



ZAHARA

She Sees Perfection
On My Imperfections

Author
Keabetswe Mahlaba

PROLOGUE

Zahara



Xola : can you come see me
today ?

I heave a sigh

He has been ghosting me for a
whole two weeks

Suddenly today he sees me

And he wants to see me later

He's been seeing me the whole
time

But acting like I am nothing to
him

Like we don't even know each
other

Just total strangers

Me : I can't

Xola : why ?

Me : I will be busy

Xola : you're going home now ,
you can go be busy now and
have time later

Yes

Only I can see him later

When it's dark and all

When no one can see me
getting into his room

He can't even come meet me
halfway

I have to go there all by myself

And when it's time to leave

He will just leave me by his gate

And I have to walk back home
all by myself

The same way I went

I am tired of this relationship
now

I don't even know why I keep
bothering myself

For a whole two years

It's been like this

It's like he has some kind of a
hold on me , that I just can't
seem to get away from

Me : I can't

Xola : if you don't want to , just say so

He turns

Xola : but just know if you don't come , someone else will come

Finally !

He says it with his own mouth

It's not like he's been loyal after
all

He's been with this other girl

And I didn't even know they
were dating

Until I started dating him

A year and a few months into it
being with him

I found out he has a girlfriend

One he's been with for longer

So he has been cheating on her
all along with me

I asked him about it but he
denied it

Like the idiot that I am , I fell for
it

It's like I'm just with a man
that's ashamed of me

He's okay now to talk to me

Because I'm on the street and
walking alone

And there isn't anyone here

So no one will be seeing him
with me

I just watch him walk away

Until he disappears

And I heave a sigh and continue
with my walk

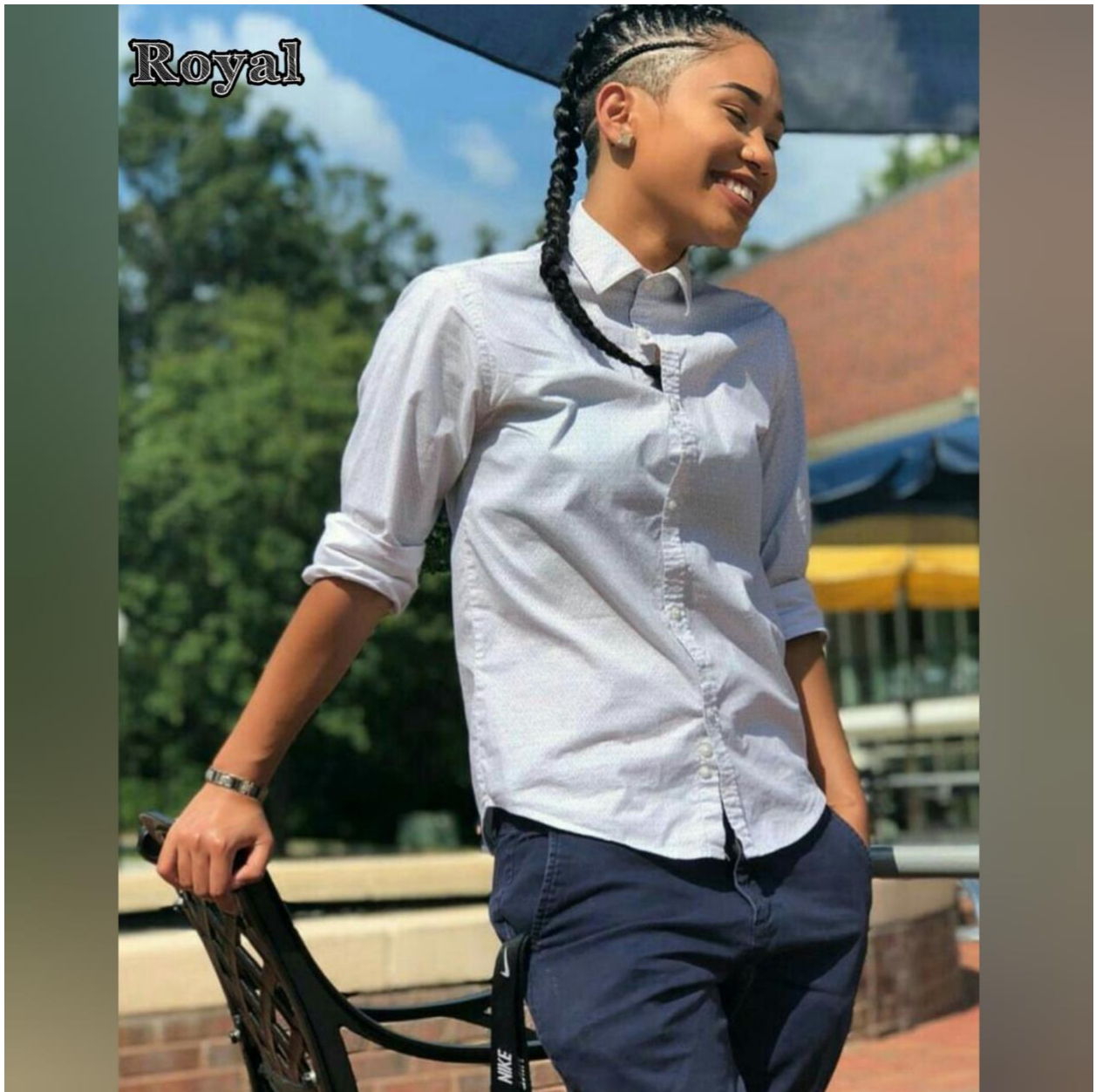
It's not that I will be busy ,
there's nothing I'll be busy with

I don't want to go see him and
only for him to have sex with
me

And tomorrow he will be acting
like nothing happened

-
-
-

•
Royal



Kenan : did you talk to your father ?

I turn the screen

Me : not yet

Kenan : get to it Royal

Me : I said I will

Kenan : drop the attitude

Me : yeah , I will get to it . He's been busy , and I haven't seen him in a while

Kenan : you're just looking for excuses right now

Me : not even , I am not a child . So please , stop trying to treat me like one . I spoke to you about this , because I want to

Kenan : I will be leaving in two weeks , so make a decision by then

Me : sure

I drop the call

The relationship here is okay

But it's so not that sweet

We just have a strange
relationship with my father

We get along fine

But we're not the best of
friends

It doesn't bother me though

He's more of a business
associate , and a sperm donor

Than he is a father

I just put it like that

It works out better in that way

Like I know I have a father

Whom I get along with

And we have the father and daughter relationship

With this one , it's just what it is

.

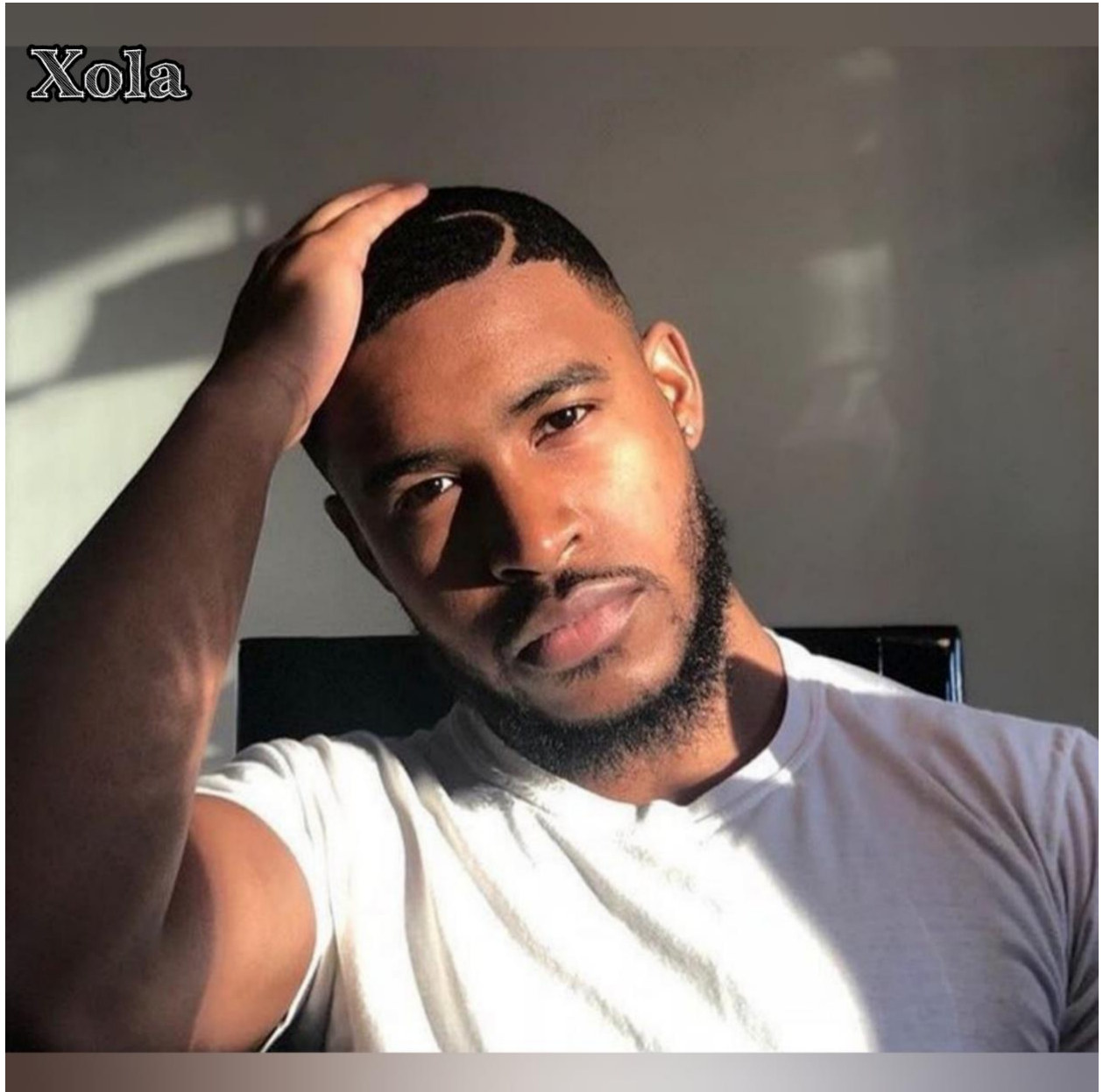
.

.

.

Xola

Xola



Max : why are you stressed ?

I heave a sigh

Me : I saw Zahara

He laughs

Max : what's the deal ?

Me : I asked her to come over ,
she just gave me attitude about
it

Max : did she ?

I nod

Max : I don't believe that

Me : I am telling you

Max : no , that girl tolerates the way you treat her and it's disgusting . Yet she still runs after you like a love sick puppy , she doesn't love herself . She's not the know your worth type

I laugh

Me : maybe she's growing up , otherwise she would have at

least promised to come . Or just
said no , but came anyways

Max : maybe she's had enough
of you

Me : like hell , that shit cannot
happen

Max : why do you chase her ,
because it's not like you love
her ?

Me : I do love her

Max : you're ashamed of her

I keep quite

Max : girls want to be shown off

I shake my head with a chuckle

Max : rather leave her and be
with your girl

This is crazy

I don't know how to explain the
situation with Zahara

.

.

.

.

INSERT 01

Royal

I knock and walk in

He looks up and smiles

Me : my good man , you age like
fine wine

He laughs

Dad : what do you want ?

I sit down opposite him

Me : I was talking to Black

The eye he gives me

Dad : Royal !

Me : dad

Dad : what did I say ?

I rub my knuckles together , his
voice is very firm

Me : I am sorry

He says nothing

And I know his silence means a
lot

Me : I meant dad ...

He exhales , shaking his head a bit

Me : so I was talking to him that I want to change my surname

Dad : oh ?

Me : you have always put that
on the table , and said I can
always do it

I hope that hasn't changed

Dad : yes , your mother and I
only changed your surname to
Cele because you were young .
And I didn't want you to feel left
out , from your siblings

Me : so I can go ahead and
change it ?

Dad : yes , I've never had a
problem with that . Your
mother neither

Me : thank you

I get up

Dad : lose the disrespect Royal ,
this is not how I raised you
princess

I smile

Me : I am sorry

I will not even defend myself

Nor say it's not disrespect

Because Black doesn't mind me
calling him with his name

But I know my father does

He has expressed many times
that he doesn't like it

It's just a habit

And it's too hard to just let go of
it

•

•

•

•

Mamello

Mamello



I look at him putting on my shoes

Me : what's wrong with you ?

Xola : nothing

I don't want to believe that

Because I can see something is
wrong

He called me late last night

Asking to see me

And he was already outside my
home

I had no choice but to come
with him

The night was just sour , like
nothing to rave about

All we did was just have sex

And nothing much happened

Now it's morning

I am leaving , and his mind just
seems to be all over the place

Me : I think I am going to go to
Durban , and find a job

Xola : don't start with drama ,
it's too early for that

Easy for him to say

He's working at the palace

And he gets an income

I'm just sitting around the
village doing nothing

It's tiring now

Me : I need money

Xola : I give you money

Mamello

He raises his voice a bit

Me : no need to get upset , it
wouldn't hurt to make my own
money

He gets up

Xola : you're talking nonsense
right now , let's go . Before you
even say more nonsense

Wow !

Ask me again why I love this guy
so much

Even when I've heard he's busy
with Zahara behind my back

He denied it to a point of having
his friends vouch for him

I let it be , because I have never
seen them together

But I won't lie , I don't like that
girl one bit

There was a time I saw Max
with her

And it turned out Xolani was the
one who actually sent Max

He might deny it and all

And I might not have proof

But there's never smoke
without a fire

So something is definitely
happening with those two

Or has happened

.

.

.

.

Royal

Me : it's good , we can go ahead
and change the surname

Just as long my father approves

I know my mother won't have a
problem

She and her husband are the
same and the one

So it's all good

I've been using the Cele
surname ever since I was 3
years

And now I'm 21 , I want to use
my father's surname

Well , my real father's surname

At 18 , I wanted to do it

But I decided to wait until 21

I have my own reasons as to
why I want to use the Black
surname now

In the line of business that I am

It's all about power and
authority

The Black surname carries that

And I also don't want to taint
the Cele royal name

So best I carry this one

Kenan : okay , I'll be in Durban
in a few days

Me : sure

I drop the call

I walk in the kitchen and grab an
apple

My mother walks in

Mom : you're here ?

Me : yes

Mom : your father tells me you want to change your surname ?

Me : yeah , Black and I have been talking about it

She laughs

Mom : it wouldn't hurt you to just call Kenan dad

Me : I stopped doing that when
I was 7 , like I just can't switch
up

She shakes her head

She doesn't get on my case
about it like my father does

That man doesn't take
nonsense

And if he were to hear half the things I get up to

He would fuck me up so bad

He's a man of order

Me : are you okay with that ?

Mom : yes

I knew she wouldn't mind

Nor would she have a problem
with it

It was always on the table

I'm old now

And the siblings surely wouldn't
bother themselves about
different surnames

They know my dad is white

Even though their father is still
my father

.

.

.

.

INSERT 02

Royal

Me : I am going to have
something small at my place

Xola : the palace ?

I chuckle

Me : what other place would it
be at ?

He laughs

Xola : bruh , I never know where
you live

Me : mxm

I've been here at the village for
a while now

I'm just trying to lay low after
the last heist

And just be scarce

I haven't been in Durban in
almost a month

The penthouse is fine on its
own

Once the dust has settled and I
won't face any heat

I will go back

Me : Can you gather some girls
?

Xola : you want to smash at the
palace ?

We laugh

Me : I just want a different vibe
, with village girls . Not my kind
from the city

Xola : I will see what to do , so I
can bring my girl ?

Me : yeah

Xola : great then

I just want to drink , and fuck

Just unwind

As much as I go out in Durban

It's mainly just business

Not really for fun

Xola : when exactly ?

Me : mhm , I think Friday

Xola : that's like in two days

Me : yeah , it's not a huge thing
after all . Just drinks and food

Xola : sure

Me : you'll pull up right ?

Xola : trust me

I know he will , this one is not
one to refuse free booze

He's one to chase after skirts ,
so he can bring girls . I know he
can

.

.

.

.

Zahara

Sibo : so I hear something is
happening at the palace
tomorrow

Me : what's something ?

Sibo : the princess is having
people over for a fun night

Me : mhm okay

Sibo : well , we're going

Me : who is we ?

Sibo : me and you of course

Me : no !

Sibo : come on

Me : no , you know I don't do parties

Sibo : you like acting like you're 50

I laugh

Me : still I am not going there

We're just commoners

What are we doing attending
royal things

The fact that it's happening at
the royal house

It's just more reason not to go

Sibo : please , it will be fun

Me : I'm sure it will be , but it's just not for me

Sibo : you know I don't even know the princess that well , I'm sure I can even pass her on the streets . I'm sure she's going to bring her city friends ...

She laughs

And I know where she is going

Sibo is my only friend

And well she doesn't like Xola

She never has

And I don't blame her for that

Sibo : we might get some eye
candy

Me : have fun friend

She sighs knowing I won't
change my mind about this

I don't attend such things

.

.

.

.

Mamello

Me : who's party ?

Xola : it's not a party , Royal is
just having a get together at the
palace

Talk about standards

We're rolling with royals now

Me : when ?

Xola : tomorrow

Me : that's too short notice

He sighs

Xola : tell me if you can't make
it , and I'll know I'm going alone

Me : fine

Xola : I'll hear from you

Me : I said it's fine

Xola : exactly what's fine ?

He darts his eyes

I turn

And it's that Zahara walking into
the shop

Why the hell is he even looking
at her ? While standing here
with me

Me : babe

He looks at me

I smile

Me : I will go

Xola : are you sure ?

Me : yes

Xola : okay , do pitch up .

Because if you don't I'll be there
looking like a fool

Me : don't worry , I will be there

I'm sure the likes of Zahara
would replace me if I don't
make it there

I will just have to

I don't even know what Xola
sees in this girl or what he saw

She's fat , and looks like she's
25 when she's actually just 19

Men will embarrass and
degrade you

Just imagine being cheated on
with just a thing

Like I would understand if
maybe it was with someone
way above me

•

•

•

•

Zahara

Now I even hate why I came to
this shop

But it was the one closest to my
home

I won't even bother myself
asking him about Mamello
again

I saw them together

And they seemed like people
very much in love

Touching and kissing

Like on the street

She's clearly the girl he's not
ashamed to show off

I am so done with this guy

He can do whatever he wants to
do now

I don't care

I've been his fool for far too
long

Busy loving someone who
clearly doesn't give a damn
about me

I am so done

I take my phone off the charger
and make a call

Me : hey , I will go to the thing
at the palace

Sibo : we will have fun , I
promise you won't regret it

Me : okay

I drop the call

.

.

.

.

INSERT 03

Royal

Kenan : that's done

I nod

We just changed my surname

I knew he would pull up

Because he wants this more
than I do

I think the fact that their
marriage with my mother failed

And she left with me

Got married and I used the
husband's surname

Has always been something that
made him feel like he's lost me

He doesn't have any kids
besides me

While my mother has three
more kids that are younger than
me

My father has never even
married ever again

Kenan is just one strange man ,
even I sometimes don't get him

Me : I will let you know once I get the notification for the new ID

Kenan : okay , I have to leave

Me : travel safe

Kenan : you won't even ask where I am going ?

Me : no

He chuckles

Kenan : alright

He gets into his car and drives
off

I shake my head taking my
phone out

I make a call

Dad : princess

Me : we're done at home affairs

Dad : I take it all went well

Me : yes

Dad : are you coming back
home ?

Me : yes , I am bringing a few
friends over

Better be safe

Dad : oh ?

I laugh

Me : it'll be in my house

Dad : keep the noise under control , you don't want to piss your mother off

I laugh

Me : yeah , I won't

Dad : okay

I drop the call

I just need to pick up the guys
and get booze and meat

Then we can head to the village

.

.

.

.

Zahara

Sasa : where ?

Me : at the palace

She laughs

It's not even just a laugh

But she is mocking me

And it's damn loud

Sasa : who invited you ?

Me : Sibbo did

Sasa : you love embarrassing yourself , our likes don't engage with such people

Trust my sister to bring me down

Worse I am already down , because I don't know what I'm going to wear

Why did I even say I'm going there

After seeing Xola with his girlfriend

I'm so stupid

I should just cancel on Sibon

She wants to have fun

She will definitely have fun
there

With or without me

Sasa : go there and embarrass
yourself

She gets up and walks out

Finally !

That good for nothing boyfriend
of hers has been whistling for
over 10 minutes

I don't know why he didn't
come in today

Because he just parades around
here

Like he owns this house

.

•

•

•

Xola

I have been calling her since she
saw us yesterday

And she's not answering my
calls

She's not responding back to
my messages

I know she's angry

Melo just had to make things worse , but touching and kissing me

Now there's no fucking denying that

She saw it with her own eyes

I'm fucked up

But the thing is I can't stay away
from Zahara

I can ignore and ghost her for
days even weeks or a month
even

But I'll still be thinking about
her

Nonetheless , right now it's like
she is done with me

But it's not like she broke things
off

So I can't consider this as us
being done

I just need to see her

We will talk and I'll convince her

We will be okay again

She always comes back to me

Always

This time won't be any different

I just have to play my cards right

I think the situation here is that
, Melo is the kind of a girl who
you have on your arm

Take around and parade to
everyone

Zahara is the kind that you
marry , and make sure she
carries your kids

And takes care of your house

Knowing you've made an investment marrying her

I'm just caught up

.

.

.

.

Royal

Xola : this is popping

I chuckle darting my eyes to the
door

Me : mhm , who is that ?

He looks over and his facial
expression just changes

Me : you know her ?

He clears his throat

Xola : I

Voice : babe , I need the
bathroom

It's his girlfriend

She takes his hand and they
walk away

I haven't taken my eyes off of
this girl

She kind of looks so out of place

I'd say this is not her kind of a scene

I pull a chair , and watch them

As the girl she walked in with
hands her a drink

She's even hesitant to try it

But eventually she does

I chuckle and get up walking
over to them

I grab a cider can

Me : here , try this . Beats beer

They both look at me

And there's that shock for a few
seconds

Her : uhm ...I actually don't
drink

Me : I can get you a soda or call
, or whatever . I'm just at your
disposal to serve you , anyhow

The friend smiles walking away

-
-
-

.

INSERT 04

Zahara

My shock hearing this is the
princess

No one said she's like this

I can't exactly say I know her

We've only moved here three
years ago

And I keep to myself , I'm just
not all over

It's not like I'm even attending
school

I barely even come to the
functions happening here

The way she's looking at me , is
just so awkward

Sibo has disappeared

I don't even know where she is

As much as it's not packed here

People are having fun it's like a
full blown house

Royal : need a glass ?

Even her voice is stern

And a bit steep

She's making me feel somehow

Or is it intimidated

I don't know

Me : can I have what you're drinking ?

She smiles

Gosh !

She is so cute

Like why am I even looking at her like that ?

Royal : this is too strong , let me
get you a cider

Me : okay , can I use your
bathroom ?

She nods

Royal : come

She gets up and takes my hand

I get up and walk up down the
corridor

And she opens the door

I see it's a bedroom

Royal : I am coming , don't leave

I nod

She closes the door and walk
our

I look for the bathroom

I finally see it

The bedroom is not that big

But there's a closet

So it makes it spacious

Even the house is not big

Because it's at the palace
grounds

I walk in the bathroom and pee

I wipe myself and wash myself

Walking back to the bedroom ,
she's sitting on the bed

Royal : I got you this

That's a lot of ciders

Like a whole bucket , with ice

I don't want to get drunk

I just want to be comfortable

I feel somehow being in her presence

Royal : there are no seats in here , but you can sit here on the bed

Me : can I take my shoes off ?

