

A LIFELESS SOUL S2

BY: NOMFUNDO AYANDA NTAKA

LWANDILE

Life has been good to me; I got a side job that pays me well and my main job is keeping me busy. Lwandle has been rubbing me off the wrong way lately. I just get annoyed whenever I see her, oh how I miss Lethi. I miss listening to her endless scenarios that she makes up in her head, her beautiful voice, her smile, and her comforting hugs. I wonder how she is doing; I so wish I could turn back the time and do things differently but it's too late now and she wants nothing to do with me which is understandable because I have been a jerk.

Phone rang

“Boss”

“we are meeting at the warehouse at 17:00pm”-Nkosenhle

“sure”

Nkosenhle is my boss, many are intermediated by him kodwa nawe you would be if you were to meet him. He is not scary but there is that “don't fuck with me ngizokunyisa” look. I manage the finance department of his illegal business and I must say he is a good guy unless you mess with him or his family.

Natasha (our receptionist) walked in

“hey, its lunch time, do you want to grab lunch together?”

Natasha and I have been close lately, I enjoy being with her.

“yeah give me a few minutes” I finished up and we left together and went to the restaurant across work

“so, how are you? How’s your little one?”-her

“he is growing each day. He looks so much like me, but lately I’ve been spending less time with him and I don’t want that, I want to spend every moment I get with my son.”

“is it because of Lwandle?”-her

“yes! every time I look at her, I am reminded of what we did to Lethi and that haunts me every time. I really want to try and work things out with her maybe I will learn to love her, but I can’t.”

“here’s what I think, I think you are feeling all this guilt because Lethi hasn’t forgiven you. Both of you guys wronged her, she trusted both of you and you betrayed her. You and Lwandle should both go apologize to her and you have to do right by her, remember both of you lost a baby and you both acted as if nothing happened. Both of you need closure in order for you to move on with your life. I don’t know whether you have to cleanse her or what, I am really not a

traditional person you'd have to ask your parents about that.”-

Natasha

“You are right. I'll speak to my parents and find out. Thank you, Natasha.”

“anytime! Finish up we have to go back to work”

We left and went back to the office

NARRATED

AT THE WAREHOUSE

“is everyone here?”-Nathi

“Eric, Nkosiphendule and Nkosenhle haven't arrived as yet”-Sandile

“let me find out where they are”-Nathi

He dialed Nkosenhle

“sure, we are here.”-Nkosenhle

He dropped the call and walked in with Eric

“is everyone here?”-Nkosenhle

“uhm Boss, Nkosiphendule is not here.”-Sandile

“this boy thinks he's grown now, when I say there will be a meeting, I expect everyone to be here on time.”-Nkosenhle

He called Nkosiphendule

“Bafo”-Nkosi

“Bafo wamasimba! Are you the boss now?:-Nkosenhle

“No”-Nkosi

“then why is it that everyone is here waiting for you?”-Nkosenhle

“I didn’t see the time, I’m sorry boss.”-Nkosi

“I’m giving you 10 min to get your ass here”-Nkosenhle

“I’m on my way”-Nkosi

By the time Nkosiphendule responded Nkosenhle had long dropped the call. His Brother knows never to mess with Nkosenhle. Family or not he takes his business seriously and he doesn’t like any slackers.

Within 10 min Nkosiphendule arrived

“Good now that everyone is here, I would like to proceed. Listen and listen well, we have a mission tonight and I don’t want a repeat of the other day. Only a few of you will be needed for tonight. We have to retrieve diamonds from a secluded building which will be heavily guarded, those diamonds are worth millions. Skara is our intel from the inside he will keep us informed about what is going on, you Eric will take out all the guards outside, Tman you will hack the security code, I will take out the guys on the inside and you Nkosiphendule will bring out the schematics of the inside and you will guide us through. Nkosinathi you’ll be on standby in case someone gets hurt.

You Sizwe and Lwandile will remain here, Sizwe you'll distribute the diamonds to different buyers once we get back and you Lwandile will clean the money and distribute it accordingly to our different accounts. The rest of you will be on the lookout and we'll call you to clean up and make everything disappear. I don't want slip ups that will lead this back to us! ALL CLEAR? ANY QUESTIONS?"-Nkosenhle
"clear boss"-them

"Good!", he looked at Nkosi "Nkosiphendule If you know what's good for you, you won't be late".

LETHINHLANHLA

I could hear what was happening around me, but I couldn't open my eyes or say anything. It was like something was pressing my eyelids from opening, they felt very heavy, and this drained me.

I heard footsteps making their way in and I concluded it was probably the nurses.

"I don't know why the Dr is giving her special treatment"-Nurse 1

"what are you talking about? she's a patient like other patients and the Dr is doing his job by asking us to check on her."-Nurse 2

"have you asked yourself why she was moved to this floor? you know that this is a private floor and not everyone is allowed here. She doesn't even have a file, and this is a private hospital, we can't check

if she has medical aid or not because nobody knows who she is and she doesn't even want to wake up , nobody has checked up on her and suddenly her bill is paid? How?"-Nurse 1

"if you know what's good for you, you will do your job and keep your mouth shut or else you'll get fired."-Nurse 2

"I'm just saying"

They did their work and left

I wondered who this Dr could be and why is he/she doing these favours for me. I don't like to owe people favours and I fear that this Dr would want something in return for his or her kindness. I wish they hadn't saved me because by now I would've been with my mother. The fact that I have been in this hospital for days and nobody visited me is the more reason I don't want to live, even if I died no one would attend my funeral.

Few minutes after a Nurse returned

"hey, I don't know if you can hear me, I noticed that you don't get any visitors and maybe that's why you haven't woken up" she said . it's probably the second nurse because the other one doesn't like me.

Silence

“My name is Nomonde and I am a student Nurse, I’ll be your friend from now on until you get better. I’ll come during my lunch breaks and talk to you.”

Silence

“I know you’re probably wondering why I’m being nice to you, well it’s because like you, I also have no one. My parents died when I was young, I don’t have any siblings and I don’t have friends. (chuckling) I don’t even have a boyfriend can you imagine. Do you have a boyfriend?”

Silence

“that’s a stupid question, you probably don’t have one because if you had one, he would’ve been here by now.”

Silence

“you see, you and I will be good friends because we have a lot in common.”

Silence

“since I don’t know your name, I will call you “My friend”, okay bye my friend, I will check up on you before my shift ends Please wake up soon.” She left

I wish I could open my eyes to see this Nomonde person who is so nice to me. I am very grateful for her kindness but I'm not sure whether I need a friend at the moment, a friend betrayed me in the most horrific way and now I come with too much baggage which I don't want to be used against me someday, but then again maybe a friend is what I need to help me heal, especially a friend who knows what's it like to be on your own.

I fell asleep while I was deep in thoughts and I dreamt of my mother. She was far from me, but I could hear and see her clearly.

"Mama is that you? I am so sorry I couldn't save you, please forgive me" I cried

"Don't cry my baby, it is not your fault."-Sthembiso

"I lost my baby Mama, Lwandile left me, everyone left me. Please take me with you."

"it is not yet time Lethi. You have to be strong my baby, now more than ever you have to fight."

"I don't have the energy to fight, please take me with you. If you leave me here, I will try to kill myself again until I succeed."

"You will not succeed; your time is not yet up. Things will be difficult from now on, please be strong and fight. I am sorry please forgive me."-her

“what do you mean? What is going Mama? Why are you apologizing?”

“you will find out soon. I am sorry” she disappeared

“Mama come back please, I forgive you! Please don’t leave me again. Mama!!” I screamed

The machines started beeping and the nurses rushed in and gave me a sedative and I went to sleep.

NARRATED

At the Warehouse

“is everyone ready?”-Nkosenhle

“yes”-Team

“right we will use two cars and remember I don’t want any slip ups.

Let’s go”-Nkosenhle

They all left and arrived at the location. Nkosenhle distributed the microphones that they will use to communicate.

“is everybody’s Mic on?”-Nkosenhle

“yes”-Team

“Good! Skara how are things on that inside?”-Nkosenhle

“everything is set boss”-Skara

“Good! Eric you know what to do”-Nkosenhle

As instructed Eric eliminated all the guards that were on the outside

“done!”-Eric

“Nkosiphendule you are up”-Nkosenhle

“Right if you go up the stairs to your right you will find a secrete door that will lead you inside. There are five guards in total scattered inside, but once you’re in I will be able to guide you.”-Nkosi

“you can enter no one is guarding the door”-Skara

Tman hacked the security code and they went in

“Nkosenhle you have two guards approaching”-Nkosi

Nkosenhle shot the guards

“now go up the air vent and don’t make a sound, once you get to the middle, you’ll be able to see the people inside. I suggest you and Eric cover your faces now as there are innocent people that don’t need to be harmed. There are 3 guards remaining excluding Skara, you will be able to take them out from where you are.”-Nkosi

With that said Nkosenhle shot one of the guards and he went down, and everyone was alarmed, he shot the two remaining guards and they climbed down. Tman ran to the safe and cracked it open while Nkosenhle was keeping watch. He gathered the diamonds and ran to the door but what they didn’t notice was that there was another

guard who wasn't on site and he appeared out of nowhere with a gun, but he was out of range and Skara had a clear shot

"shoot them, you have a better view"-Guard to Skara

Because he had to protect his cover, he had no choice but to shoot, he shot Tman but only on his hand so that he won't die. They ran to the car and Nkosinathi rushed to Tman.

"we have to take him to my hospital so I can stitch him up"-Nathi

"I'm sorry Tman"-Skara spoke on the mic.

"you did what you had to do Skara. Nkosiphendule where did that guard come from? weren't you supposed to be keeping an eye on us?"-Nkosenhle

"I got distracted Bafo I'm sorry"-Nkosi

"I don't work with incompetent people. I will deal with you later."-Nkosenhle

The rest of the crew went back to the warehouse and the diamonds were distributed to the different buyers. Tman, Nkosinathi and Nkosenhle went to the hospital.

They rushed to the upper section of the hospital (that section is only reserved for such incidents) they use the hospital to treat their friends when they get hurt on missions, they do this because they don't want cops on their cases asking them what happened when they go to any other hospitals.

"Bafo you have to stay here; you know you can't come in."-Nathi

"sure"-Nkosenhle

They went in and Nkosinathi worked on Tman while Nkosenhle remained on the benches. He then remembered the girl Nkosinathi told him about and since he was already there, he decided to go check who it was since he knew the room number.

He walked in and saw the girl sleeping facing the other way. He walked in and went to her side. Meanwhile Lethi could feel the presence of a person but she couldn't do anything since she couldn't move or open her eyes and even worse now as she was heavily sedated.

Nkosenhle walked closer to her and stood in front of her and he got a clear view. He was surprised to see the very same girl that he was searching for in his pub, but what shocked him was the state she was in. she lost weight and had black patches around her eyes and bandages on her arms and wrists. For some reason this sight broke him.

He couldn't help but wonder what happened to her, and why was he feeling the way he is feeling because of her.

Lethi on the other hand felt uncomfortable as this person wasn't saying anything, he remembered her mother's words "you need to be strong, things will be difficult" and she immediately thought she was in danger. A part of her was happy at the thought that this person will kill her but another part of her was scared.

Nkosenhle remained in that position close to an hour watching Lethi and not saying anything. The longer he stared at her the more he got angry, angry at the sight he was seeing. He was disturbed by Nkosinathi's call

He answered

"Bafo where are you?"-Nathi

He dropped the call without answering and he walked out. He headed to Nkosinathi's office and he found both him and Tman.

"I thought you left"-Nathi

"I had to check on Lisakhanya" he lied

"how is she?"-Nathi

"Good, She is growing way too fast for my liking "-Nkosenhle

"and soon she'll start dating and you'll be killing boys"-Nathi

"I'll paint the city red"-Nkosenhle

They laughed

“Tman you good?”-Nkosenhle

“don’t worry about me boss, izinto ezincane lezi. Ngisinde emabhomini mina ngeke ngibulawe into encane kanje.” (This is nothing, I’ve survived bombs and much worse, this won’t kill me)-

Tman

“we wouldn’t even be in this position if Nkosiphendule paid attention.”-Nkosenhle

“don’t be too hard on him, he is young”-Nathi

“he shouldn’t be in this business if it’s too much for him to handle. I asked him if he was ready for this and he said yes. This is his family business, when you and I are not here he will have to take over. He needs to set his priorities straight.”-Nkosenhle

“I hear you Bafo and wena ungcono (you are better), imagine if he was trained by dad.”-Nathi

“let me get going guys, my lady is probably worried about me.”-Tman

“hambo xolisa bafo (go apologize), buy flowers and chocolates.”-

Nathi

“see why I don’t want to date? I don’t want anyone nagging me when I come home late.”-Nkosenhle

“speaking of dating, let me take you to your wife.”-Nathi

“no, I’ll see that person some other time, I am in no mood to talk.”-

Nkosenhle

“she doesn’t talk”-Nathi

“what do you mean?”-Nkosenhle

“something strange is going on with her, she hasn’t woken up since the operation. She doesn’t get any visitors and she sleeps all day.”-

Nathi

“how come she doesn’t have visitors? did you notify her family?”-

Nkosenhle

“I don’t know anything about her, I don’t know her name or where she is from.”

“well did you tell your girlfriend? This girl once helped her I’m sure she would love to visit and return the favour.”

“why didn’t I think about that? I will tell her when I get home”.

“let me get going, I have to have a word with Nkosiphendule.”

With that said he left

Eshowe

“we have to go to Durban. That child Lethinhlanhla should explain how she buried our sister without notifying us.”-Nomathemba

“uqinisile Sisi, kufaneke achaze impela abuyise zonke izinto zika Sisi. Loya muzi owezingane zika Sthembiso yena asimazi nokuthi ungowaphi uvelaphi.” (You are right my sister, she must explain herself and bring back our sisters things. That house belongs to Sthembisos kids, we don’t even know where she’s from) -Zodwa

“Thabiso has been on my case for a while now and he is demanding Lethinhlanhla. Sthembiso died before she told that child the truth, we were waiting for her to give birth then tell her the news.” -

Nomathemba

“omunye oyinkathazo loyo!” (That’s another problem)-Zodwa

“kuzomele sitshene omalume sihambeni siye eThekwini ngokushesha.” (We have to tell our uncles and go to Durban soon)

Nkosenhle

I went to Nkosiphendules apartment and found the place packed with naked girls pacing around, I can’t say I’m surprised because I’m used to his lifestyle. I used to behave exactly like Nkosiphendule when I was his age, partying every day, drinking alcohol and changing girls every week. I barged in his room without knocking and the girl that was on top of him jumped and covered herself. I put my hands in my pocket and leaned against the wall.

“excuse us, you will come back when we’re done here.”-Nkosi.

The girl ran out

We stared at each other, nobody saying anything “Why are you behaving recklessly?” I finally asked.

“I respect you very much Nkosenhle, but I will not allow you to tell me how to live my life”

“I will tell you how to live your life because now you are risking other people’s lives as well, I don’t have a problem with you partying and doing whatever you want as long as it doesn’t affect your work. I asked you this before you joined the business and you said you will be able to handle it and you promised not to be distracted. We cannot afford to make mistakes in this line of business we’re in, one mistake can cost a person’s life. What if that guard was the one that shot Tman and not Skara? he could’ve killed him.”

“I’ve apologised for that and it will never happen again
ngiyathembisa (I promise)”-Nkosi

“it better not happen because I’d hate to make an example of you
Infront of the guys”

“There won’t be a need for that and if you’d excuse me, I was in a
middle of something before you barged in without knocking”

I shook my head and attempted to leave but Nkosiphendule stopped
me

“wait before you go I want to ask something”

“sure”

“say you want to find information on someone, but you don’t know their name, where do you begin?”

I eyed him quizzically “suwenzeni Nkosi?”

“No nothing! Khona umuntu ongdukele (There’s somebody missing) and I just want to know if she is okay wherever she is.”

“she?”

“yeah, remember that girl we met with Nathi?”

I tensed my jaws and became uncomfortable “yes, I remember her, why are you looking for her?”

“no specific reason, I just want to know if she is okay.”

“you would have to get a picture of her and run a face recognition and her details will show up.”

