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YOLANDA THE BLIND GIRL by Ukhanyi

Introduction

My name is Yolanda Jones 20 year of age and what you should know about me is that I am blind.

That is usually part of my introduction every time I get to meet new people, I am the baby of the family, my brother is 23 and my sister is 22. Everyone at home is so over protective of me which is kind of annoying at times but I kind of understand where they are coming from, either way I love the attention.

Even though we have our conflicts and arguments like any other family they do not outweigh happy moments.

When I was 10 years of age my parents told me that they adopted me at the age of 2. Apparently on a faithful day when a Good Samaritan was going to work in the morning she heard a baby cry next to a dumping site and took the baby to a nearby

clinic, the woman who gave birth to me was never found so I was taken to an orphanage.

I was lucky enough to be adopted by a family that made me one of their own, I am blessed really and I thank God for each and every one of them every day. when I was growing up I use to question myself about why my birth mother dumped be like rubbish, it was a very hectic time in my life but through the support of my family I got through it and accepted the situation no one had answers to the questions I had so I accepted the situation, the only conclusion I could come up with was that she had her reasons.

When it comes to love it's a struggle my sister thinks I should go out more so I can meet my prince charming, she even suggested that I join tinder because my romantic life is non-existent. Well I might consider that because it's been quite a while since I dated, I have only been in one relationship when I was 18 and we dated for a year and about 3 months it was great at first but at the end a disaster and I had to experience losing a boyfriend and a friend because we started as friends. But I guess we were different and the fact that I am blind contributed a lot to our break up.

Yes I might be blind but I live my life like a normal human being, as a child I was always in to fashion and make up like most curious young girls who want to look beautiful, well nothing

changed because I am still in to those, I do my make-up and I still like to doll up I just had to learn to do all these, it certainly didn't happen overnight it took a lot of practise and of course I have to give a little credit to my sister and mother because they act as my eyes but I use my senses to get about my daily routines.

1

There goes my beauty sleep, my phone is ringing, how can I forget to put it on silence? Argh now my Saturday morning is ruined people have no respect out there.

< voice over > 'Mel is calling' 'Mel is calling' gosh my sister is in the same house as I am why the calling? This is so irritating. I flip over the pillow and aggressively take my phone and answer.

Me: "Melissa Jones" making sure I sound annoyed

Mel: "wake up we are going to the mall" she chuckles before saying

Me: "you are so evil Mel, firstly you wake me up before dawn you know how much I love my sleep, and you know that I hate the mall, please just let me sleep okay" I drop the call.

Mels is crazy firstly she disturb my sleep for going to mall she knows I don't like going to places full of people, well it's not like I don't like exploring places I do it's just the staring that irritates me, it just switches my mood off. Even though I can't see them staring the feeling that they are staring is there and when I get that feeling it's usually true. As I'm about to get under the blanket 'Miss Evil' budges to my room.

She shouts to the top of her voice “come on I thought by now you would be up at least, it’s getting late” she is irritated.

Me: “well you just wasted your time and energy because I’m not going anywhere today”

Mel; “ come on Yol, I planned this day ahead of time, you know we don’t get to spend time as we used to when we were kids and now I’m here trying and you are brushing me of” she sound sad and now I feel like the king of jack assess, if there is even such.

Me: “okay Mel I will get ready you don’t have to be so emotional” I say

Mel; “hug?”

Me; “Yeah get in here cry baby” we hugged, I really felt so bad because ever since we grew up my sister and I have been living our lives differently, she went to college and I was dealing with my life but we never became strangers, we call each other all the time and she visit’s every now and then because she stays a few hours from here.

Mel: “that was no so hard right? Little sis”she whispers to my ear, gosh my sister is so evil she just emotionally manipulated me.

Me; “wow!! MELISSA REALLY?” I’m so angry right now I moved away from her and throw a pillow her way just in time before she ran away laughing.

Me; “I will get you”

Mel: “Now get ready I will come back I a few minutes, LITTLE SISTER” it must be nice being Melissa, I can’t believe she did that.

Knowing ‘Evil Mel’ she will come back soon let me get started, I get up make my bed and go to open the window to let fresh air in, mmhh the smell of a morning fresh air is good, my mood is lifted as soon as the sun kisses my skin, I can tell that the sun is shining bright, but it is not hot it’s just the right temperature, I take one long breath of fresh air and go to my closet, it is always arranged neatly I make sure of that so that I know exactly where my clothes are.

Everything is packed perfectly on the shelves and those that need to be hanged are neatly hanged too.

I touch through my bottom wear first, I feel through the fabrics and go where my jeans are packed neatly and pick the one that is a high wastered, I know all my clothes by their fabric so when I buy cloth I feel them and the person I’m with during the shopping normally tells me the colour and it’s hard for me to

forget the clothing once I have learned about, because I don't like having to ask people the same thing over and over. Sigh! To match it I choose a tight black short sleeved crop top written with white words #SMILE, and my all black sneakers. I have black box braid; I have been so obsessed with braids lately.

I take a quick shower while humming a soft tune which I don't know where I even heard it from, when done I step out dry myself thoroughly wear my gown and get out, I seat next to 'my make-up station', that's where I do my makeup it's a beautiful decorated table with a huge mirror and a comfortable chair, yes I said mirror, because I felt like it would be kind of awkward and boring without it.

Minutes later I'm done, I need someone to check me out. I take my phone and call my sister to come, she got in and I'm just standing there. She smells so nice I guess she is ready for the 'mall'.

Mel: "WOW sis" there we go, she always does this, "are you sure you are blind Yol? I mean NO look at that, or you have a makeup artist hiding in here??" Mel is the queen of drama I tell you.

Me; "Mel come on how do I look? I don't have time for this" I really don't have time for this

Mel: “you look good, it’s perfect, like you just stepped out of the magazine”

Me: “I don’t have time for this, MOM!!” I shout, I need Mom because this one seems to be having jokes.

Mel; “Sorry to bust you bubble but mom is not here

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she went to see a friend, earlier on, I’m not joking though you look good even this black looks good on you babe, you just need a red lipstick to finish of the look” okay I believe that, she wouldn’t let me embarrass myself In public like that I take my red water proof lipstick and pack my bag we head to the kitchen so I can eat something. Not forgetting my walking cane.

Mel has on a black mini denim skirt a mustard tank top and sandals, she tells me her outfit as we are heading to the kitchen, I make myself a bowl of cereal because I know where everything is in the kitchen, I eat in silence, when im done I take my vitamins and wash my bowl, im finally ready to go, Mel checks me out and off we went to her car.

What I love about Mel is that she always tells me about something that she sees like “we just passed a very beautiful tree it’s so and so in colour and shaped like that” so I can experience the view. And she usually whine about everything like “why did she just over take us for” “why are they driving

like grannies” I like that about her, I don’t have to ask her what is out there she tells me.

We get to the mall I’m now using my cane, my left arm is hooked on Mel’s, and we are walking on a normal pace. It’s not so hard walking in here because I can figure out where we should be going; I have been in this Mall many times. We get to a clothing store she lead me to a ladies section, I start doing what I do best to feel the clothing that I may like I found a few and so does Mels, we both pick clothes for one another, we go from shop to shop and im really enjoying my time with my crazy sister. The nice thing about all this is she is paying.

After what seems like forever we found a restaurant because we are both famished we sit and place our orders and get our drinks. We are waiting for our food sipping on our drinks over a light conversation; Mels tells me that there are guys on the other table looking at us.

Mel: “one of them is waving” she says amused

Me: “well just don’t entertain them, don’t look at them and lastly ignore them sis” I don’t like entertaining guy’s period.

Mel: “come on Yols it’s just an innocent wave”

Me: “okay I guess it’s cool as long as I’m not part of it” Mel is so naïve yerr

Mel: “ you are here with me so you are part of this, plus the cute one can’t take his eyes of you, oh my god don’t turn, he is coming this way” what ? Even if I turn I’m not going to see nothing okay. Before I even say anything the guy is here.

Him: “hello ladies, I hope I’m not disturbing you but I just couldn’t leave without coming to say hello to the two most beautiful ladies in this place” what? Well at least he smells so good and he got a great voice too.

Mel: “hello to you too, and thanks for the complement”

Him: “by the way I’m Chris” I can feel his eyes on mine, but I keep my mouth shut and mind my business,

Mel: “nice to meet you Chris, I’m Melissa”.

Chris; “nice to Meet you” they are shaking hands.

Mel; “and this is my sister Yolanda” what does she includes me for?

Chris; “pleasure to meet you Yolanda” now I have to act like im happy to meet him

Me; “nice to meet you too Chris” I nod slightly with my head in agreement

<Awkward silence> I take a sip on my drink making that annoying sound.

Mel: “Oh sorry Chris, Yolanda is blind” I guess he wanted to shake my hand too...oh awkward moment, sigh!! I get moments like this regularly. Some can be even embarrassing, but I laugh about it after sometime.

Chris: clearing throat “Oh Sorry I wasn’t aware” he said after a gasp, well obviously. This is one of the reasons I don’t like meeting new people, having to explain to people why I am blind.

Chris: “can I have your numbers Yolanda so I can get in contact with you guys, I mean I would like to see you guys again, if you don’t mind obviously” he said nervously looking my way. What? Are we now friends? Before I even answer.

Mel: “here let me give you” I can’t believe her right now, I’m breathing fire how can she give my number just like that.

Chris: “thanks, I will see you ladies, Yolanda nice meeting you again” he left our table, I was so ready to attack my sister, but she’s rescued by her phone, and our food came, we both eat in silence, when we were done we left for home, without exchanging any words, she let me be because it’s clear that I’m mad at her.

2

My sister and I are shouting at each other, I am so angry at her for what she did yesterday, I had to be the one giving away my numbers she had no right.

Mel; “well it’s not even like you were going to give him your number!!” She shouts at me, wow so she does not see any problem with what she did?

Me; “I’m just saying you don’t have a right Mel!!” I shout back, my parents both come in.

Mom: “what’s with the shouting so early in the morning? Because you too are arguing all the people in the country should wake up and listening to you both?”

Me; “well, if Melissa would learn to mind her business none of this would be happening” I say trying to defend myself.

Dad; “are you two going to tell us what this squabble is about or we should keep guessing?”

Me; “we wouldn’t be doing this if Melissa here was minding her own business, she apparently think it’s okay to supply the whole world with my numbers”

Dad; “Mel, why would you do that to your sister?”

Mom: "that's unacceptable, Melissa why would you do that"

Mel; " firstly, Yol is exaggerating, I only gave it to one person, only because I felt like she wouldn't give him and he seems like a really nice guy I was just helping" well he was still a stranger there is no justification of that.

Dad; "you are giving your sister to strangers like that? You should be protecting her but you are the one supplying her numbers? What's gotten into you, what if the guy is some sort of serial killer? What will you do then, at your age you should know exactly what is right and wrong...you..." okay that's a handful of a lecture, I now feel sorry for getting her in trouble, at least mom rescued her.

Mom: " Richard, honey I think she got a point now, Lisa, I get it that you feel like you are helping your sister to be social, but she has to decide for herself what she wants okay, it's her numbers to give" exactly, it's my number to give.

Mel; " okay I get you guys, Yols, im sorry okay, I was just excited, I won't do it again" I know she is just saying that, we hug it out.

It was now the afternoon, we are sitting by the pool, relaxing. When Melissa busted out laughing, we were both quiet so I'm kind of confused as to what's so hilarious.

Mel: "all that shouting and yelling for a guy, who hasn't even called or texted, I mean how long has it been? How many hours, I'm pretty sure it's past 24 hours now" I mentally roll my eyes, I thought she was laughing at something serious, but now that I think of it he hasn't called, and I kind of feel sad, don't look at me like that I low key wanted him to call.

But he can still call. But there is no reason for this fool to laugh like this.

Me: "I wish it stays like that" I hope I sound convincing enough.

Mel; "Maybe the poor guy realised that he was going to die of boredom." She says that still laughing, what?

Me; "what I'm not boring" I don't think I'm boring at all

Mel; "keep telling yourself that sis" okay maybe I am boring to the next person but I like my company, I'm fun to myself, or maybe it's because I am always by myself, or any family member who is around, my sister has always been my best friend, I need friends really, I need a life, I should start being out there, and have a life.....

I made my way to my comfort zone, that being my bedroom. I don't really have a problem navigating at home because I am used to it. I keep my room very neat and clean mainly to avoid incidents.

My room is decorated nicely and the decoration is 'blind person friendly', It shows that I had a little input in the decoration, even though most of it was a surprise for me. I sometimes take time to admire the art that is in here, it really sooth my heart.

To give the idea of my room, well the theme is grey and white and some pink to add that girly touch, when you enter, you are faced with a double bed

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which has a grey little headboard, it's covered with a white comfort, and there are two standard pillows. Two deco pillows

one is grey and fluffy and the other pink and squeaky and two neck roll pillows one written Love and the other YOLS the words are printed so they can be felt by touching on them.

There is also a pink throw blanket on the bed. On the right of the bed there is my makeup table it's white and the makeup and brushes are neatly placed in pink small baskets which are round and square shapes, there is a word LOVE which is gold and shiny. There is a medium sized round mirror attached to the wall, the side table chair is small and yet so comfortable it's fluffy too.

On the left there is a pink side drawer table, I'm not really sure what it's called, I don't really put anything on top of it, on the top wall there is a picture of me as a child, next to the table there is a fake long and green plant. On the floor there is a white not too fluffy medium sized rug, above the headboard is a white wall paper with dots gold dots and HELLO GORGIOUS in gold, it's printed too, on the left there are two doors one of the walk-in closet and the other of the bathroom, on the right there is a big window with a grey and white curtain next to it there is a little arm rest couch, because I like to sit there and listen to the weather or read a book or just chilling I sometimes wish I had a balcony, but it is what it is and I'm still grateful, the floor rug is brown, and lastly what I have is a very big braided map of the

world with areas that I would like to travel to marked, it's one of my favourite sports in this bedroom.

After freshening up, I wore my pjs and gown and stroll through my social media to pass time before dinner, I'm in too deep on instagram when disturbed by my phone ringing, unknown number, sigh!

Me: "HELO!!" I answer

Him: "hi, is this Yolanda?" he asked

Me: "yes, who am I speaking to?" the voice is familiar.

Him: "oh sorry, I'm Chris; we met at the restaurant the other day" oh now I can place the voice.

Me; "okay I hear you" I say

Chris: "so how are you?"

Me: "I'm good, you?"

Chris "well Im good health wise, but emotionally im not" am I supposed to ask him what's wrong? Nope.

Me: "....."

Chris “since you are not going to ask what’s wrong I will tell you any way, well Yolanda ever since I saw you that day, I haven’t been able to do anything without your beautiful face appearing in my mind, I have been having sleepless nights thinking about you”

Me; “.....” It’s not because im rude or anything but I just don’t know how to respond to him really.

Chris; “Yolanda, are you still there?”

Me: clearing my throat “yes Im here” I say

Chris; “I know I just said a lot and im sure I took you by surprise, but it’s the truth”

Me; “I don’t believe what you just said Chris”

Chris; “what is it that you don’t believe and why don’t you?”

Me: “you said the entire paragraph, but you had my number all along” he’s not being serious.

Chris: he chuckles “so you wanted me to call?” what?

Me; “No! Why would I have wanted you to call?” I did though but I won’t admit to anyone.

Chris; “okay,if you say so, but to answer your question I was scared to call you because you were not as nice as you are right.” What? Me not nice?

Me; “are you saying I’m not nice? Wow!” I can’t believe this guy

Chris; “well I’m saying you were not as nice as your sister if it was not for her I wouldn’t be talking with you right now,”

Me; “okay I will let it slide for now, but so you know I’m nice just not to strangers”

Chris; “I hear you Yolanda, I would really like to see you sometime, you know to get to know you and maybe I can decide whether you are nice or not”

Me; I laughed out loud “wow, okay Chris we will see” only because he sounds like a chilled guy so I can give him the chance.

Chris; “thanks we will communicate when we will meet right? Because I don’t want us to be strangers from now onwards”

Me; “right, look I have to go, there’s something that needs my attention,” I lied.

Chris; “okay we will talk again, bye”

Me; “bye”

I am now eating dinner with my family and I can't help it I found myself smiling, when I'm thinking about the conversation I had earlier with this Chris guy. I don't even know him but I smile when I think about him, but I think it's because I have always kept it to myself and it's been quite a while since I got this kind of attention from a guy but we'll see.

Dad; "we requested Jason to come back home immediately, there is something urgent that we would like to let you guys know" what can be so urgent and serious that will require Jason to be around? I wonder.

Melissa: "what is going on Dad" she asks, I also want to know but dad doesn't answer.

Me & Mel: "MOM!"

Mom: "come on you girls we will tell you all everything in detail when your brother gets here" okay now im really worried

Mel; "are you guys getting a divorce?" what no ways they can't, my parents love each other.

Mom: "what?? You girls need to be patient or you will both get heart attacks" dad is laughing so hard, I can't see anything funny.

They both stood by their word and I gave up, Mels was the one drilling questions, she even asked them if they were pregnant, well they are too old for that they can't do that to me I'm the

last born and it has to stay like that forever. But I can't help but wonder what's so important they can't tell Jason on the phone. Ay let me sleep I will see.

3

Today is Wednesday and I have an appointment with Dr. Wright, she is an Eye specialist she has been my Doctor for some years now.

When I was around the age of seven I started having problems with my eye sight but it would come and go so it was no big deal to me I didn't even bother telling my parents about it, at nine years the symptoms came back strong and it was hard for me to hide it, as I was really struggling.

I hated attention so that's why I felt the need to hide it. So from there I was taken from one doctor to the other, they couldn't figure out what was the problem.

Until I was diagnosed with Stargardt diseases, the symptoms that I had were blurred vision and I couldn't see from the board at school I was even moved to the front of the class even spectacles that I used to wear at that time didn't help. My eyes were sensitive to light, they still are, I used to take a while to adapt to darkness, and there are many other symptoms that I experienced. They said it's genetically inherited, well in my case I don't know if one of my parents had it or not because I don't know my biological parents.

Unfortunately there is no treatment for this disease but there are measures that can be taken that can slow the progression

for those that can still see. To prevent potential harm we are advised to reduce retinal exposure to damaging ultra violet light, accumulating and maintaining good general health and diet, hence I take a good care of my body, and I take vitamins to boost my healthy eating.

My sister is driving me to my appointment, usually my mom does but she is at work and my sister is around, it's a bit chilly so we are dressed in warm clothing, apparently I went overboard with my 'warm clothing' but I'm not bothered because I don't want to catch a cold. I have a feeling that she is over dressed though, but I'm not bothered.

We got to the doctor and we did all the process and Dr Wright says there is no progress of the disease so that's good for me so I'm good. There hasn't been any further progress of the disease though ever since I went completely blind, it developed quickly when it was discovered until I went blind then nothing, I don't know whether it can be worse than this though, or I'm just paranoid. But I don't go regularly to the doctor it's just from time to time.

We are in the car deciding whether to go back home or go to the mall to window shop.

Mel: "you know we can drop by dad's work, and get him launch on the way" she suggests

Me: “yeah, but what about mom?” it would be great if we can show the same gesture to both our parents.

Mel: “you know we will have to get take outs right? So i think she would lecture us about healthy eating more than she would appreciate” yeah she make sense, mom would do that.

Me: “yeah you are right, let’s go to dad” I say

We get food in a nearby drive thru and drive to dad’s work. She is more excited about this than any other day I can’t help but be noisy.

Me: “why are you so excited that we are going to dad’s work? You are never this eager” I ask with my eyebrows raised

Mel: “well there is someone I would like to bump into” what ? this must be a joke.

Me; “all this trouble just to smash into someone? who is he?”

Mel: “you wouldn’t understand, and talking about smashing no I’m not gonna smash right away,” she is planning that far no.

Me; “Melissa you have a boyfriend” Melissa has a boyfriend last time I check they were good, just that it’s a long distance relationship.

Mel; “yes I do but I need two legs to balance, once you get in to these relationship things seriously you will see that shit is real out there so please spare me the judgement, beside I don’t even know what Liam gets up to wherever he is, it’s only fair that I do my thing so that I don’t regret staying faithful when he tends out that he is not”. This girl needs help really; I need the highest priest out there to cast the demons inside her.

Me; “well if that’s what you say in defending your infidelities then it’s cool sister but one day you will cry and I will tell you, ‘I told you’ and dear sister I won’t console you” she is being stupid right now Liam is a really great guy. But it’s really not my problem.

Mel; “hahaha, it won’t come to that, you just worry too much” this will backfire but I will let it slide for piece sake.

Me; “okay Melissa if you say so” I’m really done talking about this.

We get to the visitors parking and we got out, I’m using my Walking cane, and using Melissa as my Eyes, she’s the one carrying the food. We get to the reception and there is no one

so we go through. From the reception I know my way to my dad's office so I'm cool.

Mel: "I hope he's not busy, because it would really be disappointing if he is"

Me: "we should have called first

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but it wouldn't be so disappointing to you, you are just pretending to bring him food,"

Mel: "a girl's gotta do whatever it takes" she says chuckling.

Voice: "Melissa, Melissa Jones"

Mel: "Nathi, hi how are you?" Nathi? Well if I remember well Melissa was stocking a Nkosinathi on Instagram, he apparently look like a dream, he has thousands of followers and...and..and..okay let me mind my business.

Melissa introduced us and I excuse myself after taking the takeaways from Melissa, the way they are flirting right now is just above what my ears can take, she even sounds different, my God.

I make my way to my dad's office, I knock.

Dad: “come in” I make my way in, I know my way around this office because I come here regularly.

Dad: “Princess? What are you doing here?” he sounds surprised to see me alone I guess I usually come here with someone.

Me; “we came to have launch with you dad, me and Melissa but she is around the building she ditched me” I say

Dad: “we’ll we are almost finished here with Mr Dladla, Mr Dladla this is my last born Yolanda”

Mr Dladla: “hi Yolanda, How are you” he says in baritone voice.

Me: “hi, I'm good and how are you sir?” I say respectfully, I don't want to embarrass my dad to his clients my sounding disrespectful.

Mr Dladla; “I'm good” he chuckles.

I settle on the couch while I waited for them to finish, I can't help but think about Melissa, that girl is such a risk taker. Doing something because you think your partner might be doing it with no evidence, ay!. Soon these two are done. They say their good byes.

Mr Dladla: “it was nice meeting you Yolanda” he says as he makes his way to the door.

Me; “it’s nice meeting you too Mr Dladla” I say he chuckles again as he makes his way out, he closed the door behind him. Dad comes to gives me a hug, and settles next to me.

Dad; “these rich men always thinks the world owes them something, just because he has all the money in the world he thinks he can come and make demands to me of all people” dad is the owner of a law firm, he is very good at what he does.

Me; “nowadays, Money speaks louder than words so, if you have money you can do all the things you want. So he thought you were going to agree as long as he has money”

Dad: “well it doesn’t apply to me” Richard is so hard headed shame, I Feel sorry for Dladla.

Melissa joined us after a while and we really enjoy father-daughter’s launch or the office date or whatever it’s called. We left after lunch, Melissa was meeting with her friends for drinks, so we went home, and she freshens up and left. It was now around five and I have been napping since I got home.

I just woke up around 5pm and took a quick shower and wore my comfortable clothes and left to make something to eat in the kitchen, when I got there someone is busy. Judging from the sound of utensils.

Her: “hey sweetheart you are awake” it’s mom.

Me; “yes I was so tired, so I took a nap”

Mom: “okay, do you want me to make you something to eat, because this will take a while”

Me; “yes please, a peanut butter sandwich would be nice, you need some help in here?”

Mom: “it’s okay baby I’m almost done” I knew mom wouldn’t let me help she babies me too much.

She put my food on the counter next to me “thanks mom” I say as I dig in.

Mom: “so how was the check-up” I tell her what the Dr said that the diseases in not developing.

Me: “then we went to have launch with dad at his office”

Mom: “I hope you were not gossiping about me you three” how can we not gossip about her, but I would never tell her that.

Me; “Never” later we had dinner as a family then we retired to our respective bedrooms later on. When I checked my phone I had messages from Chris, yes me and Chris were now texting each other and I have to say I enjoy speaking with him he is a cool guy. We were planning to go on a date on Friday. I hope it all goes well.

4

It's Friday, meaning I'm going on my date with Christopher, yep his name is Christopher, our date is at 5pm, I don't want to be out late at night though I have to think about my condition and the fact that it's my first time going out with Chris, he might not be what I think he is so I rather be safe than sorry.

It took a lot convincing my parents about going on date with a stranger but they eventually agreed on terms that they will have their eyes on me, of course they won't be personally following us they will have someone keeping an eye on us.

It's still 7:45 I just took a bath and ate my breakfast I'm now chilling in front of a TV on my phone, I was chatting with my sister, she didn't come home last night, but the parents don't know about this. I had to cover for her, told them that she was still sleeping hence I had to wake up early so they won't have to go to her room for any reason, I'm just happy that she now owes me.

Any way I am now browsing through twitter looking at the trending topics, that's what I always do mostly on twitter, instagram is where I'm mostly active on, I upload and interact with my comment section and browse through, so I would say it's my go to app. Even though I get many critics from people who thinks I am faking to be blind to get more followers

because apparently to them I 'don't look blind', which always puzzles me for people to say that.

It took me a lot of time to get to a point where I could say, okay I'm blind there is nothing that me or anyone can do about it, and I started embracing it and these people come and tell me that "you are not blind", what should I do really? Because I'm on social media and I don't look blind, people are attacking me for that well I have learn to ignore those people because some people are really influenced positively.

There is also the issue that people do not understand of how blind people use a phone. On my side yes I am completely blind, with technology being invented every day it has become easy for us to use it, yes maybe years ago it was difficult but today it's so easy. There are smartphones, I personally own an iPhone, I have a tablet, a laptop. Those are the things I use regularly. There are accessibility features that are built in these devices, which mean they are accessible to visual impaired or blind people. Because of these features I as a blind person can use these devices like any other person, I can read, write, and browse internet, do online shopping, social media and many more. The only difference is that I cannot see what is on the screen; I only create my own imagination in my mind when it comes to pictures.

So devices from apple has what is called voice over, it reads what my finger points at on the screen, it is built in to these devices, android devices have talkback, I had an android phone before and my Tablet is an android. When I press on Instagram on my phone there is a voice that will say 'instagram', then I know that I'm on instagram, as you use your phone you get used to it and you get to know exactly where the app you're looking for is.

Many apps like instagram, Facebook and more have a feature that is called "Alt Text". What this feature does is that it describes exactly what is on the photo, for example, Yolanda in a black T-shirt and black leggings standing in front of a brown garage. So voice over will say this out loud, again the only difference is that I don't see pictures I only imagine what that person look like. There is also siri or alexa for when you want to write something or when I want to call someone, you just instruct them what to do. And when there is an incoming call the voice tells me who is calling, Sigh!.

We are now in my room my sister and I, we are looking for an outfit it's almost time. It's always a challenge choosing an outfit to wear with Melissa because she is in too deep on fashion, she

always want to go overboard with all the dressing up while me on the other side I like simple outfit's.

Mel: "you should dress to turn heads sis, because you don't go out often" see what I just said.

Me: "that's the thing; I don't want to turn heads I just want to dress like my normal self"

Mel; "your normal dress code is usually Jeans, now tell me do you want to go on a date wearing jeans? Really Yolanda" well I wouldn't mind that right now because this is all just frustrating why dress to kill for a date? When most of these guys turn to be asses?

Me: "I just don't want to overdress, so I'm going to go with Casual, I don't even know where we are going"

Mel: "okay let's see" she goes through my closet "now this can do, here, it's a black jumpsuit" she says

Me: I take it "yes I can do with this, I can pair it with my gold sandals" I haven't rich a stage where I would feel like I'm comfortable wearing heels no, however most of my boots are block heels, but I don't think I will wear stiletto kind of heels any time from now, I would like to try wearing block heels though, but it will take a lot of practice.

Mel: "you can also put on this denim jacket on your shoulders miss casual" she says giving it to me. "you want me to do your

make-up” she is also good at doing make up, she is actually the one that introduced me to it, and thought me how to do it too, I also watched many YouTube videos, it became easy because I have quite thick eyebrows. I don’t think I would have been able to do my own make up if I had no brows though.

Me: “i think I'm going to skip the make-up part, the last time he saw me I was wearing make-up, so I will let him see the real me this time around” I don’t like wearing make-up on a first date, because these guys cry about being scammed after seeing our faces with no make-up.

Mel: “okay, take a shower I will fix your hair when you’re done” I have to admit I have the best sister in the whole world, she is always there to support me, even if she was not here she would have helped me choose my outfit, I'm really blessed to have my sister as my best friend.

I'm done showering and moisturising I'm now getting dressed, my jumpsuit is tight fitting but a little loose, I'm not good at descriptions so I don’t know if I'm making any sense. Any way I call Mel to help with my hair, I still have my braids, and it hasn’t been a long time since I did them so they are semi fresh. She does a bun, but she doesn’t think it goes well with my outfit.

Mel: “maybe we should just let it loose, because this bun is really not working”

Me: “if you say so, you are the stylist after all” I say giggling.

She let my braids loose.

Mel: “now you look so cute baby sis” she says after putting my jacket over my shoulders and fixing me up.

Me: “really, cause I'm really not sure” I say as I am fixing myself. I apply a lip balm.

Mel: “you just need a hand bag to complete the look” she disappears. I'm really not sure, it's times like these that I wish I can see even for a little bit just to make sure that I am really good.

Mel: “here, now my job is done here” a small black handbag, I take it and put on essential things that I usually need.

Me: “thanks sis, you are the best” I say hugging her.

Mel: “now come, let's go to my room” I take my white cane and follow her, I'm still confused why we are going to her room. We got in.

Mel: “stand here, and take a mirror snap, this is a memory” she says

Me: “okayyy...” I do as I'm told

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because I know she will not let me be if I don't.

It's almost 5pm so we head down stairs, he's going to fetch me here because my parents have to see him for safety reasons even though, there will be someone following us, he doesn't know that though.

I'm super nervous, because the last date I went to wasn't a pleasant one, I remember the guy talked about himself throughout, he was also so rude to the waiter serving us. I remember how he was bragging about how rich he was, that he was living in the most expensive apartment, he even said "if you stick with me you will make it in life", but at the end I was the one who paid for the bill, which I don't have a problem with but he asked me to go to dinner with him and he was "rich". I vowed that I would never ever go on a date again but here I am.

Dad is in the lounge watching TV we made our way towards him. Mom is not back yet I guess

Dad: "you look lovely Princess" he says

Me: "thanks daddy" I can't help but smile

Mel: "don't remember to give me credit, I did all this" trust my sister remind you such when you get compliments.

Me: “yes Lisa, I won’t forget not in this lifetime, because you’re here to remind me” we all laugh.

Dad: “I’m kind of jealous though, you girls never dress up for me, but you do for some boys” ow my dad’s jealous.

Me: “don’t worry dad next time we go out I will even wear heels, you will see” I say chuckling

Mel: “yeah right, I believe that” she says mockingly.

We are disturbed by my phone ringing; Chris tells me he is here, my dad insists on going to meet him first, and I stayed behind.

Mel: “dad is gonna scare the poor guy away” she says chortling.

Me: “say that again”

Mel: “hahaha, imagine while we are still waiting for dad to come up and we hear Chris’s car driving off, that would be so funny” this girl is seriously joking about something that might happen, she is really enjoying this, it would really be sad though, after I took so much effort dressing up.

Dad comes back in and tells me I can go, I made my way to the door. Hoping dad didn’t scare the poor guy off. I guess he was

waiting just outside the door because the moment I close it he greets me

Chris: “Yolanda, how are you?” I bet my noisy sister is peaking somewhere or eavesdropping by the door right now, she promised she wouldn’t do that but that’s Melissa I know her so well.

Me: “I’m good Chris, How are you” I’m really nervous right now I hope he can’t see that, I am a really shy person especially when I come face to face with someone, my tongue always gets tied.

Chris; “hear, this is for you” he gives me a single red rose, it’s still fresh. And I can tell all this by touching the rose and smelling it, it smells amazing, I have a really sharp sense of smell by the way.

Me: “thank you, it smells nice”

Chris: “you look lovely by the way”

Me: “thank you” I wish I can say the same about you, but you smell nice, I say that in my head because I feel like it would be really weird to say it to him.

He leads me to his car and opens the door for me, I get in and for some reason he buckles me up and closed the door, and he gets in and starts the car. and drives off.

Chris: “you have really beautiful eyes Yolanda” he says randomly and right now I don’t really know what to say other than thanks, I hate that he has to be the one giving complements but he should understand

Me: “tha...thanks” I get too many complements about my eyes people says they are beautiful it’s mostly one of the first things people notice about me, and sometimes when I tell people that I can’t even see it becomes hard for them to believe.

He turns on the radio because there’s just an awkward silence in the car.

Chris: “I think we should go to the restaurant first to grab a bite, is that okay with you” he suggests

Me: “yes it’s fine” I don’t know what else we going to do anyway, I guess I will see.

We are now at the restaurant, he has been a gentleman so far, he asked if I had the specific restaurant I wanted to go to, and I said we can go anywhere, he opened the chair for me, and he has been helping me find my way around. But it’s still early.

We got the menus and he told me what was on the menu, and I decided on steak and salad, and he chose chips instead of a salad and orange juice.

We were now enjoying our food over a light conversation.

Chris: “so who is Yolanda? I would really like to know you on a personal level if it’s okay with you” am I the only one that feels like this is a very simple and yet difficult question at the same time?

Me: “that is really difficult I'm telling you, but on a simple form as you already know my name is Yolanda Jones, 20 years of age, I'm blind as you already know, but it has been really hard for me to figure out who am I really, because after I became blind I lost myself and I am still in the process of picking myself up, it was not easy going through a life changing situation, I am now in a better place but I haven't reached where I would like to be, well in terms of education I finished high school level and I'm still figuring out what to do” I took a deep sigh after that it's really so hard talking about myself really.

Chris: “well it’s good that you are picking out the pieces of your life and I'm sure you will find what you really love to do and you will excel, whether it’s going back to school or doing your own thing, from what you have just told me it shows that you are a really strong person, going through what you went through, not all people can survive, but you did and that to me Yolanda is being strong.

Me; “thank you I will keep that in mind, so who is Christopher really”

Chris: “well, I'm Christopher Williams, 25 year of age, a Civil Engineer by profession, I have a brother and sister, I'm the second child, I'm originally from Durban, I actually moved here 2 years ago because I got work this side, but my family is still in Durban, oh and I'm a bachelor.

Me: “Oh okay Mr Bachelor, looks like you have this life thing figured out” I say jokingly.

He laughs so hard, I still think he is a good guy for now, the rest of the date was actually good we had desert and he offered to pay for the bill, I'm still saying he is a gentlemen.

He then bought ice-cream for the both of us we chilled in the car and talked some more, time was flying because the conversation was good really we ended up not going anywhere else, I really enjoyed spending time with him.

We were now parked at home, we got out of the car and we went near the front door.

Chris: “we are here” he said letting me know that we have reached the door.

Me: “I guess that’s me then” I say

Chris: “thank you for, agreeing to go on date with me Yolanda”

Me: "thank you for inviting me, I really enjoyed myself" I say truthfully

Chris: "I'm glad you enjoyed I hope you will agree to go with me again" he says chuckling

Me: "I might" I say chuckling too

Chris: "well I guess I will see you again, bye beautiful Yolanda" we hugged

Me: "Bye Chris" we let go and I got inside that was great.

5

I wake up to my sleep because of a ringing phone, it's Melissa's, arg; I forgot that she slept in my room yesterday. When I got home from my date with Christopher yesterday, my parents were still watching TV, they hardly do that they spend time in their room because they have a TV there, so my guess is that they were just waiting for me, I could feel how my mom felt relieved when I arrived.

Any way I didn't spend much time with them because I was a bit tired so I went to my room little did I know that I would get sis invading my room. So I had to tell her all about my date, no details left. So miss gossip and I ended up chatting till after midnight when we fell asleep.

I am not a morning person but today I definitely woke up on a right side of the bed. There is nothing that I do that is interesting really I am living a very boring life, I used to be a happy girl living a normal life having friends but once I started having problems with my eye sight, the people that I thought were my friends started distancing themselves to me and suddenly I was this lonely girl that was an easy target to bullying, imagine how my life was like, I was dealing with my

health and the bullying that's when I went through a great depression which I'm still dealing with to this day.

I may seem like I'm okay but deep down I'm not okay. Luckily I managed to finish high school level, through home schooling but I couldn't continue because the past few years really hit me hard, there was a time where I would lock myself in my room for days, it was really hard for me to go on with life, I even resorted to suicide but I was lucky on both times that I tried, I never wanted to die any way I just wanted to get read of the pain and my problems at that time but now I know better.

My family was always by my side, I was going to therapy but it was just not helping. It's only when I actually accepted my situation that nothing was going to change because there is neither cure nor treatment for this disease then I decided that I should start living my life as this blind person to the fullest.

I have been okay though this year and health wise I am good, I think it's because I started going to therapy again and opened up this time around. It's already the end of the year and I lost this year again like the past years, but it's okay because at least emotionally I am healing, that's where it should start, right? What I like about my therapist is that she gives me solutions to my problems and makes me see the light.

Any way enough about my sob stories, I make my bed and do all the hygiene process, and I wear my comfortable clothing because I'm not going anywhere today, if I remember well my brother is supposed to arrive tomorrow. I even forgot that he was summoned to get here immediately, but he was going to come home any way because it's the end of the year, it's the 12th of December and he closed on the 10th, so the parents were just being dramatic.

I make my way down stairs to make something to eat; I'm going for cereal because I'm too lazy to prepare something. Mom comes in while I'm busy shaking a cereal boxes looking for All bran's,

Mom: "be careful with that"

Me: "I am mom" this woman and panicking

Mom: "how are you" she comes and hugs me

Me: "I'm good, you smell nice, you going somewhere?"

Mom: "yes, me and your Dad" mmhh I wonder.

Me: "where are you guys going

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please take me with you?"

Dad: "no can do baby girl, it's only me and my wife" He says coming to the kitchen. Oho they are excluding us.

Me: "you so mean daddy" he laughs.

Dad: "I rather be mean than allow you to crowd us" wow that's a lot. Mom is just laughing at us.

Me: "where are you guys going anyway?"

Dad: "it's a surprise, honey if we don't go now we will be late" he says to mom.

Me: "enjoy you guys" if I say I wasn't jealous right now I would be lying to myself.

Dad: "we will, stay well sweetheart"

Mom: "bye baby" they left I wonder where they are going, from time to time they always take time to themselves, away from us, it's not something new.

I finish eating; I wash my bowl and head to the lounge.

As I sit down my phone indicate a text from Chris.

'Hi, Yolanda I hope you are fine. I had a really good time with you yesterday, I hope you also enjoyed your time, and I hope we will meet again soon' the text says.

I reply 'yes I did enjoy, I wouldn't mind meeting with you again'

We continued chatting until we said our goodbyes. I really like chatting with him he sounds like a cool guys.

Melissa came down so we have been watching movies and stuffing our faces with junk food all day. Yes I said watch because it would feel and sound otherwise if I say I'm listening to a movie. When I'm watching with someone they usually describe what people look like in the movie and I don't like watching movies with a lot of action because I really get lost, I like watching documentaries and I spend my time some days on YouTube.

One of the things I enjoy doing is cooking, there is something that cooking does to my soul, I think it has to do with the fact that I use all my senses when doing it. I took interest because as I was staying at home most times during my "depression period" I used to spend a lot of time with MamThembi when she cooks I used to chill with her and help on the little things like chopping veggies. And she would tell me what she was doing and I loved it, and I can now cook alone with little assistance sometimes.

So right now I am doing my thing and I usually like doing this with no person around to avoid incidents. I opted for an easy meal so I took all the ingredients, I'm making garlic butter baked chicken breasts, I preheated the oven and do all that is needed to be done on the chicken, mixing the chickens with all spice and all and put it on the oven and prepared cauliflower rice and some salad on the side to serve with my chicken, in an hour or so I am done and we are now seating on the couch enjoying our food. The parents called few hours ago letting us know that they are not coming back so it's just us.

Mel "so Nathi and I have been chatting quite often and things are getting heated"

Me "what? So you are really going that road" I still don't understand why she is ruining her relationship with a guy like Nathi.

Mel "yah, it's just that I don't feel the fire I did in my relationship" hay I really don't know any more because she has made up her mind.

Me "I still think before you decide to cheat you should at least try talking to Liam about your relationship, because it may happen that he is not aware about the changes"

Mel “yes I hear you, but Liam is an old man he should notice that we are not the same, to him it’s all about work, work and work, when last did he came here. And my guess is that he found someone there and they are playing happy family and I am here waiting for kingdom come”

Me “all I'm saying is that don't string him along, if you are no longer happy it's better you end things off and you both move on with your lives”

Mel “I'm just having fun, Nathi has a girlfriend and I have Liam, so it's just two people having fun nothing hectic” ay, I don't know really

Me “it's all fun and game until one of you catches feelings, and it becomes messy” I say heading to the kitchen with my plate. She is going to do the dishes

Mel “and that someone is definitely not me” she says chortling.

I really don't know what is really going on with my sister, I only feel sorry for Liam he doesn't deserve this, nobody deserves to be cheated on and it's even worse because it's my sister and I can't really do anything about this. it really get tough when it is someone close to you that is on the wrong side, if it was the other way around I would be throwing insults to the other person. It just what is?

6

The bags are packed and we are all ready to head to the airport except for Melissa, sigh! It's the 23rd of December and we are going to Durban for a family vacation, I can't remember the last time we did this, all of us. So instead of having a family Christmas day at home we decided to have it away from home.

It's been over a week and there has been quite an unexpected drama or conflict going on. So my brother returned home with a pregnant girl which was a shock to all of us. I always thought we were a very close family but all this gave me some ideas and made me question the bond that we have or Jason has towards us we were in the living room when Jason came in, I could feel the shock on everyone. He greeted everyone. And I couldn't register what was going on, but there was some tension.

Jason "Everyone this is Amahle and Amahle this is my family" he said in a very wobbly voice. Oh now I understood why the gasping. Little did I know there was more? It became quiet for some time.

Mel "nice to meet you Amahle"

Amahle "nice to meet you all"

Mom "Jason you have a girlfriend? A Pregnant Girlfriend" she says in a nervous chuckle.

Jason “Amahle is not just my girlfriend mom” he says sounding so nervous “she is my wife, we are married and expecting a child”

Us “what!!?” we all exclaimed. This is definitely nothing but a prank.

Dad “what the fuck is this?” dad doesn’t curse unless he is really worked up, and I can hear that he is really disappointed more than he is angry.

Mom “There must really be a good explanation for all of this” she says sounding disappointed as ever.

Jason “I’m sorry that we had to get married without telling you, we did what we thought was best for the baby” this is really fucked up. Before the conversation got heated we were dismissed. We went by the pool with Amahle. Jason’s explanation to us was that they did what is right for his baby, and that we will understand one day. It’s just so disappointing growing up being friends but when you become adults you start drifting away from each other without even noticing but I guess it’s part of growing up. I really don’t understand his decisions because our parents never dictated our lives they were going to get support through this but it’s his choice.

We sort of moved on from the whole Jason's secret drama, and welcomed Amahle as one of us. Even though there is still some sort of tension between dad and Jason.

I don't have a problem with Amahle but I just don't like how she treats me the moment it came to her attention that I was blind she started treating me differently.

At first I thought she was being nice but I realised that it was not about being nice but she sees me as if I can't do anything or I shouldn't be doing certain things that I do perfectly fine because I'm "disabled".

Everyone in my family knows how much I hate being treated differently, my mother tried speaking with her about it but it doesn't seem to have worked because she still gives her opinions and make some remarks which I find offensive. I feel like she has come to pull me back to the dark hole I partially escaped.

Mel "I'm done we can leave" she says excitedly

Dad "such a huge bag for a couple of days"

Mom "oh my dear husband, you still don't get it do you?" she says dramatically

Dad “seems like it” he replied

Jason “I don’t think I would ever get it”

Mel “it’s a girl thing, as long as we get it” we laughed making our way to the cars taking us to the airport.

We arrived to our destination, Durban is so hot, as soon as we got to the airport we could feel the heat, we arrived to the hotel we booked in. It’s just next to the beach, all the sea breeze and the view, according to the sighted is amazing we just had our lunch.

Mel “we should go for a swim” we are booked in the same room then the parent’s and Jason and Amahle.

Me “yes let’s go”, we left for the swimming pool, we find our sport and settled

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Amahle arrived shortly with Jason.

Jason “mom and dad are not joining us”

Me “like they would” I say chuckling

Mel “I can’t even imagine what they are up too” she says chuckling too.

Jason & i “ew!!”

Amahle “you guys know they still doing it right?, they are still young and very capable” I don’t even want to think about it nope.

Mel “I don’t even want to think about it, I'm going for a swim”

Me “and I'm coming with you”

Amahle “do you think it’s safe for you not being able to see and all” see this is what I mean, I hate it. I learnt swimming at a very young age and being visually impaired didn’t take my ability to swim. So I just don’t understand.

Me “...” I opened my mouth to say something but decided against it.

Jason “come on baby, we talked about this” he said seemingly annoyed.

Amahle “I'm just concerned” mxm, we left for swimming living them there.

Me “I just don’t like it when people do that” I say clearly irritated.

Mel “you don’t have to be bothered by what people say, as long as you know what you are capable of doing”

It’s hard to ignore what people are saying, to some people it appears like if you are disabled you should lie down in bed every day and have no life, you should act sick and expect

people to do everything for you. Maybe it's just the lack of understanding on their side.

We enjoyed the little vacation that we had while spending time with the whole family, it was really nice that I confirm. I met two lovely girls during our stay they were also in a vacation and we spent a little time together and from the little time we were together I could tell that they were lovely people Namhla and Lindiwe. I still can't believe that the two opposite people can be friends, but they said it's been years so I guess it's possible. Lindi is very chilled and Namhla the most dramatic person I have ever seen. What I liked about them is that they didn't make me feel otherwise about my condition and that means a lot to me, they were just so fascinated about all I'm able to do with no sight, we did exchange numbers and promised to meet again we stay in the same town after all.

It is now the beginning of the year and everyone is looking forward to a new start, especially me I want to make the best of these years I am tired of sobbing about my problems. So few days later our parents finally told us what is going on, I can't believe that after so much worry it was all for nothing. They can be both so dramatic.

Dad “so as you all know that this year I'm turning fifty years, I have worked so hard to be where I am. I have achieved my goals and my dreams have come through, that being of success, and I have done almost everything that I wanted to do in my life, and we have raised you all, so all is up to you now you are now grown so the choices you make now will determine where you will be in the future. So the only one thing left for me now is to enjoy my hard work, so I am not going to work this year and so is your mother she agreed to travel the world with me” he says proudly.

They said they would always be there for us but they had to do this while they are still capable. And I don't see a problem with that it is only fair that they enjoy their lives while they still can. But I am a bit scared to embark on this life journey without my parents close to me. Even though they said they will always come home and be there for us. I can't help but be scared.

Two months later.....

7

Two months later

It's been two months already, everyone is back to reality holidays are over and the year is moving fast. Nothing much has happened, except that I now have a guide dog, his name is Louie, we have become best friends In such a small space of time, and we connect like soul mates.

I needed to have a guide dog so I can get through life on my own. I have a full time driver too Ntate Samuel such a wonderful man. Anyway I am now taking classes in a culinary school, I had no choice but to adapt at least I am not being treated differently here and my fellow classmates are surprisingly matured, I remember my first day I was so scared of being treated differently but I'm now happy because we get along just fine. I don't have friends though, it all ends in school.

Chris and I dated for about a week and after he revealed some rather shocking news to me, but I'm glad because I hadn't invested too much time in the relationship even though I was

falling for him a bit. So this other day he asked that we have a picnic, which was not a problem with me.

picnic day

I woke up looking forward to our day. so I prepared, I already showered so now I am getting dressed I put on my maxi dress and sandals, I fix my afro and took my bag with everything I might need. I went down stairs and bid farewell to MamThembi.

Me “Come on Louie” I say to my guide dog, he comes by my side. We exit the house Chris was already waiting by the car.

Me: “hey” I say, as we get next to Chris’s car.

Chris “hey”, he says as he gives me a hug and a light peck on my cheek “hi, Louie” he greets Louie.

He helps us to get in the car and we drive off.

Chris “How have you guys been?” I can’t help but feel like he is somehow acting strange.

Me “good, we’ve been good he’s been a good boy too”

We reached the park minutes later and he is busy setting everything up, it’s a really beautiful day.

We settle down, I have to admit the food smells so nice we have grilled chicken sandwiches with smoked mozzarella,

avocado and basil mayonnaise. We have fruit salad, we have ginger cookies that he made, and we have some snacks, drinks. But almost everything is healthy. Chris prepared all of this by the way.

Me “this is really delicious” I say as I take a bite on my sandwich, with my eyes closed, this right here taste so good.

Chris “what can I say I'm the best” he says chuckling.

After we are done eating we rest and let the food digest.

Me “Are you okay?” I say as I feel like he is deep in thoughts.

Chris “i...I'm good” he says but I'm not convinced.

Chris “I have something I need to tell you” he says after a long quietness.

Me “okay?” I ask really concerned.

Chris “firstly I would like to say I'm sorry that I have to put you through this, I have been a coward and I had to drag an innocent person through my mess, you are a good person Yolanda and I don't want to lose you, but I would understand if you would hate me and not want anything to do with me”

Me “what is wrong Christopher?” to say I'm scared right now would be an understatement.

Chris “Yolanda, I am Gay” he says after a deep sigh, wait did I hear what I think I heard? My ears must be playing tricks with me.

Me “how?” I mean he is my boyfriend so I don’t understand.

Chris “my friends, the guys I was chilling with on the day we first met dared me to get a number from you guys because they have never seen me with a girl before so I had to prove that I had it in me and since they don’t know that I'm gay, I had to play along. I'm really sorry for leading you on but I really”

Me “YOU REALLY WHAT? SO JUST BECAUSE YOU ARE IN THE CLOSET YOU DECIDE TO TOY WITH MY FEELINGS?” I'm really worked out I thought we were creating something special I didn’t really mean to shout at him.

Chris “I'm really sorry Yolanda, but I don’t want to lose you as a friend you are a good person, I know I am a jerk and I should have told you sooner but I didn’t want to break your heart

I am sorry”

Me “please just take me home”

Chris “Yolanda.I...”

Me “TAKE ME HOME CHRISTOPHER, TAKE ME HOME I DON’T WANT TO HEAR ANY OF YOUR LIES! JUST TAKE ME HOME!” I shouted.

I feel so stupid; I should have seen the signs. I understand that he is in a closet but that doesn't give him a right to toy with people's feelings what if I had felt head over heels for him? I still don't understand why he would even suggest being in a romantic relationship with me while he knows that he did not have any feelings for me, or any girl for that matter.

I was angry at him for days but he was always annoying me asking for forgiveness and I ended up forgiving him. Now we are really great friends. He is a good friend of mine It even came to my attention that he does not have a good relationship with his parents because of his sexuality, and I have been supporting him as a friend.

Melissa being Melissa is always gallivanting. She doesn't come home as much as she did before, she studied law and she is graduating this year, following after father's footsteps but she is not ready to practice, she also took interest into modelling while in varsity and she is doing that as a hobby she has been lucky because she has been getting castings, so she is currently busy with that. Jason Is back to work with his wife, I don't really know what is going on there, I mean, there should have been lobola paid and all and the wedding but there's just no

talk about that. And there is something I don't get about Amahle, but it's not really my problem.

Over the two months I can say that I have been getting out of my shell bit by bit, I have become close friends with Namhla and Lindiwe, they are really great people and we get along just fine. We call each other often and we spend most of our time together. With our parents always away we get to do everything that we don't get to do when they are available.

I remember this other day we were chilling at home the three of us watching movies and indulging on junk and I don't know how we got to this topic but we discussed it any way and I ended up doing something I have never done before.

Namhla "what you must be joking right?" she said intensely.

Me "come on I'm not the only one who hasn't tasted alcohol before, it's not a sin, haw"

Namhla "well baby girl we are breaking that alcohol virginity today, it has to show that you got Namhla by your side"

Lindi "no no no you are not doing that Yolanda, Namhla you are being a bad influence now" she says furiously.

Me "but I kind of want to try it nothing hectic though"

Namhla “yes girl, high five” we high fived chortling, much to Lindi’s annoyance

Lindi “Namhla you are bad”

Namhla “so I have been told sweaty” she says chuckling. “Don’t mind this granny Yolanda babes I will make sure that you are fine, I will take care of you”

Lindi “whatever” she says annoyed.

We went to buy wine both red and white because we were not sure which one I would like. When we came back I first take a sip on red wine.

Me “mmhh this thing is bitter...yuck” I says frowning

Namhla “you will get used to it, trust me” she says laughing softly

Lindi “wait until you wake up feeling like you were hit by a train” she says laughing.

Namhla “don’t mind this one Yols, I got you, I got this” she says dramatically

We laughed, I have to say I enjoyed white wine red had an after taste that I couldn’t get used to. My head was now buzzing and I felt strange, we were having fun and dancing to loud music. After three glasses later I could feel my stomach churning, I couldn’t even say a word and I vomited on the floor.

Lindi “don’t worry, you got Namhla by your side” she says laughing louder mimicking Namhla’s voice

Namhla “Eish this wasn’t part of it though” she says with a frown.

Lindi was laughing so hard, I don’t remember how I got to bed, and last night was really nice. We really enjoyed our time. I woke up with a banging headache when I went downstairs Namhla was there making breakfast. She gave me a hangover concoction, and my breakfast.

Me “I’m never drinking again if I’m gonna wake up with a headache like this”

Namhla “that’s what we all say babes and go right back at it” she says chuckling.

Me “Lindi, is still sleeping?” I ask

Namhla “she left last night after you left for bed, I had to clean your mass alone”

Me “sorry friend, I owe you”

Namhla “oh that you do, trust me you will pay” she says

I really like having them around but I am never touching alcohol again, never.

8

It's break time after my theory class so I'm walking with Sne a girl in my class. We have been quite close lately so we walk together to attend classes and right now we are heading to the cafeteria to get something to eat. We ordered and look for an empty table to sit. We eat over a light conversation.

Sne "I'm still okay with the theory, what I'm nervous about is the practical part I'm really not sure about my performance in that"

Me "I'm sure we will get the hang of it though" I say, we talk about school we don't really know about each other.

Voice "ladies how are you?"

Sne "we are good, and you" I guess he is talking to us

Him "I'm good, ladies no dogs are allowed here as you can see the sign over there so I would ask for you to live"

Sne "pardon?" I know exactly what is going on, and I'm so not ready for this.

Him "I said no dogs are allowed in the cafe so I would like you to live" he says rudely

At this moment, I just don't know what to do; I don't know how to answer him really so I'm prepared to leave the place in peace and spare my self-embarrassment and being looked at.

This happened a week ago but Namhla had my back and she gave that lady a piece of her mind but today there is no Namhla and I'm so not ready to waste my energy on educating people. So I prepare to leave. The cafeteria is always packed during lunch time so I'm sure by now people are staring because this man here is talking rather louder than normal.

Sne "Yolanda what are you doing, sit down" she said angrily and I sat right back down in a flash.

Sne "sir, with all due respect, in case you didn't notice this lady is visually impaired and that dog is not a pet but a service dog, which is very much allowed to be here according to the law of this country, and he is working, and secondly this school allows everyone to enrol, and this café is operating under the school so if you are not happy to cater for everyone you can see what you do about that, but us we are not going anywhere, so we would like to finish our meal in peace, please if you don't mind." silence, I guess his tongue got tied.

He eventually left I have to say though I was not ready for this; i was never expecting Sne to stand up for me like that because she barely knows me. Sne is a chilled person, but i guess she doesn't leave words unsaid.

Me "thank you" I say in barely audible voice.

Sne “It’s nothing really, I just hate rude people” she says and we ate our food in silence. When we were done we left for our last class.

I guess this was definitely not my day because; I parted ways with Sne few minutes ago as she was going to the library and I was making way to the parking lot where Ntate Sam is.

Him “hi baby” we continue walking because; I don’t know who it is. And who he is saying that to.

He touches my arm “hey come on I'm trying to start a conversation here” he tightens his grip on my arm.

Me “please let me go”

His friend “come on dude let her go, if she doesn’t want to talk with you”

Him “come on are you taking this girls side? You don’t even know her”

His friend “just let her go mfethu” he let me go, they walked away

Him “such a waste of good looks, to someone who can’t even see” I walked away feeling my heart pounding very fast on my chest. I guess this was not my day at all I thought all the people were matured around here but I guess i was very wrong. The problem now is that I don’t even know who the guy is. I wiped

my tears as we are about to reach the parking lot. I greet Ntate Sam in what seems to be a whisper as I got to him. I guess he could see that I'm not okay because he let me be.

What is really sad right now is that my parents are not at home so I guess I will have to deal with this on my own. when I got home I bid goodbye to Ntate and made my way to the house, luckily for me MamThembi is nowhere in sight so I made my way to the bedroom, and I just throw myself on the bed and cry silently as I reflect on today's events.

I guess I must have fallen asleep because I woke up to my ringing phone. My mom is calling.

Me "hello" I answered with my sleepy voice.

Her "Yoyo, how are you my baby"

Me "mom! I'm good how about you" I whine before answering.

Her: she chuckles "I'm good, how is school treating you, are you adapting well"

Me "Good, school is good mom"

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everything is good” I say, which is not a lie, but I don’t think I will tell them about what happened today because I don’t want to worry them and spoil their vacation.

Her “good then, I just miss you so much”

Me “I miss you too mom, look I have to go please greet your husband for me” I say and drop my call because I suddenly feel emotional and I am not ready to answer questions.

It’s the weekend and I really don’t have anything to do or anywhere I plan going to, so I take Louie to a nearby park, it’s just a few minutes from my house and it has been Louie and mine’s favourite spot. We got there and I seat on a bench under a tree and think about my problems, a few minutes later I can’t help but get this strange feeling like there is someone else around and I suddenly get scared, it’s really not safe for me to wonder unaccompanied but sometimes I need those alone times like every normal being. I quickly let Louie know that we got to go. We walk fast.

I’m startled by my ringing phone it’s Namhla.

Me: clearing my throat “hey”

Namhla “hey babe, you good?”

Me “I’m good and you”

Namhla “good, listen I am heading to Lindi’s she just called sounding upset and all, so I just wanted to let you know”

Me “I have already let Ntate Sam go.....so”

Namhla “no it’s cool, i don’t think it’s something serious anyway, and it’s getting late”

Me “I will check her tomorrow; tell her I’m sorry I couldn’t come. But I will call her later”

Namhla “babe are you sure you okay you sound...a bit strange?”

Me “I’m okay Namhla go and check on Lindi please, I will see you all tomorrow

Namhla “I will fetch you tomorrow, bye love” she drops the call. SMH.

I hope Lindi is okay, I will check on her later. We got home and MamThembi is busy in the kitchen,

Me “mama, how are you” I say as I made my way in the kitchen.

MamThembi “hey baby, I’m good, how are you?”

Me “I’m good, it smells so nice in here, need any help?” I say as i take in the aroma.

MamThembi “I'm already done sisi, it will take only a few minutes from now”

Me “Okay I will be right back” I made my way to my room to take a quick shower once I'm done I make my way downstairs.

We are now eating over a small conversation.

MamThembi “your Mother is just worried, and it's not a bad thing, she's just being a mother that's all”

Me “she doesn't have to fish for information to you though, if there was anything wrong I would have told her”

Mamthembi “I know but it's just what all mothers are like, and you know you can tell me if there is something bothering you”.

Me “I know and if there was anything bothering me I would have told you, I'm okay really”

I really can't tell anyone about what is going on I know once I tell someone it will all be a huge deal, I will deal with my problems my own way.

9

After having breakfast around 9am I freshened up and wear comfortable clothing, I took my phone and call Namhla she is supposed to fetch me and we go to Lindi's place.

Me "Hey love, I am ready just waiting for you"

Namhla "we are on our way, don't worry"

That was about 2 or more hours ago it's now almost 1pm I even fell asleep I woke up and ate again.

I opened for them a minute ago,

Namhla "baby girl!!" Namhla is the same age as me and Lindi is 24 but Namhla act like our elder.

Me "you are making a noise, I'm sure the whole neighbourhood can hear you right now"

Namhla "I don't care, they will be strong" she says laughing, she says giving me a hug.

Lindi "oho, how are you Yols?"

Me "I'm good babe, you?"

Lindi "I'm good" she says after we hugged.

Namhla "I'm hungry, do you have any food miss Chef"

Me "Cook your own food missy, I'm not your chef"

Namhla “you know we got to test those skills once in a while right?” she says chortling softly

Lindi “but Namhla do you have to eat so much”

Namhla “I want to gain some hips too phela hawu”

Me “but you are not gaining, you are just wasting”

Namhla “you don’t buy any food so leave me the hell alone, I will eat till I gain it doesn’t matter when, but all I know is that I will gain” she made her way to the kitchen we follow her laughing.

We were now chilling in front of a TV chatting, but i still don’t know what happened to Lindi yesterday.

Me “so what happened yesterday Lindi”

Lindi “it was nothing serious”

Me “really because it didn’t sound like that”

Lindi “I just don’t want to talk about it really, it happened and it’s now in the past”

Me “Namhla?” I turn to her because it doesn’t seem like I will get anything out of Lindi.

Namhla “let’s just say man are trash”

Me “why?”

Lindi “I found my boyfriend with a woman in bed yesterday” she stays with her boyfriend of five years and apparently he has been cheating on her throughout the relationship but she keeps taking him back.

Me “what?” I'm really shocked right now I'm sure her heart is shattered, I don't know what I would do if that were to happen to me.

Lindi “yep, and it's not even the first time he is doing this I even lost count, he do this and apologises and like the fool that I am I take him back” she says in a humourless laugh.

Namhla “I have even run out of words to say, to her. This is exactly why I don't date, because these male species are all hoes”

I really don't know what to say what would you say?

Me “well babes all we can do right now is to support you, because no matter how many times we can say leave his ass, you won't until you have had enough.”

Namhla “and I don't remember how many times I have said that, to her”

Lindi “for now I just need something strong to sooth my broken heart, I will see about all the other things later”

Namhla “that is not a solution, I am not having an alcoholic of a friend because of that dupe”

Lindi “says the biggest of them all, it’s just for today, just to forget only today okay”

Namhla “no, tomorrow you will be saying the same thing and the next thing you are always drunk”

Me “yes Namhla is right, you have to deal with your problems and not store them for later that may create a lot of damage”

Lindi “right now I need my friends not therapists” she says furiously

Namhla “okay just for today”

After all the begging from Lindi we are heading to the club. We are doing this for her, she says she wants to get drunk and dance just for today. I just hope I won’t regret what I am doing. I have on my black knee length boots and a burgundy tight velvet dress, we passed by Namhla’s apartment so they can both change, Lindiwe is staying with Namhla since she has problems with her man.

We are now in a club and it’s full of people Lindi is having a really good time she is now drunk and she has been dancing since we got here. I am sipping on an apple juice and Namhla is having a Bernini, she is not planning on getting drunk and we

said we will leave early. This is a really nice classy club and it's safer.

Lindi "I have to go to the toilet ASAP" she says out of breath

Namhla "okay, I will go with you. You coming Yolanda"

Me "no I'm good, you can go" I say.

Namhla "okay, we'll be right back" they left.

Him "hey, you want to dance" he is sitting where Namhla was. And facing my direction.

Me "no thank you, I'm good"

Him "come on, it's gonna be fun"

Me "no I don't feel like dancing"

Him "bitch! I'm trying to be nice and you are acting for me?" he says aggressively.

Me "I just said, I don't want to dance I don't know what else you want me to say" what's wrong with these males really?

Him "I'm gonna show you what I do to disrespectful bitches" he says touching my thigh roughly, at this moment I'm shit scared because I don't know what I'm going to do and people seem to be minding their own businesses and the music is so loud. My friends literally left for a few minutes and I find myself in a situation like this?. a complete night mare.

This sick bastard is holding on to my waist with his other hand when I refuse to walk he tightens his grip and he has my hand on his, to say I'm scared would be an understatement really, I can pee on myself anytime from now on if I haven't already. But that is the least of my worries right now, it doesn't help that I'm crying.

My only hope is my friends to quickly notice that I am not where they left me and find me or someone notices that I'm not okay the fact that I'm blind doesn't really help me right now. I can feel that we are now outside.

Me "please let me go" I beg with tears flowing.

Guy "shut the fuck up or I will make you" he says furiously. He pulls me to where he is parked at.

Me "please I won't tell anyone if you let me g..." I couldn't even finish my sentence.

Guy "bitch shut up" he says giving me a hot slap. it stings so bad, but I'm not allowed to cry out loud so tears are flowing to my cheeks and I'm praying silently with no amen. He opens the door.

Guy "get the fuck in bitch" before I can say anything we are both disturbed by a voice behind us.

Him “what the fuck do you think you are doing” he asks with a deep, husky voice.

Guy “hey mind your own business, this is between me and my girlfriend” what? This guy is really crazy.

Him “you come with your sick tendencies here? Where do you think this is heh” they exchanged punches.

Before I know it they are exchanging punches and I can notice that there are a few people that are watching because of the commotion around us.

Him “leave, before i beat you to death, and don’t ever come here again!! Nxah”

I hear a car drives away.

Him “come with me” he says walking toward me.

Me “I...i..im..my friends are inside I...” why should I trust another stranger? He could be as sick as the last one.

Him “hey I won’t hurt you I just want to know that you are safe” something in me believed him.

We are now waiting for Namhla and Lindi, they said they were coming a few minutes ago.

Him “what are you doing in a place like this anyway?” he asks angrily.

Me “excuse me?”

Him “I know you think you got this but places like these are dangerous especially for people like you, I know this might sound offensive but this is no place for you Yolanda, and I'm not blaming you for what that sick bastard did to you, but the worst could have happened”

Wait I don't remember telling this man my name or mentioning that I'm blind how does he know that?.

Me “what ...I...” words couldn't leave my throat. We are disturbed by the arrival of Namhla and Lindiwe.

Namhla “Yolanda what happened?”

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I'm sorry we left you alone, oh my god” she said in a panicking tone.

It seems like their arrival triggered my tears because I started where I left off.