Royal : sure

She gets up and walks to me

We lock eyes for a few seconds

She licks her lips , biting her
lower lip

And I just get a shiver

Royal : can I just kiss you ?

Me : II

Royal : I am asking , you don't
have to

What the hell ?

I've never kissed a girl before

She grabs the back of my head ,
her one hand on my waist

Royal : stop me if you don't like
it

She rubs her cold lips on mine

I gasp parting my lips

She pulls my lower lip , and
slowly kisses me

I'm stunned , but just move my
lips in sync with hers

Damn !

I have kissed before

But I have never felt like this
before

I let out a slight moan

And she pulls back slowly
pecking my lips

Royal : you still need a drink ?

I nod slowly

She smiles , I dart my eyes
looking down

She crouches down and takes
my shoes off

I just can't get that kiss out of
my mind

I'm still feeling the effects of it

Royal : get on the bed , be comfortable

She grabs a pillow and puts it against the bed rest

I get on the bed , and sit down

She hands me one cider

And grabs her bottle of brown
liquor

She pours in her glass

I take a sip of the cider

And it's not that bad

.

.

.

.

Mamello

The moment I saw that girl

I knew I had to take him away

And now his mind is not here
with me

I'm sure he's wondering where
she is

Because I can't see her
anywhere now

I don't even know why she
would be here

Like who the hell invited her
over here ?

And for what exactly

Me : do you want us to leave ?

He looks at me

Xola : what ?

Me : you look bored

Xola : that's all in your mind ,
just enjoy yourself

Now I'm the one who's bored

.

.

.

.

Zahara

Royal : okayI think I'll take this , don't get drunk

I feel hella funny

But after every can it's like I should just go for another , it's like it's just calling me

Me : can I just finish that one ?

Royal : no , you're getting drunk
. It's your first time consuming
alcohol , few cans will knock you
out

I pout and she slightly laughs

Royal : you're so cute

She leans over , her face just
inches away from mine

She rubs her thumb on my
lower lip

I place my hands on her back ,
and close my eyes leaning over
for a kiss

This girl can kiss , I just can't
help myself

Lord ! Whatever is happening to
me right now

Please deliver me

She gently lays me down

And she gets on top of me ,
grabbing my one boob with her
one hand

While her other hand is
caressing my thigh

Royal : if you don't like this ,
stop me

Me : nodon't stop !

Gosh something is wrong with
me

.

.

.

.

INSERT 05

Zahara

Tipsy or a bit drunk as I am

I am still in my sane minds

That much I know

Being a slight big girl

I've always had problems with
my body

I don't even see myself that
beautiful

Even coming here , I was ready
to ditch it

But Sibbo was not having it

My weight , makes me feel
somehow

I'll always look at Mamello and
see why Xola would hide me

She's slim and just beautiful

Me on the other hand

It's just a different story

Right now I'm feeling things I've
never felt before

The way she's kissing my
whole body

It's like she's worshiping it

Something I've never
experienced

Xola has never invaded my body
like this

It was always just kissing ,
clothes off and just sex

This is something different

I lift my head slightly opening
my eyes

As she plants kisses on my
coochie

I'm like , the slight hair down
there

But she's not seeming to mind
that

She lifts her eyes and looks at
me

Her eyes slightly reddish

She moves up planting kisses on
my tummy to my boobs

She nibbles on my nipples ,
playing with her tongue around
them

I have never had erect nipples

And this feels so good

Just getting me so horny

She moves up , and we lock
eyes

Royal : if you let me do this , I
won't ask again if I should stop

I nod

She slides her hand down , and
parts my coochie folds with her
fingers

I lose myself as she rubs her
fingers on my clit

She trails to the side burying
her face on my neck

And she plants soft kisses on my
neck

I gasps as she slides her finger
inside my entrance

As she starts moving it in and
out

I let out moans of pleasure

It feels so damn good

She lays her body on mine

As her boobs touch on mine

I grab tight on her back

Getting the urge to move my
waist to her finger's pace

I just move my waist

She lifts up and looks at me

Royal : don't hold it back

Her voice has gotten a bit
deeper than it was all along

Me : I don't

I bring my thighs together

I have never felt this

Royal : it's okay , just do it

She goes on to pick up her pace
, and I stop moving my waist

As I feel an intense pleasure

I close my eyes screaming in
pleasure

She slides her finger out of me

I feel the liquid down there

I look at her and she's looking at
me

She parts my legs further and
she moves back

She gets on her knees

She has a perfect toned body

I notice the tattoo on her upper
shoulder arm

Royal : balance with a pillow

I grab the pillow behind me and
balance it on my back

She parts her legs and slides her
folds open with her fingers

This is new to me

I have never seen another girl's
private parts

But it's one damn sight

I watch intensely as she thrusts
her clit against mine

What a whole sensation

Royal : fuck !

She grabs my jaw , and brings
my face to hers

We kiss as she goes on to
thrusts

I hold her tight as I feel my legs
and thighs shaking against hers

I lose my balance , she holds me
against her chest

The friction against the clits , is
just doing things to me

I pull back from the kiss

As I feel that pleasure hitting
me again

She moves back , and I watch as her own liquid drops and slides down to her thigh

Me : whatwhat's that ?

Royal : it's called an orgasm , that's cum

What the fuck !

Like really ?

Like how dumb can I be , like
I'm a virgin of some kind

Embarrassing

She goes on to slide down ,
burying her face in between my
thighs

Her tongue graces my clit , she
goes on to suck and nibble on it

I just hold her head down

Is this how good sex really feels

Or it's just between girls ?

.

.

.

.

Xola

Max : and then ?

I finally managed to get away
from Melo

I don't even know if she saw
that Zahara is here or what

Me : have you seen Zahara ?

He laughs

Max : no , is she here ?

Me : yeah , she got here . But
Melo took me away , and when
I got back she was gone

Max : are you sure ? Because I
haven't seen her

Me : I know Zahara , it was her

Max : didn't you see Sibbo and
think they came together ?

Me : they did , I saw them walk in together . I was with Royal , she was asking me about her . Melo cams before I could even answer her , that she's my girlfriend

Max : well , I haven't seen her

I heave a sigh

Where could she be ?

Cause I know she was here

Max : where is Royal ? She's
also disappeared

Me : probably somewhere
fucking , you know she's a
whore

He laughs

Max : maybe she's fucking
Zahara

What a joke ?

Me : don't be crazy , Zahara
doesn't do girls . She's not gay

Max : one doesn't need to be

Me : enough , she will never
sleep with another girl

Max : you never know

Me : stop talking nonsense , can you ask Sibbo where she is ?

Max : you're using me again ?

Me : come on , if Melo sees me talking to her she will make drama

He shakes his head

Max : you should be getting
drunk and high , not ...

Me : come on man , before
Melo catches on I'm not where
she left me

He laughs walking away

I grab another beer

After a while he comes back

Max : she says she last saw her
with the princess by the door
when they arrived here

Me : what ?

Max : I told you

He walks away

Me : what the fuck ?

But no , it can't be

Zahara doesn't do girls

And Royal would

No ways

Sure Royal is capable of hitting
on her

But Zahara would never

I take out my phone and call
Royal

But her phone rings
unanswered

Me : shit !

But no , I refuse to believe this

I know Zahara

Maybe she left , she's really not
a person to attend such things .
She's not a party person

That's the only logical
explanation

As for this one of her being with
Royal right now

Away from everyone , that one
doesn't even make sense . It
just doesn't

And I know it's not possible

If she saw me , then she would
definitely leave

Cause she's avoiding to talk to
me

And she knew I was going to
find a way to talk to her

.

.

.

.

Zahara

I feel a tangling sensation as she
sucks hard on my neck

Her coochie lips sucking on
mine

I try pushing her back , but she
pins me

Me : I wantI want to pee
.....please...

I try pushing her again

But she doesn't budge

Royal : it's okayjust pee

Not on the bed lord no !

Royal : just do it baby

Me : oh shit

I cry out in pleasure as I let go

And I feel such relief

I am done for

I lay down flat on the bed

And she slowly lays down on
top of me

She captures my lips into hers

And gives me one slow
passionate kiss

I close my eyes getting lost in
the kiss

.

.

.

.

INSERT 06

Zahara

My head is pounding and
spinning

Feels like I've been hit by a bus

I open my eyes slowly

And I feel one insane headache
hitting me

Me : ouch !

Something or someone moves
next to me

And I almost freak out

Until I see Royal staring at me

Oh my word !

I am naked

I grab the sheet and cover my
chest

But the headache

I close my eyes trying to get
some relief

Events of last night just play in
my head like a record

I slept with another girl

I slept with the princess

And gosh ! It was just amazing

The best sex I've ever had in my
entire 19 years of living

I open my eyes as I feel her
hand on my back

I turn and look at her

Her face is just inches away
from mine

She leans over and kisses me

I'm stunned but kiss her back

After a while she pulls out

Royal : good morning beautiful

This girl !

Where does she come from ?

Like what's her deal ?

Royal : no regrets ?

Oh shit !

Me : my head is pounding

Royal : let me sort that out

She gets up and goes on to walk
around the room just naked

Not even minding me that I'm
staring at her

But she has one stunning body

She has no reason whatsoever
to feel anyhow

She picks up her briefs and puts them on

And goes on to pick up her sports bra she puts it on walking to her closet

She comes out after a minute or so

She has put on sweatpants and a t-shirt

She walks over to the bed and
places a long peck on my
forehead

I close my eyes momentarily

She pulls back

And walks out , walking
barefoot

Me : oh my god !

I lay back down

Placing my hand on my
forehead

This is not a dream

Like I'm wide awake right now

And well aware of my actions

Last night couldn't have been a
dream too

It sure happened

Me : oh shit happened !

Something must be wrong with
me

Me : yhoh !

The door opens and she walks
in

With a glass of something

Royal : here drink this , you'll
feel better

Me : please don't pull movie
stunts on me

She smiles

Royal : no , no green shit or raw
eggs . Drink up

She sits down on the bed

I slowly sit up straight

She makes me drink , and after
the second taste

I let go of the frown

Because this is not bad at all

Royal : you'll feel better

Me : what's that ?

Royal : it's my secret

She chuckles

Royal : I didn't get you in trouble by sleeping out ?

My sister could care less

We're just water and oil

Me : no

Royal : okay

Me : can I just sleep for a bit please ?

Royal : sure , I have a few guys in there . You can sleep , I'll come check up on you . Or come out , if you wake up and I'm not here

Me : maybe I should leave since you have company

Royal : no , sleep

She leans over and gives me a
brief kiss

She pulls out pecking my lips

She takes her slides and put
them on

I watch her as she walks out

Me : okay , what's this ?

I lay down and grab the sheets
covering myself

I even remember peeing on the
bed last night

But we were sleeping on a dry
bed

I wonder what happened

•

•

•

•

Royal

Xola : where did you disappear
to yesterday ?

I chuckle

Xolani : usabuza (you're still
asking)

Me : guys , nifunani kwami this early ? (What do you want at my house)

Xola : did you ever see that girl you were asking me about ?

Why is he questioning me

Like there's something he wants to say

Max laughs

Max : you're still on about that
?

Xola : I am not on your theory ,
not even a bit

I don't even want to know what
he's talking about

The theory

Me : if it's food you came for ,
then you know where the
kitchen is . And don't make a
mess , I had a cleaning company
come to clean while I was still
asleep

They laugh

I can never use the royal maids

My mother would have my
head on a platter

We may be raised the royal way

But we're not spoilt

You make a mess , you clean
after yourself

.

.

.

.

Zahara

I hope she won't mind

I've used her toiletries and took
a shower

But I've made sure not to make
a mess

And I cleaned after

I've made the bed

And now , I want to get out of
here

I don't even know how am I
going to leave without anyone
seeing me

My phone is dead

I can't even see the time

I walk out of the bedroom and
use the corridor

I hear voices , and I look over

But I stand still on my feet as I
lock eyes with Xola in the
lounge

He stops laughing immediately
as he looks at me

And he causes everyone to turn
and look at me

He works here

I should have thought of him
being here

Now I feel like running away

.

.

.

.

INSERT 07

Zahara

I am shocked

And I'm just stuck where I am
standing

Xola hasn't taken his eyes off of
me

Royal gets up and walks to me
with a smile

Royal : hey , you're up

She places her hand on my
waist , while the other is in her
pocket

I look at her

She leans over and places a kiss
on my lips

I kiss her back , not being able
to hold myself back

She pulls back and smiles

I dart my eyes to Xola

And he's pissed

I look at Royal

Me : I should leave

Royal : we're not fighting , I know you slept out . You should be home , but this is a rush

Me : uhmI must leave

Royal : just like this ?

What does she mean ?

Royal : come , let's converse

Let's converse

Like what the hell ?

I slightly laugh

Royal : come

She takes my hand we walk to
the kitchen

She picks me up and places me
on top of the kitchen counter

She gets in between my thighs

Royal : what's going on ?

Me : the night is over so ...

Royal : so what ?

Me : I should leave

Royal : after such a night , you
want to pull a quick one on me
?

What does she mean ?

Me : the night is over

Royal : sure , but is that it ?

What more can it be ?

Royal : don't you want to see
where this can go ?

Me : Iit was my first time
with a girl

Royal : yes , there's always a first time for everything

Me : but

Royal : but what ? I want more of this , I want more of last night

Me : what's more ?

Royal : being my girlfriend

No !

Like what ?

Me : but I told you , I don't date girls

Royal : that's fine , besides I am not girls . You'll be Royal's girlfriend , not girls

She's really serious

But she's friends with Xola

What does that mean ?

And how does a relationship
between two girls even work ?

Royal : don't overthink this , just
give me a chance

Me : II don't know

Royal : come on

I heave a sigh

Maybe it won't hurt

Me : how does this even work ?

She laughs

Royal : like every other
relationship , what have we got
to lose ?

Right , maybe giving it a shot
won't be so bad

Me : okay

She smiles leaning over for a
kiss

We kiss briefly and pull out

Me : I should leave

Royal : uh

I laugh

Me : I am hungry

Royal : this is your woman's
house , see what you can eat .
Anything you want

My woman's house

This one is on the fast lane

Me : what time is it ?

Royal : you said you're hungry

Me : I don't feel comfortable
with your friends being here

Royal : okay , but eat first

Me : something light

Royal : that's your way of telling
me to make it for you

I laugh

Royal : it's all good , let me get
to work

She pecks my lips and walks
over to the stove grabbing a
pan

Is this really me ?

A girlfriend to another girlfriend

A whole princess

I know Xola is going to give me
hell about this

Royal : how about a fruit salad
first ?

I turn and look at her

Me : that would be nice

She winks with a smile

I let out a slight laugh

.

.

.

.

Xola

What the fuck is this ?

Like this has to be a dream of
some kind

Well more like a nightmare

Because what the hell ?

It can't be

Zahara did not spend a night
here

It's like almost 11:00

And seems like she's just woken
up

Meaning she did sleep here

Max : we could have made a bet

Fuck !

Me : is this a joke to you ?

Max : but I did say

Me : just shut up

Xolani : what's happening ?

I shake my head slowly

This cannot be happening

It just cannot be

I get up

Max : don't cause drama here ,
because you know your doings
very well

He must fucking leave me the
hell alone

I walk in the kitchen

And she's sitting on the counter

While Royal is in between her
thighs

She has a bowl

Me : really ? Get a room , we
eat in the kitchen

I'm annoyed beyond the words

Royal : what the fuck do you
want ?

Me : can you get her off the
counter

Royal : just do your business
and leave

I look at Zahara

And she's not even looking at
me

She's focused on whatever she
is eating

I turn and walk back to the
lounge

Me : I am leaving

Xolani : and now ? What I am
missing here ?

I look at Max , and he doesn't seem like he's keen on leaving

I get out

And get into my car

I take out my phone and send her a text message

She will probably ignore it

But she has some explaining to do

I drive out of the palace heading home

.

.

.

.

INSERT 08

Zahara

Sibo : what ?

We laugh

Me : I am telling you

Sibo : no ways

Me : it was just insane , that girl made me feel things I didn't know . She made me do and say things , I have never said or done

Sibo : friend , you're not a virgin

Me : I know , but sex with Xola
was never like that

Sibo : then how was it ?

Me : we kiss and get naked ,
and boom it's just sex . I've
never felt any pleasure there ,
or felt like how Royal made me

feel last night . Like it wasn't
even anything close like that

Sibo : no ways

Me : I am telling you , now I'm
convinced I disgusted Xola

She frowns

Sibo : why would you say that ?

Me : he never kissed me
anywhere except on my lips ,
he's never gone down on me
with his tongue

Sibo : maybe he just doesn't
know how to fuck !

She clicks her tongue

We laugh

Me : come on , he's a guy with a dick

Sibo : but he's never given you pleasure , just because he has a dick it doesn't mean he knows how to use it

Lord !

Please don't strike me for using your name in vain

Me : the things she did

My cheeks just hurt replaying
what happened last night

Me : like ...she made me orgasm
, she made me cum and squirt .
Like a whole pussy did that to
another pussy , mhm I didn't
know sex was that nice

She's dying of laughter

Sibo : I am so thankful you went to that party , my friend you were going to die without knowing an orgasm

Me : don't mock me

Sibo : no ! I've heard before that some people are flaunting boyfriends , but they don't

know what an orgasm is . That
was you

Mxm !

Me : I shouldn't have told you

Sibo : no , I am loving this

Me : stop making fun of me

Sibo : I am sorry , but now you can die in peace even if you die

Me : I can't die as of yet

Sibo : you know after this , you'll never enjoy a guy again

Me : I have never enjoyed a guy

Sibo : you needed some good dick game , pity you went to

one guy who is clueless .
Seriously after Bonga you
should have gone for an
upgrade

Bonga is my virgin breaker

After that one time , I ran away
from him

Like shit was just painful for me

I bled and cried

It was just too bad

And the way it was so painful , I
couldn't even pee well

Sibo : so you and princess are
an item ?

I smile

Me : I have never dated a girl , I don't even know what kind of a relationship it is

Sibo : like any kind of a relationship

She dropped me off at home

I was glad that Xola had left the palace when we left

I got home and my sister was in her moods

I just had to leave

Sibo : give it a try

Me : don't you find it strange ?

Sibo : no , without labelling anyone or anything . I just

believe that people are okay to
date whoever they want to date

She's so opened about this

I don't know how I feel about it

Maybe I should appreciate that
she's not being judgemental

And as my friend , I can talk to
her about my relationship

Me : she is cute though

Sibo : cute ? No ways ! That girl
is all kinds of goodness ,
honestly if I didn't love dick so
much I wouldn't mind her

We laugh

Sibo : the princess is goals my
friend

And that scares me

She's too beautiful and too
perfect

Her body is to die for

Her skin , like just everything
about her

And well me , I don't think I'm
anything

I'm just your average girl

And what could a beautiful
person like Royal want with me
?

This one is probably going to
make me cry

When she finally meets a girl
that's beautiful , and fitting to
be with her

.

.

.

.

Royal

Me : what happened with Xola
as he was here ?

I grab a glass of water , and take a sip

Me : he just left without saying , and he had attitude when he walked in the kitchen . I just chose to ignore that , because of my baby

He smiles

Xolani : him and Max were conversing , but I couldn't get it . I asked , and no one answered me . Though he seemed kind of pissed , when he saw you with that melanin

I chuckle

Me : maybe they fucked ?

Xolani : could be , or he wants
her

Me : too bad for him

He laughs

I like Xola as a friend

I even got him the job he has
here at the palace

But I don't beg friendships for
shit

So he can sulk until he decides
that he's done

.

.

.

.

Zahara

Just as we part ways with Sibbo

Here is Xola

Xola : can we talk ?

Me : I have nothing to say to
you

Xola : I have a lot

I say nothing

Xola : I have been trying to
break up with Melo , she just
doesn't get it . You see us

together , and you jump into
conclusions . And now you're
busy fucking girls ?

He chuckles

He's back with his lies

Does he really thinks I'll believe
what he's saying ?

I saw them kissing

Sure , I've been a fool for this
guy

But to this extent !

No it's too much

Me : I saw you kissing , how can
you say she doesn't get you
want a break up ? Shouldn't she
have been fighting you , instead

of changing spits with you ? No ,
I won't hear any of your lies
now

Xola : she just forced that kiss

Me : please stop ! You're way
too old for this , it's clear you
don't know what you want . I'm
done being your fool , and
letting you string me along

Xola : all this because of Royal ?
You think she's better than me ,
wait until she shows you what
kind of girls she rolls with

Okay !

Me : I don't care , even if she
hurts me or whatever . Even if
I'm not her type , at least she
made me cum . And made me
squirt , she gave me way too
many orgasms I can't even

count . Even if she hurts me , I don't care . At least now , I know what's it like to be fucked and just actually enjoy it . Mind you , I've been having your dick for two years . But I didn't know any of those things , until last night . Thanks to Royal , now I will know never to settle for a guy who treats me like shit . And yet can't even make me cum

That hit a nerve

Xola : how can you say that to
me ?

Me : it's the truth

He looks down and swallows
hard

Blinking the tears in his eyes

What's he even crying about ?

Xola : I am sorry , but babe stop this nonsense and I'll forgive you for it

He looks at me with bloodshot red eyes

Me : me and you , we are done

Xola : no !

Me : you can't force me to be
with you

He walks closer to me

Xola : does she know we used
to fuck ?

Damn !

.

.

.

.

INSERT 09

Zahara

Xola : does she ?

I am screwed

Xola : if you don't stop this , I
will tell her

He's not kidding

And Royal will never want to be with me once she hears about this

She won't !

Xola : but if you break up with her in peace , tell her this was a mistake . Then we can just

move on , and she will never
know

I take a deep breath

Am I going to be so stupid again

And go back to him ?

I am really done playing going
back and forth with Xola

Me : it's okay

Xola : you will break it off ?

Me : yes

Xola : babe I knew

Me : I will break things off with Royal , but I am not getting back with you . Maybe love is just not for me , and I am accepting that

Xola : I said I am sorry , and I am done with Melo

Me : that's fine , but I am also done with you

Xola : you think you can fool me ? Let's see who will hit this one

He laughs

Xola : you don't know Royal ,
she changes girls like panty
liners that's if she even wears
any . Trust me , she's going to
hurt you

Me : you've already done that

With the look he gives me

He's daring me to continue with
Royal

I can't do this

Because I know he will tell her

Me : bye Xola , please stop
bothering me . And I meant
what I said , I will break up with
Royal . But I don't want you

I turn to walk away

He grabs my arm

Me : let go

I yank my arm off of his grip
with force

I walk away from him

Xola : babe ...

He calls after me

Xola : Zahara ...

I just ignore him

Sibo : and that ?

Me : being a dick as usual

She laughs

Sibo : the same dick he can't
use

Me : you're an idiot

My phone rings , I think it's him
and drop the call

But it rings back again

Sibo : just block him

I check the caller and see that
it's not him

Me : hello ?

We stop and Sibbo looks at me as
I put the phone on loud speaker

Voice : why did you drop my call
?

My jaw drops

Sibo gasps

Me : I ...I thought it was
someone else

Royal : after this call save my
number , and don't ever drop
my calls again

Me : where did you get my
number ?

Royal : I took it from your phone

When did that even happen ?

Royal : remember I have a date
to take you to tomorrow ?