“sure Bafo. Oh, and on your way out please call the girl you scared away, I’d call her, but I forgot her name”

“fuck you” I laughed and left without calling the girl and went home to my Princess, she has grown so much and each day she reminds me of her mother. Oh, how I miss her, I always imagine how life would’ve turned out had she been here with me watching our daughter grow Infront of us. I fear the day when Lisakhanya will grow up and start asking questions about her mother, questions about

women stuff, boys and everything else that young girls speak to their mothers.

“hello daddy’s princess” she just looked at me and smiled. “Never grow up, always stay this young because when you grow up these useless boys out here will want you and break your heart and daddy doesn’t want that okay? Because daddy will kill anyone and everyone that will harm you, okay princess?”

“Yes daddy”

She nodded as if she understood what I said. A tear escaped my eye the first day she said her first word which was “Dada” I’ve always wanted to hear her first words, but I never imagined I would hear them on my own. I always imagined she’d say Mama first as we watched her take her first step, but life has its own way.

Lisa fell asleep in my arms and I took her to bed, I watched her as she slept and I realized how I’ve neglected my baby, I always go to work early in the morning and I come back at night as she is about to sleep. I never get time to play with her, I always dedicated myself to work so that she won’t lack anything.

I sat in my study and drank whiskey and I couldn’t stop wondering why my brothers are so taken by that girl. First Nathi liked her for me and now Nkosi is concerned with her safety, who is she? fuck why am I thinking about her... I need a distraction. I took my phone and

dialed Cindy. Cindy is my botty call, we assist each other whenever one is in need.

“oh, would you look at that, he still remembers me.”-Cindy

“where are you?”

“in my apartment”

“come over”

“Nkosenhle I am tired of you using me and then tossing me aside when you no longer need my services”

“what was our agreement?”

“fine I’ll be there in a few minutes”

I dropped the call and took a quick shower and within a few minutes I was done and Cindy buzzed in at the gate and I opened for her.

she opened her arms for a hug “Baby!”

“eh Cindy why are you acting fresh with me?”

“what do you mean?”

“why are you acting like you’re my girlfriend now? Did I not tell you I don’t do the dating thing? Did we not agree on doing our thing with no feelings attached? if this is too much for you, you might as well go back to where you came from”

“no, I know our agreement, it’s just I haven’t heard from you for a while now, so I thought that maybe you’ve settled down.”

“that’s the thing! Even if you don’t hear from me that shouldn’t be a problem because you and I are not dating. I made it clear to you that once you find a guy you’re in love with you will tell me and we will stop.”

“fine! May I come in now?”

I made way for her and she went to the guest room, I don’t bring girls to my bedroom because that’s the room I shared with Lisakhanyas mother and I can’t be sleeping with random bitches there, I respect her way too much.

“what would you like to drink?” I asked

“Red wine”

“and anything to eat?”

“no thank you”

“ngiyabuya manje (I’ll be right back)” I grabbed two glasses and the red wine she wanted and walked back up only to find her naked in bed.

“like what you see?” I stopped on my track and starred at her. Let me describe Sindy for you, she is thick with slim waist, curves with fats in all the right places, boobs, thighs and her ass. You immediately get a boner by just starring at her naked body.

“Are you going to stand there, or will you come get what’s yours?” Without wasting time, I put the two glasses of wine down and wine bottle and I went straight to her. I caressed her lips and neck and a moan escaped her lips and that fueled me even more that I wanted to skip the foreplay and go straight to the reason she came here.

She flipped us around and she was now at the top. She positioned herself properly and dived in for a kiss and the strangest thing happened, as I was kissing her with my eyes closed a picture of that girl at the hospital flashed through my eyes. I broke the kiss.

“fuck!”

“kwenzenjani (What’s wrong)? don’t you like my kisses anymore?”

“No, it’s not you, I just thought of something important that I had to do.”

“and you had to think of it while we’re in the middle of something?”

“ayike Sindy ngenzenjani (what should I do) because I can’t control my thoughts?”

“what’s so important that stopped you from carrying on? you never turn down sex?”

“don’t worry about it. come here” I grabbed her waist and kissed her hoping what happened won’t happen again and luckily it didn’t but this whole thing frustrated me. In the Morning I woke up with Sindy on top of me sleeping. I carefully moved her to the side, and I took shower. Within a few minutes I heard the shower door opening and she joined, we finished off where we stopped last night and once we were done we got dressed.

“would you like to have breakfast?”-me

“next time babe, I have to be somewhere in the next 30 minutes.”

“alright let me walk you out”

In the Kitchen Mam Donsa was feeding Lisakhanya. Sindy tried to play with her but Lisa was having none of it she just cried.

“ay lengane ayingifuni shame” (This child doesn’t want me shame)

I laughed. It’s true, the only female Lisa likes is Mam Donsa and no one else. “Lisakhanya is Daddy’s princess, she doesn’t like anyone.”

“I’ll bribe her with toys”

“I doubt it will work but there’s no harm in trying.”

I walked her to her cab, and I went back inside “Mam Donsa can you please get her ready for me I want to take her shopping”

“no problem Mkhwenyana:-her

I’ve gotten used to her calling me “Mkhwenyana” even though I don’t know why she calls me that because I am never getting married. I ate my breakfast and left with Lisa “what do you want daddy to buy you princess?, clothes? Ladies love clothes”

She just smiled at me. My baby is so adorable with dimples. We got to the baby store and I walked around with Lisa in my arm gaining stares from the moms who were in the store. I don’t know what is amusing about a guy buying clothes for his kid.

“which colour do you like? Pink or baby blue?”-me

“Pink, bu (Blue) Daddy” she was just repeating what I was saying

“you want both neh?” I laughed

“Pink will look good on her” Said a lady behind me

“you think?”

“I know”-her

“do you have a baby girl as well?”

“no, I have a baby boy.”

“thank you!”

“no problem” She attempted to walk away but she turned back

“here’s a tip if you want to avoid buying clothes every month you shouldn’t buy her clothes that fit her perfectly because she will grow out of them quickly”

Well to be honest I don’t mind buying Lisa clothes every month, I can buy this entire store for her if she wanted me to, but I couldn’t say that to her

“oh really? I hadn’t thought of that”

Why would I buy her clothes that don’t fit her? They won’t look good.

“of course, you haven’t, mothers know best”-her

“is it? well mother of the year why don’t you give me your number so I could ask for more tips” I was trying my luck here because damn this lady has a fine ass, round and firm.

“These tips don’t come for free; I’ll start charging you”-her

“I’ll pay any price Ma’am” She gave me her number

“who does the number belong to?”

“save me as tip lady”

“come on now”

“Lwandle”-her

“well Lwandle maybe we could do lunch sometimes?”

“and why would I do that?”-Lwandle

“why wouldn’t you do that? I mean there’s nothing stopping you from having lunch with a friend. I’d understand if there was a ring on your finger but there isn’t unless you took it out. Did you?”

“of course, not”-her

“then I’ll take that as a yes to lunch”

“we’ll see about that” she smiled

“don’t you want to know my name?”

“I’m assuming you will tell me”

“I’ll tell you the day we have lunch together”

she just smiled and walked away. Lisa had been restless this entire time “Lisakhanya why don’t you want daddy to talk to females? You literally dislike everyone” She just stared at me blankly looking annoyed. I went to pay for the clothes, and I got her some toys then we went back home.

NKOSIPHENDULE

I need to speak to Nathi, so I drove to the hospital to see him. I don’t know why I was so worried about the girl we saw the other day; I just feel like she’s in danger. I got to the hospital and I was told Nathi is doing surgery, so I waited for him in his office for almost an hour. He walked in when I was about to leave.

“Bafo”-him

“I was about to leave”

“ave ungakwazi ukulinda” (You’re so not patient)

“don’t tell me that, I’ve been sitting here for over an hour now”

“well I am here now what can I help you with?”-Nathi

“remember that girl we saw saving your girlfriend?”

“yes”

“do you know how I can track her down? Remember that night she said she’ll call your girl to make sure if she is okay so maybe you can ask Khanyo to give me her number or at least her name”

“why? what do you want from her?”

“I don’t want anything, I just want to know if she is okay that’s all”

“she is here”-him

“who?”

“the girl you are looking for”

“here where?”-me

“here in this hospital”

“that’s great, can you get her for me or tell me when her shift ends so I can see her”

“she’s a patient here she doesn’t work for me. You’d have to go see her”-Nathi

“what is wrong with her?”

“she tried to kill herself by cutting her wrists and body”

“can I see her”-me

“you can but she hasn’t woken up in weeks” He told me the room number and I went to her and as expected she was sleeping

NARRATED

“hello”

...

“my name is Nkosiphendule, I met you with my brother the other day you were saving Khanyo” His heart dropped to his stomach when he saw her in the state she was in.

“you must be bored and starving here”

Lethinhlanhla could hear and she thought to herself how is that she is not hungry after she hasn’t eaten for so long

“I will be visiting you from now on. Had I known I would’ve come here sooner and brought you flowers and teddy bears. That’s what ladies like right?” he asked smiling

“and I will take you out to eat once you wake up, I am sure you’ll be starving”

This warmed Lethi’s heart, she wanted to respond and thank him.

“ay but I’ll take you to kasi udle aboma gwinya khona uzokhuluphala and return to your normal body”

Lethi wanted to laugh at that part

“Alright then ntokazi enhle, let me leave now I promise I’ll come back tomorrow with your flowers and teddy bear” He kissed her forehead and left

LETHINHLANHLA

It has been a month and two weeks I’ve been in this hospital.

Nkosiphendule kept his promise and he visited me every day bringing me a rose each day he visited. My Nurse friend has also been visiting me and telling me gossip that’s happening in the hospital, that one is something else I tell you. Khanyo has also been visiting me once or twice a week to check on how I’m doing. That other person whom I don’t know has also been visiting me weekly, but he would just stare at me and not say anything. Two days ago, he came here and for once in I don’t know how many weeks he finally spoke. He came a few minutes after Nkosiphendule left and well he was his normal self not saying anything and when he was satisfied by looking at me he held my hand and said “Vuka phela Nkosazana” (wake up princess)

he kissed my hand and left. He hasn't been here since and I don't even know his name.

I was disturbed by people walking in

"ohh sorry I could come back when you're done"-person

Okay that's Nkosiphendule's voice

"no, it's okay you can sit I won't take long"-person 2

That's Nomonde (nurse)

"good morning Ntokazi enhle" He kissed my forehead , how can I be pretty when I've been sleeping for so long.

"hello, my friend, I have a lot to tell you today"-Nomonde

"do you know each other?"-him

"No, I met her here and I've been spending time with her during my lunch breaks since she hardly got visitors"-Nomonde

"that is very kind of you"-him

I slowly opened my eyes then shut them again and they noticed

"she is waking up, close the curtain the light is blinding her"-

Nomonde

Nkosiphendule sprung up and closed it

"Open your eyes again my friend" she said excitedly

I tried successfully this time around. The excitement on their faces was priceless. Tears rolled down my cheeks

“what’s wrong? Are you in pain?”-Nkosi

I wasn’t in any pain and nothing was wrong, these were tears of joys. These people supported me and never gave up on me when they weren’t even sure whether I was going to wake up or not. They sacrificed their time to come talk to a person who couldn’t talk back. I am beyond grateful.

“may I please have water” My voice was scratchy

“I knew you would wake up, I prayed for you every night and now god has answered my prayers “-Nomonde

She hugged me and I hugged her back

“thank you so much my friend, I’ve been longing to see you”-me

“don’t worry now that you’re awake we have to catch up. I’ll go call the doctor” she left.

Nkosiphendule has been quiet this entire time, I don’t know whether he couldn’t believe I am awake or if he was scared to talk to me or if it was both

“iNtokazi enhle doesn’t get a rose today?” I smiled looking around the room, admiring my roses and teddy bears

“had I known you were going to wake up I would’ve bought all the roses and flowers I could get” he answered nervously

“thank you for everything Nkosi, god will truly bless you”

“don’t mention it. I just want to know one thing”-him

“sure anything”

“what is your name?” he laughed

The Dr and Nomonde walked in as we were laughing

“would you look at that, she’s alive and smiling. I am happy to see that you’re okay”-Dr

“hey I remember you; you are Nkosiphendule’s brother right?”-me

“Yes, I am”

“Nathi wait, she was about to tell me her name”-Nkosi

“I also want to know, I am tired of calling you my friend”-Nomonde

“My name is Nhlanhla”

“Nonhlanhla or just Nhlanhla?”-Nomonde

“Lethinhlanhla”

“aha beautiful name njengayo intokazi enhle”-Nkosi

“thank you”

“right, now leave I want to talk to my patient”-Nathi

“is she being discharged today?”-Nkosi

“yes”-Nathi

“do you have clothes to change?” Nkosi

I came here with clothes soaking in blood, I felt embarrassed

“no get her clothes and toiletries since you’ve appointed yourself as her best friend”-Nathi

“that I am sir”-Nkosi said proudly. I couldn’t help but laugh

“what size do you wear?”-Nkosi

“pants I wear 32, shoes I’m a size 4 and for the top I wear small” I am not expecting him to buy me underwear and I hope he gets the message

“is that all?”-he eyed me

I know where he is going with this

“I’ve changed my mind. Please get me a medium sized hoodie and small leggings” in this way I won’t need underwear.

“yes ma’am”-him

He left and now I was left with the Doctor

“How are you’-Nathi

The way I hate being asked this question

“Honestly speaking I don’t know. I don’t know whether to be angry at you for saving me or to thank you for well, saving me.”

“What happened? What led you to cutting yourself”

I wasn’t about to discuss that with him

“I don’t want to talk about it”

“It’s okay if you don’t want to talk to me, I’ll recommend a therapist and I am pleading with you to please talk to him so he can help you out.”

“I’ll think about it”

He handed me a business card and I put it aside

“you know there’s something about you”

I raised my eyebrow “I’m listening”

“I don’t know what it is but there’s definitely something about you. I mean how can you explain the fact that both my brother and I are very fond of you, we don’t even know you that well.”-him

Well that’s true, I’ve only met these guys once and here they are doing favours for me. Firstly, Nkosinathi allowed me to stay in this floor which is a private floor and now Nkosiphendule is out there shopping clothes for me, a girl he barely knows.

“I am grateful for what you and you are brother are doing for me. I don’t know how I’ll repay you.”

“I was just doing my job”

I shifted a bit and he noticed I was nervous

“what’s wrong?” he asked

“The hospital bill... I am not working at the moment, so I don’t have money to pay. You should have let me die, what happens to people who don’t pay hospital bills? Will I be taken to jail?”

He just laughed at me

“you won’t go to jail; your hospital bill has been paid for”

“by who?”

“I cannot disclose that with you. I was told not to mention it.”

I just thought of that strange man that visited me but never said a thing. What if he’ll want something in return?

“I don’t want to owe anyone anything. please tell that person that I will pay the money as soon as I can.”

“you worry too much. I’ll go get your discharge papers while you wait for Nkosiphendule.”

he left, and I was left wondering about my future. What do I do from here? I can’t stay at that house, it holds painful memories. Where will I go? These thoughts were eating me up inside and I felt my heart closing in.

NARATTED

ESHOWE

Zodwa, Nomathemba and Jabulani (uncle) arrived eThekweni and they were outside Lethinhlanhla's house knocking to no avail

"This child does as she pleases in this house. It's 08:00 am in the morning where is she?"-Zodwa

"she probably didn't even sleep at home. Uhambe ehla enyuka namadoda." (She's probably up and down with men) -Nomathemba

The neighbours that took Lethi to hospital saw the three people outside carrying suitcases and they went over to them.