Namhla “I'm sorry babe, I'm sorry” she says shushing me and rubbing my back with her hand.

The guy got in the front and we all settled in the back. Lindi is out of it.

We arrived to Namhla's place and we got out, I was not crying anymore.

Him "are you going to be okay"

Me "yes thanks you so much for rescuing me to that guy and for driving us" I say sincerely.

Him "it's nothing really, be safe girls" he says with a deep voice.

Me "bye"

Namhla "bye" we said in the same time he left.

We were now in bed sleeping.

Namhla "what happened Yolanda? We got back from the toilets and you were not there, and I panicked so much when I couldn't find you I ask the security to help us" she took a deep sigh. I told her what happened.

Namhla "this is my entire fault we shouldn't have left you there all alone. I"

Me "no it's not your fault because I'm the one who decided to stay, I thought it was safe to stay there, than going up and

down bumping to drunk people, and I shouldn't have gone to the club in the first place"

Namhla "and I should have known better, I feel like crap, I'm really sorry Yolanda that you had to go through that"

We can feel guilty, look for whom to blame but in this situation. If there is anyone to blame it's me. Before anyone I have to take responsibility for myself. Yes my friends left me but they didn't send that guy to come and harass me. If there is anyone to blame it's that guy.

Some men think they own women, that they can do anything to women. And what happened didn't happen because I am blind because that guy didn't know that. When he came to me he saw a girl to victimize, because the moment I said no he just breathed fire. What happened could have happened to anyone.

11

Monde (Major)

Saider “ey Ta Major the boys have tried everything, and it seems like this guy have just vanished, maybe he really died” he says sounding so defeated.

Me “nobody can just vanish to the face of the earth, just keep on trying to look for him, and don’t ever mention this maybe he died shit because it makes me sick, you know how sick this guy is, I am sure he is relaxing somewhere by the beach”

Saider “Eish, I will keep on trying, I will tell the guys to keep on trying too but things are really not promising”

Me “if this is too much of a work for you just tell me and I will look for him myself, I am tired of all these stories that you always come up with”

That was two days ago, I have trusted Saider with this task of looking for this bastard for quite some time now. I just don’t believe that he is dead he has all the resources to vanish, maybe I’m in denial but something deep down tells me he is alive and the only thing I want is to find him and kill him with my bare hands for all he has done to my life and those close to me.

I have went through a lot as a person, and I am still going through a lot it just seems like it will never end there are times where I feel like giving up but I remember that I was raised to fear nothing or no one.

*****Flash Back*****

Sifiso “please man, this is between us, let them go and let’s talk about this”

Amos “you think you know me, and today is the day that I show you who I am, I let you get away with everything that’s why you think I'm afraid of you”

Sifiso “please you let them go and you can kill me however, just have mercy on my family please I'm begging you, they are innocent, they don’t know anything please” tears are streaming down his face; Amos has a gun pointed towards him.

Amos “hahaha, I never thought I would see a man like you weeping like a little girl, today my friend, is a day I make an example out of you, everyone who plans on fucking with me out there will learn through you dear brother” he turn the gun and pointed to a little boy.

Sifiso “please Amos I am sorry, If you let them go i swear I will do anything you want” he begged crying.

Amos “and what will be the lesson in that? Huh?” he asked furiously “I'm going to kill her

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he pointed the gun to Sifiso's wife take him *he points to the son* and raise him and you my brother I will make sure that you suffer until you die with your miserable life" before anyone could utter a word the gunshot went on, Sifiso's wife died instantly .

Sifiso "NO!!! You sick bastard....." he didn't even finish his sentence Amos shot him, the little boy is so frightened, and scared.

Amos went near the boy and stretches his hand to him.

Amos "hey, son it's a pleasure to meet you" he says smiling wider. They are disturbed by Amos's man.

Him "hey boss, seems like there is a little girl too in the house, what should we do with her"

Amos "take her with us, I now have a son and a daughter" he said chuckling.

****end of flashback****

I was six years old when all that happened; my sister was only two years old. I was a very sweet boy but that all changed when Amos aka 'Moses' invaded our home killed my mother and my father and took us. I really don't know what the deal was between him and our real father but all I know is that Amos is a

psychopath who changed my life for the worst. He enjoys tormenting other human beings. Just imagine how much life has been like, being brought up by a sick man like that what it did to my life. All the things he made me do because he wanted me to be like him.

I don't really know who I am, from the sweet boy that I was to an evil man that I am right now. I really became confused of who I am really but I would like to think that I am heartless because that is how I was thought to be and who everyone knows me, I am a feared man but not as my "father" Amos.

I have done a lot of illegal things, I have killed. But I got tired of that life and I tried to get away from it. And I partially did but that was a very wrong move because right now I am fighting the unseen demons, with sleepless nights and all the nightmares it's really not been easy. Even therapy is not helping but I guess it's the price I have to pay for all the evil things I have done.

All the nightmares and problems seemed to have given me a break lately; I now have sleepless nights because of this one girl. From the moment I first saw her, everything seem to be drawing me to her, her beauty, her sparkling eyes, her innocence. I swear that girl hypnotes me. But I know her father

would kill me if I would go for her, that man hates me so much that he does not even hide it.

I first saw her at her father's office few months back, I wanted him to personally represent one of my trusted boys because I know that he is good at what he does and if that boy could spill the beans I would definitely be in deep shit.

The moment she got in I couldn't take my eyes off her, and moments later I could notice that she was visionary impaired by that still was not a concern to me because I could see that that was not holding her back to living her life. I did a lot of digging and found a lot of information on her.

I was really so mad at her when I saw her in the club, it's really funny that I was mad at someone who doesn't even know me, but either way I was. Yes it's really sad that she can't really do what her peers can do but she has to understand that she is not like them. And there are other places she can't go to, some people are sick out there and we can't really help it, they have minds that think and understand differently. I swear if I can see that guy again I would just kill him, it took a lot to convince myself not to but if he would set his feet again to the club his finished.

It's the morning after the torment from the strange guy, we are still at Namhla's apartment, and we are having breakfast. I just don't like being at home nowadays because there is just only me and MamThembi in the house and I think I would actually sink back to depression with all that has been going on in my life lately.

Any way Namhla is staying in a 2 bedroom apartment with another lady. Lizeka (Lizzy) who is originally from Cape Town, I think she is a nice lady but my friends think something is off with her because she is only nice to me.

Lizzy "we'll you be here Yolanda when I come back"

Me "mm..no I don't think so, I'm gonna leave soon" I answer after clearing my throat

Lizzy "okay, no problem I will see you again when you come to visit again"

Me "I'm..okay?" I say it more as a question because I'm so confused.

Lizzy "bye, babe"

Me "bye?" weird because they don't really get along with Namhla and she is not nice to Lindi too so I find it so weird that she can be so nice to me alone. Maybe it's nothing.

Lindi “weird”

Me “say that again”

Lindi “maybe she likes you?”

Namhla “who? Lizzy? Never”

Lindi “then why would you explain, what we just witnessed?, or she is crushing on you babes” she says chuckling.

Namhla “all I know is that she doesn’t just like a person, be careful Yols” okay now I'm just confused.

I'm confused because from the first day I met her she was just acting bitchy and all but when she learnt that I am blind, she started being nice and all interested in my life but I didn’t notice it until Namhla pointed it out, then we all noticed, she asks me all the weird personal questions, but maybe we are just looking into it too deep. From what they told me Lizzy is not working but she has money and is always travelling and going out, she is apparently what society calls a slay queen.

Namhla “enough about Lizzy and her weird behaviour, tell us Mo girl how did you get Major to be your super hero yesterday?”

Me “who?” I asked confused.

Namhla “Major, and even get him to bring us back”

Lindi “wait, the whole Major drove us?” she sounded shocked.

Namhla “yep, the whole major” she says dramatically

Me “well I don’t even know the guy, he just rescued me from that guy and I’m thankful for that”

Lindi “my god, I always wanted to meet the guy with no success, but I got drunk then boom it happens. I did not even meet him because I was out of it” we chortled.

Me “is he famous or something”

Namhla “something, he is rich babe and soo hot” mmh

Me “oh, I thought he was some celebrity”

Lindi “he is more than that and a super hero too apparently” she say chuckling.

Namhla “yeah and that too, Yolanda’s superhero though” she say in a funny voice.

Me “what?no, I’m sure I’m not the only person he rescues”

Namhla “and look at those people like he did to you? Nope I don’t think so”

Me “ai I’m not going to argue about this

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I see it’s not going to end” we laughed.

I prepared to leave and Namhla is driving me, we left Lindi dealing with her hangover. We got home after a while and said our goodbyes,

Namhla "I don't know when I will see you I have tests ahead of me, so we will talk on the phone"

Me "good luck on your exams babe"

We parted ways, many people don't know this but Namhla is a nerd, she may joke around but she is so focused on her books and is a straight A student, she is doing her second year in Accounting, and she is doing so great.

I got at the house and I'm greeted by an over excited Louie I'm sure he missed me; I missed him so much too. I sometimes forget that he is not a human the way he understands me, I sometimes feels like he know when I'm not doing okay emotionally.

Me “Louie, where is MamThembi?” of course he is not going to answer but as I said we understand each other so he leads me to where she is.

MamThembi “if it isn’t the prodigal daughter” the exaggeration.

Yolanda “haw Ma, I only left yesterday, afternoon at that” I say in defence, while giving her a hug.

MamThembi “well I don’t like these friends of yours, they are keeping you away from home, I know stay in this big house all by myself”

Yolanda “it’s only been a few hours ma”

MamThembi “it feels like a life time to me, I am happy that you can now leave the house but at the same time I don’t want you to leave”

Yolanda “now I'm confused”

MamThembi “ai wethu, it doesn’t matter, do you want me to make you something to eat?” she just becomes all mama bear for no reason.

Yolanda “I'm still fine, I ate before I came back”

MaThembi “At least they feed you but I am sure it’s these unhealthy take aways”

Yolanda “no we head proper breakfast ma, any way I will be in my room I want to study a little bit”

MaThembi “okay sisi, just shout if you need anything”

We left her humming a song, i got to my room and take a quick shower before, wearing my pjs It’s not like I'm planning on going anywhere or expecting visitors, I study until I can’t get any information in my head, I need to do a lot of practical practising too, I have been slacking on my books but I want to focus from now on. I don’t want to rivet any negative energy in my life, for now my studies come first.

13

When I woke up today I was dreading to go to school because of that incident that transpired with that guy from school, I wouldn't want for it to happen again really.

At the moment I can't really do anything about it because I don't know him, it doesn't help that I can't see him either to identify him, if I was not blind it wouldn't be such a problem because this is a small campus. I did go to school anyway, I have been familiarising myself with many dishes lately, I know I'm not the best but with practise I can only hope for the best.

Before I knew it, I was done for the day and luckily for me I did not see the guy. The rest of the week was moving smoothly, until today. I told Sne about the guy so she has always made sure that she takes me to the parking lot, I feel like I'm such a burden.

But today she couldn't come to school because she was not feeling okay so I am on my own, and I guess this guy is somehow always watching me because today is the fourth day of the week and not once did he come to bother me when I was with Sne, but today I'm alone and a part of me thought he wouldn't come to trouble me again but I was very wrong.

He is once again in front of me. And it seems like he is alone today.

Him “you thought I was going to let you go just like that? Huh?”
he says caressing my face.

Me “just let me go, I don’t even know what you want from me”

Him “you will know one day”

Me “just don’t touch me!! Okay!!” I say half shouting. I was becoming so angry and pissed off.

Him “you girls from rich families think highly of your selves, you don’t even look at average guys you look down on them, even someone like you, someone with flaws still don’t look our way”
I feel like he is mocking me, i really don’t understand what any of this have to do with me, this guy didn’t even get to know me he just came to me and harassed me from the first day, he is angry at someone who is not me. But because I'm an easy target, I have to suffer.

Me “LET ME GO!” I was shouting hoping for someone somewhere to hear me. I guess Louie could see that I was angry because he barked at him.

Him “this is not over” he said running away

Girls “hi, are you okay” a girl’s voice says. “Did he do anything to you?”

Me: i clear my throat “I'm okay” I managed to say softly.

Girl “did he do anything to you?”

Me “he...he was threatening me”

Girl “oh my God, do you know him?”

Me “no”

Girl “oh my God this is not good, not good at all, if we are not safe here at school where are we going to be safe?”

Me “I have to go” I say

Girl “what? No we have to fix this, by the way I'm Emma”

Me “Yolanda” I extended my hand for a shake.

Emma “since we both don't know him, I will ask around for his name, because I have seen him before”

Me “I'd appreciate that”

Emma “I must have your number though, so I can contact you” we exchange numbers and parted ways after I thanked her; at least someone is willing to help.

Monde (Major)

later that day

We are chilling at Athi's place, we are watching sport on the TV, I can't help but zone out to my own world. I made a vow that I can't pursue this girl, with everything that I am dealing with and my life doesn't allow me to be in a relationship.

I know that I kind of left all that life but it's not a secret that I have enemies out there and they use loved ones to get to us, so I can't really put the poor girl through all that trauma because it can get all serious and I don't want innocent people dying because of me.

I was doing all good, moving on with my life but how can I now that I saw her again and talked with her even though the circumstances were not pleasant, it doesn't change the fact that I saw her.

Senzo “hellow are you okay in there?” he waves a hand in front of my face

Athi “he is probably day dreaming about some bitch” he says chuckling

Me “f*** you Athenkosi, not all of us daydream about bitches nxaa” I say worked out because I was day dreaming about an angel.

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Senzo “you are so whipped, I feel for you” he say and they laugh so loud, much to my irritation.

Athi “only love can take the notorious amongst them all to his knees” they laughed even harder.

Senzo “you’re even blushing like a little girl, ‘he whistles’ love got you bad brother, like a rush” he says pretending to stretch his arm

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These fools, I looked at them and pretend to focus on watching the game.

Senzo “But on a serious note boy if you think you have found a person that you love you don’t have to hide it or pretend like you don’t because at the end of the day you’re a human and you deserve love too, sometimes you don’t have to overthink the situation, like what if something happens and just do what your heart tells you to”

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Athi “so there is someone?” he ask curiously

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14

****few weeks later****

I have been focusing at school like I promised myself and I'm proud to say I'm doing really good.

So Emma really kept her promise and hunted the guy who was harassing me and made sure that I reported him, and she was there with me, when they asked why he was harassing me his answer was "I was persuading her for a romantic relationship", mind you he never came to me in a polite way, accusing me of things like he knew me.

He was expelled for six months, the guy he was with the first day he bothered me came to me to apologise on his behalf and I actually held no grudge against him because it was not his fault that his friend behaves like that. I just hope he changed and won't do anything like that to anyone again.

I kind of feel sorry for him because he is going to be behind on his school life, but he did it to himself.

I can't remember the time I saw my friends, I guess it's that time where everyone focuses on their selves. We do communicate by phone though, my family is even worse

because it's been months not seeing them. I guess travelling is really occupying them, I really miss them though.

This coming week is my birthday I'm turning 21 years, but I really don't care about that I stopped celebrating my birthday when I was battling depression, back then I used to hate living so much and I despised that I had to celebrate while I hated living, I haven't reached a phase where I would say I enjoy celebrating, yeah I can celebrate someone else's just not mine.

Not that it would be special any way with my family away and the fact that I don't know many people so it would be a boring party anyway.

It's Saturday and I'm tired of doing nothing, I have been craving cookies and since I have nothing to do why not make fresh home-made cookies, I made my way to the kitchen and start getting everything I needed and get on to work.

I mix all the ingredients, once I'm done I get on with my baking. Few hours later I'm done, mmhh the smell of these cookies is to die for. "Honneey I'm hommee" that can only be my sister.

Me "Melissa?" I ask cheerfully.

Melissa "hey, I missed you sooo much" she hugs me so tightly

Me "but you want to kill me with this hug, how are you sis?" I said chuckling

Melissa "I'm good, but I missed you so much"

Me "I missed you too, the house really feels lonely without you guys"

"Hey sweaty" that is my mother's voice; I jumped on her like a wild animal.

I didn't realise how much I missed them, until they were in front of me, does that even make sense. We exchanged greetings and lot of hugs and greetings.

Me "where is daddy" it's been a couple of minutes and no signs of him getting in.

Mom "he...He...we left him behind, he promised to come this side soon though" I was so sad that he was not coming but I was grateful for the two of them.

I don't know if it's me or the mood is abruptly gloomy.

Me "so where did the both of you come across?"

Mom "airport" Melissa "Los Ange..." they said at the same time, weird.

Me "where?" I say with a soft chortle

Mom “I waited for her at the airport, it only made sense that we arrived here at the same time. So...”

Melissa “I will be in my room, if anyone needs me” she said that while mom was still explaining and left the room. Okay something is definitely wrong between these two.

Me “mom what is going on?” I ask puzzled

Mom: she giggles nervously “what? Nothing is going on”

Me “I will found out, I just hope it’s nothing serious”

Mom “don’t be silly, nothing is going on, so there is nothing to worry about”

she says trying to convince me but I was not born yesterday. “I got you a lot of nice staff, I will find Thembi first then we catch up it’s been a while” she says while walking away.

We were now chilling in my room, I was telling her about what I do at school and how much I enjoy it, we talked for a while but I

notice that every time I want her to tell me about the “vacation” she quickly changes the topic.

Mom “I almost forgot your things”

Me “okay let’s see” I say excitedly

Among the things were very cute designer handbags, a Gucci back pack that will be my best friend, and sun glasses.

I love sunglasses so much, i wear them a lot to protect my eyes because my eyes are sensitive to sun. Some people have questions like “what’s the point of wearing sunglasses if you can’t even see in them?” but I love them so damn much.

I'm not really a big fan of designer clothing, but I do appreciate one or two designer items I my closet.

Dinner was very awkward, it was clear that Melissa was mad at mom over something known by the two of them they are really acting out of character. We later departed to our bedrooms.

But instead of mine I left for Melissa's, we need to catch up face to face.

Mel "I still can't believe that I couldn't see that Chris is gay, me? I always know" I laughed at her because she thinks she can tell even over the phone whether a guy is gay or not.

Me "tends out that you don't after all" I say chuckling

Mel "but I'm glad he told you sooner though"

Me "yeah" we kept quiet for a while, "what is going on between mom and you"

Mel "nothing is going on, sis"

Me "come on you don't even sound convincing enough, something is really going on, even a fool can tell"

Mel "it's not my place to say anything, but there are just too many secrets in members of this family, it's just makes me so angry, please let's talk about something else"

Me “but Melissa....you can’t just”

Mel “please Yolanda” she begged

Me “ you can’t...you know what good night I'm going to my room” I got off bed

Mel “Yols come on...it’s not my place to tell” I left fuming; I bang the door on my way out.

So something is going on, I have been cracking my skull on what may be the secret about but I just can’t come up with anything.

I am angry at Melissa because she is not better than those that are keeping things from us. But a part of me kind of understands a bit why she is not telling me.

15

****next day****

I am not looking forward to this day really, I just want to stay in my bed and watch a movie or something.

I don't think I'm ready to face my family actually, having to pretend like we are okay while I know that deep down we hide things from each other.

I don't even feel like washing my body today, I mean I have been doing it every day, one day won't harm right? Okay I'm lazy, I'm sure I'm not the only one who get this feeling a times.

I get up and go to the bathroom, I hope they take care of Louie, I'm just too sluggish. I brush my teeth and head back at least I did something positive, i first open the door slightly so Louie can get in without disturbing me, then I take my laptop, I know it still morning but I plan on doing this the whole day.

I first check for a movie I can watch on Netflix, I come I across one called blockers, perfect I don't want to watch romantic movie no, i search what it's about and the characters and I notice that I know two of them which is a bonus. I sit comfortable. I start the movie, the door opens and I guess it's Louie.

Me “Morning Louie, come sit with me, come on boy” I got a fright of a life time when I notice that “Louie” is a person.
“Melissa what the fuck??” I even dropped the laptop.

Mel “oh my god, I'm sorry sis, last night you were angry at me and I was afraid to say anything” she say uneasily

Me “and you are pretend to be Louie?” I ask furiously how dumb can one person be. “And you thought I wouldn't notice the difference”

Mel “yes, no, I.... I mean I was going to say something eventually”

Me “Wow, just Wow”

Mel “okay I'm sorry I pretended to be Louie and about yesterday, but you have to understand where I'm coming from” she pleaded.

Me “I kind of understand really” I say after a huge sign

Mel “you do?” she asks excitedly.

Me “yeah I just want us to move past this, I cannot stay mad at you forever so...”

Mel “thank you sis” she says hugging me, “I made you breakfast, why don't you take a shower while I fix your bed? We then head downstairs eat and watch movies together?” I know she is bribing my forgiveness, but it's cool.

Me “okay sis, I love you”

Mel “you are going to hate me after what I'm about to tell you”

Me “what is it?” I ask with my heart thumping faster than normal.

Mel “your laptop is kinda broken”

Me “what?? No no no, Mel it can't” I know it's old but thats my babe I love my gadgets.

Mel “I'm sorry, maybe your parents will buy a new one?” I just left for the bathroom with a broken heart, I'm glad that I always back up important work otherwise I would be in deep shit right now.

Melissa

I had to make peace with my sister, I know she wasn't going to be angry at me for ever, but I had to smooth her by making full English breakfast, and wala we are now good. I have to say I missed home and my sister so much.

I haven't been home for these few months because, I was lucky enough to get a modelling gig, I say I got lucky as there are many people who would like to get in this industry to show their talent but don't get a chance.

To me I don't know whether it's luck, or I was destined to model or I'm just blessed either way I'm grateful for the opportunity. I have a degree in Law, I loved it since I was just a little girl, I looked up to my father and I aspire to be as good as him one day, I don't really have a problem with getting a job, since I will join my father's Law firm, I don't want to be my father's shadow though meaning I have to work really hard to make my own appellation.

Back in varsity I took chances and entered in to those miss varsity pageants, as I have the body

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beauty and the confidence, also I like dressing up, surprisingly I won first place even.

I wasn't really serious about the whole thing but I did put a lot of effort to the whole thing. After I won, I wanted to see how far I would get with this modelling thing as people around me would say I should try it out, I eventually agreed but I made a mental note that I will only do it as a hobby, the last thing I wanted was to see myself in situations where I would find myself doing modelling full time, I only did it because it's glamorous and a lucrative career.

This industry is very competitive and filled with many rejections so one has to be careful.

I first did research about the industry and opted to be a runaway model because I fit perfectly. I was so happy last year when my agency told me about the gig in America and I just couldn't miss the opportunity to rock that stage and meeting new people while doing what I love.

I travel a lot and I love travelling. We were going to showcase in California first then New York and lastly Los Angeles. I had a really great time, while making money at the same time, how great?

It was my last day in Los Angeles when I was in a phone call with my mother and I told her that I was done so I would go home especially because Yolanda's birthday is coming up.

She had forgotten about it and she let it slip that she was in Los Angeles too, when I asked for the address so I can drop by to visit them, because I missed them she didn't want to give me the address. I didn't listen to her; i used an app to find her. I arrived to a very outrageous surprise,

Apparently our father has lung cancer and they lied to us when they said they were travelling the world, the good news is that they found it in it's early stages and he underwent surgery and is now recovering, when I asked them why they said "they were protecting us" how thoughtful of them, right?. From what really? What if something went wrong during the surgery and he didn't make it?

At the moment things are really bad between mom and I as she refuses to tell the truth, she even followed me just to beg me not to tell because they don't think Yolanda would cope with the situation. And I on the other side think it's better if she knows, things will really be bad when she finds that they kept it a secret for her that is just my opinion. The funny thing is that Jason knows it's only me and Yols who were kept in the dark.

I spent the whole afternoon with my sister watching TV and gossiping, mom and MamThembi went to church, I'm so happy

that she is getting out of her own shell, and I have to admit though that she is really happy.

We are watching music videos on and I am showing her how to do some popular dances, and she is as stiff as a stick, I know I'm not flexible either but sis here, Ai.

Yolanda "I'm sure I'm doing good than most people out there, you're just jealous" she says out of breath.

Me "I don't even know what you are doing, it's like you are chasing flies away" I say laughing so hard, I take my phone to make a video I need something to laugh at when I'm bored.

Yolanda "you're just jealous I'm sure I'm doing better than you"

Me "why would you be so sure? And you forget that I'm the one teaching you" I say chuckling softly.

Yolanda "coz I'm feeling myself" we both laughed, we did many other dances, some are better than the others, she is really feeling herself.

It's after dinner and I'm watching shades of blue with a tub of yoghurt in my hand, mom pass by going to her room.

Mom "good night baby, see you tomorrow" she says while walking away.

Me "mom I need to talk to you" she reluctantly turn to look at me, I stand up and place the yoghurt on the coffee table.

Me "Mom, how long are you going to keep the secret that daddy is sick to Yolanda?"

Mom "Melissa, I'm not going to start an argument with you please I need to sleep" she says attempting to walk away.

Me "when are you guys going to notice that we are no longer kids and start sharing matters with us?"

Mom "hey, young girl I'm warning you, you are not going to talk as you please with me I'm your mother now if you don't have anything important to say, I'm going to sleep" she attempt walking away. We are now speaking rather loud.

Me "well you don't tell her I am going to tell her that our father has lung cancer and you are not even planning on telling her, even me I know by chance. I am not going to ke...." we are both disturbed by a scream. When we turn Yolanda is lying on the bottom of the stairs, we both run towards her.

Me YOLANDA!!!” Mom “oh my god my baby” we said at the same time.

Mom kneel next to her to feel her pulse, Mom “call an ambulance!! Melissa!!” she shouted at me and I ran to get my phone and dialled an ambulance.

Me “they are on their way” I say making my way toward them. MamThembi was there too when I got to them.

Mom “Yolanda, Baby!! Can you hear me?” we were both crying, minutes later the ambulance arrived and the paramedics did all they could and rushed her to the hospital, we followed after them to the hospital!!!!

16

We have been waiting for what seems like eternity, we are all silent I guess we are afraid of receiving bad news, we prayed about an hour ago, well MamThembi prayed. I'm praying silently for good news though.

When I take my eyes off the ground I notice a doctor coming our way I stand up quickly hoping he is coming to us.

Dr "Yolanda Jones??"

Mom "yes we are her family, how is my daughter, Dr?"

Dr "we did everything we had to and for now she is okay, we did a MRI scan and no head injuries were detected.

Unfortunately the x-ray show that she has sprained her right ankle; it's not really bad, she will heal in a few weeks, I will keep her for more observations though. For now she is sleeping but you can see her for a few minutes.

We all exhaled loudly like we were a quire, relief written on our faces. A broken ankle is better than a head injury right?.

We got to her hospital room, she is sleeping peacefully her ankle has a cast.

Mom "my poor baby" she says approaching her bed.

Dr "I'm going to give you 10 minutes, because visitors are not allowed during this time" he exited the room.

MamThembi “I was fearful for the worst news”

Mom “me too” she said in a very low tone.

The doctor chased us out after 10 minutes we left for home.

Mom “I hope she didn’t hear anything” she says when we got to the house.

Me “wow, is that all you care about? Keeping secrets?” I ask not expecting an answer

Mom “ I'm not doing this with you again Melissa, I hope this is the last time you bring this up” I kept quiet and made my way to my room, I really don’t have time nor eergy for this.

Yolanda

I woke up a few minutes ago, I haven't opened my eyes yet, not that it would make any difference though, my whole body is in pain especially my right ankle, the atmosphere around me tells me that I'm in hospital. I don't like how it feels to be in here the moment I enter a hospital I feel all gloomy ether and I just don't like being here. I don't know what time is it. I remember precisely why I'm here.

After dinner yesterday I guess because I don't think I have slept for a long time. So back to the story, I was preparing to get in bed when I went to close my bedroom door, I could feel a lot of shouting, at first I wanted nothing to do with it because I knew that something was definitely wrong between Mom and Melissa, but at the same time I got curious, I mean who wouldn't ?

As either of them was willing to tell me what's up any way I made my way downstairs, they were becoming louder and louder as I walked down the stairs, they were in the lounge and I could tell that they didn't notice me, I was a few steps away to get down when Melissa said my father has lung cancer and I got such a shock that I lost balance and sprained my ankle and I passed out of shock.

I am not angry that they kept my father's sickness as a secret I am so disappointed really and I can't help but wonder how many secrets they are keeping in the word that they are protecting us.

I am not going to ask anything pertaining this revelation. It's all up to them what they do really. I mean at our ages they still treat us like toddlers that wouldn't understand the situation, we are all in our twenties but no our parent's still treats us like little kids, this is exactly why I don't tell them some of the things that I go through because I'm afraid that they will fuss about everything I do and watch my every move. I will have to ask Melissa about the details that she knows about this matter.

As I am busy having quite a discussion in my mind, I get disturbed by someone entering the room and I hear a lot of fidgeting around me and I guess it's a nurse. I open my eyes.

Me "hellow?"

Nurse "oh hi miss, you are finally awake"

Me "yes, Can I please have some water I'm thirsty" she comes by my side.

Nurses “okay no problem” she pours some water. “let me help you get up”

Me “By the way I am completely blind” I say so she can be aware and we don’t end up spilling water all over us.

Nurse “no one can tell really, your eyes are so beautiful” that’s like music to my ears.

Me “and yet they can’t even see, thank you” we both laugh, she gives me water, once I’m done she helps me get back to my sleeping position.

Nurse “do you by any chance know Doctor Laura Jones? I can’t help but notice similar surnames”

Me “yes, she is my mother”

Nurse “she is one of the people I look up too, I admire the woman, even though I never got a chance to get closer to her and have a conversation with her, she is so dedicated to her work, hardworking, charismatic and many more and on top of that a family woman” she says enthusiastically, she just went on and on about my mother like she even forgot that I was with her. My mother has been my role model ever since I was a baby, and it makes me happy that other people can notice her work too.

Nurse “oh my god, sorry I just ramble like that to a patient”

Me “it’s okay really, I can do with company” I said chuckling.

She helped me take a bath and I had breakfast after, which wasn’t really nice if you’d ask me, but I appreciated it. I really enjoyed her company, she is a ball of energy.

Nurse “I will call a doctor for you, then it will be visiting hours

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your family is already waiting for you” she says and exits the room after I said okay.

The doctor came to check me and left, I was now with Mom and Melissa we were having a light conversation.

Mom “you really scared us sweetheart”

Me “I’m okay, mom, really” I assured.

Mom “I didn’t sleep last night wondering how you were” she says worryingly

Me “it’s just a sprained ankle, nothing to be worried about”

Melissa “at least that cast looks nice”

Me “it does?”

Melissa “yes in its cast kind, it won’t shamble your style that much, at least” she says jokingly.

Me “yeah right, I just hope I get discharged soon,” I say frantically

Mom “they will let you go soon, they are just keeping you for observation, and hopefully the scans they took earlier will come back clear as well, but for now I don’t see anything that looks alarming”.

Melissa “well, we will trust the doctor in the room” she says jokingly.

They stayed for a while, until visiting hours were over.

Me “Melissa I need to talk to you, but not now, maybe when I'm out of here”

Mom “talk about what?” she asks, anxiously.

Me “sister kind of talk mom”

Melissa “no problem sis, anytime”

Melissa “before I forget, I have your phone I think you will need it in here”

Me “thank you, these are things that make me love you” she gives it to me.

Melissa “yeah right” she says chuckling lightly. After hugs and kisses they left.

Thanks to Melissa, I got to call my friends and told them I was at hospital. They promise to visit, and in a few moments will be afternoon visitations. Nurse Julie got in.

Nurse “hey, Miss Jones, are you awake?” so formal. SMH.

Me “yes, please call me Yolanda”

Nurse; chortling softly “okay Yolanda, I have a very beautiful bunch of flowers with, with a card and a big cuddle teddy bear for you, delivered for you, I just signed for them in reception” she says almost out of breath.

Me “really, who are they from? What does the card say?”

Nurse “it reads, To Yolanda Jones, get well soon, From P.D”

P.D, I have no idea who that is, none of my friends has those initials, or anyone I know for that matter.

Me “are they really for me, because I really can’t think of anyone with those initials”

Nurse “the delivery guy was certain about the ward number so they are for you”

She put them nicely after I smelled and left as Namhla and Lindi were entering. After greetings and fussing's, we talked a little more, with a bit of catching up. And eating the food they got for me.

Lindi "at least your ward room has some flowers in it"

Namhla "and they are, so beautiful, who are they from" before I answer Melissa entered.

Melissa "for a moment I thought I was lost, seeing unfamiliar faces" we all shared a laugh

Me "sis these are my friends, Namhla and Lindiwe, guys this is my sister Melissa" I introduced them.

Namhla "nice to finally meet you sis"

Lindi "Nice to meet you" they say at the same time.

Mel "pleasure to meet you guys" she says "I see they got you flowers and food, well I got you food as well, mom will come see you later, the head of the hospital high jacked her when we were leaving earlier"

Namhla "food yes, flowers nope"

Mel "then who are they from? Ow there is a card"

Mel "To Yolanda jones, get well soon From P.D?"

Lindi "that teddy from P.D too?"

Mel and Namhla “obviously” they really not giving me a chance to explain.

Mel “so, who is P.D?”

Me “I don’t know” I answer truthfully

Namhla “really?”

Me “yep”

It took quite a while for them to believe that I don’t know who P.D is, they left when the visiting hours were over.

Today is Wednesday I got discharged from the hospital yesterday, afternoon. In the morning yesterday I got a basket full of fruit with a card that says To: Yolanda Jones, From P.D. I honestly don't have any idea who P.D is and my sister and friends thinks it's a secret admire, I think so too but I'm not going to lie, some part of me is petrified, what if it's some psychopath, people are sick out there, and I have encountered a few.

Before I got discharged that day I got a surprise visitor, Mr Dladla, I met him when I went to visit my dad the end of last year, he said he was in the hospital to see a friend, then he saw me when passing by my ward room, mind you I was lying by my side when he entered.

His voice reminded me of that Major guy, who saved me from the guy in the club. But it could be my ears playing tricks with me or it's just that many people have deep baritones.

Anyway, Mr Dladla and me talked for a couple of minutes, nothing major just general things, he sounds like a real cool person. I wanted so bad to ask him his age, because the picture that I have of him in my mind is that of a man in his 50s, but I didn't want to seem disrespectful. Maybe he is that Major's father or an older brother, but their voice are really similar.

Today is my birthday and as someone who doesn't celebrate I have nothing planned, I just want to chill and hang my ankle, at least I'm not going to school until next week Monday, I will need a lot of catching up, nonetheless I will not miss anything important. I got calls from my loved ones wishing me a happy birthday, even dad called, I wasn't really expecting his call, because he is sick and I thought remembering my birthday would be the last thing on his mind, they still don't know that I know that he is sick, he gave me a story about how he couldn't come home and I "understood" . Melissa told me about everything she knows about our parents "secret".

They really spoiled me today morning from breakfast in bed, allowing me to relax in a birth tub and gifts, Mom gave me a spar voucher for four people, and Melissa gifted me with an Apple MacBook.

I don't even know how I will top that, in fact I can't. I love the fact that they respect it when I say I do not want to celebrate, at least until I feel like I can finally do, and they say they will go all out, as it has been forever without my celebration, and I won't mind then.

We are chilling outside by the pool it's Me, Mel's, Namhla and Lindi. We are having wine, yes me too I'm sipping on my glass of wine.

Mom went to see a friend of hers, and Ma Thembi was given this week off since mom is around. So it's just us at home. We are soaking ourselves in the sun, at least it's not hot as it is winter, but it's a sunny day.

Namhla "Landa, you should at least allow us to have a little braai later on" she says pleadingly

Mel "yes, Yols please"

Me "it would really be nice, really" it's the least we can do really.

Lindi "you're saying later, and I'm pretty sure that we will be drunk by then"

Mel "no, we don't have to, there is meat in the house, we can replace even tomorrow"

Lindi "alright that's better, Namhla is good with braaing, so we help her then we make salads"

Mel "I can braai too so, you and Yols can make salads"

Melissa really gets along with my friends

I was afraid that there would be personality clashes between her and Hlahla but it never happened, I'm really grateful.

We are disturbed by a bell ringing on the front door, Melissa went to check.

We are expecting no visitors.

Melissa "you have a delivery birthday girl" she says rather dramatic. "it's flowers, a rapped gift box, oh and a card"

Namhla "mmh, some girls are lucky out there"

Me "Who is it from?"

Mel "To Yolanda, happy birthday beautiful, I hope you are enjoying your special day. From P.D"

Lindi "P.D? Again?"

Namhla "so P.D seems like he or she know you very well"

Mel "yes, and it's kind of creepy now"

Me "why doesn't he show himself? Though"

Lindi "maybe he is shy?"

Mel "or maybe he is a psycho, I need to get to the bottom of this fast"

Namhla "we only have initials which may not even be his or her real ones"

Mel “true hey, but we must do something maybe ask the delivery guy”

Me “I just don’t know what to do, because there is a high possibility that this is some creepy person”, this is really frustrating and it appears like I'm not the only one freaked by all of this P.D.

Mel “it’s a purple apple smart watch, it’s so cute” she says excitedly.

Me “it might even be bugged, so they can keep tracks of me. so not I'm not going to wear it never” I say in deep thoughts, “even that teddy bear may be bugged, or even have camera’s, what was I thinking coming home with it ?, what if it’s really a creepy person, and there are really camera’s in that thing, my god, I get naked in that room” I am really freaking out.

Mel “you watch many movies” she chuckle’s nervously.

Lindi “let’s just stop thinking about this, this is your special day, you are supposed to be enjoying not creating scenarios” she tries to calm me down.

Namhla “yeah, you are right, let’s enjoy this day, but from the time being, don’t wear this watch and put that teddy away, just to be safe”

We then continued talking about other things and the nerves were really gone.

Namhla “ai, the sun is now really getting through my skin, by the time I get up from here I will be dark” she says dramatically

Mel “say that again, and these two are even facing the sun” I am facing the sun with my shades on.

Lindi “benefits of being dark skinned”

Me “whoa whoa guys, Lindi is Dark in complexion?”

Mel “what did you think” she says with a soft chortle.

Lindi “that I'm light?, come on Yolanda, you must be joking” she says laughing.

Me “well I thought, Namhla was dark and Lindi was Light” I feel like such a fool. We never had a conversation that would hint their skin colour so I assumed.

I don't see colour after all.

Namhla “what, why would you think that” they burst out laughing.

Me “well, there was a time in your apartment, you were both doing make up and there was a make up in a table in front of me with and a mac concealer that was the same as mine and I assumed it was yours, I guess it was Lindi's then” I tried to explain my logic.

Lindi “so all this time you thought I was light and her dark?”
they didn’t believe me

Namhla “you could have asked us though, but I'm sure you do
have an idea of how our body shapes looks like because we do
hug right?”

Me “that would be so weird Namhla, imagine, so what is your
complexion?, no babes that just super weird, and yes I do have
an Idea of your body shapes”

Mel “yes that would be sooo weird,” we burst out laughing.

Lindi “super weird” she says chortling.

Mel “it’s not only you guys, there are even some celebrities
that she think are black while they are white and vice versa”

I just made myself a laughing stock but it’s okay because I was
speaking the truth, they have to understand that I can’t see
these things, and the senses that I use cannot tell a person’s
complexion. To celebrities’ it’s usually their accents that makes
me think they are black, white, Asian etc. and sometime I get it
all wrong.

I really enjoyed my day, even though it was nothing hectic my
girls were everything, and the company I needed, besides the
P.D person.

What's the worst that can happen to a girl? Meeting your crush in the mall while you are not in your best clothing, and looking as basic and hideous as ever the worst that can happen to a blind girl though is having a sprained Ankle, . Trust me when I say they both happened to me.

it's so difficult walking around with a sore foot, I had to rely on Louie and my white cane because I have been so scared of falling and hurting my ankle further, It's been a week after my birthday, my mom went back to "travelling" as they call it with her husband, they still didn't say anything to me.

now that I know I can tell my dad's voice is feebler than normal and I didn't ask anything to them, what makes me relax is knowing that at least he is getting better, maybe after they will take real vacations.

Melissa is still around but she has been doing a lot of sleeping over at Nathi's, yes they are still doing whatever they are doing, but she is not dating Liam any more, I am happy about that.

My ankle doesn't hurt any more, but I still have the cast on which I will be taking out soon I hope, it wasn't a serious sprain anyway. School is okay I'm still catching up but almost there, exams are around the corner and I don't know if im ready.

I have met someone and we went on a date three days ago, he is really a good guy as far as I can tell, I could be wrong by my

gut tells me to go with the flow and I'm doing just that. I do have some feelings for the guy but, I may be wrong, for all I know it may just be a crush that can end any time though.

Well today I am meeting with him again, I came back from school minutes ago and I am preparing to go to him, the weather is really not by my side so I will wear a tight fitting dress with a coat, I can't wait to take this cast off because it's really murdering my style, at least we are not going to a public space. I can't help but think of the day we met officially.

Flash Back

Me "when we are done with the Vet we have to pass by the Dog store so we get food for Louie"

Melissa "no stress, I hope that's all because it's really cold to day"

Me "yeah it is"

Mel “girl you look so hideous in those clothes” she says while helping us in the car

Me “leave me and my clothing alone please”

Mel “I'm just saying just because it's cold, it doesn't mean we have to forget how to dress well”

And I'm sure I look more than hideous, I have on big grey track pants, black polo neck, black leather jacket and one ugg, as I have on a cast on the other side, they are both different colours. And I'm sure sis look like she just came out of the magazine cover, but I don't care, they will stare if they like I won't even see them anyway.

Louie needs regular check-ups; boy has to be strong and healthy, in order to lead me well. When we were done we left for the shopping centre to get Louie's food to the store.

Mel “let's get a coffee first” she says when we got to the shopping centre. We got to the coffee shop which is not far from the store we are going to, we sit down and have our coffee over a light conversation.

Me “you spend so much time away from home nowadays” I say trying to fish for news.

Mel “I told you I have been visiting a friend” she lied.

Me “does that friend, a guy, and his name Nkosinathi”

Mel “girl stay out of my problems, let’s go I'm done” she tries to dismiss me. She stands up.

Me “but I'm not done”

Mel “good, we are still leaving, Louie let’s go” Louie stood by my side, this girl is really dismissing me.

Me “you don’t have to be like that, I'm done judging you on this matter” I stand up too, and decide to let it go.

We got to the store and move through aisle, buying all dog things.

Me “okay

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sis I'm sorry I asked you about that guy it’s really not my problem so I understand” I apologize sincerely.

Mel “I'm not Angry at you okay, it’s just there is a bit of conflict going on between us and for now I don’t want to talk about him nor think about him” she explains.

Me “okay, I understand” I’m glad I did because we were now back to our normal selves, we bought food, treats, and all hygiene stuff for Louie.

Mel “aww look at these, they would be so cute on him, it’s bandanas” she gave me one to feel. “we can buy different colours that you can match with your outfit’s” she suggested.

Me “it would be really nice we would be goals” I say already imagining us matching.

Mel “we need to leave before I see something else” she says sounding serious, and I have no doubts that she is being honest.

We turn to leave.

Guy “ladies, hi, sorry to disturb, can you help me with something”

We greet back.

Guy “so my friend, over there recently got a dog and we are both clueless on what food to get the dog” he says almost out of breath, “so we thought you might recommend, what may be healthy for his dog”

Mel “well you can get assistance from the shop assistances they no better”

Guy “we don’t really trust them, they can say anything that will make us buy, hell they may not even have dogs for all we know,

at least you ladies look like you have some clue with these things”

Melissa “okay, I guess it’s cool”

Guy “thank you guys, this way please

We walk to the isle with food, when we got there.

Guy “I got these nice ladies to help us” he says cheerful. “This is my friend, Monde, I’m Athi by the way”

Monde “Yolanda??” he says with that deep voice of his. And it just does things I can’t explain to my body.

Me “major?? You are Monde?” I say after clearing my voice what a dumb question, it’s obvious.

Monde “yes, amongst others” he says

Mel “Melissa” she said almost louder.

Monde and I “what? “We say at the same time.

Mel “my name is Melissa” she says and Athi laughed so hard. Melissa is just being extra for nothing. Disturbing my crush and I, girl has a nerve.

We helped them buy food, they ended up buying the same food we got, when we were done we paid and left, together.

Monde “Yolanda, would you like to get a cup of coffee with me, for a few minutes” he asked when we got to the parking lot, I look at Melissa.

Melissa “go, I will wait for you” she says in a whisper.

Me “a cup of coffee won’t hurt anyone right” I reply chuckling nervously. I'm going to turn in to coffee, we got to the coffee shop that we were in earlier with Melissa, I'm sure the workers there thinks I'm am a homeless person, that Mel and Monde felt bad for me because of the weather.

We had our coffee while getting to know each other, we stayed for a few minutes and left as we were both here with other people, we promised to go on an official date where we will get to know each other further and on a personal level.

Melissa “I always tell you not to dress like you are going to work on the farm, to avoid what happened today” she laughed so hard after that.

Me “I wanted the ground to swallow me” I say honestly, I felt so embarrassed for a minute there

Melissa “but on the other side, it’s good because he saw you ugly and beautiful too”

Me “yeah he had a chance to run”

Mel “the way he looks at you, sis...my guess is he has feelings for you” she sounds serious.

Me “I am not sure, there are many stories about him”

Mel “well, you have to know him better before you decide what you want to do”

We talked for a while about the matter.

end of flash back

Monde

To say I am nervous right now would be an understatement, my whole life I never thought I would be in a situation where I would find myself crazy over a woman again, I just never thought it can happen again.

Today I am having a date with Yolanda, she is just so different from the women I had a thing with in the past, I'm not going to lie and say I like the girl no it's more than that, I love the girl, but the last thing I want to do is scare her away, so I will take a little time before I can come on her with these "I love you" words.

It's the end of the week so, I decided to prepare the dinner myself, yes I'm not the best cook out there but I try, and what make me more nervous is that, the person I'm cooking for is a chef, but I'm sure she will appreciate the effort.

Amongst other things I made grilled chicken, creamy spinach, roasted potatoes, butternut, Salad, I know she is a health freak, for desert we will have chocolate cake, I took those small blankets and laid in on the floor by the fire place, small pillows for support and candles with a nice scent it looks so beautiful in

here even if I'm saying so myself, it will be more than beautiful when we are sitting and enjoying our food.

I head upstairs and quickly take a very brief shower once I'm done with everything I go downstairs to take the car keys and leaves for her place. I told her that I'm here a few minutes ago. She told me she is home alone, so I don't have to worry about meeting her family, I did meet her sister though who is quite some character.

I see her walking out of the door, I get out of the car and head towards her, she has a cane in her hand, I guess she is living her guide dog behind. As I get near her, I can't help but smile at her beauty.

Me "hey, how are you" I ask with a smile.

Yolanda "hi, I'm good, you" she returns a smile. It's still so hard to believe that she is visually impaired.

Me "shall we?"

Her "of course" she says softly. She places her hand on my arm and I lead her to the car, after settling her in I also get in, we engage in a small conversation here and there with a radio playing.

Me "we are here" I say when we get to my place. I open the door for her and lead her inside. It's funny how before I met her I was so clueless about how visually impaired people live their

lives. I got interested after I saw her at her father's office, I noticed that there was a problem even though her eyes look normal she behaved like someone who couldn't see, I searched for her in social media and fortunately she had an Instagram account and she doesn't hide that she can't see.

I spent a lot of my time on the internet searching about how I as a sighted individual can interact with visually impaired, the last thing I want is to come across as being offensive while I think I am helping, I learned a lot about how to be helpful too so, at least I am not as clueless as I was a few months ago. I will learn more as we get to know each other more.

Me "careful, there is a step" I say when we reach the kitchen door through the garage"

Her "it smells so nice in here"

Me "wait until you taste it"

Her "confident enough" she says with a soft laugh.

Me "I'm the best" I say with a soft chuckle, reality is I'm scared. "Here flowers for you" I give her flowers after taking off her coat.

Her "owh, they smell so nice, thank you" she says with a wide smile, and I can't help but return it. I then show her around the house.

Her “your house is huge, and yet you stay alone?”

Me “yes, it’s only me”

Her “why? i would be scared all the time and end up staying outside” she ask raising a brow.

Me “childhood dream, I always wanted to own a big house, and here we are”

I prepare the food, and set everything on our spot. We ate over a light conversation.

Her “this is so nice

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” she says with her eyes closed “one of the best I have tasted, where did you learn to cook so well?”

Me “Mom, and Google of course” I laugh softly.

Her “they did really good” she says looking at me with a smile. She is so beautiful, with her light brown iris eyes. She has no makeup on and yet so beautiful, her skin is so clear, damn I have never seen such beauty.

Me “you are beautiful” I blurted out

Her “thank you” she blushed and looked away.

Were now sitting comfortable on our spot, we finished eating minutes ago, we are getting to know each other better.

Her “so there is three of you” she ask with a frown.

Me “what?” I say raising my eyebrow

Her “you are three people”

Me “what do you mean I'm three people”

Her “I mean, there is you Major, there is Mr Dladla and there is also Philani”

Me “so that makes me three people?” I ask laughing.

Her “I did notice similarity of voices between Mr Dladla and Monde though, but I thought he was your father or an older brother” she explained “but I never thought Philani to be you too, I mean that you’re also P.D, which does make sense now, Philani Dladla” she say in a serious voice, she kind of looks funny and it’s taking me a lot of strength not to burst out laughing.

Me “why do you make it sound like there is three of us though?”

Her “because I never thought it was all you”

Me “and, you thought “Mr Dladla was an old man” I say laughing.

Her “because of all the formality, yes” she says in a low voice, and I burst out laughing because I noticed the first day, that she thought I was way older than I am.

And the way she behaved when we were in that store was different, so she must have really thought it was different people. “I was really freaked out about the gifts from an unknown person, I even threw away the teddy because I thought it must have been from a creepy person with camera’s and bugs, and i haven’t even worn my watch” she says.

Me “well I apologise for creeping you out like that, a part of me thought I was doing the right thing, but now that you are saying it I get that you must have been petrified, I'm sorry” I say honestly, I never thought that she would think I'm a creep, I only thought she would see that she has a secret admirer.

Her “apology accepted, so what should I call you? Who are you amongst the three?”

Me “there is only one me, but you can call me whatever you like or prefer”

Her “I'm going to call you Philani ” she says with a smile.

Me “fine by me” I returned a smile, I wish she can see how beautiful she is. “You have beautiful eyes and a beautiful smile”

Her “thanks” she says softly, I hope I'm not creeping her out, but I can't help it.

Me “one could have sworn you're no older than 19 year” I say after she told me her age.

Her “come on I don't look so young” she says looking my way.

Me “if you would see yourself, you would agree with me”

Her “okay, old man” we both laugh, when I told her my age she couldn't believe it, she thought I was older, because of this whole Mr Dladla thing, I think her father did it on purpose, as he himself has never called me Mr Dladla but that day, boom he introduces me as that.

We spent few more hours just talking, and I took her home, I couldn't leave without smashing my lips against hers, I know I took her by surprise as she took a few seconds before responding to my kiss, but she eventually did and her soft lips were dancing against mine for a couple of seconds, she broke the kiss and cleared her throat.

Her “I need to go” she says in a whisper.

Me “oh, okay, I will see you” I hope I did not scare her away.

Her “okay, bye” she makes her way inside.

I stood there watching her enter the house and close the door without moving; I snap out of it and quickly make it to my car. And I drive away”

With exams around the corner I am doing all I can to pass, the last thing I want is to fail, proving to people out there that I shouldn't be doing this because I'm "blind". Every day I take time to practice dishes as I am not really sure what dish I will prepare on my exam, but I have to make my mind soon and practice to perfect the dish.

I am disturbed by a video call from Philani.

Me "are you mocking me Philani Dladla?" I say jokingly.

Him "how? And why would I be doing that"

Me "explain why you would video call a blind girl then, if not mocking" I say jokingly.

Him "I would never, I just miss seeing your beautiful face" I can't help but blush, if I was light skinned I would be pink I'm sure.

Me "because of that complement I will let it slide"

Him "you are still in bed, I see, you still have drool on your mount" he says chuckling,

Me "what, you are lying" I say quickly wiping the sides of my mouth with embarrassment. He laughed even harder.

Him "I'm joking, you should have seen the look on your face" he says laughing even harder.

Me "that was not funny Mr"

Him "okay, I'm sorry"

Me "I will get you"

Him "I said I'm sorry, Landa" he whined, I just love the sound of my name in his mouth; it sounds different from how other people say it.

Me "because you asked nicely I will consider letting it go"

Him "good, what are you doing today"

Me "I am planning to study, and practice my dishes"

Him "oh, good luck with that, i guess it's not possible to see you then"

Me "thanks, I want to give my undivided attention to my exams, the rest will come after" which is not entirely a lie.

Him "I understand, I just hope you are not avoiding me"

Me "why would I avoid you" I ask with a nervous soft laugh.

Him "the kiss, you know we have to talk about it right?"

Me "yes" I say softly. "Look I need to go, something needs my attention"

I drop the phone, before he could say anything. I let the guy kiss me and I don't even know why he wants to talk about this when I feel so embarrassed. But it was really a lovely brief kiss. But I don't want to catch all the feelings for Philani as I don't even know what his intentions are.

I suddenly feel hot, I really don't want to think about this at least not until I write my exams.

I got up and quickly and make my bed; I brush my teeth and wash my face. I wear my black leggings and a sport bra and running shoes; I need to distract my mind in the gym. I first give Louie his food and head to the gym room, it's been a while since I did any exercises it's a good thing that I stick to a healthy diet.

I first warm up and got on a treadmill, I know this may all seem like I am being restless and putting my life in danger but for safety I always make sure I hold on the tread mill while I'm running or walking I can't risk falling.

There isn't much in this gym any way, I only use the treadmill, and bike mostly, then I do all the exercises that do not require equipment, and dumbbells here and there, I'm not like those people who are gym freaks no, I am only a healthy eating freak.

Once I'm done I head back to my room to take a shower and get ready for my day, it feels like I'm the only one with Louie

around the house, but I'm sure they are around. Once I'm done eating my cereal I go to check Melissa in her room. The door is surprisingly locked, I knocked.

Me "Mels" I shout "Melissa"

Her "Yols, I'm coming, I'm taking a shower" she answers.

Me "Lisa, why is the door locked then"

Her "because I want to"

Me "mxm, don't ever talk to me" I head to my room, I have to study anyway.

Melissa

Me "you see, get up you need to leave" I'm furious really this guy doesn't take me serious.

Him "are you angry at me now"

Me “what if we had forgotten to lock the door? huh”

Him “we didn’t, relax” he says getting up.

Me “just hurry and get out of here”

Him “are you chasing me away now? You have used me now I have to go?” he says looking at me, he stop what he was doing and start tickling me, I laughed so hard until tears form my eyes. “you are now tired of me?”

Me “no..no..stop, please” I gasp for air. “we are going to get caught if you continue doing this” he look at me straight in the eyes like he is searching for my soul and kiss me. He then continues wearing his clothes.

Me “let me go and check if there is any one in sight” I left the room. Luckily I don’t see anyone, I had back and we both sneak out, he has to take my car because he came by a cab yesterday. We got to the garage without being seen.

Him “ i love you”

Me “...” I really don’t know what to say.

Him “we will talk, sharp” he kiss my chick and drive off. I am so lucky MamThembi is not in sight, how would I explain why my car driving off while I'm here. I go to my room and clean a bit, I hope this was a first and a last time I'm sneaking a guy to my

parents' house, I just disrespected them and myself. But at least no one knows.

Few hours later

I get to the kitchen, to grab a bite my sister is in all chef spirit, she is cooking up a storm. I have to admit she is one of the most dedicated individual I know, cooking has an effect on her, I have no doubt that she will pass with flying colours but she doesn't believe that she can do that.

Me "my chef!" I shout.

Yolanda "just do what you came here to do and leave me in piece please" she just dismisses me, I know how much she

hates being disturbed, she says it leads to her doing the opposite of what she is doing.

Me "I'm not here to disturb, I just miss you" I beg.

Yolanda "and yet you are still talking to me"

Me "come on sis, I miss you"

Yolanda "hahaha, very funny because you chased me out in the morning" she laughed sarcastically.

Me "I was busy and I didn't chase you"

Yolanda "okay good

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now leave me alone, but first taste here, I'm not sure if this taste good, it's like there is something lacking, I don't know"

Me "see I can help you, with things like this" she gives me a spoon to taste. "mmhh, this taste good I don't know why you are doubting it" she add something to the pot and stir. "so...you and major huh?"

Yolanda "what about us" she ask raising an eyebrow.

Me "what are you? What are you doing?"

Yolanda "we are human being's and I'm cooking, duh!!" she laughed softly.

Me “so you are not going to tell me?, come on sis, we are sisters, you are my best friend”

Yolanda “when it suit’s you? Because If I remember well you refused telling me about your boyfriend or whatever Nathi is to you”

Me “it’s complicated, okay, I just don’t want to be judged”

Yolanda “cool then” she turn to her pots again, she tastes and closed her eyes “now this is what I'm talking about, here taste” she gives me the spoon.

Me “mmhh, this is really good”

Yolanda “you said that before, you are making it hard for me to believe you right now” she chortled.

Me “he wants us to date, but I don’t think I'm ready for that, i got involved with the guy knowing that he is a womaniser, and not only that but he was in a relationship with someone, now that they are no longer dating he wants us to date? What if he does the same with me?” I blurted out, without even thinking if I want to share or not.

Yolanda “wow!,” she just look at me with her mouth hanging.

Me “come on Yolanda say something”

Yolanda “but I don’t know what to say, so do you have feelings for him?”

Me “NO!,...I mean yes, but I'm scared okay”

Yolanda “to be cheated on?”

Me “yes”

Yolanda “it will be karma though” she says laughing, but stopped when she realised I'm not.

Me “exactly why I didn’t want to tell you”

Yolanda “sorry sis, but I'm not going to hide the fact that I don’t approve cheating, whether it’s you or anybody else who cheat” she paused for a moment “but I say go for it, then if it doesn’t work you move on, if you don’t you will always wonder what would have happened if you had given it a chance, at least you know the kind of person he is or was”

Me “yeah neh, I will give it a thought” I say making a mental note to think about this some other time “so what is going on between you and Major?”

Yolanda “oh my, did you vent your problems because you wanted me to tell you this?” she looks at me “but to tell you,

there is nothing going on between me and him, we went on a date but we aren't doing anything"

Me "he is really handsome, you don't have to worry about him being ugly" I say laughing.

Yolanda "if he was, were you going to tell me?" she ask with a frown.

Me "of course, I don't want scary nieces and nephews" we burst out laughing.

Yolanda "ah, you won't be getting any of those from me so forget"

Me "okay but you have my blessings to date the guy if it comes to that"

Yolanda "not that I needed those from you"

Me "whatever, so how was the date?"

Yolanda "good, it was really good" she looks away.

Me "ah, what is that? Tell me"

Yolanda "he kissed me, and I kissed him back, we kissed" she stuttered.

Me "so, what is the problem, you are both adults"

Yolanda "it came out of nowhere, and I'm now embarrassed, maybe wherever he is he is thinking about how weak I am"

Me “it was just a kiss, and it’s really not a big deal, at least if it was sex I would understand your frustration, but sis, there are many things to be worried about than a mere kiss, if it’s anything that kiss shows that he feels some type of way for you” she relaxes a bit after I said all that. “so how was it”

Yolanda “when his cold lips touched mine, I froze for a moment, my mind told me to respond, I could feel my body betraying me, I still feel the butterflies in my tummy even now when I think about it, I had to stop it before my whole body betrayed me.” Her eyes are closed all this time.

Me “WOW!” I say dramatically “you sound like you are in some romantic novel right now” she shot her eyes open, you would swear she can see me.

Yolanda “let me get back to my pots”

I laughed shaking my head, my little sister is in love I can see it in her eyes, even how she even looks different, I wonder how she will look like when they are officially dating. I take my phone and go to my room.

My heart is at ease, today was my last day at school I'm done with my exams finally, Philani and I have been communicating but we haven't been seeing each other, he was away for business for two weeks which gave me a lot of time to my studies without worrying about seeing him.

We have been communicating a lot, I even find myself calling him at times, but we are not in a relationship. Melissa thinks we are just in denial, on the other hand I think before we start a relationship we have to polish something's out and be on the same page, I don't think we should get in a relationship without knowing the other person's intention, so transparency is really important to me.

He called and told me he will fetch me, so I told Ntate Sam to not come, he was hesitant but eventually agreed after I assured him I will be okay. Right now we are making our way to the parking lot, the weather is really cold, I have on my warm outfit's with a big jacket, I don't want to get a cold.

Philani "hi, how are you?" he greets me as I got to the parking lot.

Me "I'm good, how are you"

Philani "now that I'm seeing you I'm more than good" we hugged for a long time, he kissed my forehead, this man is so tall he makes me feel so tiny in his embrace. "you must be hungry, what do you feel like eating?"

Me "burger, it's been a while since I had one"

Philani "burger it is then" he drives to a Mac D drive thru, we bought our food and parked in a quiet parking. We ate over a light conversation. "So how was your exam"

Me "it was fine, I studied hard so I think I made it, if I didn't I won't blame myself because I know I gave it my all"

Philani "that's great then, but I am sure you made it"

Me "yeah" we finished eating.

Philani "I'm not going to beat around the bush Yolanda, I love you, and I would like for us to pursue a relationship, if it's okay

with you of course” I could feel my heart beating faster. “I am not going to lie to you, I am not perfect Landa but I am willing to make this work” he added.

Me “wow, I'm..okay?” I chortle softly, “I am not sure about loving you right now but I'm not going to lie, I do have feelings for you, however , I come with a lot of baggage, I'm blind Philani and I don't do things that normal people do. If you want to be in a relationship with me you have to be sure that you're really prepared to. There are a lot of things that couples do that you won't get to do because of me,” I state my concerns.

Philani “we all are dealing with problems Landa, and they are all different from person to person, if we give our relationship a chance we will find ways to deal with our problems”

Me “there is also one problem though” I nodded.

Philani “I'm. And what is it?”

Me “you have to be a dog lover to be in a relationship with me, you can't love me and hate Louie, no” he burst out laughing and I joined him, “but it won't be a problem with you as you already have a dog”

Philani “wow, I almost had a heart attack” we burst out laughing again.

Me: I take a deep sigh “anyway, I am going to give us a chance, but if you feel like it’s not working for you please tell me, if you don’t have feelings for me any more tell me”

Philani “thank you, thank you very much for giving me a chance, I will make sure you don’t regret this” he says hugging me and kissing me all over my face, I just hope I won’t regret giving us a chance.

Me “we still have a lot of getting to know each other to do”

Philani “true, but we are not in a rush, right?”

Me “yes, we we’ll take it one step at a time, until we fully trust each other”

Philani “I do have a confession to make though” I raise my eyebrow. “I don’t have a dog” he says in an embarrassed tone.

Me “you don’t? you bought dog food, that day”

Philani “that I did, but it was to see you” he says in a low voice.

Me “you are sneaky Mr Dladla,” we both laughed

Philani “but, the food is still available, so Louie is covered when you guys come to my place for a sleep over”

Me “mm, okay then” I say with a smile.

We talked for a while, and he took me home.

When me and Louie enter the front door at home I was wearing a huge smile, I couldn't even contain myself.

Melissa "whats wrong with you?" she says as I took few steps.

Me "what do you mean?" I still have that smile.

Melissa "did you just have se..."

Me "Melissa stop, stop, it's nothing really"

Melissa "Yols tell me

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please, or you aced that exam?"

Me "it's nothing serious okay, me and Philani agreed to be in a relationship and yes I did well on my exams too" I say while sitting next to her"

Melissa "finally, Yols I'm so happy for you, at last you are going to get laid" she says, I could tell she had a huge smile on her face.

Me “and you just had to go there sis, come on”

Melissa “it’s true though, and all those sex practises I taught you will be in use FINALLY” she says dramatically.

Me “you are embarrassing me right now”

Melissa “we have to practice again, before you embarrassed yourself to your new boyfie”

Me “ai, let me leave you alone, what will Ma say when she find us talking about sex”

Melissa “you are just running away for the topic” she laughed out loud.

next day

Now that I'm done with exams, and have nothing to do I am going to try new things with my life, some are not entirely new as I had done them when I still had my sight, but right now they are new because it will be a whole new experience, surprisingly the weather today is not cold the sun is out. I am going out with Christopher, it's been a while since, we did something together, he has been occupied with work and me school, he called yesterday about meeting and he knows about my plan to do activities and he is willing to enjoy some with me when he can.

I have on my black Nike Tracksuit and sport shoes I am so ready, and scared at the same time. I am leaving Louie behind, only because I trust Chris to be my eyes.

He told me he was outside minutes ago, I take my white cane and walk out, Louie can see that I'm leaving so he is following me I tell him that I'm not going with him he understands and let me go, when I get to his car he hugs me after exchanging greetings, he introduce me to his cousin Mark, I sit comfortable at the back, he drives off, we first decide to go Bowling, i really enjoyed it, at first it was so difficult but I end up getting the

hang of it, I was not the best though, but for a blind person I did good even if I am petting my own shoulder it's okay.

We even took rides on a roller coaster, it was not as scary as I remember it to be, but I was definitely scare of falling, when I was sighted I was so afraid of heights, but now I'm afraid of falling because I can't see heights. We later got food, I had so much fun, Mark is a really funny guy he was flirting with every female we came across.

Mel "where were you?" she ask as she enters my room, I was now at home in my room, when I got home she was sleeping, which is not like her especially on weekend.

Me "I went out with Chris and his cousin Mark"

Mel "good for you, what did you do" I told her what we did. "at least one of us is having fun" she says lazily"

Me "you sure you okay" I am really worried about her.

Mel "I'm fine, it's just fatigue from working" she says yawning.

She has started working in dad's work, she is shadowing someone there, she will start working when they are confident in her,

Me "you will be fine, as soon as you are used to the routine"

Mel "Yols"

Me “Mels” we burst out laughing,

Melissa “we were really flops back then” we laughed again, we gave each other these nicknames when we were young, under 10 years, and they were really cool names to us then, funny how we still call each other that, some people calls us Lisa and Landa, and mom Lily and Yoyo.

We are disturbed by my phone ringing, video call from Philani

Me “hey” I say already blushing

Him “hi, babe, how are you?” he says with that intoxicating voice of his.

Me “I'm good”

Him “I missed you today”

Me “I missed you too,”

Him “hard to believe, what you did today?”