Leaving the palace , she said
she's taking me out tomorrow

I agreed of course

But now things have changed

But maybe I should see her

So I can break things off face to
face

Me : yes

Royal : okay , I'll come pick you
up around 13:00

Me : alright

Royal : get home it's late

I laugh

Me : who said I am not home ?

Royal : I'm on loud speaker
outside

What ?

Sibo silently laughs

Royal : I don't know who you're gossiping about me to , but get home so you're safe

Me : yes I am headed home

Royal : alright , I'll see you tomorrow

Me : bye

I wait for her to drop the call

Sibo : oh my word ! A whole
date , this is serious

If only there wasn't a Xola
standing on my path

Sibo : what will you wear ?

That's the least of my problems
right now

Even if I show up in rags , it's
totally fine

.

.

.

.

Xola

I know Zahara

And this is just nonsense

She will break up with Royal

And I will have her back

Things will go back to the way
they have always been

Like what kind of nonsense is
this ?

I am sure she got drunk

Because there's no way in her
same mind she would just be
with Royal

She might look somewhat

And sure we regard her like one
of the guys

But fact remains she's a woman

I don't give a fuck about her
sexuality

But she can go for any girl

I don't give a fuck either about
that

But just not Zahara

I call her , her phone rings for a whole before she answers

Royal : sure

Me : hade for just leaving like that (sorry)

Royal : I don't know what's your beef my guy

Me : look , there's something I need to tell you

Royal : I see

Me : can you spare me a minute tomorrow ?

Royal : sure , I got someone to see though . So yeah , I'll see you after

It must be Zahara

I so hope they're meeting to
break up

Me : nah , that's cool

Royal : alright

Me : eita (sure)

I drop the call

She better not be thinking that
I'm bluffing

If by tomorrow she doesn't
break up with Royal

I am telling her

She will know she can't go after
a girl that's mine

Because I don't fucking consider
this break up

It's just Zahara acting up , and
angry over the Melo issue

But that's something that can
be fixed

-
-
-
-

INSERT 10

Zahara

Royal : you look beautiful

I look at her and smile

Me : thank you

We're in one of the restaurants

I can't even enjoy this meal

I wanted to tell her when she
came to pick me up

Just thought that would just be
rude

So now we're in front of people

I can't tell her such things

Maybe I'm just looking for
excuses not to tell her

But either way , it's all the same

Xola will definitely tell her

And she won't like it hearing it
from him

Well she won't like it at all

But that would make things
worse

This way , I just tell her and we
part way

I look at her as she holds my
hand

Royal : I know this is new to you
, but it's not like I've ever been
in a relationship myself

It can't be

Me : you You've never had a girlfriend ?

Royal : no , I have met a few girls here and there . But it was never that deep , to an extent of a relationship

That's deep !

So if this is a relationship , then
it's that deep

I feel like this is a disaster

She moves over from her chair

And sits down on the one next
to me

She leans over and gives me a
brief kiss

I'm like in public

In front of people

She doesn't even seem to care

Me : did you just really kiss me ,
in front of people ?

She smiles

Royal : yes , did I do something wrong ?

Me : uhm ...don't you mind that they'll talk about us ?

She smiles

Royal : people talk about everything and anything

Me : yes , but you're a royal princess . I'm just a mere commoner

She chuckles shaking her head

Royal : I am anything but a royal , my mother is just married to the king . My father is one old white man if a criminal , so I'm

far from being royalty . I have
no royal blood whatsoever

Okay !

She says that like it's nothing at
all

Like wow !

Royal : please lets go to my
place after this

On my goodness !

.

.

.

.

Royal

My phone rings

I look at the caller ID and heave
a sigh

Me : it's my dad , I have to take
this

She nods

I peck her cheek and get up

I walk in the kitchen answering
the call

Me : Black

Kenan : there's a shipment to
Peru

Me : when ?

Kenan : in two weeks

Me : okay

Kenan : will you do it ?

Me : yes , I'll get to it

I drop the call

My time might be cut short in
the village

I better find out how is the heat
in Durban

Before I make my way there

Walking back in the lounge

I stop by the door

She's pacing around , and
seems very scared

Zahara : eish okay ! Uhm
....Royal I am sorry , honestly I
was starting to like you . But we
can't continue ...

She shakes her head

She has her back turned against
me

And the way she's so frustrated

I'm not surprised she can't even
feel my shadow

Zahara : okay ...why , because I
used to date Xola

What the fuck !

She rubs her hands together

Zahara : yeah , I must tell the truth

Now it makes sense why he was acting up

And this is probably what he wants to tell me

I walk in , making sure she hears
me

And she turns startled

Zahara : uhm ...you're done
with your call ?

I nod

Zahara : there's something I
need to tell you

I stand still putting my hands
inside my pockets

.

.

.

.

Mamello

Me : I came to see you

Xola : you should have said

I can't believe this guy right now

So I must announce that I'm
coming to his place

As if there's something that he's
hiding

Or something he doesn't want
me to see

Like I don't understand

Me : babe are you being for real
right now ?

Xola : yes , I am leaving

Me : where are you going ?

Xola : I am going to the palace , I need to go do something

Me : I thought it's your day off today

He chuckles shaking his head

Xola : I am off , I didn't say I'm going to work . I said there's something I need to do

I sit down

Me : then you'll find me right
here

I can't come al this way , and
only to be told to leave

That's not happening

.

.

.

.

Zahara

I feel like I've been caught doing something

I've never been so scared like this

And why do I even feel scared

Like for what ?

I take a deep breath and calm
my nerves

Me : can we ...please sit down

It's the way she's looking at me

I can't even explain it

But this is most definitely going
south

I can just feel it

And it's too soon , way too soon

I heave a sigh seeing she's not
bothering to sit down

I guess we'll stand then

.

.

.

.

INSERT 11

Zahara

Me : I

She walks closer

I don't move back until she's
right next to me

She takes her hands out of her
pockets

And grabs my waist

She leans over for a kiss

I kiss her back

Seeing how this is escalating

As she takes my t-shirt off

I hold her hands

Me : there's something I need

....

She shuts me up with a kiss

I'm frustrated more now

But the urge to just have her

I let her be , as she picks me up
and places me on the couch

She lays me down , and finally
takes my t-shirt off

She unclips my bra , and cups
both my boobs

She brings them together , and
nibble on my nipples with her
tongue

She just works her tongue
around nipples

Giving me one tingly sensation

I let out moans of pleasure
pulling her t-shirt off

She pulls my jeans off , along
with my panty

Am I really doing this ?

Like I came here to talk

Maybe this can be a goodbye of
some kind

Oh shit no !

I'm just making matters worse

Me : wait

She deepens the kiss

And goes on to take her jeans
off

She parts my legs , and moves
back

She takes her briefs off , and
gets in between my thighs
lifting my one leg up

She slides down laying on the
couch

I slightly move my head holding
her leg

Me : ahhh

I moan softly as her coochie lips
graces mine

And she starts thrusting in

I grab on the couch armrest

I roll my eyes back as I just feel
pleasure

.

.

.

.

Royal

We're just laying on the carpet

It's silence

No one has said anything to
anyone

I rub my thumb on her nipple

She's so quite , like her mind is
far away

Me : bath or shower ?

She moves a bit

Zahara : bath

Me : okay

I slowly lay her to my side

I get up

I pick my briefs and sports bra
putting them on

I walk to my bedroom

And head into the bathroom

I run a warm bath

I walk back in the lounge

And she's up picking our clothes
off the floor

Me : I'm done

She follows me to the bedroom

She puts the clothes on the bed

I walk her walk to the bathroom

I take my briefs off and follow
her

She's already in

Me : lean over

She leans over and I get in
behind her

I lay back , and she lays her
head on my chest

I place my hands on her boobs

And close my eyes rubbing on
her nipples

.

.

.

.

Zahara

She opens the door

And Xola walks in

Wow !

He just couldn't wait

He just had to

I'm wrapped in a towel

We were watching a series

We haven't said much to each other after the bath

And now this one just had to come here

I get up

Royal : sure

Xola : uhm , we need to talk

He says to Royal but he's
looking at me

Royal : okay , what's up ?

Xola : it's about Zahara

Me : Xola please

Royal : what about her ?

Lord !

I close my eyes , just tears
burning my eyes

Xola : I don't know how I'm
supposed to feel , knowing my
friend is fucking someone I
fucked with

I open my eyes and tears
stream down my face

I look at him

Royal : I don't know either , but
I don't fuck her ...

Xola : don't play me for an idiot
, she's here in a towel . And it
was very clear , that the night of
the party she slept here

Royal : yeah she did , but you're missing the point . I am not fucking with her , I make love to her

I look at Royal , and walk over

Me : I was going to tell you , I swear I was

She wipes my tears

Royal : I know

I look at her confused

Royal : I heard

Me : what ?

Royal : when I walked back from
the kitchen , I heard

Oh my word !

So she heard me practising that
speech

And yet she still went on to
have sex with me

Like she didn't hear anything

Xola : I don't know what this is ,
but you can't be with my girl

Royal : ex ! Besides I don't roll with that bro code , I won't lose out on a good thing . Just because you failed to see it

Xola : she's

Me : I broke up with you Xola , I am not your girlfriend . Please , you can't force me to be with you . If you're refusing to hear

that it's over , then it's your
problem

He clenches his jaw

Royal : if I hear you're behind
her back , I will forget this
friendship . Don't poke me
there

I turn and walk to the bedroom
leaving them there

I can't believe this has
happened

But at least Royal knows I
wanted to tell her

Best I just leave and go home

I don't know what this means
for us anymore

Maybe we're done

I grab my clothes and get
dressed

.

.

.

.

INSERT 12

Xola

Me : what are you doing though ?

Royal : with what ?

Me : that's my girl dude

Royal : bruh she was

I heave a sigh shaking my head

I'm shocked that she doesn't
even care

It's so not like Royal

Zahara is not even her type

That much I know

And she will drop her like hot
potato at the first sight of girls
she keeps

Me : what happened to the bro
code ?

Royal : I am not loosing a gem
because of a code man , like
keep me out of it . I am not
leaving her , make peace with
that . And if you can't

She shrugs

Royal : we'll just have to stay out of each other's hairs

Me : what ?

Royal : yeah , I'm willing to lose the friendship than lose her

No ways !

Royal : so you decide , but just know I'm good with you

Me : just leave her

Royal : that's not going to
happen

She's really serious

Royal : get used to seeing us
together , and if you can't then
yeahit is what it is

I can't believe this

Now Zahara will just hold on to
this nonsense

All because this one is enabling
her

Me : I can't believe you right
now

Royal : it is what it is

I shake my head and click my
tongue walking out

.

.

.

.

Royal

We bump to each other at the door

Me : and then ?

Zahara : I was going to tell you ,
I swear

Me : I know that , where are
you going ?

I push her back in the bedroom

And walk to the bed

We sit down

Zahara : I am leaving

Me : we didn't speak about that

Zahara : I understand if you don't want me anymore ...I should have been honest the morning I woke up here and he was here

Me : did you hear me scream I want to be single ?

The confusion on her face

Me : we didn't speak about you
leaving

Zahara : what ?

She asks with a frown

Me : spend the night

Zahara : are we okay ?

Me : yeah

She engulfs me into a hug

I laugh

Me : you don't wanna be single

She pulls back and slaps my
shoulder

Me : you're not with him , it's not like you played me . He's just being stubborn

She heaves a sigh

Me : but I must say now , if this doesn't work for you anymore . Just tell me , don't fuck me over . Especially not with a guy , because I will kill you and him

Her jaw drops

Zahara : you are serious ?

Me : yes

Zahara : waitI don't think it's
romantic or a turn on , for you
to threaten to kill me

Me : I am not trying to be romantic , or be a turn on . I'm just telling you what will happen , if you dare fuck me over

I get up

Me : you said you live with your sister , won't she be angry ?

She takes her shoes off getting on the bed

Zahara : no

Me : why do you live alone ?

Zahara : we don't know where our mother is , our father is at Nkandla . He has a new family there , and he doesn't care about us . He was abusive , when my mother left she just left and left us behind . He got

remarried , and his wife didn't like us very much . She mistreated us , until we decided to leave . But we don't get along , I think she low-key hates me . Because she had to become a parent now to me

Me : mhm , family dynamics . I know them , I don't get along with my father . Well , our relationship is fine . But the king is more of a father to me , than

my biological father . They were married for two years with my mother , and got divorced . I've always known him , but the relationship is just messed up

Zahara : hard to believe the king is not your dad

Me : yeah well , so you ever think of finding your mother ?

Zahara : no , I understand she was being abused and all. But she left her kids behind , and forgot all about us . I don't want her

She says it so casually

There isn't even anger in her voice

She's just so calm

Me : so you're sleeping ?

She laughs

I guess she is

Knowing I might have to go to
Durban soon

I just want to spend as much
time as I can with her

•

•

•

•

Mamello

Me : oh my goodness !

I can't believe this

Me : babe , did you know about
this ?

Xola : what ?

Since he got back from the
palace

He's been looking somewhat

I wonder if he has seen this

Or if he even knew

Me : Zahara is dating Royal ?

I sit down next to him

And show him the picture on
my phone

Me : seems like they were on a
date , and someone snapped
this picture and shared it

Xola : who said it was a date ?

He's really sour

Me : well , they're kissing ...in public . Random people who mean nothing to each other will never do that

Xola : if you say so

I move my phone

I won't entertain his sour self

Maybe he's sour over his side
chick hitting it with a girl

Me : wow

I laugh

I can't believe this

Me : life must have worn this girl out , now she's gone running to dating girls ! Yeah , dick clearly didn't work out for her

Xola : are you going to talk about this until when ?

Me : until everyone stops talking about it

Its out there on social media

Now surely everyone is talking
about this

Why should I be quite as if I am
bothered when I'm not

Maybe now she'll finally be
done with my man

And just focus on her woman

Me : I don't blame her , that
Royal is cute as hell

He clicks his tongue , guess he's
really that annoyed

.

.

.

.

INSERT 13

Zahara

I did not anticipate coming
home to such

Like people have been giving
me nasty stares and whatnot

My sister wasn't home when I
arrived

And I had gone to the shop

Now she's back , and she came
on me like a ton of bricks

I don't know how that picture
got out there

Clearly someone saw us and
took the picture then posted it

I didn't even know about it until
she told me

Like she has been going on at
me

Sasa : you have to stop this
nonsense

Me : I love her

The slap that lands on my cheek

I didn't even see it coming

Me : what are you slapping me for ?

Sasa : don't make me mad Zahara , you just want to embarrass me with the neighbours . Where have you ever heard of another girl dating another girl ?

Me : people should just be left to date whoever

Sasa : nonsense , I am not kidding with you . You will break up with that princess , and stop this nonsense of yours . You have demonic spirits , playing ground on you

Not by force

And definitely not by her telling me to do so

I have never told her to break up with her good for nothing boyfriend

Sasa : instead of doing something with your life , like finding a job or going back to school

Me : going back to school with what ? Didn't your abusive

father burn all of our
documents ? So how am I
supposed ...

Sasa : then find a job

Me : you can also go find one ,
go be a palace maid if you must
and just leave me alone

I turn and walk to my bedroom

I close the door locking it

My phone rings

I ignore it and get on the bed

Damn ! That slap hurt

.

.

.

.

Royal

I don't want to be dealing with
drama

Of begging someone to answer
my calls

Mom : come here

I heave a sigh dropping the call

She's not answering my calls

She was okay when I dropped
her off earlier on

I follow my mother and sit
down

Me : what did I do now ?

Dad : why must you think you
did something ?

Me : the king and queen in my presence , in such an environment

Mom : Royal stop with drama , who is that girl you were seen kissing ?

I chuckle

I saw that stupid post

And the picture is now just
circulating

Me : her name is Zahara

I can't believe I have to sit with
my parents like this

And talk about girls

I've never sat them down and
said I date girls

Or that I'm a lesbian whatever

Like never

And now because of a stupid
post

It feels like I have to explain
myself

Dad : she's from around here ?

Me : yes

Mom : well , you should invite her for dinner

Me : I did not say I want to marry her

Mom : then what are you doing circulating over social media kissing her ?

Me : I did not put that picture there , so whoever saw it fit to do that ...

Mom : is this a relationship or not ?

This woman !

Me : it is , but we've barely even been together for a week

Mom : still , if she has relations
with you we should know her
here

Me : mom please ...

Right now the girlfriend is acting
up

I don't know what's her issue

And now I must bring her over
for dinner

To please parents

And I don't even know for what

Fuck no !

.

.

.

.

Xola

Me : this is an embarrassment to me , honestly there's always been rumours about us . Now people must think I was busy fucking a girl , that's being fucked by another girl . Zahara come on , you're degrading me . Please stop with this nonsense

I take a deep breath

Me : okay babe ...I am sorry , I know I haven't been treating you right . But you also know , people are going to treat you bad because of this . You don't date girls you know that , and a person doesn't just change overnightplease answer my calls , so we can talk . I promise I'll do right this time around , please . I know you're hurt , and that's why you're doing this .

But I get the message now , I
get it . And I'll do better

I cut the voice note and send it

I know she will listen to it

I just hope she I'll stop ignoring
me , and just respond this one
time

Mamello left this morning

And I was just glad that she's
out of my sight

Because she was very happy
that Zahara is with Royal

Also throwing her mocking
annoying comments

.

.

.

.

Zahara

Sibo : I am sorry

Me : it's fine , just that Xola is still nagging me it's just so annoying

Sibo : that one is an idiot

Me : I ended up blocking him , after listening to that voice note

of his . Clearly he's not getting it
, that I don't want to talk to him

Sibo : I hate that I'm leaving

She got a job from Durban

At pick n pay there

Her aunt got her the job

She's a manager there

Sibo will be working there as a cashier

Sibo : I will look for space for you , and if there's any I'll tell you

It would be nice to get away from my sister

Me : thanks

Sibo : you be okay , I'll call you
once I'm in Durban

Me : okay

My phone rings

I heave a sigh

Sibo : and now ?

Me : I've been avoiding talking to her the whole day

Sibo : why , are you fighting ?

Me : no , she called right after Sasa slapped me . I was going to cry talking to Royal , I just avoided that

Sibo : answer her

Me : hey

Royal : hey after ignoring my
calls the whole day

She's not happy

Me : sorry

Royal : sorry doesn't cut it , why
did you ignore my calls ?

Me : my sisterwe had an argument

Royal : because you slept out ?

Me : no , because I am dating you

A taxi stops next to us

Royal : where are you ?

Me : by the bus stop , I was taking Sibbo to the taxi she's going to Durban

Royal : I am coming

She drops the call

Sibbo : bye

We hug briefly and she grabs her bags

Sibo : don't push her away

I laugh as she goes on to get in
the taxi

My problems are just insane

I feel like I love than like Royal

And I'm an idiot when I'm in
love

And in the end I'm the one who
always gets hurt

I move over and sit down by the
rock

.

.

.

.

Royal

Me : tell me what happened ?

She heaves a sigh

Zahara : I got home , she wasn't there . I went to the shop , and people were just giving me nasty stares . I just ignored that , when I got back she was home . And she spoke about the picture of us online and all of that , and sheshe slapped me said I should break up with you

Me : she did what ?

Zahara : she said I should break

...

Me : no ...no what did you say
she did ?

She lifts her head from my chest
and looks at me

Zahara : she slapped me

There are just some people who know how to provoke other people

Like what the fuck was the slap for ?

Me : I'm sorry I'm bringing you all this drama

Zahara : no , people should just
learn to mind their business

I chuckle

I bring her over and place a kiss
on her forehead

.

.

.

.

INSERT 14

Royal

Me : what ?

Kenan : do you love her ?

What's it to him ?

I've avoided my parents about
this

Now he wants to poke his nose
in that

Me : where is this going ?

Kenan : if you intend to keep that girl , then she better know who you are

Me : and what do you mean ?

Kenan : your mother loved me , but as soon as she knew who I am . She left and landed in

another man's arms , she never
looked back

I heave a sigh

Me : I don't slip up , she will
never know

Kenan : if you want to keep her
, then she must know

Me : no , please let this go

Kenan : I'll be back in two months

He drops the call

Me : crazy !

I call this one who hasn't responded my message

Relationships are hard work

Maybe this is why I've never
even been in one

Zahara : babe

Now I have been elevated

How nice

Me : why haven't you
responded my message ?

Zahara : what message ?

Me : I sent you a WhatsApp text
, like last night

Zahara : I had my data on ,
cause I was watching movies . I
didn't check my WhatsApp

Me : okay , can you just check it

Zahara : okay , I will

Me : I won't text you on
WhatsApp anymore , but
answer my calls

She laughs

Zahara : okay babe , I will . I am
sorry

Me : you're making it hard for
me to react right now

We laugh

Zahara : that's sweet

Me : I love you

There's silence

Me : did you hear me ?

Zahara : yes , and I love you too

Okay !

I believe that's not just being
said

But she means it

Me : we'll talk later

Zahara : okay babe

I drop the call

.

.

.

.

Zahara

I smile to myself

This one is full of things

She sent a snap of a weave and
nails

And said they'll look good on
me

If I don't mind , there's an
appointment at the salon

I've never had nails done

And I've never had a weave on
my head

But I'm sure it wouldn't be bad

After all , there's a first time for
everything

And it's not my money

I call her back , and she answers
after a few rings

Me : thank you , I'll take the
appointment

Royal : great then , I'll come get you . But I won't stay with you at the salon , when you're done you'll let me know . And I'll come pick you up

Me : okay

Royal : I'll see you soon

I drop the call

Me : okay !

I get up and change into better clothes

I was just in my gown

Not having any plans or anywhere to go

Sasa : and then ?

She leans over by the door
frame

I don't know why I didn't lock
my door

Me : I am going

Sasa : ah ! That's what you
know best these days , sleeping

out . Going out , and coming in
like you please

As if she doesn't

Sasa : this time you're busy
using time running after girls ,
you should be using it to do
something useful about your
life

Okay !

This is a lecture I am just going
to zone out of

.

.

.

.

Royal

I've dropped Zahara at the salon

I just need to take care of this

I could take it far

But considering they're all that
they have

I will be nice , very nice

I knock at the door

After a while she opens

She's shocked seeing me

But clearly not shocked to who I
am

Sasa : my pri....

Me : my name is Royal , can we
talk ?

Sasa : uhm ...Zahara is not here

Me : I know that , I asked to talk
to you

Sasa : ah , okay

Me : I don't know what's your issue , or you're just homophobic . Or you think your sister should be dating men , so she can bring money home . But I'll make it simple for you , I'll give you 5K every month . And you'll never utter a single word to her about our relationship , ever again . And most

importantly , you'll never lay your hand on her , or I'll forget you're her sister . If it's money you want , you will get it

Sasa : II wasn't saying she should sell herself , just she could be studying or working ... I mean , she didn't even finish matric

Me : did you finish matric ?

Sasa : what ?

Me : are you working ?

Sasa : it's not

Me : I said 5K every month , and
you leave my girlfriend alone

I should be fucking her up

Just for laying hands on her

But I'll let it slide

And hopefully it was the last

Me : thank about it , give me an
answer before the end of the
week

I turn and walk to my car

I get in and drive off

My phone rings , I heave a sigh

Me : yeah ?

Xola : are we seriously cutting
our friendship , because of a girl
?

Me : that girl is my girlfriend

Xola : yeah sure , can we do drinks ?

Me : I might be heading back to Durban ...

Xola : even tomorrow

Me : sure

Xola : ta (thanks)

I drop the call

.

.

.

.

INSERT 15

Zahara

Me : and ?