"sanibonani"-Neighbor

"yebo sawubona"-Them

"nginganisiza? Who are you looking for?"-Neighbor

"we are looking for Lethinhlanhla"-Zodwa

"are you related to her?"-Neighbor

"kutheni sabuzwa imibuzo emingaka emzini kaSisi" (why are we being asked so many questions in our sister's house)-Nomathemba

"I didn't mean to be nosey, it's just that we've been their neighbors for years now and not once have we seen any of you. Even when her mother died nobody showed up."-Neighbor

“Bhuti do you know where this child is?”-Nomathemba

“We took her to hospital a month ago and she hasn’t come back.”-

Neighbor

“do you perhaps know where she left the key?”-Nomathemba

“won’t you ask what happened to her?”-Neighbor

He was shocked at the fact that he just told them the child has been hospitalized for a month and the only thing she asks for is the keys to the house

“what happened to her” Zodwa asked clearly not bothered

“she tried to kill herself”-Neighbor

Nomathemba clapped her hands in defeat

“lengane ngathi izoba inkathazo” (Seems like this child will be problematic) -uncle

“I hope she’s dead” Zodwa whispered

“the keys bhuti, do you know where she left them?”-Nomathemba

He handed over the keys and they went inside

“hhe bebephila impilo kanokusho (they were living a lavish life), no wonder Sthembiso never visited the farms”-Nomathemba

They viewed the house and made themselves comfortable

At the Hospital

Nkosiphendule came back with a handful of shopping bags

“I said get me a hoodie and leggings not the entire mall”-Lethi

“well I didn’t know which one you’d like so I got you all that I could find”

“Nkosi, any hoodie would’ve been fine, I just need clothes to go home not to a party”-Lethi

“well I can’t take them back now can I?”-Nkosi

Lethinhlanhla shook her head and took the shopping bags and emptied them on the bed. Nkosi bought her everything from pjs, morning shoes, jeans, tshirts, hoodies and different colours of legging

“you are so extra; do you know that?”-Lethi

“I’ve been told”

Spending money is his thing. He never looks at the prices when he shops, when he likes something he buys it.

“now go change so we can go”

She changed, signed the discharge papers and left. They got to his BMW I8 and Lethi wondered how rich Nkosi’s family is. Nkosi is a year older than Lethi so there is no way he could’ve made all this money, “he probably got it from his parents” she thought to herself

“nice wheels”-Lethi

“I know, where are we eating first?” he asked smiling

“cocky aren’t we?”-Lethi

“I am joking, thank you Lethi”

“mxm”

Laughing

“where do you want to eat?”

“I am not hungry”-Lethi

“what did you eat?”-Nkosi

“nothing”

“so how can you not be hungry when you haven’t eaten for so long?”

“I don’t know.”

“I made a promise to you that I will take you out to eat and I always keep my promises. Please decide what you will eat, or should I decide for you?”

Lethi rolled her eyes and he saw that

“Spur it is”-Nkosi

Lethi just smiled wondering what she has gotten herself into

“uhlekani?”

“Thanda iyndaba”-Nhlanhla

He just smiled and carried on driving. His phone rang and he ignored it

“running away from your girlfriend?” She asked laughing

“I don’t do girlfriends”

“are you gay?”-Lethi

He laughed so hard

“cela ungbuke kahle mina (take a proper look at me), have you ever seen a handsome gay like me?”

Nkosi is tall, has muscles and is caramel. He isn’t big but he isn’t skinny as well, just in the middle

“uthi ngithini phela (what do you want me to say) when you say you don’t do girlfriends. For your information gay people are very beautiful”-Lethi

“but not like me”

“whatever”-Lethi

“I’m telling you the truth and to answer your question no, I am not gay.”

“ahha you’re the type that doesn’t like to commit?”

“I wouldn’t put it like that. I just don’t want to limit myself.”

She eyed him

“okay let me rephrase that. I am still waiting for “The one” so in the meantime I’m having fun here and there.”

She just shook her head obviously not in agreement to what he is saying. She doesn’t believe there’s a right person for anyone, it all depends on your level of tolerance and how you communicate with the person you date and if you’re lucky enough you’ll end up getting married, But that isn’t the conversation she wants to have with Nkosi so she will let him be.

They went to spur

“may I take your order?”-Waiter asked Lethi

“I will have a salad please”-Lethi

“and you sir?”-Waiter

“we’ll both have wings, ribs and chips. You can add her salad on the side”-him

“and what would you like to drink?:-Waiter

“I will have an appletiser”-Lethi

“I will have beer”-Nkosi

“no, he will have an appletiser as well”-Lethi

“no, I’ll have a beer”-Nkosi

The poor waiter was confused

“we each will have a plate of ribs, wings and chips and a salad for me and two glasses of Appletiser. Thank you!”-Lethi

The waiter left

“now why would I want to have juice when I can have beer?”-Nkosi

“since you made me order ribs and all that I decided you can’t have what you wanted as well.”-Lethi

He couldn’t help but chuckle. He really enjoyed being around Lethi, he felt free around her. She is like a sister he never had.

“tell me about you”-Nkosi

“there’s nothing to tell”

“come on”

“I am serious. I grew up here with my mom, I don’t have siblings, I graduated from UKZN...that’s it”

“nice, where is your mom?”

These are the questions she was avoiding when Nkosi said they should go out and eat. She’s not sure whether she should open up to him or not because she doesn’t really know him that well, but he has been nice to her all this and he has proven to be trustworthy

“she passed away few months back”

“I am sorry to hear that”

“yeah hey”

“so, who do you stay with now?”-Nkosi

“I stay on my own”

“where is your family? Dad, aunts and uncles?”

“I have never met any of those people”-Lethi

It was at this moment that Nkosi swore to protect and be Lethi’s only family. He has gained a little sister in her even though they are almost the same age.

“how old are you?”-Nkosi

“what are you? A lawyer?. I am 21 this year” She said smiling

“no, I just want to know you”-Nkosi

Their food came and they ate

“why were you at the hospital? What was wrong?”

She almost choked on her chip as she wasn’t expecting that question

“how come you don’t know when your brother was my doctor”

“he doesn’t disclose client information to us”

She was skeptical to answer

“I tried to kill myself”

He wasn't shocked at all as he saw the bandages around her wrists the time she was at the hospitals. Now he is trying to connect the dots and it is all coming together now, she tried to kill herself because she doesn't have anyone. Little does he know that there's more that contributed to her trying to kill herself.

“I will not ask further”-Nkosi

“thank you Lord”

He laughed

“I am letting you off the hook for now”

She rolled her eyes. He noticed that she does that a lot.

“don't you want to know anything about me?”-Nkosi

“I already know everything”

“alright Miss Mfeka, what do you know about me?” he asked

amused by her response

“you're a Rich kid who comes from a wealthy family, you have a big brother who is a doctor, you are a player, you probably work in the family business.”

“I'm hurt”-him

“by what?”

“the player part”

“we both know you are a player”

He shrug his shoulders

“well you are right. I come from a well-off family, I have two big brothers, I do work in the family business but that’s not my only job. I studied IT at school so if you need anything computer related I am your guy.”

“I see. I’m assuming you have your place where girls come and go everyday” She said eyeing him and sipping her drink

“yes, I have my own place” He ignored the other parts about girls because it is true

“how old are you?”-Lethi

“I am 22”

“awu Ntwana yami, you and I are the same age”-Lethi

“no, we are not. I am 22 and you are 21. I am older than you.”

She rolled her eyes

“that’s the 3rd time”-Nkosi

“what are you talking about?”

“it’s the 3rd time you’ve rolled your eyes today. Careful they might fall off your sockets”

She just laughed at him. She wasn't aware of this

"can we go now, I want to take my medication and rest"-Lethi

"Girl you've been resting for 1 full month, aren't you tired of resting?
I thought maybe you would want to hit the club or something."

laughing.. "only you would say something like that. I am not a fan of
clubs"-Lethi

"a 21-year-old who doesn't like to party. Weird"

"I am unique"-her

"yes, yes you are"

"I am serious though, can we please go"-Lethi

"ouch am I that boring? Yazi kunini ngilinde uvuke khona sizoxoxa"

(do you have any idea how long I've been waiting for you to wake up
so that we can talk)

"fine ke we can go to my house sixoxe while I rest my feet on the
couch I am tired."-Her

"I'm joking I'll take you home so you can rest, and I'll check on you
tomorrow"-Nkosi

"thank you"

He settled the bill and left R200 tip for the waiter.

Who tips ngoR200? Rich kids I tell you. She thought to herself

It was a fun drive back to Lethi's house, she doesn't remember the last time she smiled and held a conversation like this. He parked outside Lethi's house

"Shit"-Lethi

"what?"

"I don't have the keys, I don't even know who found me and took me to hospital. What if they robbed me and took everything in the house?"

She was panicking

"please calm down. Let us go and check maybe the person who took you to hospital hid the key under a rock or something. If we can't find it we will ask your neighbors maybe they know something."

He helped her with the shopping bags, and they went in, they heard noises coming from inside.

"there are people inside. What if these people moved in and made this their home?"

"my goodness you will die of heart attack at an early age. Open the door so we can find out what is happening."-him

She opened the door and they went in and found the two aunts and uncle drinking tea and storming up a chat.

"look at her bringing men like it's her house"-Nomathemba

“didn’t they say she was in hospital?”-Zodwa

“she wasn’t in hospital lo, look at her and those shopping bags. She was cohabiting with this boyfriend of hers.”-Nomathemba

Nkosi and Lethi were both shocked by what they were hearing. Lethi doesn’t even know these people who are drinking coffee in her mother’s house.

“sanibonani” She tried to be polite

“kanibonani, uphumaphi wena?”-Nomathemba

“sawubona mshana”-Jabulani

She turned to Nkosi who was just as confused as her

“who are you and what are you doing in my mother’s house?”-Lethi

“we are your mothers’ sisters”-Nomathemba

“it can’t be. My mother didn’t have family”-Lethi

“I am telling you. Sthembiso was our sister”-Nomathemba

“what do you want? She is no more so please leave, there’s nothing for you here”-Lethi

“iyeyisa lengane” (this child is disrespectful) -Zodwa

“we are here for our sister’s things. She has other kids back eShowe and this house and everything belongs to them”-Nomathemba

“what kids are you talking about? I am her only child. Where were those kids all along? Where were you all these years? You never showed up when my mom was going through the most, where were you when she had nothing? And now you are coming here to claim things you have no business in.” she asked annoyed

“Sthembiso has two kids older than you back at home. She had you when she got married and she needed to have kids in her marriage, so she left the other two at home.”-Nomathemba

Both of them, Lethi and Nkosi haven't sat down since they entered the house. Lethi felt her heart closing in again and Nkosi caught her before she fell on the floor. She made her rest on the sofa

“somebody give me water”-Nkosi

They all stared at him nobody moved

“bloody idiots” He said as he shoved them out of his way, and he came back with a glass of water and gave her to drink.

“Lethi breathe in and out slowly”-Nkosi

She did as told , breathed in and out a couple of times and she was back to breathing normally.

“I need to drink my medication and rest for a bit”-Lethi

“I can't leave you here alone with these people”-Nkosi

“I will be fine, I promise”

He was a bit skeptical about leaving her here

“Nkosi please” she begged

“fine! If you want me to fetch you just call me”

“there is no need but okay”

Nkosi took out his phone and handed it to her

“call your phone so you will have my number”

All this time the elders are watching

“Thank you! Ngzokbona ksasa” He walked out and Lethi went to her room drank her medication and tried to sleep. A lot was on her mind, where are these people coming from? Are they really related to her? Does she have siblings? Why didn’t they show themselves all this time? Why now that her mother is gone? All these questions kept popping up in her head until the pills finally kicked in and drugged her to sleep.

At Llandudno

Eric enters his parents’ house and his mother is the first person to spot him. She ran to him almost tripping over the carpet

“Kodwa uzoze uwe Hlengiwe yini ngempela? Ngoba phela umfana uyangena uyeza kuwe.” (you will fall, what is wrong with you because the boy just got in and he’ll come to you)-Sipho

Hlengiwe ignored her husband and hugged her son

“How is she? Is she okay? Is she holding up?”-Hlengiwe was now crying

“sawbona Baba”-Eric

“yebo ndodana”-Sipho

“she is okay Ma! She recently got out of the hospital”-Eric

“out of the hospital?” she asked confused

Eric just shrugged his shoulders and looked at his father. He was the one who told him not to tell his mother because she would start crying and request to go to Durban.

“what was she doing in Hospital? Why didn’t anyone tell me this?” - Hlengiwe

“this is the reason why we didn’t tell you. Look at how you are reacting”-Sipho answered

“what was wrong with her?”-Hlengiwe

“she tried to kill herself and was in a Coma for a month”-Eric

Hlengiwe felt her heart closing in, she has a heart condition and she has to calm down and not stress too much because it could lead to a heart attack

“bring her water”-Sipho

Eric ran and helped her drink the water .

“Eric I called you weekly to ask how she was doing. You told me she was fine, each time I called you told me she was fine. How can you lie to unyoko? A woman who carried you for 9 months” she was now sobbing

“I didn’t want to stress you out mom”-Eric

“what if she had died and never woken up from that coma? Tell me how could I live with myself knowing my daughter who I’ve longed to hug, and kiss for 21 years died on her own in hospital while I was here doing nothing? When I should’ve been with her holding her hand , singing to her and brushing her hair. An entire month laying in a cold hospital bed with no one visiting her. Tell me Eric ngyabuza.”

“I’m sorry Mom”

“who is she with now?”

Eric looked at his father and he nodded

“She is with Zodwa, Nomathemba and that uncle”

Hlengiwe was fuming with anger. She slapped her son and shoved him out the way and went straight to her bedroom. She took out a suitcase and shoved everything she could find inside and walked out pulling the suitcase.

“Hlengiwe where are you going with that suitcase?” Siphos asked

Her other two daughters walked in. Siphon and Hlengiwe have 6 kids in total. Eric being the eldest Son, Lerato follows after Eric (She passed away) then Naledi after Lerato then it's the twins Lethinhlanhla and Siphuthando (boy) and the last born is Phiwokuhle

"Mah where are you going?"-Phiwokuhle

The other kids don't know about Lethinhlanhla except for Eric

"kids leave us alone to talk"-Siphon

"Haibo Baba"-Naledi

"Naledi!"-Siphon

They all know never to argue with their father. They left one after the other

"Hlengiwe I will not ask you again"-Siphon

"I am going to Durban to fetch my daughter" she responded

"No, you are not"-Siphon

"Who sill stop me?"

"Hlengiwe!" he warned

"No baba, I am tired of waiting. When will I fetch my daughter? You always tell me you have a plan, but not once have you acted on it. Do you know what those two witches are doing to my daughter as we

Speak? Do you know how painful it is for a mother to know that the child she gave birth to is out there being abused while I am alive. I am no longer that naïve girl who is afraid of her family.”

“I know nkosik....”

She stopped him halfway

“you don’t know anything! had you known you would’ve gotten our daughter back long time ago”

“I will get her soon I promise”-Sipho

She sat down and started sobbing all over again

LETHINHLANHLA

These pills are really strong. I slept around 17:00 hoping to wake up from this nightmare at 22:00 only to wake up at 08:00 the next day. I hear voices downstairs, there’s laughter. ohh my god I wasn’t dreaming last night, these people are really here. I made my bed and brushed my teeth and dragged myself to the kitchen only to find a community of people in my dining rooming laughing and eating the food my mom bought, my food!

“oh, finally the princess has woken up”-Zodwa

They all laughed

“Lethi or whatever your name is , meet Nomcebo and Sfiso, Sthembiso’s kids. This right here is Thabiso your husband”-

Nomathemba

I am not even going to entertain that husband part because it’s rubbish. I looked at these “kids” and they look nothing like me. They are older than me, probably 2 or 3 years older than me

“these are not my siblings; they look nothing like me”

“they are not your siblings, hence why I said “Sthembiso’s kids””-

Nomathemba

“what does that even mean?”-Me

“You will find out soon enough”-Nomcebo

She sipped on her coffee, I wanted to punch her stupid face

“get ready girlie the lawyer is coming to read Sthembiso’s Will”-

Zodwa

I went to the kitchen and found the pots empty; great they didn’t even leave food for me. Why do these people hate me so much? I made cereal and went up to my room and I searched for my phone until I found it. I switched it on, and messages were flooding in from a number I don’t know. I ate while I went over the messages .

[I’ve been trying to call you, why is your phone off?]

[Text me as soon as you get this message]

[Lethi I am worried now, are you okay? Should I come pick you up]

[It's your new buddy Nkosiphendule, call a brother back]

I laughed at that last part

I logged into WhatsApp and sent him a text

[hey buddy , I am okay. I fell asleep and woke up this morning]

within a second he read it and is typing

[thank god, I thought something happened to you. Are you okay?]-

him

[I am fine. I have to go shower we will talk later]-me

[can I come over and see you later?]