I told him about what we did, with whom. We talked for hours until we said goodbyes, I was in too deep, I didn't even realise that Melissa left the room.

Melissa

I have not been feeling good for about a week now at first I thought it was fatigue, because of a new routine, as I have started working, and I have to say that it's been really hectic. And then I started vomiting and now I have no doubts, I know it's food poisoning. Nathi is forcing me to go to the doctor. But I'm sure it's nothing medicine can't fix.

Nathi "we are here" he says and got out of the car to open my side.

Me "this is just a waste of time and money, I'm telling you" I say as I get out of the car. He remains quiet. And lead the way to the reception. He talks to the medical receptionist. He already set an appointment so we are good.

We sit for a while, and then we were called inside

Doc "so what seems to be the problem?" he asked after we exchanged greetings.

Me “it’s food poisoning, I’m certain of that” he looked at me shocked.

Doc “oh, you sound so sure” he raised an eyebrow.

Nathi “we are not sure Doctor, but she has been fatigue, and vomiting, she can’t keep down food” my self-appointed spoke person said before I could even open my mouth.

Doc “when last did you have your periods miss”

Me “last months” I say in confidence, I did get my periods, but they were not as usual, just a little spotting.

Doc “the symptoms are very common, they can mean anything. There for we will do some tests, firstly I would like to do a pregnancy test, here” he gives me a container to pee on. I take it and go to the bathroom with no worries because I know I can’t be pregnant. I went back and he does a pregnancy test, Minutes later.

Doc “it’s ready, let’s see” he looks at it, then he smiles “as you can see, there are two lines, which means you are pregnant, Congratulations, miss Jones and M..” he didn’t finish because I laughed so hard because there is clearly something wrong with his eyes or that pregnancy test is expired. They both look at me with concerned eyes.

Me “doc it’s food poisoning, I’m sure, let me look at the test” I look at it and, there are really two lines one is clear and the

other is faint. "How did this happen?" I ask not that I don't know how a person gets pregnant but because I'm in denial. I look at Nathi and I can't really read how he is feeling.

Doc "I will take blood tests and send them to a lab for more testing, for now I will give you medicine to treat the symptoms that you experience, the tests will take 3 days" he says, i remember few weeks ago we were having sex and the condom busted and i haven't been taking my contraceptives shots. How can I be so careless? A baby is the last thing on my mind; this is definitely a punishment for something I did.

We are now in the car going home, I am angry at him for impregnating me, I can't even afford a baby yet. I wanted to be independent before I could think about kids.

Me "I hate you" he snapped his head faster than a lightening looking at me. "You heard me clearly, I hate you", I say pointing at him "why did you have to get me pregnant? Huh?" I ask furiously.

Nathi "you are angry right now and I'm sorry, but we are both responsible for this, you are not going to blame me alone in

this, it's us we did this, not me Melissa" no he has no right to be angry.

Me "and yet I have to be the one carrying this baby for nine months, nine" I shout, displaying nine fingers, "it's only me who is dealing with the morning sickness, me, Melissa

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not you"

Nathi "I'm sorry, I can't help you with that, but I will always be here supporting you, we will deal with everything together"

Me "I don't want a damn baby, I am doing an abortion" I say without thinking about it, and now that I am I see that it's my only option.

Nathi "let's not take drastic decisions here Melissa, we have to think about this thoroughly"

Me "it's my body who is going to be carrying this baby, when the results come back positive I am booking for abortion immediately" I say looking away.

Nathi "I have rights too, I have a say on what goes on with my baby's life" he is angry, but I don't care.

Me "we will see, take me home" I say with an attitude. The way he is speeding right now, it will be by god's grace I get home

safely. I get off as soon as the car comes to a halt. He speeds off as soon as I get out.

I made my way to the house, Yolanda is with MamThembi in the lounge watching TV, I greet and quickly head to my room before they even answer.

I throw myself on the bed and let out a loud scream on a pillow, at this moment I'm certain that I am getting rid of this pregnancy, it's not even a baby yet , I fell asleep while in deep thoughts.

5 days later.

No one knows that I'm pregnant besides Nathi, the doctor called and I went alone to get the results, I am indeed pregnant, five weeks pregnant and I booked an appointment for an abortion, Nathi called the day before begging me not to do it but I dropped his calls, when I see him at work he avoids me but I don't care, he looks like he hasn't slept in ages.

I sent him a sms telling him that I was indeed pregnant, and scheduled to terminate in a day, I don't want to spend more days with something growing in me.

I am waiting for my name to be called, guilt is eating right through me but I have to do this, few minutes later my name is called, I followed the person to the consultation room, the nurse tell me the procedure I nod as she tells me everything.

She tells me we must do a scan first and I dont really know why because I'm terminating anyway, I lay on the bed while she does her thing, I suddenly hear a very strong heart beat feeling the room, and I can't help but cry silently, what am I doing, I

can hear her speaking but I don't get what she is really saying. I'm thinking about how cruel I am she gives me a scan.

She gives me two pills to swallow; I take them and look at her, then the pills

Nurse "you will experience heavy bleeding; you may also have abdominal pains with nausea,, vomiting, diarrhoea, fever for more than 24 hours after taking the pills.

I threw the pills away and ran out like a mad woman, I can do this but I can't live my whole life knowing what I did. I got to my car and drove off like I am being chased.

When I got home I cried so hard for being so cruel, I am sure Nathi hates me wherever he is, I almost let my selfishness kill an innocent soul, what if I killed the baby while he or she is the only child I would ever have? I'm glad I changed my mind, as I'm sure I would have killed myself shortly after going through with the abortion.

I hope god will forgive me for even thinking about terminating.

23

I have to admit ever since I have been in a relationship I am happier. Maybe it's because there is someone I get to share my life with. Philani and I are going out, we are in his car, I said he should surprise me about where we are going.

Me "I hope I'm not going to regret my decision of trusting you with this"

Him "I'm not telling you until we get there babe, so relax"

Me "okay, as long as it's not dangerous" after driving for about 20 minutes, with me nervous he finally tells me we have arrived.

Him "we are here" he says, and my nerves start rising again, "relax, you are going to enjoy this"

Me "I hope you are not here to kill me" he laughed while getting out and coming to my side to open for me.

Him "do you trust me?" he says standing in front of me with no space between us

Me "right now? No"

Him "wow, okay, but I'm 101% sure that you will enjoy this" he pecks my lips then leads me inside. It's really quiet inside so I really have no guess where we are, "let's change our shoes and

get ready for ice skating” he says cheerfully after being away for a few minutes, “I hope these shoes will fit you”

Me “what did you say? Ice Skating?, No, I'm not doing that, I have never done it because I'm scared” I said that so fast.

Him “come on, it will be fun”

Me “no, what is I break my legs”

Him “I got you come on let’s do this” a part of me trusted him, so I agreed, we enter the gate. “Don’t worry, there are two other people and one of them is really struggling so I'm confident that no one is going to laugh at you” he says chuckling softly.

Me “I hope you are not lying” I whined.

He indeed helped me, I was screaming so loud, I am really afraid of falling and breaking my legs in the process. But at the end I really enjoyed. He had to hold my hand throughout though.

Me “I'm tired now and I'm hungry too” I say while, we are both standing, and holding on to the steel thing on the sides of the skating area.

Him “okay, let’s get out of here then, I don’t want to starve you to death” he says kissing me passionately, I couldn’t help but blush afterwards; we left the place and go straight to a nearby place.

We sat down the waitress came to our table to assist us, she gave him the menu, and when she gives me mine and it fell. And I had to explain that I can’t see.

Me “sorry, I'm completely blind”

Waitress “oh? Sorry, I didn’t notice” I just nod my head, “would you like some drinks in the mean time?”

Philani “Just water for me”

Waitress “what is she going to have?” she ask Philani before I can say what I want, this is what I hate about public places, people treating me like I am not in the right state of mind, just because I can’t see.

Philani “what would you like babe?” he says after clearing his throat.

Me “I would like water with lemon, thank you” I say trying to be as polite as ever.

She left and comes back after a couple of minutes, to get me of my mood completely.

Waitress “your water, miss” she even went as far as taking my hand and placing it on my glass, I know she thought she was helping me but I felt really uncomfortable with all this.

Philani “thank you, we got it,” he says to the waitress. Then she walked away. “we can leave if you want” I shake my head no.

Later she came with our food and left immediately, we ate in silence, I really felt so uncomfortable after the awkward moments with the waitress, people may think I'm rude or unappreciative but there is nothing I hate more than being treated like I don't have a mind of my own

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I know she felt like she needed to help but nothing would have beat asking if she could help not just grabbing my hand like that, Philani saw how I felt and I'm glad he didn't ask me questions or try to make me feel better.

Me “thank you for this, I really enjoyed spending time with you” besides the restaurant part of the day, but I didn't say that.

Philani "I'm glad you enjoyed yourself, I did too"

Me "well, we have to do this again" I say smiling.

Philani "or we can do more activities, when we are free, creating our memories" he says kissing me on both cheeks then my nose.

Me "I like the sound of that" I say blushing, and looking away. I know I can't see but my eyes don't know that.

Philani "I love you, Ma Jones" I could feel my tummy churning, like I have butterflies in there. He then kissed so passionately, I felt my soul leave my body for a second.

Me "I love you too" I say in a whisper. He deepened the kiss.

Philani "thank you" I could tell that he has a big smile on his face. I nod with a wide smile.

Me "it's getting late and colder" I say nudging my body into his, and he held my body in his big arms.

Philani "come on let's get you home" he says pecking my lips. he helped me get in the car, we left the park.

Melissa "you spend most of your time away from home lately, I'm not going to be a fan of your man if he continues keeping you away from home" she says throwing herself on my bed.

Me “and how do you know that as you are hardly at home yourself?” I ask raising an eyebrow.

Mel “See, you don’t even notice that I have been staying at home nowadays” she pause for a moment “but I understand you are now in a relationship so you have to spend time with your person” she added.

Me “yeah, so how have you been? How is work? You don’t seem like your usual self these days”

Mel “I'm good, work is fine there is a lot of learning to do, but I'm getting there” she take a deep sign, “I am pregnant Yol” I look at her shocked, she told me about how she almost had an abortion. I became more shocked.

Me “wow! And you have been dealing with all this on your own?”

Mel “you have been so happy Yols, and I didn’t want to pass gloom in your way”

Me “Mels, I'm your sister, and I'm always here wherever you need a shoulder to cry on, I don’t understand all this you are saying” I take a breath, “but I'm glad you didn’t go through with the abortion, Wow, I'm shocked though, so the father is supporting you in this right”

Mel “is that your way of asking me who the father is. But to answer that question, Nathi is the father”

Me “he knows right, you can not deal with this alone”

Mel “it’s my fault that I am doing this alone sis, I told him I was going to abort, he begged but I was certain then, he stopped looking my way after that, so I haven’t told him yet, he doesn’t want to hear me out” she let out a sound of frustration.

Wow, I'm going to be an aunt, I'm already an aunt with Jason’s baby but it doesn’t feel like it because I haven’t even met the baby yet. Me “are you going to tell the parents”

Mel “no, they will see for themselves, even if it’s after five years, because it doesn’t look like they are planning to come back anytime soon, this will be our secret, this is how this family operate lately and I didn’t start it”

Me “wow, what have my lovely family become” I'm not going to comment on this matter further because I don’t share everything either, I guess we are indeed a family that keep secrets among each other.

Our relationship is still in the honeymoon phase and I'm enjoying this phase so much, as I don't know when and if it will change, I wish this doesn't end though, I am really happy my exam results came back and I performed way above average, I'm so proud of myself.

Philani has been treating me like a queen and I'm grateful. I love him so much. We already did the deeds; I couldn't help it there was too much heat. Some people may judge me and say it's still early but I don't care I'm not about to follow these 90 days rule nope, if he wants to leave after then it's fine.

Imagine how it may feel like waiting for months, and then when you finally do it it's disappointing, I'm not judging those who wait but I personally prefer to do it when I'm ready even its it's a week.

I am getting ready to go and spend time at his place, I am waiting for him to tell me that he is outside, I get Louie ready for the road meanwhile, MamThembi is off so I can't leave him with Melissa I don't trust her to take care of him, she can now take days off as Melissa is now staying at home.

Melissa went out with Nathi they finally made out and are getting long for the sake of the "baby" Mel's words. My phone finally rings.

Me “babe”

Him “Sthandwa sam, I’m outside”

Me “finally” he chuckles softly and I drop the call

I take my back pack and tell Louie to go. We get to his car and he helps us get in safely. We kiss a bit before he drives. He turns the radio on.

Him “so where are we going to go?” he ask looking my way.

Me “I don’t know, it’s a bit cold so..”

Him “so...we can chill in doors and watch movies all day” he dragged that so like I did before his suggestion.

Me “yeah, we will need some junk first, and wine too” I say the last part softly.

Him “okay?” he chortle “let’s go to the store then”

We get to the store and buy all the junk we can get our hands on, we got to be playful here and there, and we then head to a liquor store. I told them what I want and he grabbed more than enough bottles of my desired wine. I am certainly not going to drink all the bottles; one or two glasses are enough.

Him “finally” he says while we enter his house. “I got Louie all the things he may need” he says

Me “really? Thank you” I say brushing Louie “do you hear that boy? Mhh?”. I let Louie go.

Him “and he just went to his sleeping bag” we both laughed

Me “if he is not my eyes, he is sleeping that’s Louie, so lazy”

He prepared our snacks and we got comfortable on the couch,

Me “we are not watching action”

Him “not romantic either”

Me “what? no, you are not being fair right now”

Him “like you are being fair? “He says chuckling.

Me “let’s watch a thriller and drama then” I say scrolling through movies; I end up on series genre. I come across Prison break.

Me “babe, Have you watched this before?” I ask him

Him “no babe, have you?”

Me “yes a long time ago, it’s really nice, let’s watch it” I say excited “I haven’t watched the last two seasons though”

Him “do I have a choice” he ask

Me “not really, we are watching it,” I say laughing softly.

Him “you are a bully ma Jones, but okay let’s watch it”

We ended up watching it, we ate food drink our preferred alcohol. After a couple of episode of watching he started brushing me as I have my head on his lap. And he is sitting comfortable on the couch facing the TV.

Me “mmhh, concentrate Mr Dladla” I say shaking my body to remove his arms.

Him “we need a break, kaloku mntu wam”

Me “one more episode then babe” I whine. He stops for a few seconds then starts tickling me, I laughed so hard until my eyes are filled with tears.

Me “stop...stop...st...” I moved away from him, but he somehow got hold of me before I knew it, we were lying on the couch with him on top of me, I'm still laughing a bit then he smashed his lips against mine, the kiss is so aggressive like we are both hungry for each other.

We are both breathing heavily. Taking each other's clothes off, until I'm left with nothing but my under wear garments, he takes my bra off and starts sucking on my breasts gentle one at a time, a soft moan escape my lips, I bit my lower lip with my teeth.

He goes planting wet kisses until he reach my belly button. His hand brushes my cookie over my under wear, then he pulls it off, I lift my lower body a bit so he can take it off, my cookie is dripping wet, he insert a finger and play with it, I moan softy, until the movements of his finger in and out got faster and faster, and I lost my mind

I scream so loud as I could feel my orgasm building faster and faster then I explode, with my heart beating faster.

He stops and takes his pants off, he wipes my cookie a bit. He inserted his manhood in my cookie it hurt a bit but as soon as he started moving, the pain is replaced by excitement, our bodies became one, we were both in cloud 9, until we both released. He plants wet kisses all over my face, I fell asleep immediately after.

I woke up a few hours later, he was talking on a phone, ordering a pizza, it got delivered minutes later, and we ate, took care of Louie. And headed to his bedroom where we took a not so innocent shower together and finished what we started in the shower in the bedroom, we use condoms I all our sexual acts.

I opened my eyes slowly because I could feel eyes on me.

Him “morning babe” he says pecking my lips.

Me “morning, what time is it”

Him “past nine”

Me “Louie” I jump off bed.

Him “relax, I took care of him already”, “I made breakfast too, I didn’t want to wake you up, get back to bed I will go and get your food”

Me “I have to brush my teeth first, come show me my tooth brush”

We head to the bathroom.

Him “here,”

Me “thanks babe” I take it to familiarise myself with it so I don’t take his without knowing. “Where is yours?” he gives it to me.

Him “they are matching, his and hers”

Me “mmhh, I like the sound of that” I say smiling. I brush my teeth while he is busy kissing my neck. “Stop, I'm going to do this wrong if you continue with your behaviour”

Him “okay sorry, let me go dish for you mean while” he kiss me one more time and spank me while going away.

Me “ouch!!” he just laughs.

When I'm done I go to bed again, he gives me my food, bacon, eggs, mushrooms, tomatoes and avocado. He insisted on feeding me and I allowed him, when I'm done he gives me my orange juice to wash down the food.

Him “there is something I need to tell you” he says nervously.

Me “I'm...okay?”

Him “I have a son” he says after a pause.

Me “I'm...okay...ho...” I suddenly lost my voice because I keep clearing it, no words coming out.

Him “please say something, I know I shouldn't have kept this to you, but please tell me what's on your mind”

Me “how old is he, where does he live and where is his mother” I threw him with all the questions I could think of.

Him “he is six, he stays with his mother in Cape Town” he says after taking a deep breath.

Me “I hope, you are not still with her because that’s not how I am” I say with my eyes all out.

Him “we are not together any more, we co-parent well though”

Me “the last thing I want is to find myself in a baby mama drama” I say raising my eyebrow”

Him “we dated for a while, but we were not good together, we decided to let go, I promise you there is no drama our son is the only thing linking us”

Me “okay, I hope there are no things that you are keeping from me, secrets are not good for a relationship Philani” I said in a stern voice.

Him “I know baby, let me take these dishes away” he kiss my cheek, before he takes the dishes and exit the room.

I don’t have a problem that he has a child, he is in an age where he could possibly have many kids, but not telling me earlier is what I have a problem with, at least he says they co-parent well, the last thing I want is to find myself in a relationship with a baby mama drama.

25

It's Saturday today, the semester is starting on Monday, so this is literally my last day to enjoy my school holiday. We are going on a mountain hike.

Namhla "babyyy, how are you doing"

Me "I am good babe, how are you"

Namhla "I am good, but I missed you, ever since you been in this relationship we don't see you much" she sulked.

Me "ah, babe you know I'm always a phone call away, and we don't stay far from each other, so I don't see a big deal here"

Namhla "hay suka, I drove to your house and you were not there so please" I laughed

Me "but I made up for that and you promised to never bring it up"

Namhla "but, I'm not going to pretend like it didn't happen"

Me "okay, I get you, Lindi is not answering her phone, do you have an idea what 'S app"

Namhla "no idea, but she has been distancing herself, I guess we are bad friends, or she is dealing with something"

Me "I hope everything is good,"

Namhla “I hope so too, what are you doing tomorrow, I miss you” she whined

Me “mountain hiking, you should joins us”

Namhla “woga, hold up there, who is us” she asked dramatically.

Me “me, Chris and mark” I say giggling

Namhla “I thought, you were going to say you and major” she says after letting out a deep sign. “phela I don’t want to be a third wheel, whu my poor eyes”

Me “you are so dramatic, you know that” I say laughing.

Namhla “hiking is really not me though”

Ma “come on it’s going to be fun” I begged

Namhla “okay, but you should have emergency services on speed dial, I might collapse there” she says chuckling.

Me “you going to like it” I say excitedly.

That was yesterday, right now I am waiting for Chris and mark to come get me then we get Namhla, I have on black leggings, a sport bra and hiking shoes, my sunglasses are on standby, I also have a backpack with hiking essentials. It’s still in the morning but I’m sure it won’t get hot because temperatures are still lower.

Namhla

Never, I say never think just because you are slim you are fit, today I find out that I am the most unfit human being in the universe. We are almost on top of the mountain, and my tongue is hanging out of my mouth, I am dog tired. Chris is really enjoying this, mark is complaining just not as me though, Yolanda is doing great actually, I'm sure if she was sighted she would be on Chris's level of enjoyment. I have never done this before, and but seeing how tired I am this is probably my last time.

When I finally reach the top they have even calmed down a bit, they are busy complementing the view, I don't waste any time I wipe sweat on my body and lay the towel I used and rest my body on it.

I wake up to people laughing, I even fell asleep? That's how tired I am.

Me "guys

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did you have to be so loud, Im resting here"

Mark "more like sleeping"

Yolanda "sleeping?" she asks raising an eyebrow.

Chris "it was literally about five minutes" it felt like hours.

Mark "we did good, Namhl'a for a first timer, you should be proud you reached the top"

Me "we did, and now that I'm refreshed I can enjoy this view" I stand up and finally appreciate the beauty of nature. There is something about nature that brings calmness in an individual, it's really good getting out of the city and breathe fresh air "I hope you guys didn't take pictures without me" I say pointing at them.

Chris "relax, we were waiting for you"

Mark "more like we were not planning to" he say chuckling. They laugh, and I just roll my eyes.

Yolanda "never crossed my mind" I hope they are joking, because this is a really beautiful place to not take pictures.

Me “let’s do this then” and we took a lot of pictures, some of funny faces. Some pretending to be looking at something or showing something in nature.

Yolanda “guys I need binoculars for my picture” mark gives her, his. We took a picture of her pretending to look for something with them.

We had sandwiches, and stay for a while till we decided to live.

Me “you guys should tell me when you are doing these adventurous things”

Chris “we will don’t worry” I say as they were dropping me at my place I know Yolanda has a plan to do more of these, and I really had a great time today, though it was really challenging.

It’s the next day, the first thing I always do when waking up is login to my social media, I first check twitter, I found nothing interesting I move to instagram, I scroll through my timeline and bump into the photo Yolanda took yesterday with binoculars, I react and leave a comment. “So cute with hearts”

When I look at other comments, there are many mean comments. Like “who is she fooling, by saying she is blind” “she finally proves that she is not blind” “how does she use them if she can’t see?” “Pretending to be blind for likes and followers?”

Girl you are a disgrace to mankind” and many other nasty comments, some even insulting her. A few people defended her though. People are really dumb really, have they ever heard of pretend?

I called her and she just laughed and say I shouldn't mind them, if they feel good after insulting other people who are we to sojourn them.

Yolanda

Namhla called me asking whether I've seen the comments on my picture, and I told her I don't even take them to heart any more, people really put on so much of their energy on things that do not concern them. I know, by posting my pictures may come as motivation to someone who is going through the same thing. I know it gets tough facing a situation, if you think you are the only one going through it.

My only concern is school, after I did so well the first semester nothing is going to curb me to do even better.

Melissa “so I finally talked with Nathi” she paused for a while, “he is happy that I didn’t terminate my pregnancy” she added.

Me “that’s great news, Mel” I say smiling.

Melissa “he, has been having morning sickness all this time” she burst out laughing.

Me “you lying” I say laughing

Melissa “he went to hospital and they told him, if he was a woman they would say he was pregnant” we laughed out loud.

Me “but, he is expecting a baby, which kind of make him pregnant” I say still laughing.

Melissa “I'm glad, the sickness didn’t last long to me, he can have it for nine months, to make up for not carrying the baby”

Me “you are cruel” I say chuckling.

Melissa “I'm going to take a nap, call me when it’s dinner time” she leaves the room.

I take my phone and, type “I miss you” with a sad emoji to my man.

He video calls me immediately.

Him “Ma Jones” he say and I could tell he is smiling .

Me “hey, babe how are you” with a blush.

Him “ I miss you too my love, do you want me to come?”

Me “yes, for a few minutes, i have to sleep early”

Him “I will be there in a few minute sthandwa Sam”

Me “drive safely please Philani, no speeding”

Him “I promise babe I won’t speed” I roll my eyes because I know he’s just saying that, he is a reckless driver, and I hate that.

26

2 months have passed, and I am doing fantastic generally, my relationship with Philani is growing each and every day, I fall in love with him every day as I learn about him.

I was placed in a hotel for my practical experience, I would be lying if I would say I enjoy it there because I don't, they treat me like I'm recovering from some sort of disease, I don't get to do what I'm supposed to be doing there, I don't learn anything, it's just useless being there, the executive chef is a very grumpy man who doesn't want anyone by his side.

There is another student who's also placed there, and she at least get to do something here and there but to me it's just a different story, all I get to do is doing all these annoying things like chopping veg's the only time they become friendly and have enthusiasm towards us is when the owner is around, and I don't want to get anyone in trouble by reporting them, so I take it like a big girl and learn as much as I can when they are eager. I look forward to living that place as soon as I get in every day.

Right now I am at V&A waterfront hotel in Cape Town, Philani had a business meeting and he wanted me to tag along with and I obliged. We came here yesterday at night.

He booked us in a presidential suite, very unnecessary if you'd ask me, but I am not disputing because I like it. It's so elegant with fully equipped kitchen, mini bar, flat screen with satellite to count the few. My favourite area is the balcony which is facing table mountain, I know I can't see anything but as long as people are willing to let me see through their eyes I'm good.

Philani "baby" his voice sounded so far. He plants wet kisses on my face.

Me "Philani..." I whined, I dislike being woken up. I open my eyes slowly. My mind and eyes don't know that I'm blind, so I still function like any other person.

Philani "Sthandwa Sam, I'm leaving(my love)" I sit up fast.

Me "leaving?"

Philani "yeah remember the meeting, I ordered food for you, eat before it gets cold" he commanded. "Someone will be going with you wherever you want to go until I come back"

Me "Louie is..."

Philani "this is not up for discussion ma jones" he pecked my lips. "goodbye I will see you when I come back" he pecked me again and again and again.

Me "bye baby" I say blushing.

Philani "eat" he shouted on his way out.

I get up from the bed and head straight to the bathroom, where I brush my teeth and take a quick shower. When I'm done I take my breakfast on the table and eat, while searching for things I can do around here, when I'm done I wear my simple dress. The lady who is going to "baby sit" me arrived she is a very nice lady but I didn't want to bother her by going up and down so I decided on a spa treatment then relax by the pool side while sipping on a glass of wine while listening to a good audio book.

Around 2pm Philani came back from the Cape Town civic centre. I was in the balcony, I told the lady she can leave when I went to stay by the pool, she left after a lot of convincing.

Philani "honey, I'm home" he shouted.

Me "I'm at the balcony" I shouted back. I was standing there facing the direction of the mountain.

Him "mmhh, the view is even better from here with you over there", I just chortled. I heard a camera clicking. "I missed you" he kissed the back of my neck, my soft sport.

Me " I missed you too babe" I turned to face him. We kissed so passionate, I moaned in pleasure.

Philani "I have a surprise for you" he says in between a kiss.

Me "what is it"

Philani “it’s a surprise” he slid his hand under my gown. Going straight to my cookie

gentle caressing it. He then lifts me up to the bedroom. Where we finish what we started at the balcony. “we are going to be late” he says while we were both catching our breath

Me “thank you babe for this” I say kissing his cheek. “ it was my first time doing this” I added.

Him “you’re welcome, Sthandwa Sam” he enveloped me in his arms

He took me to a helicopter tour around Cape Town, it was a great view from what he told me, I wish I would have been able to see it but I enjoyed the experience nonetheless.

Later on we had a dinner in the rooftop of a very luxurious restaurant, I had on a fancy dress with heels, I have never been so scared of falling and not only embarrassing myself but my partner too. But he was holding me closer I guess he was also afraid of me falling, but I didn’t thanks to Melissa for all the lessons, her hard work finally paid off.

The dinner was a very nice romantic set up with a band playing jazz music on the side, when we were done we watch the star, more like he watched the stars and me through him. I have to

say this though I appreciate him for always making an effort doing or organising all these set ups for me even though I am not able to see them.

The night ended with us connecting our bodies and souls. until sleep manifested.

Early Sunday morning we had breakfast at a restaurant and went kayaking, I was so scared but I have my own Hercules so I'm good. I have to admit though I really enjoy when an activity does not require the sight the most.

I enjoyed kayaking even though I was scared but not seeing the depth of water made me relax a bit but my imagination plays some tricks on me. After the experience we went to have lunch, and then headed to the hotel to freshen before going back to reality, we took a lot of pictures; he uploaded the picture of me in the balcony wearing a white hotel gown “looking” at Table Mountain.

We landed few minutes ago he is driving me home, he left his car at the airport parking when we left for Cape Town on Friday. His phone rings connected to the blue tooth.

Him “hellow?”

Female “it must be really nice being you”

Him “excuse me”

Her “you suddenly became deaf?” she said with a humourless laugh.

Him “just get to the point Lerato”

Her “you come to Cape Town and you leave without seeing your son Monde, Your son?” she says dramatically, “instead you stay in fancy hotels entertaining bitches?” I guess I'm the bitches.

Him “listen, and listen to me carefully, I'm not going to listen nor tolerate your stinking attitude, I am not going to explain myself to you, and don't ever talk to me like that because you are not going to like it when I retaliate, keep your words in check, I am not your friend Lerato” with that he drops the call. “Nxah!!” he says. This is a very awkward moment for me, we both didn't say anything after the call, and right now I don't know what to make of that phone call.

A moment later my phone rings, it's Melissa, I put on my headsets.

Me “Mels”

Mel “Yolanda, where are you?” she is breathing heavily and my mind jumps off to conclusion, panic manifested as I remember that she is pregnant and possible alone.

Me “on my way home, are you okay, baby how far are we?” I looked at Philani.

Him “we are all most there”

Me “Melissa, you are scaring me what’s wrong?”

Mel “we are in so much trouble lil sis” she says giggling

Him “we are here” he announced.

Mel “I would advise you to not come home because it’s about to go down” she laughed again, I have never been confused “don’t get off that car sis,”

I was more than curious to find out what she was on about.

Mel “don’t say I didn’t warn you” she then drops the call.

Me “I will see you” I say to Philani after he helped us get out

Him “I love you, ma Jones” we kissed briefly “I will call you”, then he left

He still seem to be angry, I guess it’s the phone call from the baby mama.

I take my things and get in the house; I was never ready for the unexpected surprise I found in the house.

27

Me “do you hate me that much?” I asked Mel. “You could have told me that they were here”

Mel “I tried sis you just didn’t listen”

Me “you just enjoy to see me suffering”

Mel “at least you knew that there was some kind of surprise awaiting, and you should have done some calculations when I told you” she laughed, “they came back on Friday apparently, and we were both nowhere to be found”

Me “they have no timing, they had to come back when we were not here, and you said you had no plans for the weekend” I raised an eyebrow.

Mel “something came up, or rather I say someone. At least they didn’t find us cohabitating, it could have come to that at some point” we laughed.

Me “they would both have heart attacks”

So when I got in the house earlier, I find my parents in the living room, I was so shocked because I really didn’t expect them.

They wanted to find out where I was coming from and I said I slept at a friend’s place and they didn’t seem to have bought the story, apparently Melissa also left home on Friday. I’m sure a long ass lecture is coming soon.

And as I expected we were called in the living room by mom and dad.

Dad “I don’t know what you have been doing here while we were away, it clearly shows that you were both gallivanting all over this country and I am not going to tolerate that, while you still live in my house getting allowances you are still children, you will act as children and respect us, I know exactly where you both were” nate Richard though, I mentally rolled my eyes, “I know you were both roaming around with men, and I'm not going to tolerate this behaviour of yours, until you both get married it's only then you will do as you please, am I clear?”

Us “yes dad”

Dad “what is Thembi to you? Isn't she the parent to you”

Us “she is”

Dad “and yet you don't respect her, you go as you please like she is not here” he shouted

We both keep quiet.

Dad “you go as far as bringing these boys in my house? You girls are really disrespectful” we both keep quiet.

Dad “do you think they will respect us as your parents and take you serious if you bring them here?” we don’t say anything.

Dad “do you think they will take you serious? Huh?” you can tell by his tone that he is livid. Right now I'm glad that I'm blind as I can't imagine how he looks like with all this anger.

Mom “I think they get it now honey, what do you two have to say for yourselves?” I thought she was on our side.

Us “we are sorry”

Dad “nxah” then he walked away, for someone who was undergoing treatment he seems to be strong or maybe it shows physically. I'm glad he is okay though.

We stay quietly, Melissa nudged me I think she wants me to walk away first, no can do sis, I nudge her back

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I will leave after her.

Mom “did you have to be away at the same time?” I guess it's period two of lecturing. “Couldn't one of you stay at home while the other is away then vice versa” at least she doesn't forbid us.

Melissa “we didn’t plan it mom” she says softly. “Plus we didn’t know you will be coming back”

Mom “you know when we are away we entrust you to keep our home safely”

Me “it only happened this one time mom”

Mom “so where were you?” I'm sure she knows where we were at though.

Me “we were with friends”

Mom “friends?”

Melissa “yes mom”

Mom “you know I'm not asking because I don’t know where you were at right, I'm asking because I want to hear it come from you” okay this is going to be hard.

We both keep quiet.

Mom “I know you are not little kids any more but you have to be more responsible, it may be fun and games until you come back pregnant and these boys run away, I hope you’re taking care of yourselves, I know both of you still want to go far in life” oh Laura you don’t know what is in store for you. She dismissed us moments later and we quickly went upstairs.

Melissa “they will be so disappointed when they find out I'm pregnant” she says as we get in my bedroom.

Me “you realise you have to tell them though”

Mel “telling them now can only heat things up further”

Me “they are already disappointed so telling them now may make them not say anything because they are already disappointed”

Mel “ay I'm scared sis, where am I even going to start telling them this”

Me “I can tell mom for you if you want”

Mel “what?no, you are younger than me, I should be the one telling for you not the other way around”

Me “that doesn't even matter now, we have to deal with this immediately”

Mel “I hear you there has to be another way, if you tell them they will be angry at both of us”

Me “we are sisters so I don't mind really”

Mel “they have to found out for themselves” she says seeming to be in deep thoughts “I'm thinking of “forgetting” evidence that I'm pregnant in plain sight”

Me “or since you have a little bump showing already you can wear tight clothing”

Mel “yes that can do the work, but I will always be nervous until they found out” she says anxiously.

Monde

I drove to my house after dropping off Landa, I really don't appreciate the call I had with Lerato, what does she really want from me, and we have a schedule of how we both spend time with Athandwa. And she had to call me while I was still with Ma jones. She didn't say anything but I am sure she wants to know what is going on.

I get home and put everything I came with away I take a very quick shower , after I'm done I wear sweat pants and a vest, I go to my study and pour myself a glass of scotch and down it in

one go. I take my phone and dial Lerato. After a few rings she answers.

Me “what do you want from me”

Lerato “I don’t want anything from you but I want you to acknowledge Athandwa, as it seems like you are occupied by new Pussy” this woman is really testing me.

Me “don’t we have schedule for that Lerato?” I ask as calmly as I could.

Lerato “it still doesn’t mean you have to leave town without seeing him”

Me “I came to Cape Town for business, and I didn’t want to disturb your daily routines”

Lerato “but you had time to entertain hoes right?”

Me “if I ever hear you calling my woman a hoe again Lerato you will know exactly who I am” I warned. She laughed loud humourlessly

Lerato “oh please, you don’t scare me Major, I know you and the type of woman you are into”

Me “with you included right?” I chuckled

Lerato “fuck you” she sounded pissed.

Me “listen just stay out of my business and we will be good, why would you want to mess the relationship that we have? Is it because I have a woman in my life? Look I don’t want to hear anything from you unless it’s about Athandwa, you are nothing to me Lerato And just remember what I am capable of doing to anyone getting on my way and trust me it won’t matter whether you are Athandwa’s mother” I hear her breath uneasy after I said all that then I drop the call.

I met Lerato four years ago, she had a two years old son and I liked her enough to step up as a great step father to Athandwa, we were good for some time but we got to know each other further we were two very different individuals and our relationship was very toxic, I was at fault the most but she was no saint either, she also contributed to the bad things that happened between us.

I take care of her and Athandwa I guess she still thinks I have feelings for her but that ship sailed a while back and I am not the same person I used to be a while back. I just have to put her back in her seat, I Love Yolanda very much to let her mess us up.

Few days later

The rents are still here, we are in the corner, there is really no breathing space, this house is suddenly so small for all of us. I wish they leave again, even if it's just for a week. They noticed that Melissa is pregnant and I think it's another thing that made the tension to rise yet again. I haven't see my man in about four days, there is really no time to get together, he has been really busy at work and I decided to focus my attention to my school work. he told me that he wanted to spend some time with me this weekend even if it's few hours and I want that too it's been a while.

Me "my friends and I have a sleepover tomorrow" I lied.

Mom "a sleep over?"

Me "yes, we do these once a time"

Mom "are you happy?"

Me "ma?"

Mom “I'm not blind Yoyo, I know you are seeing someone, who your father is not really a fan of by the way, I just want to know if you're happy” I was never ready for this.

Me “he makes me happy, and I love him so I'm happy” there is really no use in repudiating.

Mom “if you're happy then it's all that matters, so you're going to see him tomorrow right?”

Me “yes” I say in a barely audible voice.

Mom “you know you can trust me with your secrets, at least one of us has to know what is really going on with you” I trusted them until I learned that they were keeping secrets for us “I'm always here for you if you feel like talking even if I'm not here physically, I'm a phone call away” she added.

Me “I hear you mom and I will remember that” I said that to make her heart at ease.

It's Friday, we decided to spend the whole weekend at his house just lazing around and catching up on our favourite series.

After work he fetched me from work we bought junk on the way and headed to his place. I was feeling edgy in the store dad doesn't know that I am spending time with him.

When we got to his house I decided to freshen up a bit then whip something quick.

When I got downstairs he was watching something on the TV, I went straight to the kitchen to prepare a very quick dinner for us. I decided to make spaghetti and mince. I take all the things I will need and put them on the table. I am now familiar with the house especially the kitchen.

Him "you are really fascinating ma jones do you know that" he startled me as I didn't hear him coming to the kitchen.

Me "how?" I raise an eyebrow.

Him "with everything you can do, most of us struggles in the kitchen but we have all the senses needed, which clearly shows that there is really nothing restraining someone to be whatever they want"

Me "as long as what a person lack is not a primary need for what they want there is really no limitation" I say continuing with what I was doing.

Him "and I see that in you, there are sometimes, where I look at you and feel like you're lying"

Me “really?” we both chuckle. “Please pour me a glass of wine”

Him “coming right up madam” he says in a funny accent and I laugh softly.

I finish cooking, he dish for both of us, I really hate dishing, when we were done he offered to do the dishes and I opted to drying, then we cuddled on the couch while watching our favourite series over snacks and him giving me a clear view of what is going on.

Looks like I fell asleep as I woke up in bed hours later with Philani next to me sleeping peacefully, I quickly got up and went to the bathroom, I did my business once I'm done I washed my hands and went back to bed. He pulls me closer to him which I gladly obliged. He kissed my neck.

Him “where did you go to” he asked with a sleepy voice.

Me “toilet”

Him “you woke me up, you have to apologise”

Me “I'm sorry” I whispered

Him “you have to do more than that”

Me “you are crazy Mr Dladla” he laughed softly.

We passed time talking about everything until we both fell asleep.

I woke up in the morning, he was not next to me I got up and checked time it was around nine, I went to the bathroom and did my thing, wore my comfortable clothing, took my phone and headed down stairs, when I got there he was humming a song.

Me “smells Devine in here” I say making my way towards where I think he is”

Him “sit back, breakfast will be served in a moment” I could feel him right next to me, he pulled me to his arms, we hugged and kissed briefly, he opened a chair and I sat down.

A moment later he was done, he gives me my breakfast

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and we eat over a light conversation. When we done he put the dishes in the dish washer.

And lifted me up like a bag of potatoes.

Me “what are you doing, put me down Philani” he walked to the stairs.

Him “you will take a shower with me”

Me “you are joking right, I already took a shower”

Him “without me, now you will take one with me” he is not even asking nicely.

Me "I'm not doing that" I attempt to leave, but he catches me and tickles me until I agreed, "okay I will take a shower with you" I say in between laughs.

Him "thought as much"

Me "bully" I whispered

Him "what was that"

Me "nothing"

We took a not so innocent shower then washed each other's back though I struggled because he is really tall.

We were in the lounge cuddling when a doorbell rings. We both ignored it but I felt for the person ringing the bell.

Me "baby go and open for them"

Him "I'm not expecting anyone so they can leave, can't they see we don't want to open" he was really annoyed

Me "come on, the person has been ringing for a while"

Him "hayi nawe" he got up as annoyed as he was.

Me “I love you” I shouted laughing

Him “I love you more” he shouted as he went to the door
“Lerato, what are you guys doing here?” I could hear him while I was in the lounge. I get up as I was lying down and sit on the couch.

“Daddy” the little boy shouted, I guess it’s the baby mama and the baby.

Lerato “is that how you welcome your kid and his mother”

Philani “come in guys, boy how are you...” my heart started to beat faster I zoned out. “Baby, this is Lerato and my son Athandwa” I snapped out to the world that I zoned out to.

Lerato “the mother of his child” wow okay.

Me “nice to miss you guys” I said after clearing my throat, I ignored what she said.

Philani “we need to talk now Lerato” he sounded like he was furious

Lerato “okay” they walked away, awkward.

I stay glued on the couch not knowing what to do. I don’t encounter with children that much so I don’t know how to act with one in the house, so I decide to keep quiet.

Athandwa “are you my dad’s girlfriend” how do I answer that. Before I even attempt to open my mouth his parents come back.

Philani “I will take your bags to a room you will use” he takes the bags and left, okay.

Lerato “so you are the girlfriend’ she asked with sarcasm.

Me “...” I don’t have to answer her right.

Lerato “me and Monde come a long way” she says softly. “a loonnngg way”

I keep my mouth shut.

Philani “baby, may I have a word with you in our bedroom?” I didn’t say anything I just followed suit.

Philani “I know how you may feel about this, I really had no idea that she was going to come here unannounced, but I can’t throw them out” he said after a deep sigh. “I don’t know what is wrong with Lerato, I was going to introduce you to Athandwa at a right time, but ever since she learnt that I was in a relationship with you she always do stunts that I don’t understand, and it seems like I don’t get through to her, the only thing linking us is Athandwa nothing else”

Me “I wasn’t expecting you to throw them out” I really don’t know what else to say “can you please take me home, or I can call for someone to fetch me if you won’t be able to” I cleared my throat, I mean your son is here and I don’t want to be in your face, you have to spend time with him right?” I laughed a humourless laugh, “we stay in this city together after all” I got up from the bed and I pack my clothes

Philani “it’s our weekend baby, I don’t want you to go”

Me “I want to go Philani, I already feel out of place”

Philani “okay I will take you home then”

Me “thanks”

He takes my bag then we made our way to the garage.

Lerato “leaving already, I hope we didn’t do anything to chase you away” she pretends to be sad.

I really have no time for spiteful people so I remain silent.

Philani didn’t say anything either.

Philani “boy, I will be back in a few minutes okay”

Athandwa “okay” he says softly.

We get to his garage and he drives away after I got in with his help. Our drive was rather uncomfortable but I was not about to say anything, I just want to get home, and at this moment I

don't care whether my parents are home or not. We arrived at home and I attempt to get out only to found the door locked.

Me "thanks for driving me, can you now open the door" I really have no time for this.

Him "I don't like the tension between us ma jones"

Me "what are you talking about?"

Him "please don't punish me for something I have no control over"

Me "just open the door before my father comes here" I say clearly irritated, he opens it "we will talk when we are both ready to right now I just want space to breath" I open the door and got out, he got out too and gives me my bag

Him "I love you"

Me "I love you too" I walk away quickly.

Luckily my parents or anyone for that matter was not in sight when I got in, I quickly went to my room, before someone sees me.

Monde

After dropping Ma Jones I decided to go to the club just to check if everything is going well, I co-own it with Athi and Senzo; I'm always open to any business idea as long as I will be making money. They always ask who I'm going to leave all this empire I'm building to as I am not interested in having kids. But I'm not bothered by that because there are many needy people out there and my family of course, most of the time it's not even about me making money but creating job opportunities for those who are not able to start their businesses.

But I really don't want to bring kids to my dangerous life it's no secret that I have many enemies. One would ask me why I fathered Athandwa if I'm not so eager to have kids. But it's all so different with him, when I met Lerato she was living in a very bad condition with Athandwa's biological father being absent they were really suffering, and I couldn't just watch them, and I believe in taking care of my woman, though that is pretty hard with Yolanda, she is her own woman which always make us argue a lot when I want to do things for her, back to the story, I warmed to Athandwa and when he started calling me daddy I

didn't mind and I see him as my son as I have known him since he was just a baby.

I got to the club there were a few customers, I go straight to the office that we all share; it's very big with a lounge and a big flat screen TV on the wall. I open the door, I don't do knocking much.

Athi "really dude?" he raised his eyebrows.

Me "what?"

Athi "what if I was busy with a girl here?"

Me "the sooner you realise that this is an office, the less frustrated you will be" he hates people who enter without knocking.

Athi "still doesn't answer my question"

Me "she would have left, she has no business in here"

I grab a beer on the always stocked fridge and sit on the couch. And stare on the blank TV screen.

Athi "what's up with you, I have been talking by myself for a couple of minutes" he is standing right next to me.

Me "what were you saying, there is a lot in my mind"

Athi “not important, what is going on?”

Me “Lerato” I say after a deep breath.

Athi “what has she done now?” none of my friends ever liked Lerato

Me “she just showed up to my house, with my son, mind you I was with Ma Jones” I brush my hand in my hair.

Athi “what the fuck does she want?” he asked with a frown on his face.

Me “I don’t know really, she has been doing stunts lately, I guess she doesn’t like to see me in a relationship”

Athi “I hope you put her in her place, she has to know where she stands in your life, which is out of it”

Me “I talked to her and she understood” I hope she understood.

Athi “now send her packing”

Me “what I can’t do that, she came with my son” it will seem like I don’t want my son in his home

Athi “you won’t be chasing your son away, but you are putting Lerato in her place, she has no right to budge in just like that” I breath out loud “don’t tell me you still like her” he asks raising his eyebrow.

Me “what? Absolutely not, I love only one woman and that is Yolanda”

Athi “I hope you are telling the truth because that girl is bad news, unless you want to ruin your relationship for her” he walked away.

I really refuse to believe that I still have any sort of feeling towards Lerato, we had our thing it was great for a while and it ended period.

Melissa

One day later

Nathi “so you are going to ignore me” he asks taking glances at me.

Me “just leave me alone Nkosinathi, please” I say irritated.

You must be wondering why am I so irritated by this guy, but I will tell you even if you were not. So I'm 12 weeks pregnant and

I have been going through a lot of craving lately, chicken wings, cheese curls, plain yogurt, avocado and cheese are what I crave for regularly, nothing weird right? Until I feel like eating one or more of them with Avocado, it's what I enjoy the most, I literally add avocado in everything I eat.

So a day ago it was around 6; 30 pm when I called Nathi to get me hot wings, he had no problem with it

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I was in my pyjamas when he told me he was outside so I took a gown and went straight to his car a street away, I had made sure that I smell nice because I was not only going for wings but for some action too. It has been a moment since I got some so I got to his car and my mood just went from a 100 to a minus 0.

This man hoe was with a girl, from my eyes they looked cosy, and they were dressed up probably going to a stupid dinner if you ask me, my craving for hot wings also declined dismally, I took the dodgy bag and left without uttering a word, I went straight to my room and cry while stuffing my face with wings.

I suddenly felt so jealous, I literally had chest pains, I don't know how many times I reprimanded myself of calling him and give him a piece of my mind, but I remembered that I'm the one who didn't want to pursue a romantic relationship with him, I'm sure it will all pass because it's just hormones.

So right now we are on our way for our regular check-ups, we got to the doctor and did all necessary, our baby is healthy and growing normally.

We are now in his car.

Him “let me help you with that” I was buckling up, I just look at him with a very ugly look “okay” he raised his hands up. “What do you feel like eating?”

Me “a steer’s burger and KFC wings” I'm not about to say no to food.

Him “nothing else” he glances at me.

Me “I don’t know” I said with an attitude.

Him “so how has she been treating you?” he is convinced that we are having a girl.

Me “so, your girlfriend” I ask looking out the window.

He looks at me the burst out laughing.

Him “is that why you have been sour? Because of my girlfriend” he was still laughing.

Me “me? Sour? Please” I defended

Him “are you jealous right now” he smirked, looking at me

Me “of what you? Please” I say with sarcasm.

Him “great, then because we wouldn’t want a drama between us right?”

I keep quiet, my heart was in my knees I wanted to cry, how could he do this to me.

Me “yeah, we wouldn’t” I say with my voice failing to come out.

Him “I will support you too when you decide to get back in the dating game”.

Who would want to date a pregnant woman, I mean I gain weight every single day, by the time I'm 9 months I will be wearing a size 16.

I don’t reply to him, we got our food and I eat like it’s my last day in earth. He is just watching me eat, making me uncomfortable, I'm sure he is disgusted by my eating.

Me “what?” I ask after swallowing.

Nathi “you are beautiful”

Me “no Mr, the only person you must say that to, is your girlfriend”

Him “right now, I'm saying it to the mother of my child” he smiled. I just roll my eyes.

Me “I'm glad, we are both understanding individuals” I take a sip on my drink “because soon I'm going to avail myself to the

fishes in the sea, who knows I might catch one for myself even though I'm pregnant" I take a bite of my burger, and watch him breath heavily.

Him "you are doing no such" he points at me.

Me "why not, aren't you dating? And I'm cool with it?"

Him "don't play like that Melissa"

I just continue eating my food, when I'm done I got an ice-cream and we left.

We were now by my house.

Him "she is my cousin" he blurted out. I look at him, waiting for him to repeat himself. "I am not dating anyone, you know I love you, I can't just shift my feelings and move on"

I didn't wait for him to say much I jump on him and kissed him passionately. Yes when he told me he loved me I really didn't know that I could love him beyond sexually, but it happened and I couldn't fight it anymore.

I got so angry when I saw him with that girl and thought he has finally got over me. We kissed for a while then he pulled out and holds my face with both his hands.

Me "I love you too" I didn't plan to say that, his face lit up, and he kissed me so passionately.

30

I have always been a coward all my life, I'm afraid of confronting people, I'm afraid of arguments and I avoid fight as much as I can.

As a result i have been avoiding Philani like a bad rash. When he wants to see me I come up with a reason why I won't be able to see him, even when he tries to bring up the "Lerato" issue on during a phone call I always change the conversation and look for an excuse to drop the call.

I have taken a drastic change in my life, the one I may regret or it may be a good thing, only time will tell.

I'm 21 years of age and I have been living at home all my life it sucks but my condition has always been the barrier of many things I wanted to do but as I am growing I have been slowly adjusting to this life, so about over a week ago I decided to move away from home.

I took that decision and I told my parents, they both didn't want to hear it but I was also not letting this go and my reasons were valid so they agreed on a condition that they will hire someone to stay with me, I agreed even though I felt like it will still be the same as living with them, I mean there is no independency which is what I want, but before they could

organise that for me Melissa said she was going to join me and everyone was happy.

at home we follow rules of our parents, there is no freedom and I'm sure me and Melissa are not the only ones that feel suffocated by the parents, yes it's nice living with parents but Richard and Laura are really strict shame and we have tasted a bit of freedom when we were left alone at home but now it's their way or the high way.

But my main reason is to learn to not be dependent on other people a lot; there will come a time where it will be a must that I live alone. We looked for a two bedroom apartment in, and of course it's in a very safe neighbourhood. The security is very tight so there is nothing to stress about really.

We moved in yesterday so we are still settling in, it's a very different set up from home but I will get used to it. I'm going to miss staying with parents but I'm sure they also wanted space to breathe without us in the house.

My phone rings, Philani calling.

Me "Mgabadel" that's his clan name.

Him "mmh, I love you" I could hear him smile on the other side.

Me "I love you too" I blushed.

Him "I miss you Ma jones, can I see you today" he knows I moved.

Me "I miss you too, and yes we can meet"

Him "let's meet for coffee then"

Me "coffee? Really baby, it's hot too hot for that"

Him "okay, ice-cream then" he laughed.

Me "whuh! that's better" I released a dramatic sigh

We talked for a bit then we said our goodbyes. I took a quick shower when I'm done, I moisturised and put on a black above the knee tight strap dress, I have on braids which I did two weeks ago I let them loose, I have on gold sandals. i take my black hand bag and put in all the essentials a lady might need. I take sunglasses that match my outfit, I am feeling myself. I put on strap on Louie's black Harness and leash, to complete his look I tie a black and with little white bandana on his neck, Louie is a yellow Labrador breed so we are really matching right now. We go to the kitchen so I can drink water first, Melissa is in the lounge.

Melissa "whuuuh! Mamacita, Eres caliente (mommy, you are hot) she says as we got to the kitchen. "where are you going?" she asks.

Me “out with bae”

Her “mmhh, “out with bae”, you go lil sis, you are both goals”

Me “thanks sis” I drink my water, Philani called saying he is outside. “we will see you too when we come back”

Her “don’t do anything I wouldn’t do” she shouted as we exit the room. We get down stairs.

Him “baby hellow, hey Louie” he says as we got out, I guess he was waiting for us just outside.

Me “hey, how are you” I say as we hug.

Him “I’m good, you look good, both of you” to date me is like dating two people, me and Louie are a pair, you can’t claim to love me but hate Louie.

He helps us to his car then we drive off.

Him “let’s first grab something to eat, I’m hungry”

Me “no problem”

We went to MacDonald’s drive thru, and ordered our food. He then parked somewhere and he we started eating, he was really hungry. We then got our ice cream and settled to a nearby park.

Him “you know that in order for us to work we must communicate right?”

Me “I know”

Him “good, firstly

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I would like to apologise for anything that I might have done unaware, I swear I didn't know that they were going to come that day and I'm sorry for that, I know it was supposed to be our weekend”

Me “it's cool really, I know you were not aware, so I'm not putting any blame on you” I take a deep sigh “I know you have a son Philani and it means that his mother will always be in the picture, the last thing I want is to be side-lined while you blend in well with your little family, I don't want to feel like a side chick in this relationship the last thing I want is to end up being insecure because you don't know how to communicate with your babies' mother, be open to me about what is going on then we will be fine”

Him “I get you, and I promise to always be open” I hope we won't be having further problem with this matter.

We decided to go to the mall to pass time.

We went to a clothing shop, I started my shopping, I picked two tops and a jean and two dresses, they were within my budget, I use the putting of the arm on the jean to fit them, it always work for me. I really hate going to fitting rooms, I noticed that my normal size didn't fit I had to size up, and I have put on a bit of weight, I don't really mind though I can do with a bit of weight. What I like is that I gain in all the right places.

I bought some make up, with Melissa staying with me I can wear make up as much as I want.

Him "baby, you really don't have to buy this, you don't need it, your skin is very beautiful" he has been whining ever since we got here.

Me "please don't kill my mood Mr Dladla"

Him "I'm just saying, it's all unnecessary"

Me "baby please I'm concentrating here and you are really not helping, please find me an assistant" he groaned and walked away. Few seconds later the assistance came.

He came back when I was in the queue, when it was our turn we walked to the assistance; I took out my card to pay.

Him "I got this babe, let me pay for our things" I'm the only one who bought things by the way.

Me "you don't have to Philani, I got this"

Him "I insist" I nod for piece sakes. He paid and we left.

We got take outs and he drove us home.

When I entered the house Melissa was still in front of the TV.

Me "did you even bath?"

Her "what do you take me for, of course come smell me" I did, and she smelled of a shower gel. "What did you buy for us"

Me "I bought wings, for my baby, and nothing for you"

Her "mxm, oksalayo, I will be the one eating"

Me "whatever" we both went to the kitchen, as soon as she started eating, she started to moan. "Wow" I clap my hands.

Her "so did you guys talked" she knows about the drama.

Me "yeah, we talked"

Her "good, I'm glad"

Me "i am going to stop eating take outs starting tomorrow, I have gained some wait and I don't want to gain more"

Her "mmh, now that you mention it I can see that you have put on some weight, it's not bad though you look ravishing"

Me "mmh, thanks sis, I hope you are not just saying that to make me feel better"

Her "Yols?" she seem to be in deep thoughts

Me “what?”

Her “when last did you had your period”

Me “hahaha, I had them last month Mels”

Her “I hope you are sure”

Me “Mels, I hope you are not thinking what I'm thinking you are thinking about” I say giggling.

Her “plus you are not on contraceptives, condoms are not 100%”

I would have known, it's crazy that she can even think about it.

31

Melissa

It's been a couple of weeks since we have moved in to our apartment, we have now adapted, I'm four months pregnant and getting fat each and every day, whew! I am so glad I moved away from home, I was starting to be sexual frustrated at home as our parents were always watching us like hawks, now I get sex every time I want as my sexual appetite is sky high.

Yols still haven't got her periods; although she laughs about it I can see it on her face that she is scared; however she is definite that she would know if she was pregnant.

Me "Yols, you need to stop being stubborn"

Her "I. am. Not. Pregnant Melissa , I would know, I know my body well" she is angry.

Me "then let's buy a pregnancy test to confirm, you have nothing to worry about if you are not pregnant" she looks so

annoyed “and you have to tell Philani that you are late, or enquire if the condom has ever busted, while you were having sex” she looks like she is thinking deep.

Her “No no no, cape town, no” she beat her head, “cape town condoms” she says looking at me terrified.

Me “you are not making any sense sis, what is it”

Her “we didn’t use condoms in Cape Town; this is some fucked up shit” the fuck.

Me “okay, calm down, Yolanda take a deep breath” she was breathing fast, I think she is having panic attacks, I quickly go to the kitchen to get her a glass of water “here drink some water” she take the glass and gulp the whole glass in one go.

Her “we didn’t use Condoms in Cape Town, I guess we were overly excited”

Me “we will get to the bottom of this for now let’s keep calm it might not be what we are thinking about” I really don’t know what else to say, she always says she doesn’t want kids.

Yolanda

I can't believe I am going through this really, for someone who doesn't want to have children I have been so careless. I should have started taking contraceptives the moment I started having sex again, I guess I was blinded by the good sex that I forgot about what would happen if I became reckless.

Growing up I always dreamt about getting married to my prince charming and having two adorable children but when I got blind I scrapped all that in my mind.

I don't want children, how will I take care of other little human beings who won't even understand the kind of situation I am in, taking care of myself is not as easy as it may look like, having someone to depend on me would just be a full time job and more, and also I won't know how they look like, so I really don't want kids.

Me "what am I going to do with a child Melissa" I rest my head in my hands. "Please god don't let me be pregnant"

Mel "I know how you feel about this but please let's not conclude on pregnancy right now" she is as worried as I am.

“Richard and Laura would freak out if you are” we have this tendency of calling our parents by names behind their back.

Me “both of us pregnant at the same time, that would be bad, they would blame you for it”

Her “if you didn’t get pregnant Yolanda wouldn’t either, you are older you are supposed to lead by an example” he mimicked our father, we burst out laughing.

Me “we are too young for this, too young” I mimicked mom

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we laughed even more.

Her “but on a bright side, it would be kind of nice, having our children growing up together”

Me “a.a get that out of your mind dear sister” I chuckled

Her “I'm just saying you know”

Me “keep on dreaming, I'm worried but, I still feel like I'm not pregnant, but we will take the test”

Her “and that’s all I'm asking for”

Me “I'm going to bed, I need to digest this” I say getting up.

Mel “don’t stress about this yet Yols, remember we still don’t know what is really going on”

Me “I won’t, I hope you won’t be stressing on my behalf too Melissa” I kiss her stomach “goodnight baby” I brushed it a bit and walked away.

I get to my bedroom; I always live my bedroom door open for Louie to get in and out without having to wake me up.

Me “siri call Philani” his phone rang un answered, I tried again, he answered.

Him “miss me already” I could tell he was smiling.

Me “oh please Mr” I say with sarcasm

Him “deny all you want sweetheart but I know deep down you miss me”

We talked for a while.

Me “there’s something we need to talk about” I said after I cleared my throat

Him “okay, what’s up?”

Me “well, it may be nothing, but my period is late, and...I remembered that when we were in Cape Town we didn’t use condoms”

Him: he cleared his throat multiple times “okay?”

Me “as I have said it may be nothing, I will take a test tomorrow, and that’s when I will know for sure what is going on”

He didn’t say anything; I guess I took him by surprise.

Me “okay then bye”

Wow, I don’t know what reaction I was hoping for but that just took me by surprise, so this may mean that if it happens that I’m pregnant I will be on my own.

I don’t know when I fell asleep yesterday but I woke up when Louie jumped on my bed.

Me “Louie, isn’t it still early for waking up?” I whined as I got up, I check the time on my phone and it’s past 10, I quickly got up because he must really be pressed, I washed my face and quickly wore sweat pants and a big t shirt I wore my sleepers. And put a leash on Louie, we got out of our apartment and go to the little park where he could relieve himself. I hope no one gets close to me or else they will die because of my breath. When he is done we went back. Melissa was busy doing something in the kitchen; my guess is she is making food.

Me “morning”

Mel “morning” yep she was chewing something.

Me “hows my little princess today”

Mel “hungry” I chuckled

Me “I'm gonna take a shower”

Mel “wait, I got a pregnancy test, take it first”

Me “whow, can't it wait?”

Mel “nope, take it now, morning pee is more accurate”

My heart starts beating faster. And faster.

Me “let me brush my teeth first” she breathed out louder.

Mel “make it snappy Landa, two minutes” I walked away.

I brushed my teeth so slow with million thoughts.

Mel “Yols it's been more than 15 minutes, how big are your teeth?” I laughed nervously.

Me “okay let me have a little breakfast first then, then I take the test”

Mel “no, here pee over this so we can get this over with” she gives me the test.

Me “can't I have an apple first I'm famished” I whined

Mels “nope” she gave me a little privacy.

I peed on the thing and called her, she did all she needed to do then the nerves kicked in. the timer beeped.

Mel "it's ready, are you ready?"

Me "no" I whispered

Mels "okay take a deep breath" she brushed my arm.

It's been a few days later after the call with Yolanda that left me speechless, I am such a jerk but I can't help it I know I should be there supporting her but my mind tells me otherwise.

I don't want kids not now and not ever in this life time, we have never discussed the children or getting married topic and I am certain I don't want anything to do with both of them, that's just not me. I don't know how she feels about this issue, my fear is her wanting to keep the baby, I mean that will force me to be a part of the baby's life.

And it will look like I'm cruel if I ask her to abort. I know it's both our fault that she is pregnant but at that age I thought she would be on contraceptives, I know I should have asked her but it was the moment of weakness. This had to happen while we were starting to reconcile again.

I have been drowning myself with alcohol ever since she called me she hasn't gotten back to me yet and I don't think she will, I'm too afraid to call and find out, and to also apologise for my reaction.

I take my phone without thinking and dial her number, I put the phone on my ear, I quickly cancel the call before it even ring. Fuck! I need a destruction from this.

I go to my closet, take my bag and pack a few clothes with shoes, I called my driver to come get me, and he arrived shortly.

Him "where to boss"

Me "airport" he drives off without any questions.

I got to the airport and luckily for me I was able to secure a sit on the next plain departing in 2 hours. I called my assistance to book a hotel for me.

I arrived to my destination a few hours later. I rented a car and drove straight to the hotel, it was in the evening when I woke up from the nap I took, I freshened up then wear casual clothes. I ordered dinner from the drive thru enough for more than 4 people. I drove to my destination playing radio to destruct me from my thoughts.

I arrived moments later, i have already asked for the security code so I entered and went to park in visitors parking, I knocked on the door. She opened for me, she was shocked to see me, I guess she thought I was joking when I asked for the code.

Her “Monde what are you doing here?”

Me “you are not going to let me in?” I raised an eyebrow.

Her “owh sorry, come in”

Me “thanks, how are you?”

Her “I'm good as you can see, what's up with you, are you okay”

Me “I bought food, I hope you haven't eaten yet”

Her “Athandwa is not here though; he went to his friend's house for a sleep over”

Me “we can still eat the food though, right? I'm hungry and I don't want to eat alone” she looks at me for a moment then nod.

Her “okay, let me get the plates to dish out” she disappeared to the kitchen.

I run my hands on my face in frustration.

She comes back with two plates and hand me mine without saying anything.

Me “thanks” she then walk back to the kitchen and came back with two glasses with juice and put them on the table, we both eat in silent, there is something playing on the TV but I'm not paying attention to it.

When we were done she takes the plates to the kitchen and comes back shortly and sit's next to me this time.

She clears her throat.

Her “what is going on Monde? Please don't tell me it's nothing because I can see there is something that is bothering you” I look at her.

Me “there is nothing going on Lerato okay, even if there was best believe it's not your problem”

Her “and yet you are here” she raised her shoulder's.

I look at her and remain silent.

Him “it's getting late, I have to go I will come back to check on my son tomorrow”

We both stand up at the same time, our foreheads collided.

Her “ouch”

Me “sorry” she holds her forehead looking at me.

Her “it's okay, let me walk you out”

My body moved towards her without me thinking about it, I kiss her briefly, she doesn't respond for a second, then she did. I break the kiss. She looks at me for a while.

Then she threw her body in mine I catch her

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she then kiss me, suddenly Yolanda's picture flashes in my mind, and I break the kiss and push her away gentle.

I cleared my throat

Me "sorry, for kissing you, it's just that there is a lot in my mind, I shouldn't have, I need to leave"

Her "you don't have to leave, you can stay the night"

Me "no it's cool, let me go" I quickly walked away.

Her "Monde" she called as I walked away, I turned and look at her "you will come back tomorrow right? Because Athandwa would really like seeing you again" she has a smirk of her face. I nod and walked out of the door.

My mind is really messed up, a part of me knows that I shouldn't have come here to begin with.

Me "yah?" I answer my phone.

Athi “where the fuck are you? I have been calling all day”

Me “my phone was on silent, ufunani? (What do you want)”

Athi “you were supposed to come to the club, remember?” he said clearly annoyed.

Me “I can’t come right now I’m out of town, I will come as soon as I get back”

Athi “where are you” the fuck.

Me “will it make a difference?”

Athi “I knew you were going to say that, just wanted to confirm”

Me “yeah I will come to the club as soon as...”

Athi “I hope you didn’t go to Cape Town because you are running away from your problems”

Me “I have a son here Athenkosi”

Athi “well I’m just saying, you are in a relationship with Yolanda, you are still avoiding the poor girl”

Me “I had to see my son to calm down a bit, I will talk with her when I come back”

Athi “you got a good woman Philani, and she will get tired and dump you, just don’t create any drama when she decide to move on”

Me “is there anything else I can help you with?” I asked irritated.