Royal : you're fucking stunning

I laugh

I'm clinging so tight on her

She came to fetch me

And said we are going out

I swear Royal is like some party
animal

I hate that we're meeting with
Xola and that Mamello

We spent yesterday being
together after my appointment

But I slept home

And to my surprise , my sister
wasn't on my case

It was a first

We walk in the club

And the music is blasting
through speakers

It's my first time walking into a
club

I've never been to a club before

We walk through

And she spots them

Taking my hand and we walk to
the table

Royal : eita (sure)

Xola gets up and they shoulder
bump

I hope this doesn't get awkward

And there won't be any drama

I am so over the drama that's
been happening in my life as of
late

It's enough , I just need a break
right now

Xola : thanks for coming

Royal : sure , let's get drinks

We sit down as she calls over a waiter

And she orders whatever she drinks

And orders ciders for me

Xola and his girlfriend are already drinking

Melo : you look nice Zahara

I chuckle

Royal gives me an eye

I swallow and fake smile

Me : thanks

Melo : who knew you can flex
like this , I like your nails and
hair

Okay !

Can this not be

Because I am not about to
engage in talks with her like
we've ever been nice to each
other

There's no need for pretence
whatsoever

Friends are these two and not
us

.

.

.

.

Mamello

I may be dressed to kill

But right now I feel so
intimidated by this girl

To think she's not even that
beautiful

She has nothing on me

But the weave she has on

And the extra stiletto nails

She's just stunning

I can admit that , even though it
leaves a bad taste in my mouth

And I hate to say this

But they seem to in love with
Royal

It's actually a relationship

She's just being so clingy on
Royal

I wonder if this girl is not bored
already by her

•

•

•

•

Xola

I don't know how a night that
was just supposed to be about
us

Just us two

And just us having drinks as
friends

Ended up as this

With Melo and Zahara here

I am drinking like a fish right
now

I just want to get drunk

Because I hate the sight I'm
seeing

Whatever this is that Royal and
Zahara are doing

Zahara : I need to use the
bathroom

She's damn tipsy by now

If I can get to sneak and grab
her alone

We'll finally get to talk face to
face

Because this far , she has been
ignoring me

And she has blocked me

Royal : let's go

Fuck !

They both get up and walk away

Melo : yhoh ! Zahara is so clingy
on Royal , it's like she will get
away from her

This one must not start with me

I am not in the moods

•

•

•

•

Royal

I hold her , as she slightly trips

Making sure she doesn't fall

Me : are you okay ?

She shakes her head

Me : what's wrong ?

She leans over and balance with
the wall

Me : mhm ?

Zahara : I miss you

I laugh

Me : how dare you get horny in a bar ?

She shrugs

Me : it's the alcohol , I think you're done for the night and we're going home . You've had enough to drink

She leans over , I lean down
capturing her lips into mine

And she's damn horny

The kiss is just full of lust

Me : let's golet's go

I pull out and hold her hand
walking back inside the club

.

•

•

•

Xola

Finally they walk back

And I heave a sigh

They sit down

Royal : we have to go

Me : oh ?

Royal : yeah , my baby is not
well

Is she really ?

Cause she looks fine to me

Just a bit tipsy nothing else

But she's drinking

So she's ought to get drunk if it
gets there

Me : mhm , I guess we'll do this
some other time

She smiles

Royal : yeah , look boy we're all
good

Me : really ?

Royal : yeah , water under the
bridge

I chuckle with a smile

Me : sure

I don't know how I'm going to
continue being okay with this

.

.

.

.

INSERT 16

Zahara

I look at her hoping that she will
say no she's not being serious

Royal : it's work , but I'll be back

Like she's really leaving for
Durban

Not even saying she's going to
town

I mean going to town would be
much better

I can just get into a taxi and
make it

But now Durban that's far

And that's a long journey

A whole hours journey

Royal : you know I love you right ?

Me : honestly you just ruined my day

She sighs

After such a great day she gave me

She took me out for breakfast

And she took me shopping , like
it was fun

I even got to buy clothes I've
never even dreamt of owning

We had lunch and played a few
games

She even won me a doll

Then we went on to watch a
movie

We came back here at the place

Obviously just being in her
house making love

Now I'm supposed to go home ,
after the great day we had

And she tells me she has to go
do Durban

We're on our second week
dating

It's just too soon , because I still
want to spend more time with
her

Royal : please forgive me , but I
will be back . Just a week or two

Wow !

A whole two weeks

I know that's how long she will
be gone

If not more

But it'll definitely not be less
than that

Me : it's fine

Royal : I'll make it up to you

Me : can you take me home ?

Royal : come on , now you want to leave angry !

Me : I am not angry Royal

Royal : hah !

I get up

Royal : don't do this

She holds my hand

Royal : I love you

I've attached myself to her

And now I'm scared as shit

Many scenarios going on in my head

What if she has a girlfriend there ?

Or what if she meets someone beautiful , and suitable better than me

Surely she won't mind to just
move on

And I've gone and opened my
mouth and told her , that I love
her

Royal : I said I love you

Me : I must leave

Royal : so you don't love me anymore ?

Me : that's not how feelings work

Royal : then ?

Me : I love you too , but should I be happy that you're leaving right now ?

She leans over for a kiss

I hold back from kissing her

But I end up just giving in

.

.

.

.

Royal

My baby is really a baby

One thing I've seen about her is
that she's very clingy

Not that I am complaining

This is very new to me

I am trying my best

Right now just by going to
Durban

She feels like I'm leaving forever

Or maybe like I'm dumping her

Of course it's not like that

She was still somehow when I
dropped her off

I chose to drive out this late for
a reason

My mother is not happy

Not that I expected her to be

She's also another dramatic
human being

I grab my phone and make a call

After a few rings he answers

Kenan : yes

Me : I am headed to Durban , I will make sure the shipment to Peru is out in a few days

Kenan : I was starting to think you're slacking

He's not serious

Me : I'm on my best , I'll get to it

Kenan : good

He drops the call

I understand my father so much

To a point that his actions don't bother me at all

My phone rings , I connect to
the Bluetooth speaker

I hope he doesn't rub me off
the wrong way

I so hope we're over and past
this whole thing

Me : boy

Xola : sure , whoa ! You're on the road this late ?

Me : yeah I'm driving back to Durban

He laughs

Xola : seriously , you were going to leave without saying ?

I chuckle

Me : spur of the moment thing

Xola : so how long will you be gone ?

Me : a while

Xola : alright

I heave a sigh

Me : listen man , me and you
we're okay right now . And I
want to believe we're past what
happened , and like for real no
pretence whatsoever

Xola : sure , we are passed it

Me : I hope now that I won't be
around , you won't take an
advantage . And go after my girl

Xola : no , she made it clear
she's done with me . And she's
with you now , I respect that

I hope he means what he's
saying

.

.

.

.

Zahara

Sasa : why do you look so sour ?

I just look at her saying nothing

Sasa : oh well , let me mind my
business

Something is going on with this
one

I see there's shopping bags

Meaning she did grocery
shopping

I wonder where she got the
money

That would explain her being off
my back

But I know it's not that
boyfriend of hers

Me : I am going to sleep

Sasa : so soon ?

I say nothing

Sasa : are you not eating ?

Me : no , I am not hungry

She claps her hands

I walk to my bedroom closing
the door

I get on the bed and lay down
closing my eyes

I don't know how I'm supposed
to be okay , not seeing Royal for
weeks and weeks

My phone rings

I sigh hoping it's not her

I lift up and pick my phone

Okay ! There's a slight pinch of pain , seeing it's really not her

Me : Sibbo

Sibbo : and then ?

Me : it's nothing

She laughs

Sibo : not relationship problems

Me : not even

Sibo : hopefully I'll cheer you up

Me : with ?

Sibo : it's not much , but there's
a vacant for someone to pack
customers groceries

Me : oh ?

Sibo : you can come through if
you're keen , you'll stay with me
at my room

What a wow !

I need a job yes , but is going to
Durban really that wise for me ?

.

.

.

.

INSERT 17

THREE MONTHS LATER

Zahara

Me : hello ?

Royal : are you that bored ?

She must just get off my back

Me : what ?

She heaves a sigh

Royal : where are you ?

Me : where you left me

I don't know what she's
laughing about

Royal : my baby though , do we
have to do this ?

Me : do what ?

She sighs

Me : why did you call ?

Royal : come outside

Me : I ...

Royal : please just come outside

She drops the call

I groan getting off the bed

I put on sleepers and walk out

To my surprise her car is parked
by our gate

I didn't know she was coming

But that's our life

That has been our life the past
three months

Anyway , I've only see her twice
in that three months

And that will only be for a few
days

And she's gone back to Durban

I walk over to the car as she
gets out

Royal : you're not happy to see
me

I don't know how I'm feeling to
be honest

Royal : baby , I am sorry but I'm
here now

Me : for two days , and then
you'll be gone for 5 weeks again

Royal : please let's not fight

Me : I am not fighting with you
Royal

She heaves a sigh taking my
hand

Royal : we might not be the
best couple that there is out
there , but I want to prove to
you how much I love you

She holds both my hands

Royal : please come have dinner
with my family

Me : what ?

Royal : if you don't mind ,
tonight . And I've made plans
for us to leave for the weekend
, and go to Joburg so you can
meet my father

No ways !

Are things that serious , like
why are we meeting parents ?

Me : you want me to go have
dinner at the palace ?

She chuckles

Royal : I am asking

Mhm !

Royal : I know I haven't been here , and now I want to show you that the distance doesn't mean I'm drifting . Just work gets too much for me , to a point of not being able to get away

Maybe I should have also taken the job offer from Sibon

I would also be in Durban
working

But no !

I chose not to take it

And now , I just feel stuck here

Royal : I'm back for a while

That doesn't even make me
happy

I am not saying she doesn't give
me her time

But it's these club goings with
her friends

Like I don't know how many
clubs we've gone to

That's the life when she's here

And I'm reaching my end for it

I'm anything but a club slay
queen

So I know she's going to meet
with her friends

And clubs is where they are
headed

And I'll have to tag along

.

.

.

.

Royal

Me : I have invited my girlfriend
over for dinner

They look at me

Me : I hope she will be
welcomed

Mom : what girlfriend is this ?

Me : Zahara

She laughs

Me : what ?

Mom : are you saying you will marry her now ?

I chuckle

Why is she bringing that up now ?

Mom : no , because when I invited her you said you did not say you're marrying her

Me : I know what I said , but we had only been together for a week then

Mom : so it's been three months , what difference does it make ? Meeting her then or now , how is it different ?

This woman !

Me : I guess it makes sense
when you put it like that

She laughs

Mom : you're just a dramatic
human being for no reason

I don't know about that

I just hope it'll go well

Me : but please be nice to her ,
or else she will refuse to go see
Kenan

Mom : hah ! It's that serious ?

Me : I did not say that

Mom : but she's going to see
Kenan , and she's seeing us .
Meaning it's something

Me : he long wanted to see her
, round about the same time
you did

Mom : oh okay

Dad : show some respect , don't
show her how ill mannered you
are towards that guy

Oh but it's not that bad

I just hope my mother will be nice during the dinner

I know at times she can be a bit too much

She should just understand that Zahara did not come here for relationship treatment

- .
- .
- .

.

Zahara

I am so nervous

I've never been in the presence
of the king and queen before

I don't even know why I'm
meeting her parents

Isn't that too soon ?

Royal : calm down , they're going to love you

Me : easy for you to say , they're your parents . You're comfortable enough with them , to bring a girlfriend to them

She laughs

Royal : let's go , you're stressing over nothing

She takes my hand and we walk
to the main palace

Royal : wait ...

She says as she holds the door
handle

She turns and looks my way

She dashes me a smile

And she leans over

Pacing her lips on me

We kiss , forgetting we're
standing on the doorstep

Royal : relax

That comes out as a whisper

I take a deep breath as we pull
out of the kiss

.

.

.

.

INSERT 18

Zahara

Okay !

Dinner wasn't so bad

Even though his mother kind of
intimidated me

She's the queen after all

The king is quite , he wasn't
saying much

I don't know if it's because he
was studying me or what

But the siblings were cool

So it wasn't that bad at all

I can't believe I now know my
girlfriend's parents

Worse I'm yet to meet her
father

Royal : you good ?

I nod

Royal : thank you

I smile

She picks me up and places me
on the kitchen counter

And gets in between my thighs

She places her hands on my
thighs

Me : for what ?

Royal : tonight

Me : it's okay

Royal : so ...are we heading to
Joburg tomorrow morning ?

Me : we're going for the whole weekend ?

Royal : yes , and we'll be staying at his house

Wow !

So we'll be in the same house with her father for the whole weekend

Me : I don't know how Sasa is going to react

Royal : just ask her when you get home

Me : I plan to , I just don't know We've been okay as of late . She's hardly on my case , so this might just take us back

Royal : just have faith

I don't know about that

This is my sister we're talking
about

But since she seems to have
money as of late

That I don't even know where
she gets it from

She's just being easy on me

Me : okay

Royal : I'll drop you off , talk to her and let me know what she says

Me : okay

Royal : give me a kiss ...

She leans over , I lean down and
we kiss

.

.

.

.

Royal

She's been in the house for a
while now

The money I give that woman
every month

Better be worth it

If she says no , she would just
be asking for trouble with me

She gets her money , and she
lets Zahara be

My phone rings

I chuckle answering

Me : Cole Black

He laughs

Cole : mhm , where you at this late ?

Me : don't , are you back ?

This is a South African number

Cole : yes , and I'm currently in Joburg right now

Me : what a coincidence ? I'll be coming there , so any chance to see you ?

Cole : definitely , but I'll be here for a while

Me : I'll just be for a weekend

Cole : no sweat , just hit me up when you get a chance

Me : mhm will do , when did you get back ?

Cole : last night

Me : so you're back home ?

He chuckles

Can't trust he's really back

Cole : the UK has been nice and
all , but my old man needs me
this side

Me : Drew is dramatic

We laugh

Me : I'll see you man

Cole : sure

He drops the call , just as Zahara
opens the door

Me : and ?

Zahara : I'll see you tomorrow

Me : thank you my baby

She smiles

Zahara : let me go pack then

Me : okay , don't pack the whole of your wardrobe . You'll do shopping there

Zahara : well then , I might as well not pack

Me : that works fine for me.

She laughs

Zahara : drive safe , call me
when you get home

Me : I love you

Zahara : I love you too

Me : oh ...we might also get to
see my cousin while in Joburg

Zahara : why am I meeting the
whole family ?

I laugh starting the car

Cole is the one person I get
along with on the Black side of
the family

.

.

.

.

Cole

Cole



Dad : was that Royal ?

Me : yes

He shakes his head

I know he's coming with some
words

That are not exactly pleasing

Dad : I am happy you're back
home son

Me : I know

Dad : and I have no problem whatsoever with your relationship with Royal she's your cousin after all , but we know that girl is exactly just like her father . Please don't find yourself involved in her nonsense

Me : I am not a child , I know right from wrong

Dad : that's all I am asking for ,
especially with the possibility of
you moving

Me : don't worry

My father is really not a big fan
Royal

Especially because she was
raised by her mother and the
Cele family

And turning out exactly like my
uncle

Really doesn't work in her
favour much where he's
concerned

But it doesn't bother me

We get along fine

The same way I get along with
her father

Despite for who he is

It is as they say , we cannot
choose our own family

This is mine

I've just accepted them just as
they are

Its not like I can change them

They're most certainly not kids

And they know what they're
both doing

It's a choice

Just like we all got choices of
what to do with our lives

It's very hard to believe that at just 21 , and being a woman at that

Royal would gladly just sell off other women

To become drug mules

Sex slaves , and even slaves to the rich and famous

But she does it , with an open
heart

.

.

.

.

INSERT 19

Royal

Me : good morning

Kenan : yes

I sit down and pour myself a
cup of coffee

Kenan : where is she ?

Me : still sleeping

Kenan : okay

We got here yesterday late ,
cause I chose to drive

We really didn't talk much

I want us to go see Cole today

Cause tomorrow we have to go
back to Durban

Kenan : she seems good

Me : yeah she is

Kenan : don't you think it's best
she knows you

Me : please , not this again . I
already told you , I won't tell
her . And she won't find out

Kenan : the same way your
mother left me....

Me : don't compare the two ,
not everyone can stand shit .
And Zenkosi just chose not to

Kenan : and you think Zahara
will ? She's a village girl ...

Me : that has got nothing to do
with this

Kenan : don't ever say I didn't
warn you

Me : don't make me regret coming here , don't go telling her things that have nothing to do with her

Kenan : mhm

Me : I mean it , you wanted to meet her and now you have . You have no business telling her about me

Kenan : I am not stupid

Me : I'm glad we agree on this
and understand each other

My phone rings

Me : it's mom

He seems so uninterested

It's so hard to believe he even
loved her at one point

Me : my queen

Mom : I hope that poor girl will
come back safe and alive

Shit !

Me : why wouldn't she ?

Mom : Royal I mean it , you're there with that man who doesyou know what let's leave it .
But nothing better happen to Zahara while she's there , and she ends up on the other side of the ocean

Fuck !

Me : she's safe

Mom : I hope so

Me : mom like really ?

Mom : no , I don't want to be caught up in things I don't know

Me : uhm yeah , I hear you

Mom : bye

She drops the call

I look at Kenan and he's just
focused on his breakfast

Such parents I have

.

.

.

.

Zahara

This man is scary

Handsome and old as he

He is scary

There's just something about
him

We're about to go out to meet
this cousin

And I just had to bump into him

Mr Black : can we have a chat ,
before Royal gets back here

She's upstairs fetching a jacket

I sit down

Mr Black : I see you two love
each other

Me : we do

Mr Black : and I want to believe that when people love each other , they have to know each other

Me : I don't think I understand

Mr Black : what do you know about Royal ? Besides the fact that her parents divorced , her mother got remarried . She has half siblings , and was raised by

a step father . We have an
unusual relationship

He shrugs

And actually what do I know ?

Because I don't even know what
kind of a job she does

Mr Black : just get to know her ,
it's always best to avoid

heartbreak . And that's what
always happen , when people
commit without knowing each
other that well

He gets up

Mr Black : trust me , I know

Royal walks down and her
father walks away

Royal : and that ?

I shake off whatever he was
saying

Me : just a chat

Royal : about ?

I laugh , and it's so fake

Me : just young love , your
father is interesting

She chuckles

Royal : that's a first

Oh well

.

.

.

.

Cole

Voice : and this is you ?

I lift my eyes getting up

And my eyes dart to who she's
with

For that mere second

There's a certain in a look in her
eyes

I get a grip as she realises my
eyes on hers

Me : young Black

She laughs

Royal : fuck off

Me : how are you ?

We briefly hug

Royal : I'm all good , you have grown

This kid !

Royal : this is Zahara , and babe this is my cousin Cole

I hold my hand out

She clears her throat taking it

And it's just a brief hand shake

Me : nice to meet you

She smiles looking down

Zahara : likewise

I pull my hand back , and sit
down

Royal pulls a chair for her , and
they sit down

.

.

.

.

Zahara

Royal : it's good seeing you

Cole : yeah ,

Royal : so are you back for good
?

Cole : I am not sure about that ,
but the old man

He takes a sip of his latte

I've never seen anything like
this

He lifts his eyes with a smile

And catches me staring at him

I clear my throat looking down

Royal : you should come over
that side for a visit

Cole : you know we Black's
don't like the Cele's , for taking
our bride

They laugh

And I can feel eyes on me

I lift my eyes , and it's him
staring at me

I wonder if Royal can see this

I need to zone out of everything
that's happening right now

If I want to survive this whole
lunch

And being in the presence of
this man

I'll focus on my food

And just listen to them talking

.

.

.

.

INSERT 20

Zahara

Royal : so what do you think
about Cole ?

I look at her

Me : he's cool , he seems ...like
a nice guy

Royal : yeah he is

She intertwines our fingers

Royal : he's actually the one person , I get along with on my father's side . We don't even have such a big family , it's just my dad his brother . And there was my grandfather , but he's late now . Then it's just cousins

Me : at least you do get along with someone , I mean take me and Sasa it's just us . No family no nothing , we don't even

know if our mother is still alive
or not . We are just on our own

Royal : it's better now you get
along

I chuckle

Me : we don't get along , we're
just okay

Royal : same thing babe

Me : I don't know , she seems to be off my back . Maybe the money she suddenly has , is making her happy

Royal : what ... money ?

I shrug

Me : I don't know where she gets it from , but there's

nothing ever lacking at home
now . That's why I'm not being
told to find a job anymore

Royal : mhm , maybe she's
doing piece jobs

Me : I doubt , she would throw
that on my face

She laughs

Royal : maybe it's her boyfriend

Me : the possibility of that is
just zero

I don't really care to know
where she gets it

I'm just glad she's off my back

.

.

.

.

Royal

Me : I think he's pushing me to
tell her the truth

Cole : really ?

I chuckle

He knows his uncle

Me : yeah , and it's so unlike him . He lied to my mother for two years

Cole : well , maybe that's why he wants you to do better

Me : nah , I'm good this way

He shrugs

We're leaving today

And he came over

To see my dad of course

But while Zahara is still getting ready

I decided to just come and catch up with him

Me : how's work ?

Cole : cool , I'm thinking of starting my own thing . But I'm not sure , if I'm ready nor prepared for the stress that will come with it . And the long hours , but I'm tired being an employee

We laugh

Me : you can do it , I know that

Cole : yeah , I'll see

Going out on his own , means
he'll be back home

That's if he will start here

And I know that will make his
father happy

.

.

.

.

Cole

I dart my eyes up the stairs

And she stops a bit , as her eyes
locks with mine

I don't take my eyes off of her

She looks down , not being able
to hold my stare

Royal walks back in from the
kitchen

Royal : oh hey babe , you done
?

She walks down and nods

Royal : let's go

She takes her hand

Me : well , you guys travel safe .
And it was nice meeting you
Zahara

She smiles

Royal : don't be a stranger now

Me : not anytime soon

We hug and I walk them out to
her car

Royal : I'll call

Me : sure , maybe I'll see you
soon

Royal : I hope so

Me : don't worry , I'll see how
my things go like

Royal : take care

Me : you too

She drives out

Voice : this relationship is a
disaster

I turn and look at him

I laugh

Me : come on !

Uncle : no , she's lying to her .
What do you think is going to
happen when she finds out ?

Me : your daughter is convinced
she won't

Uncle : good luck to her , but
take my word for it

I laugh

Me : they look cute together

Uncle : yeah , but it doesn't
mean they're going to last

Trust my uncle to just be like
this

I hope he didn't say this to
Royal

.

.

.

.

Xola

Me : I just got a text from Royal

Max : oh

Me : yeah , they're coming back
and she wants us to go out

He laughs

Max : that one

Me : doesn't matter , she will be
buying

Max : good for us

I heave a sigh

Max : and now ?

Me : it's just I know when we go out , Zahara will be there

Max : it's been over three months . You're still not over that girl

Me : she's not over me either

Max : ah , she seems very much

Me : she's just infatuated by
Royal , that's it . It's just the
rush of an experiment , she
loves dick . And a pussy cannot
compare to that

He laughs

Max : maybe she uses the biggest dildo there is there

I chuckle

Me : plastic cannot compare to the real thing , and all she needs is just a taste of dick again . She will be back to her sane senses , Royal will be a thing of the past . Just done and forgotten

Max : you're so obsessed with
this girl , and I don't even get it .
Cause she's not all that

Me : you won't get it

Max : what ? Is she the shit
under the sheets ?

I laugh

Me : what the fuck are you asking me ?

Max : no , maybe if you explain it then I can understand

I shake my head

Max : so who's better between the two ?

Me : Zahara is

Max : what ?

Me : yeah , and that's the truth

Melo is just okay , but Zahara is something else

.