[sure]-me

I logged out and went to shower and wore legging and a sweater, the ones Nkosi bought. I'll be wearing these until my scars fade away.

"Yey wena vila come down here" Zodwa shouted

I went down with bowl of cereal , rinsed it and put it away

"the lawyer is here, stop wasting our time"-Nomathemba

"now that everyone is here we can begin"-Lawyer

He went on with the legal procedures of the will , but I wasn't interested in that. What I am interested in is knowing who these people are and if my mother knew them.

“ This is the last Will of Sthembiso Mfeka

I Leave my house to my three kids Sfiso , Nomcebo and Lethinhlanhla

I leave my car to Lethinhlanhla

I leave 1 million Rands to Sfiso and Nomcebo

I leave my house in Ballito and 500k to my sisters; Zodwa and Nomathemba....”-Lawyer

Zodwa and Nomathemba screamed in Unisome. Bitches! That’s the only thing they came here for.

“as I was saying , he looked at both of them, there is a condition attached”-Lawyer

Their faces dropped

“you can only access the house and get the money only when Lethinhlanhla agrees to marry Thabiso or if she dies from an illness within the stipulated period. If she chooses not to marry him then all will be hers”-Lawyer

Commotion

“may I please continue?”-Lawyer

They kept quiet

“this letter is for you Lethinhlanhla” He handed me the letter

“this other letter is for Hlengiwe”-Lawyer

Zodwa and Nomathemba looked at each other fuming

Who is this Hlengiwe?

“that’s all from my side. You will contact me when you’ve decided on whether you want to marry Thabiso or not.”-Lawyer

“that’s easy, I am not getting married to him”-me

“Thank you Mr Lawyer we will get back to you”-Zodwa

He left

“what do you mean you wont get married to him?”-Nomathemba

“exactly what I said”

“udakiwe! You will marry him, he paid Lobola for you”-Zodwa

“who did he pay Lobola to because I don’t have a father?”-me

They kept quiet

“ubhuti accepted Lobola on your father’s behalf”-Nomathemba

“tshela loyo bhuti wakho to pay the money back because I am not getting married to him”. All this time this Thabiso guy hasn’t said a thing

“I don’t understand, why do we have to share moms’ things with her?”-Nomcebo

“could you please just shut up for once! You got a share right? What more do you want?”-Sfiso

I will like this Sfiso guy. He is the only person who hasn't said anything to me

"Sfiso don't speak to your sister like that"-Zodwa

He stormed out of the house and left

"within a week I am coming to get you. I paid for you! You belong to me"-Thabiso

This guy clearly doesn't know me. Just because you pay lobola does not mean you are buying a person, I am not item you find at a store or an object that can be owned. Who does he think he is to tell me this?

He turned to Zodwa and Nomathemba "nina nobabili ningangihlanyisi or else" (You two better not drive me crazy or else)

He left and these two were left shaking

Or else what? Who is this guy?

"like it or not you will marry him"-Nomathemba

I put the envelope at the back of my leggings, and I left them talking and I went to the back of the yard only to find Sfiso smoking weed

"mind if I join?"-me

He just stared at me with a blank face. I sat anyway, this is my house as well

“where are you from?”-me

...

“Do you know me?”-I asked

There was silence. I took the weed from him and started smoking. I am not a weed person but at this moment I needed to escape, I needed something that will take my mind off things. I wanted to be high or drunk. We continued to sit in silence for about 10 minutes both of us in our own thoughts.

“we are from Eshowe and yes I knew about you.”

He finally spoke. Uyangijwayela lo ukhuluma sekthanda ididi lakhe

“I didn’t know about you guys until yesterday. My mother never mentioned anything to me. I didn’t even know I had relatives, it’s always been mom and me.”

Silence

“why do you hate me?”-me

He turned and looked me deep in my eyes as if searching for something

“I don’t hate you” he spoke

Silence

“well I resented you when we were growing up because I grew up being told that you took our mother from us. I didn’t understand what was so special about you that my mother had to leave us behind and only take you with her. We were always hopeful that she will come back one day and take us with her as well. As we grew older I realized that you did nothing wrong, you didn’t ask to be born or stolen or whatever. You were a kid who probably didn’t even know we existed, so what’s there to hate when you’re just innocent? The only person I resent is that women who gave birth to us. I don’t want her house or money; you can keep it. My mother died to me the day she left us behind and never came back for us. Nomcebo hates you because she is poisoned against you, she listens to everything those two say and they told her you are the reason why Sthembiso didn’t love her. Even when I explained to her that you’re not to blame she doesn’t want to listen.”-him

This is all too much, what does he mean by “stole”? imagine being hated for being born!

“Thank you for not hating me” I said

“sure”

I finished his weed

“hay wena, who said you can finish?”

“roll another one, I know you have more”

He shook his head and took out a bag of weed. I beamed with excitement

“why are you getting excited? This is not for you”

“come on! Eyokgcina”

“eyokgcina kwani? Look at your eyes”

“musa ukungibhora” (don’t bore me)

He laughed. First time seeing him laugh. Ubhuti wami shame, he is cute bandla. Who would’ve thought that I had a brother and sister? Well a brother because the sister hates me. All these years I grew up thinking I was alone

“first pull?”

He handed me the joint and we continued from where we left off

“do we have the same father?” I asked

“Nomcebo and I have the same father”

Maybe that’s the reason why Mom left them behind. Maybe my father didn’t want them. Want them where though because I don’t even know who he is. We continued to sit in silence until it was dark then we headed inside and found them gathered in the dining table with only one plate of food reserved

“Sfiso here’s your food”-Zodwa

No food for me again. So, their plan is to starve me. I went up to my room and I heard Sfiso saying he is not hungry, and he went to his room as well. I logged into WhatsApp and sent a text to Nkosi

[where is my visit kanti]

[I was waiting for you to tell me when to come]

This guy is always online

[you can come]

[okay I am on my way]

[wear shorts]-me

[why?]

[just wear shorts, you will find out why]

[okay]

[one more thing]-me

[yes ma'am?]

[please bring pizza]

[which one?]

[any]

[alright]

I sat on the floor and thought about what happened. Is this normal? Is this common? Do all families have this kind of drama in their lives? Where are these millions coming from? My mother wasn't rich, where is this money coming from? I took out the letter and just looked at it. Who is Hlengiwe? Why did she leave her kids behind? I kept thinking about all these questions and was disturbed by my phone vibrating. It was a message from Nkosi telling me he is outside. I changed into a bikini and wore a dress on top, it's dark so no one will see my scars. I walked down and found the family watching tv

"where are you going at this time? Dressed like that"-Nomathemba

"this one is a prostitute nizothi ngasho"-Zodwa

WOW! I walked past them without answering and went outside.

Today he is driving a white range rover. Lord knows how much I love big cars. One day when I have money I will buy a Jeep Rubicon. I got inside

"hello buddy"

He smiled but his smile turned into a frown when he looked at my wrists and thighs. The scars are still there but they not as severe as they used to be, they will fade away soon, hopefully.

"hello buddy how are you"-him

"kyale kyale njenge panty lamahhoshha"

He laughed so hard

“where did you hear that?”

Laughing.. “I don’t know where I heard it from”

“ave uzoshawa wena”

“They should try me”

“haibo Jackie Chan”

I laughed

“you smoke weed now?” he asked

“I don’t know what you’re talking about” I said trying not to laugh

“your eyes are red and contracted and I can smell the weed from you”

“what are you ? a cop?” I asked laughing

He shook his head smiling

he handed me the Pizza, “here is your food”

I thanked him as I shoved the slice of pizza in my mouth. I haven’t eaten anything except the cereal and weed makes you hungry

“now tell me why am I in shorts?”

“I don’t know, why are you in shorts vele?” I laughed at him

“ungazo ngijwayela”

“I’m kidding! Let’s go for a swim”

“where?” he asked

I stared at him blankly and he noticed

“no phela I have a pool at my place we could go there as well” he laughed

“ngfunu uLwandle (I want the sea)”

“yes madam”

He drove to Toti beach and we were talking and laughing along the way, we got to the beach and it was empty. Perfect! I love the sound of the ocean at night and the way the stars light up. I took off my dress and I was left in a bikini

“asambe” I ran, and he took off his t-shirt and ran after me

“Lethi you are high as fuck please don’t drown”

“I won’t”

I went deep inside with him next to me guarding me. A part of me wanted to go deeper so that I could drown and hopefully die but another part told me not to do this Nkosi, he has been very supportive, and I can’t put him through that trauma .

“you know we are not allowed to swim at night right?”

I ignored him

“so why did you decide to come to the beach at night?” he asked

“I love the beauty of this place at night, the sound of the waves and the night breeze is refreshing” I replied

“I see”

“let’s race. Whoever losses will pay for the next lunch”-Me

We raced and I won. He let me win though , probably because he doesn’t want a woman to pay for lunch when he is around or because he has too much money and he doesn’t know what to do with it.

We stayed in the water for like an hour

“ngeke phela sizophenduka oFish”-him

We went back to the car and realized we didn’t bring towels to wipe ourselves

“had you told me we were coming here I would have brought towels”

“ey don’t blame me, I wasn’t thinking straight, we can use my dress to wipe ourselves or we could stay out here until we are dry”

“I’ll take the second option”

We found a dry spot not too far from the car and we sat there

“Lethi”

“Nkosi”

“how are you ? please be honest”

“I’m good, I really am”

Lies , I just don’t want to bother him with my drama

“how are those people treating you?”

They hate me! they hate me for being born. They don’t give me food in my own house, they are forcing me to get married to a random guy I don’t even know. Is that what I am supposed to tell him? So, he can pity me?

“better than what they were yesterday. My siblings came today, they are at home. They are nice”

Yes! I used the word “siblings” even though we want nothing to do with each other.

“look at me in the eye and tell me you are fine”

God this guy. I can lie right? Then blame it on the weed later. Yes, I will do that.

I looked at him straight in the eye

“Nkosiphendule Ndlovu I am fine”

I am fine on the outside but shattered on the inside

“you could never lie to me right?” he sincerely asked

“No”

Lies!

“ok good because I’d hate it if you were”

What are you? My boyfriend?

“how are you?” I asked him

“I don’t know”

“what do you mean you don’t know? It’s either you are fine or not”

“I’m leaving” he said

“leaving where?” I asked

“South Africa, I am going on a business trip to Cuba. For a month or two it will depend on how fast we work.”

I wanted to scream , roll on the floor and cry and tell him not to go. He is my escape, the only reason I’m giving this life thing a second chance. With him not around who will I talk to? Who will I go to the beach with at night? Who will make me laugh and take my mind of things when it gets too much? I don’t love Nkosiphendule in the girlfriend and boyfriend way, I take him as a brother, MY BEST FRIEND, MY ONLY FAMILY.

Silence

“say something” he begged

“when are you leaving?”

“4 am in the morning”

Is it too late to run back to the water and stay underneath it?

Silence again

“Don’t do that” he says

“Do what?”

“You bite your nails whenever you are nervous or if you have a lot on your mind. I’ve noticed that about you.”

Silence

When was he going to tell me this? How long has he known that he was leaving? Isn’t he a computer guy? Why does he need to travel when he can just sit in his bedroom and open a computer or laptop and work? Why does he have to travel so far? Why Cuba and not Namibia or any of the African countries?

“I don’t like it when you are quiet” he spoke

“take me home”

Where is home really? He is my home, but he is leaving. I know they probably locked the gates and door so that I wouldn’t get in. I don’t care at this point; I’ll sleep outside if I have to as long as I am away from him. He is leaving me just like how mother left me, he is leaving me just like my father left me, he is leaving me just like how my baby

left me. he is leaving me just like how everyone left me, on my own to suffer. That's how it should be, I am destined to suffer.

“Lethi don't be like that please”

We've been seated here for a while now and we are dry. I stood up and left and he followed me, he opened the car and we got in. I put my dress back on and turned the radio on, I needed anything to distract me at this moment. I don't want to hear him speak or breathe.

He let me be and we drove in silence until we reached my place

He locked the car doors

“Lethi I am sorry, I don't want to leave you on your own I really don't, but I don't have a choice I have to leave.”

Take me with you! Save me from this place please

“have a safe trip”

“are you mad at me?”

“No”

“we will talk daily I promise you” he says

When will we talk because the time zones are different, I am in Africa and he'll be in North America?

“the times zone are not the same” I say

“I don’t care! When you wake up text me, when you sleep text me. I will respond no matter the time of day”

“alright” that’s all I could say

He sighed

“the lights are off, and the gate is locked how will you get in?”

“I hid the remote by the gate”

I lied I will jump. I can’t tell him that because he won’t open these doors

“alright then, I’ll see you in a month or two”

“alright”

He unlocked the doors and I attempted to leave

“hawu buddy not even a hug”

I turned and gave him a cold hug, I wasn’t going to show him that I am weak, that I won’t survive these two months as long as I’m surrounded by these people. He let me go and I left. now how will I jump is the question

He didn’t drive off probably waiting for me to go in . I climbed the gate like a monkey and jumped. He brightened his car lights probably not believing what he’s seeing . I just laughed and went to the door and he drove off. I tried to open the door but as expected it was locked.

“think Lethi think”

I went around the house to Sfiso’s window, luckily his room is in the ground floor and I knocked on his window. After some time, I saw the lights go on.

He peeped on the window

“please open for me”

I brought my hands together in a pleading manner .He closed the curtain without saying anything

“okay is that a yes or no?”

I went back to the door and tried to open it again and it opened, I went in and went to my room took a hot shower and changed into night wear. My phone beeped and it was a message from Nkosi

[you lied about the remote]

I ignored him

Few minutes later he sent another message

[I am really sorry Lethinhlanhla, I promise I am not abandoning you. I will be back, and I will make it up to you. Goodnight Spiderman]

I blue ticked him again and switched off my phone. I sat down on the floor and took out my mother’s note. I do that a lot, I randomly sit on the floor and drown into thoughts. I opened the letter, I was afraid of opening it in the beginning when I got it because I know nothing

good will come out of this, but now, I am not afraid. I'm already shattered so I might as well hurt myself even more and feel the pain all at once. The letter read :

My Dearest Daughter

You are probably reading this because I'm dead or in jail. I would like you to be seated when you read it. Please have an open mind and please forgive for what you're about to find out.

You grew up knowing you don't have a family, well you do. You have siblings, Mamkhulus and Uncles. My mother had 6 kids , my two elder brothers (your uncles) and 3 sisters (Zodwa being the eldest, Nomathemba the second born, Me Sthembiso the 3rd and Hlengiwe the last born) . I have two children Nomcebo and Sfiso which you will meet someday.

I got pregnant with them at a very young age and in my early 20s I was wedded to Butholweze. Back when I was young a wife couldn't bring children of another man into another man's house that's why I had to leave Nomcebo and Sfiso behind, not that I didn't love them. Two years after we got married I had to give my husband children to build our family. Luckily I fell pregnant around the same time Hlengiwe was pregnant, Her and I were tight , I connected to her more than I connected to my other two sisters. We were pregnant at the same and we were due to give birth around the same time. We did everything together ; we were practically twinning because we

both had other children out of marriage. I had two kids and she had three, the only difference was that Zodwa and Nomathemba loved me more because the man I was married to was wealthy while Siphon (Hlengiwe's boyfriend) was poor). They didn't understand why Hlengiwe kept on having children with this guy when he was clearly not coping financially.

We were taken to the hospital and my husband arranged for us to be in the same ward when we gave birth. When you have money, you get whatever you want. We were in the same ward and both our sisters were there. I gave birth to a baby girl, but she was weak, even her cry was weak. I didn't care I loved her, she was perfect and beautiful, and I knew I was going to take care of until she gets better. My sisters were happy for me, I held her in my arms, and everything just fell into place. She fell asleep in my arms and a few hours later Hlengiwe gave birth to twins a baby girl and a baby boy she didn't see her kids properly as she fainted after giving birth, she has a heart problem, so every little thing drains her energy. Both my sisters took the twins and I held on to my baby girl and the nurses rushed to Hlengiwe. As I was holding I noticed my baby wasn't breathing and I tried so hard to wake her up and I screamed at the nurses and they rushed to my side and told me my baby was gone. I was broken, how was I to explain to my husband that I gave birth and a few hours later she was gone, she died in my arms. Zodwa came to my bed with the

baby girl and she told the nurses to switch babies and she promised them money. I was against the idea of stealing Hlengiwe's baby but at that time I wasn't thinking straight , I was thinking of what I was going to say to my husband and my sisters convinced me that taking this child will help ease Hlengiwe's Burden as she already had 3 kids and she couldn't cope financially with 5. So, I switched the babies and that baby girl I switched was you.