Athi “no, but just know that, you broke up with Lerato for a reason” then he drops the call.

Next day

Lerato called saying we should go to a picnic for Athandwa of course, I didn't see anything wrong in that, it's now noon and I got to her place, I loaded all the things in the car, then we went to the park, my boy was very excited to see me, we got to the park and she placed everything on the blanket with my help, we ate with me having a conversation with my son here and there, couple of minutes later we were playing soccer, we were both having fun.

Minutes later we were both tired and lying on the blanket. He then fell asleep. Here was now a very awkward moment between me and Lerato and I am sure that it's about the kiss.

She clears her throat.

Her “you know..”

Me “things don’t..” we spoke on the same time “you go first”

Her “no you go first”

Me “I'm sorry I kissed you last night, I am going through something and my mind has a lot in it right now, I shouldn't have kissed you”

Her “come on we both wanted the kiss, because I kissed you too”

Me “Lerato, I'm in a relationship, I'm sorry for leading you on but it was just a stupid mistake”

Her “okay” she says then looked away.

Me “can this stay between us please?”

Her “oh come on it's not like I was going to tell anyone about this”. I hope she won't.

It has been a few days after the “I may be pregnant scare”, I was so terrified that day.

Mel “it’s ready, are you ready?” when she said that I could feel my heart beating faster than the speed of flash.

Me “no” I whispered, I was ready to collapse.

Mels “okay take a deep breath” she brushed my arm. I could feel my soul slowly leaving my body, “Yols, I’m so scared to look” I didn’t say anything as I was as scared.

Mel “okay it’s now or never, remember whatever it says I will always be by your side okay?” I nodded my head. “It’s negative, Yolanda, whuh my God I almost died” she realise a deep sigh.

I could hear what she was saying but because I was ready to collapse or even die when it was to be positive words didn’t come only tears managed to stream down my cheeks, tears of joy.

Me “it’s negative?” I had to be sure.

Mel “it’s negative sis, that’s what we wanted right?”

Me “is that a trick question, I’m just so happy I have no words”

Mel “come here” she gave me a warm bear hug.

‘Thank God I'm not pregnant, I swear I will be so careful right now, I will take contraceptives even though i don't have any man in my life, I mean ever since I told Philani about the possibility of being pregnant he just ghosted me’. Those were my thoughts as I was in Melissa's arms.

Me “I think I should see a doctor just to be 100% sure”

Mels “yes, I can take you to the doctor tomorrow”

And the next day we went to see a Doctor and the blood test was indeed negative as well, when I asked what can be the cause of not having my periods the doctor said it's common and may be caused by stress, birth control, weight gain or loss etc. In my case I suspect weight gain, but I really don't know.

I eventually got my period and I am on contraceptives. I don't know what is going on with me and Philani really. They say actions speak louder than words and I got the point, I didn't bother him about anything, I will focus on my life right now, even though it won't be walk in the park.

Philani has shown me that I mean nothing to him, I was low key waiting for him to come and apologise for his behaviour but instead I got rather shocking news.

It was after work, I was dog tired when I got at our apartment Melissa was chilling on the couch.

I threw myself next to her after I have changed to my comfortable clothing.

She was awfully quiet, which bothered me.

Me “are you okay?” I was concerned.

Mel “what? Yes. Yes I am” yep she is not.

Me “oh.kay”

She clears her throat.

Mels “so, I was browsing on my instagram” she paused and clears her throat again, “then I stumbled on a picture of Philani and his baby mama and baby” I know she didn’t just stumble, she stalks her.

Me “what? Really?” I laughed like a retard. not a real laugh, the “I am hurt” kind of laugh.

Mel “they were having a picnic, in a park in cape town” I was so shocked, I didn’t know what to say. Melissa knows about what

is going on with me and Philani and about the baby mama; she even stalked her instagram account for me.

The date of their picnic was exactly around the days after I told him about the “I might be pregnant” issue; I guess when I told him about that I just reminded him about his family. The pregnancy news showed really who he is.

Today I woke up on the right side of the bed, literally, because Namhla is in the bed with me.

This girl kicked me all night, I make my way to the bathroom, I peed, brushed my teeth and washed my face. I feel like cleaning today. I take the cleaning equipment and started cleaning the lounge, our apartment is not big this won't even take a while. I moved everything I could; we haven't cleaned though roughly ever since we got here I'm sure it's so dirty.

Namhla “My Gosh Yolanda so early in the morning” she whined.

Me “sorry babe, but this flat is dirty it needs some cleaning, besides it's not even that early” I tried to defend myself.

Namhla “did you at least make me some coffee?”

Me “you think I'm your maid whe Namhla” she chuckled.

Namhla “let me drink some coffee, and then I will help you”

Me “thank you babe”

When she was done

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she helped me and we finished earlier than I would have alone.

Namhla “it’s really fascinating watching you do something”

Me “thats creepy Namhla” she laughs.

Namhla “not in the way you are thinking gosh Yolanda” we both laugh. “How can you be able to do so much? One would swear you are not blind”

I like it when people ask about something and not just believe their assumptions.

Me “ever since I was diagnosed, we were told I was going to go completely blind one day so i went through training for when the time came so I would be prepared, I trained to depend on my other senses, to sharpen them”

Namhla “your senses are stronger than most of normal human beings”

Me “you can say that but the truth is that it’s because I rely on them, and a sighted person doesn’t really care much because for example, they can see food before they eat it, and if it’s something that smells terrible they see it and block their nose and I have to smell it to know it’s something nasty”

We are disturbed by a police knock on the door.

Namhla “are you expecting a visitor?”

Me “nope”

We were still on our pjs. Sitting on the kitchen chairs.

The person knocked again.

Namhla “let me check who it is, I hope you are not involved in any criminal activities, because this knock says I am a police officer” I laughed

Namhla “you?, what are you doing here” I couldn’t hear the other person “uzomenzani? I'm not going to let you in just leave” she banged the door. “nxah” she was furious.

Okay what is going on? I get up from the kitchen bar stool.

Me “Namhla what is going on who was that?”

Namhla “no one” she was pissed.

The person knocked again.

Me “Namhla?” she opened the door again.

Namhla “what do you want,”

Him “I want to have a word with Landa” it was Philani

Namhla “mxm,Yolanda?”

Me “it’s okay Namhla I got this”

Namhla “I will be in the bedroom shout if you need me” she then us.

Namhla and Melissa now hate Philani and they don’t hide it. I hated him too until now, with just his scent my heart is doing I am jumping.

Me “how did you get in here? Know what never mind I asked that, what are you doing here?”

Him “I would like for us to talk” he was clearing his throat frequently, irritating if you’d ask me.

Me “you would like for us to talk?” a humourless laugh escaped my mouth.

Him “yes..i mean please” is this guy being serious right now, I could feel myself fuming.

Me “how old are you?” i was furious.

Him “what..” I did not let him finish because I know exactly what he was going to say.

Me “you are old Philani Dladla way too old, to act the way you were acting”

Me “not so long ago you said communication is a key to a healthy relationship, but as soon as I tell you I might be pregnant you ghost me?”

Him “I was scared ma jones, I panicked when you told me that and..”

Me “Yolanda”

Him “what”

Me “my name is Yolanda” I even hated the stupid name he called me with.

Him: he cleared his throat “okay, as I was saying, I panicked , I never wanted to have kids Ma Jone...I mean Yolanda”

Me “me neither, I don’t want kids” I folded my arms.

Him “I did a lot of thinking and I want to be a father to my child’s life, I can do it I mean I'm already doing it with Athandwa”

He tells me about how he is not a father to Athandwa, this came as a shock to me, and I'm really confused by his way of thinking he is fathering someone’s child but doesn’t want his own children is that even possible? To think that Lerato is not even his baby mama, I guess he really loved her or he still does?.

Me “I am not pregnant Philani”

Him “what?” he was shocked. “did you...you know”

Me “had an abortion? No I would never. if you were by my side supporting me when I thought I was pregnant you would have known that I was never pregnant”

Him “wow, okay that’s good news I guess” he said softly

Me “but I’m glad it all happened because I know exactly where I stand in your life”

Him “I love you Yolanda, I messed up big this time around but I’m human I make mistakes”

Me “when you panic you run to your baby mama, instead of fixing your problems?”

Him “Excuse me?”

Me “I know you went to Cape Town, to your little family, I heard about the pictures”

Him “it was the date I always see Athandwa on”

Me “mmh” I didn’t believe that.

Him “I know I acted in a childish manner but baby I love you and I want no one but you” I was now crying, he got closer to me and comforted me,

Me “you hurt me Philani, you didn’t even care to check how I was doing, you just left like I don’t matter to you” I say between my cry.

Him “I’m sorry baby, I will never do something like that again please give me another chance to prove myself to you” he was sincere. “Please give me a chance to redeem myself”.

I nodded, my heart just betrayed me, few hours ago I hated this man, but I just forgave him just like that.

Him “thank you baby, I will show you how sorry I am” he kissed my forehead. I stayed in his embrace for a while. “I will call you” he kissed my forehead then he left.

I took a deep sigh after he closed the door, my heart just betrayed me.

Few months later

it took me about a week after he apologised for me to warm up to him, he hurt me, a lot but I was not about to let him go because he made a mistake, at the end of the day we all make mistakes no body is perfect and besides I love him.

We are way past our honeymoon phase and I have to admit I miss that phase. If you know me you know how dedicated I am to my school work, when I'm facing problems in my life I divert my energy, and all my emotions to my school work. I have reached that point where I worry about how well I pass than whether I passed or failed.

I practically live alone in this apartment, well with Louie. Because my sister is always sleeping over at her boyfriend's place, Richard and Laura don't know this, She would be long buried had they knew. I thank god for Namhla because she is always here.

Melissa almost got caught few weeks ago, it was still morning around 9am when I heard a knock on the door I was alone in the apartment, I thought it was Mel's, she has a tendency of forgetting her key, I was surprised when mom walked in. luckily

the flat was sparkling clean the problem started when she wanted to see Melissa.

Me “she went to the store mother”

Mom “Lisa is heavily pregnant Yoyo why did you let her go alone?” my God, why is it my fault?

Me “ I was still sleeping mom, besides you know she is stubborn she would have left even if I told her not to” I laughed nervously “let me go and finish making my bed” I quickly walked away before she could say anything , I wanted to call Mel's right away or we were going to be in trouble.

I called her and luckily she answered and I told her she should come back and act like she was in store and that's exactly what she did. Things we do for our sister's.

Lerato hasn't been bothering us, I guess he finally got through her, I really don't know what their story is; even though I am curious I don't really want to know. I believe him when he says he is not there anymore, the only thing connecting them is their son. I have officially met him and he is a really sweet boy, we get along just fine, I still can't believe that he is not Philani's biological son. The bond they have is so amazing.

I can't help but feel like I don't know who Philani Dladla is exactly, I feel like I only know a quarter of him.

When I asked him he dismissed me by saying “there is nothing you should worry yourself about” and because I trust him I let it go.

My Father has warned me about him countless time, and I know that he is just being a “protective father” we all know that no father wants to see their daughter's dating. The fact that there is a huge gap of years between my man and I don't help much.

Philani has been a jealous boyfriend lately at first it was all cute and all but right now it's really irritating. I can't spend time with Chris without him getting jealous, he has been trying to keep me away from Namhla as hard as he can but I don't let him win, these are the only friends I have and I won't let an insecure boyfriend keep me away from them, never, he must find a way to deal with it.

Right now I am getting ready, To go to the club with Namhla, I know the last time we went to a club it didn't go well but now I know better that's why, I'm not only going with Namhla but with Chris, Mark And Mark's girlfriend, Philani will also be there and we will be at VIP. It's just crazy how we females can't be free to be where we want to be when we want, because of people with twisted minds, it's even worse for disabled women.

I have on a short skirt with a body suite and a short block heel. I have a 20" straight weave installed days ago, I curled it a bit. I take my clutch bag then we head out. Philani volunteered to pick and drop us off, we will meet the others at the club.

Namhla has a short black dress with heels and a clutch bag too.

We got to his car he opened a door for Namhla first.

Namhla "unnecessary but thanks" her and Melissa still don't hide how much they don't like him anymore, and he has gotten used to it.

Him "did you have to wear such a short skirt, that barely covers your body" he wasn't so happy about my clothing choice clearly

Me “please baby don’t start right now, I just want to have fun tonight please don’t ruin my mood” I begged, he let go.

Him “I’m not letting you out of my sight”

Me “please let’s just go”

Him “fine” he kissed my cheek then opened my door then closed it.

Namhla “finally” she says as he was starting the car.

We drove over a radio playing.

When we got there, there were already people everywhere, we made our way inside.

He led me to the VIP section where the others were already at. With their drinks, we greeted and joined them, I was not going to drink any alcohol, and he bought me a non-alcoholic drink.

They were starting to talk louder guess the alcohol was kicking in.

Philani would check on me from time to time, luckily for me Mark’s girlfriend was not drinking either so I was not the odd one out.

From where we were sitting we could see clearly what was going on to the general area. Well I couldn't see the others could.

Namhla excused herself to go to the restroom; she came back minutes later she was on my right then Mark's girl on my left.

Namhla “Yols? Who the fuck is that girl all over your man?” she can't be seriously asking me that. “she is whispering something on his ear” she was not loud only I could hear her “let's go beat the crap out of her” I didn't know what to do

it might be innocent because he owns this place so she might be the customer right?

Me “Namhla let it go”

Namhla “the son of a Bitch” she cursed “he walked away as soon he realised I was looking, Yols I swear there is something there”

Me “I will find out babe” she let it go

After that my mood just decreased, moments later Philani came to “check up on me”

I felt like he came to check if I was angry at him or not, well I was going to ask him but I decided against it.

Him “do you want to get some fresh air for a minute?” I wanted to so I agreed.

Me “I will be back guys” I said walking away with Philani. “Is this your idea of fresh air” we were entering their office.

Him “it’s better than where you were at” I’m sure he has brought me here so I can ask him about that girl but I’m not going to do it. Not now any way. “Do you want something to drink?”

Me “no I’m good” this whole office is so manly I can tell by all the lingering scent of men; it’s just so hard to miss.

I stand in front of him of him and reach for his lips, we kiss for a while until we were both breathing heavily. His big hands holding my butt cheeks firmly,

Him “wait” he walked away and locked the door.

When he comes back to me I could feel his bare chest, he picks me up like I have no weight at all, we still kissing each other hungrily.

He takes my clothes off within a blink of an eye. He puts me on the couch then his mouth find it’s way to my cookie, he devours it like it’s a meal, I lost all my senses when he uses his tongue

like a dog drinking water, I hold his head and push it in, my screaming fills the whole room when I explode, he gives me a minute to catch my breath then continued doing his thing, it wasn't long after another wave of orgasm hit me by surprise I knew I had to return the favour,

Me “wait” I say gentle pushing him off me.

I unbelted his pants, before taking them off with his boxers, I gentle stroke his already erect dick for a few seconds before I put it in my mouth; I got even wet when I feel it's warmth in my mouth.

Him “shit” he says as I move my mouth up and down his extra hard dick.

He holds my head with both his hands while he moves his waist back and forth my mouth.

I play with his balls, with my mouth still sucking his dick.

He groaned loud as he came in my mouth, I swallowed without even thinking about it. He makes me stand on my feet.

He gives me a passionate kiss before he made me lie down on the couch, I don't know when he wore a condom but before I knew it my legs were up in his shoulders, I was screaming his name, he was groaning so loud, his deep strokes made my

wave to build up quickly just as I was about to come he pulled out, really? I breathed in frustration.

He made me sit on top of him, my breasts in his face, I put my arms around his neck while I slowly insert myself in his hard, standing dick, his hands squeeze my butt cheeks while I move up and down, up and down, he sucked my breast while I ride him like my life depends on it, my body vibrates as I reached my destination.

He used my underwear to wipe me clean, before he made me kneel on the couch, he insert himself and fucked me like his life depends on it, I was screaming his name to the top of my voice.

It wasn't long after yet another wave of orgasm heat me up, his groans filled the room as he released.

We both were breathing heavily, I felt like my whole energy was sucked out of my body, I just laid there like a roasted chicken, he kissed my forehead before leaving me he shuffled around then came back and wiped me clean with wipes, he then helped me put on my clothes. I went to the restroom which is in the office, I washed my face and mouth on the sink, I'm sure I look like shit.

I went back, to where he was.

Me "where is my underwear?"

Him "in my pocket"

Me “give it back, I’m sure it can fit in my clutch bag”

Him “it’s now mine baby, finders keepers” I breathed out loud.

I just let it go, I wanted to go home now and rest my body, I’m sure I smell and look like I just had sex.

“Are you a bad person” Athandwa asked me those words when I was left with him alone when he came here to visit his dad.

Me “why would you think I'm a bad person” I didn't know how to answer him.

Him “my mother said you are bad and I shouldn't trust you, you took dad away from her and you can do anything to make him turn his back on us” my mouth was wide open “she said I shouldn't take any food from you because you can poison me to have dad for yourself”

how twisted is Lerato, feeding the little boys mind with all this crap, they were not together when I got involved with Philani, how exactly did I take him away from her?,

“don't worry, I don't think you are a bad person, mom doesn't know you, so she may think you are bad” he added. “Besides, how will you see that it's really poison that you are holding” he laughed, and I joined him with a soft laugh. So Lerato thinks I can harm this innocent soul to gain what really?

I am not really a Facebook fan I post something from time to time, so there is this one time I posted a recent photo from Facebook, a like from Lerato rato caught my attention, I asked Melissa to check it out, and yes it was from Lerato, Philani's

baby mama. It was clear that she was stalking me, she removed the like later.

Melissa checked her wall and she had posts, Like “even disabled girls can take your man never trust these bitches”, “you can’t even see but you act special, girl stay in your lane”, there were many more other posts insulting a blind girl and girls who take other peoples baby daddy from their baby mama’s, post about females chasing man older than them for money. My first guess was Lerato is not mentally stable, and my second was there was something that happened between her and Philani, or they started dating again.

Me “did you ever slept with Lerato while you are with me?” I asked Philani.

Him “what? Why would you even ask me something like that?” even the way he said that made me feel like there is something he is hiding.

I told him about what his son told me when he visited first.

Me “here” I then gave him my phone so he can see the posts himself.

Him “what am I looking at”

Me “the posts, clearly directed to me, unless I am not the only blind girl you are in a relationship with”

Him “so what were you doing in her timeline to begin with”

Me “so you are ignoring the posts?” he can’t be real right now. I told him the like from Lerato Rato that led me to her timeline.

Him “but there is still no mention of your name here babe, I think you are over reacting” why was he even defending her?

Me “you never answered my question, have you slept with her, because in her mind I stole you from her, please answer truthfully Philani”

He took a deep sigh.

Him “I swear I never slept with her” I don’t know whether I am blinded by the love I have for him but he sounded like he was being honest, I sensed a but though. “We kissed, when I went to Cape Town, it was only once and I quickly pulled out” he said softly.

Me “did she kiss you or you kissed her?” I had to know.

Him “that’s not important Ma jones, what’s’ important is I pulled out of the kiss”

Me “it’s important to me Philani” I shouted.

Him “I kissed her, and stopped then she kissed me, and I stopped her” he kissed her? He kissed her? What did that mean? I had a lot of questions in my mind, does he still have

feelings for her, no no I don't want to find out, I blocked those thoughts.

Me "do you still love her"

Him "I love you" that doesn't answer my question.

Me "Philani?"

Him "I don't love her" I didn't believe that, but I let it go. "I love you" I don't know whether he was convincing himself or me. "I love you" he said again.

What Namhla told me about the girl she saw yesterday all over Philani made me think about Lerato all over again, yes she was not doing anything anymore I don't know what Philani did to get her to stop, I am really not ready for another Lerato.

The fact that he acted guilty before I could even ask him about it made me very suspicious, the guy cheated, kissing someone is cheating too so yes he cheated but because it was a kiss I forgave him and we moved on, but I don't think I would accept it if he would cheat again. On second thoughts I don't want to know what is going on, I am not going to ask him about anything.

Monde

I was in the office at work when the receptionist in my floor called to tell me there was someone there for me, it was Bongi, I used to have something with her before I met Ma jones, I told the receptionist to let her through. She entered my office with a huge smile on her face.

She looked good she has on a black tight skirt with a matching top that looks like a bra, she has a very great body, and her dark skin is smooth.

She comes closer to me.

Me “how can I help you Bongi?”

Bongi “wow, before I can even greet you? Is that the welcome I get” she lean forward my chair and kissed my forehead.

Me “what do you want, here and why are you even back” I asked annoyed.

Her “I missed my man” she is more crazy than I thought.

Me “good for him then can you please leave me in piece I want to work”

Her “you look tense Major, so tense” she massaged my shoulder, this girl doesn’t take no for an answer, and what she was doing made me relax a bit so I let her. “Good, relax daddy I got you” she smiled.

Before I knew it she was planting kisses on my neck the little man between my thighs got excited, she saw it and smirked.

She brushed my hard pipe with her small hand; I even forgot my name as my heart was thumping hard on my chest.

I lift her and put her on the table, we were both breathing hungrily, the skirt was already up, I insert my hand, and I become even harder when I saw she was not wearing underwear. She was already wet, I quickly wore a condom. I fucked her so hard, until I came, I didn't even care whether she cums or not, the moment I could breathe normal was when I could realised what I have done. Shame washed over me I could see Ma jones face disappointed by my doing's yet again.

Me "leave" I said with emotionless expression, the stupid smile on her face was replaced by fear, I poured myself a scotch and gulped it down. I was so angry at myself, I could have chased her away, but I didn't. FUCK! What have I done.

Her "can I have money for an uber" she said softly, I took a couple of notes and give them to her, she quickly rushed out.

That was a few days ago.

Yesterday, I was walking past when she tapped me, I didn't want her to make a scene so I stopped to listen to what she wanted to say. She couldn't keep her arms to herself, she was all over me.

Bongi “so you think you can have sex with me and just chase me away?” she was drunk, I decided to play cool, “you are a jerk major, no you are a dog, a trash” if we were not in a public place I swear I would have given her a hot slap.

Me “what do you want Bongi” I was fuming.

Her “I want you to apologise for chasing me out like a dog” I laughed a bit, then immediately collected myself.

Me “walk away Bongi, while you still can” she knows I'm not joking she collected herself.

Her “please give me a few bucks, I promise I will walk away” she always wants money when she sees me.

Me “fuck you” I walk away, when I looked up I remembered that my girlfriend was in the VIP, my eyes met with her friend Namhla, and I have no doubt, I know she saw me with Bongi, she really hates me I won't be surprised if she has already told Yolanda.

But what put me at ease is that a lot of people know me and it's really not shocking for girls to throw themselves at me.

I have to admit I really messed up this time around, I'm sure she wouldn't forgive me if she would find out about this, but I don't think she can find out, what are the odds of her meeting Bongi, they can't, they are two very different people to have that kind of interaction.

From now on I want to be at my best behaviour, no sleeping around, I don't want to change the type of person Yolanda is, I fell in love with her because of her beauty and the person she is. There is a reason, why I slept with women like Bongi and never fell in love with them, there is also a reason why I dated Lerato and it didn't work out.

Monde

In two weeks Landa will be writing her final exams, I decided to take her away on a vacation to relax before the hectic time ahead. We decided on a place where we would relax and enjoy food and each other's company.

I went up to her apartment, I knocked, her sister opened. She is heavily pregnant.

Me "hi, I'm here for Yolanda" she looked at me like she had a lot in her mind, but she didn't say anything.

Melissa "come in, Yolanda Philani is here" she made way for me to enter and shouted to her sister.

It's no secret that she hated me. "You can take a sit" she then disappeared to the little passage.

They both come out with Yolanda pulling a suitcase and Melissa holding a handbag. I stand up and made way towards them.

Me “hey babe” I greeted Yolanda.

Her “hey, how are you?” we hugged and kissed briefly.

Me “I'm good, are you ready?”

Her “yes, I'm ready”

Me “good, let's go then”

Her “I can't help but feel like there is something I'm forgetting”

Melissa “I hope it's just a feeling” they hugged, “I miss you already”. They have a great strong bond.

Her “I'm gonna miss you too sis”

Melissa “take care of my sister” she points at me, these girls really hate me, they don't even pretend.

We arrived at the airport a few minutes ago, we were just waiting for our boarding time.

Me “you sure you don't want anything to eat?”

Her “I'm good babe”

Me “well I'm hungry; I'm going to grab something to eat”

Her “I'm coming with you” we went to a buy food, I bought my food, she settled for a a glass of juice.

We sat down so I could eat.

I took a bite on my burger.

Her “can I have a small bite it really smells nice” I swear she left a small portion, that wasn’t tasting at all.

Me “you can still get your own babe” I convinced her.

Her “I told you I'm not hungry”

Me “but you almost finished my burger, you are now eating my fries”

Her “fine I will stop bothering you” she sulked, while sipping her drink.

Me “are you now angry at me? Baby it’s fine you can share my food, even though I am hungry and you said you were not” she didn’t say anything. I was now feeling bad.

Her “finish up so we can go, we don’t want to miss the plane because you were shouting at me for eating your food”

I didn’t say anything, she is just looking for a fight where there isn’t.

We finally boarded the plane a few minutes away, she fell asleep after we took off.

After hours of travelling, we finally arrived at the hotel we were booked at, very beautiful hotel by the beach, the view is to die for, we were both tired and hungry, we took an innocent shower together then we ordered room service.

We were not really planning on exploring that much, but the next day we decided to go to stone town and learn a bit about the history, their culture, and heritage.

we spent the afternoon Dhow cruising, we were both just relaxing, she has on a swim suite lying down, my eyes can't seem to move away from her, her skin is glowing, this woman is beautiful.

Her "staring is rude Philani Dladla" I was a few inches away, from her it was us and the sailors on the Dhow.

Me "are you sure you really can't see Mrs?" I raised my eyebrow.

She does this a lot and I sometimes think she can see,

Her "are you doubting my disability Mr Dladla" she was smiling a bit.

Me “I can’t help but wonder” I settle next to her.

The next day, we went to Jozani forest which is located in the central east region of Zanzibar, the tour was very calming, there is definitely something about the beauty of nature that brings piece to one’s life, we saw many red colobus monkeys

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there are also many different types of birds and many butterflies.

Her “babe, don’t let these monkeys snatch me away” she hold on to my hand tightly.

Me “relax, they won’t even come near you, I would never let them” she was really terrified.

Her “I heard monkeys are very naughty”

Me “don’t worry you are walking with superman by your side” she burst out laughing.

Her “yeah right”

We spent half a day exploring the forest, we both didn’t want to leave, but we had to. We went to spice community afterwards, I wasn’t really looking forward to going there but she bullied me into going.

I saw her eyes twinkling as she learned about all the spices there, my woman has a very potent bond with anything that has to do with food she loves cooking and she enjoys it, I snapped a lot of pictures of her in all our experiences, I even bought a camera when we decided to vacate.

On the third day we spent our whole day swimming with the Dolphins, at first she was so scared but as she noticed that they meant no harm she warmed up to the experience, nothing warms my heart more than seeing the woman I love happy, I enjoyed being around her more than I enjoyed being on a vacation, I don't think I would be as happy if she was not here with me. I can't imagine a life without her in it.

The next day, we decided to relax by the beach, all day, later at night we went to a restaurant that sell their traditional food.

Her "I think I will have Boko-Boko, it sounds nice" it was a sort of meat stew cooked in maize, ginger, cumin, chilli, tomato and onion, weird combination if you'd ask me. "And, I think you should order Pilau meat it sounds yummy babe" it was prepare

beef cooked with potatoes, onions, spices, coconut milk and rice; it didn't sound as weird.

Me "I will agree only because the dish doesn't sound entirely weird but the coconut milk part on the dish? Ai sobona"

Her "for desert, we will have Spice cake" the waitress recommended it. They say it's very popular there. It's made of a pastry with a mix of cinnamon, clove, nutmeg and chocolate.

As I have predicted, ma jones shared my food, but she didn't want to share hers, I had to beg and beg.

Later at night we were in a Jacuzzi, in our hotel.

Her "stop, people might be watching" I was so hungry for her.

Me "it's late at night babe what would they be doing up, looking outside even"

Her "the same you are doing"

Me "then they should mind their own business"

We stayed for a while with a lot of making out, when we got tired we went to sleep.

The following day we left for the airport,

Her "I don't want to leave this place" she sulked

Me "as sad as it is we have to go back to reality babe"

Her “I need to pee babe”

Me “o-kay, let’s go”

We both got to the Disabled Toilet

Her “how much time do we have” she smiled naughtily

Me “mmh, oh?” she is so sneaky, I got hard immediately, I quickly locked the door.

We made sweet airport love in a toilet. We finished in time clean ourselves and got out,

There was no one outside, we rushed out just in time for boarding our flight.

6 months later.....

37

****6 months later****

Life has been great, everyone at home is good, my sister gave birth 3 months ago to a bouncing baby girl, it's funny how she went to labour in the middle of her baby shower.

I did so well on my exams, and I'm counting months to finish my diploma. For now I'm still clueless on what I want to do once I'm done, I can continue studying towards getting a degree or start working, I don't know I will have to cross that bridge when I get to it.

My relationship with Philani has been doing great really, Lerato moved to the City at the beginning of the year and I thought she would cause drama but she has not, I think she made a good decision as Philani doesn't have to travel every now and then across the country to see his son, I'm not going to lie and say I trust them together because I don't, these people have a history together, but I don't show it because Philani has been a great boyfriend all these months.

Melissa was forced to moved back at home when she gave birth so mom could help with the baby, I refused to move back, saying I wouldn't be able to concentrate with the baby in the

house, which wasn't entirely a lie, but I don't ever want to go back home. I'm used to the freedom of staying away from the parents, visiting for a few days is enough.

I don't even feel like I live alone in this apartment anyway, I'm either with Namhla, or with her at her apartment or I'm usually with Philani at my apartment or at his house mostly, because my parents have a tendency of rocking uninvited.

I arrived at namhla's place a few minutes ago, with Louie. We'll be spending time with Namhla.

Namhla "I hope you don't mind eating take outs babe, there is nothing to eat here"

Me "it's okay, I have been eating healthy for a while, a day won't hurt" I always carry Louie's food when we visit so he's always good. Unless I'm going to Philani's he always has his food.

Namhla “I will order in a minute” she walked away. “I forgot to tell you that Lizzy is back” she says as she comes back.

Me “as long as she doesn’t mind me being here I'm cool”
Namhla practically lives alone, as Lizzy is always away.

Namhla “let me order a pizza then”

Me “plus I'm famished”

She ordered, we then spent the day stuffing our faces with food.
Lizzy was sleeping all day.

Later Namhla got a call from a guy she has a thing with.

Namhla “I swear I will come back before you even realise I'm gone”

Me “if you take longer you won’t find me here, I can’t sit here alone while you are busy getting dickmited out there” she burst out laughing.

Namhla “wow babe, like you have never left me in your apartment for a dick?”

Me “whatever, just don’t go for a long time”

Namhla “plus babe, you are not entirely alone, Lizzy is here too”

She left and I continued watching movies on Netflix, what I like about this site is that they have an audio description, us blind

people get a clue on what is going on the screen. Many devices come with audio descriptions these days you can easily turn it on or off, man I love technology. blind people's lives have never been so great

I hope this girl won't take a while to come back.

Namhla

My friend has to forgive me, I couldn't say no to a dick appointment, but as I promised I won't spend the night.

Malibongwe "hey baby" he says enveloping me in his hands, this guy thinks we are dating.

Me "hey" with a fake smile

I have to pretend, because I want a dick.

Malibongwe "what do you want to eat"

Me "nothing, I promised my friend to come back earlier"

Malibongwe "okay then" he played radio on the way to his place. "Feel at home" he says as we got to his place, "do you want anything to drink"

Me "just water, thanks" he gives me a glass with cold water, his place is always so clean.

I walk to him and kiss him.

Him “wow” I was already undressing him, I didn’t come here to chill.

We kissed then he lifts me while we were still kissing, he walked to his bedroom.

Placed me on the bed, I unbelted his pants, while we were both breathing heavily.

I don’t know when he managed to undress me, but he was hitting it from behind, I was literally calling his name, “fuck me harder Bongweee” it was like I added fuel to the fire, he fucked the hell out of me, this guy is a beast in bed. “it’s all yours baby, it’s all yours” we changed positions many times, I came many times.

He groaned even harder as he released inside a condom.

He went to his bathroom and came with a damp towel, he wiped the both of us, then he slept behind me holding me from behind.

I let him cuddle me, I hate cuddling, and he kissed the back of my neck.

I pretended to be asleep, while waiting for him to dose off then I get the hell out of here.

Within a couple of minutes he was snoring lightly, I carefully untangle myself out of his embrace, he stops snoring a bit but he continued when I was out of his hold.

My clothes were all over the place, I managed to find all of them I quickly wear them, I request an uber, I know how unsafe they can be but I don't want to spend a night in here.

I left as soon as the uber arrived.

I got to my apartment; I guess Yols is already asleep because she is not in sight. I hope she is not sleeping with Louie on my bed.

I suddenly feel so hungry, I go to the fridge and take left over pizza and warm eat, I eat it and wash it with a glass of juice.

I need to take a shower, I still smell Malibongwe all over my body.

I get to my room.

Me "hawu, Yolanda?" there is no sign of her in my bedroom. Louie is sleeping on his little bed. "Yolanda" I shouted, no answer.

Me "Yolanda" I check for her in the bathroom, she is not there.

Maybe Philani came by, I check Lizzy's bedroom they are both not there.

I take my phone to call her, voice mail.

What the fuck is wrong with this girl?

I suddenly have this bad feeling about all this sudden disappearance.

I try her phone over and over

Me “voice mail, nxaah” I throw the damn phone on the bed.

If she left with Philani why would she leave the dog here.

Her last seen on whatsapp is 3 hours ago.

I call Lizzy

Me “voice mail? Come on”

Me “okay Namhla calm down, calm down” where could she be?

I call Philani, it rings for a few minutes.

Him “yah?” so rude.

Me “is Yolanda with you”

Him “who are you?” this guy. do people get paid for being rude.

38

Monde

Me “what should I do then? Baby I miss you”

Her “but babe you knew all week that today I would be spending the night at namhla’s place”

Me “I know but I miss you” I sulked.

She was right I knew she was going to be sleeping over at her friends place but I couldn’t help the feeling of missing her.

Her “don’t worry, I will be all yours after today” I could tell she was smiling.

Me “you promise?”

Her “I promise, gosh you’re such a big baby” we both laughed.

I missed her so much; I hate it when she has to spend her time with someone who is not me. But I understand she has to divide her time among all people in her life

Hours later, I received a voice note from her on whatsapp.

Her 'baby can you believe Namhla ditched me for a Dick?'

Me 'serves you right, you ditched me for her' I laughed at her so hard.

I video called her immediately.

I laughed as soon as her face appeared on my screen.

Her 'you are so evil, I'm your woman, you are supposed to be angry with me not laugh at me Dladla' she sulked.

Me 'you are so cute, when you are angry at me ma jones' her lips were pouted

She looked really cute.

Her "whatevs, I'm not talking with you Dladla"

Me "I love you too babe"

Her "I love you too" she smiled, my heart melted as I see her beautiful smile.

That was a few hours ago.

I am sure she is sleeping now and I know how much she hates being woken up.

My phone rings, I smile a bit thinking it's my baby.

My smile is replaced by annoyance as soon as I realise it's not her.

Him “yah?” I hope this person knows who they are calling; I'm not in the mood for wrong numbers.

Me “is Yolanda with you” who the fuck is asking for my wife?

Him “who are you?” she should have told who the fuck she is before anything.

Her “Namhla, is she with you” this bitch is rude as fuck.

Me “the last time I checked she was at your apartment”

Her “well, I just got here she is not, her guide dog is here”

Me “FUCK, it's late where could she be” a lot of shit is running through my mind right now, “her apartment, didn't she went back there?”

Her “Louie is here as I just told you, and I don't think she would go without him, and she wouldn't leave at night”

Fuck, she is right.

Me “call her sister and check if she is not there, don't tell her you don't know where she is”

I dropped the call, fuck!!

I quickly got up and wore my clothes, I take my phone and car keys.

I drove like a lunatic on the road, it's a good thing that it's almost midnight, there is no other traffic on the road.

I got to her complex and luckily they don't give me any trouble, money talked for me.

I got in the apartment, using my ways; there is no sign of her here.

My mind drifted to an e-mail I received a few weeks ago.

"The mistake a gangster can make is falling in love"

From: your worst nightmare.

The attachment was a picture of Yolanda.

I tried everything to trace the e-mail but nothing, I haven't stopped looking for the sender all we found out was that, it was not sent by someone in the country.

I know I have enemies, and I have always been very careful not to expose ma jones in anyway, the only mistake I did was to fall in love, I have no doubts the person who sent me that e-mail has her

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and I swear on my mother's grave whoever it is won't live to tell the tale.

I have alerted everyone in my circle and we have agreed to meet at our safe house.

Me "how is my son" I said after she answered her phone.

Her "so rude, what's up with you"

Me "do not leave the house Lerato; keep your eyes on him"

Her "what is happening" the last thing I wanted was to make her panic

Me "just do as I say, don't leave the damn house under any circumstances" I dropped the call before she can say anything.

There is already security going to her house.

I went to the safe house, my phone rings as I got there.

Her "Melissa says she is not there, you better find her before something bad happens to her Philani" she drops the call before I could say anything.

Me "I can't just sit around, I have to go and look for her, I literally have no idea where to start looking for her" I was defeated.

Leeto "the start is where she was when she disappeared"

Me “yeah, you are right” I did not think twice I grabbed my car keys. “let me know as soon as you find her location”

Leeto “I'm coming with you” we made way to the car, Leeto is good with all the detective things, and his skill could be useful right now.

We went to namhla's place.

The place is not as safe as where Ma jones lives; there are two entrances and only one security on the main entrance. So it's highly possible for her to have been taken without being seen by the security on duty but it wouldn't be possible for all tenants to not have seen anything.

We got to namhla's apartment; she looked like she hasn't slept a wink.

Her “please tell me you have found something I'm going crazy here”

Me “we haven’t, we are still looking though we will found her soon” I don’t know if I was trying to convince her or myself.
“How long were you gone for?”

Her “plus minus two hours, when I left Lizzy my roommate was sleeping in her bedroom, I will ask her when she comes back maybe she knows something”

Leeto “maybe they were both taken”

Her “I didn’t think it like that, oh my god” she put both her hands on top of her head.

Before we said anything someone fiddle with the door, Leeto and I took out our gun.

Namhla “you have guns?” she put her hands on her mouth terrified.

Me “shhh”

Namhla “Lizzy?” for some moment I had hope that ma Jones would follow her, but nothing. “didn’t Yols come with you”

Lizzy “no..no I left her here” she was shocked to see us, “what happened? Where is she”

Me “we should be asking you that, you are the last person to see her”

Lizzy “what? I don’t know anything, when did she disappear?”

Leeto “we didn’t say she has disappeared, do you perhaps know something”

Lizzy “well, I just assumed since she is not here” she laughed nervously.

I know exactly who Lizzy is, she is a well-known slay queen. I'm just surprised that he stay with Namhla, I can't help but feel like she knows something, but I don't want to raise speculations and alert her, I look at Leeto, he looks at me too. I think he is thinking the same thing as I am.

Me “if you know anything, or if something comes to your attention please let us know” I say to Lizzy.

Namhla “please find my friend Philani, before something bad happens”

Me “I will, I promise” we left.

Leeto “let’s ask for the camera footage”

Me “yes that would be a start”

Me “why do you even have camera’s if they are not working” I was furious.

Security “the camera’s stopped working a long time ago, they never fixed them after” he looked terrified.

Me “what is your job here if people disappear on your watch?
You are useless man”

I walked away from him before I redecorated his face, my anger
was close to taking me there.

Me “yeah?” I answered a call from Saider.

Him “I am sending you the location where her phone was last
active at”

Me “okay” I got the location and punch them on my gps.

It was right before the sun could rise, I flew to the location.

It was after Namhla left to go with her “guy friend” I sent Philani a voice note as I missed him, but instead he laughed at me, after we face timed.

Lizzy “Yolanda, how are you” she greeted cheerfully.

Me “I'm good Lizzy how are you?” I greeted back with a smile.

Lizzy “I'm good, I'm going out, I will see you guys when I come back”

Me “you are living too, Namhla left a while ago too”

Lizzy “she left, when will she come back?”

Me “I don't know, but she said she was going to come back soon”

Lizzy “owh? You can come with me you know” she laughed nervously.

Me “owh no, I don't like going out, I will be okay by myself, Namhla will be back soon”

I don't think I can go to a club with someone I don't know that well I don't even know the person/s she is going with so nope I would rather stay in this apartment alone.

Lizzy “let me get going then, I'm almost late, see you” she rushed out.

I was wearing a sweat pant with pockets, I take my phone to check for time, it was late, explain why I was suddenly so sleepy, I put it back in my pocket, I went to the bedroom to prepare Louie's bed. I left him sleeping comfortable and went to the kitchen to get myself a glass of water.

When I got there I felt like there was someone in there.

Me "hellow?" my first thought was that maybe Namhla or Lizzy came back with their man friend because I could smell the manly cologne or colognes in the room. But no one answered.

Me "anybody there?" silence "I was now scared because Namhla wouldn't scare me like this. I walked backwards, my instincts told me to go and lock myself in namhla's bedroom and call for help.

I took few steps but footsteps moved faster my way.

"If you make any noise, you are dead" he said with a scary voice, I felt a cold mental on my neck.

Me "who are you? What do you want" I asked so fast.

Him "I said any noise bitch" he said aggressively, holding me tighter by the big sweater I was wearing, I stole it from Philani.

Me "please let me go, I..I.. hel..." I didn't even finish the word he hit me on my head with the mental thing, that I make out to be a gun, I collapsed immediately.

I woke up in a moving car, and I quickly remembered that I was in trouble, I wondered how long have I passed out for, but judging by the car ride I figured it's been only a short period of time.

My mind flooded with lots of thoughts, who are these people? What do they want? What did I do? Maybe they went to rob the place but they think I saw their faces.

Me "please let me go, I'm blind I didn't see your faces" silence.

Me "please, if it's money you want my family can pay any amount please"

"this bitch talks a lot" another guy said.

"she does, we have to silence her for a while" the guy that talked at the apartment.

So as I suspected It's really two guys.

Me "please let me go" I sobbed, I got so terrified when I noticed that I was bleeding "I'm bleeding please stop the car, please help me" I sobbed.

Guy 2 "FUCK!!, will you just shut the fuck up" of course they didn't care that I was bleeding they made me bleed.

Guy1 "inject her" the car immediately stopped.

If I could see I would attempt to fight and make a run for it, but now even if I try I wouldn't know where to run to, I'm in deep shit.

He opened my door.

Me "please don't inject me, I won't bother you again" I was too late, before I could even attempt to fight him he injected me.

Guy 1 "she has a phone" I heard him say as I was drifting off to sleep.

The first thing I noticed after I woke up is the cold air in the room, I slowly open my eyes, yes it's morning. My mind quickly took me to the last night's incident.

Where am i? I coughed, a painful cough

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I'm in a very uncomfortable mattress. This room is definitely empty I could tell by the echo when I coughed; there wasn't even a blanket from this mattress.

Who are these people what do they want with me? Did Namhla notice that I'm gone, oh my god, is there anyone even looking for me, I started crying.

A door opened, I quickly composed myself, I didn't want them to see me weak.

"owh you are finally awake" a male voice said, a different one from the two guys.

Me "what do you want from me"

Man "i don't want anything from you sweetheart, but I heard the big boss will make millions from you alone, so I have to take a good care of you in the meantime"

Me "what do you mean? Does my parent know I'm here? Who is the big boss" I had so many questions

Man "I mean exactly what I just said"

Me "are you in contact with my parents, they can pay immediately, I promise"

He laughed so loud.

Man “why would we let your parents know, the point is to make you vanish into thin air, without anyone knowing where you are, and trust me your parents wouldn’t afford even the quarter of the money they are going to pay for you” I’m in deep shit here.

He cleaned my head and put a plaster on the cut, he walked out and forced me to eat.

Him “if you co-operate, I won’t use any violence with you” I quickly opened my mouth.

After I was done he gave me two pills.

Him “here, I know you are in pain” he gives me the pills with water, I did not ask any questions, I gulped down the pills. Because I was in pain.

Monde

Me “yeah?” I answered a call from Saider, he’s very good with tracking

Him "I am sending you the location where her phone was last active at"

Me "okay" I got the location and punch them on my gps.

It was right before the sun could rise, I flew to the location.

When we got there, there are no signs of any people living around. What caught our attention was an old abandoned building nearby, we quickly made our way to the building, we get in and there is no one inside, but it looked like there are people living there, maybe homeless people or drug addicts.

We see a teenage boy approximately 16 to 18 years of age. We asked if he saw or know anything about Yolanda, we showed him the photo.

Boy "sorry grootman, I didn't see anything, I was away for business last night I have only came back right now"

Me "if you hear anything let me know, a great reward might come your way"

He smiled, and nodded.

When we left I noticed a man looking at us but I didn't really put it in my head.

I dropped Leeto at his house and went to my house to freshen and eat, I got in and took a shower when I'm done I wear fresh clothes I went to the kitchen to make myself food before I go

on a search again, I couldn't get to swallow anything, the thought of ma jones, Out there hungry while I'm full. While I should be searching for her.

I got to my car and sped off. I couldn't take my mind off the man I saw when we were living that place.

Luckily, I found the man.

Him "look man, I don't want no trouble"

Me "do you know anything? I asked with a straight head.

Him "I did see a car after midnight, it was black with tinted, windows, I think inside there were two men, the one on the passenger seat got out, opened the back sit, then he threw something over there" he pointed to a little bush. "it looked like a gun, or..."

Me "a phone" I took my phone from my pocket and dialled ma Jones phone. It rings from the bush. I took it.

Him ".when they left I managed to see the number plate it's ..." he added and called the number plate for me.

Me "thanks man" I gave him a couple of 200 rands notes. This is a start.

I don't know how long I passed out after drinking the pills he gave to me, I don't know whether it's day or night, to say I'm scared would just be an understatement , I'm horrified.

At some point I thought I would wake up from this nightmare, but no matter how hard I pinched myself I didn't wake up.

I woke up to someone crying, a girl to be precise. She was crying so painful.

Guy "will you shut the fuck up, my head is hurting because of your stupid cries" sick bastard.

Her "please let me go, I won't tell anyone"

SMACK!! He was beating her, I was more than scared but I didn't want the guy to beat me too. She sobbed.

Him "make a noise again, I will finish you" this was not the guy that fed me that nasty food, I guess they change shifts.

It's obvious I'm not the only one, my question now is, are they human traffickers? They are human organs harvesters?, would they go as far as taking people in their homes? You can never be sure with how far they can go so it's possible.

These things never seem to be real until they happen to someone close to you or to you.

I have always heard about stories of kidnapping, and people snatched while they go by with their lives, never in a million years have I thought I would find myself in this situation. I can't help but wonder if my family and friends are looking for me, the police is always useless in these situations, parents cry for their children until they die without ever seeing them again.

Will they find me still alive? Dad always knows our whereabouts, he knew when I was in Cape Town with a guy and Mels was with her man, but now I'm in trouble and no one is coming for me.

Philani too he always knows my whereabouts but not when I'm in trouble, nxah. If I die here, I swear I will choose haunting their lives over heaven.

Do they even know? Fuck ! I can't seem to get out of my head, I'm stressed, I'm hungry, I'm in pain, my whole body hurts. I'm cold. Even if they don't kill me I will die anyway.

I don't know when I pass out but someone was shouting in the room for attention. I opened my eyes and look where the voice was coming from.

Her "are you okay?" I had what seemed to be a blanket over me but it was not making any difference I was still shivering.

I cleared my throat but words didn't come.

I don't know why she asked if I was okay, even a blind person can see I'm not okay.

Her "sorry, of course you are not okay; just you were shivering so loud"

Me "I'm good, I'm good" I was convincing myself

Her "how long have you been here? What do they want from us?" I wish I had answers to her questions but I was as clueless as her.

Me "I don't know, at first I thought they wanted money from my family but it doesn't look like that" by now they would have made calls with my family, what the guy said to me made me uneasy.

Her "I was walking from school yesterday, they kidnapped me while I was waiting for a taxi" she then sobbed.

Me "I was at my friend's apartment on Saturday"

Her “so that’s like two days ago” meaning it’s over 24 hours and no police is coming for me, I’m as good as dead.

Me “no one is coming for me” I felt hot tears streaming down my face, “no one is coming for us” I said in almost a whisper.

Her “please don’t say that, when I woke up and saw you I had a little hope that, when police come for you they would also find me here, please don’t lose hope” we were both crying.

The door opened.

Him “nice, we are having a crying contest” I’m sure he is a devil. “how nice” he laughed, Fucking Bastard “sit up and eat” I was not going to protest I would die anytime from hunger.

Me “can I have a glass of water”

Him “eat first” I didn’t say anything further, I ate, it was bread and potato chips.

He then gave me bottled water; I gulped the whole glass done

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At least I was now full, but I needed to pee so bad after drinking the water.

Me “I need to pee”

Him “can’t you see the bucket, or you think I’m your mom just because I gave you food”

I remained quiet. He got out, I got up.

Me “can’t you see where the bucket is, I’m sorry to bother you but I’m blind” I said to the girl.

Her “you are blind? I mean you can’t see” she sounded shocked, she cleared her throat repeatedly, she directed me to where the bucket was.

Her “I guess that’s why you are not tied” she said that slowly.

Me “so I’m Yolanda Jones” I said when I got to the matress.

Her “I’m Sisanda Ngcobo” she says.

Me “why did you mean, before the guy came here”

Sisanda “I stay alone, and I don’t really have friends here, and me and my family are not that close, days go by without getting any calls from them” she paused for a moment “I’m 100% sure they dont know I was taken and they wouldn’t even care” she added sadly.

I didn’t know what to say to retain hopes for her, because the reality was I had no hopes either, many people are still missing and it’s been years.

Monde

I knew I was in deep shit as soon as I saw Mr Jones by my gate, I knew that he knew his daughter was missing.

Me “it’s okay, you can let him in” I said to my security.

I parked my car and got out of it, as soon as his car came to a halt he flew out it without even closing his door.

He punched me so hard that I thought I lost all my teeth.

Him “how dare you” PUNCH! “How dare you hide the disappearance of my daughter Dladla?”

I remained quiet, the reason I didn’t want them to know was because they would have gone to the cops and those bastards would mess everything out. And I didn’t think it would take a long time before we found her.

Him “firstly, you continued dating my daughter after I told you to leave her alone, and now you hide her disappearance, is it because of you my daughter is missing Monde?”

I didn't know how to respond to his question because I was not sure either but, it only made sense that I was the reason that they took her.

Him “after all this, I want you to stay the hell away from my daughter, stay away from her or I will kill you with my bare hands” he says showing his hands, he walked away, “stay away” he walked to his car and sped off, he was livid.

“Are you okay boss” that was one of my security guards.

Me “I'm good” I walked to the house.

I didn't think it through when I said, Namhla shouldn't tell them, but thinking about it now it was selfish, if she were to come out dead they wouldn't accept it because they never knew she was missing to begin with.

I took frozen peas from the freezer and put it on my eye. He did a number on me I give that to him.

After I felt like I was good I threw it away and walked to my bedroom, I don't remember when last I took a shower, I showered and wear other clothes, the beatings from Mr Jones made my mood worse.

I made something to eat before I took a nap on the couch; I haven't had a proper sleep ever since ma Jones was taken.

I woke up hours later, I can't say I had a proper sleep, how can I sleep when I don't even know if Landa is alive wherever she is.

After we got the number plate we managed to track the owner of the car but it was all dead end when the owner said his car was stolen the previous day, and indeed he had reported it, the only fingerprints we got from the phone were Yolanda's.

Someone was following that Lizzy girl, they managed to hack her phone, my suspicions were confirmed when they saw she made a call to a man who is associated to a well-known human trafficker, and a message that says "make it snappy", just around the time Yolanda was taken.

Leeto "we got him" that is the best news I received all day, we are a step away from founding My Wife.

I quickly took my car keys and cell phone as soon I received that sms.

41

It's been over 48 hours, Sisanda and I have cried together, given each other hope that a miracle will happen, we have laughed at our sad jokes, we are both under a very dark cloud but it is better because we have each other, we give each other hope even though there isn't any.

We have been in this filthy room for hours; I am even used to the terrible smell in this place. If don't die here, it will only be because I'm immortal, every time I fall asleep I wished I never wake up.

The door opened, I guess they have come to give us food as we haven't had any all day today, I'm famished.

Guy "Get up it's time to go", there were two of them, one grabbed me aggressively.

Me "you are hurting me" I have reached the point of not giving a fuck whether they kill me or not, I have realised they were not going to let us go no matter how hard we begged them.

Him "shut the fuck up bitch" he gave me a very hot slap, they are always so angry, the nice guy from day 1 never came again. I had hopes that he would come again and I would ask for help to him I guess I was just being delusional because he knew I was abducted and he didn't help me, all he cared about was getting paid for "baby sitting me".

Me “I’m not dumb just so you know, I can walk fine without you holding me like I will slip” they treat us like we can’t hear.

Him “You have a big mouth, don’t you?” he shouted, I got up

Guy 2 “be careful not to bruise that one, or you will get in trouble” the other one says “but with this one we can do whatever” he added,.

Guy1 “what’s so special about her?” he sounded disgusted by me “I will show her who I am by fucking the other girl in front of her” he let go of my arm.

Guy 2 “she won’t see you, yi mpumputha leyo” he had a stupid laugh.

Guy1 “she can hear just fine right, it’s still good” God help, they can’t do that, this is all my fault.

Sisanda “please don’t do that...please” she begged, it’s all my fault, I shouldn’t have said what I said to the guy.

Guy2 “shut the fuck up”

Me “please leave her alone. Please” I begged sobbing.

Guy2 “shut up” he gave me a hot slap,

Me “please” I sobbed.

“What’s taking so long” a voice from outside said.

They stopped what they doing and dragged us towards the door.

Guy 1 “fucking Bitch” he spit his dirty saliva on my face, I wiped it off, and cried silently, I still don’t understand why they are assaulting us and throwing us with insults, they almost raped Sisanda how crazy are these guys really.

Guy 2 “open the door man” he shouted from the one outside. He opened.

Guy 3 “they are supposed to have passed out by now, did you even inject them” silence “you are both so dumb maan, nxah” he walked away.

Guy1 “you didn’t say we were supposed to drug them”

Guy2 “how when you were busy wanting to fuck?” they both laughed, I'm no psychologist but I have already diagnosed these people with serious mental illness.

Guy3 came back; I felt a sting on my arm then lights out.

Monde

I got to our ware house, they had a passed out guy tied on the chair, and they beat him so badly he is barely recognisable.

Athi “what happened to your face?” That man did a number on me.

Me “Jones happened” they looked at each other and burst out laughing.

Mxm, I went to get myself beer.

Leeto “he’s waking up” we all got closer.

He was shocked when he saw all of us.

Him “you bastards, what do you want from me?”

Me “I believe you are one of the responsible people for the disappearance of someone very close to me” I say coolly

Him “that’s bull shit, who ever gave you that information lied to you I'm not in...” Athi cut him out.

Athi “I hope you won’t regret your decision of denying knowing anything after this” he signalled with his hand.

One of the guys we work with came forward with a tablet in his hands.

Athi “show him what he is up to losing if he continues lying, within a minute we will shoot your little family, and let you go, you are going to be miserable all your life and no amount of money can bring them back” they showed him his girlfriend’s picture with their two son’s.

Him “I swear I don’t know anything, don’t hurt them” he sobbed’

Me “keep on convincing yourself” I started counting from 5 down.

Him “okay, okay I will tell you everything I know” he said. “this chick I know approached me a while back, about selling me a girl, she told me details about her, and I told Roger about it, I didn’t hear from her for a while, then she recently called me telling me to go get her at the apartment, she gave me details, and I quickly sent people there” I was so disgusted by this whole thing, Roger is a well-known human trafficker and other illegal dealings in the country, police have tried to bring him down for a while but they just do not get any concrete

evidence against him, he does a very clean job, my fear now is he might have shipped ma jones to another country already.

Me “tell the whole story, bastard” I found myself punching him so hard on his ribs; he coughed for a while then continued.

Him “he.. he sells these girls to other countries through an online auction, the girl..the blind girl was sold to a well-known thug in Thailand, he ..he has an obsession for blind girls” he then told us everything he knew about the whole operation.

We didn't waste any more time we went to places where they keep these girls. We were in a mini bus, we were ready for war.

We got there late, because there were police there

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I spotted Mr Jones and by how he looked, it was either Landa was not found or she was dead.

There were no signs of the girls anywhere, this is really some messed up situation how can they just vanish in thin air, it's obvious we are not doing a good job.

I lost my mind for a moment, we had to go back to find other leads, when we got to the ware house, I got to know where this sick bastard roger live, I took my car and left. I refused the

other guys when they wanted to come with me, if I want this to be right I had to do it alone to not attract any unnecessary attention.

It was already late when I got to his house, for a big shot thug he really is careless on his security system or he doesn't want to attract attention. There was only one security on the gate, by pointing a gun on his face he let me in without thinking twice, I guess he values his life more.

I parked quickly because he was going to inform whoever was inside that I'm in the yard, I ran to the back door, as they won't be expecting me to enter that way.

When I got there were two guards and they were not yet aware of my presence in the yard, I shoot them before they could even attempt to get their guns, the good this about my gun was a silencer.

I made my way in, there were lots of guards inside, but I took them by surprise. I shoot at everything that was breathing in

the house, there was still no sign of their boss, I'm sure he is around here. Some guards came out of no where, this is a kill or be killed situation and I'm not about to die now not until I found Ma Jones.

I made my way up the stairs, shooting everything on my sight, I quickly loaded my gun, out of no where one of his guys shoots me on my shoulder, I shot him in between his eyes in return.

I was really tired, in pain too all the guys in sight were dead, I went to what seem to be his bedroom but he was not there, I looked for him everywhere, until I got to his study, he was there.

Roger "at last" he poured two glasses of scotch, he gave me one I declined. "What do I owe this surprise?" he looked at me.

Me "I want what is mine Roger" he faked laugh.

Roger "owh really, and what is that"

Me "you know exactly what I'm here for" I was getting irritated.

Roger "I don't have anything, that belongs to you Major" he laughed. I just became so angry and shot him in the leg, he cried like a little girl, he was wasting my time "let's talk about this, you don't want us to be enemies now do you?, you have already killed my man, and now you shot at me? I can still let this go, we can still speak like men"

Me “where is my woman Roger?, where are the girls?”

He just laughed, I swear I saw red when he laughed; I shot him on the head while he was still snickering to nothing.

I then, look for anything that would be useful, While looking I saw something on the monitor.

There were girls on what seem like a basement, I went there quickly my heart beating so fast in my chest, when I got there, they were so terrified, but I assured them I'm not going to hurt them.

There were about 11 young girls in there; Yolanda was not amongst them, Fuck!

Me “no no no, Yolanda? Ma Jones” I shouted, I could feel my tears streaming down my face, I failed her, I'm sure she counted on me to find her and I failed her.

The girls said they never saw her there.

I made my way out I looked more around the house, something in me told me to look.

When I was about to give up I found some kind of a secret room upstairs, she lied in bed like a dead person when I got to her she was still breathing I guess they have drugged her, I quickly scooped her in my arms, I'm sure the police are on their

way with all the gun shots, this is a very quiet suburb, and I know how people in these areas react.

I quickly placed her in the back sit.

The police will help those other girls, I don't want to find myself in the mix, I did kill all those people after all, and the police can simple shift the whole thing to me.

I drove away quickly. I passed many police cars going the opposite direction when I was on the road.

I woke up a minute ago and I have been pretending to be asleep to observe what is going on around me, I noticed there was a beeping sound, my mind went to the last thing that happened before they injected us, these people are really sick, and what are they going to do to us? At this moment I'm sure they took me for my organs because I can tell I'm in a hospital kind of setting. I didn't realised I was crying aloud.

“Baby you are safe, you don't have to cry any more you are safe” he said.

Me “leave me alone; what do you want from me? Stay the hell away from me” I shouted kicking and screaming.

Him “it's me Ma Jones, stop moving you will hurt yourself” it's Philani.

Me “phila? Philani?” I cried even louder

Philani “you are safe baby, you are safe” he hugged me.

I hold on to him for dear life, I felt so safe in his arms. He told me he found me in some room passed out, highly drugged. But at least I was not sexually assaulted, just the beatings and they did a number on my face, my head hurt so much and they refused to give me something for the pain.

Me “there was a girl I was with at that place, she is also okay right?” I was worried about Sisanda.

Phila “you were alone baby in that room when I found you, maybe she was with the 11 girls in the basement”

Me “she had no hopes of being found, baby” I could fill my eyes tear.

Him “don’t worry I will found out if she was with them”

Me “please do” I sniffed.

I fell asleep with him sleeping next to me; I woke up a while later to a commotion.

Dad “I thought I made myself clear Dladla” he sounded angry. “Why do you keep on disregarding my orders, about my daughter?” I think they found him sleeping next to me.

Mom “Richard, please this is no time for that, my little girl is lying in here for god sake” she shouted.

Dad “I just want him to stay away from my daughter”

Mom “RICHARD!” she shouted

Dad kept quiet.

Mom “hey baby, she says gentle brushing my arm” I could tell she was crying. I joined her; it was still hard to believe that I was free from those sick psychopaths.

Me “I want to get out of here, mom”

Mom “shhh don’t cry baby I will have a talk with your doctor, I understand”

They stayed for a while until visiting hours were over, the doctor didn’t want to let me go home, but I was going to be discharged the next day.

To be honest I don’t know why they are keeping me here I am not sick, besides my whole body hurting.

Namhla visited me, during the day.

Namhla “I shouldn’t have left you alone chomi” she blamed her self

Me “that’s crazy, it’s not like you left me alone in CBD, it was in the apartment and who would have thought the people would go as far as getting to the apartment to kidnap”

Namhla “I still can’t believe Lizzy would go so far to make quick bucks” me too, what Lizzy did showed me to never trust anyone, some people have sick agendas.

Me “I hope she gets served with many years in prison, who knows how many girls out there she did this to”

Namhla “yeah hey” she says after clearing her throat. “I even moved from that apartment I didn’t feel safe anymore”

Me “you did good babe, if I could be taken while there is security, a lot more can happen there” I said.

She stayed for a while then left.

Philani came back after the visiting hours were over for the day.

Me “so did you find anything? “

Him “Eish baby I did and she was not amongst the girl that were in the basement” he signed “I didn’t want to tell you this but, there were some girls that disappeared in some abandoned building they were at, when your father and the police got there they were gone there are no leads where they could have been”

Me “but it was only us in that place Philani, she couldn’t have been with the girls that disappeared” I was in denial.

Him “we looked for every possible lead for her but she is nowhere to be found, that’s why we believe she was with those girls”

Me “why did they even kidnap people?”

By now I knew they snatch and kidnap girls but I had no idea for what, my parents just dismissed me when I asked that question.

Him “baby please let this go please” he begged.

Me “no Philani, I am the one who was kidnapped, I deserve to know, whether it was for prostitution

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or organ harvesting, or whatever reason it was I deserve to know”

Him “they kidnap young girls to make them sex slaves to other countries” tears were streaming down my face, I could tell he was crying too but he didn’t want me to find out.

Me “why did they separate me to the other girls then?”

Him “I don’t know baby, all I know is that, they auctioned you to the highest bidder, a sick bastard that has a fetish for Blind girls” I was disgusted from hearing all this.

I couldn’t believe my ears, people are sick out there. People have sick fetishes out there; they even go as far as kidnapping people to satisfy these crazy obsessions.

I can’t help but wonder how many people have been kidnapped or been victims because they possess the characteristics of these sexual obsessions.

I am very sad that Sisanda didn’t get rescued, I thought we were going to be saved together, I gave her that hope but no she is still out there, who knows what will happen to her. This is

so painful, the fact that she had no hope of being rescued, but had hope that I would be rescued which will be saving her too.

She is only 19 years for goodness sake, she has her life ahead of her, I wish Philani made a mistake and Sisanda is safe with her family.

We were together for many hours supported each other the best way we could but, the universe had other plans for our fates.

I cried myself to sleep.

this is really not fair, she is a sweet girl, how will I live my life knowing that she is suffering out there, I know there are other girls too, but I know Sisanda , well I feel like I know her. We might have been in that place for a few days but to us it felt like years, I can't imagine what she is feeling wherever she is.

I woke up to someone shuffling around me. I panicked a bit.

Him "it's me babe, I'm not going to live your side"

I cleared my throat.

Me "I need to go to the toilet"

Him "okay, let me help you up" he helped me up, I went to the toilet and did my business, when I was done I washed my hands and made my way to the bed.

Him “I got food, are you hungry?”

Me “I'm famished, what do you have” I was eating like it's my last day on earth, those fools really starved us, I will eat everything in front of me from now on.

Him “I got burgers with chips and ” I cut him off.

Me “great, please pass me my share” he chuckled.

I sat comfortable and started eating.

Me “baby, there must be something I can do” I swallowed. “I mean with the Sisanda situation”

Him “what do you know about her”

Me “I know her surname, where she is from in Kzn, where she is studying” I told him about what I know about Sisanda.

Him “I can help you track her family baby, it won't be trouble, and maybe if we can find her those other girls can be found too” Me “yeah, my conscious won't be at ease when I'm doing nothing”

I don't think I will ever be the same my whole life, as much as I'm safe, I also want Sisanda and the other girls to be found.

There is something I have to do about this, at least Philani is willing to help me in this, that is the start.

Two weeks have passed; we managed to track down Sisanda's family, well Philani did, Sisanda does have a father who has other children and a wife, her mother died when she was 9 she has been staying with her aunt who doesn't care much for her, when we alerted them they were shocked, the police are still busy with the case, it has come to my attention that Sisanda's family wants her to be declared dead because they want to put the whole thing pass them.

How can they give up on her like that, I spend less than five days with her but I want her to be found, she is a good person, I want her to come back to her life. I have really been so emotional towards this matter.

These people are her family, father and her mother's sister, how can they do this to her? She told me about how they didn't care about anything that has to do with her, but to act like this when she has been kidnapped? Some families out there.

This whole Sisanda's family thing, made me appreciate my parents even more we share no blood but the love they have for me, I sometimes even forget that I was adopted.