.

.

.

INSERT 21

Mamello

Me : mxm , and there's Royal
with her clingy girlfriend

They laugh

I didn't think this thing of theirs
will last this long

But they seem to be pushing

On the other hand

Xola seems fine , like he's not
even bothered by them

And that's good for me

Because I don't have to worry
about that girl busy with my
man

Me : I don't blame her though ,
that Royal is all kinds of flames .
Even I wouldn't mind to be
banged by her

Laughter just erupts

Lizo : come on , when she's in
Durban I'm sure she's far from
being loyal

Me : of course , exactly what
would make her be loyal to
Zahara ? That doesn't even
make sense

I roll my eyes

And they walk over

Ever since she's been rolling
with Royal

She's always on point with clothes

Her hair and nails

Like she's with a new set of hair every month

Even with nails

She now wear clothes 19 year olds wear

Not those old rags things she
used to wear

Maybe she's even with Royal to
take her out of poverty

That's very much possible , one
doesn't change over night

We know she's never dated girls

But here she is with this one

Looking like true lovers

Royal greets her friends , while
holding on her hand

Lizo : hi Za ..

She looks at us

Zahara : hi

And she sits down

Every time we go out

She's just hung on Royal

She doesn't even interact with
us

.

.

.

.

Royal

Me : should we leave ?

Zahara : why ?

I heave a sigh

She leans over , laying her head
on my shoulder

Royal : you don't seem to be
having fun

Zahara : I am just horny

I laugh

Trust my girl to just be blunt like
that

I take a few sips of my drink

I place a kiss on her forehead

She lifts her head and we kiss

Me : let's just go

Zahara : no , come here

She gets up and takes my hand

Xola : you guys leaving already ?

Me : no , we'll be back

We walk out

And she's heading to the
parking lot

She grabs me and smashes her
lips on mine

I pick her up , and place her on
top of the bonnet of my car

I part her legs and unbutton her
jeans

I pull them down with her panty

Zahara : shit it's cold

She mumbles through the kiss

I open her coochie lips with my fingers

And rub on her clit

She lays back a bit giving me better way , I palace my hand behind her back balancing her

I slide my finger inside of her open

She lets out slight moans as I
finger fuck her

I pick up my pace as I feel she's
near

She holds tight on me

And her cum graces my finger

I slowly pull out

I suck off her cum from my
finger

Me : I love you

Zahara : mhm , and I love you

I give her a brief kiss while
pulling back her panty and jeans

Me : let's just go home

Zahara : you're still having fun

Me : yeah but I know you ,
you'll just be all clingy now

She tilts her head and I can't
read her expression

Zahara : no , it's okay

Me : babe

Zahara : no , if only you wanted to leave because you want to go home . Not because of me and my clinginess

She gets off the bonnet and slightly pushes me off

She fixes herself and walks back

I follow her

I walk inside and look around
for her

I see she's not at the table

I look over to the bar and she's
there

I walk over to her

She's having a fucking martini

Me : what's this ?

Zahara : what ?

Me : what happened to you
drinking ciders ?

She shrugs

Zahara : go to your friends Royal
, enjoy yourself . I will be here ,

drinking and having my fun not
being clingy to anyone

Me : babe , I didn't mean that in
....

Zahara : I really don't care how
you meant it

I grab the martini glass

She looks at me

Me : you're starting with shit
right now , and I'm not going to
entertain it . Let's go

I grab her hand and gets off the
chair

Me : I'm sorry

She ignores me

We walk over to the table and
sit down

A few minutes go by

And I see her mood has
changed

I hold her hand , but she pulls it
back

Me : babe ...

Zahara : pleas just have your
fun , and leave me alone

Wow !

Like me saying that , has gotten
us here

.

.

.

.

Zahara

I put on my clothes

She moves and opens her eyes

Royal : wait ...what are you
doing ?.

Me : I'm leaving

Royal : it's not even 08:00 yet

Me : yeah I know

Royal : babe

Me : thanks for last night , bye

Royal : that's for

She chuckles and rubs her eyes
sitting straight

Royal : what am I ?

Me : I don't know Royal , you choose what you are

Royal : babe wait , you know I'm sorry about last night . I didn't mean that in a bad way

Me : no , don't apologize you were right . And I'm glad you said it , because I was falling too hard too fast . But now , I'll pull back and avoid hurting myself

Royal : what ?

I grab my jacket and phone

Royal : wait We're still talking

Me : no , I am done talking

I walk out of the bedroom

I use the kitchen door

And use the back gate going out
of the palace

I was hurt last night when she
said that

It came off somehow , like it
annoys her

But she was right

And that would just end up
hurting me when she decides to
switch up on me

I check my airtime and make a
call

After a few rings she answers

Sibo : you still live

I laugh

Me : unfortunately yes

Sibo : you're so negative this morning

Me : not even , do you think you can still accommodate me ?

Sibo : yes , what's happening ?

Me : I just want to come there
and look for a job

She laughs

Sibo : your ancestors are
working overtime , there's three
grocery packers needed . And
two stock taking people

Me : no kidding

Sibo : I am telling you

Me : I'll be in Durban today

Sibo : can't wait , I'll see you
then . I have to get back to work

Me : bye

I drop the call with a smile

Maybe I need this

And I will stop thinking Royal is
the one thing that's sane I have
in my life

.

.

.

.

INSERT 22

A WEEK LATER

Royal

Me : what you're saying to me
doesn't make sense

She heaves a sigh

Sasa : I don't know , what you want me to tell you . I wasn't home that morning , and when I came back she was gone . She called later , before you came around just like I've told you before . She said she's okay , and I shouldn't bother finding her .

I heave a sigh

It's been a week

After she left that morning , a
little while later I drove to her
home

And I didn't find her

I believe her sister knows where
she is

Maybe she just doesn't want to
tell me

I'm sure she doesn't like me

And besides the sister there's
no one I can ask

Zahara didn't have friends or
people she hang out with

I don't understand how
someone can just disappear like
that

And no one even knows where
she is

Her number doesn't go through

Not that she blocked me

But it doesn't exist anymore

It's like she's just cut us off

And vanished

I turn and walk to my car

My phone rings

Me : yeah

Cole : still haven't found her
even now ?

Me : no

Cole : come on , you're a
criminal just use what you have
to your advantage

Me : I didn't want to involve the
guys into this

Cole : so you would rather be there , stressing wondering what's going on ? Come on , it's been a week already . If she wanted to talk to you , she would have done it . But it's clear she doesn't , so if you care to find her then just use what you have

I heave a sigh

Cole : you'll tell me how it goes

Me : sure

He drops the call

And I know he's right

She clearly doesn't want me to
know where she is

But I'm not letting this go

So I'll just have to do whatever I
can do to find her

.

.

.

.

Cole

My uncle would rejoice at this

Already he said the relationship
won't last

A day back home , one
disappears

After a disagreement of some
kind

And it's been a week she's
nowhere to be found

He would really say , I told you
so

But I hope Royal finds her
though

It's clear she's not herself

Me : so I'm meeting with the
minister in Durban in a week

He smiles

Dad : now I like this

I laugh

Me : I'm back home , you can relax . The funding is secured , I just want the go ahead for a private hospital

Dad : you never cease to make me proud

I live for this man

He's been by my side ever since

My mother died giving birth to
me.

Due to complications

And he's just been the best
father ever

I hate South Africa

But just for his sake , I will just
have to settle here

.

.

.

.

Zahara

Me : I am dead tired

She laughs throwing herself on
the bed

I take my sneakers off

Me : damn !

Sibo : what ?

Me : mhm , remind me to go
take these nails off tomorrow

She smiles , and lays on her
stomach facing me

Sibo : putting a new set

Me : no , I am working now . I really don't need to be having these long fake nails

We laugh

Sibo : have you called your woman ?

Me : no

Sibo : friend come on , have you broken up or what ?

Me : I don't know , she can decide whatever she wants . I don't care , I'm so done falling for people who never fall for me the same way . I love hard , and don't get the same

Sibo : don't say that

Me : no , I always get myself hurt . I'm tired of it , now Royal can see I can live without her . That I'm not clingy because I have insecurities , but that's just how i love . And if she can complain about that , then I don't know how to love her anyhow . So distance is what's best , if she wants to break up it's fine . I'm done being desperate

Sibo : but right now she doesn't even know how to contact you

Me : yeah that's fine , I can live off not being clingy

She laughs

Me : let me go bath and come I'll cook

Sibo : no , I'm getting pizza .

Rest , it was a busy day we're
tired

Me : you're a star

She winks I laugh walking to the
bathroom

She's renting a single room

I've been working at pick n pay
for a week now

And I might say , it just feels
good doing something with my
life

I may not be anything big

Just packing customers
groceries

But I love it

.

.

.

.

Royal

Me : are you sure ?

Xolani : yeah

Me : alright thanks

Xolani : no sweat

I drop the call

And get up grabbing my jacket
and phone

Along with my car keys

I rush out heading to my car

If I can beat the afternoon
traffic

I'll make it by midnight

I should have long asked these
guys to do this for me

Would have saved me a lot of
stress

.

.

.

.

INSERT 23

Zahara

Lady : thanks

She says with a smile grabbing
her plastics

I return the smile

I lift my eyes as her scent
catches me

She looks at me and smiles

Like how did this happen ?

Did she just have to rock up
here

Really !

How many stores are there in
Durban

And she just had to be in this
one

I pack the few things she
bought

Royal : hi

Me : hello

She chuckles

Royal : you look good

Me : thanks

She pays and grabs her change

Royal : can we talk ?

Me : I'm at work

Royal : just a minute

Me : I don't have a minute , I don't want to be fired

Royal : okay , when will you be free ?

Me : maybe around lunch

Royal : okay , I'll come around
lunch

Me : I said maybe

Royal : it's fine , I'll take the
maybe

I say nothing

Royal : I'll see you then

I nod and she grabs her plastic
walking out

Sibo : that was cold

Me : no

Sibo : you know she will be here
, now that she knows where you
are

Me : maybe

She laughs

Sibo : you're in denial

I shrug

Sibo : well , let's wait and see if
she doesn't turn up

Me : well I hope she doesn't

Sibo : why not ?

Me : just

Sibo : surely seeing her just
have struck something

How did she even find me ?

Or it was just a coincidence

But I find that very hard to
believe

Maybe it is

I'm sure it's not like she was
busy looking around for me

Me : no, it didn't

Sibo : don't you love her
anymore?

Me : it's not even about that

Sibo : well

Me : let's just not

She nods

.

.

.

.

Cole

Royal : I'll be at the penthouse
for a while

Me : it's cool

Royal : thanks

Me : so you fixing things ?

She laughs

Royal : I don't know what's happening , but I hope we can talk

Me : alright , all the best

Royal : come on , I don't need that . That woman is mine

Me : eh mine , she might have moved on

Royal : moved on how when we didn't break up ? She just upped and left , I don't even get why the disappearance

Me : to teach you a lesson to appreciate being loved right , and finding it as clingy

Royal : come on , I didn't say it like that

Me : I'm sure that's how she received it , you made her feel like she's nagging you somehow

Royal : women are just difficult

Me : says another

Royal : no , but I am not like that

Me : yeah well , you'll see how it goes . At least you found her

Royal : yeah , let me get going

Me : alright sure

I drop the call

Hopefully she won't mess up again

With her words , trying to fix
things only to ruin them worse

Women just interpret whatever
is said to them

However they receive it

-
-
-
-

Zahara

Sibo : what did I say ?

I look over and heave a sigh

Me : eish !

Sibo : I told you

I shake my head slowly

Me : I'm coming

She nods

I walk over to her car

She's leaning against it

Me : hi

She lifts her head and looks at
me

Me : sorry , I didn't think you'll
come really

Royal : it's okay , I didn't mind
waiting . I actually thought I was
late

Me : no , I just left

Royal : I missed you

She takes my hand

Royal : I am sorry babe , I didn't mean to upset you

Me : I thought you needed your space , so you won't feel suffocated by me . Once you feel like someone is clingy on you , and you don't have a breather . You'll start feeling like they're nagging you , I thought its best I leave before it got there . I love hard , and

maybe I'm a fool for love . The relationship with Xola was just one sided , and he was ashamed of me . I wasn't good enough to be his , and I couldn't get away from him . Because I attached myself too much

Royal : you're beautiful , don't ever doubt that . And you don't have to settle for shit , just because you feel you can't find the next best thing . Or because

you think that someone is doing
you a favour by being with you

I let out a smile

Me : you've never made me
doubt myself , but when you
said thatI don't know . It just
felt like it's annoying you ,
unfortunately that's how I love .
But if it's distance you want

Royal : don't say that , because I almost went crazy . I even thought maybe your sister is hiding you away from me , I went to your home twice just asking her the same thing

Me : being here has been good for me

Royal : I see that , but can I take you out on a date

I laugh

Royal : I believe you're still my girl , it's not like you dumped me

Me : mhm

Royal : don't do me like that

She pulls me closer

Placing her hands on my waist

Royal : I still love you

She leans down taking my lips
into hers

We kiss slowly

I sure missed her

Royal : date tomorrow ?

I move back with a smile

Me : yeah

Royal : please don't disappear
on me again , I might not get
everything right . But I'll try

Now I believe this girl loves me

As I am , imperfect and all

She just sees perfection on my
Imperfections

.

.

.

.

INSERT 24

Cole

Dad : how long will you be gone
?

Me : I am not sure

Dad : well , since the minister is
eager to see you so soon , I
hope this means good news

Me : yeah , I hope so too

Dad : have faith

I laugh

Me : I don't get what that is

Dad : Cole

Me : Black , let's not go there

Dad : at least be optimistic

Me : yeah , that I think I am

Dad : well then , all the best

Me : thanks

The minister got in touch

And he is willing to see me
sooner than the week we had
agreed on

So now my trip to Durban is
happening

As in like tomorrow

Because I want the approval for
the hospital as soon as possible

I'm heading there

Me : do you want to come with
?

He laughs

Dad : no , you're coming back
are you not ?

Me : yes I am

Dad : then no , if it was a move I
would consider it

This man !

Me : just thought you'll be
bored on your own , so the trip
might do you good

Dad : just a few days , it won't do any harm

Me : alright , let me pack .
Hopefully Royal won't mind me popping up at the penthouse , I need a place to crash

Dad : why would she ?

I shrug

Me : she said she will be there
for a while

Dad : ah , I don't see a problem
with you being there . Unless
you feel somehow , then I can
book you into a hotel

I chuckle

Trust my father to just be extra
with drama

Me : I have money , like I can afford to book a hotel for myself

Dad : I am just trying to be nice

Me : ey man !

We laugh

I get up walking upstairs

I try calling Royal , but it doesn't go through

Maybe she's with her girlfriend

Thought I should tell her I'm coming

So she just doesn't see me rocking up there unannounced

.

•

•

•

Royal

I wanted to stick around Durban
for a while

Just to be with Zahara

But now my father needs me
home

He needs me to work on his
finances

I could easily do it here

But knowing him

He would rather I be there

And we go through that face to
face

Me : are you good ?

She smiles

Zahara : yeah

Me : you not sad I have to leave
?

She laughs

Zahara : I would occasionally see you anyways , with work and all

Me : where are you staying ?

Zahara : with Sib0

Me : mhm , and all is good ?

Zahara : yeah , she's a good friend

Me : I'm glad , I wish you were on your own though

Zahara : why ?

Me : so I can come see you whenever I can , and spend nights with you

Zahara : that would be nice ,
and I also think being there is
hard on her and her boyfriend

Me : she's dating ?

Zahara : of course she is

Me : how about you move to
the penthouse ?

Zahara : who stays there ?

Me : me when I'm this side

Zahara : alone ?

Me : yeah , so you can stay
there . And I'll get to see you
whenever I can

Zahara : are you sure though ?

Me : yeah , if you're okay with that

Zahara : I'll talk to Sibbo

Me : okay , I'm leaving tomorrow morning . And you'll let me know , so I can organise for you to move

Zahara : thank you babe

She leans over for a kiss

Me : let's go for our dinner

I take her hand and we walk to
my car

I hope she will enjoy this

I really tried to go all out

.

.

.

.

Zahara

Dinner under the moonlight and stars

Like wow !

I am sold and just taken by this

Me : this is beautiful , thank you

She rubs her hand on my arm

Royal : when we have whatever
next time , if it happens . Please
lets both handle it better

Me : I promise we will

She smiles

I lay back

Laying my head on her thighs

Royal : I love you , you know
that ?

Me : I love you too babe

She smiles leaning down and we
kiss

This just feels good

I hope moving to the penthouse
doesn't change things

But I think month end , I can
move out and rent on my own

Hopefully she won't feel
offended by that

Or I'll just have to see how
things go like

As for Sibbo , I know she will be
okay with me moving

Just as long as I keep my job

And I intend to keep it

Royal : why are you eating such
?

I laugh

Me : it's just melted ice cream
with apples

Royal : are you pregnant ?

I burst out laughing

Me : what ?

She shrugs

Me : how would I even ... who is the father ?

Royal : me Please don't look down on my sperms like that

No !

And she is serious saying this

-
-
-

.

Xola

Me : mxm !

I click my tongue putting my
phone away

Max : and now ?

Me : check Royal's IG story

So Zahara has been in Durban
all along

And I thought she just
disappeared

With no one knowing where she
is

Max : wow ! Dinner under the
moonlight and stars

Me : when did she even find her
?

Max : clearly , she turned KZN upside down

Me : this is annoying now , like this nonsense of theirs just keeps on going

Max : these people are in a relationship , and they love each other . Just give it up

I wish it was that easy

.

.

.

.

Mamello

I look at the test again

Me : oh my God no !

This cannot be happening

I just cannot be pregnant

It just can't be

Me : oh my God !

How stupid can I be ?

This is the worst thing that
could ever happen to me

I get up and grab a jacket
walking out

Mom : where are you going ?

Me : to the shop

Mom : at this time ?

Me : I will be back

I run before she says anything
else

.

.

.

.

INSERT 25

Xola

Me : what are you doing here
this late ?

She just burst into a cry

Me : Melo what's wrong ?

She walks in and sits down on
the bed

Me : will you just tell me what
happened ?

Nothing is coming out of her
mouth

Me : how will I help if there's anything that happened , if you're not talking ?

She wipes her tears

Me : what's wrong ?

Mamello : I'm pregnant

Shit no

Me : what ?

She looks at me

Mamello : I am pregnant Xola !

I thought maybe I heard wrong

Me : waithow did that
happen ?

She laughs

Mamello : are you seriously asking me that ?

Me : well , if you're pregnant and you're sure that you are .
Who got you pregnant ?

Mamello : we were always having sex Xola !

She raises her voice

Me : my mother is home ,
you're making noise

She gets up

Mamello : are you denying your
child ?

No ways

This cannot be

Me : We always used condoms

I even hated using those

But Zahara would never ever
sleep with me without a
condom

Mamello would come around
and find condoms

And I said we should start using
them

That's why I have them

And she was okay with that

I haven't slept with her without
a condom , ever since

Like never

Not even once

Mamello : and who said they're
100% ? Condoms break

Me : we've never had sex and a
condom broke , no ways

She tears up again

Me : no it can't be

I heave a sigh

Me : how do you even know
that you're pregnant ?

Mamello : I'm late on my
periods Xola , and I took a test it
came out positive

Me : maybe the test is wrong , I
mean that's possible

Mamello : this is what you're going to do to me when I need you the most ?

Me : well you shouldn't have gone and gotten pregnant , kids need money . Money that we both don't have , as it I was going to stop giving you money . My mother wants me to build

Mamello : Xola !

Me : no , I'm sorry . But we can't have a child , we just can't

Mamello : then what must I do ?

I shrug

Me : I don't know , you'll see what to do . Please leave

Her jaw drops

This is one thing I cannot stand
for

Me : I'm sorry

She slaps me

Mamello : you get me pregnant
, and then you tell me this shit ?

Me : well ...

I open the door

Me : Melo leave , and until you
do so something about your
baby issue we're done

She stands still fuming

Me : do you want me to drag
you out ?

I walk over to her

Mamello : you're such a dog , I
hate you . I wish you die and rot
in hell

I push her out

Me : this is over

I close the door locking

Me : what the fuck !

What the hell would I do with a baby ?

I still refuse that I got her pregnant

Even if a condom burst

Hell no !

Why wasn't she on
contraceptives ?

Girls are supposed to be smart

And they ought to take
precautions for such things

She can't come here and tell me
about a condom that burst

When I don't know that

Even if it did

At least I had a condom

I did my part

She should have done hers

.

.

.

.

Mamello

This cannot be happening to me

It just can't

I'm pregnant

My mother is going to flip when
she finds out

She's even capable of kicking
me out of home

And Xola is denying this baby

I know I am a lot of things

But I'm not a cheater

I've been loyal to that guy

For two years and 6 months

And this is how he treats me.

Even after I've stuck with him

While he's been cheating on me

And just making me a fool

Today he's going to ask me ,
who got me pregnant

Like I'm some whore

Going around opening my
thighs to everyone

I grab my phone and make a
call

Lizo : babe

Me : I need your help

Lizo : what's up ?

I heave a sigh

Me : I'm pregnant

Lizo : what ?

Me : yeah I know

Lizo : does Xola know ?

Me : yeah , I found out today . I went to tell him , and he kicked me out

Lizo : he what ?

Me : he's denying the baby Lizo , and he broke up with me

Lizo : oh shit

Me : I can't be pregnant

Lizo : what are you going to do ?

Me : you know people and
places

She heaves a sigh

Lizo : are you sure ?

Me : yes

Lizo : okay , if you have 2K I can
organise something

Me : it has to be fast , before
my mother finds out

Lizo : even tomorrow , but do
you have the money ?

I take a deep breath

Me : yeah , I do have some money that Xola gave me last week

Lizo : okay , I'll come see you in the morning

Me : thanks

I drop the call

What a fucked up situation

But now with how things have
turned out

I know I can't be pregnant

Not when it's clear I'll be a
single mother

It just cannot be me

Out of all the guys in the world

I just had to fall for a douchebag

I have learnt my lesson

It's a little bit too late

But better late than never

If he thinks anything will happen
between us after this

He has another thing coming

I am so done with him

.

.

.

.

INSERT 26

Zahara

I just moved

Royal left this morning

But made sure my things were
organised

This place is stunning

Sibo was okay with the move

She didn't mind or feel like I'm ditching her

So I feel okay being here as well

Cause she's also okay

I mean , she helped me when I needed help

She opened her place for me

I am very much grateful for that

My shift is after lunch

So I've settled in

It's not like I had too many
things

Just my clothes and that was it

I want to catch some sleep

Before work

The door opens and I turn back

Me : hey you

I freeze as I see who walks in

I thought maybe it was Royal
she turned back or something

Cole : hi

Lord !

Not him please

Like why must he be
everywhere

Like is it that so hard to breathe
?

Because that's what happens
when this guy is in my space

I don't know what's this

From the first time I saw him

Me : uhmwhat are you doing
here ?

Cole : this is my penthouse , I
could be asking you the same
thing

Me : no , I'm sure you're at the
wrong door

But how ?

Cole : no

Me : Royal didn't tell me that ,
she said she lives here alone

Cole : oh yeah she does , but it's
my penthouse . I've been in the
UK , and since she lives this side
I had her looking after it for me.

Oh wow !

Me : uhm

I'm just defeated

I have no words right now

Cole : what are you doing here ?