Hlengiwe finally woke up but to only a baby boy. She was told the baby girl had a heart condition and she didn't make it. She believed it because she thought she passed the heart condition to her baby. She was shattered and I felt guilty and I wanted to return her baby, but I couldn't. she requested to see her baby girl and named her Lethinhlanhla , she wanted her to be a guardian angel and bring luck to her family. She named my daughter Lethinhlanhla and I hadn't given you a name as yet and because I felt guilty I named you Lethinhlanhla because that's the name your mother wanted.

I am so sorry Lethi, I hope you will forgive me and understand why I did what I did one day when you are a mother. Your Mother is my younger Sister Hlengiwe Mfeka.

After a few years my marriage was failing, my husband was abusive, and I told myself enough was enough. I had managed to save enough money to start a new life, afresh so I left him. I took you and left, I couldn't go back home to my sisters because they were angry that I

took away their lotto ticket and I couldn't face Hlengiwe. After some years they threatened to tell Hlengiwe and the police that I stole a child so they made me a deal that they will find a guy for you to marry and they would take the money. I didn't have a choice, so I agreed only on the condition that you get a degree first.

Please forgive me

I love you.

I read this letter and I was numb, I couldn't move or speak or swallow my own spit. I had this lump stuck on my throats and I felt my chest closing in, how can you steal your sisters' baby? A sister you said you loved. I know the pain of losing a baby , I can imagine how that Hlengiwe lady felt. Yes, Sthembiso's baby died she could've explained this to her husband and try for another baby, why would you inflict pain to someone else. That women grieved for a baby that's not hers. I am out of words, I am a twin! I wonder if he is still alive , if we look alike. I have three elder siblings! Nomcebo is not even my sister, she should be hating those Mamkhulus of hers that she worships so much and not me.

Does Hlengiwe know about me or does she still believe I am dead. If she knew I was alive why hasn't she come for me. a lot is going on in my mind right now . Do I hate Sthembiso for this? No, I don't hate her , I could never hate her because she is the only mother I know, she is the only person who has ever loved me. Not once has she

treated me as if I'm not her daughter. She is my mother and I am her daughter.

Am I angry at her? Very! She did a selfish thing. Neglected her other children and betrayed her own sister. I could never understand why she did it even though she explained her reason. I am angry at her for selling me to some guy she doesn't even know. I am angry at her for being a coward and not standing up to her sisters and threaten them back that they were in this as much as she was.

Where do I go from here? Do I look for the people who gave me life or do I continue being an orphan? What if they reject me? what if they are happy with their other kids? What if those kids resent me as well? God why am I suffering like this? Who did I wrong to be punished like this? I so badly want to call Nkosi and ask him to come fetch me, but I can't.

My chest is getting worse and I can't even breathe. I remembered the breathing technique, I slowly breathed in and out and my chest was slowly opening until it was normal. I fell into a dark hole , I needed to overdose on my medication not because I wanted to die, well I wouldn't mind if I died, but because I needed to sleep. I needed a break from my thoughts. I drank three pills and curled up on the floor until I feel asleep.

NKOSIPHENDULE

After dropping Lethi I drove to Hillcrest to Nkosenhle's place, I don't care whether it was late or not. I needed to speak to him urgently . I found him and Lisa watching Cartoons.

"Nkosiii" she ran to me with her hands up indicating I should pick her up

"Haibo Lisakhanya why aren't you sleeping this late"

She just smiled revealing her tiny teeth

"Brother"

"Bafo , what brings you here this late"-Nkosenhle

"am I not allowed to miss my brother?" I asked

"we both know that's not why you are here"

"fine! Is there no way I can sit this trip out?"-me

He eyed me

"I have other things I'm dealing with at the moment and my head is not clear and you know we need to have clear heads in this business." I continued

"well get enough sleep and clear your head because you are boarding that flight. If it wasn't an important trip I wouldn't be sending you guys in the first place."-Nkosenhle

"eish okay Bafo"

“just make sure everything runs smoothly so that you could come back earlier than expected and fix your issues.”-him

“sure! Let me go rest I’m too lazy to drive to my place.”

I left him and went upstairs . I have a room here because he stays on his own, once he gets a wife I will stop sleeping over whenever I want.

Nathi, Lwandile, Sizwe and I were at the airport to board our plane

“I can’t believe I will be away from Khanyo for so long”-Nathi

“and I will be away from my son for fucken two months”-Lwandile

Then they looked at me

“Yini? Nangihlahlela amehlo”-Me

“won’t you miss anyone?”-Lwandile

Of course, I will miss my buddy, the fact that I am leaving her when she needs me the most is heart-breaking. I know she lied to me when she said everything was fine, she tried to hide her pained face by smiling but she could never fool me. I sent her text messages yesterday and she ignored me [sigh] I hope our friendship will still be the same when I get back.

“No”-I replied

“this one is a player, he has so many girls that he won’t even know who to miss. He will have other girls waiting for him when we get there.”-Nathi

“you remind me of me when I was your age”-Sizwe

My God Sizwe is 26 and here he is acting as if he’s a grandpa

“excuse me fellas, I have to make a phone call” I left them there and dialed Lethi’s number and went straight to voice mail.

“Fuck mahn Lethi!”

I dialed Thulani , my right-hand man and he picked up when I was to drop the call

“Hey wena Nkosiphendule why are you calling me so early in the morning?”-Thuls

“sorry ntwana yami. I need your help”

“sho!”-him

“I need you to buy and deliver flowers, breakfast and a teddy bear to some address I’ll send to you.”

“what is this? You woke me up for your random bitches’ gifts? What am I? a florist?”-him

“please Thuls, I only trust you with her. She is not one of my bitches”

“what is she?” he asked

“someone very important to me” I replied

“haibo ntwana have you fallen for this girl? I’ll definitely deliver those flowers and I’ll even throw in chocolates as well. I need to see this girl who managed to tame that beast inside of you.” he was laughing

“usuyaphaphake wena. Her name is Lethinhlanhla , please make sure you give to her yourself.”

“moja ntwana”

I dropped the call and sent Lethi a message

[I hate the fact that I have to leave like this, leaving without talking to you and making sure you are okay. I hope to hear from you when you’re ready to talk to me. remember you can call or send a text anytime. Stay safe]

LWANDLE

Lwandile left this morning for a business trip to Cuba, and honestly I’m glad he left. This will give me a chance to be at peace , these constant fights we keep on having are draining. At least now I don’t have to worry about him whether he comes back or sleeps out. I stay up all the time waiting for him to get back which he sometimes doesn’t, and I’d end up falling asleep in the couch while watching tv. I have tried everything; I’ve been the perfect mother and a perfect girlfriend, but he still treats me like crap. I’m pretty sure he blames

me for what happened to Lethi that's why he avoids me, but I had nothing to do with it and besides I didn't force him to leave Lethi and be with me.

I love Lwandile I really do; I gave him a son for goodness sake he should be worshiping the ground I walk on but no he is still stuck on that girl. Lethi is problem even when she is out of our lives, I bet even if she died she would still make us fight.

I was disturbed by a phone call from an unsaved number

"Hello"

"sawubona ntokazi"-caller

"who is this?"

"the guy you promised lunch"-caller

Oh, the guy from the baby store. He is handsome! He is not dark nor yellow but in between, he is tall, really tall and has muscles and has an open chest. He has perfect lips and oh my god he smells good. That's the one thing Letty and I had in common, we both love guys who smell good.

"I remember you Mr unknown"-me

"you want to know my name?"-caller

"yes"

"do lunch with me today and I will tell you my name"

Well Lwandile is not here and Malwande went to his granny house which means I have time to myself. Something I haven't had in a while.

“okay sure. Send me the details and I will meet you there.”

“Thank you I will send them right away”

I haven't been to lunch in a while, a specially with a guy, a handsome guy like him who probably has millions judging by the clothes he was wearing. That Watch he was wearing probably costs more than Lwandile's monthly salary.

He sent me the details saying we will meet at Spur and I went to sleep so I can be fresh for the lunch. I feel like a high school girl who has been asked out by her crush.

“Lwandle compose yourself! You have a boyfriend!”

A boyfriend who hasn't shown interest in me for a while now. I set the alarm for 12:00 pm and I went back to bed.

LETHINHLANHLA

I woke up on the floor with a terrible headache , the letter was beside me and my heart immediately went to my stomach. I showered and brushed than changed to comfortable clothing. Today I just want to be happy, I want to forget about everything just for a couple of hours.

“Yey wena Lethi come down here”

That was Zodwa calling me. The way this lady hates me you’d swear I wasn’t born by her blood sister. I went to hear what she needed from me.

“one of your many boyfriends is outside demanding to see you. HHay Lethi niyawakhetha amadoda” she clapped her hands once “uvele umsukele nje umfana oweyisa kanje umqome ezihlalele.”

I don’t know who she is talking about. I don’t like this thing of her accusing me of having different men in my life. I don’t even have a boyfriend to begin with. I went to the gate and was welcomed by a stranger carrying flowers, a teddy bear, box of chocolate and a Nando’s paper bag.

“hi” he says

“Hi”

“What is your name?” he asked

“excuse me?”

“what is your name? I have a delivery here and I was instructed to deliver it directly to this specific person”

“Lethinhlanhla”

“Right! Here are beautiful flowers for a beautiful lady”

“who are they from?” I asked

“Nkosiphendule sent me here to give you these” He handed me everything

“thank you!”

“He is really fond of you. He has never done this before.”-him

“done what?” I asked confused

“personally, ask me to deliver flowers for a girl. You must be really important”

A part of me wanted to blush but a part of me didn't believe what he was saying. Guys lie for each other, a lot. One minute they are laughing with you , calling you “makoti kaMfethu” few hours later they are calling a different girl that.

“and who are you? What makes you so special?”

“My name is Thulani and I am Nkosiphendule's right-hand man. You can call me Thuls”

Okay!

“Thank you for delivering these Thuls, tell him I said thank you”

“it's my pleasure Miss”

I went back inside and found Sfiso watching tv

“Hey”-me

“sure”

His responses are always cold. Well he is the only one who tolerates me in this house so I will talk to him whether he likes it or not

“I am sorry for waking you up at night. I didn’t mean to do that it’s just that things went differently from what I expected.”

“don’t worry about it” he says

Silence

“I have food” I waved the Nando’s bag

“thank you but I am not hungry.”

“I’ve never seen you eat”

I seriously haven’t seen him eat maybe he doesn’t trust those witches who prepare food for him

“that’s because I’m never hungry”

“impossible!”-me

“where did you get that food because I know you just woke up”

“a friend of mine delivered it for me”

“friend you say”

“Yes Sfiso”

I wasn’t lying Nkosi and I are friends or were friends before he left.

There was Silence. Yho this guy will bore me shame; I have to nag him to talk to me

“so? Food?” I asked

He smiled and shifted so I could join him

“let me put these away and I’ll be right back”

I ran up and came down within seconds

“why are you being nice to me?” he asked

“because I am nice person”

We had this conversation while eating

“hhe must be nice, eating my mother’s money. Wena Sfiso be careful, if I were you I wouldn’t eat her food. She will poison you.”-

Nomcebo

I don’t even know where she came from

“yeah well you are not me” -Sfiso

I laughed. I honestly don’t understand this girl, she’s old yet childish. What would I get from killing them? And why would I eat the same food that has poison? Idiot I tell you. She clicked her tongue and left

“Don’t mind her” -Sfiso

“Ey your sister” -me

We finished the food and sat in silence

“You and I are not related. Well we are related but not like brother and Sister.”

“who is your mother?” he asked

“Hlengiwe” I answered

“mmhh”-Sfiso

I rolled my eyes. what does “mmhh” mean?

“do you know her?” I asked

“yeah Mamncane Hlengiwe was nice to us”

I wasn't interested in hearing anything further. Today I will not dwell on the negatives.

“You got weed?”

Silly question

“No” he replied

“don't lie”

“you will turn into an addict and I don't want to be responsible for that”

“don't be like that”-me

“take a walk and clear your mind and later on we will have a session”

“okay fine!”

I changed into my Nike air force and I walked to the nearest park and sat under a tree. I watched kids running around and others playing on the swings, how I wish I could be a kid again, Innocent and stress-

free. I laid on my back and closed my eyes and listened to the birds' chirp as the trees fanned me. I tried to imagine how my life would've turned out with my real parents. Would I have been Mommy or Daddies girl? Would I have been poor? Would I have a degree? Would I have gotten along with my siblings? My twin brother especially. I was disturbed by a ball landing on my feet

"Sorry Sisi" - the kid said

"klungile" (it's fine)

She ran to her friends. So cute!

I stayed for almost 3 hours just watching people walk and up and down, it was really relaxing. I went back home took my bag and car keys and went to Galleria; I was craving spur ribs. I placed my order and I sent a text message to Nkosi as I waited.

[Thank you for the gifts and food]

I quickly logged out before he could respond. I honestly wasn't in the mood for him. My food came and I dived in while playing candy crush, this game is very helpful when you have nothing else to do, and plus I was avoiding looking at people while I eat , I find it weird. Halfway in my meal a guy walked in and sat at a reserved table that was opposite mine.

(sigh) now this is annoying! Every time I look up I'll be met by his eyes. Can't he sit with his back facing me? I don't like being stared at when I eat, and I know this guy will be looking at me as he waits for whoever he is waiting for.

Relax and eat your food Lethi. I went back to my game and I tried to eat as fast as I can so I can be out of here.

"would you like anything else?"-waiter

"may I have the bill please"

As I was waiting for the bill, I felt his eyes on me and being me, I stared back at him. Now our eyes were locked, and he looked surprised, I don't know whether he knows me or is surprised that I stared back. I never turn down a staring competition, I don't randomly just stare at people but if you stare at me I will stare back until you look away.

We remained in that position for about a minute, he was saved by his phone vibrating, he dropped his eyes to his phone, and I looked away as well. The waiter came back, and I settled my bill and only had my juice to finish, as she left I felt his eyes on me again.

I gulped my drink in one go as I grabbed my purse , I stared back at him one last time and stuck my tongue out at him and made my way to the door , that made him shake his head and laugh. I honestly

don't know why I did that , but he will know never to stare at strangers next time.

I bumped into Lwandle on the door and we both stood and looked at each other. She looks good, really good. I stepped aside and made way for her to come in

“thanks”

I nodded, walked out and drove home. Upon my arrival I found Sfiso pushing his suitcase out the house.

“Hey what's with the bags?” I asked

“I'm going back home”

“why?”

“what do you mean why? You didn't think I was here to stay did you?”

“I didn't think you'd leave so soon. This is your house as well”

“I told you I wasn't interested in that woman's things.”

“are you leaving right now?”

“Yes.”

The only person who I thought had my back is leaving, he is leaving me with these vultures. Just when I thought him and I were fine then he decides to leave out of nowhere, had I not come back in time he would've left without saying goodbye. I am really on my own now.

"is your sister going with you?" I asked

"No."

"alright then have a safe trip."

"thank you."

I left him there and went straight to my room and curled up on the floor. why? Why? Why? I wanted to scream, cry or punch something. Just when I thought things were going my way, when I thought God has given me a second chance at happiness then this happens. All on my own all over again! Until when Lord?

I went up to my dresser and took out a business card that Nathi gave me and it was a therapist's number and the name Eric Zulu was written on it. I immediately thought of the business card that I never looked at, the one that Eric gave me when we met at the Pub. I searched for it in my drawer and it is the same business card Nathi gave me. Eric's word echoed in my ears "I might just be the friend you need"

ERIC

I got back from Llandudno last night and I am drained, Lethinhlanhlas issue is draining all of us. I don't know why dad is delaying the processes of going to her and telling her truth, this thing of following her and spying on her is not okay. Keeping this secrete from my other siblings does not sit well with me because in the end they all will be angry at me for keeping this away from them.

Phone rang and Lethi's name flashed on the screen

speak of the devil

I've had Lethi's number since the day I found out she was my sister, but I had to keep my distance from her and wait for dad to sort things out his way.