After I got discharged I moved home, I don't know if I will move here permanently. I feel safe and all but it's not as how it used to be before. Being in the house with my parents especially

dad, feels like prison, especially after what happened they have been fussing, dad even go as far as transporting me, i know he is doing all that to keep me away from Philani.

I haven't seen Philani in two weeks, and I feel like I'm going crazy. we do Phone calls and video calls but that's not enough, I want to touch him, kiss him, I want to feel his skin against mine.

"Breakfast is ready" mom shouted.

I snapped out of my day dreaming, I take my phone and left the room, I have already cleaned myself.

When I got to the kitchen there were kissing sounds. See why it feels awkward at times being here?

I cleared my throat.

Mom "morning baby how did you sleep?"

Me "morning mom, I slept good thanks and you"

Mom "good baby"

Me "dad"

Dad "angel, do you still have night mares?" I have been having crazy nightmare in couple of days ago, but they are becoming better now, I have gone back to therapy.

Me “I don’t have them anymore” I lied, they are not as they were on the first week I couldn’t sleep at night, but now I wake up once. That’s improvement

Dad “okay, honey I’m heading out, there is something that needs my attentions at the firm”

Moms “have something to eat first Richard”

Dad “okay, I guess breakfast won’t hurt”

We ate over a light conversation.

Melissa was still sleeping, she sleeps a lot during the day, the little princess keeps her awake at night.

Dad “do you want me to drive you sweetheart”

Me “no dad I will be fine, nate Sam will be here shortly”

Dad “okay, I will see you later” he says as I made my way to my room, to collect my things.

I was free today but I lied to people in this house.

Me “I’m heading out mom” I was already walking towards the door with Louie guiding me.

Mom “okay baby enjoy” I will make this day memorable mom thank you, I said in my mind.

Me “thanks mom I will see you” I walk out before she can say anything else.

Me “you can drop me off at work, ntate” I said to Ntate Sam after greeting.

Him “god I missed you so much Ma jones” he said pecking my lips and giving me a very warm hug.

Me “I missed you too babe” I was suddenly emotional.

him “let’s get out of here” he helped us into his car.

Me “thank you” he pecked my forehead before going to his side.

Him “so how is school?” he asked as we drove off.

Me “it’s been good, I have managed to catch up with everything”

Him “and work?”

Me “that too, the stuff at that place are really nice unlike the previous one, how have you been?”

Him “good babe, everything is well”

I nodded.

We got to his place, we were going to chill and watch something on TV, you know spending quality time together.

Him “you want anything to eat? Drink?” he ask as soon as we entered the house.

Me “I'm still good baby, thank you” I settled on the couch in lounge.

I laid on the couch, he came a few minutes later and laid on the same couch facing the other side.

We talked for a while, we were not even watching any TV, just an innocent chill with catching up, and we had a throw over our bodies.

We kept quiet for a while I thought he was sleeping, I was now horny but I didn't want to wake him up.

I moved my leg that was next to his package, I moved it back and forth for a countless number of times. I don't know whether he woke up because of my act or he was reacting to it while fast asleep, but I felt him grow bigger and bigger.

He placed his hand on my thigh, I could tell he was in the same train as I was, my heart jumped with joy. He brushed my thigh a couple of time.

Him “fuck ma jones”

He quickly got on top of me and kissed me slowly with so much passion.

His hands gentle squeezed my breasts.

A moan escaped my lips.

A second later our clothes flew across the room, it was clear that we were both hungry for each other.

He slowly inserted his shaft inside my cookie, I gasp for air, it's been a while.

He started moving slowly inside me, I find myself moving with him, he started moving faster and faster, I lost myself and screamed so loud. He was fucking the hell out of me.

The feeling was so amazing, I screamed his name as I exploded.

Me “Philaniiiiii” I had a mind blowing orgasm.

The room was filled with my screams and his groans. He groaned louder as he came on the condom inside of me. This guy has an injury on the shoulder but he work me like this.

We spent the whole day eating and making love, when it was time I knock off at work he returned me where he took me,

Me “but I don't want to part ways with you” I sulked.

Him “I know baby, but you know your father would kill me”

Me "I hope we will see each other soon"

Him "me too babe, let me go before your driver gets here, i love you" he pecked my forehead. He left with the other side of my heart.

"Princess how long have you been waiting?" it was dad

Me "not long daddy," he had to fetch me.

We drove over a light conversation. When we got home I made my way to my room, I took a quick shower, wore my pjs then my gown.

"it's nice to be your Aunt baby, she goes to work and comes back home glowing" Melissa said, I laughed so hard.

Me "God Melissa, what are you trying to tell the little princess" baby Thandoluhle was making baby noises.

Mels "out with it Yols I know you were not at work"

Me "I was with Philani okay" I whispered.

Melissa "at least you got some, princess don't be sneaky like your auntie okay? Okay my cutie pie"

Thandoluhle "bhbuhoijroury"

Melissa "yes baby no boys until you are way too old" I was smiling to their meaningless conversation

Me "are you going to be the strict parent sis?"

Melissa “I have to sis, her father spoils her like there’s no tomorrow”

Me “what could he spoil her with she is still young”

Melissa “whoa, you don’t know what I go through when they are together, from toys she doesn’t even need clothes she outgrew in a week after they were bought, if she wants to be carried her father jumps, whatever she wants Nathi do, so irritating” she was frustrated.

I chortle.

Me “give him a break sis, she’s his first child”

Melissa “mine too but I have limit’s sis”

Me “he’s still getting used to the idea of having a kid, give him a break”

Thandoluhle Ava is almost four months, I am still very scared to hold her, I don’t want to drop her. I know it’s crazy but I can’t help it.

three months have passed, still no signs of Sisanda and the other girls, I have lost hope, Philani and his friends have looked all over for them. The police still say they are investigating, those one's are very useless, at least Philani and the others have been following a few leads before they reached a dead end, they have their lives to live so I am not going to resent them for stopping to look, it hurts though.

I wished I was a detective right now, but I'm not, so I will let it go and keep her on my prayers.

My father has been making my love life very difficult, I really don't know why he hates Philani so much.

I remember this other day we had a very heated argument.

Me "dad I'm not a little girl anymore" I shouted

Dad "ow yes you are, if you think I'm going to let you date that boy, you obviously don't know me"

Me "dad Philani is not a boy, he is old" for goodness sake Philani is 10 years older than me. Or maybe that is the reason why he doesn't like him? Or he thinks I don't know about his dark life?

Dad "I don't want to argue with you Yolanda" he dismisses me.

Me "at least if you'd let me know why you don't want me to be in a relationship with him I would never understand dad, the moment you realise I'm an adult you'd treat me as one"

Dad "Yolanda, I'm your father. And I want all the best for you"

Me "and you wonder why I no longer want to live here at home? I'm an adult and I deserve to be treated as such"

Dad "what you don't understand sweetheart is that I have been in this world way before you were conceived, thinking that you have life figured out because of the few years you have been in this earth will not make you older" this guy is unbelievable.

Me "whatever dad"

but he still didn't tell me why he hates Philani., because of him i can't remember the last time I saw my man, if he is even still my man, people move on without letting each other it's over so this might be the case to us too.

Melissa got married a month ago, it was a very beautiful wedding, they opted for a small, intimate wedding with their close family members and close friends, I think I want something like that too, or just signing at home affairs, oh look at me planning a wedding while I haven't even made my mind if I ever want to get married.

I have witness Melissa and Nathi's relationship, it's very beautiful, they have a good communication system, which I think is a priority in a marriage I hope they remain like this forever, because I believe what they share is very special, they make people admire their love, to think that Melissa didn't want to give Nkosinathi a chance, she almost missed an opportunity to experience real love. But she has really grown, I give that to her, she is now a badass lawyer and a family woman. Some of us can only dream. Look at me admiring a relationship I never wanted to happen, but they are doing it right now so I have to give them credit.

Home is not the same without my sister at home, my parents now treat me like a kid, I don't understand why because

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they know they have to let us be our own individuals at some point, they used to tell us they were not going to be around forever I just don't understand when that changed.

I am driving to their place to get my sister out of the house, yes, I'm not driving myself Ntate Sam is but it makes me feel good when I say I'm driving, when I know I will never get that chance, anyway it was Nathi's idea, but I would like to spend some time with my sister.

We got to their place and I told ntate he can go Melissa will drive us.

I got to their place and ring the bell, they live in a very beautiful 3 bedroom house.

Someone opened the door.

Melissa "Yolanda, what are you doing here? Who drove you here"

Me "wow, hellow to you too sis" I say rolling my eyes

She chuckles

Her "sorry come in, Louie. How are you sis?"

Me "I'm good how are you" we exchanged greetings while I made myself inside.

Mels "would you like anything to drink?"

Me “juice please”

Mels “baby Yolanda is here” she shouted from the kitchen.

Nathi “I will be there in a minute”

She chuckles.

Mel “he won’t be here for a while, he is dressing his daughter and it’s always a struggle” I laughed softly.

Me “how is my little princess”

Mels “besides being naughty, making me grow grey hair she is good” I chuckled

Me “she is growing”

Mel “we finally managed to baby proof the place, otherwise I would have been admitted to a psychiatrist hospital”

Nathi “at last I'm done” he said as he made his way to the lounge, we laughed at him. “How are you Yolanda?”

Me “I am well thanks how are you” I take baby Thando because she crawled next to me.

Nathi “what do we owe the pleasure of you blessing us with your appearance”

Me “I'm afraid this is not a social visit, ‘hows my cute princess’, ‘how are you?’” Thando was making baby talks, I am not afraid of holding her anymore.

Melissa “everything okay then?”

Me “everything is good I just came to take you out” I replied
Melissa

Melissa “owh, but I ..” I cut her off

Me “ not up for discussion Mels, it’s been a while since we
spent time together”

Nathi “if you girls are going out then, let me take this one from
you before she burps all over you I just fed her”

I give him the princess after planting kisses all over her face,
she was a giggling mess.

Mel “let me go and change then” she was sulking”

Nathi “aw gosh Thando” she just burped on him. “You not a
lady”

I laughed, that was so close.

We finally drove off with Mels giving countless instructions to
Nathi on what to do like he was some stranger who didn’t know
how to babysit.

We did some shopping, but guess who ended up in kids section, yes Melissa.

Me “sis, you are too much of a mom, this day is for you to get some air, and shop for you” I say when I found her.

Mels “I can’t help it okay, it just happens” I took a deep sigh.

We paid then went to a restaurant; we ordered then waited for our food while sipping on our drinks.

Mels “so how have you been?”

Me “I have been good sis, but the parents are making my life so difficult, they treat me like a kid” I say in frustration.

Mels “they still doing that, when will it actually get to them that you are grown”

Me “I hate being the last child” she laughed.

Mel’s “so are you and Philani still good?”

Me “to be honest, I think he finally got tired of dad being in his throat about living me, I can’t remember the time I last saw him and he doesn’t even call, I stopped because I felt like I was boring him” I say after drawing a deep breath.

Mel “ow baby sis, I'm sorry, I think I should have a word with dad” I just shrugged my shoulders because I really don’t know what to say to dad anymore.

Me “mom tried countless times”

Mel’s “no he has to know you are not five anymore”

Our food came we ate, while she was telling me stories about Thando.

My sister is really in a good place; her career is blossoming, not talking about her little family.

Monde

I haven't seen Yolanda for a very long time, not because I have stopped loving her, no god knows how much I love her. Her father has been trying to keep us away from each other ever since he knew we were a thing, no matter how much I assured him that I will never put her in harm's way he just didn't care.

Seeing each other behind his back was nice at first, the thrill that came with the fear of getting caught at all that was really nice, but I got to a point where that all bored me, there are days where I just want to spend some days with my woman without worrying about her father finding out and going crazy on us, I am way too old to be seeing my woman in secluded places.

I didn't want to reach a point where Yolanda would disrespect her father because of me so I just focus my energy on other things, with the hope that maybe her father will come in to realisation that we love each other.

Right now I am at Lerato's place to see my son, it's been a while.

Lerato "here is his bag, I have packed his flew medicine in there" she says giving me my bag.

Me "thanks, I will put a reminder for the medicine" I say "are you ready to go?" I looked at Athandwa, he just nods. "Great, let's go"

Athandwa "so dad I have been a really good boy right?" I just look at him because I know how tricky he is. "if you didn't know, I have and good kids are supposed to be rewarded"

Me "what made you a good boy" I raised my eyebrow.

Him "well, I have been brushing my teeth, eating all my food and cleaning my room and making sure that I don't leave my toys laying around" he counted with his fingers.

Me "okay?"

Him "yes, you can even ask mom"

Me "but I don't see why you should be rewarded for things you are supposed to do I the first place"

Him “dad, you don’t understand some kids don’t do what i do their parents have to shout at them before they do at least one of the things I do”

Me “okay, what do you want to be rewarded with then?”

Him “sneakers, I saw these really nice sneakers and mom refused to buy for me, she says I have many already”

Me “well, she was not lying you do have plenty sneakers chap” he lowered his head sadly. “but because I'm a great dad let’s get you those sneakers now”

He snapped his head fast, looking at me with a very cute smile.

Him “you are the best daddy”

We got to the mall and head to sportcene where he says he saw these sneakers, and luckily we got them, I have to say the little chap has a great taste they are really nice.

We got out and went to buy some food at Woolworths, as we were walking from isle to isle I caught a glimpse of Ma jones with her sister

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I wasn’t really expecting to see her, I mean what are the odds of bumping I to someone you are low key avoiding and missing in this city with thousands of people.

I am sure she hates me because I just ghosted her without any explanation, I am 100% sure that she didn't expect this behaviour from someone my age, but what could I have done, when someone made it his first priority to get us apart, but that is certainly no excuse for my childish behaviour.

I was brought back to earth by Athandwa.

Him "we gonna pay for all of this right?" I snapped out of my thoughts, the trolley was filled with every junk you can think of.

Me "nice try, I am not paying for any of this, we have come to buy real food not snacks, so I will advise you to put them back" he sulked and put them back one by one.

When I look where I saw Landa and her sister they were not there anymore, i let out a breath I didn't know I was holding.

Me "hurry up, we have do get out of here"

"Without even saying hi" a female voice said behind me, I look back and its them, I cleared my throat several times.

Melissa "how are you Philani" my eyes landed on Yolanda damn she looks good.

Me : clearing throat " I'm good how are you?" I could tell she was angry at me however I couldn't read ma Jones face.

"Landa, how are you"

Landa "I'm good" she said softly, "I need to buy a chocolate cake Melissa lets go to the bakery"

Me "it was nice seeing you ladies" there was just a lot of awkwardness

Landa " likewise" she managed to say.

Melissa "See you around, Athandwa bye boy" they walked away "you and chocolate cake?"

Landa "I suddenly felt like it" they both laughed.

I watch at Yolanda until they were out of sight, I took a deep sign.

Is that what we have become now, it's like we were two strangers trying to make a conversation.

After we finished I paid and I placed everything on the boot.

I spent the whole weekend with my son, I am glad I did because my mind is in a better place now.

Him "why cant I stay here? I don't understand why I have to go back"

Me "come on we talked about this"

Him “other kids at school stay with both their parents, I don’t get it why you stay here alone and we stay alone too” I just ignored him, we have to sit him down and talk with him with his mother.

I took him to his mother’s place, and we did talk to him I think he understood.

Lerato “you guys really had a great time hey, I can see how happy he is, thank you” we are co-parenting fine.

Me “we did, you know you don’t have to thank me for spending time with my son right?” we hugged and I kissed her forehead.

Lerato “drive safely” she turn back to the house as I made my way to my car, I got in and looked at her as she made her way to the house.

I shake my head to return to my right state before driving off.

46

It's half way through the year, and I am only left with couple of months of practical experience before I bag my diploma. I received a rather shocking call from a stranger earlier on, the stranger who is Philani.

Philani "how are you"

Me "I'm well thanks how are you?" I tried to sound as normal as ever.

Philani "I'm good" he then remained silent for a while.

Me: I cleared my throat "can I help you with something" I tried to speak as it was just so awkward.

Philani "ah, I'm.. firstly I would like to apologise for everything" I remained quiet "I shouldn't have disappeared and ignored you, and I'm sorry" I still didn't say anything "I would like us to talk face to face, I miss you"

Me "I miss you too" that was my stupid heart speaking for me, it does his a lot.

Him "I would like us to talk ma jones" I nodded but then I realised he couldn't see me.

Me "me too" I say in a barely audible voice.

We said our goodbyes, I didn't protest to the idea because we really needed to talk, I always like to know where I stand with someone so I think it's better we clear the air.

It is around 8 am, and today I am babysitting the little princess, her parents are taking few hours for themselves, mom will be a secondary babysitter as I have never done this before, I don't want to lie I'm scared but I will be fine, because mom is here, even though she will be basically teaching me about babysitting.

I was already dresses comfortable in my lounge wear, I closed my bedroom door going downstairs, I stopped before I could appear when I hear people in a heated conversation, and it is Mels and Dad.

Mels "I'm not saying don't look out for your kids dad, but don't overdo it"

Dad "it's great that you have a child of your own, you will get exactly why I'm overprotective of you children when she is growing up"

Mel "dad I'm not saying don't protect your children, I'm just saying have a limit, you're overdoing it, would you rather know what your kids get up to, or rather they hide it for you because you are this dramatic?"

Dad “Melissa watch your words, just because you are married doesn’t mean you should think we are age mates, you are a kid and you will not talk to me like that” I roll my eyes on Mels behalf.

Mels “ay, at least I tried”

I made my way to the room.

Mels “aunty Yols” I laughed

Me “Mels that sounds so weird”

Mels “it does, I'm rushing sis, come this side I will show you everything”

She showed me everything in a way I understand, then she left. I watched some documentary on the TV, the little princess was with her grandfather, mom went to the shops.

Minutes later dad came with the crying baby Thando to me.

Me “what’s wrong with her?” my eyes were popped out.

Dad “I don’t know sweetheart, I think she is hungry or she needs a diaper change”

Me “diaper what? No she must be hungry, besides I don’t know how to change a diaper” I say frowning.

Dad hands her to me.

Me “what’s wrong baby, are you hungry? Yes you are” I tried to calm her down, she eventually did.

Dad comes back with her bottle and gives it to me, i put it on Thando’s mouth, she sucked like she hasn’t eaten in a while, dramatic little girl this one.

Mom eventually came back; dad was free to do his own thing.

Baby Thando is a really sweat baby

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she only cries when she is hungry or needs to be changed, she is just a naughty child but I believe all babies are.

I learned to change a diaper but I really don’t like doing it, if I was in to having kids the father would be in charge of diapers I would actually use my blindness to avoid doing it.

Her mother came to get her later.

Mels “I hope you guys didn’t feed her any sugary things”

Me “what? Never” we had to bath her two times as she kept crying for a cake, but I'm not saying anything.

The next day

We were on our way to Philani's place, he fetched us, me and Louie. And I really had no problem whether Richard saw me getting in Philani's car or not.

We drove into a very uncomfortable silence till we get to his place.

He offered me food but I was too nervous to even eat. He sat next to me on the couch, we came here for privacy.

Him "firstly I would like to thank you for coming" I just nodded. "Yolanda, I want to apologise again for my behaviour, but I felt so helpless and tired, you know your father doesn't want us to be in a relationship and at first I didn't care about that, but then I realised that it was wrong of me to continue the relationship regardless of your father's disapproval I didn't want to be the reason you and him don't have a relationship" he paused for a second "the hiding for him was thrilling and all but I got bored of that whole thing as it meant we couldn't be free and do things like other couples, instead of communicating that with you I disappeared, that was really childish of me but I was afraid of breaking your heart"

I felt like he was going to break up with me, my heart beat so fast.

Him “I love you so much Yolanda and the last thing I want is to lose you” he came and kneel in front of me “ever since I saw you the first day in your fathers office, I knew I wanted you in my life, I am not perfect ma jones I make mistakes and sometimes I act like an ass, but what is important is I love you and I want you by my side each and every day” my tears were flowing like a river “Yolanda Jones will you make me the happiest man alive and marry me?” WTF, I sniffed for a couple of times.

Me “Philani..i’m..” I was lost for words, I wasn’t expecting this.

Him “will you marry me babe” he sounded anxious, I nodded.

Me “yes, yes Philani I will marry you” he slid the ring on my finger

Him “thank you baby, thank you” he kissed my hand a couple of times, he made me stand up, and we hugged for a very long time, I attempted to pull out of it, but he tightened it even more like he didn’t want to let go.

Me “just don’t break my bones” I said playfully, he laughed.

Him “you won’t regret this love, I love you so much” he kissed my neck.

I took off the ring, to picture what it looks like, it was so beautiful.

Him “it’s Rose and White Gold with a diamond stone, there is a Glamira logo inside” I can picture how it looks like, exactly my style.

Me “I love it thank you babe” I say smiling.

We spent the whole day celebrating he took me home later on, I was going to hide the ring until I get courage to tell them.

I am such a hypocrite I know, i was certain that I didn’t want to get married, even though we not going to marry soon it will still happen, I didn’t even think twice when he asked me, I love the man so much it scares me sometimes.

Maybe dad will finally see that Philani is serious about me and accept us and give us his blessing, I really don’t know what will happen if he doesn’t.

Dad is such a hard headed person I never came across.

I took my ring off as I get in the house.

Mom “the prodigal daughter” we laughed “you know if your dad was here he was going to have your head on a platter”

Me “he’s not around? YAY!” she laughed.

Mom “you were with him?”

Me “yes mom” I say looking down.

Mom “I hope you are on contraceptives Yoyo” gosh this whole conversation is going south.

Me “mom” I murmured. “There is something I need to do in my room” I rushed off.

Mom “are you running from the sex talk Yoyo?” she shouted as I rushed off, I'm too old for that.

This woman is so embarrassing.

I got to my room and threw myself on top of the bed, I remembered my engagement ring. I played with it while in my pocket with a smile on my face. How the hell am I going to tell Richard and Laura about this? My smile got replaced by worry.

47

It's few days later I am going to Mels work place, I need advice and I want to tell her about the engagement.

Mels "no wonder why it's so cold today" she says as I enter after she told me to.

Me "that's just crazy, the weather was cold way before I knew I was going to visit" I say after rolling my eyes.

Mel "Don't worry I won't tell on you" she says chortling "any way what do I owe the honour?"

Me "trying to get rid of me so soon?" I raise my eyebrow.

Mel "you never visit sis, I'm just shocked"

Me "whatever"

Mel "I was gonna go eat out Nathi is not in the office but since you are here I'm going to order, I hope you are hungry because I'm famished"

Me "I'm hungry too sis"

She ordered.

Me "how is princess"

Mels "still naughty, I had to change twice today because she threw her porridge at me with her tantrums" I laughed,

Me “I miss her so much”

Mels “you can babysit again sis, I can use time out from everything”

Our food arrived and we ate over a chit-chat.

Me “I bet you guys have office sex frequently”

Mels “whuu, when we are not busy we do hey” we laughed.

Me “you are that office couple that get single people jealous” I chortled.

Mels “but you would be surprise about how professional we are”

I took the ring out of my pocket and show it to her.

Mel “I'm already married sis and I love my husbae so much besides I prefer the other gender, not forgetting that we are sisters” she joked

Me “don't flatter yourself sis” I chortled

Mels “this is soo cute sis, it suit's you” she admired the ring for a couple of minutes “talk to me” she said after a while,.

Me “so I need your help” I say. “so Philani proposed” she cut me off screaming so loud

Me “MELISSA!” I shouted.

Mel “okay okay tell me more you said yes right?”

There was a knock on the door.

Mels “come in” she said to the person.

Her “are you okay, I heard screaming” she sounded worried

Mels “I'm okay Chloe, just happy” I laughed

Chloe “I can see that now, I didn't know you were with someone, let me leave you to it then” she closed the door.

Me “you are disturbing other people with your dramatic Ass” we both laughed.

Mels “they will survive, so?”

Me “he apologised for everything, then proposed”

Mels “oh my god, so you agreed? I'm so happy for you”

Me “yes, I did”

Mels “I'm so happy for you” she hugged me “my little sis is growing up”

Me “the problem is telling the parents” I say sadly.

Mels “whoa, there is still Richard and Laura”

Me “yep, I'm so scared of telling them, how will I even begin?”

Mels “the sooner the better, so this coming Saturday, I will come by, we prepare a family lunch, they will appreciate the gesture so much, then we drop the bomb”

Me “I'm so scared”

Mels “we can even get Jason here” she said in deep thoughts

Me “will that work though?”

Mels “it has to

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he will be here”

Me “okay we will see”

Mels “this has to work” I just nod my head.

Me “what stresses me is Philani has already told his family about this, we are supposed to go see his mother but I wanted to tell my family first and have your support”

Mels “don't worry I will be holding your hand through all this”

“So I have managed to get through your brother to come home” Mels said.

Me “I hope this will work on our favour Mels”

Mels “trust me sis, this will all work out just fine”

So today Jason can arrive anytime, he is with his family of course. The parents don't know about his arrival. Melissa's plan is for us to have a family lunch, reminisce about the happy moments of the past then I drop the bomb while they still in good spirits, I just hope it will turn good.

I just got off the car at home from work.

When I get to the door I hear people chatting inside, I get in.

Mom “oh sweetheart you are back” she said as soon as I open the door.

Me “I'm back” there was a child in the house.

Jason “sis how are you?” that was Jason

Me “Jason, when did you get here?” we hugged

Jason “about two hours ago, I'm so happy to see you”

Me “me too, it's been a very long time”

Amahle “how are you, Yolanda?”

Me “hey, Amahle I'm good how are you?” we hugged.

Amahle "I'm good, come Jnr greet your aunt" I take him in my arms.

Me "oh my gosh, he's so heavy, what do they feed you JJ?"

JJ "chips" we laughed

Jason "you are selling us Jnr" we laughed

Mom "he said the same thing when I asked him too"

Amahle "he's just craving for them" we laughed.

Junior is two this year, every time we get together as a family he seem to be so grown from the last time we last saw him as we don't see each other often.

I went to my room after diner.

I quickly showered and wore my Pjs, I got in bed, it was way past my bed time because of all the chit-chat.

My phone rings.

Me "Dladla" I say with a smile.

Him "someone is in a good mood" he say

Me "if that someone is me then your guess is right"

Him "willing to share with your soon to be husband fiancé?" I could tell he was smiling.

Me "it's nothing really, just that my brother and his family came home today"

him "oh they arrived today? It must be nice having them with you guys"

I have told him about Mels plan so he was aware.

Me "they did, I didn't know how much I missed then until they were in front of me"

Him "I know that feeling babe"

Me "yeah hey and tomorrow is the day"

Him "Eish, there is still that kanene"

Me "I have to deal with this, so we can move on with our lives normally"

Him "yah I hope everything goes as plan"

Me "we can only hope" I say after a deep exhalation.

Him "look babe, there's an incoming call, I have to take it, I love you okay, goodnight"

Me " I love you too"

He dropped the call, I'm so nervous about what will transpire when I tell them, but we will see.

48

The day we have been waiting for is finally here, my heart is beating so hard against my chest, I'm so nervous. If today past by without me collapsing, I will definitely mark myself as the most nerves tolerating person ever.

I woke up and did all the cleanliness process, once I'm done I headed to the kitchen, everyone was already in the kitchen.

Me "morning" I murmured.

Jason "rough morning"

Me "from hell"

Mom "oh baby are you okay"

Me "I'm good mom" I'm not good, I wish I could say it.

Amahle "want me to dish for you"

Me "I would appreciate that, thank you"

Mom "so Melissa will be here shortly"

Jason "great"

Amahle "here" she placed my plate in front of me.

Me "thank you Mahle"

I eat slowly lost in my own mind.

Mels “good morning family” she shouted as she entered,.

We exchanged greetings with her.

Mels “where is my nephew?”

Jason “he is somewhere around the yard with his grandfather”

Mom “you are late they drove away, about an hour ago”

Jason “they have a special bond those two”

Mom “they do hey”

Amahle “and you left that cutie of yours”

Mels “she will come with her daddy, when he comes by”

Jason “can’t believe we will be seeing her face to face for the first time”

Mom “you only visit once a year that’s why”

Mels “right? I had to grovel for them to get here” she says dramatically.

Jason “come on guys, we don’t stay next door, there is also work amongst other things”

Mels “you don’t take leave from work?”

Jason “I do”

Mom “see”

Amahle “when he takes leave we spend that time as a family”

Jason “exactly baby because, we hardly get time”

Mel “more excuses but it’s okay all that’s matters is you are here right now”

Mom “yeah that’s all that matters”

They were having this conversation with me quiet all this time.

Mels “we should get started while it’s still early Yols”

I heard her but from afar.

Mels “earth to Yolanda” she snapped her fingers in front of my face.

Me “what were you saying again”

Mels “wow” she walked away.

Mom “are you sure you are okay sweetheart” she asked with a concerned voice.

Me “I’m fine mom, I think I’m coming down with a flu” I lied.

Mom “let me make you a ginger mixture then baby”

I hate that mixture, but I’m not gonna protest as she will realise that I’m lying.

My mind was far away, so I couldn't help much in cooking, Melissa and Amahle took charge I could only do the simple things like salad.

Before I knew it they were setting the table, time went by really fast today, everyone was sitting around the dining table, I was sitting next to Melissa.

I was still quiet while everyone was having time of their lives, I couldn't even stomach anything.

Mom "thank you girls for cooking us lunch"

Mels "it was nothing mom, you don't have to thank us"

Dad "I have to say this though I was really

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scared when I saw Melissa taking charge of the pots" we laughed.

Jason "me too dad, I thought we were going to end up in hospital" laughter again.

Mels “wow, so you don’t trust my cooking? Well you must be really disappointed then, I can cook just fine fam, even my husband can attest to that”

Nathi “she can really cook” he says after clearing his throat.

Jason “of course you are going to defend her” laughter.

Nathi “I'm just confirming the truth I'm not defending” laughter again.

Dad “the family chef took the back sit today”

Mels “she had to let us showcase our talents” I didn’t want to take their spot light but I was basically telling them what to do, and how.

Before I knew it the lunch was done meaning it was time to tell them about my engagement, after they cleared the table they sat down again Melissa squeezed my hand.

I cleared my throat.

Me “There is something I need to tell you all” i got their attention. I kept quiet for a while.

I cleared my throat again, words were failing me, once I say this there is no taking it back.

Mom “what is it sweetheart? You can talk to us, we are here for you” she assured me.

Me “thanks mom, so I'm just going to say this” I paused for a second “so as you all know that I am in a relationship with Philani, well he asked me to marry him and I agreed” silence.

I wish I could read their facial expressions right now, but at the same time I'm glad I can't, crazy right?.

Dad “I hope my ears are playing tricks on me” he is angry, of course what was I expecting.

Jason “what do you mean he asked you to marry him?” really.

Me “I mean just that Jason” I replied.

Dad “so you disregarded the fact that I don't want you anywhere near him, you went ahead and agreed to marry him?”

Me “.....”

Jason “this has to be some kind of a prank right Yoyo?”

Mom “are you sure about your decision baby”

Me “I love him mom, so I'm sure”

Dad & Jason “what?”

Dad “are you being serious Yolanda? What do you know about love”

I didn't know what else to say to convince them, I could feel my eye well up with tears.

Dad “you are a child Yolanda, you can think the fling you have with that man is real, he is way too old for you”

Me “I know that there is a bit of age gap between us but it doesn’t change the fact that I love him”

Mel “in all of this we have to regard Yolanda’s feelings, we are a family therefore we must always support each other, even if we feel like Yolanda is making a mistake she still needs our support, there is always a limit in protecting someone, Yolanda is not a child she is also allowed to live life like any other person out there”

Dad “I'm not going to sit here and listen to this madness.

With that said he left the table breathing heavily.

I'm not going to lie I am really hurt about dad's reaction; I don't really care about what Jason thinks. I couldn't even sleep last night, I mean how can I when my father is angry at me for agreeing to marry the man that I love, a part of me thought he was going to accept the whole marriage proposal and try to have some kind of relationship with Philani, but it didn't work like that and now he is avoiding me like a plague.

Philani has been calling non-stop yesterday I didn't have strength to answer him so I resorted to switching off my cell phone, I'm not ready to tell him that there won't be a wedding after all, as much as I love him I can't marry him without my father's blessing's.

I even don't want to go downstairs and ruin their mood once again, but I'm hungry, it's after 10 am and I last ate yesterday during that family lunch, I think I'm going to hate family lunches from now on they will always remind me of how I disappointed my father.

I got startled by the knock on the door, I had no energy to shout come in so I remained silence.

The door opened.

Mom "are you awake Yoyo?" she asked.

Me: clearing my throat "yes I'm awake mom" I sat up.

Mom “I got you breakfast” thank god for this woman.

She gave me the plate, I started to indulge without even brushing my teeth that’s how hungry I was.

Mom “why didn’t you come for breakfast if you were this hungry”

Me “and spoil everyone’s mood? No thank you” I say as I was continuing with my eating.

Mom “how did you sleep?” she sounds so concerned.

Me “I only slept way after midnight”

Mom “oh Yoyo I'm sorry baby, this must really be hard for you”

Me “I'm just so hurt mom” I finished eating and wash down everything with juice.

Mom “I'm going to convince Richard with everything in me, he has to let you make your own decisions”

Me “I already know how he feels about this whole situation, so even if he can agree, deep down I will know exactly how he feels”

Mom “your father is very stubborn” she says after realising a deep sigh.

Me “that he is, I don’t know how many times I tried to convince him about my relationship with Philani, you also tried and Melissa too”

Mom “I promise I will make him see this whole thing from our perspective”

I just nodded.

Mom “whu look at the time, there is something I have to attend to,” she get up from the bed “wake up Yolanda, a girl can’t sleep until noon”

Me “but mom..” I whined.

Mom “no buts get up” she says after exiting the room. There is no getting away from this so I got up.

I took a shower and wore my comfy clothing, I remembered that my phone has been off since last night, I switched it on.

As soon as if was fully on messages started flowing in.

Mostly from Philani, then mels.

It rang, Philani was video called me, I cleared my throat before responding.

Him “for goodness sakes Yolanda, why did you have to switch off your phone?” I opened my mouth to answer “do you know how worried I was, are you okay”

Me "I'm fine Philani" I rolled my eyes.

Him "so?" he wanted me to answer his questions.

Me "things didn't go according to plan Philani yesterday"

Him "oh baby I'm sorry"

Me "my dad is so angry at me, and I really have no energy within me really"

Him "so what now?"

Me "I honestly don't know, I want to marry you but without fathers blessing.." I shake my head and shrug my shoulders.

Him "and I can't ask you to defy your father baby, lets just hope he will come around" he was as hurt as I am his tone told me.

Me "yeah hey"

We talked for a while until we said our goodbyes.

I headed down stairs to make myself something to eat, Jason, and his family were still here, a part of me wished he didn't come, I feel like he is adding petrol to the fire some of us are trying to put out.

"Yols you finally decided to grace us with your presence"
Amahle said.

Me "how are you Amahle?"

Amahle "I'm good

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how did you sleep?"

Me "I slept fine, you?"

Amahle "really? Well I slept fine"

Me "where is everyone?" I could tell where she wanted the conversation to head to, so I quickly changed it.

Amahle "I have no idea where dad and my husband went to, Jnr is Napping and mom went out, about an hour ago"

Me "mmh okay" I continued making myself a healthy snack.

Amahle "so marriage hey?"

Me "yeah hey"

Amahle "when did he propose?"

Me "few days ago" I answered.

Amahle "mmh, are you sure though?"

Me "I am, I love the man" I say half smiling thinking about my man.

Amahle "but do you think it's a wise decision"

Me “what did you think about when Jason asked for your hand in marriage?”

Amahle “about how much I loved him” she say unsure.

Me “exactly what I thought about when Philani asked me”

Amahle “we are two different people Yolanda there are some factors you have to think about before taking this huge step that I didn’t have to”

Me “oh you meant to say because I'm blind right?”

Amahle “don’t get me wrong Yols, I'm just thinking about what everyone else fails to point out”

Me “wow Amahle...just wow”

I really had no words to say to her.

Me “so according to you blind people are not supposed to get married”

Amahle “look, I was not saying this in a wrong way okay”

Me “whatever, I sat down and started digging on my food.

I can’t believe i was willing to put every nasty remarks she made in the past about me and my blindness, but she just showed me that some people don’t change.

Amahle “I'm sorry if I offended you Yols”

Me “can I enjoy my food in piece please, and to you my name is Yolanda”

She walked away after a few minutes, when I finished eating I wash the things I used and went to my room.

I was already in a gloomy mood but Amahle made it worse. I took two sleeping pills and drifted off to sleep faster than I would have.

I woke up to someone shaking me later, I wiped my face as I woke up.

Me “yes?” I could tell it was dad but I decided to act dumb.

Dad “can we speak please” wait did my daddy, Richard jones just said please?, am I dreaming.

Me “it’s fine dad” what do you say when Richard just said please to you?

He was sitting on my bed facing me.

Dad “firstly I would like to apologise for being a little hard headed by you dating, I really over reacted” I must be really dreaming.

Dad “I guess I didn’t like the Idea of you dating Philani Dladla out of all men in the world, I was just protecting my little girl” he paused, then continued “you might be grown but I still see my little princess when I look at you, I remember the first time I

led my eyes on you, it didn't take a lot for your mother to convince me to adopt you, she couldn't believe it, I knew you were meant to be ours when we spent hours with you like we have known you for years"

I couldn't stop my tears from falling down my cheeks.

Dad "when you got blind, I felt so useless as I couldn't do anything to change the reality, I vow to always protect you, I failed doing that as Philani manage do get to you, I know he is not a bad person but his past is dark and it may affect you in the future, but I don't want to fight with you princess, as much as you are my baby I should let you live your life the way you want, the only thing I can do is to support you" he took a deep sigh "you have my blessings to marry that goat, but I still need to punch him more for taking my little princess away from me" I laughed and so did he.

Me "thank you so much dad, this means a lot to me, I love you, and I want to assure you that no one can ever take your place in my life, you will always be my daddy" we hugged for a very long time.

When I woke up this morning I didn't think this day would end with dad and I in a good space.

Weeks later, i have never been this happy in my life, I am engage to the man I love and my father is finally fine with it, talking about my fiancé, he took me to his home to meet his mother, she is such a kind woman, she welcomed me into her home with open arms, she has a really good relationship with Philani you wouldn't even tell she is not his biological mother.

Philani told me about everything about his family and his previous life a while ago and I still continued the relationship with him, I mean who am I to judge, besides I feel like he really changed and it's not even like he decided life is was forced to him by his crazy father, that man is defiantly sick and I really don't wish to cross path with him, he did good by disappearing into thin air.

I slept over at Phila's place, he went to fetch his sister at the airport, she does not stay in the country. i am meeting her for the first time and I'm kind of nervous, they have that close sibling's bond, so it would really be a downer if she doesn't like me, thing's would really be awkward, so I'm hoping for the best.

Seem like I fell asleep on the couch, since I woke up to a female voice talking.

Her “WOW Bhuti, your house is really beautiful, everything in here scream expensive”

Philani “I'm even tired of saying thank you now Mandy” he says chuckling.

Mandy “oh come on”

Philani “babe we are back” he says while kissing my cheek. I sit up on the couch, “Mandy come meet my fiancé”

Mandy “oh I didn't know she was here” she says coming our side.

Philani “baby meet my sister Mandisa, Mandisa this is the lady of the house Yolanda”

Mandy “Lady of the house huh?, nice meeting you Yolanda” I couldn't miss the sarcasm in her voice.

Me “nice meeting you too, Mandisa” I smiled.

Mandy “please call me Mandy”

Me “okay, Mandy” I say with a brief smile.

Philani “Yolanda can’t see Mandy, baby she was extending her hand for a hand shake” he says to his sister. then he explain to me.

Mandy “SHE CAN”T SEE?” she yelled.

Me “yes I'm blind, Mandy” I extended my hand, we shake them briefly.

Mandy “WOW okay, wow” she couldn’t hide how surprised she was.

Philani cleared his throat; it was suddenly awkward in here.

Philani “let me show you to your room”

Mandy “okay, I want the most spacious and beautiful room available” they walked away, I met her for a short space of time but I can tell she doesn’t like me much, and the whole Blindness made everything worse. I may be wrong but we will see.

Later on the Philani and I were cuddling on the couch.

Me “mmh mmh babe, your sister can walk in any time” he was planting soft kisses on my neck.

Phila “Mandy is not a child ma jones

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she knows what two people in love get up to” he defended his act.

I let it slide.

Me “I’m starving babe please order something since you don’t want to cook for me” I murmured.

Him “are you gonna bully me this much when we stay together?”

Me “me a bully? a.a Dladla” he continued kissing me.

Mandy “my eyes gosh!!” she says coming to where we were sitting, Philani just laughed.

Me “food Dladla”

Him “okay what do you feel like eating?”

Me “my favourite pizza”

Him “okay, Mandy? You look like you are going somewhere”

Mandy “yep, I have friends to reunite with, it’s been a while”

Him “oh? Okay?”

Mandy “yeah so I will leave you kids to your takeouts. Toddles” she walked away

Our food arrived and we ate and watched movies and went to sleep right before midnight.

I woke up to Philani speaking on the phone, I thought it was morning.

Me “mmh” I say rubbing my eyes with the back of my hand.

Him “hey babe, did I woke you up? It’s still early go back to sleep please”

Me “what time is it?”

Him “4.40, Mandy called, I have to fetch her, go back to sleep”

I was tired so I fell asleep again immediately.

I woke up around 9am and took a quick shower, when I was done I wore Phila’s joggers and tshirt which were way too big for me, he was not in the bedroom so i went to look for him around his usual hangout spots around the house.

Me “good morning” I say as I could tell there was someone in the kitchen.

Mandy “there is absolutely nothing good about this morning, hangover is killing me” I chuckled a bit, I could tell by the aroma that she was making a very greasy breakfast.

Me “do you know where your brother is?”

Her “he left about an hour ago, something to do with the club”

Me “oh okay, let me make myself a cup of coffee” I got everything I needed and made myself a cup.

Mandy “I still cant believe you can’t ...you know”

Me “that I can’t see, or that I'm blind?,”

Her “yes that”

Some people don’t really know how to say we can’t see without hurting our feelings, but to me it’s really not a problem as I have dealt with the situation, I really have no problem when someone says I'm blind because I'm really blind no matter how someone put it I really have no problem, the only offence I take is when people treat me some kind of way because I'm blind.

Me “it’s okay Mandy you can say I'm Blind I won’t be offended”

Her “okay then, it’s just I have never came in to a close contact with someone who is..blind you know”

Me “it’s really no problem to me”

We talked for a while.

Me “so how long have you been married for?”

Mandy “we have been married for three years, but we have been together for 6 years”

Me “wow, that’s a long time”

Mandy “it is, but it feels like yesterday, time flies when you are happy”

Me “I can’t wait to count years with Philani”

Her “yeah neh?” she sounded unsure, I may be over thinking the whole thing but that’s how I felt “I never thought my brother would be committed to another girl”

Me “another girl?” I had to ask.

Mandy “yes after Rato? They were so good together and I thought....oh my god that’s so insensitive of me I'm sorry Yolanda...it’s just..” she stuttered

Me “no it’s fine Mandy, you are allowed to state your opinion”

Mandy “I'm sorry okay, you must be thinking I'm an Ass hole right now”

Me “it’s fine really”

Mandy “but still let me apologies, I promised my brother to get along with you, but I'm here talking about him and his ex-girlfriend”

I now had an idea of what kind of a person Mandisa really is, she is the kind of person who just say whatever is in her mind.

I could tell she is really fond of Lerato to her Philani and Lerato were the perfect couple, from the short time we spent together I don't know how many times she "accidentally" mentioned Philani and Lerato in conversations that we had.

I don't know whether it's still early but I concluded that she doesn't like me, she doesn't see me fit to marry her brother, I'm the least favourite person to her.

I know boyfriend's or husband's families are not enforced to like their girlfriends or wife's but life is really better when they have a good relationship that's why it's important for us to be liked by them.

My parents are away for two weeks, normally I would be over the moon as this meant I get to spend a lot of time with my fiancé but with his sister around I'm really not looking forward to the whole thing, that girl doesn't hide the fact that she doesn't like me, I wish she can go back to wherever hell hole she has been to, I mean doesn't she miss her husband? I know they don't get to spend time a lot her and Philani, but I'm fed up by her now, she pretends to like me in her brothers presence but she shows really who she is in his absence, at first she would act like her tongue slipped or something and apologies but not anymore.

After work Philani fetched me, he was driving with a radio playing.

His phone rings, usually it would be connected to the Bluetooth but not this particular day.

Him "hellow" he answered.

Him "yes I have the medicine with me, I will drop them in a few minutes"

Him "okay, sharp"

After a few minutes he finally said something.

Him “my son is sick, so I will drive by their place to drop off the medicine I got”

Me “okay”

He stopped after a few minutes of driving.

Him “we are here, let me drop these quickly so we can go home, you must be tired”

I didn't say anything, I remained in the car, he came back as I was falling asleep because of boredom if I could drive he wouldn't find me there I would have left, that's how long he took.

Him “sorry, babe the little champ didn't want me to leave him soon” he laughed softly, I mentally roll my eyes.

Me “can we just go?”

Him “o-kay” he drove off.

When we got to his place his sister was watching TV I greeted and made my way upstairs.

Mandy “what is she sulking about?” I could hear her as I walked away.

Him “she is coming from work Mandy, she’s probably tired”

Mandy “ay nihamba nijola nani”

I took a shower and wore my pyjamas, I got inside the covers, I even forgot that I was hungry.

I might have fallen asleep because I woke up later Philani shaking me.

Me “mmmh?”

Him “I ordered food, you didn’t eat ever since you got here”

Me “and I'm so Hungry”

Him ‘should I bring yours here?’”

Me “no I will come down, let me wash my face first” I made my way to the bathroom”

I washed my face and rinsed my mouth with water, I dried my face and went to the kitchen.

Him “here, he handed me my food” then kissed my cheek.

Me “thanks’ I said softly

Mandy “we are having takeaways, even today?” she whined.

Him “you should have cooked Mandy if you were tired of eating take outs, you are not a child”

Mandy “why is your wife here for then if not cooking for us” I chuckled softly.

Him “I will pretend like I didn’t hear that”

Mandy “I'm just saying, are you going to spend the rest your life eating take outs while you have a wife?”

Him “keep talking shit if you want to see my true colours Mandisa”

I took the plate and made my way to the lounge, I was tired of hearing this girls’ nasty opinion.

I could still hear her even when I was in the lounge, in her mind because I am blind I was automatically deaf, I don’t know whether she was doing it on purpose or she didn’t know the difference between blind and deaf, even her brother didn’t know how to reprimand her.

Mandy “if you had stick to sighted girls like a normal human being, you would be eating home cooked meal each and everyday”

Him “if you were not so ignorant you would have known that Landa is a very good cook, she is a chef by the way”

Mandy “how can she be a chef? She can’t see”

Him “listen Mandy, you are my sister and I love you, so you better change this behaviour you have towards Yolanda if you still want us to get along”

Mandy “wow, so you would rather destroy our relationship because of a girl?”

him “she is not just a girl, she is my fiancé, the moment that get through your narrow mind, you will realise she is the best person I have ever been with”

Mandy “why are you so crazy about her any way, it’s not even like she has anything better to offer, than a baggage

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I'm just trying to show you that she is not the best thing out there” the plate I was holding fell and broke down.

Him “baby are you okay?” he rushed by my side,

I didn't say anything.

Mandy “I guess you will have to clean the mess she has made, and many more to come, when you are both married” she laughed softly and walked away.

Him “I'm sorry about that baby, I will talk to Mandisa, I really don't know whats wrong with her” I yanked my arm away from him and walked away.

He let a deep sigh. As I walked away.

I wasn't going to fall asleep anytime soon so I took sleeping pills, I fell asleep almost immediately.

I slept throughout the night, I woke up minutes ago, but I really have no energy to face Philani's sister, the way she behaves shows me that a person does not need any reason to hate the other, someone just looks at you and decide that I don't like this one, people can even hate you for your disability, something you have no control over.

I have decided that I'm going home today, I can't be in the same place as someone who hates me, this huge house has become so small for the two of us; Philani doesn't even know how to reprimand his sister so for piece sakes I will go home.

I take my phone and made a call to Philani.

Him "babe"

Me "hey, do you mind taking me home?"

Him "what? I thought you were going to spend a couple of days"

Me "that was the initial plan but, something came up" I lied.

Him "what came up ma Jones, come on don't do this"

Me "please Phila..." he cut me.

Him “baby there is another call coming, I will get back to you now now”

I take a deep sigh.

I waited and waited and waited for him to get back to me but nothing, I decided to call him again.

Me “voice mail? Really Philani”

I made my way downstairs to go and look for him, when I got there I could hear Mandy talking with another female.

I greeted them as I made my way to the kitchen.

“how are you Makoti” that was Lerato

Me “I'm good, how are you Lerato?”

Lerato “life is good babes, trust me” I just nodded as I made my way to the kitchen.

Mandy “you can surely sleep Makoti” I could tell they were sarcastic about the Makoti word but I decided to play dumb.

Me “I was tired”

Mandy “I hope that will change when you guys marry”

Me “yeah”

I know where everything is in the kitchen but, I realised that things were changed, everything was placed in different places that I know them to, I couldn't find anything.

I just decided to walk away because they did it deliberately.

Mandy "I thought you were going to chill with us a little bit, we never chill ever since I got here"

Me "there is something I need to do upstairs"

Lerato "I hope I'm not making you uncomfortable by being here Yolanda"

Mandy "don't be silly, I'm sure she doesn't mind you being here, you are my friend after all"

Me "don't worry Lerato I'm cool"

Mandy "exactly, it shouldn't be a problem"

Lerato "I just don't want to step in your toes, and make you uncomfortable in your own home"

Me "as I said it's cool" I then walk away, I could hear them laugh as I make my way upstairs.

I wonder if Philani knows that his baby mama is here, I hear the door open after hours.

He came to stand next to me, I was at the balcony. He snaked his arms in my waist.

I could feel myself fuming.

Me “so I'm now a fool Philani”

Him “what do you mean babe?”

Me “I asked you nicely, to take me home, you decided to drop your phone and switched it off, is that how insignificant I am to you?” I could feel my eyes building up tears.

Him “babe I'm sorry but I was busy with something at the club”

Me “so you rather let me die of hunger in your house than taking me home? Know what its fine? Just take me home”

Him “there’s plenty of food in this house baby, I don’t understand when you..”

I cut him off.

Me “not when you decided to change where everything stays, in case you didn’t notice I'm blind so you can’t expect me to know where everything is . you know what it’s fine, please take me home Dladla”

Him “we have to talk about this baby, because I have no idea what you are talking about”

Me “talk about how you have forgot to let me know that your sister is friends with your baby mama?”

He took a deep sigh.

Him “ba..”

Me “yes Philani she was here, or maybe you already knew and you pretend like you didn’t because Yolanda is a blind fool, Just take me home”

I took my had bag and made my way downstairs, Mandy was not is sight.

52

He finally made his way down stairs, as his sister also came in.

Mandy “what’s going on, you sounded so serious on the phone” he called her?

Philani “let’s sit down” is he angry?

I remained where I was standing as I didn’t know what was going on.

Philani “can you sit down Yolanda, I need to talk to you guys” I obeyed and took a sit.

Philani “there are things I want to address and make clear to both of you, I will start with you Mandisa”

Mandy “o-kayy”

Philani “you are my sister and I love you, but I'm not going to tolerate you disrespecting Yolanda, you are not a child Mandisa and your behaviour is starting to irritate me, you know I have never controlled who you got in a relationship with so I would like you to get your nose out of my business, I'm not saying befriend Yolanda but this is my house and she is my fiancé so you are not going to disrespect her in her own house, if you have a problem with that, the door is wide open”

Mandy “wow, okay I hear you and I'm sorry Yolanda if I made you uncomfortable in your own home” she was just saying that for piece sakes even the biggest full Yolanda could tell.

Philani “you have no right to come to our space and change where we put things Mandisa and you don't have a right to bring your friends to our space”

Mandy “you mean Lerato?”

Philani “I'm not going to say this twice Mandy” he warned.

Mandy “o-kay, I hear you, gees, I will be in my room if that's fine with yall” she left the room.

Philani “and Yolanda, if you don't like something you use your mouth to communicate, your mouth not actions”

Me “how will I communicate, when you switch off your phone?”

Philani “you could have told me what was going on when I got here, but you wanted to leave as soon as I got here”

Me “because, I don't want to come between you and your sister Philani, to you Mandy is an innocent soul, you don't even see that she doesn't like me”

Philani “Mandy knows where she stands right now so give her a chance” he got up “oh and I am not taking you home we still

have a few days before your parents come back” with that he walked away.

There was no way that he would listen to me so I just made peace with everything.

Just as I expected this whole thing to be like, Mandy pretended to be civil and nice towards me in front of her brother but showed me her true colours when we were alone.

The next morning we were having breakfast.

Mandy “so Phila can you please go and get Atha for me? I promised him to spend the day with him”

Philani “no problem, I will go get him”

Mandy “I hope you don’t mind Yolanda”

Me “why would I mind?” I just didn’t understand.

Mandy “because, you know what never mind”

I didn’t say anything.

Me “I’m ready baby, we can leave if you are done” I was going to work, and Philani was dropping me off.

Philani “which time should I fetch you again?”

Me "3:30 pm Philani, do you ever listen?"

Philani "I was just making sure okay, I will be here at 3pm"

Me "right?"

Philani "yeah, I don't want to keep my queen waiting now do i?" we kissed briefly.

Me "I will see you babe, I don't want to get in trouble for being late"

Philani "I love you, okay?"

Me "I love you too"

I made my way inside, I wasn't my normal self today, and I know the whole Mandy drama is the reason.

When it was knock off time we made way to Philani's car.

Philani "my lady" he hugged me

Me "I'm so tired"

Philani "let's get going then"

We got to his place, Mandy was chilling with Athandwa.

Athandwa "Aunty Yolanda"

Me "how are you boy" he came to hug me, he is such a sweat boy.

Athandwa "I'm good, your dog is soo huge"

Me "he is right? no petting though"

Athandwa "aw man!"

Mandy "that's rude"

Me "excuse me?"

Mandy "why do you say no petting?"

Me "because he is a guide dog, and Athandwa knows it"

Mandy "that's just soo..."

Athandwa "I understand aunty, guide dogs are not meant to be petted as it can distract them from doing their job"

Me "couldn't have said it better boy" I say walking away.

I made my way to the bedroom.

Philani "I was about to take a shower"

Me "I'm joining you"

We both hopped in the shower, washing each other's body.

Me “can’t we take an innocent shower without you having dirty thoughts?” I say turning to face him, I put my arms around his neck kissing him slowly.

Philani “that would never happen, it just happens automatically when I see you naked”

Me “let’s fix it then” I planted kisses all over his chest.

Philani “lets hope you are going to handle what you just started”

He pinned me to the shower wall, kissing me passionately. He slowly inserted his pipe inside me I gasped for air

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his strokes were slowly and yet so deep, I moaned with every thrust. I was holding on to his neck for dear life, his left hand holding my thigh higher for him to penetrate easily. He was groaning softly in my neck. We were making sweet love, I could feel our souls connecting, after a few minutes he came.

Philani “I’m sorry baby I couldn’t wait, it felt so good” I felt anger building inside of me, “I will make you cum don’t worry”

He kneeled in front of me, he first inserted his finger inside of my vjay, he played with it for a couple of minutes. He stopped I then felt his tongue play inside of me.

My thigh was on his shoulder, his hand holding my wait firmly.

I moaned like a cold puppy as I felt my orgasm building up, I came so hard after a few seconds; I lost my mind for a second.

Philani “whuu, I almost died for not making you come”

Me “I was ready to kill you” I laughed.

Philani “I had to make up for it fast” we both laughed

we finished washing each other, then lotion then got dressed.

His phone rings, he answered.

Him “yah?” I couldn’t hear the other person.

Him “have you seen the time Lerato? Besides I thought he was supposed to spend the night?”

Him “okay I will bring him”

Him “nxah, can you believe that Lerato want me to bring Athandwa, she didn’t say anything about school when I fetched him earlier, but she now just remembered he has school tomorrow”

I keep quiet, as I didn’t know what to say.

Him “let me go now” he was furious.

Me “I will make something quick for supper so long”

We both went downstairs.

Philani and his son drove away while I started with my pots.

Mandy “so are you okay with your fiancé constantly seeing his baby mama”

Me “why shouldn’t I be Mandy? I continued with the relationship when he told me he had a kid, why should I be worried now?”

Mandy “I wouldn’t be okay shame, I mean knowing that they share a kid that’s a lot”

Me “I don’t have a problem at all” I said.

Mandy “it would even be worse if the guy wasn’t even a biological father, but still treat the kid like his?” I sensed that she wanted some sort of reaction from me.

Me “it would if the guy kept it hidden from you but if he told you in advance then I don’t see a problem”

Mandy “yah you are right, but people that share a child never really break up completely, some do have sex here and there, I wouldn’t put myself through that, never”

Me “I guess you are lucky then, as you don’t have to go through that with your husband” I forced a smile, I couldn’t help but have this bad feeling about what she just says, ‘but people that share a child never really break up completely, some do have sex here and there’ I just hope it’s all in my head.

Mandy “yeah hey, it’s really a great thing that you don’t let your disability pull you down, who would have known that a blind person can stand in front of pots and cook? You are even getting married to a very successful man in the country”

Me “ yeah right?”

Mandy “you are young, a fiancé, a stepmom, you are building your career, I admire you Yolanda”

Me “thanks Mandy”

Mandy “I know I'm the last person you would take advice from Yolanda but, you have to know that men like my brother are really not to be trusted, he might love you, but just keep it in mind that he was once head over heels with Lerato, you are young and beautiful, but that all fade as time goes on”

Me “what do you mean?”

Mandy “I don’t mean anything, in fact just forget I said anything to you Yolanda”

I was left asking myself many questions, there might be something that made Mandy to say all she just said, or it may be because she doesn’t want me to marry her brother as she is friends with Lerato.

What I know in all this is I love Philani and I will fight for our love because he loves me as much as I love him.

Few days later

I went back home before my parents came back from their vacation, Mandy finally left, that girl made my life hell from the few days I spent at Philani's place, she made sure I knew where I stand with her, and I accepted that she doesn't like me, she is Lerato's friend after all and she still want them back together.

I still can't get her words out of my head "but people that share a child never really break up completely, some do have sex here and there" could Philani be doing something with Lerato, argh no, she was just planting doubt in my head and it's working, I'm not going to think about this bull shit again, even if I would ask Philani we would end up fighting as it will prove that I don't trust him.

So there is this other day Mandy was speaking on the phone.

Mandy "don't worry, she is too young to marry my brother"

Mandy "right?, I know what you went through, while in a relationship with him"

Mandy "exactly, now when the next beautiful young thing he forgets all that and wants to settle down?"

Mandy “haysuka, Makoti my foot”

Mandy “hey, don’t ever say that you are the one who suffered in Phila’s hand, you deserve to be with him”

Mandy “watch me? I won’t sit while he do this to you, he belongs with you, and he has proven it many times”

Mandy “ayi nawe, you must use your son to bring him closer”

Mandy “if he wants nothing to do with why does he not accept it when you move on?”

Mandy “he just doesn’t want to admit the truth and I’m here to make him realise it”

I couldn’t believe, what I heard, I knew Mandy was rooting for Philani and Lerato but I didn’t know she would go that far, it was wrong of me to listen to her private phone call but I was passing by when I heard that the conversation was about me. im glad I did meaning I could open my eyes on what goes on around me.

I still haven’t seen anything that made me doubt Philani’s love for me, if it’s anything we have been quiet closer than we have ever been, Athandwa has been spending a lot of time with Philani and I

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it was only right as Philani and I were now engaged.

A few days later mom invited Philani to have dinner with us, he was so nervous I was too as I know dad was not going to let him be comfortable.

I remember that day he called me frequently, he was not sure how to behave, how to dress.

Me “just be yourself Dladla”

Him “how when I'm scared of your father ma Jones?”

Me “come on Philani, I will be there okay”

Him “Eish okay baby”

Few hours later, the table was set, food ready we were just waiting for him to arrive.

Me “dad please don't make him uncomfortable” I begged.

Dad “and why would I do that sweetheart?” he was smiling.

Me “mom please speak to your husband”

Mom “he will behave darling I will make sure of it”

The door bell rang.

Mom “get the door Yoyo” I went to open the door.

His cologne hit my nostril as soon as I opened the door.

Me “hey” i opened the door for him.

Him “hey babe” I hugged him but he quickly let go of me.

Me “come in” I lead the way to where the parents were. “meet my mom, Mrs Jones, and you already know my dad”

Him “mrs jones nice to meet you, I got these flowers for you” they exchanged greeting.

Mom “nice to meet you too, thank you they are so beautiful”

Philani “Mr Jones, I got this for you” it was a whiskey.

Dad “REDBREAST? Impressive”

Mom “Yoyo, come help me in the kitchen a bit”

Me “mom...”

Mom “come” I was reluctant to follow her, I didn’t want to leave Philani with dad.

Me “dad is going to interview him mom” I said obviously worried.

Mom “he will be fine”

Me “you think? I promised to be there for him”

Mom “Yoyo?”

Me “okay.. I will let it go”

Mom “at least he is a gentleman”

Me “he didn’t bring me anything though” I say frowning.

Mom “are you jealous of him giving me flowers” she laughed.

Me “of course I am, he is my fiancé”

Mom “jealousy doesn’t suit you my baby” we laughed.

We were now having our food in the dining table.

Mom “so do you have any siblings Philani?”

Philani “yes ma I have a younger sister, she doesn’t stay in the country though”

Mom “must be really hard not seeing each other as often”

Philani “it is but I understand because she is married”

Mom “owh that’s nice”

Dad “so you have a child?” my god

Philani “yes sir, we co-parent well with the mother”

Dad “right?”

Mom “that’s good” she chortled softly.

Me “I have met his son, he is actually very sweet”

Philani “he is”

Dad “I hope you are not thinking of having kids anytime soon”

Philani coughed repeatedly

Me “dad”

Dad “no I'm just saying, am I wrong?”

Philani “actuall..” mom cut him.

Mom “you don’t have to explain that Philani, Richard?” she reprimanded her husband.

The dinner was actually average, but dad did ask irrelevant questions here and there. But we survived at least.

Me “so what did you and dad talked about when you were alone”

Him “that is between us baby”

Me “what? So you are not going to tell me”

Him “I'm afraid so ma jones, something's are between men”

Me “you are going to be like this Dladla?” he was really not budging.

Him “I'm sorry babe, it's not to be shared”

Me “okay, be like that okay” I sulked

Him “are you angry at me?” he chuckled.

Me “I'm livid, please I won't tell anyone”

Him “no can do baby, no can do”

Me “mxm”

Him “I love you soo soo much my soon to be wifey” he made kissing sounds

Me “whatever” he laughed as I dropped the call.

I was getting ready to go meet with my sister, we both promised that we would make time to go out from time to time since we don't stay together anymore.

It is a challenge as we are both doing our things, our lives are so different now. She has work and a family and I on the other side have work and on the side a fiancé that also needs my time.

So mostly when Mel's is free im not or when we are both free we spend time with "our families". I just never thought we would one day find out selves in this kind of situation. So today is one of those days where we are both free from everything, we can finally meet.

It's a bit chilly so I opted for high waist jeans with a long sleeve crop top a trench coat with half boots. I have on a straight up, I looked cute, in my head I did, even if I say so myself, what's important is im feeling myself, I take my sling bag then head out.

Mom " you look great babe where are you going? "

Me "thanks mom, im meeting my sister for drinks"

Mom "you are going to get drunk?" she sounded concerned.

Me “no mom we are not going to get drunk...look I got to go my ride is here”

I rushed out before I get a lecture

Mom “be safe yoyo okay” she shouted behind me, I just roll my eyes, why are mother's always dramatic?

I am using a cane, I don't like exposing Louie to clubs in case we decide to go to one.

“hey babe” Philani greeted me.

Me “hey how are you” we hugged briefly

We settled in the car then he drove off

Phila “so where to Madame?”

I told him where im meeting Melissa.

Things between Philani and I have been going really good.

Him “we are here” he says after parking

Me “thank you for driving me babe”

Him “no problem, your sister just got out of her husband's car”

Me “I better get out too before she shouts at me”

Him “call me when you want to go home Landa okay?”

Me “I will baby thank you” I pecked his cheek

Mel's "hi love birds"

Him " how are you, Melissa"

Mel's "thanks for driving her"

Him "it's my job as a husband, I have to make sure she is safe"

Mel's "getting ahead of ourselves aren't we?" she laughed sarcastically

Me "okay baby I will call you okay " that was me stopping their cold war.

And it worked because we finally made our way to the restaurant/bar.

Me "Nathi left without greeting me?"

Mel's "you took forever to get here and princess was going to wake up any minute we didn't want to risk her waking up"

Me "it's fine"

We got inside and Sat on our table then ordered.

Mel's "I can't believe the last time we did this"

Me "it's been a while hey"

Mel's "right? And it's going to be worse once you get married"

Me "yeah right?, we should make more time for us even if it's an hour"

Mel's "an hour will never be sufficient for catching up"

Me "you are right but rather an hour than not seeing each other for months "

Mel's "true, enough about this, we are here now

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so tell me sis when are you getting married?"

Me "we haven't even set a date let alone beginning with the planning, we are just engaged" I then took a sip on my drink.

Mel's "excuse me so you are just engaged? "

Me "there is no rush here Melissa "

Mel's "I know but by now there should have been something going on"

Me "I'm fine with what's going on, I still have to finish school start working or continue with school there is really no rush" I shrugged my shoulders.

Mel's "Yo!s?"

Me "what?"

Mel's "what's going on? Do you even want to get married? Or im missing a point"

Me “I do want to get married to Philani Mel’s but not now okay”

Mel's “I hope you didn't agree to marry him because of pressure “

Me “what pressure would that be”

Mel's “I don’t know Yola okay, I just have this feeling”

Me “you are a psychic now” I chuckled

Mel's “mcm shut up”

Our good arrived, we ate over a banter.

Mel's “you never told me how his sister was? But I guess she was as welcoming as his mother”

Me “why do I feel like im in an interview “

Mel's “oh come on you are the one with a slightly interesting life here “ she chuckled softly.