Me : I didn't know this was your place , I just moved in

Cole : oh I see , well I'm in town for business . And I need a place to crash , I called Royal . She

didn't answer , and she hasn't gotten back to me . She said she will be around here for a bit

Me : she's gone back to the village

Cole : mhm , I guess I'll go to a hotel then . Seeing that the place is occupied

Me : no , let me call her

I grab my phone making a call

It rings and after a while she
answers

Royal : babe

I walk to the kitchen , making
sure Cole is not following me.
So he doesn't hear me

Me : why didn't you tell me the penthouse belongs to your cousin ?

Royal : who told you that ?

I heave a sigh

Me : he did , he's here

Royal : what ?

Me : he says he's here for business , and he called you but you didn't answer . He is right here

Royal : yeah , I saw his missed call . I thought it wasn't serious , I was going to get back to him later

Me : well now he's here

Royal : how long is he going to be there ?

Me : I don't know , it's not like I interrogated the guy

Royal : babe if you're uncomfortable with him being there , he will go to a hotel or something

Me : it's his place

Royal : yeah , but you live there now . You can't move out , just because he's there for a few days . He will be gone

I heave a sigh

Me : can he stay ?

Royal : if you're okay with that

Me : okay , I won't be in his hair
anyways

She laughs

Royal : no , he won't be in your
hair . He's meeting with the
minister of health , he wants to
open his own hospital

Wow that's big

Me : okay

Royal : tell him to stay , I'll call him . As soon as I get home

Me : okay bye

She laughs

Royal : baby no , I love you

I smile

Me : I love you too

Royal : we're cool ?

Me : yeah

Royal : okay

I drop the call

I take a deep breath

Before walking back to the
lounge

He's sitting down and typing
something on his phone

Me : uhm ...she says you can
stay

Cole : are you sure about that ?

Me : me ?

Cole : yes , you live here . I don't
want to make you
uncomfortable

I would be crazy to tell a man to
excuse me out of his house

Me : no , I work at pick n pay .
And I have a shift now after

lunch , we'll probably not even see each other that much

Cole : oh well that sucks

I frown

He gets up

Cole : I'll go take a shower and get a nap

He walks past me , his eyes
gawking at me

I look down not being able to
hold his eyes

As soon as he disappears , I let
out the breath I've been holding
in

I wonder if he looks at everyone
like that

Or it's just me

Lord have mercy upon me

I need food

I should probably get some for
him as well

Wouldn't it be rude if I get only
for me ?

I will only get groceries later
after work

As usual Royal left me money ,
I'll use it for that

.

.

.

.

Mamello

The screams that are coming in
from that room

Have me shaking

Me : are you sure this is safe ?

Lizo : it's an illegal abortion , but
of course it's safe

I don't trust this

Even the place itself is just
shady

I am literally shaking

Lizo : remember why you're
here , and why you're doing this

I nod slowly

Scared as I am

I cannot afford to be with this
child

It's best this way

Please God forgive me

.

.

.

.

INSERT 27

Zahara

I ordered and ate

I got to sleep as I saw he wasn't coming out of his room

I slept

Now I've showered and gotten ready for work

Just as I head to the door he
walks in

Wearing sweatpants and a t-
shirt with sneakers

Me : I'm going to work , your
food is in the food warmer

Cole : you cooked ?

Me : no I ordered , but you
were asleep

Cole : thanks

Me : uhm yeah bye

I walk out

Before he says anything else

If he was going to say
something that is

Not far , I catch a taxi

And when I arrive to work I
head to my locker

I find Sibbo and a few other girls

I greet them they greet back

Sibo : how is your place ?

I laugh

Me : not mine , remember I will
move out month end . Then we
can say my place in a way

Sibo : I don't see the princess
agreeing to that

I chuckle

Me : yeah well , I will not be asking . And his cousin won't just be popping

Sibo : what cousin ?

Me : Cole , the one we met in Joburg

Sibo : what ?

Me : yeah , turns out the place is his . He's here for a few days , and now we're stuck living together for those days

Sibo : whoa ! Do you think it's wise to be living with him there alone ?

Me : come on , I don't see the guy like that

Sibo : yeah , but you don't know
how he sees you

I laugh

Me : the guy is too darn
handsome , and way out of my
league . I am sure he has a
super model girlfriend . And
even if I saw him anyhow , I'm
sure he would never do his
cousin like that

Sibo : you never know

Me : it's cool , Royal seems to trust him . So

I shrug

Sibo : but it's those close to us , maybe he can move to a hotel or something

Me : he suggested that , but
Royal was okay with him staying

Sibo : mhm , maybe you can go
to a hotel

Me : that's dramatic now , he's
just there for a few days and he
will be gone

Sibo : exactly for how many
days ?

Me : I am not sure , but I'm sure
it's not going to be for over a
week

Sibo : okay , I guess it's cool .
You all seem to be okay with
that , after all people are not
the same . I would not trust
myself with a handsome man

We laugh

She's being crazy

Me : let's get to work

We put our bags and walk out

.

.

.

.

Cole

Royal : so you cool ?

I heave a sigh

Me : yeah , you could have told me though

Royal : yeah I know , sorry

Me : no sweat , let me get busy with my presentation

Royal : you got this Black

I chuckle

Me : sure

I drop the call

And close the laptop

I lean back on the couch

I rub my eyes

It was one thing seeing her
those two times

Now staying with her

How will that be like ?

I wish I knew

I wouldn't have come here

A hotel would have worked just
fine

But now leaving will just seem
somehow

.

.

.

.

Zahara

I grab a bit of everything

And walk over to the till

I pay

Sibo : will you be able to grab everything ?

Me : I think I will manage

Sibo : okay

The taxi will drop me right at
the gate

So I think I'll be fine

Sibo : oh my God !

She places her hand on her
mouth

Me : what ?.

Sibo : you won't believe this

Me : what ?

She's gawking at her phone

Sibo : wow !

Me : will you make me ask you
again ?

Sibo : seem like Mamello died ,
from doing an illegal abortion .
And her body was found
dumped not far from the main
road

Me : what ?

I grab her phone

And this is a Facebook post

From a page that goes on to report everything that happens in that village

Me : but how true is this ?

Sibo : they say a friend confirmed this

Me : mhm , we can't believe everything and anything we read on social media

Sibo : oh well

This is tragic , if it's really true

Nowadays people are not
ashamed

They can say anything and
everything

About anyone

Even without actual facts

.

.

.

.

Xola

Me : no !

Royal : unfortunately , and Lizo
confirmed it cause she went
there with her

Shit !

I drop the call

This is all my fault

I drove her to do this

I haven't seen the Facebook
page post

And I had to hear this from
Royal

Meaning it's true

I don't care about the abortion

Yes I didn't want the baby

But she could have asked me
money for a legal abortion

And went to have it the right
way

Not to people who did things
wrong and just dumped her
when she died

Like what kind of cruelty is this ?

And what kind of a friend is Lizo
?

Fuck !

This is messed up

And I feel like I'm to blame for
this

.

.

.

.

Zahara

After hearing the news from
Royal

I just knew it was the truth

Its just sad

Even though she didn't like me

I don't think anyone deserves to
die in this manner

I wonder where is Xola in all of
this

Why would Mamello want to have an illegal abortion ?

Did he even know about the baby or what

Well , that's that

Me : uhm , I hope you're not allergic to anything . I just bought what I eat , and I'm not a picky eater

Cole : don't worry about me , I barely even eat

Oh !

Who doesn't eat , and what does he eat ?.

He looks at me and smiles

Cole : I just don't like eating

Strange

Cole : I'll reimburse you for the grocery , do tell me how much it cost

Me : no , there's no need

Cole : mhm , I will eat cause you'll be the one cooking

What the hell ?

.

.

.

.

INSERT 28

A FEW DAYS LATER

Zahara

Sibo : things still good with your roommate ?

I laugh

Me : yeah

Sibo : we're just a day from a week

Me : don't

Sibo : and he's still here

Me : come on , nothing has happened

She laughs

Sibo : you have more self control than me

Me : stop it

I don't know what's it like living
with Cole

But I just try to avoid him as
best as I can

And the past two days he hasn't
been around that much

He leaves early and comes back
late

So we're not in each other's
space

I don't know when Royal will be
back

She said the royal family is
looking to help with Mamello's
funeral and all

Seems like things are hard

And her mother didn't have a
policy

So she might be a while before
she comes back

I'm sure by then , Cole would
have left

The guy just lives in his own
world

Even after I told him not to
reimburse me

He still did

He left money on the kitchen
counter

And said it's for the groceries

I didn't know how I felt about
that

But it was money

And so I took it

It was even way more than
what I paid

Sibo : let's finish up , so we can
knock off

Me : I could use a hot shower ,
and some comfort food

She laughs

I've never had a fight with food

.

.

.

.

Xola

Royal : I don't understand

Me : she told me she's pregnant
, and I gave her hell about itI
even kicked her out , I told her
that we're over

She shakes her head

Royalty : this doesn't make
sense , why would you do that
?.

Me : don't take offence , but
between the two of them ..I
always imagined Zahara
carrying my kids , not Melo

Royal : okay but come on , you
know you and Zahara are a
thing that's never going to
happen like never . So what did
it matter ?

I shrug

Royal : this is messed up , and
you better keep shut about this
if you don't want to find
yourself in trouble

I haven't even been to her
home

I just can't bring myself to

Guilt is eating me up

Maybe if she went to a legal clinic , none of this would have happened

.

.

.

.

Cole

Dad : so you got it ?

Me : yeah , but there's a
downside to it

Dad : what ?

Me : we will talk when I get
back

Dad : now you want me worried

I laugh

Me : no , why worry ?

Dad : because I don't know
when you're coming back

Me : II will let you know

Dad : meaning you also don't
know

Me : well

Dad : what's going on there ?

Me : dad

The door opens and she walks
in

Me : listen , we will talk later

Dad : avoid me , but I'm happy
you got the go ahead

Me : thanks

I drop the call

Me : hi

Zahara : sorry

Me : it's cool , it was my dad

Zahara : you two seem close

I smile

Me : we're all we have of each other

She nods slowly

Zahara : I'll go shower and come back to cook

Me : you can order in , I'm going out

Zahara : oh ?

She says with a frown

I grab my car keys

Me : have a great night

She nods

Me : I will take my key , just in
case

Zahara : are you going out with friends , colleagues or maybe a girlfriend ?

That maybe a girlfriend part

Comes out as a whisper

And her facial expression ,
expresses regret

Me : no just out

She nods , and is moving her
eyes around too fast

I chuckle

Me : I'll see you

She nods

I walk out

As I get to my car , I heave a
sigh and turn back inside

She's leaning by the kitchen
counter

I walk over and stand in front of
her

As she lifts her eyes and looks at
me

Me : no girlfriend , just a few
guys

She swallows hard and nods

I lean over grabbing the back of
her head

Zahara : Cole

It's so soft

I've never heard such a sweet
melody

I brush my lips over hers

And capture her lips into mine

I give her a kiss

She's holding back slightly

But she gives in kissing me back

.

.

.

.

INSERT 29

Zahara

Oh my God !

I push him back

Me : what the hell ?

Tears burn my eyes , as I realise
what I've just done

Yes he kissed me first

But I also kissed him

I kissed him , and I enjoyed it
very much

Me : this was a mistake

He hasn't moved an inch

Me : please it was a mistake

Oh my God Royal !

How can I ?

This is her cousin

Cole : okay , then there's no need for you to feel bad . Or feel like you betrayed Royal , it was just a kiss that meant nothing and was a mistake to you . Don't beat yourself up about it

Me : she said she will kill me if I dare deal her with a guy

Cole : then don't tell her , it's not like we made love . It was just a kiss

He is so not bothered

I'm the only one panicking about this

Me : this shouldn't have happened

He's just looking at me without
an emotional

Me : I am not a cheater

Cole : you didn't cheat

Me : pleaseit must never
happen again

Cole : Okay

And just like that he walks out

Like nothing happened

Will I even be able to pretend
like nothing happened to Royal
?

What is wrong with me ?

Like why did I even kiss him
back

I should have pushed him

I shouldn't have let that kiss
happen to even begin with

Me : oh my God !

My phone rings

Me : ah ...

And it's Royal

Oh shit !

I move back and pull a chair
sitting down

I ignore the call

.

.

.

.

Royal

Me : and now what ?

I call again , and still no
response

I shake my head calling Cole

Cole : yeah

I laugh

Me : dude is my girl okay ?

Cole : why ?

Me : I'm calling her , and she's not answering my calls

Cole : oh , I left her okay

Me : left ?

Cole : I'm out

Me : okay , well can you call her
?

Cole : whatwhy ?

Me : maybe she will answer
your calls , I just want to know
that she's okay

Cole : eh , I don't even have her number . And maybe she's taking a shower , or sleeping

Me : dude ! Zahara is dramatic , she might not answer me because of some shit I did or said that I'm not aware of

Cole : I think you're exaggerating

Me : just try

Cole : send the number

Me : thanks

I drop the call and send him the
number

.

.

.

.

Zahara

I'm startled by my phone
ringing

And as I'm about to switch it off

I see it's not Royal

Me : hello ?

Voice : stop ignoring her

Shit !

Me : where did you get my
number ?

Cole : she gave it to me

Me : I can'tI can't talk to her
right now , so tell her I didn't
answer your call andI'll think

of something to tell her
tomorrow

Cole : should I come back ?

What is this guy asking me ?

Me : please don't tell her

Cole : I think I will move out to
the hotel

Me : no , we've been living okay
. So if you suddenly move , she
will think something happened .
I can move back , to my friend

Cole : it's the same thing

Shit

He's right

If either of us move out

Royal will want to know what changed

Me : please , what happened can't happen again

Cole : yeah

Me : I mean it

Cole : Zahara I hear you

Now why does he sound so
annoyed

We can't have anything
happening between us

Why did he even kiss me ?

Like Royal is his cousin

Shit !

I am so stupid !

I better get a grip on myself

Before shit gets real

Me : I hope we can keep this
between us , and be like it
never even happened

He drops the call

Me : wow !

Can I trust him not to tell Royal
though ?

Or maybe I should just be
honest

But what if she really kills me ?

.

.

.

.

Cole

Me : just try and call her
tomorrow

Royal : now I'm stressed

Me : come on

Royal : maybe I did something
or said something

Me : you're just overthinking
this

Royal : should I come there ?

I chuckle

Me : why are you asking me ?
She's your girlfriend , you're
being awkward right now

Royal : mhm , eish ! It's a bit hectic here . So I can't come

Me : I'm sure tomorrow she will be the one calling you

Royal : I hope so

Me : yeah , let me go on with my night

Royal : alright , thanks for trying

Me : yeah , stop worrying

She laughs dropping the call

.

.

.

.

INSERT 30

Zahara

I called Royal this morning

And she just sent a text saying
we'll talk later

Maybe she is busy

Cause the day has gone by

And she hasn't gotten back to
me

Maybe it's pay back for last
night

I just have to have my supper
and just sleep

I walk out of the shower
wrapped with a towel

I'm sure Cole didn't come back

I slept past midnight last night

And he was nowhere

Honestly I barely slept because
of that kiss

And it was the one thing on my
mind the whole day

And just making me feel like shit

I grab my phone and call her

It rings for a while

Royal : babe ...

Me : hey , what's wrong ?

Royal : nothing , I am driving
right now

I can hear that

But it's late now , where could she be driving to ?

Me : I've been waiting the whole day babe

Royal : I'm sorry baby , it's been hectic . Are we okay ?

I swallow hard

Me : yes we're okay

Royal : okay , I was worried

Me : no , we're okay

Royal : okay , let's ...coming
therefew days ...

Me : babe you're cutting and
not making sense

Royal : on my way

And the phone gets cut

Me : what ?

I call again and it goes to
voicemail

Is she coming here ?

Or she said in a few days ?

Okay !

I didn't understand that at all

I walk to the kitchen

And make a sandwich

I walk to the lounge , binging on
a series on TV

I eat

After a while a knock comes at
the door

Could it be Royal was coming
here ?

I get up and head over to open the door

I move back seeing Cole

Cole : hi

Me : uhm hi ...

Cole : sorry , I left my key this morning

He gets in and closes the door

Me : you slept here ?

Cole : yes , I had to leave early
in the morning

Me : I slept late , I didn't hear
you come in

Cole : I came in around 03:00

Oh wow !

Me : okay

I turn and my towel just drops

.

.

.

.

Cole

She bends in a hurry to grab the
towel

I grab her arm

And she turns facing me.

I lean over giving her a kiss

I pick her up into my arms and
walk to my bedroom

I lay her down on the bed

Deepening the kiss

She clings her hands on my back

I lower my pants taking my shirt
off

I cup both her boobs rubbing on
her nipples

I take out my dick rubbing it on
her coochie

She parts her legs letting out
slight moans

As I slowly slide through

And her flaps hug tightly on my
dick

Zahara : Ahh..... Not so deep

She grabs on her arms

I thrust in , lifting my head and I
look into her eyes

Her soft moans slowly filling this
room

I thrust in deeper

She closes her eyes , throwing
her eyes back

I pick up my pace

She locks her legs behind my
back

As her cum graces my dick

I slide out a bit , and get on my
knees

Bringing her legs on my
shoulder

I pound in

Just watching her boobs move
up and down her chest

Her moans getting louder and
louder with every thrust

She pushes me back

And screams in pleasure as she
squirts

Grabbing tight on the sheets ,
letting out a scream of pleasure

Zahara : ahhhhhoh shit !
OhhhhCole !

Her lower body shakes

My dick twitches and I shoot up
my load inside of her

I part her legs getting on top of
her

I cup her face

And give her a kiss

Thrusting in slowly in missionary

.

.

.

.

Zahara

Cole : here , it's the morning
after pill

He places the pill and a bottle of
water in front of me

Cole : I will be leaving later on ,
after my meeting with the
minister

I take the pill and water , I drink

Cole : I don't know what this

Me : please , let's not talk about
what happened

Cole : for what it's worth , I
don't have any regrets about it .
And I don't feel bad

Me : I'm with Royal , I love her
please

Cole : and I loved every single
second I had you underneath
me , making love to you and
having you scream my name
out in pleasure

I heave a sigh

I don't want to lie

I enjoyed the sex

Like for the first time ever in my
life

I enjoyed sex with a man

He gave me pleasure that Xola
never did

And now I know

Sex is not only good between
girls

But even with a man and a woman

Just as long as a man knows what he's doing

Me : I think it's a good thing that you're leaving

I get up and walk to the bedroom I am using

It started with a kiss and now
this

I have betrayed Royal

Worse with her cousin

What does this make me ?

Like a whore !

.

•

•

•

INSERT 31

Royal

Kenan : this is important

Me : I know that

Kenan : so I need you headed to Durban for this

I heave a sigh

Me : yeah

Mamello's funeral will be happening tomorrow

Unfortunately I can't be here now because of work

Me : I will be there , I'll drive out tonight

Kenan : if I could do it myself , I would be there

Me : have some faith in me

Kenan : it's not about that , it's just that this is dangerous . And

I would hate to put you in
danger

Me : it's okay , I got this covered

He heaves a sigh

Kenan : I'll be keeping in contact

Me : I don't want to be treated
like a child

Kenan : for your safety Royalty

Me : fine !

I drop the call

I think he's just worrying me

Because this is the first time
he's spoken like that

Making it sound as if I will die

I can handle myself

I've done it before , many times

And I can do it again now

I just have to go see Zahara first

And get on with business
tomorrow

Cole said he's leaving today

Maybe I won't even get to see
him

I will arrive late at night

I call Zahara

I know she's at work now , I'm
just taking a chance

Zahara : babe

Me : I didn't think you will
answer

She laughs

Zahara : I'm getting headache
pills

Me : oh , you're not feeling well
?

Zahara : I will be fine

She doesn't sound well

Me : I will send you money so
you go see a doctor

Zahara : baby , it's not that
serious

Me : it will put me at ease

Zahara : okay

Me : I love you

Zahara : I love you too , I love
you so much

I smile dropping the call

And I send her money

.

•

•

•

Zahara

Sibo : what's wrong ?

Royal sent the money

I didn't even go to the doctor

I know I have a headache

Because of the stress my of
deeds

I feel so cheap

And the worst part is that I
enjoyed the sex with Cole , so
much

I really enjoyed it

I didn't even throw a fit in the
morning waking up on his chest

In his bedroom

Like it was just silence

We barely said anything to each
other

Sure regrets , I do have

But I can't say it was horrible

Because it wasn't

Me : it's nothing

Sibo : something seems to be
stressing you

I can't tell her

No !

I won't

I'm sure she will judge me

I'm already judging myself

And she will be on some I told
you so business

So I don't need all of that

If Royal never finds out this

I swear , I will die with it

And take it to my grave

.

.

.

.

Royal

She's sleeping and so peaceful

Cole called said he's already on
his way to Joburg

I wanted to at least make love
to her

Tell her how much I love her

But now , I don't want to wake
her up

Because I have to leave

I won't be spending the night
with her

I heave a sigh taking out the
ring

I place the note on the night
stand

And take her left hand

Putting the ring on her ring
finger

Me : nothing would make me
happier , than having you as my
wife

I lean down and place a kiss on
her cheek

Me : I will be back for my
answer , in the meantime keep
this ring with you

I get off the bed slowly making
sure I don't wake her up

I take a deep breath , grabbing
my gun and car keys

I walk out making sure she's
locked in well

Her keys are in the key holder

I used mine

.

.

.

.

Cole

Dad : arriving middle of the
night , what happened ?

I look at him

Me : I don't think you want to
know

Dad : talk to me

I heave a sigh

And slightly shake my head

Me : I kissed Zahara a few days ago , and slept with her the night before last

I shake my head slowly

Dad : the girl Royal is dating ?

I nod

Dad : what is that ? Royal is your cousin

Me : I know

Dad : this won't end well Cole ,
and don't create drama for
Something that's not worth it

I don't know about that

Me : anyways , the minister
proposed for the hospital to be
in Durban

Dad : what ?

Me : I heard his reasons and all ,
and I think that could work . You
said you wouldn't mind to move
either , that's the downside to it

Dad : so we're moving there ?

Me : yeah , if I plan to go ahead
with this . Of which I do

Dad : is this about the hospital ,
or its also about this girl ?

Me : I am not there

The look he gives me

He's not convinced at all

.

.

.

.

INSERT 32

Zahara

I look at the ring

And the note

I can't believe she got here and
just left

I must have been dead asleep
that I didn't even hear her come
in

I call her , but her phone rings
unanswered

I heave a sigh

I hope she's okay wherever she
is

I dial his number , after a few
rings he answers

Cole : are you okay ?

I heave a sigh , taking a deep
breath

Me : Royal proposed last night

Cole : what did you say ?

Me : I was asleep , she left a
note and a ring on my finger

Cole : is that what you want ?

I rub my eyes

Cole : I mean , right now are you decided for marriage ?

Me : Cole we can't do this ?

Cole : we can't deny what we felt , from the first time we laid eyes on each other . I know I am not insane , you felt what I felt

Why can't I just have peace ?

Me : we can't do this

Cole : we're not doing anything
, or are we ?

Me : we kissed and slept
together

He chuckles

Cole : until you tell me that you want to be with me , then we're not doing anything

Me : I love Royal , she loves me .
I can't do this to her

Cole : it's normal to feel like someone is your saving grace , after a bad relationship and you get into a good one . But it

doesn't always mean , the
person is your forever

Me : we can't hurt her like this

Cole : we haven't hurt anyone

Me : what do you think she will
say , or how she'll feel when she
finds out ?

Cole : she's not going to find out anything , unless you change your mind

Me : no please , let's keep our distance from each other

I don't trust myself around this guy no more

And this won't end well

Cole : if that's what you want , I will respect it . And I won't force myself on you

Me : thank you

Cole : so you're going to marry her ?