I have two business cards; one has my personal phone number and that business card is for those patients who are suicidal and are a danger to themselves, they can call me any time and I will try to assist where I can. The second business has the office phone number where it rings at the reception and people would have to make an appointment.

"Eric speaking hello"

...

"hello"

A part of me wanted to call her by her name and ask her to talk to me but I couldn't because she doesn't know that I know her.

"hello" she finally spoke

"hi, how can I help you"

"hi, my name is Nhlanhla and I met you a few months back and you gave me your business card and said I can talk to you"

"Yes"

She cut me before I could continue

"you called me Nokthula, I don't think you'll remember though"

"oh yes! Now I remember you , thank you for finally calling" I say

"you are a therapist"

Okay I don't know whether that was a question or if she was telling me waiting for a confirmation

"yes ma'am"

"if I want to talk would I have to set an appointment? How long would I have to wait?"-her

"you don't need an appointment; you can come whenever you need to talk. I am always available to listen and assist" I respond

"can I come now?"

"yes please"

She dropped the call

“Lethi come on don’t do anything stupid” I kept on repeating these words, the last time she cut herself she ended up in a coma for a month. I’m afraid she will do something more than cutting herself this time..

Phone rang

“Nkosenhle”-Me

“Eric we have a meeting in 30 minutes”-Nkosenhle

“I am expecting a very important patient I won’t make it”

“Eric this is an important meeting, we are skyping with the team abroad you have to be present”-him

“Like I said Nkosenhle, I cannot postpone for this patient I really can’t!”

I dropped the call, Nkosenhle will have to do without me for today because my sister needs me more than they need me.

Somebody knocked on the door

“come in”

She walked in looking beautiful as ever , she is the exact image of Hlengiwe and Phiwokuhle. It took so much for me not to run to her and hug her tightly and tell her that everything will be okay and that

she is not alone. She came in and sat on the couch and I moved from my desk and sat on the couch opposite her

“Hi” she says

“It’s good to see you again Nokthula”

She half smiled

“My name is Nhlanhla”

“I’m kidding . how are you Nhlanhla?”

She shrugged her shoulders. This will be tougher than I thought.

“Alright, what is bothering you at the moment?”-me

“this was a mistake, I’m sorry for wasting your time” She stood up in an attempt to leave

“please don’t go” I begged

“I don’t have money to pay you at the moment”

“that should be the least of your worries. My job is to help you first”

“you won’t make a living if you continue doing business like that you know? Because people will take advantage and never pay you” -her

“don’t worry about that, I don’t do these favors for just anyone. Only special people” I said smiling

She eyed me quizzically

“don’t look at me like that. Back to my question , what is bothering you at the moment” I asked again

Silence

“Nhlanhla”

“hhmm?”-her

“talk to me”

“I don’t have a life” she says

“what do you mean? Aren’t you alive ? breathing? Is that not life?” I ask

“no, what you see in front of you is a body, an empty body that is lifeless”

“How old are you?” I ask

“21” she says

“where are your friends? Or boyfriend ?”

“They both left”-her

“why?”

“I don’t know. They left like everyone else that has been in my life, they stay for a while then realize that I am not worth their time, I am a nobody with no identity, so they leave.”

That last part broke me, you are not a nobody. I wanted to tell her that You are Lethinhlanhla Zulu, my sister. You have an identity, you are the daughter of Hlengiwe and Sipho Zulu.

“what do you mean you don’t have an identity?” I asked as I wrote all of this down

“I am an orphan! I don’t know my parents”

“have you tried locating your parents?”-me

“NO! I don’t need them, had they wanted me in their life they would have long come for me.”-her

Damn it Sipho!

“That’s enough for today” she says

“is it not my job to say that?”

“Yes, but I see you are dragging this, so I decided to assist.”

Unbelievable!

“will you come in tomorrow?” I ask

“No”

“why not?”

“I’ve shared too much already”

“that’s how it’s supposed to be. You open up to me so that I’ll know how to assist you”

“I’ll see” She stood up and went to the door

“I wanted to do it yesterday” she says

“Do what?” I ask

“I wanted to end it all again yesterday, but then again I remembered his words, he said he will be back in a month or two. So, I am waiting for him to come back , then I will end it when he gets here so that he can bury me because he is the only person I have in my life even though he left me.” With that said she left

Jesus Christ! I dialed dads number

“Ndodana”-Sipho

“I am telling her dad , I am telling her now”

“what happened”

“she will kill herself dad”

“keep an eye on her”-Sipho

“Dad she will kill herself are you not listening ? uLethi uzozibulala. Is that what you want?”

“Eric remember who you are speaking to, I am not your friend.”

“why are you delaying this? Are you enjoying what’s happening to her? She is suicidal, she’s a threat to herself. We need to help her now.”

“2 weeks”

He dropped the call and I smashed my phone across the wall in frustration. What the fuck is wrong with this guy? Is this not her daughter? Had it been Phiwokuhle he would've long found her.

NKOSENHLE

Weeks have passed now and Lwandle and I have become really close, she has been visiting every now and then like today, she is spending the night with me.

“penny for your thought? ucabangani?”-Lwandle

I've been thinking about Lethinlanhla, yes I know her name. I knew her name since the day I started visiting her at the hospital, I was surprised to see her at Spur the other day. She looks much better than she did at the hospital and..

“Nkosenhle!”-Lwandle

“what?”

“I am talking to you”

“what are were you saying?”

“yazi you remind me of a friend I once had in Varsity, she used to zone out people in the middle of a conversation. It used to annoy the shit out of me.” -She said smiling

“why are you smiling? Where is that friend of yours now?”

“don’t change the subject”

Her face hardened. alright I should never ask about the friend ever again.

“what were you thinking about?”-her

“Nothing”

“mmhh”

Ma’am Donsa came in carrying Lisakhanya

“Mkhwenyana can I please take the day off today, my daughter is not okay at home”-Mam Donsa

“it’s okay mah, you can go” I gave her R500 for transport

“Thank you Mkhwenyana”

“sawbona Mah”-Lwandle

She gave me Lisakhanya and didn’t even acknowledge Lwandle

“Hello daddy’s Princess”-me

“can I hold her?”-Lwandle

“are you sure?”

“hello baby, come here” Lisakhanya slapped her hands

“What did you tell your daughter?”-she asked

“I didn’t tell her anything. ingane kaBaba le. angithi baby girl”

She giggled

“usile lomntwana, she is the opposite of Malwande”

“how old is your baby?”-me

“he is 9 months and 4 weeks , how old is Lisakhanya?”

“2 years”

“what happened to her mother?”-Lwandle

“would you like something to eat?”-me

“I’ll make the food just try to get her to sleep because she is sleepy”-

her

“alright let me take her to her room”

I sat on her rocking chair and rocked her to sleep. I went downstairs and Lwandle was almost done with the food

“take a seat I’ll dish up”

She prepared fried chicken, vegetables and mashed potatoes

“Ngeke Lwandle is this it?”

“what do you mean?”

“I’ll be hungry within 30 minutes”

“udla nezikelemu yini kanti wena?” (Do you have worms?)

“ngiyindoda yomZulu mina ngidla uphuthu” (I am a Zulu man, I eat uphuthu)

“hhayike go to the kitchen and cook that Phuthu of yours”

“hhay klungile I’ll eat what I’m given”

We had a light conversation over dinner, I helped her wash the dishes and we sat down and had wine.

“Nkosenhle”-her

“Lwandle”-me

“what’s going on between us?” she asks

“what do you want to happen?”

“I have a boyfriend”

“I’m listening”

“I love him, and I don’t think I can leave him”

“I hear you, but you haven’t answered my question”

“I want us to have fun”-Lwandle

“let’s have fun then”

“just like that?”-her

“just like that”-me

“do you have a girlfriend?”

“No, I don’t”

“why not? I mean you are perfect; you are handsome, and you have money. You can get any girl you want, and I am sure you have a lot of women that throw themselves at you”-Lwandle

“that’s true , but my heart can never love again”

“ouch that hurts”

“it shouldn’t , angithi you said you’re in love with someone else so it shouldn’t”-me

“what would’ve happened had I said I wanted to be with you?”

“that doesn’t matter now does it?”

“it does, I want to know”-Lwandile

“woza la” (come here)-me

“No” she laughed

“awfuni ukuza kmina?” (You don’t want to come to me?)

“Cha” she says

“why not?” I ask

“answer me first then I’ll come”

“come I’ll tell you”

She came closer

“sit here” I tapped my thighs and she obliged

“You are so short”

“leave me alone”

I bend down and kissed her with no response, I kissed her again and she responded this time around followed by a soft moan that escaped her lips. Well that was easy, it didn't even take that much to get the reaction I wanted from her. I deepened the kiss and with each kiss she shifted her ass around my member and that just fueled me up, I wanted her at that moment, at that spot. I removed her thong and I slid my finger to test the waters and as expected she was ready for me. Now the mission was to carry her to any of the spare bedrooms around this house, I had to settle for the rooms at the bottom because the stairs were too far. I had to carry her without breaking the kiss and without removing my fingers. This would be easier with a skinny girl but Lwandle is a thick girl. I successfully got up from the floor and I channeled my way to the bedroom

“is this your room?”

I shut her up with a kiss and I laid her in bed , instead of staying in bed she got up and pushed my pants down. She kneeled and took me in her hand and slowly rubbed up and down while looking directly into my eyes, next thing she took me in her mouth, and I was in and out. With each gag I tightened my grip into her braids pushing

her close to me. I scooped her from the floor and laid her in bed like I originally planned and quickly applied protection

“Lwandle please turn around, I don’t think I can wait for that long if you’re in this position”

Without hesitation she turned around with her ass up and chest down, I swear my veins were ready to pop out of this condom.

Without wasting any time, I slid in while balancing myself with her buns and I lost myself in her and within a few thrust she was clenching on the sheets screaming my name, I released, and she followed after me.

“did you have to do me like that?”

“Do you like what?” she giggled like a school kid

“come here”

I kissed her forehead and her phone rang. It’s 22:00 pm, must be the boyfriend calling. She looked nervous, I don’t know whether she’s scared of answering in front of me or if she’s regretting what we did.

“answer your phone I will go check on Lisa” I left the room and she answered as I closed the door

“hey babe...”

NKOSIPHENDULE

A month has passed and it seems like I am not leaving this place anytime soon. I've tried to contact Lethi every chance that I got but her phone has been on voicemail since that day she thanked me for the breakfast and flowers. I am worried about her, I've sent Thuls to check her on her I don't know how many times but she's never home whenever he went to see her .

"Nathi when are we leaving this place again?" I asked

"in a few weeks what's wrong?"

"I need to be out of here as in yesterday" I replied

"Nkosi we're about to finalize this deal, don't mess this up for us.

Where do you want to rush to?"-him

"I need to check on a friend" I say

"can't you do that over the phone?"

"she isn't answering"-me

"she?"

"Lethinhlanhla" I say

"have you fallen for that girl?"

"No, I just told you she is a friend"

“the way you worry about her you make me doubt this friendship of yours”-him

“ask Khanyo to check up on her” I say

“Khanyo has a child that she has to look after Nkosi, she can’t be up and down running after Lethi”-Nathi

“That child wouldn’t even be alive if it wasn’t for Lethi”

“that’s not what I meant , I meant..”

“forget I said anything, don’t ask her anything . nx” I left him and went for a smoke, I need to calm down

LETHINHLANHLA

A month has passed and Nkosi isn’t back yet, I guess two months it is. Things here at home have moved from being bad to worse. They still resent me, it’s easier now because Sfiso is gone, at least when he was here they were less mean. They have completely moved into this house and they haven’t given me food for a month now. They said the only way I’d be welcomed to this family is when I agree to marry Thabiso. Speaking of Thabiso he came here two weeks back demanding me to go with him

“if you don’t want to come with me, pay my money back.”-Thabiso

“who did you give that money to?”

“listen here little girl, I gave your aunts the money and they promised me your hand”-him

“then why are you demanding your money from me when you didn’t give it to me?”

“I will not argue with you any further. I gave you an option to marry me or pay me back, but because you have a big mouth I’m changing my options. it’s either you marry me, or you die.”

“that’s easy , I take the second option. get the fuck out of here now”

“I am giving you one week”

He left after that and I haven’t seen or heard from him in a while.

ZODWA

“this kid is stubborn yeses, she is exactly like Sipho”-me

“a month has passed and she’s adamant on her decision of not marrying Thabiso. It’s obvious that our plan of starving her and hiding the food is not working because she drives out whenever she wants, and she probably buys food with her savings.”-Nomathemba

“I say we kill her tonight”

“Kill her how? Hhay Zodwa she is family”

“family yamasimba? When you starve her do you think about family?”

“how would we do it? What will we say to Thabiso? He will come for us when we don’t give him his money back.”

“that lawyer said we would get our money if she died due to illness. So, we will poison her”

“How?”-Nomathemba

“are you sure we are related? Because you can be slow when you want. We will poison her food and it will eat her insides”

“But we never give her food”-Nomathemba

“well we will now”

“I doubt she’ll eat it, but we can try”-Nomathemba

“Let’s go prepare for dinner, be nice to her”

“okay.”

THABISO

A week has passed and still no sign of Lethinhlanhla. This bitch is testing my patience, I gave her an ultimatum and she thought I was bluffing. Now I will show her who Thabiso Kubheka is. You don’t mess with me and get away with it.

“Xolani!”

“Boss”

“give me that guys number, the Assassin”

“Eric?”-Xolani

“yes him”

“Eric doesn’t take small jobs boss, that person would have to be a big shot if you want Eric to do it”

“give me his number and I’ll talk to him”

He dialed the number and gave me the phone

“Zulu!”-me

“sho”

“I have a job for you, and I don’t want any mistakes”

“50k payment in advance and another 50k after the job is done”-Eric

“are you crazy? I am not paying 100k for that girl”

“take it or leave it. Call me when you’ve decided” He dropped the call.

This son of a bitch, who does he think he is? Demanding 100k for that kid

“well he is the best in the game, and he is the Son of Siphos Zulu, the leader of the drug loads.”-Xolani

Fuck, I need to convince him to do this job. This kid is very smart and stubborn, If I get an armature he will miss, and she’ll run into hiding.

ERIC

“your phone keeps on ringing, do you sell drugs now?”-Sipho

“very funny dad. It’s some guy who wants a hit on someone”.

My Phone rang again

“made up your mind?” I asked

“listen I am not paying more than 5k for this bitch” he says

I dropped the call

“this guy is disrespecting me”

“uthini?” (what is he saying?)-Sipho

“he wants me to get rid of some girl and he says he won’t pay more than 5k . what is 5k? even 100k is a minimum for a hit.”

“he is crazy , he should do it himself”-Sipho

Message alert

[Zulu I am you giving you a last chance to take this deal or else I’ll get someone else to do it. I’ll attach a picture of the girl, you will see for yourself she’s really not worth that much.]

Message alert , attachment

“this guy is an idiot, he says he is giving me one last chance to take this deal or he is giving it to someone else. He even attached a picture of a girl, imagine killing a person for a mere 5k.”

“open the picture, maybe it’s no one important”-Sipho

“dad I don’t just kill innocent people, young girls especially.”

I opened the attachment and I froze, the whisky glass on my hand slipped and broke into pieces

“I know you did not just break my expensive glass”-Sipho

“Dad you see the shit you’ve put Lethi in?”

Mom came in running

“what is it? What’s all this noise?”-Hlengiwe

“Eric who are you talking to like that?”-Sipho

“Sipho Zulu I am talking to you”

“Eric!”-Hlengiwe

“No Mom, look at this “

I threw the phone at the both of them

“That idiot wants Lethinhlanhla dead! and he is willing to pay 5k to whoever is willing to kill her. They will pay a lousy 5k for your daughters’ head! Is that what you wanted?”

Hlengiwe started crying , I don’t have time to rush after her. I have a sister to save.

“give me my phone!”

I dialed his number

“I knew you’d get back to me. what do you say?”-he answers

“how do you want her dead?”

“I don’t care how you do it, just kill her. I’ll send you her address”-
him

It’s not like I needed it, I know where she lives

“she’ll be dead by the end of the day”

“you will get your payment after”

I dropped the call

FUCK!