Me “slightly? Wow” I laughed too “it was a complete disaster, she didn't like me at all”

Mel's “and you decided not to tell me? Wow yoyo”

Me “I was dealing with the whole thing sis, she showed me right from the start that she hated me, and to top it all she is friends with Lerato”

Mel's "Lerato? The baby mama"

Me "yes her" I started from the start telling her about Mandy until the ending.

Mel's "WOW "

Me " yes so all of this drained me even though I decided not to pay much attention to it all"

Mel's "who wouldn't, I literally don't have anything to say"

Mel's "how old are both these women?"

Me "what does their age have to do with anything? " I say raising my eyebrows

Mel's "no just what they are doing is just a childish behaviour and to think someone can go through all these measures just because their ex or brother's choose to be with a different woman?" she clapped her hands.

I tell her their age.

Mel's "so what does Philani day about all this"

Me "he did talked to his sister and from then onwards she behaved, only in his presence though"

Mel's "I wish sometimes you had just another personality, don't get me wrong you are a great person sis but something's don't need to be taken lightly"

Me “that would only be me putting petrol to an already burning fire”

Mel's “yeah but...argh, they make me so angry”

Me “ don't worry I got this”

We were now on the bar side of the restaurant, having our drinks. Nothing heavy.

Me “isn't it getting late?, soon little princess has to go to bed?”

Mel's “yeah let me call husbae”

Me “or maybe monde can drop you off, it's late for Thando to be on the road” I suggested.

Mel's “naah I rather request an uber”

Me “not happening, Philani won't mind, plus you not really in the right state of mind”

Mel 's “are you low key telling me im drunk sis?”

I laughed.

Me “never, I know you don't get drunk right?”

Mel's “yes, I don't”

I could tell that she was getting drunk, I texted Phila and he told me he was on his way.

55

Philani surely took his time to fetch us I could feel myself getting tipsy, I was getting irritated by the guys coming to us from time to time.

He finally said he was outside.

Mels” where is that grumpy man of yours sis” she whined, she asked as I was about to tell her

Me “he is outside, let’s go”

Mels “finally, I almost got even more drunk”

We made our way outside.

Phila “sorry babe, I got held up at the club”

Me “it’s okay, can you please first drop Mels at her place”

Him “no problem, we can do that” I nodded

Mels “thank you” she says getting in, at the back. He then open the door for me, when I settled he went to his side.

Mels “you see? His grumpy even now” she says laughing

Me “Melissa” I said in a reprimanding tone.

Mels “how do you even fall in love with such a grumpy man?” she said softly

Philani opened his side, and then drove off.

Me “greet my princess for me” I say to Mels as we got to her place.

Mels “I will, see you guys” she left; we waited until she got inside.

We then drove away.

Me “so are you going to pick me up tomorrow to we can go together”

He cleared his throat repeatedly.

Him “uhm babe, I was thinking neh”

Me “okay?”

It was Athandwa’s birthday the next day, I even had a gift for him so I thought we were going to go together.

Him “it’s great that you love him, I would never have wanted a different partner, and I'm sure Athandwa would love to have

you in his party, however I don't think it's a good idea that you go"

Me "what do you mean? I would love to go and you have said it yourself Athandwa would also like to see me in his party" I didn't understand.

Him "yes baby, I know what I said but, if you are there Lerato might create drama and we wouldn't like that to happen now would we?"

Yeah considering the fact that Lerato doesn't like me she might really create unnecessary drama.

Me "okay I understand" I was sad but I understood.

Him "it's not that I don't want you there baby, I just don't want drama, it's Athandwa's day after all so it's all about him"

Me "no I really understand" I faked a laugh. "you will come by for his present then before you go tomorrow"

him "I will babe" he assured

I don't want to lie, I was looking forward to Athandwa's party, he made me promise him I was going to attend, and I assured him I would, I didn't really think it would be a problem, but now that Philani has brought it to my attention I really understood.

Me "I will see you tomorrow then" I say as he parked next to my home"

Him “tomorrow, I love you okay?”

Me “I love you too” we both got out of the car.

We kissed briefly before I walked away.

The next morning, I woke up took a shower, wore my comfortable clothing then went downstairs.

Mom “yoyo, how are you baby”

Me “I'm well thanks mommy, how are you?”

Mom “I'm good, it's your day to be left alone today your father and I are going out for the day”

Me “what? No take me with”

Mom “like you did yesterday?” she laughed.

Me “wow mom?” she is such a savage.

Mom “yep, you didn't hear me whine for you to take me with, let us enjoy our time without disturbances please”

Me “you are savage mom, I get it okay”

Mom “it's like that”

Dad came in

Dad “what’s going on?”

Me “your wife is rude daddy”

Dad “what did, she do?”

mom “I just told her she can’t tag along, and she is sulking”

Dad “whatever your mom said, I'm saying it too then”

Me “wow” it’s confirmed I live with savages. “you would both crap my style anyway so no I'm good”

Mom “whatever, now my handsome husband eat your breakfast so we can leave already”

I just rolled my eyes.

Me “let me leave the love birds before...”

Dad “it’s gonna be a great day sweetheart, I can feel it”

I quickly walked away to the lounge

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they laughed, minutes later they left.

I was left alone in this huge house, I watched movies until I couldn’t anymore, Philani never came to collect the present for his son, I waited and waited and waited, he didn’t come, it’s now late at night.

I was on a call with Namhla, when he started calling me, I have been ignoring him I don't know why by I just did.

Me "you know at some point you have to settle down right?"

Namhla "I know Landa, it's just that I'm not ready for heartbreaks at this moment, I gave love a chance and that guy destroyed my heart, I'm just not ready for that again"

Me "but babes, not all man are the same, I'm not saying get married to the guy just give him some chance, he might be one of the good guys for all we know"

Namhla "the problem with me is that when I'm dealing with something negative I channel all my energy to it, and I know you are the opposite of me because you concentrate on the positive thing in your life, that's why you would say I must give love a chance"

Me "yeah, you are right, but how long are you going to run away from love because of that ass of an ex-boyfriend you had"

Namhla "he was really an ass that one" we both laughed, Philani called again.

Me "baby, I got to go, my ass of a fiancé is calling"

Namhla "that ass, okay babe we will talk again" she hanged up, as we laughed.

Me "Philani" I answered still laughing.

Him “kumnandi apho ukhona so much that you don’t answer my calls (you are having a good time where you are at)” he said in his deep baritone.

Me “maybe, I could say the same about you as you never pitched”

Him “that’s not answering my question”

Me “did you call me to start a fight Philani because I'm busy here”

Him “wow” he said, and I remained silent “I called because I wanted to apologise to you for not coming, I became busy and I didn’t find time to collect your present”

Me “it’s okay Philani you don’t have to explain it, I just feel like I'm forcing my unwanted present”

Him “that’s just being dramatic now”

Me “you would say that”

Him “ma jones I don’t want us to fight about a present, you will give him your present and he will still be happy”

Me “as I said, it’s all okay Philani let it go”

Him “okay then, so how was your day?”

Me “fine”

Him “are you angry at me ma Jones?”

Me “no”

Him “okay, we are going to talk when you are ready to talk to me then”

Me “okay”

Him “I love you okay”

Me “me too” I then hang up.

He called again, I answered

Him “I'm the one that called you, therefore you have no right hanging up on me”

Me “excuse me?”

Him “anyway, I said I love you, and I don't know what me too means”

Me “are you being serious Dladla?” I laughed

Him “as a heart attack”

Me “wow, okay”

Him “so?”

Me “oh gosh, I love you too Philani okay?”

Him “that’s more like it, not so difficult right?” I just rolled my eyes “I hope you didn’t just roll your eyes at me”

Me “are you sent by the dark world to torment me? “I say laughing softly

Him “no, bye baby”

Me “bye”

I waited for him to hang up but he didn’t, I could hear him breathing on the other side.

I was having a very erotic dream, his tongue was playing with my labia minora, a soft moan escaped my lips, he moved his tongue to the opening of my vagina, he suck it for dear life, he started inserting it, giving me few strokes with the tongue, I could feel my orgasm building deep inside of me, he went faster and faster just as I was about to explode he stopped, WTF. I woke up from my dream; I remembered I slept next to Philani.

Me “WT...” I couldn’t even finish cursing as he inserted his finger inside my vagina, I gasped for air as that wasn’t expected.

He played with my punani for a few seconds, I even forgot I was angry at him, my orgasm build up again. Like last time he stopped as I was about to cum.

Me “what the fuck is wrong with you Philani?” I asked with a very irritated voice.

I could tell he was smiling, he enjoys teasing me.

Me “I didn’t ask you to....” He cut me off by inserting two fingers this time.

He went on too fast from the start, my breathing changed.

Him “what were you saying again?”

Me “noth..not” I moaned loudly.

Him “I can’t hear that should I stop?”

Me “n...no..continu....continue....pleasssse” he chuckled softly

My eyes rolled back as I felt my orgasm building up again, I swear if he stops this time around I'm going to kill him.

He was fucking me with his fingers fast, with the other finger from his other hand slowly playing with my labia.

Me “philaaaaaann.....” I screamed his name as a flood of mind blowing orgasm hit me, I felt like all the energy is sucked off my body.

Me “whuu, why did you do that?”

Him “don’t tell me you didn’t like that?” he smirked.

Me “I did, but you almost killed me”

He got off the bed, seconds later he came back and wiped me with a damp towel.

He then got on top of me, he kissed me all over my face.

Him “I love you”

Me “I love you more”

We kissed passionately, which led him to get so hard, I could feel my punani getting wet again as his pipe breathed in my

thighs, he raised my leg with his arm then he slowly inserted himself inside of me, both my arms moved to his waist as I helped him move slowly.

After we were done with our slow love making, he cleaned the both of us and settled behind me. We stayed in that position for a while, not exchanging any words, we both just listened to our beating hearts and breathing's until we were disturbed by someone at the door.

Him "who the fuck is that so early in the morning" he untangled himself from me and got up, he fidget around the room. "I will be right back babe" he said kissing my cheek, I just nodded.

I took my phone and check time it was actually after 11am, where did the morning go? I then felt my stomach grumbling, I ignored it and login to my twitter account.

It was after many minutes when I remembered that Philani hasn't returned, who could the guest be? I quickly got out of the bed and wore his gown and went downstairs.

He was in a heated conversation when I got there, I guess they didn't even realise I was in sight.

Him “who is this man that would make you abandon your child?” he was talking with Lerato.

Her “what does it even matter who it is? Am I abandoning him when I bring him to you?”

Him “you know what I mean Rato, answer my question who is the son of a bitch?” he said the last part through greeted teeth.

My mind quickly went to the phone call Mandy had with Lerato.

Mandy “if he wants nothing to do with you why does he not accept it when you move on?”

So Philani really doesn't want his baby mama to move on why? Wow what a way to find out.

I was bought back by Lerato's voice.

Lerato “you moved on Monde multiple times? Why can't i?” I also wanted to know.

“aunty Yolanda” Athandwa shouted.

Philani “baby” he was shocked.

Me “no don't mind me, continue with your conversation, how are you champ?” I call him champ because his father call him that.

Lerato “yeah she is right, I want to know” this was really amusing to her.

Philani “baby, Lerato dropped Atha off as she says she is going on a date” he ignored Lerato flat.

Me “oh that’s great isn’t it??” I folded my arms in front of my chest.

Lerato “and I would have left if your man wasn’t interrogating me, I need to prepare for my date as in like yesterday, instead I'm here”

Philani “that’s not what this looks like”

Me “what is it then?”

Lerato “yes what is it? why are you so concerned?”

Philani “look, I don’t have to explain myself here”

Lerato “okay then let me go and prepare for my date” she sounded so excited, she walked away.

Philani “look babe, I need to speak to Lerato for a minute” they closed the door behind them.

Me “wow” I was left speechless with a humourless laugh.

Athandwa “my parents act like children sometimes” he said with an embarrassed voice.

Me “right?” I raised an eyebrow.

Philani came back minutes later he acted like nothing happened.

Phila “who’s up for brunch?”

Athandwa “meeee” he shouted

I just remained in the couch, wondering whether everything that happened really happened.

After a while he squatted next to me holding my knees gentle.

Philani “hey

Advertisement

I made food, are you okay?” so this man doesn’t see anything wrong with what he did?

Me “are we gonna talk about what happened anytime soon?” I just had to ask.

Philani “what do you mean” he whispered.

Me “you having a problem with your baby mama going on a date?”

Philani “look, I don’t have a problem with her going to dates, I’m just a concerned father”

Me “concerned about your baby mama dating?” I half shouted.

Him “I have to know who she dates for my sons sake, just as she knew about you I also have to know it’s not a big deal really, you certainly don’t have to overreact about this”

Me “overreact? WOW, so I'm overreacting now”

Philani “that’s not what I'm saying ma jones, you just.. You know what can we not do this in front of him?”

Me “wow?” I just didn’t have any words to exchange; I just didn’t know what to say.

I was not hungry anymore so I just walked away,

Him “Yolanda? Why are...come on”

I heard him shout as I walked away, I got in the shower when I was done I went to put on fresh clothes, I then tidied around the bedroom, just to cool off.

The rest of the day went by without us talking about what happened, with Athandwa there things were less awkward, I was not going to let this go I needed to know what’s going on.

Later that night we were watching cartoon movies, Athandwa and I were cuddling on the floor next to the couch with cushions around us, Philani was sitting on the couch. Athandwa really likes telling me what’s going on whatever we are

watching so i enjoy watching with him and so does he because no one tells him to keep quiet.

His phone rings.

Him “ey nxa, yah” he answered

Him “and why would we do that again?”

Him “so you are saying I'm a bad parent, sundiphambanela Lera”

Him “nxah, Athandwa it's way past bad time”

Athandwa “even if mom is not here? Come on dad” he whined.

Him “aren't you the one who always gloat about that to her? Now she just called telling me to get you to bed, so get up Mr”

Athandwa “I was not going to tell her though” he whined getting up.

Me “goodnight boy”

Athandwa “goodnight”

After they left I decided to go to bed too, I placed the cushions in their places.

Philani “you are also going to bed?”

Me “yes, I'm tired”

Philani “I will join you in a few minutes”

I went to bed; I waited for him to get in until I fell asleep.

I might have been super tired as I didn't hear him getting on the bed, he was snoring next to me, I untangled myself in his arms and went to the bathroom, I peed, flushed and washed my hands, I don't wipe because I get infection whether I use a toilet paper or wipes.

I took a quick shower, after I was done I went to his closet and looked for track pants and t shirts, I wore them and sleepers before making my way to the kitchen.

Athandwa was already up watching TV after we exchanged greetings, I made breakfast, he offered to help me Such a gentleman.

Me "did you brushed your teeth champ?"

Him "oops, I forgot"

Me "go and brush while I dish up for you okay" He ran away.

Philani "morning" he mumbled

Me "morning" I continued doing what I was doing, he came by my side and snaked his arms around my body, kissing my neck, he then turned me to face him. he planted a kiss on my lips.

"you did not even brushed your teeth"

Philani "ndi right kaloku, but I'm still gonna kiss you" he deepened the kiss and I responded.

Athandwa “eew!” he shouted as he came back.

We laughed at him.

Me “here is your food” I gave him his food “want me to dish for you”

Philani “please, but I will go freshen up quickly”

Me “okay” he walked away.

I dished up for the both of us, and put his in the warmer, I was going home later on today as I will be going to work tomorrow.

We decided to swim, as it was hot, I swam for a bit then spent most of my time outside the pool, Athandwa spent his swimming, Philani juggled between in and out. Just after midday he received a call from “Lerato” she was on her way to wherever she was going to and her car broke down.

The same Lerato that was going on a date with a “man” was now calling my man to come and help her, it’s funny how he didn’t see anything wrong with that.

He left rushing, and I have to baby sit their child, should I be worried?

Monde

I know someone may say I'm an arse well there won't be a need to tell me I feel like one, why would I mess up my relationship with Yolanda by going after Lerato? I ask myself that question every single time there's just no answer, but I can't control what my heart tells me to do.

I'm still with Yolanda because I obviously love her, she is a great person I have ever been with, for some reason my feelings with Lerato woke up, I have been thinking about what we had, it was beautiful but we were not right for each other then, well for some time we were good.

but she started hanging with wrong people at first I talked to her and she would act like she gets me and change for a short time then go back to square one, I became physical with her for a couple of times, I hate that I did that to her and I know there is no excuse for what I did to her, I could have easily walked out of the relationship but I didn't instead beating her became our daily life.

I would do it even for the small things, before I knew it I would feel better after beating her because it somehow healed me

from my own wounds, crazy I know, but at the time it made sense. But I finally stopped beating her because our son was growing and he was starting to notice what was going on, Athandwa made me a better man, even though I don't and never want to have my own children, having Athandwa somehow made my life worth living.

After we both realised that we were no longer happy we decided to call it quits, it was not easy as we both still love each other but sometimes love alone is just not enough, what is love if you are no longer happy?

After Lerato I didn't want to fall in love any more, for many reasons to name a few I felt like I didn't deserve to be loved, there was something I loved about Being with Lerato, and I didn't want to fall in love again only to change and start being abusive again.

I went through therapy, it helped me so much because I managed to change my life around for beter, I can finally say I'm no longer a gangster, my businesses are now legit, even though it's hard to completely live a normal life even if you no longer a gangster but to me it's fine.

When I met Yolanda I was attracted by her personality, she is free spirited, calm, I can go all day describing her but her innocence drew me towards her and I fell in love. She is the total opposite of all the girls I have been with, she is the Total

opposite of Lerato, there is literally nothing to compare them with, they are two sides of the same coin, I still ask myself how that is even possible.

I came clean to Yolanda and told her about my previous life, but I didn't tell her about me being abusive to Lerato, I just can't seem to bring myself and tell her that. I have been having this fear of becoming abusive to her too when she does things I don't like because she is her own person, she does things she wants to do at the time she wants, she wants to work for her own money, that is what we always fight about, what if one day I get tired of all the arguing and hurt her? I'm not saying I want to but sometimes I can't manage my temper, it's not because I don't want to god knows I do but it just become so hard.

I am used to having girls asking me for money, and I believe that as a man I have to take care of my woman, now with Yolanda that is not what she believes, she wants to work for her own money which is good, but I don't believe in that.

At first I thought I had a problem with Lerato dating because I am making sure that she does not get involve with someone who would be a bad influence towards Athandwa but deep down I don't want her to date because I still have feelings for her, I'm an arse I have said it but as I have also said we don't control our hearts, at first I thought I was over her I didn't even

care but now, now I know that you can't just switch off your feelings.

Just because I have admitted to still having feelings for Lerato doesn't make me love Yolanda any less, I love her, I love them both

damn it feels like I'm some psycho but before you judge I can attest to you that it's very possible to love two women at the same time, they both have different qualities that the other doesn't possess and that's just frustrate me, sometimes I wish I can combine them to be one person, but I can't, it's true when they say you can't always get what you want.

I feel bad having feelings for my ex while I am engaged to be married to another woman, I know I have cheated and Landa didn't find out but that was a mistake, but if I would cheat now with Lerato I know it wouldn't be a mistake, I'm not saying I want to cheat but it really gets hard because Lerato knows that I still have feelings for her and she is not really making me rest, she also knows I can't say no to her, that's why she always calls me for things.

There are many things that involves Lerato that Yolanda doesn't like, like the fact that I'm the one who supports Lerato in everything, right now she is studying because I told her I won't support her forever, but I had to pay for everything,

Yolanda doesn't know, I feel like I lie to her with everything nowadays.

Right now I just arrived to where Lerato is.

Me "did you really have to call me though?"

I asked because she is not in an unsafe place, there are people walking up and down here.

Her "and risk being robbed?" she shrugged her shoulders

Me "there are people here, Rato"

Her "you still came though, where is Atha?" she asked looking at my car.

Me "I left him with Yolanda" I answered

Her "you are really determined to replace me in my son's life" she rolled her eyes.

Me "that's just dramatic, Athandwa likes Landa"

Her "exactly my point, he is not supposed to like her"

Me "don't be petty Lerato"

Her "says the guy who doesn't want me dating" she folds her arms.

Me “we are not going to fight about that” I say in a serious tone

Her “you want me to accept your fiancé but you don’t want to accept me dating?”

Me “we are not going to fight about this, I told you my fears and that’s that”

Her “who is the petty one then?” she looked at me, I looked at her.

We are both standing by her car’s boot, I didn’t say anything.

Her “I just don’t understand that I have to accept that you are in love, you introduce your person to our son but I can’t do the same”

I looked at her, her eyes lured me towards her, she froze just as I was about to kiss her a towing car parked next to us.

She cleared her throat, fuck what did I just do?

Her “let me handle that, she walked towards the guys, I walked towards my car. I entered and waited for her inside, minutes later she entered, and didn’t say anything.

Me “where to?” it was suddenly awkward.

Her “please take me home”

I drove in an uncomfortable silence. We got to her place, she bids farewell and left.

I was going to bring back Athandwa later on.

When I got back at the house I couldn't look Ma Jones in the eyes I felt like she could see right through me, crazy right because she can't really see me. But knowing how she is attentive I felt like she knew what just happened, but I don't even know why I'm guilty I didn't even kiss Lerato.

Her "are you okay?" she had a concerned look on.

Me "mmh...yah I'm good babe" I stood up from where I was sitting, and kissed her hungrily.

Her "slow down tiger" she say pushing me gentle "there's a kid here" she whispered.

Me "I'm sorry, I don't know what's going on with me" I lied, because I know.

I looked around and Atha was just playing his game on TV not minding us.

Me "let's take this upstairs please" I begged.

She didn't question me she just followed suit, as soon as we got in I kissed her aggressively, taking her clothes off in the process, I placed her on the corner of the bed, my hand reached to her cookie that was ready for the action.

I directed my erect dick inside her, she moaned so loud making me even more hard.

I trusted deeply right from the start, she screamed my name.

Her “oh...yeesssssssss.....Phila.....ni.....oh my god” she shouted to the top of her voice, good thing the room is sound proof.

I was now hitting it hard from the back, she has cum multiply times and I'm far away from reaching my destination, I fucked her so hard. That she begged me to stop and go on at the same time.

I eventually nutted inside of her, we both fell from the bed, she then looked at me like she was asking a question, I pecked her lips and rapped my arms around her body, I could see she wanted to ask me.

Me “I'm fine” she just nodded and buried herself in my chest.

Sometimes as a person you have to take time away from everything, people, social networks, etc. just to introspect yourself, you would be surprised of the outcomes.

You may look at yourself and think you have not achieved anything, because most of the times people focus only on the negative things in their lives, but when you self-introspect you will find out you have achieved a lot, but it's hard to see all that when you focus only on negative things.

I am saying this because I recently took time to analyse my life, yes career wise I may not be where I wanted to be growing up, I wanted to be a doctor, but that changed when I became permanently blind, but I managed to study towards being a chef which was not what I wanted to be but because of circumstances I had to change careers and I'm happy.

I am almost done with school, even though I'm not sure what I want to do after obtaining my degree, right now I'm happy.

Family wise, we are good, I think we are in a better place as we previously were as a family, yes we do have disagreements here and there but which family doesn't?, and we are human beings after all.

Romantically, well I thought I was good, I mean when I look at Philani and I we are fine no problems at the moment, no fights.

We are good right? but after I analysed our relationship I discovered things that are there, but you can't really notice until you look at things on a different perspective.

I love Philani so much, so damn much it's even hard to point out his flaws, to me he is my prince charming, he is my forever and I always see right in everything he does, I don't know whether he is aware of that or he isn't, I do think and feel like he loves me, and I do feel his love for me when I'm with him, but lately I have been feeling nothing but doubts, I don't know whether he has fallen a bit out of love or he has realised that he doesn't love me as much as he thought he did.

****flash backs****

I was with Mels, and I told her how I felt, and she told me what she sees.

Mels "you know I didn't want to tell you this, but I prayed every day that you open your eyes"

Me "what is it that I have to open my eyes from?" i asked

Mels “everything, sis, everything the whole relationship you are having with Philani is just” she took a deep sign

Me “no tell me please, I came to you because I want to see on other person’s perspective”

Mels “okay, at first I was happy that you were finally in a relationship right”

Me “aha?”

Mels “then, that pregnancy scare you had, then mo guy ran away, then I was like, what? Is this nigga real and I don’t want to lie I started hating him then, but because you forgave him I was like okay, maybe he just overreacted it’s nothing”

Me “yeah, and that’s really when you started hating him” I chuckled.

Mels “I was willing to move past that and stop hating him, but his baby mama appeared and things between you and him were never the same, it’s like Lerato controls him, if she says jumps he doesn’t even ask how high, he just jumps high”

Me “you didn’t tell me this though?” I say in a low and disappointed tone.

Mels “I know, sometimes people are meant to see for them themselves when they are ready, if I said something then you would have looked at me and say “it’s because you hate him”

without even taking the whole thing in to consideration” she explained.

Me “I get you”

Mels “he doesn’t know, how to reprimand her..”

Me “but he did” I cut her off trying to defend him.

Mels “did that work though? Because his sister came and she was running around with the same Lerato”

Me “okay, okay” I rolled my eyes.

Mels “then he “talked” with his sister but did that stop them? No because they continued behind his back and you didn’t say anything, I know you love the guy but I feel like most times you let things go because you are afraid to get in a fight with the guy, every time you guys have a squabble he disappears and comes back to apologise only when he is ready and you forgives him” she was right about some things, but do I really avoid because I don’t want arguments?

Mels “there are many red flags about the guy sis, but you were just blinded by love and even before the engagement”

Me “Were you going to let me marry him Mels?”

Mels “that’s why I prayed, to god to reveal everything to you before you go on with everything” she says

Me “marriage has even turned you to a Pastor” we both laughed.

Mels “I was told praying is very important in a marriage sis and I don’t want to be those people that starts praying when the going gets tougher”

Me “who would have thought?” I say chuckling.

Mels “say that again, so what are you going to do?”

Me “Eish” I say scratching my head.

end of flash backs

Today I am still asking myself the same thing, “What am I going to do?”

It may look easy to someone who is not in the situation until one day they are faced with the same quandary, some may even think that I'm staying because of desperation, but let me say this, it’s not because I'm desperate, yes as a blind person, one may think I'm still holding on to the non-existent relationship because I'm afraid that I would never find someone

who would want to be in a relationship with me but rest assured that's not the case, it's only because I love him.

I am not afraid to stay single, I have done it before and I survived, I can do it again and again and again, but love alone is just not enough, there were many red flags in the relationship but I was just too blinded by love to even recognise them, but now that I'm aware I am willing to have a conversation with him and take it from there.

There reason I talked with Mels was to confirm or I wanted to hear something different from what I discovered but sis told me exactly what she thought and I know she would never lead me on a wrong path she has been my ride or die since forever.

I mean it is clear as a day light that Philani is still in love with his baby Mama, the signs were always there right from the start but I was just too naïve to see.

Philani needs privacy to talk with Lerato, he doesn't want me around Lerato, I have witnessed this, when he dropped things to Lerato's house I would remain in the car and he didn't want me attending their son's birthday party because he didn't want "drama", I only realised recently that it was just an excuse to keep me away from her.

he is concerned about Lerato dating, not so long ago I watched them having an argument about this, everything he does when it comes to their son is Lerato's decisions, from what he eats, wear etc. I have witnessed this every time Athandwa spent time with us, Lerato would call Philani reminding him of what and what not to do and not once has he called her out for it.

Lerato relies on Philani with everything, he gives a large amount of money for their son but now I know it's just an excuse of taking care of Lerato too because it's way too much for only baby's needs, not only that but with every little thing, again not so long along she called him because her car broke down, what was he going to do, as far as I'm concerned he is no mechanic, but he rushed to her leaving me with their son.

I can't believe I have been so slow it's like my mind just went to a temporally paralysis, it's just so funny how suddenly everything just came to my attention.

It's just after work and I asked Ntate Sam to drop me off at Philani's, I need to get this off my chest, I believe in communicating about a situation so that I can move on from

the situation, I want to know where I really stand in his life so my life could go on.

The car came to a halt.

Ntate “we are here” he announced.

Me “thank you ntate, you can leave me”

Him “you going to be okay?”

Me “yes, thank you for bringing me”

Ntate “it’s always a pleasure driving you my girl”

I got out of the car, Ntate is such a great person his family is blessed to have such a man in their lives.

I rang the doorbell, I hope he is here because I didn’t even call him to confirm.

Him “coming” he shouted.

Few seconds later he opened.

Him “Landa?” he sounded shocked to see me.

Me “hi” I smiled a bit.

He pulled me for a hug, then made way for me to enter.

Him “I wasn’t expecting you, to come during the week” he says leading the way to the living room.

Me “yeah, I want us to talk”

Him “oh?” he said

Me “yeah”

Him “okay do you want anything to eat?, drink?”

Me “no I'm fine thanks”

Him “okay” he sat next to me “so what’s up?”

I cleared my throat; I suddenly didn’t know what to say.

Me “okay, so. I'm .okay”

I could feel him looking at me like I'm crazy.

Him “what’s wrong Ma Jones, talk to me”

Me “I will just say this, please let me speak before you can say anything okay?”

Him “okay I hope you didn’t come here to break up with me?”
he says with a chuckle

Me: I cleared my throat and ignored him flatly “so I sat down and analyse our relationship from the start until now” I went on and told him everything “so to me it feels like you are still in

love with her and if you are I will understand, but..." I realised that he was quiet.

Me "Philani?"

Him "mmh?"

Me "can you even hear me?"

Him "I can hear you Landa, I'm not going to deny what you have just told me, but I love you, I asked for your hand in marriage because I love you, yes I still have feelings for Lerato but I love you" he holds both my hands in his.

Me "I hear you, and I appreciate the fact that you are denying what I just said, but I think I deserve better, I don't want to marry you knowing that you are still in love with your ex, so I am going to ask you to let me go, as I will do the same, yes I love you but I won't settle for someone who is in love with someone else, someone who is going to be part of our lives forever should I agree to marry you"

Him "so you are breaking up with me"

Me "I'm letting you go Philani, please try to see things my way"

It's just a few days after I broke things off with Philani, to be honest, I'm happy I got the courage but it hasn't been easy, I'm still battling with calling him every day, I miss him so much, every day I have to convince myself why I had to let him go, I'm grateful I decided to break things off before he would cheat on me with her at some point because it was bound to happen and I don't think I would have been able to deal with that, I'm glad I got courage to speak with him about this.

Sometimes you just need to talk things through without fighting with the other person; we don't always have to involve harsh words when dealing with things.

Philani has been making things even worse for me because he has been calling me, begging me to think my decision through but to be honest my mind is made up nothing and absolutely no one can change me even the love I have for him cannot change anything at this moment.

At first I tried to make him see everything from my perspective but he just doesn't get where I'm coming from, he was never mine right from the start, the signs were there but I ignored them.

I haven't told my parents yet, I feel like dad would make statements like "that's why I never accepted your relationship"

I just don't need that right now, I just need their support, I'm heartbroken even though I'm the one who broke things off I'm still heart broken.

Melissa knows though, she and Namhla are the only people that knows, even though they didn't show it I could tell they were happy, but they acted like they were sad because I was.

Just the day after I broke things off I called both of them to meet me for lunch, I got to the restaurant first and waited for them over a drink.

Namhla arrived first, she side hugged me before sitting down.

Namhla "it's been a while, how are you?"

Me "right?, I'm good babe you?"

Namhla "I'm at my maximum" she says cheery

Me "what did I miss?"

Namhla "hahaha, nothing, I'm just happy, you know? Did you place your order?"

Me "not yet, I was actually waiting for you and Melissa"

Namhla "owh? You good?"

Mels "sorry, I'm late, how are you both, I didn't know Namhla was coming too"

Me "I invited you both"

Mels “I hope you are paying sis”

Me “you are working Mels”

Namhla “I'm not working, so”

Me “you are a trust fund baby” we then laughed

Namhla “you are crazy, besides trust fund or not you invited me”

Me “okay fine I will pay but don't cripple my wallet okay”

Mels “yesss” she chirped, I just rolled my eyes. We ordered our food then.

Namhla and Mels “so what's up?” they asked at the same time.

Me “wow, you don't waste time do you” they just laughed. “so anyway I should get it off my chest”

Mels “what is it” she cut me off.

Me “can't you just wait, you are delaying me by cutting”

“okay okay” they both said.

Me “so I spoke with Philani about what I talked about”

Namhla “the Lerato-Philani-Yolanda situation?”

Me “damn girl why do you have to put it that way but yes about that”

Mels “and?”

Me “and he didn’t deny being in love with Lerato in fact he confirmed it and”

Mels “why would he deny the truth?”

Me “I don’t know I guess I wanted the whole thing to be something that was only in my head”

Namhla “and what happened?”

Me “I decided that we both go our separate ways” I say with a low voice.

Mels “that is the best decision sis”

Namhla “it is, if you were to continue, that nigga would have fucked you up with the mother of all heart breaks”

Mels “that’s true

I’m so happy about your decision babe” they both took turns to hug me.

They went on and on motivating me and making me see that I took a good decision

So at least I have them supporting me, but I want to tell my parents soon so I can deal with my heart break without having secrets.

Time today seem to be dragging, it's finally knock off time. I made my way to the parking lot after saying goodbye to my colleagues.

When I got home both my parents were around.

Mom "how are you sweetheart?" she always says something as soon as I enter, no surprise here.

Me "I'm good ma, how are you?"

Dad "you come home early nowadays"

"Because I'm no longer in a relationship with someone, so nothing keeps me" a voice in my head says.

Me "I come straight home" I said.

Dad "good"

Moms "are you hungry? I will fix you something to eat"

Me "I'm good mom, thanks, I will go and change"

I made my way downstairs.

Mom "is it me or she doesn't look like her normal self?"

Dad “she looks good to me, she probably just tired, you don’t have to worry about that” they spoke as I walked away.

We were done having dinner, I offered to help mom with the dishes.

Mom “just don’t break my plates Yoyo”

Me “I won’t mom, I swear relax” I say laughing.

Mom “you can do anything baby, we all know that but it’s not a secret that dishes are your weakest point”

Me “wow, what happened to trust?”

Mom “I can trust you with anything my baby just not my dishes, you can wash spoons and forks any time though”

Me “I’m hurt mom” I say laughing she joined me, she was not lying though, whenever I do dishes I always break something, I can cook well but let someone to dish up and do the dishes afterwards.

few minutes later we were done, we joined dad in the living room, I decided to just tell them and get over and done with.

Me “so there is something I have to tell you guy”

Mom “what is it?” she was panicking that’s just so like her.

Dad “okay?” it was more of a question.

Me “I'm..”

Mom “gosh, are you pregnant Landa?”

Mom and Mels are of the same whatsapp group, they don't let you speak they just delay you by all the questions.

Dad “honey please let her speak” thanks to dad

Me “there is no easy way to say this, Philani and I broke up”

Mom “what??. no what happened? Are you okay babe?”

Dad “what did that boy do Yolanda?”

Me “he didn't do anything dad”

Mom “are you okay baby?” she sat next to me and gave me a side hug, mom is so sweet.

Me “I will get there mom, thanks for asking”

Dad “there has to be something that happened you can't just broke up with someone for fun, what did he do”

Me “he didn't do anything dad, trust me, I just find out that he is still in love with his ex-girlfriend and I decided to part ways, and please dad promise me you won't go after him, please”

Dad “I promise, but I won't be held accountable for what my feelings make me do when I see him”

Me “dad!”

Mom “Richard!” we said at the same time.

Me “there is more” I said and kept quiet.

Mom “oh my god, you are pregnant” she said dramatically, I kept quiet.

Dad “are you?”

Me “no, I have been accepted to study at a culinary school in London”

Mom “what? No Yoyo, I hope you are not considering going away”

Dad “your mother is right Yolanda”

My parents do not support me in moving away, they think I made a drastic decision. But I assure that this is what I have always wanted, I have stated a couple of times that when I was growing up I wanted to be a doctor and I wanted to study abroad, but my dream came down crashing when I became blind.

As I was not really sure what I wanted to do the following year, I applied for many places to study next year, to those application includes the one from Uk, London. I was just trying my luck with them because they are a very prestigious culinary school in London; they have many campuses all over the world, when I received their acceptance e-mail I didn't even think twice I knew i had to go.

Mom "Yoyo, you can't run away from your problems, you have to deal with everything first hand and heal"

Me "mom, going to London in not about my failed relationship, I applied a while back and I would have left even if I was still in a relationship"

Mom "but Landa, you are going across the world, alone"

Me "it's not going to be the first time that I will be alone, last year I was practically staying alone here" I didn't want to bring this up but it's not a lie and I'm trying to reason.

Mom “that was different

she exclaimed.

Me “how mom, you were all away doing your things, when it’s my turn I can’t?”

Mom “Thembi was here and she is like a family to us”

Me “I know but, what if she was not the person you think she is and I was harmed?”

Mom “well she is not and you know we were dealing with something”

Me “if I was not blind would you still refused me from doing things I want to do?”

Mom “Yoyo, you know we have never stopped you from doing things you wanted because of you being blind”

Me “yes you do, you just don’t agree”

Mom “that’s just not true, we stop you only when we feel like there may be danger”

Me “no, there are many things, it was a struggle when I wanted to move to an apartment, it was a struggle when I dated Philani now I can’t go to another country?”

Mom “don’t forget that you got kidnapped at the beginning of the year”

Me “I did, but not from my apartment and that could have happened anywhere, so because I got kidnapped I shouldn’t persuade my dreams?”

Mom “that’s not what I’m saying”

Me “what exactly are you saying mom?”

Mom “I’m just..” I cut her off.

Me You know what mom it doesn’t matter, you and dad have always told me to never let my blindness hold me from following my dreams, and right now I am doing just that, I am going to London, with or without your blessings”

Mom “Yolanda..”

Me “no mom, you and dad always guilt trip me, I appreciate you but sometimes you just have to let me do me, it’s like you want me to be tied down in the house and do nothing while I miraculously achieve my dreams”

I left her there and took Louie to the park, we got there and I settled on the bench.

I know I may seem disrespectful and ungrateful right now but that is not what I am, every time I want to do something it’s like I have to go through mom and dad, especially dad, what I want is their support, not even once, but I’m growing tired of that now.

Me “ siri call Mels”

Siri “calling Mels” her cell phone rings for a while, just as I was about to give up she answered.

Mels “little sis” she chirped.at times I wish I was like her, and Jason even, no one tells him what not to do, maybe it’s because he is a male?

Thando “Lilly sis, lilly sis

Advertisement

liillly sis” she sang in the background.

Mels “you are making a noise Thando, I'm on the phone” I laughed softly.

I heard shuffling before she finally say something.

Mels “this child is very problematic, are you okay Yols?”

I took a deep sigh and told her everything.

Mels “I still can’t believe you are really moving, but hun, you are right this time around do you, I am always here to support you, the moment mom, dad and Jason accept that you are grown, that’s when they will stop controlling your life, they make it seem like you applied after you broke up”

Me “you know a part of me is happy that, Philani and I broke up, our relationship was going to take a toll when I moved and

maybe he would have cheated in the long run because a long distance relationship is a challenge on its own”

Mels “he would defiantly have cheated with Lerato as he was still into her”

Me “yeah, and now I can be out there without worrying about a relationship”

Mels “forget Philani, who knows maybe you would find a handsome white man, out there” she chortle and I join her.

Me “now you are taking it far” I chortled.

Mels “you’d never know sis, you’d never know”

Me “thank you for always been there for me Melissa, I know for a fact that some people only dream about having a good, and supporting sister as you, let alone a best friend as a sister”

Mels “you are making me emotional Yols” she sniffed “I am blessed to have a best friend in my sister too, you don’t know how much I appreciate you”

I couldn’t help but shed few tears too, we kept quiet for a while.

“baby, I have to...you okay” Nathi said in the background.

Mels “I’m okay, I’m just having a moment with Landa”

Nathi “oh, tell her I say hi”

Mels “Nathi says hi Yols”

Me “how is he?”

Mels “he is fine, he just wants me to be the bad guy to his daughter, I'm not budging”

I laughed, it was getting chilly so I needed to go home.

Me “I have to go home, it's getting chilly out here”

Mels “where are you?”

Me “the park”

Mels “okay then goodbye sis I love you”

Me “I love you too “she hanged up, we left for home.

I was really serious when I said I am going to UK with or without my parents blessings, I have to get all my documents ready and send them immediately, it's a good thing that I am going to study with all expenses paid scholarship, even if my parents decide to cut me off thinking that will stop me from going nothing will hold me back.

I got inside and they are both in, I greeted and made my way to my room.

The next day Mels was going to help me with the documents; I have been prepaid even before I could be accepted with my travelling and studying abroad documents so all is good.

I'm only left with a week until I'm done with my work experience, I have no doubts that everything is going well because I really did well with my work.

The next morning I got ready for work, and made my way to the kitchen to have breakfast, only dad is around.

Me "morning" I greeted

Dad "how are you, Princess"

Me "I'm good dad, how are you"

Dad "I'm good"

I made cereal for myself, I could feel him breathing, and I just knew he wanted to say something; I'm really not up for a fight right now really.

I ate in silence.

Dad "so your mother told me that you said you are going away even though we don't want you to?"

Me "I really don't want to have a fight dad, it's still very early in the morning"

Dad "I'm not looking for a fight sweetheart, I just want you to think everything through and be sure"

I just nodded because I really don't want to go back and forth with them on this any more, when I was done I rinsed my bowl and took my things and left with Louie guiding me.

Work was fine, after work I went to Melissa's work place and she helped me in sorting my documents out then we sent them, I was told to send the final results immediately after they were out and they told me they had a choice of rejecting me if they were not satisfied by my results.

weeks later

It's been a while since we broke up, Philani eventually stopped calling me and I was just grateful for that, he however sent me a message asking for us to be at least friends I didn't reply because I'm just not matured enough to be friends with my ex whom I break up with recently and who I still love with every fibre in my body.

everything is set for me to move away, my parents finally approved of me moving not that I was going to stay because they refused, my mind was made up right from the start.

I have been spending a lot of time with family and friends lately; I want to create memories with them as I am living soon.

Right now Namhla picked me at home we are spending this day together, the speakers are on full blast with Cassper Nyovest songs. Namhla loves the guy, she forces me to listen to his song whenever she gets a chance and I have since liked some of his music, people say it's either you are a Cassper or AKA's fan but I'm neither I just like good music.

Namhla "we will go to cotton on first" she says lowering the volume. Me "no problem"

'Hayi man ngi-sexy man

Bengigibela itaxi mann

Manje, I'm international

They know my raps and all

I mean, awubheke nje. (awubheke!)

I mean, awubheke nje. (awubheke)

Us "awubheke!"

Namhla "eh, awubheke"

We were both singing along to the song.

'foot on their necks

Syawanyathel' madimoi

Syawanyathel' madimoi

Syawanyathel' madimoi

Syawanyathel' madimoi

S'yawaxoba like Yah Yah

S'yawaxoba like Yah Yah

Us "yah yah" She parked the car and switched off music.

Namhla "we are here boo"

Me "let's do this" we both got out and wet through the entrance.

Namhla “I can’t believe I will be left friendless in a couple of days”

Me “don’t worry babe, I will be a phone call away”

Namhla “bitch, you know international calls cost an arm and a half” Me “bitch you got money”

Namhla “you will call me because you are the one moving” she says chuckling.

Me “you are crazy” I chuckled too.

We got to the shop, and she picked a few outfit’s, she even picked two tops for me.

Me “we going to be twins, ah friend you are so sweet thank you” Namhla “we have nothing that looks alike so”

Me “thank you”

Namhla “it’s nothing let me fit, this items”

Me “alright, just don’t take too long”

Namhla “I will try” she walked away.

I passed time by looking for items.

Me “mmh this is nice” I said to myself, but got embarrassed as soon as I realised I was in a store with other people who won’t understand that some people do talk alone.

“it’s really nice hey” a female voice said.

Me “right?” I just didn’t want to explain to a stranger that I can’t see.

Her “it may seem like you are making a mistake right now but this was meant to be, every decision you are taking will be worth it at the end”

Me “excuse me?” she was obviously saying that to me but she did not make sense.

Her “you are highly blessed Yolanda”

Me “pardon? Do we know each other?” she was freaking me out, how does she even know me?.

Her “I’m sorry, I got to go” she walked away.

Her “hey, come on you can’t leave me like that”

Namhla “what’s wrong with you? Why are you shouting alone?”

Me “I’m not, there was a female talking with me just now”

Namhla “babe, you are alone here, other people are meters away from you”

Me “argh never mind, do they fit?” I opted to changing the topic before I sound even more crazy.

Namhla “they do hey, you were right the gym helped, I have gained a bit, it’s funny how I didn’t notice before”

Me “you would never go wrong with the gym, so they say”

Namhla “I hope I won’t lose once I stop because I won’t go to gym my whole life”

Me “it’s only been a month Hlahla”

Namhla “a month of hard work, whuh!” she says dramatically.

Me “just hold on for longer, we are going to spur right?”

Namhla “you could have just said lets go to spurs you know?”

Me “whatever” We got to spur and sat down

Me “I will have Ribs and Buffalo wings”

Namhla “I will just have a cheese burger, let’s just order then”

The waiter came to take our orders and walked away.

Namhla “why are those bitches pointing at us?”

Me “mmh?” I asked clearly lost.

Namhla “could be nothing, but there are girls sitting next to our table, they are obviously talking about you, or me or both, as they are pointing at us” Me “I wonder”

The waiter came with our food, and we ate over a light conversation.

Namhla “we will see but this is my busiest year”

Me “yeah, but I will always come home during the break”

Namhla “I will be damned” she says through greeted teeth
“one of those bitches is coming to our table” she added before I
could ask what’s going on.

Her “ladies, how are you?” she chirped.

We both kept quiet.

Her “okay, I couldn’t help but notice you from our table”

Namhla “must we interview you?” she asked sarcastically

Me “Namhla” I reprimanded her.

Her “it’s fine girl I’m used to rude people, any way I just came
to say hi to Yolanda over here and your friend of course”

Namhla “and you are” she asked before I could even open my
mouth.

Her “anyway Yolanda, please greet Your man for me”

Me “my man?”

Her “yes, Major”

Namhla “bitch who the fuck are you?”

Her “tell him Bongi said hi, he will know me, very well. Anyway
bye guys see you” she walked away.

Namhla “nxah, and you had to be polite to someone who just came to disrespect you?”

Me “what did you want me to do? You could tell she came here with whatever attitude she has to get us out of our moods and I'm not going to give her that satisfaction”

Namhla “the nerve” she was angry, but when someone comes with that attitude I feel like I have to keep it cool, the last thing I want is to find myself in the middle of a fight.

Namhla “but you know what this means right?”

Me “I know exactly what this means, it's either she is Philani's ex, or a side chick from when we were dating or” I ran out of options.

Namhla “or he cheated, like a once off thing or she is just a spiteful bitch”

Me “yeah or those”

Namhla “by the way they look like slay queens all three of them”

The possibility of Philani possible cheating while we were together freaked me the hell out, I mean we were not using condoms with the guy, we just stopped, and I didn't mind because I made sure to get an injection every three months but never have I ever think about protecting myself over STI's, how

can one person be so dumb, and even the contraceptives are not 100 percent.

Me “I need to get tested”

Namhla “you were not using protection?”

Me “obviously Namhla”

Namhla “come down, okay”

Me “I am so dumb, could he put me true that though while claiming to love me?”

Namhla “there is no use to getting worked over by this okay, we will get you tested, and take it from there”

I just nodded; I didn’t want to eat any more so we decided to leave.

I hardly slept last night my mind was invaded with a number of scenarios to what happened yesterday first the lady that spoke to me in riddles then disappeared in to thin air, and then that Bongi girl.

I don't know how many times I stopped myself from calling him, I'm still not sure whether to call him to enquire about this or just let it go, but another part of me wants to find out whether it's what I think is, but I don't know if I will be able to handle what I may find.

I am getting ready to go to the doctor, as I'm still deciding which handbag will fit my outfit my phone rings, it's Namhla.

Me "hey"

Namhla "babe, how are you?"

Me "physically I'm good, but inside..ay" I took a deep sigh

Namhla "oh boo, you gonna be fine, want me to come with you?"

Me "no it's cool Nam.." she cut me off.

Namhla "I will pick you up just now, what time is your appointment"

Me “it’s at 11:00, I’m serious babe, you don’t have to come, I got this”

Namhla “I’m coming, anyway”

Me “you have something’s to do in case you forgot”

Namhla “gosh, I forgot, but let me at least drop you there”

Me “that’s fine, thanks”

Namhla “I will be there in a few minutes” she drops the call.

About 15 minutes later she announced that she was outside, I made my way out using my white cane.

Namhla “whuh, I feel so underdressed right now” she says as I reached her car.

Me “oh come on Hlahla” I say rolling my eyes.

Namhla “serious, I’m in a simple black dress with ankle boots and a bomber jacket”

Me “that’s a very cute outfit though”

Minutes later we got to the doctor.

Me “don’t forget our lunch with Chris and Matt’

Namhla “there is still that, I might be late”

Me “let me know if you won’t make it”

Namhla "I will bye babe"

Me "bye"

I walked to the reception.

Her "good morning how can I help you?"

Me "morning, I have an appointment for 11am" she shuffle for a few seconds.

Her "Dr Pretzel is waiting for you, do you need me to take you to the office?"

Me "please"

She gives me her arm then we went to the office, after we exchanged greetings we got right to it.

Dr Pretzel " so how can I help you miss Jones"

Me "please call me Yolanda, I would like to test for STI's including Hiv" I said.

Dr "okay, first do you have any symptoms?"

Me "no, I just want to make sure that I am clean, and I want to know my status"

Her "okay, that's a good thing" I just smile and od briefly.

She gave me a bit of counselling before taking the random tests.

She did urine tests for STI's, she said I was clean, we were now waiting for the Hiv& Aids test.

I think it was going to be better if I could see the test, or maybe not, I'm really not sure at this moment, but I think it would be hard to believe her when she says it's positive.

My heart was beating hard in my chest, as if I was not scared enough the timer went off, indicating that the test is ready.

Dr "are you ready?"

Me "Iye..s" words failed me.

Dr "okay, the test is negative" I breathed out louder, funny thing is that I didn't even know I was holding my breath.

Me "it's negative?" I ask making sure I heard her right.

Dr "yes, however ..." she went on explaining about how the virus can hide within the few weeks prior contracting, and that I should do follow up tests after 3months to make sure

she then drew blood to be sent to lab, I was going to get my results in a few days.

I walked out of that office with my head held up, I was clean. Yes I was still waiting for blood tests to confirm, but for now I will celebrate.

Monde

It's been weeks later after Landa broke up with me, I was not expecting her to end things not like that, I thought we were going to move past that, as a result I used to call her but she never gave me the time to convince her otherwise, I know it's selfish of me to want her to settle for me while I'm still in love with my ex-girlfriend. I eventually stopped calling her though and accepted that she is gone.

To be honest I was hoping she would come back after a while but I realised it was never going to happen, so instead of mopping around I decided to go back to Lerato, and she was more than happy to take me back, I want to make things right this time around I want to love her right, it's been over a week that we got back together and we both decided to take things slowly, get to know each other all over again, learn about the

new us, because we are surely not the same as we were when we were dating.

We are at the restaurant having our lunch.

Her “this is really nice” she says smiling.

Me “what is?” I queried

Her “this, me and you having lunch, and the getting back together” she smiled.

Me “it is, I just hope we have learnt something from our previous relationship”

Her “I hope so to..” she stopped and looked behind me.

Me “what?”

Her “it’s nothing, I was just not expecting her to have moved on so quickly, woow” she clapped her hands dramatically.

I looked back and my heart moved, she has moved on?

Yolanda is busy laughing with some white guy I have never seen before; she has her arm hooked in his elbow.

Not forgetting that she looks extremely beautiful, she has on those boots that reach the thighs, a short pleated black skirt and a mustard polo neck, she looks good so good.

A lot of questions are running through my mind right now, she had to come to where we are?.

I take another glance back and that boy is opening a chair for her, they look like they have known each other for a long time, she is busy giggling to his stupid jokes.

I can't help but wonder, how long do they know each other for, could she had been cheating on me all along, and why wouldn't I know? Because I know everything that is happening to people close to me, did she ever love me?

I was out here whipping for her while she had moved on?, this explains why she ended things and why she never not even once called me after we broke up. The only explanation is she was cheating on me unless she had a standby boyfriend already.

Her "who would have thought?" she has this mocking look on her.

I didn't say anything, I just looked at her.

Her "at least both of you have moved on, meaning there won't be any one following the other"

Me "it's a really good thing" I lied, I am boiling inside. "Let's finish up here there is something I need to take care of at the office"

Her "let me go to the restroom, quickly first" she got up and left.

I looked back again, the only thing I want to do right now is run that dickhead with a truck, they are busy laughing and being touchy, nxah.

Her “we can go” she brings me back to earth.

We have already settled the bill, she hooks her arm in mine we made our way out.

Has she always been into white guys or she is just one of those people that don't see colour?,

I wish she could see right now, I could read her expression when she sees me with Lerato.

My mood just got ruined, I thought I was getting over her but this just proved otherwise.

It's a couple of days later, I did decide to call Philani about Bonggi, but Lerato answered the call, and told me to never call Philani again, she even told me she was blocking me right after the call and she did because I called again a while later and it didn't go through, I guess I would never know.

it was clear that they got back together to be honest I was hurt that Philani went back to her a part of me still believed that there was still a chance for us, it's evident I was just being naïve yet again.

My blood results came back clean, I have never been so grateful my whole life. I now know better for next time, I also promised myself to be more cautious, the truth is no matter how much they tell us that they love us we would never know if they are telling the truth or not. We just have to protect ourselves amongst other things.

I am now in London, I was so emotional when I was saying goodbyes to my friends, I'm yet to have a very emotional one when I say goodbye to my parents, yes, they both insisted to come with me and make sure that I settle in well because I don't know anyone here yet, and I agreed because I really

wouldn't be able to navigate in a strange city alone while I'm blind.

When we arrived we just decided to rest, as we were tired. Then the next day we went to check the apartment, we have hunted it even before we got here we just needed to check if everything is what they say it is on the internet. It was a really nice place. We did everything necessary and made payments, we got keys immediately.

It's a two bedroom apartment meaning I will have to share, I don't have a problem with that, I just did what everyone does when they have to rent with a stranger, I prayed for a good person, it has an open plan kitchen , you can literally watch a TV while you are busy in the kitchen.

What I like about this place was that, it has a no noise policy, no children are allowed. There is a little park 2 minutes away, a park is very important if you have a dog. They do our glossaries on request, that is a bonus. A huge bonus though is that it's six minutes away from my school, it's very close I don't even need transport to and from school.

We didn't waste any time after we cleaned my bedroom, we went and got a bed and other essentials, they even gifted me

with a Smart TV a whole smart TV, that's why I love my parents, they always want me to be comfortable and I appreciate them for that. We then got my luggage from the hotel.

The following day we got kitchen utensils, I loved everything about this shopping as we "me and Louie" were getting to know the city, as we will be alone after the parents go back home.

But I have no problem Louie is a very smart dog, he doesn't forget where he has been, at times I feel like he can read, some time I name the shop I want to go to and he goes straight to it, only when he has been there before though.

After we were done we went back to the apartment, we were going to decorate and pack everything away.

Mom "oops

Advertisement

looks like there is a key inside"

Me "maybe my roommate has arrived"

She knocked, the doors automatically locks themselves here.

The door opened.

Her "hellow?"

Mom "hi, how are you?"

Her "I'm fine thanks and you?"

Mom "I'm fine, this is my daughter Yolanda, I guess you are her roommate"

Her "oh, I'm Isabelle, you can come in" she made way for us to enter. "how are you?"

Me "I'm good, nice to finally meet my roommate?"

Isabelle "same here I hope we will get along just fine"

Me "that's my wish"

Dad "are you also a student, because Yolanda here is"

Isabelle "no sir, I'm working"

Mom "that's great.."

"babe, this is really a nice apartme...."

Isabelle "this is my girlfriend, Nicole, meet my roommate Yolanda and her parents"

Mom "how are you Nicole?"

Nicole "I am fine thanks, Mam, sir" she says shaking their hands. "Yola..."

Me "Yolanda" I stretched my hand. "I'm blind by the way".

Isabelle “you are? Really couldn’t tell” they were both shocked.

Nicole “I couldn’t either”

Mom “lets us leave you to whatever you were doing girls”

We went to my bedroom and started by placing everything to their respective places, I'm glad I got here first; I got to choose the bedroom that's facing the sun. I was going to pack my clothes in my closet when my parents left, I wanted to spend so much time with them so I won't regret when I miss them.

Mom “wow it's really so nice in here Yoyo”

Me “really”

Mom “I'm sure you were a décor in your previous life, everything just looks so perfect, so simple but perfect”

Dad “a bed alone would have been fine”

Mom “don't start please”

Me “he will never understand”

The room has a build in closet; we added a shelf table with a comfortable chair so I can place my books and my make-up.

I left them arguing and went to where Isabelle and Nicole were.

Me “hi guys” they were placing things in the kitchen.

Isabelle “oh hey roomie, so I have been thinking, are we gonna be those sharing types of roommates or ?”

Me “I have no problem with that”

Nicole “it would be so awkward if you weren’t” she says chortling

Me “it would have been”

Isabelle “great, so I will get those things that you don’t have, starting with the couch”

Nicole “and a coffee machine”

Isabelle “for you right? unless Yolanda is also a coffee addict”

Me “I’m definitely not an addict, but I do drink coffee when it’s cold”

Nicole “see? You have to get it”

We just laughed.

Nicole “so where you from Yolanda?”

Me “south Africa”

Isabelle “wow, so far”

Me “yep, and you are from around here?”

Isabelle “not originally from London I’m from Oxford, and Nicky is from New york”

Nicole “do you always have to be my spoke person miss oxford”

Isabelle “I'm just being friendly”

Nicole “I can speak for myself in case you didn't notice” I just laughed.

Me “are you guys dating?”

Nicole “yes we are”

Me “nice” I could picture how cute they were.

Isabelle “what about you? are you seeing anyone?”

Me “nope I'm not”

Nicole “not for long I will hook you up”

Isabelle “not happening”

Nicole “don't mind this one Yola, just say the word and I will hook you within an blink of an eye”

Isabelle “nicky”

We laughed

Me “no I'm good”

Nicole “okay, but just know that in case you change your mind I'm here”

Mom “getting along so soon?”

Isabelle “we were meant to be mam”

Mom “that’s great, I hope you will always have each other’s back girls”

Nicole “don’t worry Yola is in great hands Mom”

Dad “Yola?”

Nicole “Yolanda”

Mom “that’s great, we have to go now we will see you girls again when we see you”

Me “let me get my bag”

Dad “here”

Me “oh thank you dad” he gives me my bag and we bid farewell to Isabelle and Nicole.

Mom “I think, you got yourself a good roommate sweetheart” we were in the car.

Me “i think so too”

Mom “are they lovers”

Me “they are, they look good right”

Mom “they do, but you can’t tell because they look like girly girls” just as I predicted.

Dad “they are good, and respective I just hope they won’t rub their same sex relationship thing on you”

Mom “that’s so sexist Richard”

Dad “It’s not, it’s just my wish”

Me “I might just fall for a girl, if we are going to look good as they do”

Dad “a relationship is not about looking good”

Mom “as long as you will be happy my baby, gender doesn’t matter”

I was just pulling daddies leg, I have never been attracted to a girl before, and I don’t think it can start now.

It's 3 days later my parents left, it's was sad but I am now getting used to the idea of being away from home. I am not going to lie I am so happy to be here, I have no doubt but to believe this is the best decision I have made for my career as well as my life.

We get along just fine with Isabelle "Bell or Bella" even though she can be dramatic at times, I don't know what it is but females in my life are just so dramatic, mom, Mels, Namhla and now Bella, at least Nicole is not and I have noticed that they spend a lot of time together, Isabelle is a photographer for Stylist magazine and Nicole is a model and studying fashion design part time, I am surrounded by people who are successful and some are on the road to success, this just makes me to want to work harder and harder.

They are the two people I know for now, yesterday we went to buy groceries as she is on a leave. We have both settled in so well, she did buy the couch and other electrons, the apartment comes with a stove and a microwave, washing machine, it's kind of pricey but with everything they offer we can't complain.

"morning" I greeted as I got to the kitchen.

Her "morning, going somewhere?"

Me "yes, I have to go to school, for orientation"

Her "I was so lazy to make breakfast I opted for cereal"

Me "don't worry I will have fruit, and coffee"

Her "I'm such a bad roommate, you know I don't even know which school you go to"

Me "I can't blame you it has never come out"

Her "I should have asked"

Me "it's Le Cordon Bleu"

Her "the culinary school?"

Me "yep"

her "wow, you must be really good to be accepted there?"

Me "I'm not sure about good but I try"

Her "I'm sure you are, they don't just accept any one, I remember a relative of mine got rejected, she was so devastated"

Le Cordon Bleu culinary school has many campuses around the world, from Europe, America, Oceania, and Asia, from different countries in all the continents, I am so grateful to be one of their students really, because I'm blind they suggested that I do the orientation alone today, so me and my guide dog can familiarise ourselves before it becomes hectic, I couldn't be happier.

Her “it’s a good thing that I’m on leave then because I volunteer myself to take you there today, I’m sure you are going to walk every day, right”

Me “I am and thanks for volunteering”

Her “I also volunteer to show you around the city”

Me “I would like that thank you Bell”

Her “I would like to think we are friends now, we are way past the roommate level”

Me “me too hey and it’s funny because we have known each other for only a few day”

Her “let me get my bag we don’t want to keep them waiting” she walked away “you done?”

Me “yeah we can go”

Her “alright, after you Madame” We walked to my school.

We said our goodbyes, I made my way to the reception, this is a really big school compared to the one I was studying at back at home.

There are two receptionist and they were all so friendly, and welcoming, I was going to meet the school manager before my orientation and one of the receptionist was kind enough to take me straight to the floor that the manager was.

After she told me to sit down she went on to explain why she wanted to meet me personally, which doesn't happen frequently in the school.

Her "we don't get a lot of student with disabilities, that's why we make sure that they are comfortable beforehand, I know some may feel like we are drawing too much attention from them but, there are just circumstances where we have to consider the different abled more, but when it comes to academics there are no special treatment"

Me "I understand"

Her "I have looked at your results, out of curiosity you did exceptionally well and I hope you will continue doing well, not many student get the chance to be accepted by your scholarship, so I have so much faith in you"

Me "thank you"

She was doing a lot of talking, motivation and giving me information I didn't even know about. I was really inspired when I got out of her office.

It was then time for my orientation, this school was really big, it has a basement parking, the ground floor has a little computer lab, first, second and third floor has lecture rooms,

demonstration room, a bigger library, a Café, Toilets, the lockers, my orientate even suggested I choose a convenient locker and lock it there and then, everything is just so great. I hope I will blend in just fine with the other students.

When I was done with everything I went back home, it was in the afternoon I was very hungry and I'm sure Louie is tired and hungry as I am

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I got to the apartment Isabelle was not around, I first gave Louie his food and water, I then took a quick shower and wore comfortable clothing, and then went to make a sandwich for myself.

I think I have gained weight again, I haven't been eating well lately. I think I will register to the gym downstairs and eat healthy again, for someone who has a disease that requires healthy eating I have really been slacking, and I think joining a gym will do my mental state good too.

I finished eating and went to settle on the couch, one thing I didn't do a research about when coming here is the weather, London is cold, the weather is the complete opposite of South Africa, from the beginning to the end south African weather is warm, comfortable, cold, comfortable and warm again, but not

here in London, London is very cold, cold, comfortable, cold and very cold at the end of the year. It never gets warm.

How am I going to survive this? as someone who is so afraid of the cold weather I am 100 per cent sure that if I had done research on this I wouldn't have come here, I even bought many warm clothing because I had only a few of those. I swear By the time I go back home I will be light in complexion.

Later I took Louie out to relieve himself, having a dog is a full time job, I don't think I would have considered having a dog if I was not blind, it was nice at home because anyone would take him out or give him food but now it's all on me, but then with Louie we help each other and he is a highly trained dog, I'm sure he could open the door for himself and know how to use a lift he would do all that by himself.

Bell came back later with takeout's and I couldn't be happier as I was so lazy to cook.

We had our food while watching a reality show.

Isabelle "so tomorrow we will be showing you around London?"

Me "I can't wait, but I have to go to the offices to meet with the people of the company of my scholarship"

Isabella "what time?"

Me "at exactly 09:00 am"

Isabella “ayt, it’s no stress, I’m sure it won’t take a while”

Me “I hope so too”

The next day I requested an Uber to the offices, I got there earlier, than my scheduled time.

Me “hi I’m here to meet with Mrs Peeters, my name Is Yolanda Jones” I said after she asked.

Her “you can have a sit on the couch, Mrs Peeters will arrive in a few minutes” she said After a bit of shuffling.

She showed me to the couch.

Her “would you like anything to drink while you wait?”

Me “no thank you I’m fine”

Her “okay, we’ll let you know when she is ready to see you”

Me “thank you” she walked away, I went through my social media with one headset on, I passed time by scrolling and liking on people’s photos, I got bored after a while and just sat there like I’m lost.

Male “who is the cutie sitting over there”

I said this before that i went through orientation and mobility training, my senses are more active than that of a sighted individual.

Right now I was listening to them talk, he was whispering a bit but I could hear him.

Receptionist “no hellow? Nothing?, you just have to ask about women everyday every time?”

Him “why are you bitter? I just want to know the lady”

Her “get lost Jason, not all females are meant to scream your name, get lost you make me sick” he laughed, he has my brother’s name.

That’s how bored I was, listening to other people conversations was a better entertainment.

“good morning” another female voice greeted.

Receptionist “Mrs Peeters, good morning, here are your messages, oh and Yolanda is waiting on you”

Mrs P “oh I will handle her then, I am expecting a Mr Zayers at 9:30 let me know when he gets here”

Receptionist “okay mrs”

Mrs P “Jason”

Him “I can see you are fine”

Mrs “I am, let me attend to the young lady”

She greeted me and invited me to her office. There was nothing serious about the meeting.