I keep quite

I don't know

Because I think our relationship
is still new for marriage

It's only been close to four
months

Are we even ready for such a
big step ?

Maybe she is

But considering the events of
the last few days

I doubt I am

Right now I don't know what's
what anymore

Me : bye

Cole : okay , take care of
yourself

Me : you too

Cole : for your sake , I hope you know what you're doing

Me : Cole please ...

Cole : no , I hope you're marrying her because you want to . And not because you feel you should , as some payment

to her for loving you right .
Which is something every other
human being deserves

Me : she does love me right

Cole : yeah , but you don't owe
her for it

Me : please

Cole : bye

He drops the call

I heave a sigh putting my phone
on the night stand

I place the note back where I
found it

And lay back down

My mind running wild with
thoughts

.

.

.

.

Cole

Me : I am not building a hospital from scratch , I'm buying one that's facing closure . I don't want to invest , I'll rather buy it

Dad : I thought you were building

Me : that was the plan , but I think this is a much better alternative

Dad : so the move ?

Me : we'll just have to buy a place

Dad : what about the place you have ?

Besides the fact that Zahara stays there

And I'm sure she didn't sign up to live with my dad and I

I also know he will prefer staying in a house

Than at the penthouse

It's like not like there's anything
keeping us in Joburg

He's long retired

Me : out of the question

Dad : I won't even ask

Best we leave it at that

At least he's okay with the
move

.

.

.

.

Xola

The funeral was sad

I couldn't even see her mother

I know somehow she will blame
for this

For getting her daughter
pregnant

I blame myself enough

But I still say had she asked for
money

And went to a clinic

None of this would have
happened

I just stayed back from
everything

The royal family came through
for them

Max also came just for support
to me

Royal did say she won't be
around

She has to go to Durban

Max : did you see this ?

I look at his phone

Thinking it's those disgusting posts about Mamello

But its Royal

I dart my eyes off his post before even seeing

Max : and now ?

Me : I'm not interested

Max : I guess you'll make a
great best man

I look at him feeling my chest
closing up

It can't be

.

.

.

.

Royal

Me : and ?

She smiles

Me : babe , give me an answer

Zahara : I love you

Now I'm scared I'm going to get
a no

Me : whatever you decide I will
understand

I will be sad no lies

If she says no

She leans over , taking my lips
into hers and we kiss

I feel the cold metal on her
finger

Damn !

She's still wearing my ring

This settles it

.

.

.

.

INSERT 33

A MONTH LATER

Royal

Me : I think it's time we tell my
parents about our engagement
now , and everyone else

She looks at me

Me : it's been a month babe ,
that's too long . I am ready to
make you a wife

She gets off the bed with a
smile

Zahara : should I still be moving
?

Me : no

I don't get this whole moving of hers

We're here , and Cole hasn't been around

Me : when we get married , we can go get our own house . If that will make you happy

Zahara : yeah , I think we should

She puts her hands on my
shoulders

Me : so ?

She smiles

Zahara : it's okay , you can tell
your parents . But them first ,
before this goes to Instagram

We laugh

Me : I had already posted something , Xola and some people know we're engaged

Zahara : but it's not like it was broadcasted out there , irrelevant people know

I laugh

Me : let me go

She pecks my lips a few times

Zahara : I don't know where
you're going , or what you're
going to do but please be safe

Me : always

Zahara : I love you

Me : I love you too

We kiss for a while

I pull back , and she walks back
to the bed

Me : I'll see you later , then we
can drive to the village together

Zahara : I will be here

I smile grabbing my car keys

I walk out , as my phone rings

Me : Black

Kenan : you're ready ?

Me : as ever

Kenan : this is the biggest heist
we've ever pulled

Me : don't worry , I'm ready

Kenan : I'll see you soon

I drop the call getting into my
car

.

.

.

.

Cole

The move here wasn't that bad

The hospital is up and running

Just that there's still a lot of
work to do

But we're coming along fine

My father is happy at the new
house

He's made friends around

Business friends that is

I haven't seen Zahara or Royal

Even though Royal knows I've
moved here

I'm just an hour away from the
penthouse

But I'm respecting Zahara

She said we should keep
distance and that's just what
I'm doing

Royal said they're engaged

Not that I ever doubted she will
accept that proposal

I knew she will

Out of guilt

Our last conversation , her
words were just giving

That she will accept

I'm just going on with life

Navigating owning a hospital

And being an HOD of all doctors

Work keeps me busy and sane
at the moment

The door opens

I'm at work , and it's my dad

He doesn't seem happy

Me : what's happening ?

He sits down

Dad : I am tired of your uncle

Me : what has he done now ?

Dad : he called like 15 minutes ago , and it sounded

He heaves a sigh

Me : dad !

Dad : there was a shootout

Me : what ?

I get on my feet

Where the fuck is Royal in all of
this ?

Because where Kenan is

Royal has to be there

Me : are they okay ?

He lifts his eyes and looks at me
with silence

I call my uncle , it goes to
voicemail

I call Royal

It doesn't even go through

My insides go cold

.

.

.

.

Zahara

I've long been ready

And waiting on Royal to arrive
so we can leave

But it's been an hour already

Her phone is not going through

It doesn't even ring for a second

There's no one else I can call

I can't call Cole

Maybe he might know where
she is

But everything has been okay

Ever since I kept my distance
from that guy

As for Xola , he's just the last
person I can call

Now I am worried

A knock comes at the door

It's not like her

And she left with her keys

So why would she knock

I get up and open , I freeze

Cole : can I come in ?

Not this again !

Please no !

Cole : it's about Royal

That gets my attention

Me : is she okay ?

I make way for him

He walks in

Cole : come sit down

Me : don't scare me , we're
supposed to go to the village to
tell her family about the

engagement . She's not yet
back , is she okay ?

I sit down

Me : Cole ?

Cole : sheshe was doing a job
, and there was a shootout with
the cops

No !

Me : noCole

Tears burn my eyes , and just
stream down my face

I break down , crying my eyes
out

I don't even care when he holds
me into his arms and hugs me
so tight

.

.

.

.

INSERT 34

Cole

Me : I'm sorry

Zahara : noit can't be , she was okay . She was okay

I get up and sit next to her

It took a while to get her to calm down

And I can't have her crying like that again

My uncle just had to put a
bullet through his skull

Right after seeing Royal was
shot and dead

Me : it's the job she was doing

She sniffs

Zahara : what ?

I keep quite

She holds my hands

Zahara : please , her father once
said to me it's always best to
know the person you are with . I
think , I didn't know Royal

Me : she wasyou don't need
to know this . But just know ,
not everything she was doing

was legit . And she was in it with her father , and now they're both gone

Zahara : what

Me : the police say my uncle shot himself when he saw Royal lying in a pool of her own blood , she was shot by the police . And she killed 4 cops , they were not going to let her go

Her jaw drops

Me : I am really sorry

I just came here after we got
the call from the cops

And we had to identify the
bodies

Me : my father has gone to the
village , I can take you if you
want to go there

She looks at me wiping her
tears off

She leans over and gives me a
kiss

I shake my head slowly closing
my eyes

Me : are we going ?

Zahara : not tonight , we'll leave tomorrow

Me : okay , you can come sleep at my house . I don't want my dad being alone when he gets back , he's really hurt by this . His brother was the only person he had

Zahara : I just want you to make
me forget

Me : wait

Zahara : please

She gets up and takes her
clothes off

Me : you're hurting right now , I don't want to

Zahara : it's not like you don't know me like that Cole

My dick gets hard just at her sight

I get up and pull he closer to me.

Ravishing her lips as I take my
clothes off

.

.

.

.

Zahara

This whole sight is just sad

I've never heard such a piercing
cry

Like the queen let out

Now I wish I didn't come here

I wish I stayed back

Queen Zenkosi : this is all his
fault

She looks at Cole's father

Queen Zenkosi : your brother
did this , he had my child killed .
And for the coward that he is ,
he killed himself . He killed my
child , it's his damn fault !

This woman is in pain

And she's spitting

Queen Zenkosi : you Black
people ...

Cole : enough !

Oh my God !

I look at him

He's furious

He has veins popping on his
forehead

Cole : you are not going to shift the blame to my uncle , your daughter was raised by you and your royal people with your moral ways . You raised her , she turned out a criminal being raised by you . He did not put a gun on her forehead to follow his ways , she did it willingly . She wanted to traffic girls , she wanted to sell them for sex trade and slaves . That's what she wanted , even though you

raised her well . So don't come here and try to clear yourself , using my uncle ...he was a coward sure . But he did not turn Royal into a criminal , she wanted that . She chose her path

Wow !

LikeI am speechless and out of words

And not in a good way

Believe me

After everything I've just heard

I see just how I didn't know

Royal

I feel in love with a monster

And I was oblivious to that

He gets up

Cole : we Black people are going to bury Royal , she's ours after all and just like us . We will bury her , if you care to come bury the criminals we will let you know

He looks at me

And right now , I don't even
know why I am here

His father walks out , and he
holds his hand out

I clear my throat and take his
hand

I bow my head before the king
and queen

We walk out heading to his car

He opens the door for me , and
he walks to the other side

Cole : direct me

I say nothing as he drives out of
the palace

I look at him

Me : by the shop we passed

He just nods

The drive is just silence

Me : the house by the corner

He goes on to park right by the
gate

I heave a sigh

Me : that was harsh

Cole : I'm sorry about that , but
Zenkosi thinks she's the shit

Okay !

He is annoyed

Me : canwhen will the funeral happen ?

Cole : I will let you know , and I'll make sure you're there

Me : thank you

I blink my tears off

Me : do you think you can give me a few days to gather a place

to stay ? I can go to my friend ,
just until I find mine to rent

Cole : no ...

Me : please I

Cole : why do you want to move
?

I look at him

Me : Royal is no more , and well
I can't stay in your place
anymore

Cole : that doesn't make sense ,
the penthouse is okay for you ..I
don't live there . I have a house
now in Durban , I'm okay there
..I'll give you the deed of the
penthouse , so it can be yours

Me : what ?

I look at him shocked

Cole : if you want it , you'll keep
it

Me : but ...

Wow !

I don't believe this

Cole : if Royal was to move , I would sell the penthouse . But you're staying there , I'm good with that

I don't believe this

Me : you're strange

He smiles

Cole : I have to go

Me : uhmcan I please just see my sister , and go back with you ? I really don't know what I'm doing here

He chuckles

Cole : go on , I'll wait

I get out of the car and walk inside the yard

.

.

.

.

INSERT 35

Zahara

Sasa : you look good

I smile just so awkward

Sasa : so you're in Durban ?

Me : yes

Sasa : okay

This is just awkward

Sasa : I heard

I look at her with a frown

Sasa : about the princess , I am
sorry

Me : yeahI'm from the palace
, and it ...

I shake my head

Me : it didn't go well

Sasa : what ? They kicked you out ?

Me : no , the families . From her father , and well the queen . It didn't go well

Sasa : oh , I guess that happens with every family in times like this

I heave a sigh

Me : yeah I guess

Sasa : so now what ?

Me : I'm still going back to Durban , I wasn't staying with Royal anyways . I have a job , and I like it there .. possibly now I have a place , there's I'm just not coming back home

Sasa : it sounds like you're all
grown now

I smile

Sasa : do come home once in a
while , don't be a stranger

Me : yeah

I think this is like the first civil
conversation we have ever had

I don't know in how long

And it kind of feels somehow
good

Sasa : how are you doing , like
really ?

Me : I don't know

I shake my head

I don't know how I'm feeling or
how I'm doing

Right now I just feel like I have
my emotions all over the place

And I'm just trying to deal

No !

I am not trying to deal

I don't believe this

I just don't

We were happy

We were engaged , and going
to announce to everyone

And now , just like that she's
gone

She's gone and it's all over , just
like that ?

I feel hands around me

And I realise , I'm crying my
eyes out

I hug her back

Sasa : oh I'm sorry

I hold tight on her

.

.

.

.

Xola

Me : Cole ?

He turns and looks at me

Cole : hey man

I walk over to him

Me : hey , it's been how long ? 4
years

He chuckles

Cole : yeah , you look good man

Me : oh well , it's really you

We laugh

Me : I could be asking what brings you to our village , but considering what happened that would just be stupid

He heaves a sigh

Me : I am sorry man

Cole : yeah me too

Me : I'm actually just having trouble , I mean a month back I lost my girlfriend . And now Royal is gone , it's just so hard to believe

Cole : you live by the sword ,
you die by the sword

Me : this is all just hard to
believe

Cole : it is what is it ...

I turn over hearing her laugh

I can't believe she's here

After not seeing her for over a
month

She hugs with her sister , and
walks over to us

As her sister goes back inside
the house

She looks at me

And I guess this is really how it
feels when someone is so over
you

That they're not even bothered
by your sight

Me : hi

Zahara : hey

Me : I'm sorry about Royal

She just nods and looks at Cole

Cole : you done ?

Zahara : Yes we can go

What the hell ?

So the two know each other

But where is she going with him
?

Cole : Xola , it was nice seeing
you again man

Me : yeahwhat's happening with the funeral ?

Cole : the royals will announce once they know

He opens the door for Zahara

She gets in the car

Me : so you two ?

He laughs

Cole : I said nothing man , bye

We shake hands

.

.

.

.

Cole

Me : are you okay ?.

She nods

Me : what was that back there ?

Zahara : an ex

Me : mhm , I see

She lays back adjusting her seat

Zahara : where is your father ?

Me : already on his way back
with his detail

Zahara : detail ?

I chuckle

Me : all in due time

She smiles

Me : are you not hungry ?

Zahara : no

Me : you have to eat , and
you're not going to starve
yourself on my watch

Zahara : I can't stomach
anything

Me : you'll just have to

She heaves a sigh

Me : I'm going to stop at the
garage

Zahara : don't waste money

Me : it's a long drive back

Zahara : I know that

Me : so you're going to eat

She closes her eyes

And keeps quiet getting
comfortable

She will just have to eat , even if
she doesn't want to

I know people grieve differently
and all

But I doubt she's even grieving
right now

I'm here , and maybe I'm just a
distraction to her pain

Maybe on her own , it will sink
in

Cause right now , it doesn't seem like it

.

.

.

.

INSERT 36

Zahara

I walk in the lounge

He's sitting by the one sitter
couch

With a glass of whiskey , or is it
scotch ?

He rubs his eyes

And lift his eyes looking at me

We have that stare for a minute

He goes on to take a sip from
the glass

Me : hey

I walk over to him

I sit on his lap

I slept and just woke up

I saw I was in the penthouse

Just wondered when did we
even get here

I wasn't even aware that he's
here

Me : I'm sorry

He chuckles

Cole : it's cool

Me : no , you're hurting

Cole : aren't we all ?

Me : don't hold back your
emotions

Cole : says you ?

Me : what ?

Cole : you haven't cried since
the day before last

Me : yeah well

Cole : what does that mean ?

He puts his hand on waist

Me : crying won't help , it won't
bring her back . Being sad ,

doesn't mean life has to be on
hold

Cole : is it ?

I smile

Me : I think me and you , we
need space from each other ..I
cheated on Royal with you , and
hearing she's no more you're

the first person who's arms I fall
into

Cole : is that what you want ?

Me : it's for the best , I want
nothing right now ..and I'm
definitely not in the right space
for anything

Cole : I'll be waiting

I smile

Cole : I should get going

Me : don't crazy , it's late at night

Cole : my place is not far

Me : come on , it's not like I was kicking you out . Let's go to bed , you'll leave in the morning

Cole : I'll bring your keys , so I
can stop popping up in your
house

I laugh

Cole : and I'll tell you what's
happening with the funeral

Me : okay , let's go to bed

I get up and hold his hand

Cole : so I'm sleeping alone ?

Me : it's a cold night

He chuckles picking me up

And walks to the bedroom

.

.

.

.

Cole

Me : you'll get a pill , or should I bring it ?

Zahara : I'll get one , on my way to work

Me : okay , don't forget please

She laughs

Zahara : I won't

Me : I'll come later

Zahara : alright

I grab my phone and watch with
car keys

I lean over and give her a kiss

Me : bye

Zahara : drive safe

I walk out of the bedroom

I grab a bottle of water walking
out to my car

My phone rings as I drive out

And it's my dad

Me : dad

Dad : where are you ?

Me : on my way home now

He heaves a sigh

Dad : Zenkosi and her husband
would like to talk

Me : about what ?

Dad : assuming what happened

Me : I am not interested , so
you can talk to them . And tell
me what they said

Dad : are you sure ?

Me : yes

Dad : okay then

Me : are they coming or you're going there ?

Dad : told them to come , I won't grovel to them just because they're royal

I laugh

Me : my good man

Dad : just get home , stop with
the sleep overs . We have death
in the family

Me : yeah , I'm on it

He drops the call

I laugh shaking my head

.

.

.

.

Zahara

Me : yhoh !

Sibo : I am sorry ...

Me : no stop , if I hear sorry one more time I am going to burst .

Or see these looks of pity I've
been getting all day long

Sibo : I guess people just don't
know what to say , or how to
react

Me : I am not being somehow ,
but death comes . It's just there
, and there's nothing we can do
about it . Everyday , someone
out there loses a loved one's .
We can't cry all day everyday

She laughs

Sibo : sorry , but you're creepy
right now

Me : no , don't get me wrong . I
am hurt and all , but no
emotion whatsoever or reaction
is going to bring her back or
change all this

Sibo : I wish I was like you

Me : don't , it makes you look like you don't care ...or you're unrealistic

Sibo : strange

I shake my head

Me : I need to head to the pharmacy

Sibo : for ?

Me : you don't wanna know

I couldn't go this morning

So I have to go now get that pill

I cannot afford not to get it

.

•

•

•

Xola

Max : what ?

Me : I don't understand

Max : but you just said it

Me : yeah , I saw them last night
. And there was just something
between them

Max : that's crazy

Me : I wouldn't be surprised , if
she ditched Royal for Cole

Max : they were engaged !

Me : mxm ! Zahara is just
turning to be a whore as of late
, just opening her thighs for
everything and everyone

I get up rubbing my knuckles

Max : you're obsessed

Me : I'm not , it's not a loss .
Clearly she's loose

He burst out laughing

And I know he's just fucking
with me

.

.

.

.

INSERT 37

Cole

Brian : is she okay ?

I look at him

And turn over looking at who
he's looking at

And I see it's Zahara

I heave a sigh , looking around

I see no one is paying attention

Me : I'm coming

He nods

I pat his shoulder walking over
to her

Me : hey

She wipes her tears and looks at
me

Me : what

She shows me the ring

Zahara : I don't know what to
do with it anymore

This is a tough one

Zahara : if allowed , I would let
her leave with it

Me : you can

Zahara : really ?

I nod

I take her hand and walk over to
the casket

She's looking drained

I haven't seen her in three days

Since I last went over to the
penthouse

To give her the keys

Me : I'll give you space

Zahara : no ...

She takes a deep breath

Zahara : please

I nod

She puts the ring on a chain

And places it on her chest

More tears just stream down
her face

Me : it's okay , I know you love
her and she knows that .

Despite everything , it's sad
because no one ever knows the
time

She looks at me and nods

Me : it's time

I take her hand

And we walk out to my car

Me : uhm ..my cousin Brian will
come with us

She just nods

Me : you don't look okay , did
you eat ?

She shakes her head

Me : you have to eat

Zahara : I am trying

Me : I am not letting you starve yourself

Zahara : I am not doing that

The back door opens

Brian gets in

Me : can you find me a sandwich in the house ?

Brain : any ?

Me : yeah

He walks out

I lean over by the car window

I'm just glad we're getting this over and done with

And Zenkosi didn't cause any drama

They just asked to pay for a portion of the funeral for Royal

And we were okay with that

Brian walks back and gets in the car

Brian : I got juice

Me : thanks

I lean to the back and take the juice and sandwich from him

Me : here , eat ...

She looks at me and ends up
taking them

A few cars drive out behind me

And I finally drive out of the
yard

.

.

.

.

Xola

Max : funerals always make everyone sad

Me : I think it's because everyone can relate

We're at the graveyard

And they're now pouring soil on
the grave

Covering it

Me : everyone has lost
someone to death , and this
part always hits harder .
Because it sinks in that the
person is gone , and never
coming back . Everything is just
so final

Right now I wish I had done
better with Mamello

Maybe she would still be here

Looking at the queen , seeing
the pain on her face

I know no parent ever wants to
bury their child

Mamello was her mother's only child

I could only imagine how she felt like

I can't believe Royal is gone just like that

She really was a true friend

And she stood her ground on
anything and everything she did

She didn't hide anything to
spare anyone

Such people are rare

.

.

.

.

Cole

Zahara : I am going home

We're done now heading home

I made sure to keep an eye on
her all the time

Me : you don't want ...

She shakes her head

Me : don't do anything stupid

She smiles

Zahara : I am not like that , I just don't want to be around people right now

I nod

Me : uhm ...let me find Brain , he will catch a ride back with anyone

Zahara : you don't have to drive
me , I'll find my way

Me : no

I open the door for her

She gets in

Me : I'm coming back

She nods

I close the door making sure to
lock

I don't trust this one

She can just walk out of the car

I wouldn't even know where
she went

.

•

•

•

Zahara

Me : you take care of yourself

He smiles

It's late in the afternoon

He came here

Said he came to check on me

To see that I'm okay

But I'm fine

Cole : so you were serious ?

I laugh

Me : yes , this space between us
is very much needed

He chuckles with a nod

Me : I don't mean it in a bad
way

Cole : I know

He leans over and we kiss for a few minutes

Cole : I guess I'll see you around

Me : mhm , maybe . Stop popping around here

He laughs

Cole : I'll respect that

Me : if things weren't the way
as they were , we would stand a
chance at something

He places his hand on my waist

Cole : after those words , I'm
clinging to the first time I saw
you

Me : come on , the situation is
messed up

Cole : I don't know , but you bet
your fat ass I'll be seeing you
again

We laugh

Me : go , and thanks for this
place

I got the signed deed

When he brought the keys

I can't believe I now own my
own place

And all this is thanks to Royal

If it wasn't for her

I wouldn't have met Cole

And we wouldn't be here

Cole : this is not goodbye , I
don't do those things

He pecks my cheek and passes
over heading to the door

Not him spanking my ass

Me : dude !

He laughs going out

I stand by the door frame
watching him

He leans by his car looking at
me

I laugh going out to him

I lean over for a kiss of which he
gladly welcomes

Me : stay good

Cole : always

He opens the door , I move back
as he gets in

As he drives out , I take a deep
breath closing the gate and
heading back inside

This is it

It's just me now

Just me , and no one else

.

.

.

.

INSERT 38

THREE MONTHS LATER

Zahara

Sibo : what are you going to do
?

I look at her

Sibo : but I am lost friend

I walk over to the couch and sit
down

Sibo : so ?

Me : it's Cole

Sibo : who is that ?

She sits down

Sibo : I didn't know you're
seeing someone

Me : I am not

Sibo : then

Me : I cheated on Royal

Sibo : what ?

I nod

Me : not proud of that

Sibo : this Cole is ?

Me : mhm , her cousin from her father's side

She pops her eyes

Her jaw drops

Sibo : cousins ?

Me : I've judged myself enough
thank you

Sibo : come on , I'm not even there . I am just shocked

Me : yeah well

Sibo : at least it's not Xola

We laugh

Me : come on

Sibo : no like for real , I would
be very disappointed

Me : are you not ?

Sibo : isn't this Cole the one you
were staying with at the
Penthouse ?

Me : it is

Sibo : I knew it

Me : yes you told me so , and
yeah something did happen

Sibo : friend ...!