“I’m going back to Durban”

“save my baby Eric”-Hlengiwe

I turned to dad who hasn’t said anything

“you have nothing to say? They want your daughter dead and you
have nothing to say about that? You are something else” I left them
and headed to the airport. I dialed Mo’s number

“Eric”-Mo

“please prepare the jet , I need to leave in 15 minutes”

“sure”

I dropped the call and drove to the airport

LETHINHLANHLA

Something weird is happening around this house, the two witches have been smiling at me all day.

“Lethinhlanhla”-Zodwa shouted.

What happened to the nasty comments that follow after my name?

“what?” I say

“dinner is ready” she says

“so why are you telling her?”-Nomcebo

“shut up wena”-Zodwa to Nomcebo

“Lethi come sit, here’s your food”-Nomathemba

I wanted to see how long this would last. I sat next to Nomcebo and she shifted a bit, I swear this girl thinks she’s something important.

“so Lethi how are you?”-Nomathemba

“I’m fine”

“I don’t see that boyfriend of yours anymore, where is he?”-Zodwa

“he is not my boyfriend, he’s is abroad”

“where’s that?”-Zodwa

“uphesheya” I said rolling my eyes

“ohh nice, unemali kanti? awusho usebenzaphi?” (You didn’t say he has money, where does he work?)-Zodwa

That’s the only thing she’s interested in, Money!

“Mamkhulu the food is delicious as always”-Nomcebo

“Lethi you haven’t touched your food”-Nomathemba

“I’ll eat it, we are being nice and offering you food then you decide not to eat. You are an ungrateful spoiled brat”-Nomcebo

Look who’s talking

“Nomcebo go dish up, there’s food in the kitchen”-Zodwa

“why do I have to go all the way to the Kitchen when there’s a plate full of food right here?”-Nomcebo

“because this is Lethi’s food”-Nomathemba

“she can have it I’m not hungry” I say

“no silly, Nomcebo is always eating this is yours”-Zodwa

Yeah I’m not eating this food

“Nomcebo you can have the food, I’m going to bed”

I left them there and went to my room and locked, I am definitely not eating nor drinking anything from this house ever again. I trust no one. I locked my door and changed into my pyjamas and I slept.

NARRATED

“when the job is done I want proof”-Thabiso

“sure”-Eric

Eric dropped the call and called Lebo, she is a makeup artist who specializes in special effects make up.

“hello”-Lebo

“Lebs I need you at my house in 30min:-Eric

“alright”-Lebo

The time is 23:45 and Eric was outside Lethi’s house. Breaking into a house without being noticed is nothing compared to the other things he has done.

He got in and unlocked the front door and scanned for any noises or movement and when it was clear he made his way upstairs to Lethi’s room , he took out a small bottle and a cloth from his back pack and shoved it in his pocket, he picked the lock and made his way in. Lethi was fast asleep and it didn’t help that she’s a heavy sleeper, once she is asleep no amount of movement can wake her up. Eric carefully removed the cloth and poured a small amount of substance from the bottle into the cloth and tip toed to Lethi’s bed so that he won’t wake her up because she’ll start screaming and wake everybody up. He made his way to her and quickly covered her mouth and nose

with the cloth containing the substance, Lethi tried to fight him but the smell was too strong and within a few seconds she was fast asleep.

“I’m sorry baby Sis, but this is for your own good.”

He scooped her over his shoulder and carried her downstairs and into the car without being noticed. He drove straight to his house and found Lebo already waiting outside

“this better be good Zulu”-Lebo

“you know I wouldn’t call you if it wasn’t important. Come in”-Eric

They drove in one after the other and got into the house

“Lebs I want you to make it seem as if she was shot in between her eyes”-Eric

“this will cost you”-Lebo

“money is not an issue , you know that”-Eric

One thing about Lebo is that she doesn’t ask a lot of questions, she does what she is paid for and keeps her mouth shut. Within a few minutes she was done. She made it seem like she had a hole in between her eyes and had blood dripping out her mouth.

“Damn Lebo you are good”-Eric

“they don’t call me the best for no reason”-Lebo

“thank you so much” He transferred money into her account

“pleasure doing business with you”-Lebo

She left and Eric took a picture and sent it to Thabiso who was more than happy to see the “bitch” dead.

AT LLANDUDNO

Sipho was pacing up and down in his study making calls left right and center

“Listen to me, I want you to go to Eric’s house and take Lethinhlanhla and bring her here”-Sipho

“but what will I say to Eric? You know he won’t just hand her over without a fight”-Caller

“then you will fight him”-Sipho

He dropped the call

“Sipho yini le oyenzayo ongtshene (what are you doing tell me) What is your plan?”-Hlengiwe

“Lethi will start her training when she wakes up”-Sipho

“don’t involve my daughter in this dirty business of your please”-
Hlengiwe

“I am not involving her; I am preparing her for what’s to come Hlengiwe. You know I have a lot of enemies that want to see me down , and when the news come out that she is my newly found daughter they will try to get through me by targeting her. Eric, Siphuthando and Naledi know how to protect themselves , Lethi is next.”-Sipho

“can’t she start next month? I want to be with her”

“no Hlengiwe, you will only see her once her training is over”

“uyahlanya Sipho! How do you expect me to sit here while my daughter is locked up in the back yard?”

“this yard is huge for a reason, you two will not see each other until her training is over. She will have everything she needs provided whenever she wants it.”

“why are you doing this?”

“Hlengiwe you have to prepare yourself that this child might not want anything to do with us because of what we did. She will blame us for abandoning her even though we did not. So, if we tell her we are her parents before the training she will not want to train so it’s best she trains now, and we tell her later and if she decides to leave at least she would know how to survive and defend herself. There are already people who want her dead, so she needs to do this sooner rather than later.”

“is that possible? That she might not want anything to do with us. She can't , not after I've waited so long to meet her. She is my daughter she will understand.”-Hlengiwe

“she will understand what exactly? That we live in this huge mansion and all our kids drive expensive cars while she is struggling where she is? Is that what she will understand? She will think we have favorites. Have you thought about what this will do to your other kids? Won't they resent Lethi when you shower her with all the love, because I know you will want to make up for lost time and that means you will neglect the others and pay more attention to her. Have you thought about that? No! , you and Eric are quick to judge me and call me the bad guy for taking so long to sort this issue out.”

“I love all my kids; I don't have favorites. The others will understand, I raised them well and not to behave like spoiled brats.”-Hlengiwe

AT ERIC'S HOUSE

He had prepared a room for his sister to sleep in, he removed all the make up on her face and tucked her in bed.

“Forgive me for drugging you princess” He kissed her forehead and went downstairs only to find a man seated in his couch

“What brings you here?”-Eric

“I am here for Lethi”-Man

“Ngonyama don’t do this”-Eric

“you know I don’t want to do this, but your father sent me here”-

Ngonyama

“You’re not taking her!”

“don’t make this harder than it already is”-Ngonyama

“she has been through a lot for fuck sakes”

Eric was boiling now

“talk to you father.”

He dialed his father number

“ndodana”-Sipho

“Dad don’t do this please”

“Eric hand over Lethinhlanhla to Ngonyama”

“I’ll train her myself dad”

“you will be soft on her because she is related to you”

“I won’t. she has been through a lot dad and you know how brutal
Ngonyama can be”

“that’s exactly why I want him to train her”

“where are you taking her?”-Eric

“it’s best you don’t know. You will see her after she has finished her training” He dropped the call

“she is upstairs”-Eric

Ngonyama came back with her still sleeping and headed towards the door

“can you do me a favor”-Eric

“sure”-Ngonyama

“don’t be too hard on her, she is emotionally unstable. Put away any sharp objects or anything that she might use to harm herself.”-Eric

Ngonyama nodded and drove to where the Zulu private jet was waiting for them and off to cape town Llandudno they left.

AT LLANDUDNO

“have you prepared her room? Ngonyama will be here any minute”-Sipho

“yes, everything is there, I even put in fresh flowers and a teddy bear. Do you think she like flowers?”-Hlengiwe

“Hlengiwe what did I say to you? You are getting carried away now. Lethinhlanhla is not on a holiday she is here to work.”

“it doesn’t mean she has to stay in a dump like a prisoner”

“how will she be a prisoner when she will be allowed to sit in the garden and enjoy fresh air whenever she wants.”

“Sipho it’s just flowers, relax” She said angrily

Sipho knows never to take it further when his wife is angry.

Whenever she is angry her nose sweats and her breathing changes.

The Doctor ordered them to make sure that she is calm at all times because whenever she gets angry her heart beats faster than normal.

“they are here”-Sipho

She started crying

“Hlengiwe go to the main house, you know you can’t see her”

“she is sleeping, she won’t see me”

“Hlengiwe!”

“Please Sipho”

“yho Hlengiwe uzongihlanyisa. Klungile!”

Ngonyama walked in carrying Lethi over his shoulder

“hhay Ngonyama why umphethe ngathi isaka lamazambane. Hold her properly”-Hlengiwe

Ngonyama held her in his arms like a baby that fell asleep on the couch

“yes! Like that. come this way and place her nicely in bed”-Hlengiwe

Sipho was watching his wife getting all excited, this brought a smile to his face. Seeing his daughter in front of him safe and well is all he ever wanted .Ngonyama placed Lethi in bed as Hlengiwe requested

“Her training begins in the morning”-Sipho

Ngonyama nodded and left

“that’s enough Nkosikazi let her rest”

She was busy fluffing her already fluffed pillows

“Do you think this pillow is enough for her? Should I add another one? I will go fetch it just in case”-Hlengiwe

“the pillow is fine. Let’s go”

“wait let me tuck her in properly”

“you’ve done that already”

She was just delaying leaving, she tried everything possible to stay there with her daughter. she went to her and kissed her cheek

“stay strong my baby, forgive us for this, I love you.”-Hlengiwe

They left her there and went to the other side of the wall where the main house is.

LETHINHLANHLA

I woke up with a banging headache, I got out of bed in the attempt to go pee

“good you are awake” The person said in the dark . I swear my heart almost stopped beating. He switched on the lights and I was not in my room. I don’t remember what happened last night, all I know is that I refused to eat the food that was cooked by those witches then I went to bed and slept.

“who are you? What do you want? Where am I?” I was now panicking

“you are safe here.” He says

He got closer to me

“please don’t hurt me. listen I know those two sent you here to kill me. I will double the money they are offering you, just don’t hurt me.”

“Lethinhlanhla would you just relax!, I am not here to hurt you”-him

“who sent you here? Take me home please”

“you will find out soon enough. Your training begins in 10 minutes. Go shower and eat , I’ll be back in 10 minutes and you better be done.” With that said he left

I looked out the window and I did not recognize this place, there's a small cute garden all around and there are big walls guarding this place. shit! I am never getting out of here

In order for me to survive I'll have to be nice to this man and try to negotiate with him, maybe he will let me go. I took a shower and got out only to meet this girl who's about my age or so carrying clothes.

"hey please help me get out of here, they kidnapped me"

"here are your clothes"

She placed them on the bed and left. it was black leggings , plain black top, black gloves and black running shoes. Well I loved the colour, it represents my life, dark with no light. I got dressed and ate the breakfast that was prepared. Sthembiso used to make her eggs and toast like this. I found myself smiling at the thought of my mother then I remembered the dream I had when I was in a coma

"THINGS WILL BE DIFFICULT FROM NOW ON, NOW MORE THAN EVER YOU HAVE TO FIGHT, FIGHT LETHI"

I was disturbed by the guy that was in my room this morning

"time's up asambe" He left the room and I followed after him

"run around the yard, I've set the timer to 20 minutes" He said placing the watch over my wrist

"what am I training for?"

“don’t ask me questions, just do as I say”

“what’s your name?”

“Ngonyama”

“why are you doing this to me? I will pay you 1 million if you let me go. What kind of name is Ngonyama?”

I don’t even have that million. He increased the time to 30 minutes

“ask me questions one more time and I’ll make you run for 5 hours.”

I kept my mouth shut and ran around the huge ass yard; the sun hasn’t set yet as it is still the morning. Ngonyama was busy setting other activities for me to do. I am really not a sporty person, within ten minutes I was already panting like a dog

“Ngonyama can I have water?” I shouted as I ran

“when your timer is up I will give you water”

I wanted to cry, my throat was dry, and these black clothes were not doing me any favor. I ran until the 30 minutes was up and I went back to where he was standing

“you will not last in this training if you carry on the way you’re doing. Put effort in what you’re doing , the sooner you realize this is not a game the sooner you will go back home.”

He threw the bottle of water and I drank it like my life depended on it

“get up we have a long way to go”-him

Is this guy serious? I can't even feel my legs and he wants us to do more work

ZODWA

“I told you she wasn't going to eat the food”-Nomathemba

“shut up. We won't give up now, go dish up breakfast and pour this in her food” I gave her a bottle, “I will go call her”

She left and I went upstairs to her room and knocked

“Lethinhlanhla vula umnyango” (open this door)

No response

I opened the door and walked in, she wasn't in bed. I went to her bathroom and she is not there either. She probably went out for breakfast, but it's not like her to leave without cleaning her room. I went back downstairs

“I've already dished up, is she coming”-Nomathemba

“she is not in her room”

“where could she have gone to because her car is here”-

Nomathemba

“and her bed is not made up. Maybe that boyfriend of hers is back”

“so, what will we do with this food?”

Thabiso walked in before I could answer, and he sat down next to Nomathemba

“good evening my in-laws”

“yebo Mkhwenyana”-Nomathemba

“where is my money Zodwa?” he asks

He gave us one hundred thousand for Lethi’s hand in marriage

“what’s this now? Didn’t we tell you that Lethi will marry you when the time is right?”-me

“that bitch is dead” he says

“what do you mean?” I ask

He took out his phone and showed us a picture, it was Lethi laying on the floor with a bullet hole in between her eyes and blood was coming out her mouth. My stomach turned and I wanted to throw up instantly

“pay me my money back or else you will follow her”He took bacon from Lethi’s place

“that’s not ...”-Nomathemba

I kicked her foot under the table. This one can be dumb yeses

Thabiso ate the bacon and left

“why ube islima wena?” (why are you an idiot)-Me

“that bacon has poison , it will kill him”-Nomathemba

“so, you prefer he kills us like he did with Lethi?”

She kept quiet

“Thabiso ruined our plans, do you understand that we won’t be getting the money and house that Sthembiso left for us? It will look as if we killed her”

NKOSIPHENDULE

1 month and 2 weeks has passed and today we are going back to South Africa , to say I’m excited would be an understatement, I’m ecstatic and nervous as the same time. Happy that I’ll see my buddy but nervous that our friendship might be lost .

“what’s got you so excited”-Lwandile

“I’m going home, why wouldn’t I be excited. I’ve missed my bed”

“is that the only thing you’ve missed?”-Nathi

I ignored him

“wena Lwandile aren’t you excited to see your girlfriend and son?” I ask

“come on Nkosi, are you still angry at me for what happened the other day?”-Nathi

“Lwandile?”-me

“I’m sorry, I didn’t mean to put it the way I did”-Nathi

“I’ll meet you guys in the plane”-Lwandile

He left

“it’s fine Nathi. Let’s go” We packed our things and boarded the plane and headed home

LWANDLE

A month and a few weeks have passed, and I enjoy every moment I spend with Nkosenhle, him and I have been having casual sex whenever we want which is something I don’t have with Lwandile. Speaking of Lwandile he called me few minutes ago notifying me that he has landed meaning he will be here any minute from his training , to be honest I did not miss him one bit. Him being back means I’ll be spending less time with Nkosenhle and more time fighting him and him spending less time at home. This house doesn’t even feel like a home, it’s cold with no love. The only person who makes it a bit warm is the presence of our son, without him Lwandile and I wouldn’t even be together.

He walked through the door pushing his suitcase, looking sexy as ever. I went over to hug him, and he hugged me back followed by kiss. Yes, he kissed me I don’t know after how long, that took me by surprise.

“I missed you”-Lwandile

“I missed you too”

He kissed me again and I deepened the kiss, but he pulled back

“where is my son?”