Mrs P “we always make sure that we meet our scholarship recipients, ensure that they are comfortable with everything, especially those that are from other countries, we all know what it’s like being away from home, our goal is to make sure that you do well in your studies, therefore we provide a mentors for our recipients and I’m sure you are aware that you will be doing your work experience in one of our restaurants”

Me “yes I am aware of that”

Mrs “just know that we are here to support you in everything, once we assign a mentor for you, things will really be clearer that I promise you”

Me “thank you very much Mrs Peeters, I will do all I can to pass”

Mrs P “that’s the spirit”

First it was the manager at school motivating me and now it’s Mrs Peeters, if I’m not blessed to have been motivated like this then I don’t know. I always leave their offices highly motivated, it maybe that they feel the need to motivate me because I’m different from other students, but I’m grateful either way.

motivation doesn't have to happen only when things are going south in one's life, with the spirit's I am in I want do great.

I took another uber home, then Isabelle, Nicole and I toured around London, we took a lot of Photo for the gram and for memories, I know it will take me a while to get use to the City but I will get there, eventually.

65

Schools have started and my mind is finally here with me not back at home, I did sign up at the gym, it's been almost a week now, and I am all for healthy eating now, it's not really hard as Isabelle takes great care of herself, she does yoga a few streets away.

London made my instagram so beautiful, ever since I got here I got many followers, some of those that were already following were really inspired by a blind girl chasing her dreams, my blind followers are also inspired, that's what I live for to inspire other people who feel like they can't do things for themselves for whatever reasons.

I came back from school a while ago when I received a call from Mels to check out Lerato's instagram.

Me "so you are basically telling me to stalk Lerato?"

mels "in a way"

Me "just tell me whats going on, because even if I would go there I wouldn't see it"

Mels "oh fuck, I forgot"

Me "wow, my own sister forgets that I'm blind"

Mels "okay, I'm only telling you this because I don't want you to find out from other people, I think Lerato and Philani are

dating, she has been posting pictures of them together for a few weeks now, and I stumbled across their pictures yesterday, and she has been tagging him, he is even commenting”

I didn’t know how to feel about this, my mind freezes for a second there.

Mels “Yols, Yolanda are you still there?”

Me “yes I'm here”

Me “so as soon as we broke up he went back to her?” I say in a disappointed tone.

Mels “I know what you are thinking right now, but trust me when I say you took a very brave decision that not many females can”

Me “I know but I can’t help but wonder whether he really did love me or not”

Mels “that doesn’t even matter right now, just don’t let this hold you back from your healing”

Me “I will try..” she cut me off.

Mels “that’s not good enough, I want you to tell me that this won’t hold you back”

Me “it won’t Mels, trust me”

Mels “that’s more like it, listen I got to go princess is misbehaving” she dropped the call before I could even say something.

I am shocked because I didn’t expect Philani to go back to her, but who am I kidding? The guy was still in love with his baby mama/ex, even the fact that he still remained a father to a child that was not his proved just how much he loved her, this just made me to fully accept that there will never be Philani and I.

Maybe they were made for each other, who knows, maybe I was just there to make them realise the love they had for each other. Because I loved the guy too much it does hurt, at least I hoped he would move on with another girl.

I know I say I'm grateful for everything, but I'm grateful I am not in South Africa right now. I'm pretty sure if I were to bump into Lerato she would gloat about this in my face.

Bella “what’s with the long face, I have been talking with you for minutes with no response”

Me “it’s nothing, what were you saying?”

Bella “not important, what’s up”

I told her everything from the beginning till the end, once I was done she couldn't believe it.

Bella "wow, was the break up the reason you decided to relocate?"

Me "it's actually not, I think I was going to even if we didn't broke up"

Bella "you were engaged"

Me "I was but now I think he did only to keep me, acting like he is serious while he knew it wouldn't go anywhere"

Bella "from what you have just told me that's even possible, but it doesn't matter now you are moving on just fine"

I got a call from someone who said he is my mentor, he said we should meet at a restaurant in town, the weather was extremely cold

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I don't know why this guy wants to meet on such a day, it's a Saturday for goodness sake, I'm supposed to be curled up in a

couch binge watching movies all day, but because I want to make it in this thing called life I'm in a Uber going there.

“good afternoon Ms, table for one”

Me “I am meeting with Mr Williamson”

Her “okay, I will show you to your table, do you want me to take your coat for you?”

Me “yes please” I took off my coat and gave it to her”

Her “this way” she led the way to the table. “Here we are”

Mr Williamson opened a chair for me and I took a sit, he’s a gentleman.

Me “thank you”

Him “you are welcome” he has an American Accent, that’s what I noticed about him there are not many people with this accent around here, some of people’s original accents are diluted with British accent.

We placed our orders right away.

Him “you are Yolanda Jones right, I am Jason Williamson”

Me “yes, nice to meet you” I smiled politely; I guess he is the Jason from the reception the day I went to the offices.

Jason “nice to finally meet you too Yolanda”

We had a conversation getting to know each other better, he studied in Le cordon bleu in America, and is a successful chef, he is in process of opening his second restaurant and has shares in other businesses.

It's always so nice meeting people who are doing well in the industry you are persuading, it give you a lot of enthusiasm, and makes you want to do as good as them or even more.

Jason "so I suggest we meet at my apartment once a week as we are both busy with our things, then you get to practise a lot more especially when you have an exam coming"

Me "I would appreciate that"

Jason "and I will always be there whenever you need any sort of pointers on something and wherever you have questions, I will be here".

I have never been so happy, he seem liked a really good guy, and he was more than willing to guide me to the right way, I know sometimes we may feel like we got this, refuse help offered to us, only to find that things would be really easy when you have someone in your corner.

Jason "did you always wanted to be a chef?"

We were now having our meal.

Me “no, growing up I wanted to be a doctor but life happened and I got blind, for a while I thought my life was over and that I could never be able to do anything for myself”

Jason “life always happen hey, but we always have to push, so what inspired you to become a chef”

Me “I use to help our house help back at home when she cooked just to pass time, but I fell in love with cooking because it somehow calmed me as I have to use all my senses as I don’t have sight, I grew to love cooking and I just saw myself becoming a chef one day”

Jason “you have just inspired me Yolanda, I see you break all the stigmas and barriers placed upon disabled people and women out there, I have no doubt that one day you will be one of the popular chefs”

Me “I receive, thank you, and what inspired you if you don’t mind me asking”

Jason “my brother, he is in to many things and out of all I fell in love with cooking more because I love food” we both chuckled.

Me “wow, getting in to a whole career because of food” we chuckled again.

Jason “if you knew my brother you would know how much effort he put in everything he does, I used to watch him cook,

with so much passion and I just couldn't help but fall in love with cooking"

Me "I guess, there is a story behind every career path one chooses"

Jason "that's true"

We talked for hours, before we even realised it was getting late, he offered to settle the bill and I couldn't be happier, it's not every day one offers to pay for your food.

We really got along just fine Jason and I, he offered to take me home even.

I was blending in just fine with the other Londoners, I would like to think that I was one of them, it's been a few weeks later, the cold has went from very cold to cold, I had to take flu vaccine because I was always catching a cold, I am now slightly used to the cold of this place, I am doing well at school there are a few people I get along with at school, there is a Korean guy that is doing Msc culinary at school, he also stays in same building as me, his name is Chu. He is a great guy and most of the times we walk together to school.

I am in Jason's apartment, he is going to guide me in making "perfect Lobster" as he said it, I have been coming here often, most of the time practising sea food dishes, because I'm not really good in them, mainly because I hate sea food, I only like fish, so preparing these dishes is a real challenge for me, whenever we get a task to make seafood at school I fail it.

Jason "I still can't believe there is someone who hates seafood"

Me "best believe it then, I hate seafood, and I'm scared of these creatures you eat, now tell me how am I supposed to eat something I'm scared of?"

Jason "just don't think of any of them as sea animal, think of them as food, can you do that?"

Me "I will try"

Jason “that’s a start, so our ingredients will be, 4 lobster tails, Salt and pepper, ¼ cup of melted butter, 3 garlic cloves minced, ½ teaspoon of paprika, 1 teaspoon thyme minced, 1 teaspoon rosemary minced, and 1 teaspoon parsley chopped.”

“what are you making?” his brother asked as he entered the kitchen.

Jason “the perfect Lobster tail”

Him “okay let me watch ya’ll in action” he sat down.

I don’t know why this guy have to watch, most of the times that I come here he is here, he is so intimidating, he is the complete opposite of his brother.

Jason is a free spirited extrovert, and his brother is the opposite, I believe he hates me, I have never came across a person that is so cold towards me like him. His name is Andrew Junior Smith, he is older than Jason and he is the owner of a very huge company and different restaurants and hotels if I'm not mistaken, I would be taking notes on how to be successful as he is in life but how can I do that with him hating me for no reason.

I shouldn’t be minding him right? but how when he is always here whenever I'm here, this guy has his own apartment or house somewhere out of London but he just has to always be here.

Jason “if you are going to stay here, you will help”

Andrew “I'm doing no such” unlike his brother who has an American Accent, he has that cockney, London Accent. It's funny how their accent used to turn me on whether from a male or female, but because of this guy it doesn't have a lot of effect on me anymore.

Jason “you are not here then”

Andrew “whatever, I have to ask though, why did you go for an easy recipe?”

Jason “because Yolanda is a beginner, besides there is nothing wrong in starting small”

Andrew “o-kay” he said in sarcasm.

We did all the preparations, Jason was now showing me how to butterfly the Lobsters.

Jason “just like that, do it easy, until you get used to it”

Andrew “holding a shear right would make this easy” I just look at him with the “will you shut the fuck up look”.

Andrew “I was just trying to help” he said in defeat, his phone rang and he got up to answer it.

Jason “as much as his a dick, he was right, hold it like this..” he showed me by placing my hand on the kitchen scissor.

Me “is he always so rude or it’s only to me” I whispered, he laughed so hard before answering me.

Jason “honestly, he is a very nice guy to everyone, I'm always the douche, I don’t know why he is like this towards you”

Me “I have never done anything to him, why?”

Jason “I have no idea”

The douchebag came back after his phone call, he sure got many nasty remarks but I think I grew a thick skin because his critics didn’t hurt as much.

We eventually finished, and had it with a salad, It was really good.

Andrew “I have to admit, this taste good”

Me “right” I say rolling my eyes.

Jason laughed so hard

I would like to believe that the bond Jason and I had was more than that of Mentor-Mentee, we were now friends. I like him, not the I want us to date like but the he is my friend like.

Jason “you know I want to come clean with you Yolanda”

Me “about what?”

Jason “you know I have told you that I have never wanted to be a mentor right” I nodded “well I volunteered to be your mentor

so I would eventually get into your pants, but as soon as I had a conversation with you I knew you didn't deserve such, instead I felt determined to mentor you the right way, I see a friend in you"

Me "wow, I would have never knew"

Jason "yeah I'm an Ass, but I just couldn't be one to you, you inspire me to work hard in my life" he admitted.

Me "thanks for telling me"

Jason "I had to come clean, I'm sorry for having those dirty thoughts about you, but I admit I don't even see you like that anymore, I now look at you like my little sister"

Later on he took me to my apartment, Jason stays in an apartment in one of the expensive neighbourhoods, not everyone can afford to live there, this always bring one question to mind how much do these brothers have.

Monde

If someone would have told me that I would be engaged to Lerato and planning to get married in a couple of months to come, I would have told them to admit themselves I a psychiatric hospital because this all happened unexpectedly.

So after I saw Yolanda with that white boy in the restaurant, yes I got angry for a while but then I took it as a sign to also move on completely, I focused my feelings towards Lerato and about a week ago I proposed, trust me when I say I did it because my heart told me to, we are in a very happy place Lerato and I, even Athandwa is now more happier. Yes sometimes I do miss Yolanda my feelings for her cannot just fade like I didn't love her.

I sometimes check her out on instagram, she looks really good, she looks really happy, I have noticed that she is now in London, I'm really proud of her for chasing her dreams.

Lerato "you look so deep in thoughts, what's up?" I was sitting on the edge of the bed, she snaked her arms around my waist while kissing the back of my neck.

Me "nothing, I'm just thinking about life" I said.

Rato "mmh"

Me "I'm tired of this up and down, you should just move in with me"

Rato "I would love to move in with you but I would like for us to wait for the wedding first"

Me "intoni? The wedding is very far away, besides we are practically living together"

Rato "it will be more exciting when we do it after the wedding, and we will have to stop with this practically living together thing"

Me "no, that can't happen, I won't survive it babe, don't do this please"

Rato "okay we can continue for now but a month before the wedding we stop, not up for discussion"

Me "ndiphethwe mos apha" she giggled as I tickled her.

Rato "staap" she said laughing

Me "not I until you tell me why you are bossing me around"

Rato "I'm sorry, i..so..rryy Baby" she said in between giggles.

We finally managed to locate where Amos, the man that killed my father and raised us with his wife teaching me about gangsterism from the young age, if I had found him years back I swear I would have put a bullet in between his eyes but I have changed and I don't ever want to be the same person I was years ago, he told me everything that he killed our biological mother because our father took her from him.

Apparently they were friends hustling together and they made a lot of money through a heist, biological father wanted to start a legit business and stop the dangerous life, Amos enjoyed the life so he decided to stay only for his girlfriend to leave him for his friend, they managed to disappear without a trace but Amos managed to locate them after years of searching, he killed biological mom because she betrayed him for his friend.

He didn't kill our biological father because he wanted him to suffer for betraying him by leaving the gangster life, and taking his girlfriend in the process, he took us with so our biological father would long for us, his whole life.

This is all just a sick behaviour, I'm sure Amos is a Psychopath really; he went on to say he got me in to the gangster life because he was replacing my father by me.

I'm just glad that he never put Mandy in all this trauma he put me through, he treated her like a princess, he never wanted to

see her cry, his wife though made sure we grew up like normal kids especially me, that's why we still call her our mother.

Amos had to disappear because his enemies were out for his blood, he faked his death, because I knew him well, I knew he was not dead, he managed to disappear for years until now, all I wanted was to face him so he could tell me why he did all he did and kill him afterwards but he was found in the right time when I was no longer the ruthless Major but Philani.

Luckily for us he never changed our surname; it would have been so confusing for us.

I Went to look back for our biological father, luckily he was still alive, but he is those man that work piece jobs for alcohol, he stayed in port Elizabeth, in a shack, he couldn't believe it when he saw me, even though I will never wake my mom up I'm grateful that father is still alive, yes it's going to be a very long journey to recovery but we will reach the end someday. I am now at piece as I have put an end to this situation, finally.

It's been a while since I have been here, I have been home sick a lot nowadays, what's sad is that I might not even have time to go home anytime soon but we shall see. I am now used to this place, I'm glad to announce that I can even do many things alone, even without Louie sometimes.

I know it's not the safest thing to do but I feel a bit safer here than back at home, the crime rate in London is not as high as it is in my country, I'm not saying there is no crime here, there is you just have to avoid certain places to be safe.

and the other thing I have noticed is that, most of places here are blind person friendly, like the robots, you press on the button and it vibrates when it's safe to cross the road, most robots like that are not working in SA, elevators here are brailed and many people here are well informed about the blind community, I don't know if it has to do with the "developed" and "non-developed or developing countries" but there is just so many things to compare.

We are preparing to go to Paris, we are going to spend our week there, they are doing it for me because they are used to it, we are literally plus minus 5 hours from Paris.

It's me, Isabella, Nicole and their friend Ashley. It's a weekend therefore I was going to come back from school and take Louie

to Jason's place, then come back then we go and meet with the others, we are travelling by water by the way.

I got home and prepared for Louie, I then requested a ride on Bolt, when it was hear I made my way downstairs with Louie, the driver refused taking me because he doesn't want the dog to leave dog hair in his seats.

I have been getting a lot of these incidents, and they are just draining, what's worse is that on their terms and conditions it's stated that they are not allowed to refuse us a ride because of a service dog, this is one of the things that makes me miss home because I had a driver and I didn't have to worry about anything but now its all I worry about.

He drove away even after I begged telling him that Louie sits on the floor of the car, no matter how much we report these people they don't stop doing this, luckily for me the next ride didn't refuse to take me, he even sympathised with me when I told him what transpired with the other driver. I guess he is one of the good ones.

Jason "you could have told me to fetch him"

Me "I just didn't want to trouble you"

Jason "next time, don't be afraid of calling me okay, we are friends"

Me "I won't, thanks again for agreeing to take care of him for me"

Jason "that's what friends are for Yolanda, you know my brother is in Paris too"

Me "what for?"

Jason "there was a crises in his restaurant there, so he decided to go sort it out himself"

Me "how many restaurants does your douche brother have?"

Jason "I lost count really"

Me "at least chances of us bumping into each other are like a negative zero"

Jason "true plus I think he will be busy to go out"

I said my goodbyes to both of them and left, we were now in the boat going to Paris.

Ashley "you know Yolanda, I was even used of being the third wheel to these two?"

Me "I'm sorry for coming to London late" we laughed.

Ashley “I’m glad you finally came, it used to be Nicole & Isabelle and me, but now it’s them and us” we laughed again.

We were standing, while the love birds were making out in beach chairs.

The air breeze felt so good in my skin, I couldn’t help but take it in and breath it out aloud.

I haven’t known Ashley for a long time but I can tell she is a good person, she is straight too.

When we got to Paris hours later I could tell just by the smell that we were no longer in London, cities all over the world don’t smell the same, I don’t know how to explain this but when you are in a different town it feels different, that’s how I felt when we got Paris.

Nicole is more used to different cities as she travels a lot because of her career. So we all just lean on her like little kids.

We got to a cab and drove to our hotel, we booked on Hotel Ritz Paris it was already late and we planned to go to as many clubs as we can then during the day we tour around the city.

Isabelle “I think I will lie down a bit before we go” she yawned and threw herself on the bed.

Nicole “just know that we will leave you if you don’t wake up”

Isabelle “just two minutes, two” she murmured.

Nicole “we all know you are not going to wake up and we will leave you”

Ashley “let me order room service, what do you guys want to eat?” we ordered simple meals.

I lied down while we waited for food.

Nicole “you are joining the headed girlfriend of mine, so you know we are..” I cut her off.

Me “going to leave you behind” I finished for her.

Ashley “it’s starting to sound like a song now” we laughed

Me “it’s stuck in my head” we laughed again.

Nicole “it’s nice now it’s still a joke but it won’t when we leave you behind”

Ashley “what happens if we all fall asleep”

Nicole “I’m not afraid to go clubbing alone, there are many people in the club, let me take a shower” she walked away.

Ashley “don’t fall asleep Yolanda or else” she laughed.

Me “we will leave you behind” we laughed so hard.

Ashley “Nickey and clubbing though”

We got disturbed by our food delivery, we ate immediately, then we got ready to go out, Isabelle was still sleeping; Nicky was almost done getting ready.

What's great about this hotel is that it's surrounded by night clubs, and restaurants, so it won't be a struggle going to and from the club.

Every time I go clubbing I can't help but feel a bit scared for me, but how long will I feel like this, I wonder what that guy at the club would feel like if he would know that I always have this unsettling feeling because of him, maybe he wouldn't even care, he's probably doing it to other women and even succeed in taking them with him out of their will, it's so scary being a woman in this world.

Nicky "hey wake up it's been over 30 minutes" miss we will leave you behind was waking up her girlfriend.

Isabelle "two minutes, baby"

Nicky "I'm not playing with you Bella, just get the fuck up"

Isabelle "please" she begged.

Nicky "okay that's it we are leaving you here alone" she walked away from her

Isabelle quickly go up and prepared, minutes later we were downstairs waiting for the cab, much to Nicky's frustration.

Nicole "where is this damn cab anyway, we are getting late" she asked frustrated.

Me "you know alcohol is not gonna get finished right"

Nicole is always late for everything but she wants to be the first one in a club, I just don't understand her.

Minutes later we got to Hemingway bar, it was already getting parked, we got a table and sat down, we ordered our drinks, since it was already late we decided not to go to other clubs

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we drank, danced and drank, I was intoxicated, but not in a bad way.

We had so much fun, damn I had plenty of fun, I have never felt so much fun in a club before, the atmosphere was just right; People of Paris had a vibe.

The club closes at midnight so we decided to call it a night as we had a busy day ahead.

We got a cab back to the hotel, it was quiet, and Nicole decided to sing aloud.

Ashley “dude, some of us don’t want to be thrown out the hotel”

Nicole “there are many hotels, fuck them and fuck you”

Isabelle “can you shush!”

Nicole “I dot give a fuck..”

We got to our room, I was sharing with Ashley and the two together.

At the morning we woke up around eight, we find the right spot a Café des 2 Moulins they have tables outside we sat there and enjoyed our breakfast.

Nicole “I hope I will feel better after eating, I feel terrible”

Isabelle “serves you right for drinking like a fish”

Nicole “you are so evil” they are always in each other’s throats we don’t mind them anymore.

We got on hop-on hop-off bus to get to our destinations, we were sitting on top which gave us a chance to see some places as we were travelling, the view is actually great from the top, so they say.

Our first stop was Arc de Triomphe, we got on top and experienced the 360 degree view of Paris, amazing I kid you not. We checked out a few places worth seeing, we even went

to Musee du Louvre, well I didn't enjoy much of that one as you can't touch things at a museum.

And finally we went to Eiffel Tower, I'm sure I'm not the only one that feels like you are not really in Paris until you go to the tower, it's also good for the gram too, we took pictures there, I had a really good time, I wish all my friends were here to experience this.

We had to go back to the hotel as it was getting late, we wanted to rest a bit then go to as many clubs as we can like we had planned, I just wanted to have a good time this time around, I can't drink two nights in a row I have school on Monday. We met two guys at the Tower and they said they would show us to great clubs later on as they were from the City; we were more than happy for their offer.

Later on we got ready to go dine before going to the clubs, I wore an olive party hip one piece dress with black heels with straps, the dress looks like I'm wearing a skirt and boobtube from the front, there is a single strap in the middle, and the other one from the top making the dress to be off the shoulder, I looked good really good, even if I say so myself, I had a clutch under my arm.

We left for the restaurant around six, we ate and left when Paul and Victor told us to meet them in Chez Mourné we stayed there for a while, it was not that happening, we left after they

had a few glasses, we then went to Rex club, there was a band playing and it was nice too we remained for a while and left for an LGBTQ club, things were happening there, everyone was just dancing with no care in the world and free too but I couldn't take it any more with ladies making pass at us, but it didn't mess our mood.

It was before midnight when we felt hungry and decided to go and have food at a restaurant, a bar for those that wanted to just sit and drink over a soft music, then a club for those that want a vibe, there was even a DJ's playing.

Lucky for us we found a table and ordered food as they were very close to closing.

After we were done eating we move to the bar, we sat and I only ordered a glass of alcohol that was all I was going to have, the others wanted to sober up before we party till we drop.

Even Nicole was not drinking much today, I guess she felt yesterday's hangover.

"Yolanda" a male voice said.

I was still trying to think, who it belonged to, but who ever it was, was definitely from London.

"how are you doing?" he asked

“sorry it’s Andrew” he said, yeah now I could tell it was him, what does he want.

Me “oh? I'm good how are you” I just couldn’t bring myself to be rude.

Andrew “what are you doing here?”

Me “excuse me ?”

Andrew: he cleared his throat “sorry, I just didn’t expect to see you here”

Me “your brother did say you were here for a crises”

Andrew “yes, everything is good now”

Me “that’s nice then”

Victor “is he bothering you?” he said appearing out of nowhere”

Andrew “I was just making a conversation man, geez”

Victor “I was not asking you” he was drunk.

Me “he’s not bothering me victor” from someone who has been a total arse ever since he knew me I should have said he was bothering me, just so he can get a kick on his ass, I'm actually so surprised that he is acting like a nice guy now.

“babe, we can go now I'm done” a female voice said.

Andrew “okay, goodbye Yolanda see you” they walked away.

Victor “you know him?”

Me “kind of, he is my mentor’s brother”

Victor “to think I was ready to fight him” we laughed.

Ashley “okay we can go dance now”

Paul “now you are talking” they cheered, making the noise, they are going to get us thrown out before we even dance.

We woke up a bit later on our last day they went for a fly view and I decided not to as I couldn’t even see, and I’m scared of heights too, we went to Disney land Paris too, we had fun, I would take my kids there if I wanted them.

Then it was time to head back to reality, we promised to come back though, maybe tour other places of France.

68

The whole Paris experience gave me a piece of mind I was going to start my exams with a clear and well relaxed head as we were now preparing for them.

Jason came to take me for a walk a few hours ago we bought food and sat on a bench in Hyde park.

Jason “my brother told me he saw you and “your boyfriend” in Paris and that he wanted to attack him” he said the boyfriend part sarcastically and laughed.

Me “he is not my boyfriend, you should know this”

Jason “and you just stood there and said nothing” he laughed again.

Me “is that what your douche of a brother told you?”

Jason “not really but I'm just imagining the whole thing”

Me “you are crazy Jason” I chuckled.

He laughed too.

Me “I was actually surprised by how polite he was when he saw me”

Jason “it’s so funny watching you guys fight, I don’t want you to get along nope”

Me “wow, we are your entertainment?”

Jason “of course, free of charge”

Me “maybe you have swopped personalities with your brother, I didn’t know he had a girlfriend, not that I know anything about him though” I regretted saying that, I mean it has nothing to do with me.

Jason “you mean Natasha?”

Me “his girlfriend is Natasha?”

Jason “I wouldn’t say girlfriend, but yeah she is Natasha”

Me “nice name” there was this feeling of jealousy in me.

Jason “really?” he laughed “they always broke up and get back together, I don’t keep tabs of them anymore”

Me “they must love each other then”

Jason “their relationship is just toxic man, but who am I to have a say in what they do? They are adults after all”

Me “right!, so tomorrow we have a Career thing going on at school”

Jason “that’s amazing, I hope you will attend to get some motivation and some pointers on where you would like to do in the near future”

Me “I am attending, it would give me ideas “

Jason “true, hey its getting late let me take you back”

There were a few people walking past as we were going to his car.

“fuck off, just because she can’t see you go around winking at other girls” a female voice said.

Jason “o o, she doesn’t take shit” he chuckled softly.

Me “what’s going on Jason?” I asked seriously lost.

Before he could reply the same female brings me to light.

Her “I just want to tell you that your boyfriend is an arse, while you are busy walking he is busy winking at girls outchea” oh that’s so Jason.

Her “he just winked at me and I feel like I would be just like him if I let this slide”

Me “I appreciate that, but he is...” she cuts me off.

Her “I just don’t feel like he deserve you with that attitude” I wanted to burst out laughing because she thinks we are dating, but I managed to keep my cool.

Me “thank you for telling me I guess I have a lot of thinking to do” I said this because she was just talking and it would take a day to explain that Jason and I are just friends.

For piece sakes I decided to play girlfriend.

Jason “is it now?” he laughed softly.

Her “I'm glad I could help, please make the right choice you are beautiful and you deserve better” she then said her goodbyes.

Jason “wow! And you just threw me to the wolves?”

I laughed so hard.

Me “come on I just wanted piece, she didn't even want to hear me out” I explained.

Jason “now she will think of me as an ass”

Me “she won't be the only one though I'm sure a lot of people thinks you are an ass” I say chuckling

Jason “never” this guy is just overly confident.

Jason “come on let's get you home girlfriend” he said sarcastically, I just laughed it off.

****next day****

I have been studying a lot and doing a lot of practical work, it's the exam preparing week at our school, there is a career thing taking place and I have decided to attend just to get motivated and free my mind from all the studying.

I got ready for the career exhibition; I wore formal wear as I felt like it fit for the day.

When I got to school it was a full house students came in number's, we all just wanted to feed our brains with information.

The people that were booked for the day were people with businesses relevant to our career paths and successful chefs and people that recently started their businesses successfully.

It was really an eventful day I'm glad I could be one of the people in attendance.

Everyone one spoke encouraging us and taking us step by step on what they went through getting their businesses on the feet, I swear I was not going to be the same Yolanda after all this; I was going to be Yolanda the go getter because I learnt that it's the way to go.

I was surprised

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very surprised and shocked when Andrew Jason's brother took the stage as one of the speakers, I knew he had a number of businesses but I was not taking him serious because I knew him as this rude guy but when he took the stage I realised that he was not only Jason's douche brother but a very successful human being the guy owns many businesses, what I didn't know was that his company pays for my studies. When he was on the stage he just became a different person I even respected him.

I never thought that one day I would look up to him, he is not only a business man but a chef and many other careers, but he found a way to combine them all and make a huge business, I didn't even want to crack my skull about how much his businesses are worth.

"Yolanda!" he shouted, as I was making my way out of the building just after all that has been going on.

I stopped to listen what he had to say to me.

All of a sudden I was super nervous to talk with him, I think it was way better when I knew him as Jason's brother that didn't like me much, I was never going to see him the same way, I now had this respect for him.

Andrew "how are you Yolanda" but the way he say my name it just wakes up some feelings.

Me ""I'm fine thanks how are you?"

Andrew "I'm good, do you need a lift?" he asked.

Me "ah no thanks, I enjoy walking when coming from school, it's refreshing" I politely declined.

Andrew "okay, then" he cleared his throat.

Me "how did I miss all that?"

Andrew "excuse me?"

Me "you are basically paying for my studies?"

He chuckled softly.

Andrew "I'm not, my company is" he says casually.

Me "your company" I said.

Andrew "I'm going to agree with you because you are not going to let this go"

Me "I'm just being honest though, well let me not keep you I will see you" I said.

Andrew "bye, see you" I left for my place.

Me “are you being serious right now?”

Later on during the same day, I called Jason.

Me “really Jason?”

Jason “what have I done now?” he asked agitatedly .

Me “more like what you haven’t done”

Jason “what is it?”

Me “are you going to tell me you forgot to mention that your brother’s company is the one paying for my education?”

Him “excuse you”

Me “exactly what I just said Jason”

Him “I don’t understand, are you trying to tell me that you didn’t know” he asked clearly surprised.

Me “I didn’t”

Him “you are kidding me right?”

Me “well I'm not”

Him “well, I'm sorry I thought you knew” he said.

Me That’s just not good enough Jason”

Jason "I'm sorry, I was negligence then, I apologise" he was being sarcastic.

Me "apology accepted"

Jason "it's hard to believe that you didn't know this, you are always so curious Yolanda, I have always told you how much he inspired me though, he is the reason why I turned this way"

Me "do tell me things in the future Sir, so I don't feel like a fool when they come to light, we will talk again when we talk" I dropped the call before he could even utter a word

So Andrew the douche is like literary paying for my fees and there is absolutely nothing I can do about all that? He is my sponsor? My ticket to success? Not that I have a problem with it though, I'm just grateful.

I have recently learnt not to judge a book by its cover, who would have known that not only is Andrew Smith not filthy rich but he has so many things he does to give back to the society all over the world, the guy support everything has to do with giving back to the society.

He donates to many orphanages across the world, he is part of the programmes that are youth empowering, supporting the elderly, damn he do all these things in poor countries mostly.

I know it's creepy but I have been doing a lot of research on him, I aspire to be just like him one day, I was not looking at him as Jason's Douche brother but Andrew the empowering business man.

I admired everything he does, I wished to be half a human he was one day.

I didn't ask Jason any questions after, because I felt like he would catch up that I was stalking his brother, and I didn't want that to happen to me.

A part of me knew I had no chance with him, after I stalked Natasha, she is a very successful PR for Andrews company and I just let it go before I could hurt myself further.

In our Apartment most times I'm the chef meaning I cook a lot and Isabelle do the cleaning, she hates cooking and loves cleaning and to me it's the other way around.

So sometimes she buys ingredients for me so I could cook and practice at the same time that makes me not to worry much about always buying things, for my practices.

I did a lot of practising, Jason was also by my side, I had no doubt that I was going to nail the practical part of my examination, even though nerves were there I knew I had to nail them. the mystery box always makes me feel so agitated but what can we do?

I finished exams but unlucky for me I couldn't go back home as I had to do field work in one of the restaurants for the company that is sponsoring my studies .

It was such a wonderful experience with a lot of pressure I had to step up as the temporal head Chef of the restaurant as the original was on vacation,.

At first I saw it as them wanting to set me up to fail, but Jason motivated me and made me to see it as an opportunity to success, not that I believed him though, he would always encourage me to work hard.

The manager of the restaurant didn't care that I was still a student he would tell me that he didn't care.

Manager "I was not told that you are a student, but all I want is for this restaurant to function normal"

Manager "even if you have started today being a Chef I want my customers to keep coming through that door, I didn't make you blind or had a choice in choosing you to come and be a temporal head chef, just make me proud, you hear me? Make me proud"

I seriously had no idea how I was going to fill the shoes of someone that has been a Chef for a very long time but my friends and family made me think I could pull it off, I swear everyday was just torture with the manager trying to prove a point that I was not meant to be there, he didn't miss a chance to tell me how I was chosen for the position because I was blind, to be honest at some point I wanted to give up but everyone around me wanted me to hold on for a little longer.

I remember this other day I called Jason after crying for quite some time after work because of the nasty remarks made to me by the manager after a customer complained that her "prawns" were unusual"

Manager "I'm definitely not going to lose customers because of you, Mrs Bolton has been coming to this restaurant for years

with no complaints, if this is too much for you just tell me to find your replacement”

Me “I'm sorry sir, next time I will try to work harder”

Manager “don't try do” he left me glued on the same space for quite some time”

When I got home that day, I was happy that Isabelle was not around, she was sleeping over at Nicky's place.

I called Jason and told him what transpired at work.

Jason “Yolanda, I'm going to say this to you again, do not focus on the negative things, how many dishes did you prepare?”

Me “i dot know, many” I say in a whisper.

Him “exactly, and how many complaints did you get? One right?” he asked.

Me “yes one” I replied.

Him “exactly, so you are only focusing on one bad thing, it's not even bad because I don't remember you saying Mrs Biltong complained because you made her prawns bad, they were just unusual”

Me “mrs Bolton” I cut him off.

Him “to me she will be mrs Biltong” I laughed so hard imagining her to be a biltong.

Jason “the manager is just angry because he couldn’t get to choose who he wanted, maybe he wanted to put his sister or wife or a side chick so he is angry because he couldn’t get what he wanted”

Me “thank you for being always there for me Jason, I don’t know what I could have done if you were not in my life”

Jason “me too”

Me “what about you too?”

Jason “I don’t know what I could have done if I was not in my life” we both laughed.

Me “fuck you” we laughed more.

after that I didn’t give much attention to the manager

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I just focused on my work, not that he stopped his nasty remarks I just didn’t pay much attention to them anymore even though that was a very difficult task.

When the head chef came back I was already used to everything and I even felt immune to the manager’s degrading’s, I only had days to rest before I could go back to

school, I didn't do much, my friends even left me behind because they all got time off and went to Japan without me, when they were there my heart was with them but I had to stop my brain so I couldn't mess up my dishes.

I hope I will have time to go to Japan too because I would like to go there one day.

I miss home like crazy, only a few months are left before the end of the year and I haven't been home since the day I came here, as much as I'm complaining there is absolutely nothing I can do about it, I am doing what I came here to do.

The results for our examinations came back and I did absolutely well, I sent them to my sponsor and I got a call from Mrs Peeters congratulating me, I felt like a vip, I didn't think she would even still remember me.

It was the start of the second semester, all I wanted was to focus, I have done so well for myself and I didn't want to mess that in any way.

I received a call that I never anticipated yesterday.

Him “hello, may I speak to Miss Yolanda Jones?” he has a full British accent

Me “speaking” I said nervously.

Him “you are speaking to Nate Lawson from the Rivea hotel, i hope I'm not disturbing you, it has come to my attention that you have been working for one of the restaurants in London for your field work?”

Me “yes I was”

Him “I would like to make you an offer Miss Jones, I would like you to work as one of our permanent Chefs and we are aware that you have a sponsor that requires you to work for them or refund them if you are not interested, well we are willing to pay that refund on your behalf if you would join us as our permanent chefs”

This needed a lot of thinking, as much as it would seem like such a great offer I still needed to reconsider everything.

Me “can I think about it and get back to you”

Him “of course, I would like to hear from you again Miss Jones”

This was a great offer however, I had to think it through, I came to London for studying, and my scholarship has provided me with so much with no pressure as much as I would like to work I would like to finish my studies first if I take the job at the hotel I

will have to deregister as I will hardly have time to study so I feel like I have to finish school first, it's not even like when I finish I will have nothing to do.

My sponsorship will provide a job for me, yes I won't be getting my full salary but I don't think I will get a full salary too at Rivea hotel so I think for now I should focus on finishing school.

I'm sure many opportunities will avail themselves and I'm 100 percent sure that my sponsorship won't leave me with nothing to do after my studied, they have proven themselves so far.

This other day I wanted to do some practising so Isabelle and I went to a nearby mall to get the ingredients, when we came back I placed everything on the table.

Isabelle "you are in a chef mood today" she said taking a sit on the chair.

Me "I am, I just want to try this new dish"

Her "I can't wait to taste" she said excitedly "you know what? Why don't we make a video" she suggested.

Me "a video? For what?" I asked raising my eyebrow.

Her “yes, you don’t know how fascinating it is to watch you cook, I'm sure a lot of people would really like to see you in action”

Me “what people Bella?”

Her “we can post maybe on instagram or maybe even on youtube” she looked like she had this figured out.

Me “I don’t know hey, how am I even going to do this”

Her “you will do your thing Yolanda and live everything to me, I will be behind the camera and all you have to do is say what you are doing and looking at the camera from time to time nothing hectic, I will do all the editing and creativity, plus I need something to do on my spare time”

Me “I guess there is no harm in that, we ca do it” I had nothing to lose really.

Her “yes, let me get my equipment then, finally I can edit the way I like” she was excited.

A lot of my followers wanted me to create a YouTube channel and show them how I did things for a very long time, maybe this is not bad at all, even though I don’t feel this YouTube channel thing, I like my privacy, maybe instagram is better? I don’t know.

I was nervous cooking while there was a camera in my face but I learnt to cool down.

Isabelle “you are a natural, Miss Jones”

Me “this was hard at first, but...”

Isabella “you warmed up”

Me “I had to tell myself there were no people inside the camera” we both laughed.

Isabella “so we have to post a short video on instagram then, create the channel on YouTube”

Me “that’s fine” we were really doing this.

A year later.

****One Year later****

It's been a whole year, after Isabelle and I created my YouTube channel and it's been a success we have made money through the whole thing and I have to say the channel exposed me to other opportunities, I have added motivational speaker to my career, I never planned this to happen, not once in my life have I thought I would one day stand in front of people and motivate them, give people hope that there is light at the end of a tunnel. I got the opportunity to meet a lot of amazing people.

I have been called to events to do my motivation speaking, and it's always nerves racking but not seeing all their eyes looking at me makes me at ease a bit, I think I wouldn't have done this if I was sighted.

I have been featured on Extraordinary Stories documentaries on YouTube, as much as I don't see myself as an extraordinary person, many people see me as one, and it just gives me a lot of hope and encouragement when people are eager to learn about people's disabilities.

I was also featured on tlc channel, as much as I didn't want to join YouTube at first, it really gave me a lot of exposure, being featured on these channels really exposed me, because I started getting a lot of subscribers and I gained a career

through YouTube, at first I wanted the channel to be strictly a cooking channel, but my audience wanted more like what I do in my day to day life, and I ended up giving to the idea.

It's really an easy way to make money, you just have to keep your expectations lower though as it may not work out for all of us, I get a lot of sponsors and make money through them.

I am now a qualified chef, I work at one of the restaurants in London, I enjoy my work and the energy where I work at is really positive, I love everything about my work, however I am not planning on working for someone else for a long time, I'm still in the first steps of opening my own restaurant, my life is so busy, I work full time, and on a part time I work on YouTube and then from time to time I attend events that I get invited in.

My romantic life is non-existent yet again, but I don't have a problem with that as I won't have time to accommodate someone else in my life anyway.

I am still staying on the same apartment with the same roommate, so nothing has changed to my living arrangements.

I don't go home frequently only when I'm free, this is one of those times that I am free, and the other reason why I'm going home is because months back I received a dm from a girl saying I look exactly like her mother, this wouldn't be a problem if i didn't know I was adopted but, because I know of my situation I have to deal with this, but before anything I have to talk to my parents about this first.

So right now I am waiting for my plane at the airport, I am on time so I'm just sitting and checking my social media to pass time.

"Yolanda" a familiar voice called me. "How are you? I'm Andrew by the way" he finally said. I can't remember the last time I saw him.

Me "how are you Andrew?"

Andrew "I'm good, wow, it's been a while"

Me "yes, it has been a while" I felt really awkward being with him only, Jason has always been with him and Andrew didn't like me much, he always made sure that I knew.

Andrew "how have you been by the way

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how is the working life?" he asked.

Me “I have been good, working life can be hectic but it’s still good, how have you been”

Andrew “I have been good, just been busy, you going somewhere?”

Me “yes, I'm going home for a week”

Andrew “oh, I hope you will enjoy home, listen, I would like to talk with you again, do you mind giving me your contacts?”

Me “no it’s fine” I gave him my contacts.

Andrew “I will call you then, I'm already late so we will talk”

I haven't seen Andrew in a while, even Jason is so scarce nowadays, I have only saw Jason a couple of time and that's that.

I use to have a huge crush on Andrew but it kind of faded when I didn't get to see him, I know I was crazy to have a crush on someone like him but a girl is allowed to dream there is no crime in that. I don't even know what we are going to talk about because we are not really friends.

When I got home yesterday everyone was just ecstatic, Mels even spent the night here with Princess Thando, Thando seem to have grown every time I come home, and she is just a very intelligent child. I can't remember the last time I have seen my brother Jason and his little family, they have another child now whom I haven't met yet, when I come home they are busy with work and when they come home I'm busy with work.

Me "so I wanted to share with everyone that, there is a girl that reached out to me saying I look like her mother and that when she showed her mother she said there is a possibility that I could be her child" I tried explaining.

Mom "are you sure these people are not trying to take advantage of you?" she asked concerned.

Me "i don't know mom but here are the dm's" I took my phone and showed them.

Dad "if you are sure about this then I thinks it's fine, you are capable of making your decisions now"

Me "I would like to meet my birth parents because I have questions for them"

Mom "you have our support baby, we can't prevent you from doing what you want"

Dad "yes and if you want to have a relationship with them it's fine, you have proven yourself to be a woman, you make good

decisions so I trust you” that is a first, I thought they wouldn’t support me in this, especially dad. I guess things change.

Me “thank you for giving me support, but I would like to assure you guys that I appreciate you adopting me, and being loving parents to me, you are my parents and I don’t see myself calling other people mom and dad besides you”

Mom “owh, Yoyo, we made a very good decision” she hugged me so tightly.

Dad “but i don’t want you meeting these alone, I don’t trust them”

Me “I will go with Mels dad, she has already agreed to go there with me”

Mels had offered to take me to those people, because she too didn’t trust them.

It was later in the day, we were chilling in her room like old times.

Mels “when you said you had news to share, I thought you were going to announce that you are getting married” she chuckled. Me “getting married to what?” I laughed.

Mels “a person of course unless you are one of those people that marry themselves or marry trees” she says laughing softly.

Me "I have seen those people and I think they are crazy, I don't think I want to get married in my life"

Mels "you were engaged sis"

Me "I was crazy that time, but I'm glad it didn't work out"

Mels "wait until you fall in love"

Me "I don't think so"

Mels "are you trying to tell me that out of all people that know you, from YouTube and other social network, there is not even one that likes you?"

Me "how would I know that? I'm good as I am, I don't think I am ready to share my life with anyone"

Mels "ay I give up Yols" she says clearly defeated. "But at least you are excelling on other things"

Me "at least, I will get someone to love when the time is right"

Mels "that's the spirit"

God will bless me with a loving partner when the time is right.

71

It was the next day; Melissa and I were on our way to meet my potential birth mother.

Mels “I think we are getting lost” she said unsure.

Me “aren’t you following the gps Mels?”

Mels “I am but right now I don’t think it’s accurate”

Me “don’t speed okay”

Mels “I think we are hear” she announced after a while.

The girl I was chatting with gave me location to her home.

Mels “there is an extended RDP house, with a black gate” she described what she saw.

Me “let me call her”

I called and told her we were in front of her home within a few minutes she came to welcome us.

She led us to where I assume is a lounge, we sat down. After greeting we explained who we were.

Mels “I am Melissa and this is my sister Yolanda”

Woman “nice to meet you, please feel at home” she then introduced us to everyone.

Woman “my name is Nomcebo Khumalo, I have no doubts that you are my child because you look exactly like me” she said.

I just didn’t know what to say, i had many questions when I came here but now that I'm here I'm just overwhelmed I want to cry.

Me “how many other children do you have?” I asked.

Nomcebo “I have five including you”

Me “how old are they?”

Nomcebo “first born is a son, second born a daughter, then you and a son and the last born is a daughter” she said proudly.

Me “if I'm your daughter I am the middle child?”

Nomcebo “I have no doubts that you are my daughter, I looked exactly like you when I was your age, but you can do a dna I don’t have a problem with that”

Me “Mels?”

Mels “she does look like you sis, but you have to do the DNA just to be sure” I nodded.

Me “why? Why did you decide to throw me away to die while you already had other kids?”

Nomcebo “I wasn’t thinking straight my child I'm sorry, it was never my intentions to throw you away, I was already in a

difficult place, my two children before you were staying with my aunt and she told me she couldn't take care of anymore children of mine, I was young and stupid, but I have been living with regrets all my life wondering where you were" I cut her off.

Me "wondering where I was? How when you threw me away to die? Because as far as I'm concerned that was your aim" I raised my voice, I could feel tears streaming down my face, so my mother threw me away because she couldn't get her aunt to take me in, is that even a reason to dump your child?.

Nomcebo "I'm sorry my baby, I was young then and I didn't know better, I wish I can change the hands of time" she said softly.

Me "but you can't do that, why couldn't you stay with your own children?" I was just curious.

Nomcebo "as I said that I was young, and I couldn't take care of you, my parents disowned me when I got pregnant but my aunt took me in with the child, then I got pregnant again, things were not easy when I got pregnant with you she told me she couldn't afford to take care of you and I did what I thought was a good decision then, but I have been living with regrets all my life"

Me “all I'm hearing is just excuses, from what you are saying it only means that you dumped me for no reason, there are many things you could have done, you could have taken prevention to avoid pregnancy, or you could have looked for a job and take care of your children, all you are doing right now is blaming your Aunt, while you are the one that had unprotected sex, your Aunt was not obligated to take care of your children” I said fuming, a person may ask why I was fuming while I grew up from a lovely home with loving parents, a lot of things could have gone wrong, like being eaten by dogs, there are many sick people that can do all the crazy things even to new borns.

Nomcebo “I'm sorry by child please forgive me”

Me “trust me when I say, I have never hold grudges from you, I grew up very well in a loving home with loving parents, I never lacked anything in my life, I even forget that I was adopted, i just wanted to know your reasons, but now that I have heard them I regret ever wanting to hear them because they are just excuses, I just wonder what was going on in your head when you took those decisions”

Nomcebo “trust me when I say I regret my decisions, I have been mourning for your death

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my heart has always been heavy which resulted to me being sick, I only got better when your sister find you in these social networks”

Me “so do we have the same father?”

Nomcebo “no, the first two have their father, and you have your father but he died 8 years ago, then the last two have their own father two”

Me “how was your relationship with him?”

Nomcebo “we were fine, at first he was a perfect gentleman but his true colours appeared when I told him I was pregnant, he told me he didn’t want a child”

Me “is that why you dumped me?”

Nomcebo “no, I swear that was not it”

Me “did abortion cross your mind?”

Nomcebo “it was already late” she says in almost a whisper.

I was asking all this because I wanted to get an idea why someone would carry a child for nine months, go through labour pains only to dump their child, but the conclusion I came up with was that it’s because she didn’t want me full stop, a part of me is happy that after she left me to die, God gave me a very loving family, maybe I was going to suffer abuse in her hands, because of what my biological father did to her.

Nomcebo “what happened to your eyes?”

Me “I have Stargardt disease, and got completely blind in my late teenage years, is there anyone in your family that had eye problems because it’s hereditary?”

Nomcebo “no I don’t know anyone who had problems with their eyes, maybe there could be one in your father’s side” I nodded.

I asked her many questions, but I could tell that she only wanted to see me again because she was guilty and all she did was to blame being young or her Aunt or the man that got her pregnant.

Her last born is the one that saw me on social media, then she showed her mother my pictures that’s when she knew that the baby she left to die in a dumping site might be alive, she was sick for a long time, because of guilt of what she did. When I got in touch with her daughter she miraculously recovered.

Me “so where are the other children?”

Thalitha “they are always not here, our brother is at work, our sister went to see her boyfriend then Thabiso went to see his friends just after you arrived”

Me “I would like to meet them”

Nomcebo “we will arrange for you to meet each other, it would really be nice to have all my children in one place for once”

Me: I cleared my throat “it has to be very soon though, I only have a week in the country”

Nomcebo “your sister told me you are staying overseas”

Me “I stay in London”

Nomcebo “wow! I wish all your siblings were like you, she told me you are working” this was becoming awkward by every minute. Thalitha “she is a very famous chef ma”

Me “yes I'm a chef but I am certainly not famous”

Nomcebo “you are the only one among my children that managed to finish school”

Me “I'm sure they will also finish, when the time is right”

Nomcebo “I doubt”

Me “it's getting late, so we are going to go now I hope, the DNA results will come back soon and I will then meet your other children”

Nomcebo “I have no doubts that you are my child, a mother always know” I mentally rolled my eyes.

We said our goodbyes, one would swear that Melissa disappeared throughout the whole Q&A I had with Nomcebo, she was only there to comfort me, I'm glad I came with her, if one of my parents were with me things were going to be really awkward, maybe I wouldn't have asked some questions as they would make me seem like I did not appreciate them.

Me "so what do you think?"

Mels "honestly? I am 100 percent sure that she is your mother, you look exactly alike even the pictures of her as a child, she looks like you, even Thalita has your resemblance, but her reasons are just not acceptable, I notice she blames everyone but herself" exactly how I felt, one thing I know about my sister is that I can fully trust her, she tells me exactly what she thinks she does not sugar-coat to make me feel better, I always ask her when I need advices, but she never take decisions for me.

Me "I noticed that too, she only blames being young, I mean how many people got pregnant at a young age but stucked to their kids? I was not even the first child"

Mels "maybe it's too soon to judge"

Me "maybe, or maybe not"

Mels "time will tell"

Me "yeah"

The DNA results came back, they are a match so it's official that Nomcebo is my biological mother, for some reason I didn't want it to be a match, I felt like she didn't give me good reason for me to accept her.

I am going there to meet with the other children she has, I don't know how everything will be like, Melissa will drop me off and fetch me again, this time around Nathi decided to tag along to keep Mels company.

When I got there everyone was around, at least I knew Nomcebo and Thalitha. So I think everything will be easy.

Mels "call as soon as you finish, okay?"

Me "I will Mels, thank you guys for bringing me"

We said our goodbyes and they left when Thalitha came.

After all the greetings I got settled in a couch.

Nomcebo "this is your older brother Siyabulela, your sister Siyamthanda and your little brother Thabiso you already know Thalitha, this is your sister Yolanda" she introduced us.

Me "nice to meet you guys"

Siyabulela "nice to meet you too little sister" he hugged me.

Nomcebo's children names are similar, I'm the odd one out.

Nomcebo “Yolanda works in America” she says proudly.

Siyathanda “seem like she is your favourite daughter already” she said sarcastically.

Nomcebo “Siyamthanda!” she shouted.

Siyamthanda “cha sengisho nje, (I'm just saying) kuyimanje siyaphoqwa sikhulume isingesi (we are forced to speak English)”

Nomcebo “you are not going to come with this disrespect you hear me? This is my house” she shouted.

Me “I didn’t come to cause trouble, I can..” Nomcebo cut me off.

Nomcebo “Siyamthanda is always like this Yolanda don’t mind her”

Things were getting awkward by a minute.

Thabiso “you are a hypocrite mother, you are a liar and you have proven that you will never change” he said walking away.

Siyamthanda “if I was you Amanda I would run the hell away, you don’t know this woman like we do”

Siyabulela “siyamthanda!” he shouted

I was sitting there wondering what the heck was going on, nomcebo's children seem to be angry at her for something, but I don't know what it is.

Siyabulela "we are supposed to be spending time as a family but that is not possible with the three of you shouting at each other like children"

Me "I didn't know that coming here will create problems, so I will leave"

Siyabulela "trust me when I say this has nothing to do with you, it's always like this with these two"

Nomcebo "I guess you will celebrate when she leaves, that's what you want angithi?"

Siyamthanda "what I'm not going to tolerate is you mother comparing us to your precious daughter, you forget that she comes from a rich family, she is successful because you gave her away, maybe we would be like that too if you gave us away instead of making us go through what we went through"

Me "point of correction, I was dumped"

Siyamthanda "doesn't change the fact that you grew up from a rich family"

Me "I was just lucky, but you were also lucky as you had a chance to be brought up by your mother"

Siyamthanda “don’t talk shit you don’t know about okay” she shouted “you don’t know how much we suffered while you were treated like an egg, living in a big fancy house”

Me “why is that my fault? I didn’t choose anything that happened”

Siyamthanda “because you had a very easy life, and suddenly when you appear your mother worship the ground you walk on, you become her favourite, she took you away from everything that we went through but she still expects us to be like you”

Me “I don’t understand how you think really”

Siyabulela “siyamthanda, I know you are angry but you can’t say all that to Yolanda, she is a victim as much as you are”

Siyamthanda “victim of living a very nice life” she chuckle sarcastically.

Siyabulela “she was thrown away and left to die, you were not

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are you angry because she got lucky?”

siyamthanda “because I feel like she has always been my mother’s favourite, she left us to be abused in that hell hole, but rescued her precious Yolanda”

I couldn’t listen to any of that I just got out of there, I called Mels outside.

Me “please come back, I can’t do this anymore”

Mels “we’ll be right there sis”

Me “thanks” I said sniffing.

Siyabulela “I'm sorry things had to be this way”

Me “it’s not your fault, I shouldn’t have come here”

Siyabulela “our mother is not an honest person, we went through a lot”

Me “but I don’t understand why your sister blames me”

Siyabulela “she doesn’t know how to deal with everything, but I'm sure she loves you”

Me “yeah right, what a nice way to show it”

Siyabulela “I'm sorry”

Me “it’s not your fault, we are all victims but you don’t see me saying things to anyone, all I wanted was to at least get along with you guys as siblings, but I guess it will remain a dream”

Siyabulela “I am always here, and I know once Siyamtanda and Thabiso calm down we will be able to have that sibling bond all five of us”

I noticed that Siyabulela is a very calm person he doesn't talk much.

There was a lot of shouting inside, Mels and Nathi arrived, they were nearby, I said my goodbyes to Siyabulela and left. I would be a fool if I would set my foot here again, I understand that Siyamthanda is angry but what did I do? I'm a victim as much as she is, yes I have never been abused but why does she feel like I am a favourite just because I got lucky and adopted by a loving family.

I think the Khumalo family have to fix things between them before they can try to create a relationship with me, yes Nomcebo is my biological mother, but I feel like if I can try to create any sort of relationship with her my life would take 20 steps back, I think I would not be fine emotionally.

I don't know what they went through as children, what kind of abuse but they have no rights to be angry at me, I didn't choose anything that happened to them.

Nomcebo on the other side doesn't seem like someone that regrets her past mistakes, what I notice is that she was so quick in flaunting me in front of her children, I don't know her but I

think she is one of those toxic parents and I don't need that kind of a person in my life.

I do feel sorry for her children though, she could have done something but she didn't, I wonder how they were abused and where was she when they suffered that abuse.

A part of me is glad that I know her now, I got to ask the questions that I had even though I'm not happy about her answers, I'm glad I could sit with her, I have always wondered which tribe I belonged to, having a family where everyone was a coloured and I always wondered where I belonged to, as a result I learnt many languages so it wouldn't be hard for me to speak the language that my biological parents spoke.

I couldn't meet my biological father but I think it's fine, I will leave everything as they are for now, he never wanted me anyway and I'm sure no one in his family knows about me so I won't go around looking for people that won't even know me.

I can't help the part in me that feels like Nomcebo only want a relationship with me because I turned up well, maybe if I wasn't doing anything with my life she wouldn't care.

It's been a few weeks later, I'm back in London. All I do is work, work and work lately it's been a while since I had time for myself just to rest, I wonder what's the point of taking weeks off if you are going to work like a slave when you come back to work.

The day when I left Nomcebo's place I told my parents what went down and just like me they thought I made a good decision by keeping my distance to Nomcebo and her children until they are ready to welcome me, and that they should solve their problems because I don't know what is going on there and I don't think I'm the type of person that can make peace between them, I went through a lot too in my life and I'm still in the process of healing.

I know that if I can play a mediator between them it can only hold me back from my healing.

Andrew has been calling me regularly; I have to admit he is a chilled guy, never in a million years have I thought Andrew and me would have a conversation without him being a dickhead.

He offered to come and take me for ice-cream and a walk. Who am I to say know to that?

I'm wearing jeans, a tank top and flip flops, I take Andrew as my friend as we have went out twice and I saw that he had no

intentions of dating me so I have no problem of being friends with him and I would never dress up for a friend.

Andrew “how are you Madame” he said in a fake Italian accent.

Me “you go to Italy for three days and come back with an accent” we laughed.

Andrew “we are jealous aren’t we?” he said as we hugged.

Me “never” we settled in the car and left. “Where are we going again?” I asked.

Andrew “you are aging fast aren’t you? We are getting ice-cream”

Me “mmh” we got our ice-cream and went to London Bridge “I have never been here ever since I got here”

Andrew “you have been here for over a year” he says surprised. “people that visit London for less than a week make sure to come here”

Me “I know, I just never been here”

Andrew “now that you have me in your life, I will take you here frequently”

Me “you are so sweet” I say playing with his cheeks.

Andrew “stop it” he says laughing softly.

Me “when last did you see your brother?”

Andrew “it’s been two months, I never thought I would miss his crazy ass”

Me: I chuckled “ I miss him too”

Andrew “I can replace him if you want”

Me “you are a great friend Drew but sorry to tell you this you can’t replace Jason”

Andrew “right to the friend zone, wow” he said surprised.

Me “aren’t we friends? Sorry for being forward then” I lean on the bridge embarrassed, I thought we were friends.

Andrew: he took a deep sigh “look Yolanda, I don’t know if I’m being forward or what, as much as I want us to be friends best of friends at that, I’m actually looking to be more than that”

To say I was confused would be an understatement, I was higgledy-piggledy.

Me “I thought we were friends, I’m sorry”

Andrew “I think you don’t get what I’m saying Yolanda, when I say I want us to be more than friends, I mean I want you to be my girlfriend, I want us to try and see where it will take us... I have deep feelings for you...it’s been ever since I met you...I...” he was not finishing his sentences I think he was nervous.

My head was spinning, I felt like I was going to collapse.

Me “i...I'm” I didn't know what to say, I do have feelings for him, I don't know where they came from, but they were always there even though he acted like a douchebag, I hated that I had feelings for someone that hated me, and I hated him, but now that he is confessing I don't know what to say or how to act.

Me “I don't understand Andrew”

Andrew “I'm sorry for ambushing you like this, but I have always had feelings for you, I know at some point I might have acted like a douche but I just didn't want to admit that I had feelings for you, they grow strong every time I see you”

Me “Andrew” I say in almost a whisper.

Andrew “I know this might have come as a shock to you but I have been running away from this for a very long time and I don't want to run away anymore, all I'm asking is for you to please think about this”

To be honest it's not that I didn't want to be in a relationship with him, I just didn't feel comfortable to be his girlfriend, Andrew is way out of my league the last thing I want is to be in a relationship with someone and regret after, many females threw themselves on him, he is handsome and wealthy and sweet and, and I'm just Yolanda the blind girl

sigh!

Andrew “I'm not saying answer me right now, I am not in a rush for an answer, take your time and let me know when you have your answer” he says softly and I just nodded as words just disappeared in my mind.

We then stand there looking at the beautiful view of the London Bridge, he snapped a few pictures of me, but things were just awkward between the two of us.

“helo, do you mind taking a few photos of me and my fiancé?” a female voice said.

Andrew “sure, no problem”

Andrew “I will be back in a few” he says before he walked away”

I stand in the bridge with my mind full of thoughts.

He came back after a few minutes.

Andrew “young love, it's always a great experience to witness such, they look so good together”

I suddenly didn't know how to make a conversation with him.

Me “yeah..uhmm....I think we should head home now, I have something to do anyway” I lied

Andrew “right” he chortled softly.

Me “it's late anyway”

Andrew “let’s get going then”

Few minutes later we were at my apartment, I couldn’t wait to get out of his car.

Me “bye, I will see you”

Andrew “I will call you, bye”

When I got inside the apartment I breathed out loud, I didn’t even know I was holding on a breath.

Isabelle “are you okay” I wasn’t even aware that she was in sight.

Me “I’m good, you?”

Isabelle “you look like something was chasing you”

Me “what?...no...I’m good”

I quickly left for my room because I know she will never let this go.

I took a very quick shower, then wore my lounge wear, I wanted to catch up on my favourite series.

Bella was in the lounge, I was hoping I wouldn’t find her there as I was avoiding answering her questions.

I settled on the couch next to her.

Isabelle “out with it”

Me “excuse...” she cut me off.

Isabelle “don’t even deny because I can tell you have a lot in your mind”

Me “gosh! You are so persistent”

Isabelle “tell me to save your strength boo”

Me “okay, so as you know that I went out for ice-cream with Andrew” she knew about him and that I used to have feelings for him.

Isabelle “ice-cream date?”

Me “it was not a date” I say rolling my eyes.

Isabelle “it was, but continue”

Me “thank you, so when we got to London bridge...” she cut me off again.

Isabelle “you went to London bridge? Where most relationships begin” she said dramatically.

Me “Bella?” I shouted.

Isabelle “okay, I will let you finish” she said in defeat.

Me “thanks once again, so I don’t know what we were talking about but it led me calling him a friend”

Isabelle “shut up!!!” she shouted, I looked at her with a deadly eye “okay, okay I'm sorry”

Me “then he said I was friend zoning him, he was disappointed, and he confessed that he has feelings for me, and it’s been a while” I said and looked away.

Isabelle “I wish we batted on this, I would be rich right now, do you remember how many times I told you that the guy had feelings for you too?”

Isabelle “I know when two people are in love but in denial, I have never been wrong, I have said it before and I will say it again, you and Andrew will date and probably get married” I laughed at her.

Me “and I'm still saying, you are crazy”

Isabelle “keep on saying, but I want us to bet on it this time around, after your honey moon either you or him will give me a 5000 GBP”

Me “and if we don’t get married, which I know we won’t you going to give me a 10 000” we sealed our bet, I'm going to be rich.

74

Andrew

One would look at me and see what I have and assume that I had a normal life growing up, but let me tell you that my childhood life is not what I wish for anyone.

I grew up in a loving home or so I thought, I started to notice that things were changing when my parents would have regular arguments at first they wouldn't fight in my presence but they eventually did and I assure you there is nothing painful than being caught in the middle of something you don't even know what it's about.

I was six years old when my parents divorced and dad left home, I stayed with my mother, things were not the same, everything became worse when she got married again when I was seven, things started to be worse around the house no one had time for me I was basically on my own I think they would even forget that I was staying with them, I won't even get started about my father I last saw him when he left.

I made a decision to run away from home when I was 9 years, my plan was to go and stay with my father little did I know that he had another family, I was so hurt to discover that he has

forgotten about me, his wife didn't hide the fact that she didn't want me there she said it right in my face. My father made up a story for me and I acted like I understood, but deep down I was heartbroken.

I ran away for the second time because now my mother's husband was mistreating me, they had a baby so I knew right then that there was no space for me there anymore.

It was better on the street than at home no one bothered me there, I became a hustler at a young age I used to beg for money on the streets, I remember that I saved and bought polish and a brush, I used to polish and clean rich people's shoes, to someone that would have been an embarrassing thing one could do but I made money to buy me food and other essentials.

I made sure I was clean because I saw how my mates were treated because they were wearing dirty and torn clothes, people would rather give their money to someone that say they are poor than to those that look poor.

there was a very rich man that was my regular customer he would give me more money than what my service was worth, I didn't like that, I had trust issues, I knew that people don't just help without expecting something in return.

Because I was staying in the streets I wasn't going to school anymore, but I loved reading on my spare time I would read anything I came across especially something that's business related, when I was not polishing people's shoes I would sing on those busy streets of New York, god blessed me with a very lovely voice and being a cute boy attracted many people that was my other source of income.

People use to take advantage of us because we were street kids, at some point I was forced to transport drugs and other illegal things, that's where some kids end up but I knew I didn't want to live like that, even though I had no home something in me told me that I was meant to do bigger things, I ran away from those people, I had to move away from my usual spots so I couldn't do my usual hustles.

I looked up to a lot of successful people, one of them was the man that was my regular customer when I was polishing shoes, he had a number of businesses it was such a great honour to have such a person as my customer, but because I couldn't work as usual because of the people that were looking for me I couldn't see him anymore.

I was fourteen when I saw him again, he said he had been looking for me all along, I didn't even know he knew me, by

that time I was staying in a shelter and working at a restaurant, I was washing dishes and cleaning the floor after hours, I was earning peanuts but I was surviving, working after hours had its disadvantages as I would get to shelters and it would be already full, forcing me to sleep on the streets.

I remember when I saw Mr Grahams, I was walking on the street minding my own business, a very fancy car stopped right next to me, I froze my mind told me to run but my body was just frozen, I thought the people that were forcing us to do illegal things had finally found me.

He got out of the car; my eyes were blurry with tears, I knew I was dying that day.

Mr Grahams “young man” he said walking towards me

I couldn't believe my ears, I haven't been called that in a very long time.

Grahams “I have been looking for you for a very long time son” he hugged me tightly.

I didn't know what was going on and I didn't know what to say.

Me “Sir?” I finally managed to say.

Grahams “where have you been? I have been looking for you everywhere”

I explained to him, he forced me to leave with him as he didn't want to lose me again.

That's how I ended up in London because he was originally from there, he had a son that was my age but he died while he was hiking we were 19 he was an adrenaline junkie but unfortunately for him it was his death. Mr Grahams became a father I never had. He was always there for me, and I was always ready to learn from him.

I couldn't go to school full time, so I would do any short course I was interested in

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being smart helped, I did business short courses, and many others like IT, Culinary, Public relation, I did them because at the time I was not sure of what I wanted to do. But I have managed to combine many of what I did and others related and made one multi-industry company.

I have shares in many businesses and many businesses in many countries; I have recently opened another multi-industry company in South Africa.

