child , that's
what they do

He picks her up , and she's
sulking

Mvezo : I was once a child , and
I was never like that

Bantu : you were the only child
, you had no one to tell on

They laugh

Bantu : asambe (let's go)

He puts her down

Cebisa : ha.ana tata , akhoni (no
daddy , I can't)

Bantu : njani ? (How)

She just sulks there , not
moving an inch

I can't help but laugh , and they
all look at me

Cebisa : mama (mommy)

Me : hi baby

I crouch down picking her up , I
kiss her cheek

Me : unjani ? (How are you)

Cebisa : aphila (I'm well)

Me : ndiyaphila nam (I'm also
well)

Bantu : hi baby

I smile looking at him

Bantu : Mvezo take your sister
to get ready , so we can go . I'm
taking mom out for dinner

Mvezo : we're spare wheels ,
molo mama (hi mom)

This child !

I'm dying of laughter , as he
takes his sister and they walk
up

I walk to my husband giving
him a kiss , and he kisses me
back

I cup his face , looking into his
eyes

Me : I missed you

He chuckles with a smile

Bantu : I know you do , and
you're horny as fuck . So let's
go have that quickie before
your kids get down here

I laugh he gets up taking my
hand

Bantu : how's this one ?

I smile , as he rubs my tummy

Me : fine

We already have two kids , I
don't know where we're
dragging a third one

I found out when Cebisa was 2
years and 4 months

It's insane , I'm already six
months pregnant

But my husband is happy , the
kids are happy too

Even their grandmother , she's
just over the moon

So we're embracing the new
addition

I'm learning to adjust , along
with school

But I'm coming well , even if I
say so myself

I have a man who supports me
through and through

He doesn't mind staying all
night , helping me study or do
whatever I need to do

And not a day goes by , and he
doesn't tell me that I will bag
that economic analyst degree

The faith he has in me , it
exceeds everything . He goes all
out for me and our kids

And I have a family that cares
and loves me

Our kids are everything to me ,
even this one that's coming

This man has lived to love me
right , and now I know he's
never looked at me and saw a
broken woman

It's like I was just wounded ,
and the healing took place

Bantu : I love you

I've trailed off , and I'm brought
to as he wipes my tears

I've never uttered a prayer , but
whatever the universe saw it fit
to give me this man

I'll forever be great

Me : make it 10 minutes

He laughs , picking me into his arms

Heading upstairs to our room

Cebisa is a princess , she'll take forever picking an outfit

We have time for this , before going out

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Sanele

My eyes are not deceiving me

It's her , like it's really her

She looks ten times the woman
she arrived in Joburg like
almost four years ago

I can't believe it's really her

I haven't seen her , since the
day I got shot

And after everything that
happened , I couldn't bare
being here anymore

For those three years I left

I went to UK , just to find
myself and find my feet

I was lucky to get a job , and I was able to start afresh

Even though , I can never be with a woman ever again

What woman would settle for a man , who can't satisfy her ?

It took a lot of therapy , that I'm still attending even now

And after starting my life , I
gave my parents my home . So
it can be theirs , and they stay
there

And gave dad small money to
start a business , and he did

It's nothing like his big
company , but it's something
and it gets them by

I'm picking the pieces , just
navigating through my
miserable life

I can't take my eyes off of her ,
I'm sitting at the corner

They can't possibly see me ,
unless they turn

They look so good together ,
it's even giving me chest pains

To think that woman could
have been mine

I look at their kids , I know
Mvezo . They must have had
the girl

And she looks very much
pregnant

She's fucking glowing

I can't believe I lost such a dime

But now I know better , even if
I were to fight for her

She would never settle for me ,
that one is a given

I'm less of a man now , I'm just
a man because I appear as one

Life will never be the same for me , and I will live with the regret of what I've done for the rest of my life

And seeing her this happy and content , makes me see exactly what I lost

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Bantu

The fact that , she can be in the same space as him

And not be comfortable

The fact that , she can look at him and not shiver

Her mood is not ruined , she's still just as she was when we arrived here

And she's long noticed him ,
she didn't even say anything
about him

I don't know , but that's growth

I'm proud of this woman I call
my wife , and the mother of my
kids

Me : I'm so proud of you

She's healed

The scar might never go away ,
but she's healed from it

That's why I always said she's
anything but broken

Enhle : I love you

I smile leaning over

Me : I love you Mrs Dzedze

We kiss

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THE END