“he is at your parent’s place”

“ngeke Lwandle please get him, I’ve missed him so much. I’ll try to nap while you’re out” he says

Is he serious? He hasn’t seen me for a month and instead of wanting to spend time with me he wants Malwande

“I thought we could use this time to catch up” I say

“we will but with Malwande here”

He went to the bathroom and I heard the shower running

“I guess the conversation is over”

NKOSIPHENDULE

After landing I went straight to Lethi’s house, I bought her flowers and lunch. I knocked and one of the aunts opened the door, it was the mean one

“hawu boyfriend subuyile phesheya kweylwandle” (you’re back from abroad) -Zodwa

Lethi would’ve rolled her eyes after hearing this

“can I see Lethi”

“she’s not here”

“where is she?”

“she is dead” she said coolly

I don’t think I heard her correctly

“uthi kwenzekeni?” (what did you just say?)

“Bamdubulile la” (they shot her here) she pointed in between her eyes, “wafa” (and she died)

I shoved her out of the way and went to her room

“yey wena mfana! Ucabanga ukuthi ikanyoko la ovele ungene nomikanjani uzenzele umathanda” (hey you, do you think this is your mothers house where you just enter anyhow you want) she ran after me

She was not in her room

“yey wena phuma!” (get out) -Zodwa

I pressed her against the wall and squeezed her neck

“I will ask you one last time, uphi uLethi?”

She was struggling to breathe

“she..... I can’t breathe”

“she what?”

“she’s dead”

“what happened?”

“I don’t know”

I squeezed her tighter

“okay , okay .. let go of me I’ll talk” she said

I let her go

“Thabiso killed her”

“who is Thabiso?”

“The guy she was supposed to get married too”

I swear I felt my legs getting wobbly, everything she said did not make sense. Lethi can’t be dead, she can’t!

“what is Thabiso’s surname? where can I find him?”

“I’ve told you what you needed to hear now please leave my house”

I took out my gun and pointed at her

“yhuu please don’t kill me. Thabiso Kubheka , I don’t know where he stays”

I left her there and drove out to Thuls house. I barged in without knocking

“and then wena? Wangena sushwibeka? What if I was getting it on in this couch?”-Thuls

“you aren’t angithi?”

“what has gotten into you? When did you get back?”

“few minutes ago, I need your help. Get your laptop and get me information on Thabiso Kubheka”

“Thabiso? Isn’t he that small-time thug who just entered our line of business?” he asks

He typed something on his laptop and showed me his picture

“this one”

“I don’t know, let’s find out. Get me his location” I say

He typed something again

“he is at your brother’s hospital”

“asambe”

I drove like a maniac to the hospital

“Nkosi angfuni ukufa mina, there are other cars here, slow the fuck down. What did this idiot do?”

“we are about to find out”

We reached the hospital and bumped into Nkosenhle and Nathi

“Nkosi”-Nkosenhle

I ignored him and went straight to Thabiso’s room number and he had pipes connected to him

“what do you want Ndlovu”-Thabiso

He looked pained and he kept on holding his stomach

“where is Lethi?”

He smiled

“What do you want from her?”-Thabiso

“I will not repeat myself”

“that bitch owed me money, so I killed her”

I felt my soul leaving my body

“how much did she owe you? What was that money for?”

“100k imagine, those two aunts of hers promised me her hand in marriage, after I paid the money that bitch refused to be my wife. I gave her two options which was either she paid me my money, or I killed her, and she opted for the second option.”-Thabiso

He killed her because of 100k! money I make within an hour. I could've doubled that money

“yerr this guy is an idiot, yibhari lomjida. Why would you ask Lethi to pay you your money when you didn't give it to her?”-Thuls

“those Aunts of hers will soon follow after her if they don't pay me my money”-Thabiso

“Lethi is not dead, you are lying” I say

He laughed, more like mocking me. he took out his phone and showed me her picture. It was her laying on the floor lifeless

“I don’t miss” He said proudly

“Thuls go stand outside”-me

“don’t do anything stupid”-Thuls

“Thuls go stand outside!”

He left

Thabiso realizing the seriousness on my face

“was she your girlfriend?”

“I want to put a bullet through your face like you did to her, but that would be quick and easy. I also can’t take you out of here because you’ll just die before we reach the parking lot.”

“I’ll give you whatever you want, just don’t kill me”

I took his pillow and pressed it over his face, he tried to fight it, but he is no match with all those pipes chained to him. I put the pillow back in its place and I went downstairs to where Nkosenhle and Nathi were

“Nkosi what is wrong with you?”-Nathi

“please wipe the Cameras for Room 404”

I left them there and drove Thuls home and I went to the beach, the one Lethi and I went to together

“Lethi why?”

She is not dead, she can't be dead. It's too soon, she promised to wait for me. she said everything was fine when I left her, she didn't mention anything about an arranged marriage. I should've stayed with her, had I not left she would be here.

I failed you Lethi, please forgive me. I am failing to accept that you are dead. Yes I saw your picture but I still can't believe it , I will not let you go until I witness it with my own two eyes, the day I see your body and that bullet hole between your eyes is the day I'll accept that you are no more but for now I'll keep on hoping to see a WhatsApp message from you. Come back to me buddy. I sat there until sunset and I went home.

LETHINHLANHLA

A month has passed, and each day is worse than the other. I moved from running around the field to learning about knives and guns, breaking into a house without being noticed, stealing cars and all that you can think off. The guns part is fun because I've always been interested in guns, But I don't understand why I am learning all of this because I have no intentions of using these skills outside this place.

“Outside”-Ngonyama

Ngonyama is one mean guy, he is very rude and brutal. I wonder what he's like around his girlfriend, that's if he has a girlfriend but I'm sure he has one because he is handsome, hot dark chocolate with muscles. You can tell he works out a lot but his meanness and cold heart outshines his handsomeness. He never smiles nor looks at you directly. I followed him outside and on the table were different sets of knives and guns and there were 5 rubber dummies with different targets in each dummy.

“I want you to apply everything you've learnt so far. I pray you paid attention to every detail I told you.”-him

“Yes”

“name the different types of pocketknives I told you”

“CRTK Drifter”-me

He kicked my legs and I fell flat and landed on my ass. That really hurt but it's been like that since the second week. Whenever I did something wrong he would beat me up, he didn't give mercy whether I was male or female.

“that's incorrect. Try again”

He could've easily said that without kicking me

I wanted to cry but tears don't move him, I had to toughen up and be strong. I've gotten used to the pain and I taught myself that this would be my life from now on. I don't even know why I was given the name Lethinhlanhla , they should've named me Hluphekile or something like that because my life has been pain one after the other

"CRKT Drifter , Blue Ridge Knives Esee Zancudo , Sanrenmu 710, Benchmade Mini Griptilian 556 and Buck Knives 55." I say

"good now take that blind fold and cover your eyes"

I followed instructions

"all the knives you have mentioned are on the table, I'll tell you to pick up a knife and you'll tell me it's properties."-him

"won't I cut myself? Why do I have to be blinded?"

"try to be smart so that you won't hurt yourself"

The fuck does he mean when he says I should be smart about it.

"pick up the Benchmade Mini Griptilian 556"

I place my hands over the knives, feeling each one and I landed on the one he wanted

"what makes you think that's the right one?"

"it has a lock and a reversible pocket clip" I say

“Bush knives 55”

I repeated the same process

“it has an old -age feel, pocket clip, a one-handed open and close, and a textured handle.”

“Sanremu 710”

“it has a smooth blade pivot and a slippery metal body”

“Blue Ridge”

“it has a larger handle, stronger blade lock and a lot more metal in the body and has a comfortable teardrop-shapes handle”

“CRKT Drifter”

“blade is about 3 inches long and can be opened and closed with one hand, it has a smooth blade and the handle is contoured to fit both big and small hands”

“good! Remove the blind fold”

I looked at my hands and they were bleeding from the sharpness of the knives

“Right now, we are moving to the dummies” he says

He doesn't even care about my bleeding hands. He would ignore me if I asked for a cloth or bandage, he doesn't even give me breaks in between to drink water.

“you will stand at point X marked on the ground and you will throw at the designated point on the dummy. clear ?”

“yes”

“go”

I threw the first knife and It missed the target, I felt a whip across my back, and I wanted to scream because it stung

“focus! You will do this blind folded as well”

With tears falling from eyes I successfully threw the knives at the different targets with and without the blind fold

“Good! Now we move to the Last exercise for the day”

Lord just take me now! I can't take any more pain for today, my body is burning, and my hands are throbbing

“Nelly!” He shouted and a girl appeared, she had scars all over her face

“you will fight her” He left and sat on a chair and watched

“wait what do you mean?”

Before I could finish asking that question I was on the floor and my nose was bleeding. This Nelly girl landed a punch on my face, I was shocked. She charged for me again and I kicked her legs and she landed on her face, we went on like that for a while and Ngonyama

separated us when he was satisfied. He handed us each a knife and went back to his chair and folded his arms.

This guy wants us to stab each other, just when my thigh scars were fading away I add more

“don’t do this dude”

I pleaded but it fell on deaf ears, this girl came here to fight. we fought each other and I managed to land a few stabs on her body, and she landed a few on me. In everything I was doing my main aim was to protect my face, I didn’t want any scars because when I get out of this place I’ll find a job and move out of that house.

“that’s it , go to your room”

He left me with this girl, I guess she’ll be my roommate from now on. I left her there and went straight to my room, I wanted to clean my wounds and cuddle my teddy until I fall asleep. when I got to the room the bed was not there, it was replaced by two mattresses on the floor

“you’ve got to be kidding me!”

I walked to the bathroom and took a shower while I cleaned myself. I had a busted lip and a black eye and a couple of stabs on my thighs and arm and imivimbo from the whip. That girl did a number on me yeses. I walked out and she was sitting there with her legs folded. I

decided to mind my business because she ignored me when I tried to talk to her earlier.

“I didn’t want to do this you know?”- her

I ignored her

“I need the money so that’s why I do this”

“where are we?” I asked

“I don’t know. I was blind folded when I came here”

“where are you from and how old are you” I ask

“I’m from Cape town, I’m 22”

“so, you do this for a living? Hurt yourself so that you can get money? Why don’t you go to school so you could have a proper job that doesn’t pain you? This is not life”

“I’m saving up money so I can go to school”

“why this job though? You could work at restaurants or at any store. I feel like any job would be better than having stab wounds all over your body and sleeping on the floor.”

“You won’t understand. how did you get here?” she ask

“I don’t know, I woke up here one day”

“where are you from?”

“Durban” I say

"I see"-her

"what do you want to study when you've saved enough money?"

"I love to cook; I want to go to culinary school and become a chef."-
her

"I wish you all the best. So how long will you be here?"

"I don't know" she says

"alright I'm sleeping now goodnight"

"you broke my jaw I can't sleep"-her

"I'd say sorry but I'm not" I said laughing

"goodnight" she shook her head laughing

I had a hard time trying to find the perfect position to sleep in because my entire body was in pain. Had I had pills I would've taken the entire bottle to speed up the process. I've tried to escape this place with no success, they moved all objects that I could use to hurt myself and they never give me pain killers.

At 4 am Ngonyama walked in carrying two buckets of cold water he poured the bucket of water all over our body and we jumped like toast.

"change and meet me outside in two minutes"-Ngonyama

"fuck!"-Nelly

“what?” I ask

“nothing” she says

Well I wasn't going to beg her to talk, we brushed our teeth and went outside without eating . There were two big guys waiting for us outside.

“Put those blindfolds on”-Ngonyama

Not the blindfold again, god I haven't even recovered from yesterday's session.

“take them to the car” he adds

One of the guys scooped me up and tossed me over his shoulder and threw me at the back of the van, I'm assuming they did the same thing to Nelly. The truck travelled for like an hour then it stopped, and the same guy removed my blindfold and carried me inside a dark warehouse, and inside was a person chained to a chair and this person had a sack over his head.

“wake him up”-Ngonyama orders

One of the guys removed the sack over his head and poured a bucket of water at him. The poor man gasped for air.

“Fuck you Ngonyama!”-Guy

Ngonyama went to him and smacked the daylight out of that guy that even his chair flipped over.

“position him properly”-Ngonyama

They did

“right! Today’s lesson is going to be different girls”

He looked at the guy

“you like them this young right?” he asks the guy

Oh my god this guy is going to rape us! Today is the day we are going to die, Lord after so many attempts at killing myself why do you have to take me like this.

“I call today’s lesson “Kill or be killed””-Ngonyama

I’ve killed a person once and I have no intentions of doing that again, I am not a murderer! I will not let these people turn me into something I am not.

“Bring the knives”-Ngonyama

They handed him the knives and he threw them on the floor

“I want him dead” He said looking at Nelly and I

“I am not killing a person who hasn’t done any harm to me. I am no murderer and this person is innocent” I say

“you’ve always had a big mouth Lethi!. It’s up to you kodwake” he raised his hands in surrender “it’s either you kill him, or he kills you.

This is Scelo” he pointed at him “I took him out of prison today. Do you know what he was arrested for?”

I kept quiet

“he is a rapist! He rapes girls your age and girls younger than you” he says

I felt my stomach turn

“still think his innocent?”

I looked down

“thought as much!, as I was saying if you don’t kill him he will kill you and continue to rape girls out there. So do the right thing and save those girls.”

They untied him

“I hate the sight of blood, so I’ll be outside”

He said that and left closing the door behind him, leaving Nelly and I with a guy who’s twice our sizes

“this is going to be a piece of cake”-Scelo said laughing

Nelly and I haven’t moved from our spot, my hands were shaking.

How can Ngonyama lock us with a rapist I kept asking myself

“so, who wants to die first?”-Scelo

Silence

“I’ll start with you” He said pointing at Nelly

He charged towards her and kicked her in her stomach, and she fell on the floor, she tried to fight back but the guy was just too strong. I ran and jumped on top of him and punched his head , but my tiny fist were no match for this guy, he held my neck and tossed me across the room, and I landed on my arm

“AHHHH” I cried

He picked Nelly up and slapped her across her face and she bled instantly. I got up from the floor and went back to the fight, it continued for a couple of minutes, us trying to hit him and him tossing us across the room. I was experiencing excruciating pain in my arm, but I had no time to cry over it. He picked Nelly up and threw her on top of me, now both of us were at his mercy. We had blood gushing out our noses and mouth, and him, only a few scratches. He grabbed Nelly by her hair with one hand and he stepped on my broken hand with his gigantic size 50 boot and I screamed like a little girl, I couldn’t feel my fingers. He punched me on my eye, and I saw the room spinning

“now you will watch me and your friend having fun” he said to me

“Fuck you!” I replied

“Fuck her you mean”

I tried to get up, but I landed on the floor flat on my bum. My vision wasn't clear, my eye was swollen, my nose was bleeding, my left hand and arm was throbbing, and I had a massive headache.

He ripped her clothes off and had a big grin on his face.

"Lethi please help me" she cried

"that bitch is useless she can even stand up nor see"-Scelo

He was right, I was in no position to fight but one thing I knew was that he wasn't going to rape her in my presence. I quickly scanned the room and noticed the knives on the floor, I used my giraffe legs as that girl once called me and I pulled two of them towards me. At this point I didn't really care which knives I grabbed as long as it was sharp and pointy. I had to use the skills I learnt in yesterday lessons. He was now on top of her and he had pulled her underwear to her knees. I used my right hand and I threw the knife and it landed on his shoulder

"yey wena Sfebe!"-he said

As he was paying attention to his shoulder I threw the second knife and it landed in the middle of his forehead and blood started flowing as if a tap of water was left open. He fell on the floor and that was the end of him.

Nelly got up and properly wore her underwear and ripped t-shirt, she took the knife that landed on his shoulder and stabbed him

countlessly all over his body with tears mixed with blood running down her face. I so badly wanted to go to her and tell her that everything is okay, she is safe now but I couldn't move.

"Nelly it's okay now, he is dead. He won't harm you" I pleaded

She didn't listen to me, she kept on stabbing him until she was satisfied. I don't know how many times I threw up at the sight of that man. Ngonyama walked in after a while and found Nelly drenching in blood, and me curled up in the corner next to my vomit.

"Good job girls, Lethi well done"

I wanted to throw the knife at him too

"Today you can rest and tomorrow you will go home" he says

I've never come across such an evil person like this. I thought Zodwa and Nomathemba were evil, but he takes the cup. How does one move past from this?

>>>>Season 3 : My Best Friends Betrayal: Love kills<<<<<<<<<<