When I started making a name for myself my parents started calling me, they wanted to have relationships with me, because

I was thought to never hold grudges I forgave them, they sometimes want me to give them money which I do, I have forgiven but I don't think I will never forget, I can never forget that I raised myself from 9 years to 14 years while both my parents were still alive but both too busy with their families, I thank Mr Grahams every chance I get but he hates it when I do because to him he gained another son, even when his son died he was not left alone he had me. He is the reason I am what I am today, his wise words, his teachings.

I have been told that everything we go through is what makes us stronger. Maybe if I didn't go through what I went through as a kid I wouldn't be where I am today. Maybe I would be a spoiled brat living in my parent's basement, but because of what I went through I am who I am today.

I believe in giving back to the community to make other people have means so one day they would do the same to the others.

I have never been lucky in romantic relationships, I was a late bloomer, growing up in the street made me to focus more on ways to make money, even when Mr Grahams took me in I

never concentrated on finding myself a girlfriend, I was looking on ways to better my life, as a result I started having sex when I was 20 years.

But I have no regrets because I know I was fully aware of what I was getting myself into.

I met Yolanda when she would come to practice dishes with my brother Jason, Jason is my mother's son hence we don't have the same surnames, he was still young when I decided to leave home, we reunited in a couple of years ago and we have been close ever since.

Back to the story, when I first saw Yolanda I was taken by her, but I couldn't show that to her as I didn't want to mess up my life, I was on and off with Natasha at the time, story for another day.

I admired how dedicated she was to her studies and her dreams, despite of barriers that could have discouraged her she still find a way of doing things.

I thought the feelings I had for Yolanda would disappear when I become rude to her, and I was glad when I learnt that she didn't like me either, no matter how rude I became to her the feelings seem to grew deep inside of me.

I moved to Los Angeles for a year, the feelings were still there but I was a coward. right when I went back to London the first

person I saw at the airport was Yolanda, I took that as a sign, it was no coincidence that I saw her there after so long, and at that time there was nothing holding me back Natasha and I were done, I am certain that I will never go back to her, and she was no longer a student sponsored by my company, so there was literally nothing standing in my way.

I was very disappointed when she friend zoned me, I had to tell her right there and then that I have feelings for her, I don't just have feelings for her I love her, but I didn't want to scare her away by saying that. I was not prepared to watch her possible falling in love with someone while I have a chance.

I have been always praying for a good woman to god, everything I have been praying for is there to Yolanda, maybe God answered my prayers and I won't know unless I take the leap of faith.

Jason always said we are always fighting because we don't want to show our true feelings, of course I laughed it off but deep down I knew the truth.

Jason "you finally told her" we were on a phone call.

Me "I did, but I don't think she feels the same" he laughed.

Jason "I never thought I would see the day where you would be this scared over a girl" he said laughing.

Me "fuck you"

Jason "don't worry, you were both made for each other"

Me "like I would believe you" I say chuckling.

Jason "I'm being honest, I saw you too together way before you could admit it"

Me "we will see"

We said our goodbyes after a while, I decided to give Yolanda space to think but it's been a while and she hasn't said anything to me, I am worried, really worried.

Its been a couple of weeks since Andrew confessed his feelings for me, honestly speaking the feeling is mutual but I'm scared, what if what happened between Philani and I happens between Andrew and I? I know its wrong of me to compare them, but I just can't help what I feel deep inside, males are unpredictable, who would have known that Philani would go back to Lerato? What if Andrew goes back to his Natasha?

I just cant help but compare Philani and Andrew, because I know that if Andrew would hurt me I can never be the same again.

I seek advice to Bella, I told her about what went on between Philani and I, and what I'm afraid of.

Isabelle "so are you telling me that because your ex did that to you, you are going to give up on love just like that"

Me "I'm just.." she cut me off.

Her "no Yolanda, you are not going to punish other people for your ex's mistakes"

Me "you don't understand"

Her "trust me I do, call him now and tell him how you feel about him"

Me "no..isabell.."

Her “here...I have already dialled his number.. tell him how you feel” she gives me my phone.

Me “what the heck did you do that for..” I was too late he answered.

Him “hellow?” there was soft music playing in his back ground.

I kept silent.

Him “hellow? Yolanda are you there?”

Isabelle “say something” she whispered.

Me “I'm.. hi Andrew I'm here”

Him “how are you?”

Me “I'm good”

Isabelle “tell him” she whispered

Me “shut up” I shouted.

Andrew “Pardon?” he was surprised.

Me “not you, so I'm what you said.. you know the feelings”

Andrew “okay?”

Me “yes..so I feel the same”

He remained silent, oh my gosh he doesn't feel the same anymore.

Me "Andrew"

Andrew "yes I'm still here, just surprised"

Me "yeah, so that's why I called"

Andrew "thank you very much for getting back to me, I want you to say that to my face though, can I come and see you" he sounded so excited

Me "its not a probl"

Andrew "okay, I'm on my way" he didn't even wait for me to finish.

Few minutes later he said he was outside.

Me "he is outside" I said nervously.

Isabelle "then what are you waiting for? Go get your man" she said dramatically.

I made my way downstairs; when I got there he attacked me with a very warm and long hug.

We got to his car so we could talk properly.

Him "I want to hear you say it face to face"

Me "gosh!" I covered my eyes with my hands.

Him "you are not going to get all shy with me now"

Me “okay fineee, I have feelings for you too” I said and looked away.

He made me face him using his index finger.

Him “that’s all I wanted to hear, now can we try this relationship thing and see where it will lead us” I nodded very quickly, he attacked me with a kiss, it came as a surprise to me as a result I kissed him back after a while of freezing.

He stopped kissing, I could feel him looking at my eyes, my whole body betrayed me as I saw myself leaning towards him kissing his lips, he responded immediately.

My stomach suddenly acted weird like I had butterflies in there.

Him “I’m going to love you so bad that you are going to be addicted to me” he said kissing my nose.

I couldn’t hide blushing, he kissed my forehead, my nose my cheeks and yes he was kissing me everywhere. I’m sure people could see that it was new love.

We eventually parted ways, when I got to the house Bella screamed.

Isabelle “FOUR WHOLE HOURS!!” she shouted.

Me “you are making noise”

Isabelle “I didn’t want you to get married the same day babe”

Me “you are crazy”

Her “Four hours? What were you talking about for four hours?”

Me “it doesn’t seem like hours though”

Isabelle “its been four hours”

Me “we were talking about us”

Isabelle “new love, I will be preparing my speech from now on”

Me “that’s just exaggerating, we have only been together for hours”

Isabelle “you will be celebrating your wedding anniversary very soon”

I just rolled my eyes and walked to my room.

So Andrew and I talked for hours, but it didn’t feel like that, I just hope I won’t regret agreeing to be in a relationship with him.

****few weeks later****

Andrew and I have been dating for a while, even my friends back at home are aware of our relationship, I am happy, people say I'm glowing, I mean who wouldn't be glowing if their relationship was like mine, everything is a bliss I kid you not.

I think it plays a huge role that we are friends before we are lovers, you would swear we have been dating for years, I have

to admit I'm happy and at piece, he has been posting me on his social media, I guess his ex-Natasha saw that because she started calling him she even went as far as coming all the way from LA to London just to prove that Andrew still loves her but he didn't entertain her.

I remember this one time we were having Brunch, at a restaurant.

Natasha "owh, Andrew?" she shouted

Andrew "Natasha" he said coolly.

Natasha "I didn't know you would be here, how are you"

Andrew "fine, this is my woman, baby this is Natasha"

Natasha "I'm Natasha now? Wow!" she exclaimed.

Me "nice to meet you Natasha"

Natasha "I wish I can say the same about you"

Andrew "what do you want Natasha, we are kind of in the middle of something"

Natasha "wow! I will see you" she couldn't believe it.

She walked away.

me "ex-girlfriends " I said

Andrew "there are some parts of life I wish I could just erase"

After that encounter Natasha wrote me an essay telling me how much she loved Andrew, how much they have been through together, how many times they broke up and get back together again, I showed Andrew.

Andrew "I'm over Natasha, there is only one woman in my life, she is sending you that because I have blocked her everywhere I want nothing to do with her and if you want peace of mind please block her too" that's what he said.

I blocked her, a part of me was scared that what if Andrew would realise how much he loved her and go back to her, but a part of me believed him when he said he doesn't love her any more.

The difference between Andrew and Philani is that Philani entertained his ex but Andrew doesn't.

It's hard to not compare people when you have been in the situation before, every time a situation you have been through happens again you just can't help but feel like history will repeat itself.

Maybe I'm not over the hurt Philani caused me.

I have been with Andrew for a few months but you would swear it's been years, I always ask myself where he has been all along. I have been suffering all my life while he has been playing boyfriends to other girls.

My man is not only handsome, he is so wise no wonder he is so rich, he can be a fool, joke around but he always know how to throw in wise words here and there and leave you amazed, he is the best adviser, I can't believe how he just made everything make sense and made me make wise decisions about my life in such a short space of time.

I had boyfriends before but now I have a man, I didn't know the difference until I get to know Andrew.

He has proved himself that he is not one of my ex-boyfriends, at first I was super insecure about dating him but as time passed by I saw that he was genuine.

There is some point where we got into a heated conversation because I was comparing him to my ex a lot, even though he never did things my ex has done I would jump into conclusions and be ready to dump him, he was getting irritated by my act, but he managed to sit down with me and told me what was on his mind.

Andrew "I love you and I know you were hurt by someone who claimed to love you" he said "but I'm not going to sit here and let you make me suffer because of him, I am not your ex Yolanda therefore if you want this to continue you have to stop comparing me to your ex, I am not going to sit here and let you punish me for his wrong doings, I love you God knows I love you so much, but I'm not going to act like I'm fine, I believe in communication, if there is something you don't like about what I did, talk to me about it, if you are not sure about something I did I'm here, jumping to conclusion is not the answer" he added.

I was aware that I was comparing him to Philani, even for the slightest things he did.

And even though I could see that they didn't do things the same, in my mind everything they did was the same because they are both man.

It's true when they say innocent men gets punished for the sins of guilty men.

After he sat me down I saw that I was wrong and tried by all means to get in line, I don't love Philani anymore but I would like to have a talk with him just so I can move on with my life, I don't know if it make sense but I feel like I will let go of everything and focus on my relationship if I would have a talk with Philani.

My man is a sweetheart, he takes care of me, he cooks for me, I love cooking so much but there are just those days that I feel like eating food not prepared by me and he is always willing to cook for me, and most times we bond on our cooking sessions.

I'm not one of those people that wait for 90 days before having sex with my partner, if I'm ready we will get down even if it's less than a week of our relationship, with Andrew we did it after two weeks, and I don't even care, people may feel like they will look like hoes or have questions like what if he came for sex but as far as I know he will leave even after waiting for a year if that's what he came for, and if he feels like I'm loose then he must just leave me the fuck alone.

We have dated for months now, I even lost count of how much we get intimate, with his traveling and my work we don't get quality time for us so we utilise every chance we get to be together.

I spent a night at his place yesterday, it's a weekend and we decided to spend time together, London weather is cold, we cooked watched TV and played adult games all night long, I managed to get some sleep way past midnight, Mr Smith couldn't let me rest.

It's the next day, almost midday, I brushed my teeth and went to look for him around the house, as I come near his living room I can hear a piano playing, he is singing.

I stand on the door way and just admire his voice, this man is gifted with a very nice voice, he could make a great musician.

He stops playing.

Andrew "hey love, how are you, did I wake you" I make my way towards him.

Me "tired, no I woke up on my own" he kissed me briefly before hugging me tightly.

Andrew "I made food, are you hungry"

Me "so hungry"

Andrew "let me dish for you then"

Me "please sing for me

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just one song"

Andrew "one song then we get you food"

Me "cool" I said with excitement

He started playing on the piano, damn he's so good in this.

Feels Right by Lemar

Ye-ah, ye-ah, ye-ah

I'll never stop loving you, 'til this life is over, oh

I'll never stop needing you, now and forever, ah

See, 'cause it feels oh so right when I'm with you

It feels like I can't live without you

I just can't deny, my future lies with you oh

I've had my doubts about us, though we make it together

But now I've spent time with you, I ain't seen nothing better

So whenever you call me, I'll come running, baby

And whenever you need me, I'll be there in a hurry

'Cause it feels oh so right when I'm with you

It feels like I can't live without you

I just can't deny, my future lies with you, yeah

It feels right when I'm with you

Oh, I'll never leave you

I'll never leave you

I'll never leave you

Oh, you're all I need in this world

You're all I need in this world

Listen

So whenever you call me, I'll come running, baby

And whenever you need me, I'll be there in a hurry

'Cause it feels right whenever I'm with you

It feels like I can't live without you

Oh, I just can't deny, my future lies with you, with you, with
you, with you

'Cause it feels right whenever I'm with you

It feels like I can't live without you

Oh, I just can't deny, my future lies with you, yeah

It feels right when I'm with you

Ah

Say it again, feels right when I'm with you

You were there when I was broken

My heart is always open to you

When I'm with you

Ah

Said it feels right, it feels right, it feels right

Yeah

It feels right when I'm with you

When he finished I was teary, that's what his voice does to me, i like it so much when he sings, and even Lemar doesn't move me this much when he sings this song, maybe its love.

We hugged so tightly after the song.

Me "you should sing for me more"

Andrew "now you are pushing it" I pouted folding my arms

Andrew "I love you too" he chortled and kissed my nose, my forehead and my mouth and walked away.

He dished out for me and we ate over a light conversation.

Andrew "so I'm going to South Africa on Tuesday"

Me "what? Why? Work?"

Andrew "so many questions, well I have to attend to work that side, but I want you to come with me"

Me "you want me to come with you?"

Andrew "yes I would like you to be my plus one"

I was not sure about this, I mean we haven't even dated for a year

Me "you forget that I have work?"

Andrew “you can ask for a week, I'm sure they won't give you a hard time you work so hard”

Me “okay I will see if they give me a week”

Andrew “thank you” I just nodded.

I asked for time off at work and they agreed to give me two weeks, I will even have time to spend with my family and friends, plus I miss them.

Andrews function or whatever it is on Saturday, he said I shouldn't worry about a dress he will take care of everything, I couldn't be happier.

Isabelle “I don't like Andrew anymore”

Me “what has he done” I say laughing softly.

Isabelle “keeping you away from me!”

She said dramatically, the problem with me is that when I'm in a relationship I spend most of my time with that person, I give my all.

Me “but Bell you were the one pushing me to him”

Isabelle “I know I know, but now I remain alone in this apartment”

Me “where was Nicky”

Isabelle “she is busy with work”

Me “you are still going to be alone for two whole weeks, because I'm going to South Africa”

Isabelle “fucks no! What am I supposed to do with my life in the meantime?”

Me “it’s just two weeks it’s not even like you don’t leave me alone here”

Isabelle “it’s just not fair, not fair at all” she whined.

Me “you will be okay babe” I say chuckling.

We are at the airport waiting for Andrew's private jet, I would never get used to this life. Few minutes later the jet was ready, we boarded and had refreshments after a while on air. I have never been so comfortable like this before, I'm sure even Louie is surprised.

Andrew "I love you, he said kissing my forehead" how I love forehead kisses.

I was drifting off to sleep; I woke up after sometime to him waking me up.

Me "mmh"

Andrew "we are landing in a few minutes, let's get you buckled up"

I sat on the chair and buckled up.

After a few minutes we landed, a car was already waiting for us with a driver.

We went to a hotel, we both freshened and ordered food, all I wanted to do was to sleep, I was tired.

No one in my family knew I was in the country, I wanted to rest first and then I will go home the next day.

I woke up the next day to my phone ringing, Mels is calling me. Andrew is nowhere near me.

Me “sis” I said with my sleepy voice.

Mels “don’t sis me, when you don’t even tell me when you are in the country”

How the fuck did she know.

Me “how? I was going to tell y” she cuts me off

Mels “don’t give me that, I have to find out on a post”

Me “what post?”

Mels “your Boyfriend posted a snap of your ugly face sleeping”

Gosh! Andrew just created a lot of trouble for me.

I had to bribe Mels with a lunch to calm her down. She ordered me to go home immediately.

Drew drove me home.

Andrew “I’m going to go to work, i guess I will see you again later”

Me “I don’t think we will see each other today, thanks to your instagram post, everyone I know wants a piece of me now”

Andrew “not fair” he whined.

Me “you will stop being forward next time” I laughed at him.

Andrew “does your parents know you are coming?”

me “no, unless my sister told them”

Andrew “I think that’s your father looking at our car” he said panicking.

Me “are you sure?”

Andrew “yes, that guy has been looking this way for some time now”

Me “drive away, I can’t risk him seeing us together, my dad is overprotective of me he will over react once he sees us together”

Andrew “if I drive off he will worry, plus our car is suspicious”

Me “let me go then, I love you”

Andrew “I love you more” we kissed passionately before we both got out.

He helped me with the bags, and got Louie out of the car.

Andrew “he is coming towards us” he was nervous and panicking.

The way he was panicking was kind of funny but, I was as nervous as him.

Dad got next to us

Dad “Yolanda? I didn’t know you were coming home” he said.

Me “daddy!” I hugged him for dear life. “Surprise!” I shouted.

Dad “we are too old for surprises Angel”

Me “don’t be dramatic dad

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this is my friend Andrew, Andrew this is my Dad” I introduced them.

Andrew “nice to meet you Mr Jones, I have heard a lot about you” he said nervously, I wish I could see him, it’s kind of funny.

Dad “all the good I guess” he said chuckling.

Andrew “only the good sir” he chuckled nervously

Me “dad, Andrew is rushing to work”

Andrew “yes I have to rush, I will see you bab..i mean Yolanda, pleasure to meet you Mr jones”

Dad “he doesn’t sound like he’s from here” he said after Andrew drove away.

Me “no, let’s get inside dad I can’t wait to surprise mom”

I dismissed him; the conversation was never going to end.

We got inside, me in front and dad with my bags.

Mom “Yoyo?” she shouted.

Me “surprise!” I shouted.

She rushed towards me, we hugged.

Mom “we are too old for surprises Yoyo”

Dad “that’s exactly what I told her, we are prone to attaches”

Me “oh come on, you are not that old”

Mom “trust me when I say we are, I was making food are you hungry”

Me “I can never say no to food” she made me food; god knows how much I missed my mom’s food.

Melissa arrived as we were eating.

Mels “you are having a meal without me”

Dad “I’m sure your husband buys food for you”

Mels “this is still my home though”

Me “you have your own home, don’t be greedy”

Dad “tell her sweetheart”

Mels “mom!”

Mom “sit down my baby, I will dish for you leave these two”

How I have missed these moments.

Mom “you got a cab to here Yoyo” I'm so not ready for this conversation.

Dad “her friend dropped her”

Mels “friend, you mean Boyfriend”

Mom & Dad “Boyfriend!”

Me “Melissa!” I shouted

Dad “you said you were friends”

Me “his my boyfriend dad” I told the truth

Mom “Yoyo, you have a boyfriend?”

Me “yes mom, we have been dating for months”

Mom “you came with him here?”

Me “no, yes I mean we came together he has a work function he asked me to be his plus one”

Dad “you came home because of him?”

Mels “he is actually the reason why she came back”

Me “I was going to..”

Mom “must be serious”

Mels “they are serious mom, she was just afraid to tell you guys because you are both so overprotective” I can’t believe Mels right now

Dad “you must invite this this boy, we have to meet him in a right way”

Me “I will invite him dad”

Dad “good because we as your parents have to know who you are dating”

I was so angry at Melissa

Me “what the fuck is wrong with, I was not ready” I said when we were left alone.

Mels “I was just helping you, how long were you going to hide your relationship?”

Me “as long as it takes”

Mels “you should be thanking me”

Me “for destroying my relationship? You must be crazy”

Mels “you can thank me later then baby sis”

Now I have to invite Andrew for an interview with my father.

What if dad thinks he is not right for me, I will die alone in this world.

78

Mels “you have done a real upgrade sis, Philani is hot but Andrew Whuuh!” she said dramatically.

Me “really?”

Mels “he is hot”

We were having lunch at some restaurant.

Me “I'm glad I did” I smiled shyly

Mels “I'm glad you have managed to move on, I never liked that Philani, come to think of it you haven't even introduced me to your man face to face”

Me “all in due time dear sister all in due time”

Mels “now tell me, how rich is he? Because it looks like he is out there doing things”

Me “to be honest I don't know that but I know that he has a number of company's”

Mels “you are so brave, I don't think I would bring myself to be in a relationship with someone so rich”

Me “you think I'm not scared? But when we are together he is not Andrew the business man but Andrew, Yolanda's man”

Mels “whuh! Yolanda's man” she mimicked my voice.

Me “do you ever get serious Melissa?” I asked rolling my eyes.

Mels “I don’t want to die early, but I'm glad he is not an arrogant and controlling because he has money”

Me “I would be lying if I say he is, I just hope he won’t change”

Mels “I hope so too, my god this town is so small” she said the last part in irritation.

Me “what’s wrong now”

Voice “ladies!” a voice I know very well said cheerfully.

Mels “what do you want” even a deaf person couldn’t miss the irritation in her voice.

Her “I just wanted to know if you are okay, Yolanda how are you?” are we friends now I wanted to ask.

Mels “and what are you going to do if we are not okay”

Lerato “as the owner of the restaurant, I always makes sure my customers are happy” she said with a smile.

Me “we are good thank you”

Mels “yes we are good miss owner”

Lerato “good to know, so when did you come back Yolanda”

Mels “are you bored miss owner? Don’t you have something to keep you busy around here, because we would like to continue with our food I peace if you don’t mind”

Lerato “why are you so angry? I'm trying to make a conversation with my husband’s ex fiancé, unless you are her spoke person”

Mels “you must be special, you thi...” I cut her off. The last thing I want is for her to do what Lerato wants.

Me “do you need anything else, because we are good” I faked a smile.

Lerato “not really, but I would like to thank you for being with my man, because of you we managed to get back together, and we are waiting for our second bundle of joy”

I mentally rolled my eyes, until they reached my brain.

Me “congratulations, your bundle of joy is blessed to have parents like you guys”

Lerato “very blessed, we are so happy and I hope you find your true love one day, ladies let me leave you to enjoy your food I have to get ready for a function I'm attending tonight, see you around”

Me “enjoy” she finally walked away.

Mels “I just lost my appetite”

Me “you like wasting your energy Mels, you know Lerato is petty but you want to play right to her trap”

Mels “you make me so angry at times Landa, you know she is bragging right in your face”

Me “I know but I have moved on, Lerato has no effect in my life”

Mels “but you are entertaining her, she is busy flaunting her stupid baby bump in our faces, after...”

Me “Melissa! Why are you so worked up about this?”

Mels “that motherfucker didn’t want to have babies when you were together but now Lerato is pregnant”

Me: I laughed so hard “shouldn’t I be the one angry though?”

Mels “I’m angry because you are so damn calm about this whole thing someone has to be angry”

Me “you are so dramatic sis”

Mels “let’s just go” she was clearly pissed.

I didn't go back home Melissa dropped me off at the hotel where Andrew is staying at.

Andrew "I missed you so much" he said kissing me passionately

Me "I missed you too" he moaned in my mouth.

Andrew "but not as much as I missed you I have to go and make sure that everything is ready, we will meet there"

Me "who am I going to go with"

Andrew "a driver will drive you Hun, for now get ready your dress will arrive soon and someone to do your make up will be here soon"

Me "mmhh" I continue kissing him, my arms locked around his neck, his phone disturbed our moment "ignore it"

Andrew "mmh, I have to go my love its work"

Me "I love you" I say in between a kiss

Andrew "I love you too"

He kissed my neck "endlessly" he kissed my forehead, my nose and he pecked my lips before dashing off.

I took a shower; the makeup artist arrived and did her magic on my face, when she was done, she styled my hair, you would swear, I was preparing for a pageant.

When she was done, my dress designer helped me wear my dress, apparently Andrew and I were matching, my dress is an elegant body hugging cocktail midi dress with frills on both shoulders, with black heels, I felt good really good.

After we were done I made my way downstairs, the driver was waiting there for me

he opened the door for me.

Driver “you look so beautiful madam” he complemented.

Me “thank you” I say with a sweet smile.

Driver “Mr Smith should keep an eye on you otherwise other males will snatch you” he joked.

I laughed so hard, I pictured being snatched by strangers.

Me “I wouldn’t even give them a chance to” he was a very friendly gentleman, few minutes later we arrived to the venue.

I wasn’t expecting Andrew to have time to get me inside; I was surprised when he was just outside the car waiting for me.

Andrew “seems like I'm going to fight other males here, you look so beautiful my love”

Me “thank you”

Driver “I was saying the same thing” they joked.

Me “you are both just exaggerating” I said shyly.

We thanked the driver and said our goodbyes he drove off as we made our way through the red carpet, I didn't think this was a big thing, but now I'm nervous.

My hand was hooked on his arm.

Me "there's press?" I asked nervously.

Andrew "this is a big event love"

Me "I'm so not ready for this"

Andrew "there is nothing to be nervous about, besides Jason is here so you don't have to worry"

Me "I didn't know that, he's supposed to be my friend"

Andrew "he wanted to surprise you"

Me "and you just ruined the surprise"

Andrew "because of your nervous arse" I squeezed his arm.
"Ouch!"

Me "bad word Mr Smith" we both chuckled.

We made our way inside, he lead me to our table, I could tell that there were many people, to say I was nervous would be an understatement, I'm sure this venue is full of business moguls that I won't even have a clicking conversation with.

Andrew "relax" he whispered as he opened a chair for me, he introduced me to the people we were sharing a table with, I bet

they thought I was his slay queen. The good thing is that my dress is decent.

The event began, it was basically the official opening of the company, many business people were present, both small scale and large scale, entrepreneurs, I guess they wanted to get the business out there as it has many fields from marketing, advertising, public relations etc.

I know I might have said this before but I can't help but wonder how rich is this guy I'm dating? To manage to combine so many fields must require a lot of money and this guy has managed to do this twice.

Andrew "you okay?" he whispered to my ear.

Me "I'm good babe, just thinking about how one manages to be this successful" I whisper back. He chuckles.

Andrew "get out of your head okay"

Me "I'm just wondering"

Andrew "it's not just me babe as much as I would like to take all the credit I can't, my team did this"

The event continued, Andrew was called to the stage, he spoke with so much effort, you would mistake him to one of those old business men when he takes a stage to speak business.

After he was done he came back to sit next to me, fancy snacks and drinks were served then networking on the other side of the venue where there's open bar, I didn't do much as I couldn't see people.

We stand in one of cocktail table's everyone just wanted to speak to Andrew congratulating him I was even tired of smiling as he introduced me, I was just sipping on my wine as they had their conversations, I would take part in conversations here and there.

Some people were already leaving and some were having nice banter and enjoying free alcohol, people and free alcohol.

Voice "sorry sir to disturb but there is something that needs your attention"

Andrew "you gonna be fine?"

Me "yes"

Andrew "I will be right back" I don't even know where Jason disappeared to.

Voice “never in a million years would I have thought we would bump in these types of events” out of so many people she had to always be where I am.

Me “twice in one day” I say rolling my eyes, I didn’t even care whether she sees me doing that or not. Plus with wine in my system, I couldn’t tame the bitch in me.

Lerato “so how do you know him?”

Me “who?” I asked in a bored tone hoping she picks it out and let me be.

Lerato “Andrew Smith?”

Me “ohw he...”

Him “Yolanda, how are you” this is going to be a very long ass night.

Me “hi, how are you Philani?”

Philani “I'm good how you are”

Me “I'm good”

Awkward moment.

Philani “it’s been a while”

Me “yeah hey” what do people talk about with their ex-boyfriends with their wife’s present? Because right now I'm in a very tight space.

He cleared his throat repeatedly; I guess he felt awkward too
Lerato “Babe, you disturbed us as we were in the middle of a conversation with Yolanda” she chirped.

Philani “you were? About?” he asked with a concerned voice.

Lerato “nothing serious though, I was just askin...”

Andrew “babe, I'm back. Oh how are you Mr...”

Philani “Dladla, Smith right?”

Andrew “yes, I guess you have already met my woman Yolanda here or you know each other”

Philani “yes, this is my wife Mrs Dladla”

Andrew “nice meeting you both, I see you are expecting congratulations”

Philani “thank you, congratulations to you too, not many people manage to make this business thing work”

Andrew “thank you” I just concentrated on my wine.

I let out a very deep sigh when the Dladla’s said they were leaving I didn’t even know I was holding my breath until that moment.

Andrew “it’s getting late baby we should also leave”

Me “you sure, because I'm still enjoying it here” I joked

Andrew “yeah right, let’s go because I know you also want to get out of here”

Me “I mean we could...”

Andrew “let’s go Mrs Smith” I never laughed so hard in my life, I’m sure people were looking at me like I’m a lunatic.

Me “you wish”

Andrew “you know you are gonna be my wife right?”

Me “quit joking Mr”

79

We got to the hotel, I couldn't go back home as it was already late at night.

Andrew "you are so wasted"

Me "and hungryy tooo" I slurred. Sitting on his lap, I kiss him all over

Andrew "wait are you hungry for food or?" I chuckled.

Me "both food and or" he chuckled softly.

Andrew "you are a fool woman"

Me "your foool" I slurred.

Andrew "okay let me order food then and then attend to you"

I deepened the kiss, before I let go.

I took of my clothes before I headed to the bathroom to remove the make up on my face, i then decided to take a shower.

Andrew "baby food has arrived" he shouted after a while.

I went to the bedroom to moisturise; he went to take a shower.

He came back after few minutes.

We ate over a light conversation about the event.

Me "I can't believe your brother just disappeared like that"

Andrew "I bet he met a woman and they left early"

Me "that's so him"

Andrew "ready for desert?"

Me "mmh" I say brushing my hands together excitedly.

We met half way and kissed each other hungrily, seconds later I was in bed with him on top of me.

He took of my gown.

Andrew "you were ready"

Me "aha" we spoke while kissing.

He took both my hands and pinned them on top of my head while kissing me hungrily.

He sucked on my breast while I moaned softly, he went straight to my cookie and sucked on it, my moans increased as he fucked me with his tongue, I swear I lost all my senses.

Me "owh Anddrreeewwwww!!"

The louder I screamed his name the faster he moved his tongue; I could fill a wave of orgasm building up.

Me "oh myyy god, oh god! I love you" my body vibrated as I shoot a brain freezing orgasm.

He came for my lips and sucked on my bottom lip I could taste my juices, he stopped and looked at my eyes, I could tell he was smirking.

I didn't get much sleep as he kept on going and going and going, it was early in the morning but he is still buried deep inside of me in spooning position, he is moving slowly in and out of me, his strokes are deep and very slowly, my soft moans and his soft groans make this moment to even be more stimulating.

We are both moving in a very slow pace but it is just right for the moment, few moments later we are still in the same position but our pace has been a bit faster, our moans and groans are a bit louder, he gentle bite on my earlobe as I came, he came right after me. I passed out immediately.

“Lala wake up” the voice sounded afar “wake up”

Me “mmhh” I moaned and turn to face the other side, my whole body is just so heavy

Andrew “Yolanda don’t say I didn't wake you up” he was getting irritated i could tell. I didn't care I just wanted to sleep besides his the one that decided to keep me awake all night.

Me “give me two minutes “ I managed to say.

Andrew “you got to be kidding me” he said shaking me. I got so irritated

Me “don’t you have something else to do? I said two minutes.

Andrew “it’s been two hours, it’s almost 12 midday”

I woke up fast, and checked time, he is telling the truth.

Me “shit! And you just decided to let me sleep?”

Andrew “ I tried sweetheart but you were just you” he said amused.

I got up and took my clothes.

Me “you had one job Andrew Junior Smith one job, to wake me up now i have to answer why I slept away to my parents”

Andrew “God knows i tried, wait you are not going to take a bath”

Me “with what time?”

Andrew “ baby you remember we had sex the whole night right?”

Me “so?”

Andrew “ so? Baby you smell of sex okay, besides you are already late so take a deep breath and relax, bath and have some food then i take you home, would you rather go home to face the music dirty and hungry or clean and full”

Me “at least you have some little brain in that big head of yours”

Andrew “excuse you? “

Me “I said..”

Andrew “ don’t you dare repeat that” he comes near me and i moved back

Me “im joking” I tried to run away but he caught me and tickled me.

Andrew “now repeat what you just said” I laughed so hard as he tickles me

Me “im sorry...imm soorrey”

Andrew “Say something positive about me then”

Me “ you are smart, god you're killing me”

Andrew “I won’t stop until I feel confident about myself again”

Me “you are Smart you are intelligent you are handsome and sexy”

Andrew “repeat the last part”

Me “you are so damn seexxy” I say seductively.

Andrew “damn right now give daddy a kiss”

I packed his cheek

Andrew “come on you can do better than that” he has stopped tickling me now.

I snaked my arms around his neck and kissed him passionately, it lasted for a while.

Andrew “now take a shower”

Me “are you low-key telling me that im smelling Mr Smith?”

Andrew “what? Never” he was trying to act serious.

Me “good because I would never smell even if i don’t wash for days”

Andrew “ we are getting ahead of ourselves aren’t we?”

Me “I will act like I didn’t hear that”

i pulled away from him, he spanked my ass as i walked away

me “so naughty” I said walking away.

When I got home both parents were around watching something on the TV.

Dad “you were supposed to come back yesterday”

Me “ im sorry dad, the event ended late at night and i didn't want to wake you guys up when I come back.

Dad “so you decided to come back the next day afternoon?”

Me: sigh! “I was tired dad” I was so tempted to roll my eyes but that would create WWIII.

Mom “go put your bag away baby, don’t mind your father” thank god for Laura I quickly walked away, dad likes doing this treating me like a little girl.

I get to my room and just throw myself on my bed, as I could feel myself drifting away my phone started ringing, who calls when I'm this tired, jeez.

Me “hellow” I answered.

The other person just breathed on the speaker without saying anything.

Me “are you going to speak?” I was getting irritated.

“Yolanda, it’s me Philani” damn what does this nigga wants?

Me “Philani? How can I help you?” where did he even get my number?

Philani “I'm sorry for just calling but I would like for us to meet and talk”

Me “meet and talk? About what if I may ask?”

Philani “please I know..”

Me “please just tell me what this is about?”

Philani “please Yolanda”

Me “okay”

Philani “thank you very much, can we do it tomorrow during the day?”

Me “during the day? Okay I will see” I dropped the call as he was still saying something.

I can't help but wonder what's there left for us to talk about. I don't know but something in me tells me to let Andrew know, I dial his number, he answer almost immediately.

Andrew “babe, how are you”

Me “I'm good you?”

Andrew “fabulous, miss me already?”

Me “you have a big ego my love, but to burst your bubble no I don’t” he chuckled.

Andrew “okay what’s up then? “I know I don’t have to do this but all I want is peace, I’m too old to be fighting about ex-boyfriends.

Me “he’s my ex” I just blurted that out.

Andrew “what are you talking about?” he sounded surprised.

Me “Philani, you came back to me standing with him and his wife yesterday”

Andrew “oh the Dladla’s” he said Dladla in a very funny way, I couldn’t help but chortle softly.

Me “yeah I just felt like I had to tell you, he asked to meet I don’t know what it’s about, I don’t want to keep secrets from you, we agreed..” I was just rumbling.

Andrew “hey breath, I don’t have a problem with you meeting him as we both don’t have an idea what it’s about, I say go and hear what it’s about, its not like he is about to tell you he has your child” we both laughed.

Me “I’m not sure hey, I just don’t want to open heeled wounds”

Andrew “or it will give you closure, just don’t get back together with him okay” he joked

Me “hahaha, you have jokes Mr Smith big jokes”

We joked around for a while.

It's the following day, im sneaking out from home to meet with Philani on the street. I still have no idea on what he wants to talk about, im using my cane to navigate my way to him.

I have walked a few metres away from home; I hear a hoot from a car that I presume is near me and stop a bit.

Philani “hey, you came” he says closing the car door.

Me “I surprised myself too”

Him “ how are you?”

Me “im good, how are you”

Him “good, thanks for coming” I nodded.

Me “I had no reason not to come” I say honestly, an awkward moment passed. Never in a million years would I have thought that one day I would be in a situation like this. Being in front of someone that I used to call my fiancé and the love of my life with this kind of tension between us.

Him “so you and Smith” we were leaning on his car, I turned to look at him “ is it serious?”

Me “if I say it’s not are you going to be happy?” I say “mean it’s none of your business”

Him “okay, I deserve that, im sorry for being forward”

Me “damn right you are, why am I here Philani?”

Him “right into it” I shot him with a deadly eye “okay in sorry, I will get right into it”

Me “good”

Him “I called you to apologise Landa, I didn't realise when we were together but I was a jerk, I loved you maybe I still do but I didn't love you right, now that we are not together I did a lot of thinking and I saw that I was never a right person for you”

Me “right?” I didn’t know what to say.

Him “yes when we were together I thought we were going to get married but I was selfish, I always expected you to sacrifice for me, I lied to you and cheated. You don’t know this but I had sex with someone when we were together and I didn't want you to find out I was planning to die with it I know it doesn’t matter now but...” I cut him off.

Me “you cheated on me with Bongi”

Him “yes, wait you knew? How?” he was clearly surprised.

Me “she told me after we broke up, but as you said it doesn't matter”

Him “either way im sorry” I nodded.

Him “I did love you Yolanda, if you were wondering”

Me “but you loved her more, Lerato, I get it im cool”

Him “you can say that” he said in a low tone.

Me “it's fine really im just glad I didn't settle to be the second best, I guess I thought as time goes by you were going to fully commit to me but that was just me being an idiot”

Him “ I thought I was over her, I swear on my mother's grave”

Me “ the signs were there Philani but I just placed them at the back of my mind because I loved you

but I decided to part ways to avoid future heartbreak”

Him “you made a good decision Ma Jones” I chuckled.

Me “you have made so many sacrifices for her, proof that you love her, I mean you bailed on me when I thought I was pregnant but here you are with a pregnant wife”

Him “I apologise about that again”

Me “it’s cool really, did you even think twice about keeping the baby when she told you she was pregnant?”

Him: sigh! “to be honest I didn't, I was happy”

Me “congratulations again” I say genuinely smiling.

Him “does he makes you happy?” he says after a moment

Me “he does” I say smiling “he makes me so happy”

Him “great; you deserve all the happiness in the world” I nod. “I can see by the way you are smiling that he does make you happy, I saw how he looks at you that he adores you, just don’t crucify him for my wrong doings”

Me “I won’t, we talked about our previous relationships and it ended there, he is actually matured enough to discuss things with me”

Him “ouch! I guess I deserve that” he joked.

Me “damn right”

Him “I guess he knows about how much of a jerk I am”

Me “he only find out yesterday”

We talked for a while about this and that and said our goodbyes.

As much as I had no interest in talking to Philani about our failed relationship, im glad we talked and cleared the

awkwardness between us, we have closed this chapter and I feel like something has been taken away from me not in a bad way though because I have moved on from that, I guess it's good to close an open chapter after it's over.

The lesson I got from this though is that it doesn't matter how much you sacrifice in a relationship if it's not meant to be it will eventually come to an end, im glad I managed to put a stop because I could have lived a life full of tears if I had forced on holding on.

I have to help my mother prepare tonight's dinner, Andrew is meeting my family, I would be lying if I say I was not nervous, knowing Richard this whole dinner can end up in fist fight if Andrew is not good enough for me in his eyes.

Mom "everything is almost sorted my baby go and freshen up before people starts arriving"

Me "do we even have to dress up?" I whined.

Mom "do you even have to ask that Yoyo, after I have prepared this feast"

Me "with my help"

Mom “and you are not going to let that pass, go on now, what will that boy of yours think of us when we have dinner in our sleepwear?”

Me “okay fine, I will go” I walked away.

With the level of my tiredness I wouldn't mind being the only one in sleepwear on the dinner table.

I took a shower and wore a ‘decent dress’ just so I will look like other people after I was done dressing up I went downstairs. Melissa, Nathi and princess Thando were already here.

Thanks “Aunty Yols” she calls me Yols because her mother calls me that, she runs toward me, I pick her up.

Me “you are so heavy, what do they feed you” I say picking her up

Thando “im a big girl now”

Me “right?”

Thando “dad says he is going to get me a puppy if im a good girl”

Mels “not happening”

Nathi “but princess I said it was our secret”

Thando “but I have been good daddy”

Nathi “ help me Yolanda”

Me "I.."

Make "don't get involve Yols Nathi will fix his mess"

Me "okay" I put Thando down, she ran off, she is a mini Melissa this one.

Nathi has already disappeared.

Me "why are you here?"

Mels "there is no place I would rather be at this moment, I want to see you and your man sweat as you are both wondering what else to expect" she said and laughed

Me "you will burn in hell dear sister"

Mels "I will wait for my turn with a glass of wine" we both laughed.

Few moments later Andrew arrived, I could tell that he was very nervous.

I introduced him to everyone; dad and Nathi were in the living room having a conversation of their own I introduced him to them too.

As expected dad dismissed me shortly, im sure he wanted to interview him without my presence, that's so Richard.

Mels and mom set the table with me as nervous as I could be.

Mom “relax will you?”

Me “how when your husband is probably having a Q&A with my boyfriend?”

Mel’s “you look like you can collapse any moment, knowing Richard he is...”

Mom “you are not helping Lisa”

Mel's “ no offence mom but your husband can be super extra”

Mom “that he can be but it’s from the goodness of his heart”

Me “of course you will say that, because he is your husband”

Mel's “true that sis, we are on our own”

Mom “don’t you dare gang up on me you too” we laughed.

“Call them to join us, everything is in place”

Mel’s went to call them, we sat on the table, mom went all out as usual, this woman is always extra.

Andrew “the food is nice Mrs Jones, I can’t remember the last time I had food this nice” he complemented

Mom “thank you, im no chef but I try”

Dad “you don’t try honey you always do a very good jobs”

Thando ”mom burnt my eggs” we all laughed.

Mel's "wow Thando; I thought we were a team"

Nathi "Aunty should give mommy cooking Lessons right princess "

Thando "yup"

Mel's "im still here you know" we laughed.

Dad "I feel sorry for you son"

Me "Andrew is a chef too, I hope he can help because I don't have much patience to teach Mels, I tried and failed before"

Mom "you are also a Chef? Andrew"

Andrew "yes Mam but I don't practice"

The conversation was just flowing around the table with laughter here and there, they wouldn't miss the opportunities to question Andrew but I would be lying if I said they treated him differently.

When we were done having desert we cleared the table and went to join the men in the living room, we found them speaking about business. If i were to get married someday I would like for my father to get along with my husband like he gets along with Nathi, they have such a father and son bond.

Me “so what does dad thinks of Andrew” our guests had already left

Mom “why don’t you ask him yourself” dad clear his throat behind me.

Dad “ask me what” I was so embarrassed because I wanted to hear this from mom.

Mom “she wants to know what you think of her boyfriend”

Dad “oh” he continued doing what he was doing.

Me “so”

Dad “so?”

Me “what do you think of my boyfriend? Gosh dad”

Dad “that was not so hard right? But to answer your burning question, I only met that boy for hours my baby I don’t know him but with the few hours he was here I think he means well, he has proven himself to be a good humble man, because I don’t know him or his ways I have no reason to judge him”

Me “fair enough” now I can breathe.

Sadly I couldn't see Namhla as she now stays and work in Cape Town; we do talk regularly on the phone though our friendship is still tight.

I got the shock of my life when Andrew said we were in Seychelles we decided to leave South Africa early so I can rest for a few days before going back to work. We are booked at a beach resort.

As much as I wanted to explore this beautiful place I couldn't, I wanted to rest more.

Andrew also wanted to relax so all we did is to relax, get full body massages, did manicures and pedicures; eat, relax and swim and relax.

Andrew left me alone the whole day today; he went to do some activities around here, so im left alone with my audio book, I could get used to this life really.

“Honey im home” he shouted as he got to our room. I heard his footsteps coming to where I am.

Him “hey, you good?” he kissed my cheek.

Me “you just disturbed my piece with all the shouting”

Him “sorry baby, come on let’s take a shower im taking you somewhere”

Me “where? “I ask raising my eyebrow.

Him “it’s a surprise come on” he says pulling me up

Me “mmhh” I whined.

We both took a shower, an innocent shower; I wore a short comfortable dress he was in shorts and a t shirt.

We walked for a couple of minutes until we reached a very beautiful set up, I could hear beach water making a sound, the calming scent of flowers and candles on the table.

Me “this is nice baby” I say throwing myself to him “thank you”

We ate quietly, he is awfully quiet, I let him be and focus on my food.

We had desert afterwards.

Me “ Im so full, I think I won’t need to eat for a number of days”

Andrew “I would like to see that” I chuckled.

Me “thank you for this my love”

Andrew “I love you” he plants a kiss on my forehead. “Come let me show you something”

He takes my hand into his we walked closer to the beach, he pulls both my hands into his, I feel his weight going down.

He clears his throat several times.

Me “are you okay” I ask confused, what's up with this guy.

Andrew “im good, uhm Yolanda. ..God” he said in frustration.

Andrew “im just so nervous, okay I know we haven't been together for a very long time, but ever since I fell in love with you I just knew that it would come to this, you came to my life when I least expected it and changed it for better, you complete me, I believe that you are my other half, before you I never believed that I had it in me to want to settle down but with you these thoughts flood my mind with every passing hour, this may come as shock to you but I will say it anyway, Yolanda Jones will you make me the happiest man on earth and marry me?”

I swear my ears shut for a minute; I froze as if I am paralysed.

Andrew “will you marry me?” he asked again.

Me “yes” I say in almost a whisper “yes I will marry you”

Andrew “oh god thank you, you won't regret this I love you so damn much” he got up and took my hand sliding the ring on my finger “thank you, thank you very much baby, thank you for

agreeing to be my wife” he kissed me repeatedly, I don’t know why I was crying but tears just wouldn't stop flowing.

Andrew “SHE AGREED TO BE MY WIFE YA’LL” he ran away from me shouting to the top of his voice. I was so embarrassed but amused at the same time.

I stayed glued to the same spot while he ran around shouting, he ran towards me and spin me around.

Me “you are crazy stop before you drop me” I say in between laughter.

Andrew “thank you, I swear you will never regret this”

He finally put me down and kissed me passionately, a kiss that made me wish for more.

Andrew and I have been married for two years, two whole years but it still feels like yesterday since we got married and became one I really can't imagine my life without him, he is not only my husband but my best friend, I won't lie and say we don't fight because we do but with communication it all become easy. Yeah, I lost a bet to Isabelle, I was still so sure when we made it that I would never get married, but here I am, Even though I blackmailed Andrew to pay because he was the one that proposed.

He told me that when we had dinner with my family he asked for blessing to marry me to my dad and he agreed it came as a shock to me because my father was so overprotective of me; Andrew sure gave great first impressions. We got married four months later. It was a small intimate wedding with our close friends and family.

I met Andrew's side of the family after our engagement, he is not really close to them meaning I'm not close to them either, I met Mr Grahams such a great person, and he is more of a parent to my husband than his biological parents.

It's true when they say a parent can be anyone who plays the role of being a parent in your life; both Andrew and I are living with the proof of that. Because Nomcebo gave birth to me but

even today we are not having any sort of mother and child relationship.

My life took a turn i never would have thought it would, both my husband and I made a lot of sacrifices to be where we are right now, good sacrifices. He relocated to my country, despite of him already having a life in London he decided to leave all that behind, he still has his businesses but he has made changes so he wouldn't have to travel as much as he did.

After looking for a house that we would both love we couldn't find any that was satisfying so we decided to build from scratch, I didn't care about the entire luxurious thing as long as there were no steps and it would have a huge kitchen. My dear husband on the other side wanted a big house with a pool and a basketball court.

Building a house from scratch can be advantageous, We had to put everything that we wanted as we made a vow that we were going to grow old in our house, our home is very beautiful with a lounge, dining area a huge open plan kitchen as per my request, six bedrooms, we each have our offices in the house so we can both work without disturbing each other., there is a mini cinema, he wanted a cellar room, where he keeps all his wine collection, we have everything we want, or that we thought our children would love.

We are blessed with a beautiful boy, Ethan. he is one year three months he is such a sweet and clever child for his age, if someone would have told me that at some point in my life I would be married with a kid and expecting another in a few weeks I would have laughed so hard in their faces and told them they are crazy. I did want to get married and have kids when I was still a child but after I became blind I decided that I didn't want that, but here I am today, married with kids.

I remember when I found out I was pregnant for the first time I was stressing so much, with all the negative questions in my mind, what if I fall and lose my child?, what if I become a bad mother?, how will I mother a child I can't even see?

But what puzzles me even today is that not even once did I think of terminating, Andrew has always wanted to be a father so he was just ecstatic. Being a father has always been his dream so it was easy for him to adjust to parenthood.

me on the other hand, well I was filled with many emotions happy to be a mother but also sad about giving birth to a blind baby, because with my condition it's also possible for my kids to inherit it. The last thing I want is for my children to go through the same things I went through being blind is not a walk in the park. Being different can mess up a person. I pray to god every day to not let my children have sight issues.

Im not going to lie and say i have this life thing figured out because i don't, it's hard being a mother, a wife and a business woman it's going to be a lot harder now that I will be a mother of two soon, but it become less harder with my husband by my side and my family is always there for me.

Business wise I'm doing great, I am the owner of restaurants, yes I finally did it, as soon as i came back in the country i managed to buy a restaurant that was on sale because they were going bankrupt and made a lot of changes it finally got on its feet.

The restaurant became successful so much that I managed to get a second one, I am now the owner of two restaurants, and hopefully I can expand who knows maybe I can even expand to other business ventures.

Andrew "what are you thinking about?" he settles next to me.

Me "my life" it's early in the morning, we are still lying on the bed.

Andrew “mmh” he got close to me and kissed my neck.

I couldn't help but Moan a bit.

Me “you know your son can enter anytime right?”

Andrew “and he sure knows how to disturb” we both laughed.

He moved his hand to brush my stomach, the baby kicked so hard.

Andrew “hey Princess its daddy, you want to play with your daddy? You sure woke up on the right side of bed” he kissed my stomach and brushed it.

Me “baby we talked about this”

Andrew “and i told you she is a girl” he is so sure that we are having a girl maybe is because we already have a boy.

Me “it would be good if we don't refer to him or her as a girl though, I have been telling you this since forever” I say frustrated.

Andrew “even if you are a boy, we will be happy okay, as long as you are healthy nothing else matters, boy or girl we will still love you, okay? I hope you hear me in there” he totally ignored me.

Me “help me get up please baby” he pulls me up no questions asked, that's how huge I am, I can give birth anytime from now.

I got up from the bed and went to the bathroom, I brushed my teeth and took a quick shower, I moisturized and put on a maternity dress and sleepers, I'm in a sleeper shoes only wearing phase as my feet get so sore, not mentioning how big I am arg I just can't wait to give birth.

When I got out he was playing with his son, on the floor.

Me "you will clean here Andrew Smith"

Andrew "like I have been doing ever since you got pregnant" I ignored him.

Me "hi baby come to mama" I picked my son up and kiss him all over his face, he just giggles.

Ethan "mama" he says when he finally catches his breath.

Me "how are you baby?"

Ethan "baby, tummy" his brother or sister was kicking.

Me "you can feel the kicks too?"

Ethan "kick, kick kick kick" he shouted excitedly.

Andrew "sounds like he is cheering for his sister" he said and I shoot him with daggers "or brother" he added.

Being a mother to Ethan has made me so happy, having someone call me their mother is the greatest thing ever, not mentioning having to nurture my kids in my tummy and taking

care of them, even though it can drain all the energy out I still would never trade any moment of it.

Me “gosh you are becoming so heavy by each day”

Andrew “I made food”

Me “my favourite?”

Andrew “you know me”

Me “so cocky” I teased

Me “come, come Ethan lets go eat” he holds my hand his father walks in front of us.

We all went downstairs; my baby became so excited as soon as the smell of pancakes hit my nose.

Me “we are excited aren’t we” I brushed my stomach as I took a sit. The baby has been so active lately.

Andrew “here” he gives me the plate and kissed my forehead.

Me “thank you hubby”

Andrew “pleasure all mine wifey, come Ethan”

Ethan “Smit” we laughed, this boy likes being called by his full name and Surname.

Andrew “Ethan Smith”

Ethan “yessss!” he even clapped his tiny hands.

Me “aren’t you cute”

The only sad thing is that I can’t see him, but what can I do? We don’t always get what we want we just has to accept and be grateful for what we have and what we can do.

We are hosting a huge family and friends gathering for our families and friends. Well more like my family, because all Andrews’s family members are not in the country. I couldn't be able to cook for so many people not in the state that im in, instead i got a catering company to do all for me, and they just arrived and placed everything that I have requested. It’s only a few minutes until everyone gets here.

“Honey im home” Mel's voice shouted.

Nathi "Melissa!, why do you always do that"

I put down what I was eating to welcome them.

Thando "Auntie Yols" she hugged my legs

Me "how are you Princess?"

Thando "im good, did mom tell you she is having a girl"

Mel's "so much for a surprise Thando"

Thando "oopsie"

Nathi "you have to learn to keep things to yourself Thando.

How are you Yolanda? "he briefly hugs me

Me "im good, Andrew is outside"

Nathi "let me leave you to it then.

Mel's "fatty"

Me "says someone who will be just like me in few months"

Mel's "this is the part i hate the most with getting pregnant, getting fat and looking like a hippo"

Me "I can wait to give birth already"

Mel's "me too" I laughed

Me "you still have three more months"

Mel's "you don't have to remind me" she sulked.

Me “another girl?”

Mel's “yeah, I was hoping for a boy this time around but the universe is against us, you still don't know”

Me “we will see when I give birth”

Mel's “we will just trade if you have a boy” we burst out laughing.

Me “I wish it was that easy”

Before we knew it everyone was present, the long dining table was already set for adults, we had a separate table for kids.

Amahle “i can't get enough of your home, it's very beautiful just a pity that you can't see all this beauty”

Amahle has always been one to make repugnant comments ever since she knew me I thought she would have got it that I don't like them by now but nope not my sister in-law.

Mel's “you could have kept quiet you know?”

Me “just let her be Mel's”

Mel's “Amahle has never missed the opportunity to throw offensive comments on you, and I fucken hate it”

Amahle “did I say something wrong? Oh my god im sorry if i offended you I never meant to”

I remained silent.

Mel's "it's either you are childish or dumb" she walked away.

Amahle "im sorry if i offended you Yolanda, im really sorry I just never know what to not say to you" I said fuck you in my head.

Me "maybe you should think before you say anything, the last thing I want is not get along with you because of what you say"

Melissa came back.

Mel's "this is the last dish we can join the other's" I quickly rushed away.

I seriously don't know when or how Amahle will just stop offending me.

People were chit-Chatting around the table, everyone seem to be having a nice time. I went to sit next to my husband.

Andrew "are you okay," he whispered.

Me "im good babe" I smiled a bit.

Andrew "what would you like to eat"

Me "everything, you shouldn't even have asked"

Andrew "right, Here" he placed my plate in front of me.

Me "thanks" i smiled at him.

Mom "why did you even bother inviting us to your home if you are both to concentrate on your own" she teased us.

Dad “i was also wondering the same thing”

Me “oh come on, you are now ganging up on us”

Mom “we are a team sweetheart” we laughed.

Mel's “of course you are”

Jason “they have been ganging up on us for a very long time”

Dad “good thing you can all now gang up on your children”

Jason “you both have to give us lessons for that”

I felt a cramp on my lower abdomen, it past quickly before I could think of crying, I ignore it the last thing I want is to spoil this beautiful day for everyone.

Mom “the food is sure nice, you can tell that it was prepared by great chefs”

Andrew cleared his throat.

Me “thank you mom, we sure tried”

Mel's “is it?” she murmured.

Jason “you should give lessons to my wife, we can’t leave on takeout while we have chefs in the family”

Nathi “ nothing a few lessons from the world’s greatest chefs can’t fix, I thank god for you guys Thando doesn't complain about burnt eggs no more” we laughed, because that used to

be Thando's line wherever she ran out of conversation on a phone call "my mother burnt my eggs"

Andrew "maybe we should just open a cooking school and make money once"

Amahle "discount for family" she joked

Jason "no family doesn't pay"

Me "there is no family in business, in fact family should pay more for support"

Andrew "very true my love" laughter from the table

Dad "you both always find ways for businesses"

Andrew "it comes naturally, we are business people after all"

Another cramp got me by surprise

this one seems stronger and I moan a bit.

Andrew "hey, you okay?" the table went quiet I guess they all noticed.

Me "im fine" I lied.

Mom "Yoyo?" she sounded worried.

Me "im fine mom, just that the baby has been very active today.

Dad "he can feel the good energy around him"

Andrew “him? I believe she is a girl”

Dad “that’s a son, son, trust me”

Me “well it won’t matter whether a girl or boy”

Mel's “yes because we will exchange”

Nathi “never I would never allow that” we laughed.

Mom “it would have been so easy if people could easily exchange”

Later on we sat around the pool; I had my feet on the pool the children swimming. This was indeed a very beautiful day everyone was having a good day.

we played games, well more like they played games I am heavily pregnant so I get tired easily.

I had an urge to go to the toilet so I got up from the pool chair i was now sitting on, but what’s strange was that I had already peed on myself.

Mel's "did you pee on yourself lil sis" I felt so embarrassed to pee on myself at such an age, i know it's normal with pregnancy but no.

Mom "that is not pee, her water broke" it's not really a surprise because I knew I can give birth anytime from now, but still.

Mel's "oh my God, you are having a baby" she was panicking, more than me

Mel's "oh gosh, let's call an ambulance"

Mom "Melissa stop you are scaring her" she said in a stern voice. "Let's get you inside sweetheart"

I don't know when Andrew got to where we were but he was now panicking right next to me. With Ethan I was the one panicking, I don't know what happened this time around.

I was so irritated by him because we practiced for this day many times.

Andrew "what should I do? Baby? Are you okay? Oh my god! Oh my god!, okay baby calm down okay" this guy.

I swear I would have laughed if i was not in so much pain.

Dad "shouldn't we take her to the hospital? Because I sure don't know how to help give birth"

Mom “there is no need to panic here, Nathi you are going to drive as you look less panicking” she ordered .”Melissa and Amahle you will remain behind to take care of the kids, help me get her to the car, Andrew get her stuff” she added.

Andrew “Stuff?” I couldn't help but roll my eyes even with the pain, he ran away, to get “my stuff”.

Mels “I also want to go”

Jason “I will remain then”

Mom “help me take her to the car, where is Andrew again?”

In what seem to be forever they managed to get me to the back seat of a car, mom sat with me trying to calm me down.

Mom “breath sweetheart breath” I breath.

To what seem like eternity my husband came back panting.

Andrew “here, im coming with you”

Mom “not while panicking like that”

Andrew “I can..”

Mom “Richard drive him to hospital”

Me “ahhhhh!” I cried in pain contractions were now getting more intense, if i survive this pain I will sure deem myself the strongest woman on earth, they were not like this with Ethan.

Mom “ we are leaving now, get us in full pieces to the hospital Son” Nathi drove off.

Andrew “I will be right behind you...” he shouted as we drove off.

We got to the hospital and we got attended as soon as we set our feet in the hospitals ground, before I knew it I was in a hospital bed being rushed to the maternity room.

I don't know when Andrew arrived but he insisted to be by my side holding my hand, he was not panicking anymore, I wonder where he placed his nerves, I guess he wanted to be strong for me.

The baby was finally ready to come out, I was screaming to the top of my voice while squeezing his hand tightly.

“I can see the head, give me one final push” a female voice said .

Andrew “you hear that? One final push and our baby is here”

Me “aaaaahhhhhhhhhhhj!!” I gave it my all I felt relief and knew the hard work is over, a very strong baby cry filled the room.

“it’s a girl” a voice said.

Andrew “thank you very much, oh how I love and appreciate you for giving me beautiful kids” he kissed my sweaty forehead, before walking away.

I was so tired it felt like all the strength was drained from me

After they finished cleaning her up they put her on my chest, I wish I can see her.

Andrew “she is so beautiful, she sure looks like daddy” I laughed softly.

Me “you can’t tell that right now baby”

Andrew “my beautiful baby girl” he described for me how she looks like.

Andrew “she has your eyes, and my ears, she is so perfect with your nose, thank you for this”

We sat for a while with her, he took a lot of pictures of us and got to hold her too a bit, before she was taken away. And he let me rest.

He went away to tell the others the good news, while I dozed off.

I woke up hours later when the nurse woke me up to feed my baby.

Nurse “ here” she placed her in my arms in a position for me to breast feed her, she sucked on my breast, it’s such a beautiful way for a mother and a child to bond but I can never get used to it.

Nurse “I will come back later to check up on you guys”

Me “thank you” she walks away, I was left with my daughter, I run my hand throughout her face gentle, I may not know what she looks like but I know she is beautiful, come to think of it she doesn't have a name yet.

Andrew “my two beautiful girls” he said bringing me back to planet earth.

Me “hey” I smiled.

Andrew “how are you feeling?” he kiss my forehead and our baby’s

Me “im good just a bit tired”

Andrew “my poor baby, hang in there okay” i nodded

Me “how’s Ethan, my poor baby must be wondering where I disappeared to”

Andrew “don’t worry, I had a talk with him and told him that you are in the hospital to get her little sister, he was excited” i chuckle

Me “baby he is only one we might have told him that he is to be a big brother but I don’t think he understands what it means he is only one, im just scared on how he will react when he sees her sister and know that he is not the only one anymore”

Andrew “im scared too but let’s hope he will accept her eventually”

Me “we will worry about that later, we still need to name this one”

Andrew “come to think of it we had a long list of names but we ended up with none” he chuckled, I finished baby feeding and give her to him.

Andrew “my little princess, aren’t you the cutest baby in the world? Gosh you are so tiny but in few months you will be so big and running around and the last thing we know you are out there in the world with so much power like a boss”

He was so cute, I can picture him as he walk around the room all serious, I couldn't help but smile.

Andrew "Avery, Avery Smith, how does Avery sound my love"

Me "it's a beautiful name i love it, Avery it's a beautiful name but why Avery"

Andrew "the name means power i want her to hold so much power so she can conquer the world"

Me "seems like all our children are going to be powerful beings, because you said the same with Ethan"

Andrew "this world is not for weak people my love"

Me "you are right, Avery Smith"

Andrew " I almost forgot that I came to check if you were awake, they all wanted to see you and hold baby Avery before they went home" he gives me the baby and walked out.

Me "hellow Avery, hey" she yawn "oh my cute baby girl"

Mom "there she is" she says as they all get in, is it even allowed for so many people to be in a ward at the same time? Not that im against it though. "She is just perfect Yoyo" she takes her from my arms.

Dad "look at that, you kids are making us look old by making us grandparents over and over" we laughed.

Mel's "we are not making you look old, you are old" we laugh. Andrew comes next to me and hold my hand.

Mom “it’s such an amazing thing to get to hold grandchildren, what did you name her?”

Us “Avery” we both said.

Mom “beautiful name for a beautiful girl”

Dad “we also want to hold her honey”

They all took turns holding the baby until the nurse came and told them we needed to rest, I was going to go home the next day.

Because my birth had no complications and my baby girl was just perfectly healthy we got discharged the following day, we had everything the baby needed so we are really cool.

Andrew “you are good to go” he said after him and the nice nurse helped him get everything in order.

Me “then let’s get out of here” he takes our baby while the nurse wheeled me to our car. We got to it and I settled and the baby too on her car seat. Then we went home.

Me “im so nervous about how Ethan will handle having a little sister” Andrew “me too but he might just surprise us”

Me “I hope he does, he is too young to understand, what if he thinks we are replacing him”

Andrew “let’s worry about that when we get home”

Within a few minutes we got home, he takes Avery after helping me get out, I slowly walk inside the house,

Me "I didn't even ask where he is, Ethan i miss him"

Andrew "he is.." he didn't even finish because we opened the door and there was a unison shout of "Welcome home baby Avery" Me "ah! You guys are so sweat"

Within a moment everyone was fussing over the baby, I mean I should be getting praises for all the hard work but nope, Avery took all the spotlight.

Mel's " I just want to see her brother's reaction let's get him to meet her" Ethan was called he came running.

Ethan "mommy!" he shouted

Andrew " no running Ethan"

Me "hey my baby, I take him to sit on my lap"

Ethan " im big boy now" he said excitedly

Me "my big boy" I plant kisses all over his face.

Me "I want you to meet someone" I put him down and they put Avery on my lap.

Me "this is your sister Avery..." i didn't even finish the sentence.

Ethan "my siser, yesss" he souted excitedly.

Andrew “yes you are a big brother now”

Ethan “wow!” he clapped his hands.

Mom “he is so sweet”

Me “you want to see her, come closer”

Ethan “kiss her” my son is so sweet.

Andrew “okay come this side” he kissed her repeatedly

Mel's “I wish Thando was like this, she told us straight that she doesn't want a sibling”.

Nathi “don’t forget that she is way older than Ethan”

Me “maybe her heart will melt when she sees her sister”

Mel's “I doubt, she say what’s in her head all the time”

Dad “this one will be his sister's keeper, you are raising a gentleman”

Andrew “I hope he stays like this forever” I could tell he was smiling.

I swear this welcome party was just an excuse to get together and eat food,

Later on everyone left, my mom was to come back the next day to help us with the baby, i don’t trust my blind self with a new born even with our first born i wasn't doing much to help, only

breastfeeding, changing nappies here and there and other little tasks i don't want to put the life of my children in danger.

It was late at night Ethan was already sleeping, I took the chance to admire my new born even though she was sleeping too, I was just standing next to her cot.

Andrew "I was wondering where you were" he said as he enter the room. Me "just standing here"

He raps his arms on my waist, and placed his head on my shoulder.

Andrew "you should be resting I don't want you hurting yourself" Me "just a few minutes"

Andrew "two more to finish"

Me "excuse you?" I know exactly what he is talking about.

Andrew "we have to give birth two more times"

Me "only if you are going to get pregnant, because I'm done"

Andrew "we didn't agree to that, we said four and two adoptive babies"

Me "then, I didn't know what it was like to give birth, we just need to adopt then we are good" Andrew "we will see"

Me "we will defiantly see"

Andrew “comes let’s get you to bed before they wake up before we even sleep”

He lifts me up and carry me bridal style, and place me on the bed.

.....**The End**.....

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