Me : now this

Sibo : it's a gift , beautiful gift at
that

Me : he never asked for this

Sibo : yeah , neither did you

Me : but ...

Sibo : no , now the question is
what are you going to do ?

Me : do I tell him or not ?

Sibo : only you know that

It's been a months of craziness

Just me and work

Having Sibbo by my side

Not been to the village

Haven't seen my sister

But we speak now on regular
basis

I can't say our relationship is of
greatness

But it's steps from what it was

And I haven't seen nor heard
from Xola

That's one chapter I'm happy
that it's out of my life and done
with

I've moved now from packing groceries

I'm at the till , now a cashier

During weekends , I cook and sell plates of all kinds of foods

I'm also baking , selling on regular basis

Even at work

That's something I'm thinking I can turn into a very profitable business

Selling cookies and cakes , along with scones and muffins

I'm always sold out at the end of the day

So it hasn't been all that bad

Because now I have something
I'm leaning on , for an extra
income

Royal left me a portion of her
money , and her car

Of which I couldn't keep

I told her family to keep them

I feel guilty enough

And I really don't deserve her
thighs

.

.

.

.

Cole

Max : you have surgery in three
house

Me : that's

I shake my head

Max : the kid from Joburg

Me : that's today ?

He nods

Me : shit !

Max : slipped your mind ?

I chuckle

Me : it's not my biggest , so I wasn't prioritising it . But nonetheless I am ready for it

We get up

Having Max as my assistant has
come in handy

He approached me after the
funeral

Right after the news of the
hospital broke

And people knew there were
openings

And it wasn't closing anymore

I gave him the job

And to this day , I haven't
regretted it

Me : I'll see you after the
meeting

Max : Alright

We part ways as I walk to the
boardroom

The board members are here

We're just going to go through
the progress of the hospital

Since it opened officially two
months ago

Under my leadership and
ownership

My father also came through

And he invested , got himself a
seat on the board

That's one relationship that's
working best

.

.

.

.

Zahara

I can't believe I am here

I take a deep breath

Just looking at myself

I think I am dresses decent

Me : what do you care ?

I shake my head

And walk inside heading to
reception

Me : uhm hi ...

The receptionist looks at me
and smiles

Her : hi

Me : is Dr Black in ?

Her : do you have an
appointment ?

Me : no

I could have just called him

But I don't know if he still uses
the same number as before

We haven't spoken since the
funeral

It's been three months of
silence and space between us

Her : I'm afraid

Me : please , I need to see him
it's important

Her : Dr Black is a very busy
man , this whole hospital relies
on him . So I'm sorry , but you
can't see him without an
appointment

I heave a sigh

Taking a deep breath

Me : can't you just call him , and see if he can't see me ?

Her : no , make an appointment ..he's in a very important meeting right now and

Voice : Zahara ?

I turn , and I'm stunned for a few seconds

Getting lost in his eyes

But seeing his father next to
him gets me in my sane mind

Me : hiMr Black

He smiles and nods

My palms sweat as I look at
Cole

Did I make the right decision
coming here ?

.

.

.

.

INSERT 39

Zahara

Cole : it's good to see you again

I smile

Cole : what brings you by , are you sick ?

Me : no , why?

He raises his brow

This is a hospital , dumb me asking such a question

Me : Iyou look like you're in a hurry

Cole : yeah , I'm headed home .
I need something , I have a
surgery in two hours

Me : oh okay

Cole : what's wrong ?

Me : nothnothing , I just
wanted to talk to you about
something

Cole : okay

Me : but you're having a busy day , so it can wait

Cole : are you sure ?

Me : yes

Cole : okay let's do this , how about I come see you ?

Me : okay

Cole : greatyour ride home ?

Me : don't worry , I got a cab

He smiles

This man looks so good

Me : bye

He nods and I turn walking
outside of the hospital

.

.

.

.

Cole

Damn it felt so good seeing her

After all these months of total
silence

And not even bumping into
each other

And today she came to see me

Like she was there

I could have spared her even a
minute

Dad : that's still nothing ?

I laugh

Me : you know she just rocked
up

Dad : you've been stuck on her
for ...

Me : we're not doing that , I'm
not talking to you about this

Dad : you're not getting
younger Cole , do you want me
to die without a daughter in-law
and grandkids ?

Me : let'sno !

I drive out

Dad : it's very

I laugh

I spot her by the gate , I stop
the car

Dad : here we go

I wind my window down with a
chuckle

Me : a cab ?

She smiles shyly

Zahara : on its way

She's damn glowing

Like she looks so totally
different

And it's a good difference

Me : where are you headed ?

Zahara : home

Me : get in the car

Zahara : the cab ...

Me : get in the car

I open the back door , and she
gets in with a smile

Me : that wasn't hard

My father chuckles

This one better not make
anything awkward here

I drive off heading to the
penthouse

I keep looking at her at the
mirror , throughout the quite
ride

And at some point , she catches
my eyes

And just looks down

I park by the gate

And get out along with her

Zahara : thank you for the ride ,
even though ...

Me : I know

Zahara : uhm , don't be late for
your surgery

Me : I am dying to know what
finally got you to reach out , like
can we talk now ?

She laughs

Me : I will come , because I
want to know

I lean closer to her

Me : you're still beautiful as
ever

She smiles

I place a peck on her lips

Zahara : bye

Me : mhm , it's not goodbye

She laughs opening the gate

I turn over and walk inside the
car

I get in

Dad : and that's

Me : no

He laughs as I drive off

Now I just want to be done

So I can hear what brought her
by

.

.

.

.

Zahara

I open the door , still sleepy as I
am

I rub my eyes and he smiles

Me : what

Cole : I'm sorry I woke you up , I
just couldn't sleep without
knowing

This guy !

Me : come in

He walks in , I close the door

Cole : I bought food

Me : I am hungry , been
sleeping since I got back

We sit down

I open the takeaway bag

And smile

Me : thanks

Cole : you're welcome

Me : I am sure you just want to know why I came to you , after I said space was needed

He chuckles

Cole : well ...three months is
also just a long time of space

I slightly laugh

Me : I am not telling you this to
do something , or feel obligated
to anything . I could have just
kept quiet , but my

consciousness is just not letting
me

He frowns

Cole : okay

I get up

Me : I'm coming

I walk to my bedroom and grab
the boxes from the night stand

I take a deep breath walking
back to the lounge

I sit down and hand him both
boxes

Me : I'm pregnant , I found out
yesterday

He opens the boxes and takes
out both tests

Cole : this far ?

I nod

Cole : this happened ...

Me : the first time we slept
together , I don't know how ...I
really don't know . I took the pill

, you saw that you were there .
You gave me the pill ...

Cole : I'm going to be a father ?

It's like he doesn't believe

Cole : damn , I'm going to be a
father

He looks at me

Me : I don't ...

Cole : these things happen , like the pills don't always work all the time . They're just like condoms , it's not 100% guaranteed

I heave a sigh

Me : I just thought you should know

Cole : please tell me we're keeping the baby ?

Me : I did not even think of terminating

He just engulfs me into a tight hug

Cole : thank you so much

Okay !

I must say I did not expect this

.

.

.

.

INSERT 40

Zahara

I was scared

But his reaction , has taken
away all that fear

Right now I'm just like

What would have happened if
Royal was still here

I was with her for a month

And that time I was pregnant
with Cole's child

Like I'm four months pregnant

Me : I didn't think you'll be this
happy

Cole : why not ? This is exciting ,
we're having a baby

Me : because you didn't ask for this

Cole : this is our baby , we made this baby . And he's here , because he was supposed to be

He leans over and places his hands on my tummy

Having a big body

I didn't even notice any changes
on my body

I'm just still my usual size

Cole : hey buddy ...

I laugh

Me : it could be a girl

He chuckles

Cole : still , she will still be her
daddy's best friend

Me : awkward

Cole : don't be that mommy

What the hell ?

He plants a few kisses

Me : for what it's worth , I hope
you get your boy

Cole : I don't care either way

He lifts his head

We lock eyes

And there's still just that spark
in his eyes

He leans over capturing my lips
into his

.

.

.

.

Cole

Zahara : there's two of us now

I laugh laying her down

Me : and I can still carry you

She parts her legs

And I lean down

Burying my head between her
thighs

I plant kisses on her coochie ,
before parting her lips with my
tongue

She places her hands on my
head

I nibble on her clit , bringing my
finger over to her open

I slide my finger in , and slowly
moving it in and out

Zahara : Ahhhh

I move up and rub my dick on
her wet coochie

Grabbing on her thighs , I slide
through slowly

Her walls open up

Zahara : shit

I thrust in slowly

Her warmth just welcoming me

Me : I fucking missed you

She grabs on the sheets , her
cum gracing my dick

And her screams of pleasure
fills the room

.

.

.

.

Zahara

I rub my eyes walking in the
kitchen

And I pop my eyes just shocked

Cole : hey mommy

Me : hey yourself ..

He walks over and pecks my lips

Me : what'sare you trying to
burn my kitchen ?

Cole : no

Me : what's this ?

I walk around , and I'm shocked

Me : it's like a tornado has hit
this kitchen , was this hurricane
Harvey ?

Cole : wait ...I was trying to
make you guys breakfast

Me : right ?

Cole : that bad ?.

Me : horrible

He bites his lower lip

Cole : well there goes nothing

Me : we appreciate this , and
you . But don't cook again

I laugh shaking my head

Cole : got it , I'll just order

Me : thanks

Cole : so , can we go see the
baby ?

Me : like ?

Cole : like a scam , doctors
appointment

Wow !

I guess someone is really happy
about this

Me : we can

Cole : thank you

He walks over and we kiss

.

.

.

.

Cole

Zahara : I thought we're seeing
a doctor

I chuckle

Me : we are

Zahara : you're doing this
yourself

Me : perks of a baby daddy
who's a doctor

She laughs

Zahara : this is awkward

Me : nomhm you hear that ?

Zahara : heartbeat

Me : that's my baby

I can't believe this little human
being is mine

Me : you want to know the
gender ?

Zahara : do you know ?

Me : I'm looking

She laughs

Me : I probably should have gotten a doctor

Zahara : no , go ahead

Me : uhm ...I'll tell you soon

Zahara : you're not being fair

Me : not like that , but I'll tell you

Zahara : fine !

I lean over giving her a kiss

Me : we're 16 weeks going on
17 , and the young Black is
healthy as ever . So is mommy ,
and daddy couldn't be more
happier and proud

Zahara : I am hungry

I laugh

I grab a wipe , and wipe the gel
off of her

Me : let's go get food

I help her off the bed , fixing her
t-shirt

.

.

.

.

Zahara

I look at him.

Looking at the scan

And I'm just lost for words

He's happy

Like he's genuinely happy

And he's just making it hard for
me to feel anyhow

I just can't help , but rub on his
happiness

And just think , despite how this
happened

How this baby came about

It's still a blessing

I'm going to be a mother

And I won't be alone in this

.

.

.

.

INSERT 41

Cole

Dad : this Zahara comes out of nowhere , and suddenly you're back to sleeping out again

Me : again ?

Dad : yes , I did not stutter

I laugh

Me : wait ...what do you mean again ?

Dad : the day we went to the village , did you not sleep out ?

I chuckle

Me : mhm , only then

Dad : should I really do a count

I frown

Dad : Also the night of the funeral ...

Me : I don't even know why

Dad : I'm just saying , your life was just work and now

He shrugs

Me : now nothing , but you must know that Zahara is pregnant with your grandchild

Dad : what ?

Me : yeah , now you can stop about this wife and kids business

Dad : when did this happen ?

Me : that other one time , the first time

Dad : mhm

Me : is that mhm , like a well done son you did good or what ?

He laughs

Dad : sometimes things happen
, and we question them .

Imagine if your cousin was here
, and you're having a child with
her fiancé

Me : yeah , but she's not

Dad : do you see this though ?

I nod

Me : yes , but nothing and no one will stop me from raising my baby . And being there for Zahara , it's not like we didn't take precautions to avoid this . But nonetheless it still happened , she's four months now . Termination is just out of the window , and she's looking forward to being a mother . This is a new chapter in her life ...our lives , I didn't think I will be called someone's dad someday .

Kids were just not on my plan ,
but now I'm all ready for it

Dad : invite her for dinner

He gets up and walks upstairs

I hope that dinner will go well

.

.

.

.

Zahara

Sibo : and ?

Me : he was happy about it

She takes the muffins bucket
from me

Sibo : just happy ?

I laugh

Me : what do you want me to say ? He didn't react how I expected him to

Sibo : and what's that ?

Me : like ...this can't be happening , you can't be pregnant and all that . He was happy , he even spent the night ...

Sibo : you finally got some after months of draught

Me : shut up

Sibo : that's nice

Me : in the morning he almost burnt my kitchen , trying to make us breakfast . And we went on to have our first scan

Sibo : oh friend !

Me : I can't believe I'm going to
be a mother

Sibo : it's so exciting

Me : and scary

Sibo : don't worry , you're not
alone

I heave a sigh

Me : I don't know what Sasa is going to say about this , I am scared

Sibo : things are better now between you two

Me : yeah , but one can never be sure of my sister

Sibo : don't worry , at least the hard part of telling the father is done

Me : yeah I guess

It did give me some relief to be honest

.

.

.

.

Cole

Me : I got you food

Zahara : thank you

I sit down

Me : how are you ?

Zahara : good , just tired

Me : I'll book you for a massage
this week

She laughs

Zahara : for what ?

Me : to relax

Zahara : I've never done that

Me : it's okay , I think you'll like it

Zahara : we'll see , rich people always flex about that

I chuckle

Me : now you'll get to flex as well

Zahara : talk about levels

What

We laugh

Me : so my father invited you
for dinner

Zahara : really ?

Me : yes

Zahara : as what ?

Me : the mother of his
grandchild , my baby mama

She laughs taking a bite of the
pizza

Zahara : baby mama's are
dramatic !

Me : come on , you're not degraded to that status

Zahara : oh really ?

Me : yeah , you're one sexy beautiful baby mama . And you won't be giving me any stress about maintenance

Zahara : we'll see

Me : I'll pay maintenance , and
I'll throw in an allowance in
there

Zahara : oh ?

Me : yeah , roughly round up
your expenses for me . The
medical aid , I'll include you
both in mine . That'll increase
the allowance , and
maintenance money

Zahara : perks of a doctor baby
daddy , we're covered

Me : anything but a baby daddy

Zahara : you're not fair

I lean over pecking her cheeks

Me : so dinner ?

Zahara : sounds like you've
already told your father , so I'll
come

Hopefully my father will be nice

And not make Zahara detest
going there

.

.

.

.

Zahara

Me : his father invited me over
for dinner

Sibo : progress

I laugh

Me : I don't know

Sibo : come on , don't hold back like that . Just live your life

Me : I am trying to , but you know this situation . What is the royal family going to say , when they find out about this ?

Sibo : I'm not being insensitive , but you can't deny your baby his father because of what people will say . Cole and his

family , are what you need right
now

I'm sure people will be frying
me in hot oil when they find out
about this

.

.

.

.

INSERT 42

Cole

Me : are you okay ?

She nods with a smile

Me : my father is cool , don't
worry

I open the door and we walk to
the kitchen

Me : dad

He looks at us and his stare is
just blank

I look at Zahara , she has her
head bowed down

Me : stop that

He laughs

Dad : sorry

He walks over to us

Dad : you must be Zahara , it's a pleasure to finally put a face to the name

Zahara : likewise sir

Dad : no , not sir ...you'll rather call me granddad . Just not sir

Zahara : noted

I pull a chair for her

She sits down

I sit next to her , my father sits
opposite us

Me : our helper cooked , I don't
know if you're allergic to

anything . Or if there anything
you don't eat

Zahara : I eat anything and
everything

I smile

I guess this will go well

Just as long as my father
doesn't grill anyone

He was busy asking me earlier
on what we are

Especially now that there's a
baby coming

I don't want to even go there

And scare Zahara off

We haven't talked about that

And after not seeing each other
for months

I'm not even sure that's a talk
we're to have

Like anytime soon

.

.

.

.

Zahara

Mr Black : don't be a stranger
now , do come around for a visit

Me : I will

Just listen to me

But I'm glad dinner went well

I was scared

He's Royal's uncle

I've already met Royal's father

He might not be more

But still

These people were family

I don't even want to think of
what the royal family will say

When they find out about this

My dirty secrets will just be
aired out there

I was engaged to Royal , and
now I'm having a child with the
cousin

This baby will come in just
almost 4 months

It'll be clear that he or she was
conceived right when Royal was
still alive

Cole opens the car door for me

I get in

He talks to his father for a bit

And walks around getting on
the drivers side

He drives out heading to the
penthouse

He places his hand on my thigh

I look at him

Cole : can you go somewhere
with me tomorrow ?

Me : where ?

Cole : I can't tell you , I'll come
pick you up around 15:00

Me : okay

Cole : won't you be at work ?

Me : I knock off at 14:00

Cold : okay

I lean over to his shoulder

He chuckles

.

.

.

.

Cole

I hope she will like this

I'm not even clued up about
such things

And this is just us

On a dinner night

With just me revealing the
gender of our baby

I really hope she will like it

I wanted to bring her early , so she can get to have a massage and all that

And that's done now , we're having dinner

I'm a little bit nervous with desert coming

Zahara : you're nervous

I chuckle

Me : no

Zahara : yes you are , so what's
happening ?

Me : uhm

I shake my head biting my
lower lip

.

.

.

.

Zahara

I open the tray , and my jaw
drops

Tears burn my eyes

I look at him

Me : for real ?

He nods with a smile

Me : we're having a little girl ?

Cole : yes , little Miss Black

I laugh through my tears

This is beautiful

It's not some gender reveal
party

But it is a gender reveal to
mommy

And it's just so beautiful

Cole : I will take care of you ,
always . I don't know how to
thank you , for this beautiful gift
that you have given me

He takes my hand into his

Me : thank you , it means so
much knowing I won't be alone

He moves over from his chair ,
and walks over to my side

He takes my hand

I get up

He places his hands on my waist

Cole : I wanted to make this
special for you

I smile

Me : it is special , thank you

He leans down , we lock eyes
and kiss

.

.

.

.

INSERT 43

TWO YEARS LATER

Zahara

Casey : mommy

Me : yes nana (baby)

She giggles

Me : what ?

The door opens , and now her
attention is all gone from me

Cole : and then ?

I laugh

Me : pleaseI don't want
noise here

He looks at her , and she's
looking at him

The facial expression just
changes

She goes on to grab her shoes

And it's a sneaker and a flip flop

Cole : baby ...

And the eyes glisten

He crouches down to her

Cole : I am not leaving

Casey : I wanna go

Cole : daddy is not leaving

Casey : daddy no ...

And she burst out crying

Me : please , I asked to not have
noise

He sighs

Cole : I'm sorry , we're going to
work with daddy

Casey : mommy I go

Me : bye nana (baby)

She laughs , he puts her down
wiping her tears off

And she's headed to the door

Cole : my love ?

I shake my head

He walks over , and places a kiss
on my cheek

I lean over , tilting his head and
we kiss

Cole : can she ...

I push him off laughing

Me : no

Cole : I will ditch her

Me : no , this is your teaching .
You taught her , that she can
just cry for you and you'll take

her everywhere . So yeah ,
please take your child to work
with you

He laughs

Cole : you really don't feel for
me ?

Me : no

Cole : we're leaving

Me : grab a sneaker , or a flip
flop . She has two different
shoes there

He laughs shaking his head

Cole : I love you

I smile

Me : we love you

He smiles and grabs his bag ,
and walks out

Me : your spoilt child

Voice : I heard that

He shouts

I laugh

He did spoil this child of his

Casey thinks she can get
anything and everything she
wants

All thanks to her father

It's been a bliss of two years
being a mother to that little
someone

She's one year and 6 months

And such a loud mouth

But the centre of our lives

Despite everything that
happened

My baby is one thing , I'll
forever be grateful for in this
life

•

•

•

•

Xola

The door just bursts open

And my mother walks in

Me : mom !

Mom : don't mom me , I am tired of you and the rubbish you keep bringing to my house .

Those three girls you gave kids , and are now neglecting them have brought police with them ..in my yard Xola ! Causing me eyes and stares of the neighbours ...

She shakes her head

Mom : what are you doing to me ? Where did I go wrong with you ?

Me : I

Mom : I don't want to hear anything , the police are here .
Go on , go account for yourself .
I asked you when you brought me a child here , that are you ready to be a father and to take responsibility . And not even six

months later , there was
another girl with another child .
Now there's a third child , from
another girl . And you're not
even taking responsibility , of
what you have done . You have
shamed me , and made me a
laughing stock around here ...

She wipes her tears and walks
out

Leaving the door opened

I heave a sigh

And a police officer walks in

Me : I am coming

Him : make it fast , we have
serious crimes to attend to !

I heave a sigh !

Me : can't we just solve this ,
without opening a case or going
through the courts ?

Him : you should have thought
of that , before you made three
kids with different girls and
failing with maintenance

What the fuck have I gotten
myself into ?

Like what have I done !

The past two years my life has
just gone downhill

I regret the day I lost Zahara to
my best friend

And now she's a gem to
another man

Who saw her for who she was

And not how she looked

Not a day goes by , I don't
wonder how life would have
been like

If that woman was still a part of
my life

She's made a success of herself

She runs a successful restaurant
and a bakery

She's just everything in a
woman , I've always wanted

And I had that , I had her

I lost it all

Look at me now !

Him : let's go

He leads me to the door

And the look on my mother's
face

Seeing all our neighbours
watching me like this

This will forever haunt me

There was only Zahara , and
there could never be another

.

.

.

.

Cole

Lebo : Mrs Black

Her heels click a few times ,
before the door opens

I look up with a smile

Me : tell me you drove coming here

She laughs

Zahara : where is my child ?

I laugh

She looks over to the couch

Zahara : oh little Miss Black ,
what are you doing ?

She giggles

Casey : I work mommy

Zahara : that's cute , when do
you get paid ?

Me : hey !

I get up from my chair and walk
to her

Me : don't ...

I shake my head

Casey : I no have money
mommy

I look at her

Me : this is our work place ,
we're working here . So please

...

She laughs

Zahara : I am out

Me : this is a nice surprise

We kiss briefly

Zahara : I missed you two , and
it wasn't that busy at the
restaurant

I rub her tummy

Zahara : when are you telling
her she's going to be a big sister
?

I heave a sigh taking a deep
breath

Me : mhm , my love she's going to fight me . She won't like me very much

Zahara : it's your doing , you spoilt her . And you're the reason I have this baby inside of me

Wow !

It's not easy being me.

I never win with the women in
my life

But then I wouldn't have it any
other way

Me : baby

She looks at me

Me : would you like being a big sister ?

She frowns

Me : like we have a baby , and you'll be a big sister

She gets up

Casey : no !

Her mother laughs

Me : I don't think she
understands

Zahara : she does

Casey : I no want no baby daddy
no !

Okay yes , she does understand

That is pretty much clear

Me : let's go out , and have
pizza . We can talk some more
about this matter

Zahara : sneaky !

I laugh picking her up

Her mother grabs my car keys

And we walk out

I know she will be driving my car

And she will have me drive hers
back home

Me : Lebo , I am out for the day
. Please hold all of my calls

Lebo : yes sir , bye miss Black

Casey : bye baby

We laugh

It can only be my baby girl

She's just a whole mood

And she brightens up this whole
hospital

Hence I don't mind bringing her
here once in a while

I look at them , as we walk out

With just eyes on us in
admiration

And I know , I have the best
here

.

.

.

.

THE END